



COMPASSION.
AS A LIFESTYLE.

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HUNGER DURING A PANDEMIC

While Canada is in a period of respite from the pandemic, much of the third world is still enduring the third wave with its higher rates of infection and multiplied deaths. The latest State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report just released by the United Nations indicates an increase of 118 million hungry people over the last year.

"It's deeply troubling to see how difficult it has become to make progress in the fight against hunger," says Canadian Foodgrains Bank executive director Andy Harrington. "Seven years ago, we were seeing global hunger decreasing. It was wonderful news, and even if the decrease was modest, it was something to celebrate. The upward trend toward greater hunger in the world we're seeing now—it's alarming."

While the global pandemic is causing its own misery on the lives of people experiencing hunger, conflict and climate change are the other two main drivers of hunger, as they have been for several years now.

"For example, conflict and the displacement it causes in places like Syria, Yemen, and South Sudan mean many people who previously were able to earn a living and provide for their families now struggle to do so," says Harrington. "This past year, 43 percent of our total budget was spent responding to people in need of emergency food due to violent conflict."

Read in this newsletter how Canadian Foodgrains Bank is responding and in particular how NCM Canada is responding to these increased food needs. Read also how you can be involved in helping us end hunger!

Elaine Bumstead, Executive Director.

Reports included in this issue:

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Canadian Foodgrains Bank Responds in 2020!

Over the past year, the Foodgrains Program has not only remained robust but has expanded in many areas. A total of \$49.02 million (\$33.09 million food assistance, \$13.8 million agriculture and livelihoods, and \$2.09 million nutrition) was committed to 103 projects in 33 countries. A total of 159 projects were approved (some were multi-phase) and implemented which is an increase of 45 over the previous year. Total growth in program was 16% and \$6.86 million dollars.

Current Response

The drivers of hunger – the pandemic, conflict, and climate change - are shaping how the Foodgrains Bank, its members and their partners respond to hunger needs.

A recent additional grant of \$10 million from the Government of Canada was received by the Foodgrains Bank to address the longer term economic impact that the global pandemic is having on small-scale food producers in Africa.

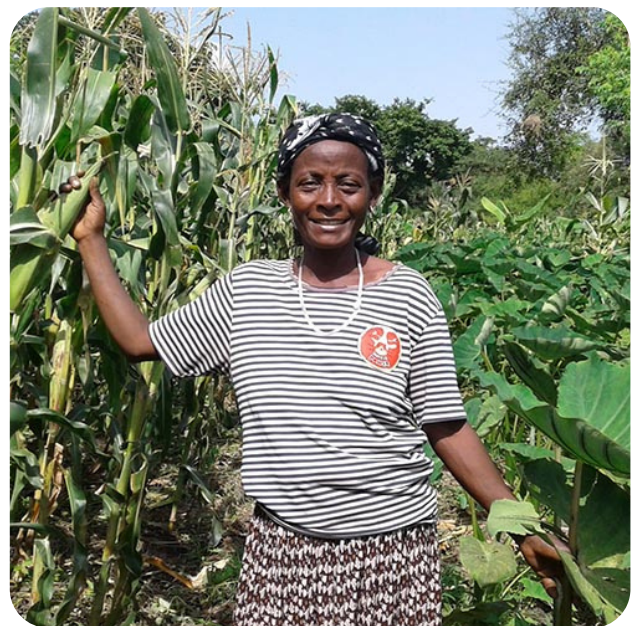
This additional funding allowed Foodgrains Bank members and their partners to provide specialized support to farmers in several African countries, including supporting them in jointly marketing their produce to get the best prices.



Many Foodgrains Bank projects work with small-scale farmers who are disproportionately affected by climate change, and struggle with lack of rainfall and extreme weather conditions..

Farmers learn about conservation agriculture and are helped to apply the methods of conservation agriculture as they grow food on their small plots of land. The new methods help preserve moisture, feed the plants, improve soil fertility, and increase food production.

In Ethiopia, for example, over 60,000 farmers have been trained in conservation agriculture techniques and over 25,000 farmers currently participate in savings and loans groups that help them gain access to credit. After learning the principles of conservation agriculture, coupled with additional best farming practices, Asnakech saw her corn yields increase from 50 kg to 550kg in 2018 on a 20 by 30 metre plot of land! She began using these techniques more widely on her farm, which enabled her to grow enough food to feed her family and share with neighbours in need, while still having surplus to sell.



Asnakech - from Ethiopia

To learn more about the conservation agriculture program of the Foodgrains Bank, see <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/conservation-agriculture/>

For families displaced by conflict and for those subsistence farm families who are enduring inadequate rainfall, and failed crops, Canadian Foodgrains Bank members (including NCM Canada) are providing food assistance which gives the farmers the energy needed to plant or replant their fields and provides food for their families up until the harvest season.



**Child-headed household - Kenya
an NCM Canada Food Assistance Project**

NCM Canada Response

NCM Canada is providing food for 1000 families in North East Kenya where late rains and drought have meant hunger for these farm families.

Achom Elim (a beneficiary) said, "Since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic last year, life has been exceedingly difficult for people and especially us Turkana people. This food is a lifesaver to us. Majority of families here take one meal a day and it is taken at 3 pm with children given priority. The County Government gave us food last year in August and it was only 2 kgs of maize grain for each family. Yours is 50 kgs; enough for a family to feed on for days. Majority of us had even stopped going to church because we felt like God had abandoned us owing to the sufferings of many people. Now at least this Sunday, children and I can go to church to give God thanks as we also pray for your efforts in coming to our aid with food at such as time as this. Thank you and God bless you!"

NCM Canada is also providing funding for a long-term agriculture and livelihoods project in Bangladesh. This project is being funded through Canadian Foodgrains Bank and will impact 1100 families or about 5500 people. A similar project is being implemented in Nepal through the Foodgrains Bank.

An assessment of the food situation was completed in both contexts along with many meetings with farmers and with local and regional government officials from several government offices including the department of agriculture. The goal of the projects is to reduce hunger among these families by helping the subsistence farmers to produce more food, and diversify their livelihoods so that they have more income to provide food for themselves. The project will also work with the women to increase their knowledge and skills and empower them to help contribute to their family income. NCM Canada is providing support for a project of Canadian Baptist Ministries in Lebanon providing food assistance for 3830 families. In Afghanistan, NCM Canada is supporting a Presbyterian food assistance project for 1100 families.

Outside of program work, the Foodgrains Bank also engages governments and decisionmakers in encouraging support for small-scale food producers and ensuring conflict sensitivity in the delivery of humanitarian food assistance.

How you can help us to END HUNGER!

Again this year, in spite of the pandemic, you have opportunity to sponsor an acre in the Grow Hope Markdale or Seeds of Life Growing project. The cost to sponsor an acre in both projects this year is \$400.

Your sponsorship pays for crop inputs - the farmers cost to plant, care for, and harvest. Expected return per acre when the crop is harvested and sold is over \$500 (depending on the weather, growing conditions and yield).

All proceeds are sent to Canadian Foodgrains Bank where they are matched up to a 4:1 match to feed hungry people in our world. Therefore your \$400 becomes as much as \$2500

Sponsor an acre or part-acre - on our website at www.ncmcanada.ca under "donate".

By calling our National Office at 1-888-808-7490 (Ext. 2 Yara)

By mailing a cheque to the National Office at 3657 Ponytrail Drive, Mississauga ON L4X 1W5

Be sure to specify "Grow Hope Markdale" or "Seeds of Life". Thank you for growing hope! Thank you for helping us to end hunger!



NCM Canada is proud to be a member of Canadian Foodgrains Bank. For the past three years, the Foodgrains Bank was named by Charity Intelligence as one of the top ten impact charities in Canada. Charity Intelligence measures the return on investment for each dollar donated.



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EACH GIFT WILL BE USED AS DESIGNATED, EXCEPT WHERE ANY GIVEN NEED HAS BEEN MET OR WHEN PROJECTS CANNOT BE REASONABLE CARRIED OUT, IN WHICH CASE, THE DONOR AGREES THAT THE DESIGNATED GIFT MAY BE USED WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST.