

FOOD

Information Sheet



Sustainable, Grassroots Strategies towards Food Security

The Issue

Worldwide almost 1 billion people are chronically hungry due to extreme poverty and up to 2 billion people lack food security intermittently. These statistics are staggering, with South and Central Asia having the highest rates of childhood malnutrition, greater than all of Africa.

Food Aid is an emergency response aimed at guaranteeing freedom from acute hunger and malnutrition. Food aid programs are temporary and often supplemented with seeds and assistance for the next harvest. According to the World Food Programme, people cope with extreme hunger by cutting down on the number of meals they eat; selling farm tools and other assets such as livestock; and withdrawing children from school so they can help find food. By supplying emergency food aid, not only will people have food to eat, recipients can also avoid using negative coping strategies, which ultimately deepen the cycle of poverty.

Food Security is when people have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their needs and have an active and healthy lifestyle. Three-quarters of the world's poor and hungry live in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture related activities for their food and

income. One direct way to contribute to food security is by increasing agricultural productivity through providing seeds, tools, and technical knowledge to small scale farmers, which simultaneously increases household's food supplies and income to purchase food. This is a critical component to our community development programs.

Our Response

The Sharing Way works with its partners in our integrated development programs to assist in providing resources and knowledge necessary to build sustainable food supplies. In partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) we supply grain for food aid when necessary, such as during Kenya's recent drought. Projects that enhance food security are being implemented in Rwanda, Kenya, Bolivia and India.

In Rwanda, CBM works with funds from Canadian Foodgrains Bank to teach farmers about appropriate, sustainable agricultural techniques. A major emphasis on planting trees provides fruit for diets and organic matter for soil. Training and distribution of rabbits and goats impacts diets and increases family income. Through providing simple inputs and appropriate trainings, farmers are able to increase their yields, farm with more environmentally friendly methods, provide more food for their families and have a brighter future.

In Kenya, our partner operates agricultural training centers and demonstration farms that equip local communities. Integrated programs allow us to include training in appropriate nutrition, address water requirements, and include micro credit while assisting people to provide good nutritious food for their families.

In Bolivia, we work with our partners to train farmers in improved animal husbandry, livestock management, crop management, reforestation, and dissemination of improved techniques for producing grains such as quinoa and

In developed countries, people spend about 15% of their income on food. In developing countries, people are already spending up to 80% of their income on food.



canahua. Micro-irrigation and small loans also assist farmers to increase crop production. With improvements in management and administration abilities, families are able to better market their products, improve income and provide for their families.

In India, our partners work to provide high yield seeds, teach the importance of bio fertilizers and pesticides and assist people to incorporate improved agricultural practices. In combination with leadership development and a kitchen garden programme, families have been able to improve well-being, learn to harvest rain water, and increase their income.



The First Millennium Development Goal is to 'eradicate extreme hunger and poverty'. Agricultural productivity plays a key factor in reaching this goal by 2015.

Bakundinka and her husband live in Rwanda with their 7 children. She joined the local association affiliated with the AEBR (Rwandan Baptist Association) who provided training in sustainable agricultural practices. In her own words, she shares with us her story:

Before I became a member of this association, I was isolated... After I joined the group I was very happy because I found others that had similar problems and we were encouraged to work together. Our main objective as a group is to work hard to develop ourselves and reduce or eliminate poverty in our families.

Through the support of AEBR we were trained on various things including how to farm well, we gained skills of appropriate farming, learned how to use manure and other techniques to increase our production. We were provided with a plot of land where we can farm as a group and we were given seeds. Now every season we get enough harvest.

I now have enough food to feed my family and also get enough to store and sell to get money. These days, I am able to take all my children to school and I have been able to pay for health insurance for my family. I also managed to do some income generating activities that enabled me to make profits. I used the profits to buy goats and now they are producing manure to fertilize my land and sometimes when I need money I sell them. I realize that my life is changing and that of my family members as a result of being a member of this group.

Get Involved

It is through the generosity of Canadian Baptists that food security can become a reality for those living in poverty. CBM is committed to programs that are grassroots and empowering to local communities. Here are just a few ways you can help:

CBM spends over \$650,000 a year in food aid and food security programs.

- \$25 provides training, seeds and tools for kitchen gardens
- \$25 provides 10 trees and the initial cost to plant, add compost and water
- \$20 provides a pair of rabbits or chicks
- \$75 provides a farm animal - pig, cow or goat

The above listed are just examples of how you can support Food Security in our programs around the world. We welcome gifts of any amount and your continued prayer support.

In the event that this project is oversubscribed or where local conditions prevent implementation, CBM will direct your donation to areas of greatest need.



Canadian Baptist Ministries
7185 Millcreek Drive
Mississauga ON L5N 5R4

Tel: 905.821.3533
Fax: 905.826.3441
www.cbmin.org