

Canadian Foodgrains Bank *Update*



A New Way of Responding to Food Crisis

In the municipalities of Intibucá, Yamaranguila, and Dolores, in the department of Intibucá in Honduras, most families depend on agriculture as their main livelihood. But ongoing drought in the region has resulted in failed harvests that have left families in Intibucá facing increasing food insecurity—and with difficult decisions to make.

“They were selling their assets, selling their land. Trying to eat less. They did not have enough food,” says World Renew Program Advisor, Eduardo Artica. In addition, families have been torn apart as young people migrated to the United States and Spain in search of employment opportunities. Eduardo explains, “[In many communities] you will see children and then elderly people. People from 18 to their 40s, most of them are leaving . . . this is a big issue because they do this difficult, illegal travel through Guatemala and Mexico, and they face a lot of violence on this journey.”

Recognizing that families in the department of Intibucá were in food crisis, World Renew and local partner, the Mennonite Social Action Commission (CASM), with funding from Canadian Foodgrains Bank, have been working to meet the immediate food needs of 2,350 of the most vulnerable people, including those with disabilities, senior citizens, and single mothers and their children. Through this response, families in the municipalities of Intibucá and Yamaranguila have been receiving monthly food packages containing maize flour, wheat flour, rice, kidney beans, oil, margarine, salt, oats, pasta, sardines, tomato sauce, and sugar. The food items are chosen based on the diet of the region, but Eduardo admits it is difficult to put together a

package that addresses each family’s food needs. “For instance, a diabetic may not appreciate sugar,” Eduardo explains.

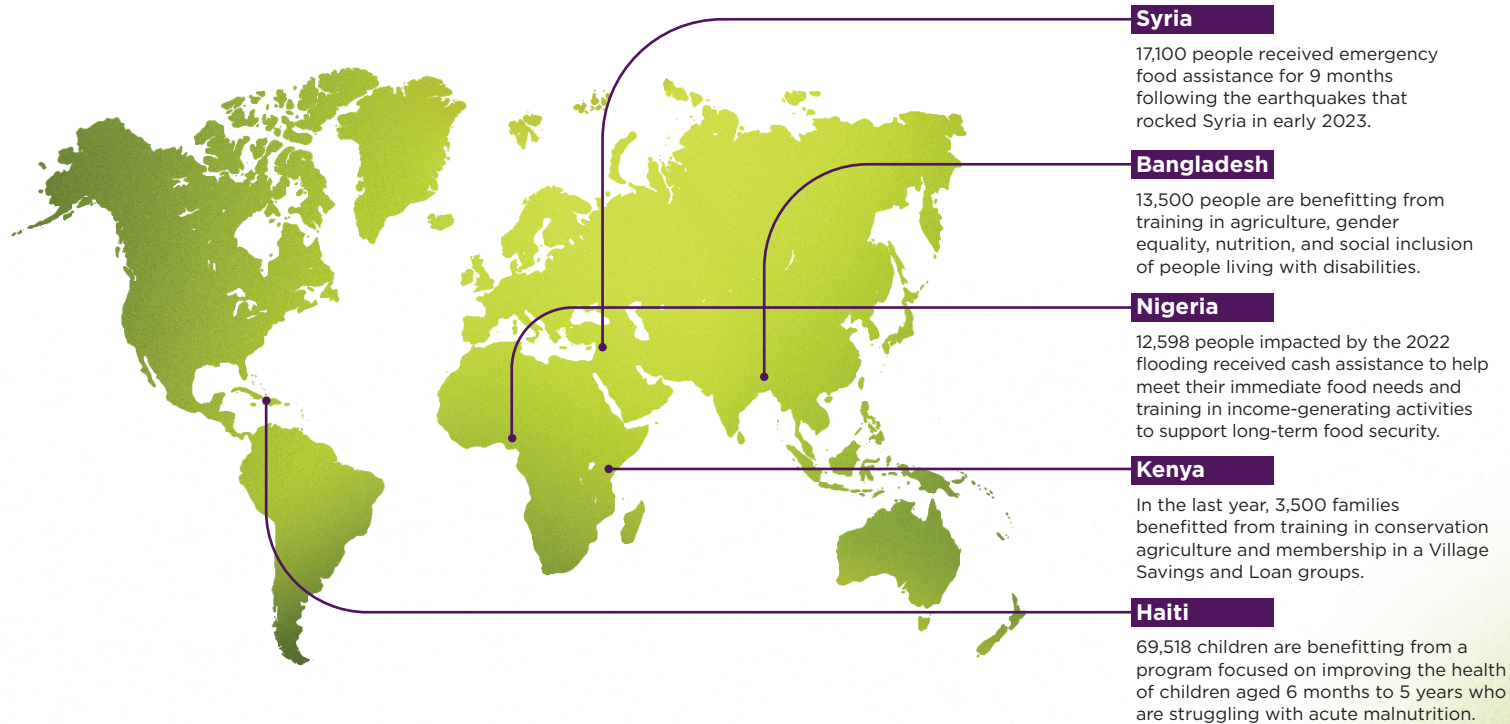
In Dolores, World Renew and CASM launched a new program that’s showing a great deal of promise for ensuring that families have enough to eat and access to the foods that best suit their individual needs. Through the Red Rose program, families receive an e-card that they can use at a local store to purchase exactly what and how much they want from a list of foods. The card is loaded each month with a certain amount, depending on the size of the family. The family does not have to purchase all the food in one visit; if there is a balance left on the card, they can shop. “The Red Rose platform has a lot of security options that prevent a card from being used by other people or being used for other reasons,” says Eduardo.

There were hiccoughs at the start—like finding a vendor who was willing to host and all the families turning up at the same time to shop for fear of not being able to access food later in the month. But the program “allowed for skilling up and going to another level of implementing a food assistance project,” says Eduardo. “We have been learning a lot.”



Eduardo Artica
World Renew Program Advisor

Ending Hunger Around the World



A Mother's Dream

Ya Gabtu Shattima, 50, a married mother of five, who also cares for her three grandchildren, began a business producing and selling oil and kuli-kuli (groundnut cakes). Her business was thriving, and with the income her husband generated running a shop at the local market, the family was meeting all their needs. Unfortunately, their lives took a dramatic turn when insurgency in the region resulted in her husband losing his shop, and Ya Gabtu found herself shouldering all the family's financial responsibilities.

As whatever savings the family had had dwindled, Ya Gabtu could no longer afford to pay for her grandchildren's education. She felt hopeless. When World Renew and local partner, ZOA in partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and Life Helpers Initiative (LHI) began a program focused on uplifting livelihoods in the region, Ya Gabtu seized the opportunity to join a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). Through her membership in the VSLA, she was provided with essential business tools, including 16 plates of groundnuts, a pot, a frying pan, and firewood. With the resources she needed to keep her business going, Ya Gabtu felt renewed hope for her family's future.

Within five months, Ya Gabtu's profits reached ₦25,000 (35.24 CAD). She diversified her business by selling rice, which yields a profit of ₦4,500 (0.70 CAD) per week. She is also now selling fresh tomatoes from her family's farm during harvest season.

For Ya Gabtu, life has become significantly easier. Her business is thriving, and she's found joy in her work. She can now provide for her children and grandchildren, and she is especially relieved she can once again afford to pay for her grandchildren's education.



Working Together to Flourish

Through a Canadian Foodgrains Bank program facilitated by World Renew's local partner, SATHI, Salaha joined a women's group in her rural village in Bangladesh. Most members of her community depend on what they earn as day labourers and salt cultivators to survive, but face challenges finding consistent work and earning enough to meet their basic needs.

Salaha and the other 21 group members learned the discipline of saving for the future—each setting aside 25 takas weekly (\$ 0.31 CAD,) which they pooled. Through SATHI, they also had the opportunity to learn about proper health practices and the benefits of establishing a kitchen garden, and they received training in income-generating activities, including poultry rearing, goat rearing, and fruit tree growing. With the support of SATHI, the women worked to establish kitchen gardens and to practice all they had learned, and in time they began to experience improvements to their families' health and increased income.



The women found that as they practiced the new income-generating and nutrition-related activities, their husbands became supportive—and relationships improved. Inspired by the improvements in their families' wellbeing, the group dared to dream bigger. They started a cow-rearing project. In November 2022, thanks to the group's commitment to establishing a small business plan, attending training on cow rearing, and leaning on the support they received from SATHI, they purchased five cows. Despite financial challenges, including a monthly expense of 2,000 taka (\$24.61 CAD) for the cows and a loan for a cow shed, the women persevered.

Initially, the only benefit of the cows was the access members had to cow's milk. When a milking cow gave birth to a female calf, the group rejoiced—the calf was a testament to their hard work and dedication to growing the business. Salaha shared, "We never thought that we could do this together. We are happy with our calf as this gives us hope. We got our start from SATHI, and now we must work hard for our success."

The progress Salaha's group has made is an inspiration—already, they have had a group from a neighbouring community seek out their guidance. Salaha's group now hopes to have enough cows to meet the nutritional needs of their entire community.



World Renew
 3475 Mainway
 PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1
 Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
 worldrenew.ca



Message of Thanks

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” – Isaiah 43:18-19

With the year still in its first quarter and spring beginning, many of us are in a season of reflection—reflecting perhaps on things we want to change in our lives. As overwhelming as change can be, it gives us the chance to let go of what is broken and move towards becoming the joy-filled beings God wants us to be.

The world is crying out for change: conflict and extreme weather continue to push families into hunger. But it can be difficult to imagine the change that any one person can make that will ensure that all people are fed and live joy-filled lives.

World Renew has been mourning the recent passing of our colleague and friend Iona Buisman—an inspiring justice seeker and change maker. At her funeral service, a candle was lit to represent the light she shone in this world. That candle was used to light a second, and the second a third, until the entire room was filled with the light that originated from that first candle.

The little changes matter. We never know how one change might inspire another person to shine a little more light in this world. Your support of World Renew and Canadian Foodgrains Bank matters and, little by little, we can shine enough light to change the story of hunger.

With gratitude,

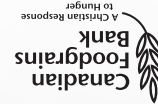
Alisa Quillah
 Project Manager



Alisa Quillah



worldrenew.ca/food
 @worldrenewcanada
 /worldrenewcanada



Canadian Foodgrains Bank Update
 Working Together to End Global Hunger