

Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday 2022



Impact of COVID on World Hunger

The United Nations, in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021*, reports a sharp increase in hunger. COVID-19 restrictions disrupted food supplies and crippled global economies causing a dramatic increase in the number of people facing acute food insecurity around the world.

As a member of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, World Renew is a part of a global network of Christian organizations working to end hunger. Together, we do this in two ways:

Emergency Food Assistance

Conflict, violence, political upheaval, and natural disasters can leave families without access to food. During times of crisis, Foodgrains Bank works quickly and effectively to provide emergency food to the most vulnerable.

Conservation Agriculture

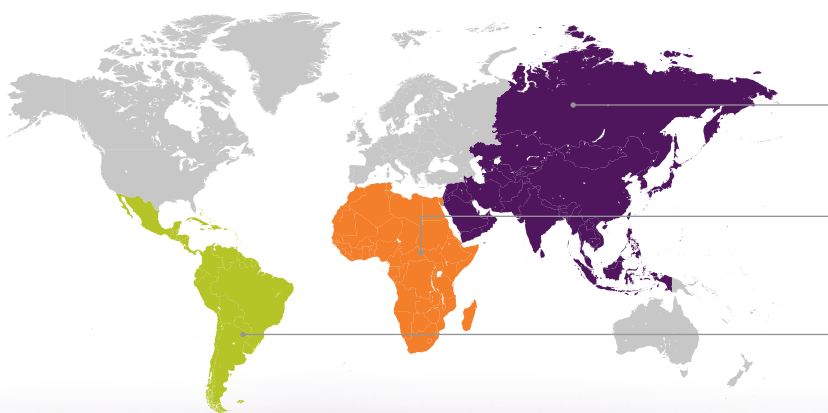
While providing families in crisis emergency food is essential to giving them a chance at survival, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank understands that to end world hunger, communities struggling with food insecurity need long-term solutions.

Through our development work, we provide farming families training in conservation agriculture so they can sustainably grow food.

Maximizing the use of arable land and protecting it for future generations is at the core of our work. The long-term solution to hunger is more efficient production of food.

In this resource, you will find:

- Story resource for your worship service
- Litany for worship service
- Statistics
- Children's story and activity



2.3 billion people (30% of the world's population) lack access to adequate food.

Asia:

418 million people are undernourished

Africa:

282 million people are undernourished

Latin America and the Caribbean:

60 million people are undernourished

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Lydia's story

“ I am glad that I learned about conservation agriculture. My land is now productive. I am a happy mother who is able to provide for my family with a variety of foods that are healthy and nutritious. I meet my household needs and I am able to serve God and our church with what I have produced from my farm. I have made significant income and with it, I have managed to construct a permanent house. Thank you for holding my hand, showing me the way, and walking with me to achieve my dreams.”

- Lydia, Kenyan farmer



In Africa, over 60% of the population relies on subsistence farming. Too often, crops don't yield enough to last farming families from one harvest to the next and they endure seasons of hunger that can lead to malnutrition, weakened immune systems, and stunted growth in children.

Lydia and her family struggled. With changing weather patterns causing long periods of drought in Kenya, year after year her crops failed. She was frustrated.

Then Lydia joined a Canadian Foodgrains Bank conservation agriculture training program in her community.

She began to implement what she learned, including crop rotation to help improve soil fertility and increase yields, while reducing pests and disease; the use of mulch as a ground cover to conserve the moisture of her drought-weary soil; and crop diversification, including planting more drought-tolerant crops like cassava and sorghum, to help preserve soil nutrients.

You can help farmers like Lydia increase their yields so they can better support their families. Through Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Global Affairs Canada, all donations to conservation agriculture programming will be matched up to 4X.

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Today her farm is flourishing. She has enough for her family and to sell at the local market. The increased income makes it possible for her children to attend school and for the family to purchase necessities such as medicines, clothing and school supplies.

Lydia is now a community advocate for conservation farming. She knows the difference it makes.

This past year, she was able to sell some bananas, green onions, and cassava at her local church and she donated the proceeds of the sale to a church project. She is thrilled that her family can give praise to God for his faithfulness by giving back to their community.



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Litany (Based on Psalm 104)

Reader 1: How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
The earth is full of your creatures.

Congregation: We praise you, our God. For you are good. Your mercy is everlasting.

Reader 1: He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth
food from the earth: wine that gladdens human
hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread
that sustains their bodies.

Congregation: We praise you, our God. For you are good. Your mercy is everlasting.

Reader 1: All creatures look to you
To give them their food at the proper
time.
When you give it to them,
They gather it up;
When you open your hand,
They are satisfied with good things.

Congregation: We praise you, our God. For you are good. Your mercy is everlasting.

Reader 1: Yet our Father, today, as we worship
you, hundreds of thousands of children go to bed
hungry, their bodies tired and longing for food. Wars,
conflicts, and civil unrest have forced families to flee,

looking for a better life for their children, praying that
they will be safe and they will have food.

Congregation: We pray, Oh God, to bring peace and
to feed those who have fled looking for safety. We
pray for your protection. We pray for the kindness of
strangers to feed the hungry.

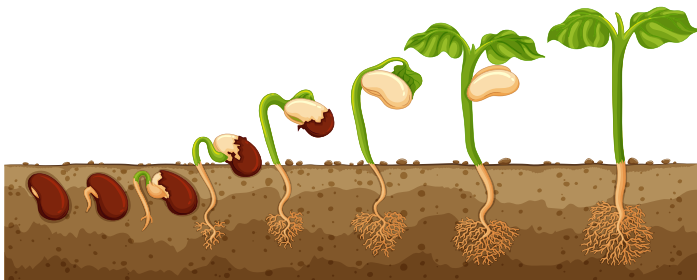
Reader 1: Oh Father, you are the Creator, the Holy
One. You bring the rains in their season. You coax
the seeds to burst out of their shell and grow into a
healthy, robust harvest. Yet flood and drought claim
the crops leaving families without enough to eat.

Congregation: We pray, Oh God, to renew the
land and its people. We pray for healthy crops. We
pray for wisdom as we protect the land for future
generations, stewarding your gifts.

Reader 1: I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long
as I live.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
As I rejoice in the Lord.

Congregation: Praise the Lord, my soul.
Praise the Lord.

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Children's corner

A Bean Seed

You will need a bean seed.

If you are telling this story in church, make sure you have enough seeds for each child.

Children's story

Hold up the bean seed and ask: "What do you think this is?"

Let the children answer.... One will probably get it right.

Yes, it's a bean seed.

And did you know there is a miracle stored in this little seed?

You see, if I plant this seed and give it a little water and sun, soon it will sprout. Even though it looks dry and small to us right now, inside this tiny seed there is new life. Every seed has the potential to produce 120 new seeds!

Isn't that amazing?

I want to tell you a story about two little boys, who live in Kenya. They love to play in the sun, run through their mother's gardens and help their mother work in the fields.

They watch their mother work in the garden. She plants seeds—like the bean seed we talked about—into the soil she's prepared. She used to till the soil many times, but today she lets nature do its work. She uses straw and leaves and some fertilizer from the family goat to enrich the soil. She shows the boys the tiny sprout and tells them to wait—soon it will be a tall plant with beans on it.

The boys love to play in the garden. They can pick fresh vegetables to eat anytime, and they love to watch the tall maize grow up to the sky.

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There was a time when the boys and their mother and father had very little. Their crops didn't grow very well and they struggled to find enough food. The little boys often complained their tummies hurt. They went to bed wishing they had a little more to eat.

But then their mom started going to a special group that helped teach her how to grow a better, more nutritious garden. They taught her how to care for the soil, protecting the plants when the sun was too hot or there were not enough rains.

The boys have forgotten the days they were hungry—because today they have lots to eat. Their mother can even sell some of their crop to the neighbours, making enough money to pay for school fees so they can learn to read and write. They love going to school and playing with their friends.

The boys and their mother are grateful to God for giving them the land, the sun, and the rain to make their crops grow. They are also grateful for you and your family because you have shared a little of what you had to make their lives better.

Here are some bean seeds... you can take them home and plant them. Watch them grow. And while you watch them, think about the two brothers in Kenya who are watching their garden grow. Just like you, they need healthy vegetables and fruit to grow strong!



Distance from Canada to Kenya:
20 hours by plane (12,992 kilometres)



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Draw your three favourite vegetables.

A large, empty rectangular box with a hand-drawn, slightly irregular border, intended for drawing three favorite vegetables.

Go to www.cycleofhunger.ca to play the game Breaking the Cycle of Hunger to learn more about hunger. Play for free once you sign up.