

SPRING 2020

Walking TOGETHER

THE NEWSLETTER OF FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY UK



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**

WELCOME MESSAGE

Opportunity and Dignity

Dear Friend,

For me, these verses sum up a key principle of the work of Food for the Hungry.

"Be very careful then how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity." (Ephesians 5:15-16)

As we walk with families, communities and churches all around the world, we aim to help people see the opportunities that God has placed before them. Of course, not all opportunities are good for us, and this is where the wisdom of our local staff, working closely

on the ground with our projects, is vital in order to be able to shine a light on all of the decisions that need to be made.

When people make wise decisions for themselves, dignity is restored.

"...clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." (Proverbs 31:25)

If dignity is restored – even though tough days are still ahead – people really are not just able to cope with the challenges of life, but they thrive and grow through them.



Paul Cornelius
UK CEO
01494 674898
uk@fh.org

I hope as you read this newsletter, you will be able to see how your provision and prayer have enabled us to share wise opportunities, which in turn leads to dignity being restored, which then ultimately allows lives to be improved – sustainably – as people lift themselves out of abject poverty.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We simply couldn't do what we do without you.

Warmest Regards,

Paul



Food for the Hungry UK - 47 Burgess Wood Road South, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1EL
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We are a Christian international development organisation that has been walking with the poor globally since 1971. We tackle the root causes in order to graduate communities out of poverty.

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AZIZI LIFE - RWANDA

ar+ti+san ('ɑ:ti,zæn, ɑ:ti'zæn)
noun. 1. worker in a skilled trade,
that involves making things by hand.
[C16: from French, from old Italian
artigiano, from arte ART1]

In Rwanda, we support an amazing ministry called 'Azizi Life' which is helping to transform lives by working with over 500 artisans throughout the country.

The artisans receive support and training to build their skill and capacity to allow their goods to be sold



around the world. Because of this income, children are becoming well nourished, healthy and educated. Communities are thriving and dignity is being restored. Pascasie (photo bottom left) is one such local artisan. On April 6th, 1994, Pascasie went to Kigali to sell her baskets. That night 100 days of genocide, where almost a million people were slaughtered, began.

Pascasie was stranded in the city, unable to travel home. She hid in a church with hundreds of others. She was scared for her life, unsure of what was happening. A married mother of 6, she had no idea how her family were. The army came and secured the city. But it would be months before she returned to her village, only

to find her family murdered and her home destroyed.

Pascasie found an abandoned house and, over time, took in 12 orphans from her village who had nowhere else to go. In order to make money she began a weaving group within her community, and that is where Azizi Life found her.

Having found out who it was who murdered her family, Pascasie went to visit them in prison. Incredibly, they asked Pascasie for forgiveness, which she showed in the most beautiful of ways. She returned to visit them week after week, teaching them how to weave. Together they created the Peace Basket.



(Adapted from an article written by Marisa Sellman, Founder and CEO of The Marketplace).

Opportunities & Threats in Kenya



Our Programme Manager, Ian Johnson, very recently returned from a visit to our UK Aid funded project in Kenya. He was able to highlight some very significant opportunities and threats that local pastoralists face. The project is designed to help livestock markets thrive, so that pastoralists can earn more income in order to feed their families not just for the short term, but long into the future.

Part of the work encourages and creates opportunity for women from self-help groups to be trained in business skills and trade their livestock at the markets. One such self-help group is called 'Bigiltu', which means 'a growing tree'. The leader of the group shared her appreciation of the fact that women could now earn income themselves, without having to ask their husbands for funds. She said, "If a Kenyan woman has even 20 Kenyan shillings (15p)



then her children won't go to bed hungry."

Alongside this however, huge swarms of desert locusts are threatening the livelihoods of Kenya's local pastoralists. The UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) fears locust numbers could grow by 500 times by June this year. Kenya has not seen a threat like this for 70 years. If the fear is realised, there will be a significant food shortage across the whole country. FH is supporting the FAO in spraying insecticide from aircraft to avert the threat.

IN JUST ONE DAY A SWARM OF LOCUSTS THE SIZE OF PARIS COULD EAT THE SAME AMOUNT OF FOOD AS HALF THE POPULATION OF FRANCE AND CAN DEVASTATE PASTURE, CAUSING LIVESTOCK TO DIE.

PLEASE PRAY

- That the insecticide actions eliminate the risk of further major locust swarms.
- That actions to improve the functioning of the markets are successful.
- For the local pastoralists, that they engage with the markets, earn more income and that child malnutrition is reduced.

The Impact of Silos in Uganda



UK Aid is funding a food security and child nutrition project in Eastern Uganda. As you may remember us writing about previously, the aim of the project is to cut down high levels of post-harvest wastage by teaching better handling of crops and by offering air-tight domestic storage silos at subsidised prices.

As part of the project, Food for the Hungry Uganda have been conducting community 'focus group' discussions to find out the true impact of the project. Encouragingly, those who have already bought the silos are full of enthusiasm. These are some of the comments we've heard:

I DON'T HAVE TO EAT BAD FOOD ANYMORE BECAUSE I'VE LEARNT HOW TO DRY AND STORE THE GRAIN PROPERLY.

I CAN NOW SELL MY GRAIN WHEN I LIKE, BECAUSE ONCE IT'S IN THE SILO, IT'S SAFE FROM RATS AND WEEVILS.

YOU DON'T SEE ANY MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AROUND HERE ANYMORE.



Just 1 silo can allow a family to feed themselves right through to the next harvest AND sell any surplus grain at up to 10 times the price they were able to get before! What an opportunity!

With their children better fed, income rising from better-timed grain sales and women relieved of the burden of searching for food in times of scarcity, it looks as if this group of farmers have found a winning solution.

DEENA, A PARTICIPANT IN ONE OF OUR FOCUS GROUPS, WITH HER SILO.



A NEW START IN KENYA

It's never a simple job reaching out to impoverished communities for the first time.

Laaria and Mutuma villages within the Buuri Cluster had not benefitted from Food for the Hungry interventions because of a lack of funding. When FH Kenya finally moved into these villages, expectations from the communities were high.

Rainfall had been poor for about a decade, adversely affecting the population dependent on agricultural farming. In addition to this, bad decisions about what to cultivate had the potential to negatively impact the communities further.

Mutuma village had previously cultivated coffee, but this was replaced by growing khat – a herbal stimulant. Because of the nature of this kind of crop, communities that farmed khat tended to develop vulnerabilities to alcohol and drug abuse.



And the effects on family and community of these social ills needs no explanation.

Food for the Hungry staff set up community engagement meetings in the villages. The purpose of these meetings was to give the villagers a sense of ownership and responsibility toward the plans set before them to improve their wellbeing and development.

After being so accustomed to government and charity hand-outs, the villagers had the impression that Food for the Hungry would do everything for them. During these meetings the FH programme model was explained, which is all about community empowerment and becoming their own agents of change.

Transforming the mindset of a community from believing they are helpless to knowing they can take control over their own destiny is perhaps the most difficult task. But the difference between despair and dignity is worth the effort.

WATER FOR REFUGEES IN UGANDA

The community in one of the more deprived zones of the Palabek Refugee Settlement in Northern Uganda had just gained a newly constructed motorised water system from Food for the Hungry, funded by Transform Aid International, which included a well and water tower.

However, the means of distributing this precious water to the communities throughout the region, was yet to be supplied.

In July 2019, Food for the Hungry received a grant of £35,000 from The Band Aid Trust to construct an 8km pipeline which would provide 7,000 people with clean running water.

Prior to work commencing, meetings were held with the beneficiary communities as

an exercise in encouraging ownership of the project. Unskilled labour was recruited from within the settlement, giving people opportunity to contribute in whatever way they could.

Since completion of the pipeline, which carries water to 13 separate four-way tap stands, those living in the zone were finally able to source clean water within 300 metres of their homes. This also meant that the women and girls - who were often the ones it befell to walk for miles to the nearest water supply - were able to spend their time in education instead.

Two primary schools in the zone's host village of Beyogoya were also provided with a water supply for the first time, enabling 1,500 children to



practise proper sanitation. Local farming was greatly benefitted with a fresh water supply increasing crop yields. Water committees were set up, comprising of local people and community leaders, to ensure ongoing maintenance and necessary repairs to the solar-powered pumping installation.



Etienne:
"I am so thankful
for FH's support to
Mwumba community."

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Last November, a team of UK supporters travelled with us to Mwumba to experience our work firsthand. Every day was full of activity, but highlights include:

- Hearing numerous testimonies from men and women in savings groups, demonstrating their pride in what they had achieved for themselves. **[PHOTO 1]**
- Experiencing training in better farming techniques.
- Taking part in the mothers cascading health and nutrition lessons.
- Seeing how school

- Meeting the team's sponsored children and find out first-hand the progress their families are making. [PHOTO 2]

- Seeing the Government interest in FH programmes in conservation agriculture and early child education and praying that the techniques get used more widely throughout the country.

Etienne, a widower, found that after being in the group a year, he was able to borrow BIF110,000 (about £50). This was a life-changing amount for his family. He used the money to buy a goat and to rent land where he could cultivate beans and maize to feed his family and sell for additional income. You can see Etienne with his family and goat in the photo above.



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY
Ending Poverty Together

Ridgeway Challenge

INCLUSIVE SPONSORED WALK



Aiming to raise £50,000 for Mwumba Burundi

(86 miles in 4 days)
4 daily sections
28, 24, 22 and
12 miles.

A map of the Ivinghoe Beacon area. A red dashed line represents the Ridgeway path, starting from Overton in the south and heading north through Avebury, Marlborough, Aldbourne, Lambourn, East Eisle, Wantage, and Liddington. To the east of the path is the River Thames, which flows from the south towards the north. Towns located near the river include Wallingford, Streatley, Goring, Henley-on-Thames, Marlow, Wycombe, Beaconsfield, and Reading. The map is titled 'Ivinghoe Beacon' in the top left corner.

Full challenge over 4 days
Friday 22 May to Monday 25th May

Bank Holiday). Less able people can join the walk for a 2.5 mile section, or a 5 mile round trip from 13:30, after the picnic.

For more information, including transport and accommodation, and to register for the challenge, please email:

Paul Cornelius at pcornelius@fh.org
or call: **01494 674898**. The closing date
for registration is 3rd April 2020.

Please also visit <https://uk-fh.org/home/ridgeway-challenge>

Meet the Food for the Hungry UK Team

PAUL CORNELIUS, CEO



Paul is married to Janis with two boys, Luke and Lewis and daughter-in-law Abby. He committed himself to climbing the corporate ladder at Unilever for 27 years

before God called him to serve the least, the lost and the marginalised with FH.

IAN JOHNSON, Programme Manager



Ian joined FH in 2013, following a career in business and finance. He is married to Rachel and they have two children. As a member of Hope Church Beaconsfield

he is particularly involved with helping the church reach out to the local community.

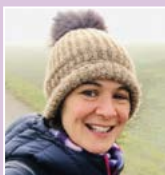
MARTIN JOSTEN, Project Manager



Martin lives in Gerrards Cross with his wife Jane. In 2010, after many years as an engineer in the oil and gas industry, he joined FH working with the International

Emergency Response teams and latterly as a member of the International Council.

CLARE VERMAAK, Fundraiser



Clare has worked for nearly 20 years in the international development sector, in South Africa and in the UK. Her focus has been Trust and Foundations

fundraising in the UK and Europe as well as some individual and major donor work.

DEBRA BOWER, Communication and Supporter Engagement



Debra is married and has three sons. She comes to FH from a career in HR. She has recently returned to the UK after working for Food for the

Hungry US based in Chicago and is excited to continue serving FH here in the UK.

FIONA COLLINS, Child Sponsorship Manager



Fiona recently joined the team. While visiting Burundi last year with FH, she had the opportunity to see the positive impact being

made. She found the visit both a joyous and humbling experience.

STELLA GREEN, Finance

Stella has served with FH in the UK for a number of years in her capacity as a chartered accountant. She is married and has two children.

AND FINALLY...

We also just wanted to take the opportunity to say a big thank-you to **Graham and Jessica Marris** for all their hard work and commitment during their time as Child Sponsorship Managers. You will be missed!



If you are a UK taxpayer, Food for the Hungry UK can reclaim 25% tax for every £1 you give.

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation today and any donations I may make in the future or have made in the past four years to Food for the Hungry UK. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Please notify us if your circumstances change or you want to cancel this declaration. If you pay Income Tax at a higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Thank you!



Full Name:
Address:
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Postcode:
Email:
Home Phone: Mobile:

I would like to make a one-off donation of towards community development in;

☐ Kenya ☐ Burundi
☐ Uganda ☐ Where needed most

Cheques should be made payable to Food for the Hungry UK and sent to us at 47 Burgess Wood Road South, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1EL

If you would like to make a direct transfer, our bank details are;

Barclays Bank - Account name: FHUK

Sort Code: 20-62-53 Account No: 40359173

Please also email us at uk@fh.org to let us know your donation is on its way.

☐ Please do not acknowledge this gift.

☐ I am interested in having someone from FH speak at my church.

☐ I would like to know more about volunteering with FH in the UK.

☐ I no longer want to receive your newsletter, please remove my details from your mailing list.



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