

WINTER 2021

# Walking TOGETHER

THE NEWSLETTER OF FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY UK





## FAREWELL, AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THE WORK OF FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

It has been nearly 15 years since I first learned about the work of Food for the Hungry. It has been a special privilege and blessing to have served the organisation since that time. Rarely has a day gone by when I have not learned something about God's heart for the poor and something about myself. The generosity of our supporters and the sacrificial service of the field staff has often been overwhelming. God's call to overcome all forms of physical and spiritual poverty has been the inspiration for this wonderful organisation since its inception in 1971. We have made a few mistakes over the years, but we have also seen remarkable transformation



IAN AND PAUL VISITING MAKHAI, UGANDA IN 2018

through the power of the Holy Spirit in the communities and families with whom we have walked.

The wonderful news is that Ian, with whom I have worked hand in hand over the past 8 years, has graciously agreed to take over the leadership of Food for the Hungry UK from the beginning of 2022. I know I leave the organisation in wise and Godly hands. Ian brings boundless energy, enthusiasm and optimism to the tasks that God gives him.

So, it just leaves me to thank you all most sincerely for the love, support and encouragement you have given me over this most rewarding chapter of my life.

May God bless you all as we give him all the glory for what He has achieved through your prayers, support, encouragement and generosity.

Best wishes

Paul

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Phone: 01494 674898 | Email: [uk@fh.org](mailto:uk@fh.org) | Web: [www.uk-fh.org](http://www.uk-fh.org) | Registered Charity No. 328273  
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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## Climate change hits poorest hardest

**Extreme weather patterns, natural hazards and food and water shortages are hitting many of the world's poorest first and hardest. The UN estimates that climate change could push more than 120 million people into poverty.**

In Food for the Hungry's work amongst the most vulnerable, we are seeing the impact of this and having to adapt our projects. Here are some examples:

- Farmers in Burundi are seeing shifting weather patterns, with heavy rains, dry spells and soil erosion becoming more extreme. Climate smart agriculture is a priority
- Drought means that pastoralists in Northern Kenya are having to travel further for water, making it essential to rehabilitate the water infrastructure

- Drought in Ethiopia has magnified the impact of the civil war and emergency relief is needed
- In Bangladesh, the incidence of flooding on the floodplains is increasing. This is the cheapest land where the poorest communities congregate. Flood-risk management is being introduced
- Times of crisis typically lead to lack of school attendance amongst girls and early marriage. That is why our programmes are promoting the value of education, ensuring girls receive the education they deserve

In the face of climate change, we are working with communities round the world to build resilience, adapt to the impacts and support the most vulnerable.



SUPPORTING FLOOD AND CYCLONE VICTIMS IN MOZAMBIQUE



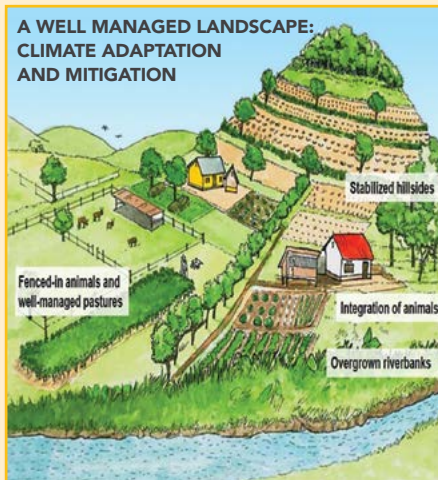
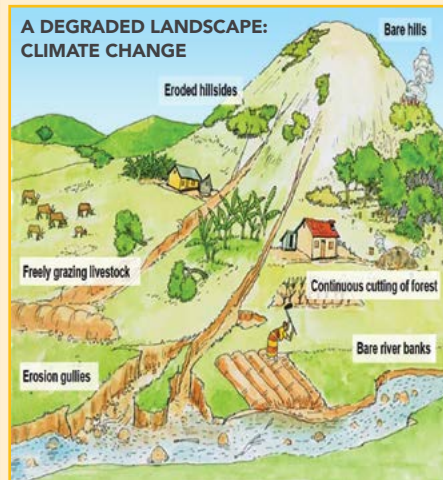
# Climate Smart Agriculture in Burundi

More than 90% of the population of Mwumba relies on subsistence agriculture to survive. Climate change has contributed to recurrent drought, torrential rains, pests and deteriorating soils. Diminishing soil fertility is exacerbated by shrinking farm sizes, as a result of increased competition for land by a growing population. Maize fields have been affected by pests such as army worms. How is Food for the Hungry helping the community to address this?

Climate smart agriculture is a way of transforming farming to support food security as the climate changes. FH agronomists have trained groups of the poorest farmers in better techniques. The most influential farmers have been selected as model farmers to cascade climate smart information to neighbours

and demonstrate the increased crop yields the techniques achieve. The training includes these topics:

- No tilling and minimum soil disturbance, which reduces erosion
- Soil coverage with mulch or crop residues
- Crop rotation and improved seed varieties
- Integrating crop and livestock management
- Fenced in animals and well managed pastures
- Addressing pests through push-pull technology
- Diversifying production (including kitchen gardens and vegetables)
- Producing own seeds
- Ensuring women's access to resources and decisions



The new practices are changing lives in Mwumba. Here, Cyprien and Sophie share their experiences.

Cyprien is a lead farmer and cascade group volunteer who is responsible for passing on the skills and techniques he has learnt. He demonstrated the benefits of these by farming one plot using traditional techniques, and farming a similar plot using the new methods. Then he showed his neighbours the results.

## Cyprien says:

"On the same land and with the same quantity of seeds, my production has increased from 150kg to 300kg for beans, from 100kg to 300kg for maize and from 50kg to 500kg for potatoes. This has fed my family, helped me pay school fees for my six children and buy seeds for the next harvest. Before FH trained me, I was carrying out traditional farming. God bless this organisation."



## Sophie, a widow living with her daughter and infirm mother with just a small plot of land says:

"My life is changing for the better due to wide-ranging FH support and empowerment. I was mentored in better farming techniques, borrowed Burundi Francs 40,000 (£15) from my savings group and rented some marshland. I planted leeks using the FH methods. My plantation is extraordinary and serves as a model for others. I expect the harvest to generate at least 150,000 Burundi France (£60). I will repay my loan and invest the rest in income generating activities, schooling for my daughter and care of my mother."

We are extremely encouraged by these and many other enthusiastic reports of the difference FH climate smart agriculture is making in Mwumba.



# Early Child Education in Buuri, Kenya

**Food for the Hungry has been supporting 27 villages in Buuri, Kenya for a number of years. The programme has included education, health and livelihood interventions. Each year, staff conduct community engagement and assessment activities. This year, the assessments identified that Buuri is lagging behind the rest of the country in its provision of pre-school education.**

Pre-school education is essential for the development of cognitive and social skills in three and four year-olds. Opportunities to explore reading, maths and social interaction are all foundational to the learning of higher skills. In Buuri, children are underperforming at primary school, and often failing to graduate on to secondary school.



Ultimately, this leaves them with little potential to improve their lives, further perpetuating the cycle of poverty. As a result of a request from the communities in Buuri, Food for the Hungry is planning a project to improve the availability, quality and accessibility of pre-school education in the area.

The project staff will work alongside teachers as they spend time with the children, training them to use books, toys and other resources to prepare children for primary school. The project staff will also come alongside parents of pre-school children, encouraging them to be fully involved in their child's education and establishing regular meetings between teachers and parents to discuss progress and challenges.

All pre-schools in Buuri are attached to local primary schools, most of which have inadequate physical facilities, including limited access to clean, safe water and hygiene facilities. Food for the Hungry

**PHOTO LEFT:** ZIPPORAH WITH A PRE-SCHOOL CHILD.  
**PHOTO ABOVE:** ROSEMARY MEETING A YOUNG FAMILY

will work with 27 schools and local authorities to identify the main changes needed in each school. We will then support the schools to implement them.

Together with teachers who are more confident in their training and parents who are more engaged with their child's education, it is hoped that the improved facilities will result in a higher proportion of children in Buuri attending pre-school. In turn, we anticipate an increase in the number of children who will then go on to successfully attend and complete their primary school education, thus beginning the journey towards breaking the cycle of poverty in their family and community.

We invite you to join us in helping to give the children of Buuri the very best possible educational opportunities.



**We are seeking to raise more than £75,000 over the next three years to support 1,200 existing pre-school children and also to impact future generations. If you would like to support this project financially, see page 11 for how to give.**



WITH TEACHERS WHO ARE MORE CONFIDENT AND PARENTS WHO ARE MORE ENGAGED, IT IS HOPED THAT A HIGHER PROPORTION OF CHILDREN IN BUURI WILL ATTEND PRE-SCHOOL.



# Hunger Crisis in Northern Ethiopia

Ethiopia is a rugged, landlocked country split by the Great Rift Valley. Food for the Hungry has worked here since 1984. It is now the organisation's largest field with 1,500 staff, 99% of them local.

Tigray, in the north of the country, has been labelled as suffering "the Worst Hunger Crisis in a decade." This ongoing humanitarian disaster has received little publicity in the UK, as news outlets are dominated by Covid and local news.

## What has caused this crisis?

It is mainly a combination of two factors:

**1 DROUGHT.** Ethiopia is in the middle of the worst drought in recent history. This is disastrous when 85% of the population are involved in agriculture

**2 WAR.** Civil war is raging in Northern Tigray between local and national government. Because of the violence, people have had to flee their homes and small farms.

90% of the Tigray region needs humanitarian assistance (more than 5 million people).

## How is Food for the Hungry responding?

As a trusted partner in Ethiopia with a large number of staff, we are well positioned to respond with emergency food provision, water sanitation and hygiene and with Covid-19 prevention




and control. We are coordinating efforts with other aid agencies and the UN, focused on urgent needs. But true to our core mission, we will remain in the region and transition from emergency relief to long term development as soon as the situation stabilises.

## What can I do?

Most importantly, please pray for peace and rain, but also please consider donating to our emergency relief effort. Details of how to donate are on page 11 of this newsletter.

On November 15th, Ian Johnson took part in a programme on Revelation TV regarding FH's response to the crisis in Ethiopia.



 **See the interview here:**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPKEU1QKAtQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPKEU1QKAtQ)

# Lamwo Girls' Education Project, Uganda

Within a refugee camp in Lamwo, Uganda, FH has implemented the first year of a three-year project to improve educational opportunities for primary school girls. Since Covid struck, the need for this project has only increased. School shut-downs have caused children to fall behind in their education, suffer from social isolation and be exposed to abuse and violence. In Lamwo, more girls have become pregnant, been forced into child marriage and have dropped out of school permanently. Despite these challenges, the team has effectively adapted the project to assist the girls registered within the programme. Achievements in the first year include:

- Leading community training on the value of education for girls and on parenting skills
- Enrolling 5 primary schools in the programme to encourage 423 girls to complete their primary education
- Establishing 5 Community Learning Hubs in classrooms at the schools. Rural schools typically cannot access online material prepared by the Ugandan Government, as they have no electricity or internet. Solar power has been installed at the hubs and the focal hub has been given a laptop
- Teachers have been trained to use online material and rewarded for giving extra lessons to girls in the holidays and at weekends
- Girls have received training in life skills, including menstrual care, addressing gender-based violence and establishing a support network



LEARNING THE VALUE OF EDUCATION



GIRLS MAKING SANITARY PADS



SOLAR POWER ALLOWS TEACHERS AND GIRLS TO ACCESS ON-LINE MATERIAL

The local Education Task Force is very interested in this pilot project. If it proves successful, they are keen to roll it out to other rural schools.

# Hygiene in Bangladesh



SANITARY LATRINES CONSTRUCTED FOR GIRLS

Despite Covid-related challenges, a project to improve sanitation and hygiene in six schools in Godagari, Bangladesh, was completed on time and on budget. Twelve sanitary latrines for girls were constructed, bringing the ratio of girls to latrines from 1:115 to 1:70. Nearly 3,000 girls will benefit. Lessons on menstrual hygiene, cleanliness and reproductive health were organised and a group of women were taught how to make low-cost sanitary napkins. Schools were shut

because of Covid, but FH staff delivered the lessons in the community. Teachers were also trained to continue this education when schools reopen.

Moriam, a mother who was married at age 14 says: "I am fortunate that I now know how to take care of my daughters and also other girls in the community. I share my experience with them and explain the harmful effects of unhygienic menstruation and also of child marriage."



MORIAM MAKES A SANITARY NAPKIN

# Fundraising

Tom Williams ran the London Marathon to support Food for the Hungry and raised more than £1,700!

**Tom leads the pack!  
Thank you, Tom!**



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

**giftaid it**  
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.

He upholds the  
cause of the  
oppressed and  
gives food to  
the hungry.

Psalm 146:7

☐ I would like to make a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ for Food for the Hungry to use 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](mailto:uk@fh.org) to let us know your donation is on its way.

☐ Please do not acknowledge this gift.

☐ 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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