

END HUNGER



Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian church-based agencies working to end hunger in developing countries by increasing and deepening the involvement of Canadians in efforts to end hunger; supporting partnerships and activities to reduce hunger on both an immediate and sustainable basis; and influencing changes in public policies necessary to end hunger:

Member Agencies

Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada
www.adra.ca

Canadian Baptist Ministries
www.cbmin.org

Canadian Catholic Organization for
Development & Peace
www.devp.org

Canadian Lutheran World Relief
www.clwr.org

Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada
www.cmacan.org

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
www.cwrc.org

Emergency Relief & Development Overseas
(Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada)
www.erdo.ca

Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
www.emcc.ca

Mennonite Central Committee Canada
www.mcc.org

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada
www.ncmc.ca

Presbyterian World Service & Development
www.presbyterian.ca

Primate's World Relief & Development Fund
(Anglican Church of Canada)
www.pwrdf.org

The Salvation Army
www.salvationarmy.ca

The United Church of Canada
www.united-church.ca

World Relief Canada
www.wrcanada.org

Mukesh and his family



The Right to Food in an Indian Village

At age 10, Mukesh has already known more days of hunger than of school. He goes to school occasionally, but more often has to stay at home to help his parents in the fields. Like the rest of the village, his parents are landless labourers, working for nearby rice and wheat farmers. They are paid a few kilos of rice for each day they work, but there are long periods of time when there is no work, and hunger haunts the village. There is hope for improvement though, since EFICOR (Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief) has started a "right to food" campaign.

I met Mukesh in Saraugad, a village of Musahar people in northern India. Musahars are outcasts, at the bottom of India's social scale. Though all people are now equal according to Indian law, Musahars still experience discrimination and lack of opportunities. Of the 92 families who live in Saraugad, only 2 adults can read, only a handful of children attend school sporadically, and most people are visibly malnourished.

EFICOR is an Indian church-based NGO with a strong track record of improving the lives of poor people through food programs and human rights advocacy. Canadian Foodgrains Bank has been supporting their right to food project since 2007, through their member agency World Relief Canada. I visited two project villages with EFICOR staff early in 2008, to improve my understanding of their approach, and the context within which they work. The project involves lower caste and tribal people in 100 villages in two Indian states, and its aim is to improve delivery of Indian government welfare benefits to groups who are not receiving their legal entitlement.

The Indian government already has welfare programs designed to provide food and employment to the most vulnerable people in society. There are cut-price shops which sell food at about half the market rate, and there is a program which guarantees 100 days of paid work per year for those who need it. To be eligible for

New Faces

Andre Visscher and Terrence Barg have joined the Foodgrains Bank team as the new Alberta Regional Coordinators. Terence and Andre have been business partners for the past 12 years, representing European immigrants who are looking to purchase farms and settle in Western Canada. They will continue to manage this business on a part-time basis while they share the Alberta Regional Coordinator position. They intend to split the regional coordinator work geographically, with Andre covering the southern part of the province and Terence covering central and northern areas.



End Hunger Campaign wins distinction as Manitoba Communicator of the Year

Heather Plett, our Director of Resources and Public Engagement, was recently named Manitoba Communicator of the Year by the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Public Relations Society. According to their press release, Heather was chosen by a panel of senior CPRS Manitoba members for her success in targeting diverse audiences across the country with a multi-platform campaign and a limited budget.

“I’m honoured by the award, but I know that I couldn’t do it alone,” says Heather. “I’m privileged to be part of an incredible network of staff, volunteers, member agency staff, supporters, and overseas partners who are all working hard to raise awareness about the work of ending hunger.”

Right to Food continued...

these programs, however, a person first has to get a “ration card” or a “job card”. Many Musahar people had not heard of the welfare programs, but even those who applied were ignored by local government officials and the people who run the cut-price shops.

In Saraugad, EFICOR started by telling people about the government’s food and work programs, and the fact that all Indians had a right to access these programs. Then they met with local government officials to remind them of their responsibility to all the people in their district, and to encourage them to make job and work cards available to Musahar villages. EFICOR also works with sympathetic media (radio, TV and newspapers) to bring discrimination to light.

I saw the benefit of EFICOR’s approach in a visit with another organization (SSEVK) which has been working with Musahar people in another village for several years. Using similar tactics, SSEVK work has led to dramatic improvements in people’s lives. Access to ration cards and job cards is only the beginning—once the people had more secure sources of food and income, they could concentrate their energy on education, health and broader ways to participate in society. Now, 60% of the children are in school, overall health has improved, some villagers own land, and many Musahar people have won elections to local government offices. SSEVK has calculated that for every dollar they have spent on the right to food project, there has been about seven dollars of increased government benefits to Musahar people.

Even without the health and education indicators, I saw a striking difference between the people of the two villages I met. Where right to food work is just beginning, people seemed to accept that it was their destiny to be poor and hungry. Any potential to improve their lives rested outside their own power, with landowners, or NGOs, or government. In contrast, where right to food work was well established, people told me with pride “We made our own lives better. We were helped by SSEVK, but we did this for ourselves.”

Though Mukesh doesn’t understand all the talk about the right to food, he is aware of a new hope in the village. He hopes that he’ll get to spend more time in school and less in the fields. His parents hope for the day they won’t have to worry about food. And the Musahars hope they will finally be able to participate as equals in Indian society.

—Paul Hagerman, Public Policy Manager

Musahar people in Saraugad, India



Voices from the South



Victoria Wollie travels from Liberia to Canada

Victoria Wollie is a People to People visitor who is the General Secretary of the Association of Evangelicals of Liberia (AEL), a partner of World Relief Canada (WRC). AEL is active in resettling refugees from the many years of civil war, including helping many farmers to successfully return to their land. “Partnering with Foodgrains Bank through WRC, AEL has been able to assist up to 6,000 farmers and 36,000 people with seeds, tools, and food assistance in addition to giving technical training to help them reach sustainability. That’s a great impact,” she affirms.

Victoria has been staying in people’s homes, most of whom are Foodgrains Bank supporters and she’s faced some pretty cool weather in her prairie travels. “The

weather is a challenge. I came from 40 degrees above and am now in -30 degree weather. But I’ve been so warmly received into people’s homes. That has definitely been a highlight. I’ve noticed a strong commitment to family life.” She has had a chance to see some major differences in agriculture as well, commenting on the highly mechanized methods in Canada that are still a long way off from becoming part of the Liberian landscape. “If Liberia remains stable, farmers will be able to sustain their families, and then they may begin to market their products. Perhaps in the future we may see more mechanized farming.”

On this trip, she has valued the chance to get to know the Canadian way of life. She’s been copying down recipes and trying her hand at Canadian dishes while helping out in some kitchens along the way. When asked if she will find the ingredients—like celery—to make them in Liberia, she noted some challenges. “I can find it but it’s expensive. Very, very expensive. It is imported. The UN force is still present in Liberia and so we find many of these imported foods in our market. But I never knew the name of it until now.”

One of the major challenges for food security in Liberia is processing and preserving food. “People in Canada have a way to keep their leftover food,” she notes. “In Liberia we have to go to the market every day. We don’t have electricity—those of us with generators don’t have enough power to have a refrigerator. So when we have a surplus, we give it to someone around who does not have enough food. There are always people around who need food.” Isn’t that the truth?

—James Kornelsen, Public Engagement Coordinator



Record donations & CIDA contributions

Thanks to you, our faithful supporters, Canadian Foodgrains Bank is breaking records in donations received. This fiscal year, our donations have topped \$12 million, some \$4 million more than our previous record! Some of this is due to increasing grain values, but much of it also reflects growing cash donations. Thank you for actively playing a part in ending hunger!

In addition, we continue to be grateful for the support that we receive through CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency). This year, CIDA’s contribution increased to \$25 million per year, with additional funding still anticipated for special programs in the Congo and Zimbabwe in the new year.

Together, we are making a difference!



Inspiring People

Canadian Foodgrains Bank has some of the most committed and compassionate supporters

you'll ever have the opportunity to cross paths with. Randall Pappel was one such person. For many years at Christmas time, Randall set up a booth at his local shopping mall where he invited people to support the work of Canadian Foodgrains Bank. He brought in thousands of dollars by his faithful efforts. Randall passed away recently, at the age of 82. At his funeral, we learned from his family that throughout his lifetime, Randall had volunteered his time and energy to at least 100 organizations. Randall's final contribution to the Foodgrains Bank took the form of the over \$4000 that his friends and family donated in his memory at his funeral. Randall's life was an inspiration to us all.



Get ready for the second annual Fast for Change

"Today was an amazing day and just the thought of how many people are doing this fast for change, it brings me to tears. It's about time Christians stand together for what they believe in so they could get things done."

Reports like this one from one contributor were evident in many of the comments appearing at www.endhungerfast.com, the Fast for Change campaign website. Fast for Change successfully engaged many Canadians across the country to pray, reflect, and take specific actions on World Food Day, October 16th. In 2009 those numbers are expected to increase as additional resources will be available to provide great opportunities for churches, schools, and families to participate. We welcome you to join us!



From the desk of the Executive Director

We are hearing more and more reports of how the global financial and economic crisis is affecting poor people in developing countries. This crisis is following a few years of high food prices which had significantly increased the number of people who were going hungry. While food prices have been decreasing, poor people are now affected by the economic slowdown. Even in remote areas seemingly disconnected from the world of global finance, hedge funds, derivative traders, and sub-prime mortgages, people are experiencing the effects.

I was recently reading a report about a group of remote villages in northern Bangladesh. These villages have been hard hit by the global economic crisis because the funds sent home by relatives in foreign countries or those working in the city in garment factories has fallen significantly as many of these relatives lose their jobs. Total income in these villages has declined by more than 15 percent, which is greater than the decline in the income in those countries at the heart of the financial and economic crisis.

The work we do in providing food and support to the most vulnerable remains critical at this time. We are encouraged by the continued and growing support of Canadians for the work of the Foodgrains Bank during this difficult time. Canadians are continuing to look outward to the needs of others. —*Jim Cornelius*



Florence Shawa in Malawi

Millionaires in Malawi

The early morning sun cast long shadows across the warm, lush landscape near Ekwendeni in northern Malawi. I found myself captivated by the breathtaking natural scenery and I asked myself how it could be that such a beautiful country could also be one of the poorest countries in the world.

The growing season, roughly December to April, when the rains bring vegetation to life, is also known as the hungry season. Many people suffer from food shortages as they wait for the crops on their small plots of land to grow. It was an important time to visit communities taking part in the Soils, Foods and Healthy Communities program supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development in partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank. I found myself wandering through villages, peering into the homes of welcoming strangers, as they talked about how their lives have been impacted.

One particular encounter sticks out in my mind. Florence Shawa's home was nestled in a corn field to ensure as much land as possible was used to grow her family's food. Florence motioned passionately for us to come over. Her husband worked in the background, glancing curiously in our direction but too busy to stop his work. A small baby, in the arms of a sibling, cried in small bursts. Other children peeked in and out from the corn, trying to get a glimpse of the foreigners. Florence had something to tell us and she wasn't going to let us leave until it was said. It was the only English she knew, a poem she had memorized, and she wanted to make sure we understood.

In a voice that was loud, confident and proud, Florence

gripped my arm enthusiastically as she spoke. "My name is Florence Shawa. I have got my poem. Good education is the key to poverty reduction."

This began a poem unlike any I have ever heard before. With a beaming face, Florence described how her life had been changed through the information she had learned through the Healthy Communities program.

"Intercropping I do in my garden. Maize, beans, cassava, in one garden. Money shortage is a thing of the past."

Florence has also learned about crop diversification and the importance of vitamins to her family's health. She learned about the importance of clean water and proper sanitation. Education has allowed Florence and her family to free themselves from the chains of poverty and hunger, and she wanted to make sure we knew it.

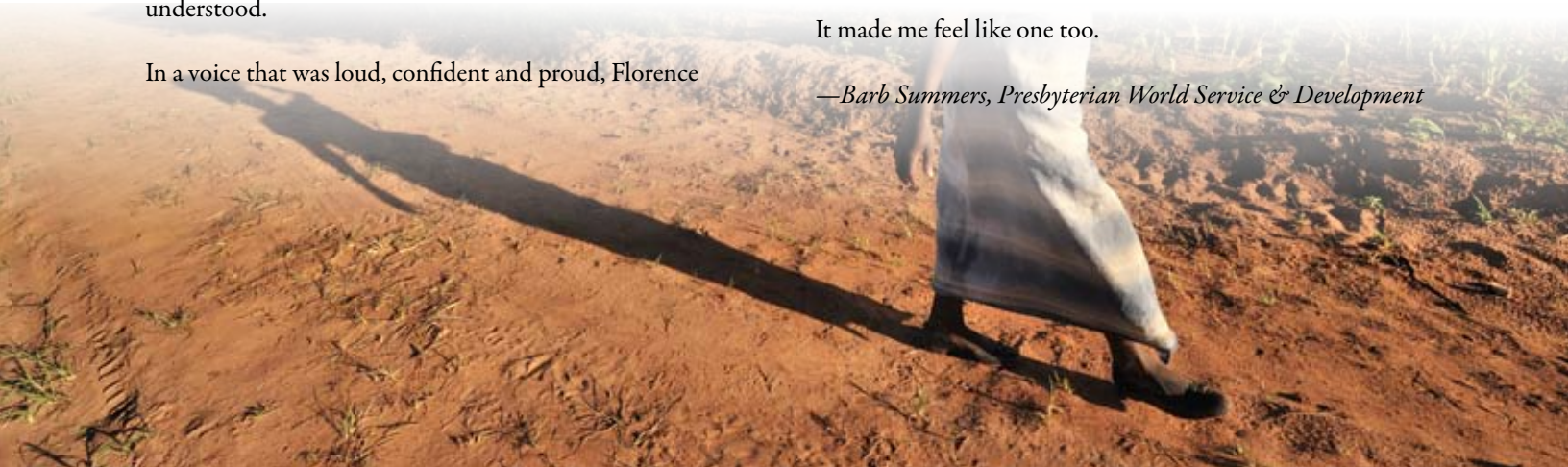
Florence paused and gestured to the village around her. "See educated people! They are like millionaires! Education is very important. Thank you."

With a deep inhale to catch her breath, she then began to laugh. We all laughed. Even the crying baby had started to giggle.

I left Florence's home with her words swirling around in my head. Education, and the freedom it can bring, does more than provide food for the hungry. It can make them feel like millionaires.

It made me feel like one too.

—Barb Summers, *Presbyterian World Service & Development*



Food and Seed Supplied (April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009)

COUNTRY	TONNES	COMMODITY
Afghanistan	277	Wheat Flour, Oil, Pulses, Seed, Salt
Bangladesh	2,762	Rice, Seed
Burkina Faso	215	Maize, Oil, Seed
Burundi	221	Maize, Seed
Chad	1,041	Sorghum
DR Congo	2,816	Maize Meal, Pulses, Oil, Salt, Seed
Ethiopia	9,505	Wheat, Maize, Oil, Pulses, Famix, Seed
Haiti	209	Rice, Oil, Pulses, Seed
India	6,416	Wheat, Wheat Flour, Rice, Oil, Pulses, Seed, Salt
Jordan	73	Rice, Oil, Pulses, Other
Kenya	1,035	Maize, Oil, Pulses
Laos	36	Rice
Liberia	476	Rice, Oil, Pulses, Seeds
Malawi	450	Maize Meal
Mexico	72	Rice, Maize, Oil, Pulses, Salt
Mozambique	480	Maize, Pulses
Myanmar	236	Rice, Oil, Pulses, Salt
Niger	143	Maize, Sorghum, Oil, Pulses, Sugar
Rwanda	27	Maize Meal, Oil, Pulses, Seed
Somalia	322	Maize, Oil, Pulses
Sri Lanka	134	Rice, Oil, Pulses, Seed, Salt, Sugar, Other
Sudan	354	Sorghum, Oil, Pulses, Salt, Sugar
Tanzania	453	Maize, Oil, Pulses, Seed
Zambia	348	Maize, Oil, Pulses, Seed
Zimbabwe	7,919	Maize Meal, Oil, Pulses, Corn Soya Blend, Wheat Soya Blend

Food Security and Nutrition Projects

COUNTRY	TOTAL	PROGRAM
Afghanistan	\$208,000	Food Security
Bangladesh	\$29,000	Food Security
Chad	\$26,000	Food Security
DPR Korea	\$33,000	Food Security
DR Congo	\$538,000	Food Security
Ethiopia	\$913,000	Food Security
India	\$375,000	Food Security, Nutrition
Kenya	\$802,000	Food Security
Laos	\$33,000	Food Security
Liberia	\$535,000	Food Security
Malawi	\$185,000	Food Security
Mali	\$28,000	Food Security
Mozambique	\$487,000	Food Security
Myanmar	\$453,000	Food Security
Nicaragua	\$90,000	Food Security
Niger	\$118,000	Food Security, Nutrition
Pakistan	\$272,000	Food Security
Rwanda	\$42,000	Food Security
Sierra Leone	\$6,000	Food Security
Sri Lanka	\$12,000	Food Security
Sudan	\$3,040,000	Food Security, Nutrition
Uganda	\$328,000	Food Security
Zambia	\$533,000	Food Security
Zimbabwe	\$685,000	Food Security

Donations to Canadian Foodgrains Bank can be made online at www.foodgrainsbank.ca or by calling 1-800-665-0377. To help you learn more about Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we'd be happy to provide you with additional resources such as brochures, videos, bulletin covers or inserts. To invite someone to speak at your church or community event, contact your local coordinator, or call our toll free number.

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