



tearfund

CONNECT

Fall 2020

GREATER THINGS ARE YET TO COME

SPECIAL REPORT:

- Scaling Up
Conservation Agriculture

Following Jesus where the need is greatest

A New Chapter

Dear friend,

The best endings are those that bring hope for the future. When Jesus' chapter on Earth was complete, he promised hope for his followers still on earth. Along with the many stories of faithfulness the disciples had to tell, Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to come and guide the church, and that He himself would return one day. Although one chapter was ending, the story was to continue with people like you and me.

This year a chapter became complete at Tearfund. The 5 year, \$3 million, Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture (SUCA) project has finished, and new opportunities and hope are on the horizon.

Thanks to your faithful support of this project, thousands of lives have been forever transformed across East Africa. The completion of a project usually means starting anew somewhere else, but this time the countries, ministries, and foundations that have supported this project have been so amazed at the transformation that they want us to continue!

Your continuous generosity and prayers for Tearfund and this project have opened a path to enable the transformation of thousands more lives in East Africa. Now, just like the disciples, we have stories to tell. Stories of accomplishment, growing confidence, and of course hope. I am excited for this story to continue and pray that you will again join us, to unlock people's God-given potential around the world.

Blessings and thanks,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wayne Johnson

Executive Director
wjohnson@tearfund.ca
416-707-9066



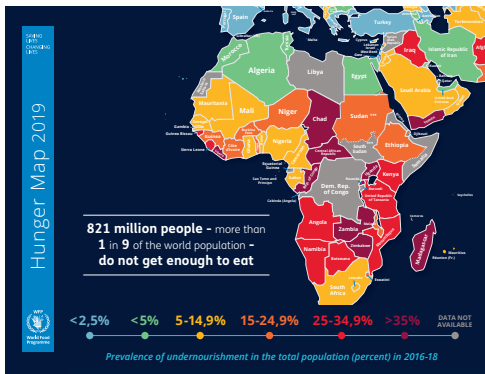


HIGHLIGHT ON **Hunger**

RESULTS OF FOOD INSECURITY:

- Hunger, malnutrition, and undernourishment
- Disempowerment for not being able to care for themselves
- Continuation of the cycle of poverty

People want to be known for their intelligence and kindness, not for being food insecure and hungry. **Anika*** and her family from Ethiopia struggled to survive during the lean season each year, eating only one meal each day. Grumbling stomachs and hunger made it difficult for her children to concentrate in school, and for her and her husband to have the energy to work.



Hunger hurts. For Anika's family and many others around the world, hunger is a daily reality (see map).

In 2000, food security became a top priority for the world, and since then its prevalence has decreased. Your support has helped provide food aid and agriculture training where the need for food is greatest. Before 2020 more people had access to food than ever before, and Anika

is one of them! Today she is an advocate for food security for all.

'Food security is vital in the battle against the effects and spread of COVID-19. Food security makes people confident in their resources to cope and thrive even amidst uncertainty. Panic and fear of the unknown results in unrest, conflict, widespread malnutrition, and rises in migration due to hunger and lack of food. All of this would be detrimental to the prevention of the virus spreading elsewhere.'

Norman Holbrook, Program Manager

COVID-19 QUICK FACTS:

■ 2019 had **821 million people facing extreme hunger**, but experts predict that number will increase by 18% to 968 million by the end of this year. This is because COVID-19 has disrupted food production and distribution in many of the world's poorest countries.

Your support is needed more than ever to bring peace and security to people in such an unstable time.



SPOTLIGHT ON **SUCA**

(SCALING UP CONSERVATION
AGRICULTURE)



Imagine yourself living in a place that was filled with beautiful, healthy, dark green trees and plants. Food was always fresh and bountiful; you never went hungry. But like manna in the Bible, the food only lasts for a short period of time after the harvest. 4-5 months and then it's all gone. Now you must survive the remaining 7-8 months with less than ideal farming conditions, little access to food, and a family to feed.

This is the reality for 250 million people living in East Africa each year. In Ethiopia and Tanzania this 7-8-month struggle has been deemed the 'lean season' – a period of time between harvests when there are few resources and little food to go around – due to the few resources available to survive. Tearfund along with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its local church partners recognized the effects of the lean season on people and decided to start a 5-year project to reduce the struggle.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF LEAN SEASON?

Besides widespread hunger, most farmers are not able to make an income during this time. This means no food, school, or extras. Sometimes farmers will go to the city to perform precarious work, leaving their wives and children alone at home.

WHY CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE?

- Triples crop yields
- Fewer inputs required, including rain
- Less labour intensive than traditional methods
- Heals soil erosion and land degradation
- Adaptable to changing weather conditions

The **Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture (SUCA)** project lasted 5 years, spanning Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya. The goal was to improve food security and sustainable livelihoods for small farming households in East Africa by training farmers in **Conservation Agriculture (CA)** and enrolling women in **Village Savings Groups** so to earn additional income.

Success In Scaling Up

For years, your support has mobilized the church to help people become food secure, but this project scaled up those efforts even more. After seeing the success for themselves, farmers began asking government officials to visit their farms and see the difference. One project participant said,

“we were persistent, asking them to visit us regularly. Never forceful, we just wanted to show them the facts”.

And it worked! The Ethiopian government has adopted CA as an official farming method and have asked Tearfund and its partners to extend the SUCA project. With governments coming on board, the impact from your gifts will be even greater in the upcoming years as change will be possible on a national level.

WHY VILLAGE SAVINGS GROUPS?

- Helps families grow their income
- Leads to the creation of new businesses
- Provides women with more power of household finances
- Provides loans in times of emergency
- Fosters community building

Thanks to your support, over **81,000 people have become more food secure** and governments are becoming advocates for their people. Not only the governments, but the farmers themselves! Who are going out to train their neighbours. Your gifts have led to this extension and now there is even greater hope to eliminate hunger in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

FUN FACT!

It wasn't just the Ethiopian government who jumped in, the SUCA project partners have also received interest from the Norwegian and Canadian governments, along with other foundations.





SPOTLIGHT ON **SUCA**

YOUR IMPACT THROUGH SUCA:

14,395

farmers have been trained
in **Conservation Agriculture**

5,034

individuals have been enrolled
in a **Village Savings Group**

81,000

people now have enough
food to eat **year-round**.

AVERAGE FARMER AGE:

Ethiopia – 41.5 years

Tanzania – 46.7 years

Map of locations in Africa highlighting those involved with SUCA



99%

of farmers trained in **Conservation Agriculture** say they will continue in the next season

81%

of **Village Savings Group** participants were women



THE STRENGTH OF A
Father



The harvest season was ending, and Ukumo had barely enough crop to feed his family for the 4 months of plenty, how would they last the rest of the year? Food assistance from the Ethiopian government helped a little, but its main purpose was to provide calories to survive, not nutrients to help people thrive. Ukumo had been watching his children fall into severe malnutrition and he began to feel trapped.

One day a member from the local church invited Ukumo to learn about a new method of farming Tearfund had taught them as part of the Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture (SUCA) project. Conservation agriculture (CA) helped farmers adapt by reducing mitigating soil erosion and improving soil moisture during dry seasons. Ukumo was in awe of the yields CA produced and began to dream about what he could do with the method.

Within three days he implemented the CA principles into his own farming, planting maize, taro, pumpkin, hot peppers, cowpea, and papaya. **“The harvest was beyond my imagination!”** said Ukumo, **“I had 5x more maize than the previous season!”**



**Thanks to your support Ukumo
can now feed his family year-round
and has extra for profit.**



SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER

**HUNDREDS OF CHURCHES.
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.
ONE BIG QUIZ**

Get together (digitally or physically) with your friends, family and church for an epic evening of poverty-fighting fun.

For one night only – churches and other groups up and down the country will be taking part in the biggest multi-venue, nationwide quiz ever.

We'd love you to join in!

Learn more at: www.tearfund.ca/bigquiz2020

tearfund

tearfund.ca
PO Box 3220 Industrial Park,
Markham, ON L3R 9Z9, Canada
1-800-567-8190 | connect@tearfund.ca