

tearfund

CONNECT

August 2020

# THE GIFT OF DIGNITY

**Canadian  
Foodgrains  
Bank**  
A Christian Response  
to Hunger  
**EDITION**

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*Following Jesus where the need is greatest*

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## THANK YOU

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There is no one size fits all approach to poverty alleviation, but there are definite steps a person can take to escape the poverty cycle! One of these steps is becoming food secure. When a person does not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from they are able to think, dream and take action to better their lives.

YOU have been helping vulnerable farmers become food secure! Through your giving to Tearfund's account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), ***you are a part of God's solution to poverty - thank you!*** The CFGB consists of 15 members, with Tearfund being their implementing arm for specialized agriculture projects helping the world's poor throughout Africa and Asia. By partnering with local churches, small-scale farmers who have struggled to grow enough to feed themselves and their families receive training to find long-term, sustainable solutions to the challenges facing them.

Here's how it works - local churches share their property for training schools, demonstration fields, seed nurseries and public meeting places. This is where the community gathers to receive life changing training on conservation agriculture, new post-harvest storage methods and learn marketing strategies to help their farmer co-ops sell in volume.

Last year, you and others gave a collective total of \$301,799 to Tearfund's CFGB equity account. Thank you for your impact! You are helping to challenge the narrative of powerlessness in these communities, as farmers are reminded of their intrinsic value and God-given potential.

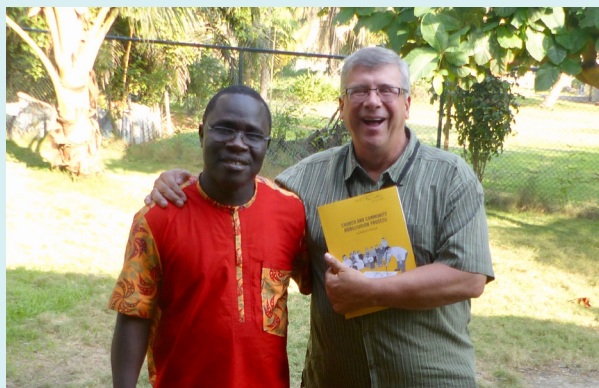
What's even more exciting is that your generosity is multiplied! For every farmer trained, our program officers witness two or more copy farmers. After doubling their yields from conservation agriculture, farmers are paying it forward by sharing new knowledge with their neighbours, resulting in the transformation of entire communities!

These farmers want to thank you! Enjoy reading about the incredible transformation of their communities in this special update for you.

God bless,



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# COVID-19 RESPONSE

When Covid-19 shut down the world there was a lot of learning and adapting to do. One of the major concerns many charities had was how projects could continue while facing the realities of an economic collapse. ***Thanks to your support of Tearfund through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, our projects have been able to continue in every country.***

Tearfund did not need to invent a new model nor start from scratch because we have always worked at the community level through local church partners and native-born residents. While many organizations have had to postpone or cease operations because of COVID-19 – we have been more active than ever.

Supported by you, farmers are being helped with new COVID farming methods tailored to the unique pandemic economy. Our local church partners have made three major shifts:

1. Changing training sessions to focus on new storage techniques to prevent crop rot and food spoilage as COVID has halted supply chains.
2. Helping farmers transition to more resilient crops such as potatoes, ginger, and garlic rather than fast rotting vegetables.
3. Opening new distribution points and transportation routes so farmers can take their products to market to sell.

By continuing to support Tearfund through the Canadian Foodgrains bank, you will continue to have an impact on these farmers all over the world.





# CHANGING THE GAME IN ETHIOPIA

Rainy season is a time of prosperity around the world. A time of lush greenery, cooler temperatures, and most importantly, a time most people have enough food to eat every day. Rainy season isn't perfect, there can be flooding and mosquitos, but hunger is significantly less.

The rest of the year land is dry and temperatures are HOT. Farming is extremely unproductive, resulting in a lack of income and food shortages for families. This period is called the "lean season".

In Canada, farmers are able to store food in grain barns that regulate conditions and allow crops to be sold year round. In Africa, infrastructure is much weaker, weather conditions are far more erratic, and there are pests that will eat all crops that are not stored well.

Canadian Grain Elevator



PICS bag in Africa





In Ethiopia there is a group of women who are on a journey to transform their community. Sitting in a circle they tell us the story of how they started practicing conservation agriculture. There was a dramatic increase in income and overall health but the lean season was still a problem. Mice, weevils, and mold still consumed one third of their harvest. Their crops would not last the rest of the year.

Wanting a way to reduce the effects of the lean season for their families, the group decided to invest in a new technology called PICS bags, Purdue Improved Crop Storage. Tearfund introduced the bags in hopes of giving people another way to lift themselves out of poverty. The bags were new and not many people had used them, yet the women saw the potential.

*"The PICS bags are a game changer!" says one of the women, "My family has food year round, and has given us an income during the lean months."*

The bags are inexpensive and can preserve up to 100kg of crop that can be sold or can feed families during lean season. The bags also add resilience to food security efforts in emergency situations like locust swarms, flooding or a pandemic such as COVID-19.

Farmers no longer have to assume that one third of their harvest will be destroyed by pests and mold. Your donation supports the building of resilient food systems and ensures people's access to the right kinds of food at the right time.

The Canadian Food Grains Bank is encouraging more organizations to adopt PICS bags due to the massive success this innovation has had since Tearfund introduced them into Africa. In partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, as of September 2020 we will have distributed over 25,000 PICS bags to farmers. This is just one more way your support is changing the game for farmers, to bring lasting food security.

# FARMING FIELD SCHOOLS

It's a hot afternoon with no clouds on the horizon. This heat is typical to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Masika Matabishi is giving us a tour of the farmer field school that was planted on the local church property and run by Tearfund's agricultural association.

The field is full of healthy crops which the church uses to teach their community about conservation agriculture. The yields from this field have been astounding, yet it is Masika that makes you want to try this new method of farming. She believes in conservation agriculture so passionately, because it saved her life.

Masika leads us to sit under the shade of a large tree to share her story. She begins explaining how her husband abandoned their family, leaving her to care for their 8 children. At first, she was not sure what to do, but she knew she had to do something. *"I heard about a local church who was offering free training on something called conservation agriculture. Immediately I signed up."*

Another lady comes to introduce herself and explains how she tried conservation agriculture after Masika convinced her of the benefits. Smiling proudly, Masika grabs her friend's hand and continues her story. Her family went from having one meal a day to eating two, plus extra to sell at the market.

Walking over to a tree in the demonstration crop she picks some bananas and brings them over to share. *"In the DRC we have battled with a disease that destroys our banana crops,"* her face breaks into a grin and laughingly she states, *"since the training we are like monkeys and can eat them all the time!"*

With time for one last question we asked her why she became involved with the demonstration field. Smiling, she answers saying, ***"my children no longer go to sleep hungry, I want to share that accomplishment with every family in my community."***





THANK YOU!

Your donation to Tearfund's equity account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank have provided resources for 1000's of beneficiaries across Africa and Asia this last fiscal year.

**2,100** beneficiaries in **Sierra Leone**  
**2,100** beneficiaries in **Liberia**  
**2,440** beneficiaries in **Kenya**  
**37,485** beneficiaries in **Tanzania**

**92,422** beneficiaries in **Ethiopia**  
**38,164** in the **DR Congo**  
**8,050** beneficiaries in **South Sudan**  
**6,920** beneficiaries in **India**

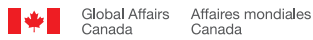
### AMAZING RESULTS!

In 2019, your support provided families across **Africa** and **Asia** with training that multiplied their crop yield **3X-4X!**

**91,125**  
people now have access to food year-round

**687%**  
average increase in family income after planting Taro with **Conservation Agriculture**

### YOUR DONATIONS, MULTIPLIED



### LEVERAGED UP TO 4:1

Thanks to our membership at the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**, your donations have greater impact. In many cases, we are able to multiply your donation **2X, 3X, or even 4X** – allowing you to impact more lives around the world in the name of Christ.



# 800 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY.

- **1 in 9** don't have enough to eat
- **1 in 10** don't have access to clean water
- **65 million** are displaced due conflict and disaster

This will not be so in God's Kingdom.  
Poverty and injustice won't have the last word.

## THE POWER OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Your partnership with Tearfund and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is making a difference in the poorest places of our world.

You enable local churches to help the most vulnerable unlock their God-given potential to lift themselves and their communities out of extreme poverty.



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