In 1996 the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, was in a period of political and economic crisis with high rates of unemployment. Isabel Cristina de Souza Cunha and her husband, Harold, who lived in the city of Viamão, were two of the many people who lost their jobs. Without income, there was no guarantee of either food on the table or the means to purchase necessities. As she looked for opportunities, Isabel considered how the fair-trade and solidarilty movement could help.

Starting and growing the cooperative – today called Cooperomb – required the hard work and persistence of Isabel and the other members. To bolster their efforts, Isabel heard about the fair-trade movement.

Today, the family run a small business in the field of handicrafts, manufacturing and recycling. They provide training and support for women entrepreneurs. "As a result of this support, we have improved the quality of our products," Isabel says. "We are able to invest in improving our enterprise continually and we have gained new consumers. The improvement of the income of Cooperomb's associates and their quality of life is a direct result of working with the Fair and Supportive Trade Network."
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Growing food security in Nepal

On their 1,500 square meters of land in Jayaputri, Nepal, Kala and her seven other family members must grow enough food to feed themselves. But their production was only lasting six months, leaving them looking for other family members must grow other family members to grow and sell the extra to support the family. For other family members to support the family, Kala says. Kala says. Kala can now feed her family throughout the year and has more to spare to sell at the market. This comes not only from food security but also greater income so she can send her children to school and build a safety net for times like medical expenses. The additional income is about $1,000 USD, a significant boost in a country where the gross domestic product per capita is about $730 USD, according to the World Bank.

"I am very pleased with the regular support and would like to thank all the helping hands...for showing me the way of income generation and building up my confidence level by organizing and delivering training in the group," Kala says.

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, farmers like Kala can access resources that make it possible for their families to have a brighter, healthier future.

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More than 800 million people in our world today are undernourished. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are called to respond. Working with our neighbors in the United States and in more than 60 countries around the world, we start by listening and learning about how we can accommodate them to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty—forever. From water wells to animal husbandry, microloans to health clinics, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. And they don’t stop there. We engage Lutherans in advocacy and hunger education to act and speak in ways that can make a difference. We rely on your gifts. ELCA World Hunger is funded solely by gifts from ELCA members and congregations like yours. Thank you for making this work possible through learning, action, prayer and giving.

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"Indeed God is great!"

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