Peter Thapa Magar arrived at the orphanage of Mayberth School when he was just 2 years old. His father had passed away and his mother and grandparents were unable to care for him and his three older brothers. Maybert was founded in 2002 as a Christian school to provide education for children from varying backgrounds, including children who have lost parents, like Peter. Through an ELCA World Hunger grant, Maybert and a network of Christian schools in Nepal are able to provide scholarships for children and provide training for teachers to improve the quality of education at the schools. In a country where poverty is still pervasive, where the caste system controls people’s lives, and where opportunities for education and work, are limited, this school is making a strong difference starting with children.

Peter is now in preschool. Shabina Thapa Kayastha, principal of Marybert, says Peter is doing well. “He is a self-disciplined child. He likes to play football. And he says he wants to drive a bulldozer when he grows up.”

In summer 2013, the rebel group known as Séléka overthrew the Central African Republic government, sparking retaliation by the anti-Balaka alliance. For almost two years, the country, which has a history of unrest, has been affected by violence and insecurity, with thousands of people killed and almost 1 million people left without homes. When the fighting started in Bohong, Theodore, now 17 years old, and his uncle’s family fled into the bush. Theodore is the oldest of nine children, all of whom are in the care of their uncle after their father’s death. One day, Theodore was in Bohong and heard about a house reconstruction project from people in town. When he attended church the following Sunday, he learned more about a home building project being implemented by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic and Lutheran Disaster Response. The project aims to assist 600 households in rebuilding their homes that were destroyed during the conflict.

Theodore told his uncle about the project and decided to move back to Bohong to build a house for his family. He formed a group with four people and together they made bricks for the home. The tools and water pumps used to make the bricks were provided by the rebuilding assistance project. The project offered Theodore the opportunity to build a house large enough for his family of nine.

“Soon my new house will be finished and my family can return home and my younger siblings and cousins can focus on finishing school,” says Theodore.

In her area and was able to see an ophthalmic paramedic, RDRS, a development agency addressing the needs of people in the Rangpur-Dinajpur region, was started by The Lutheran World Federation in 1972 following the war of independence in Bangladesh. The service is now an independent non-profit organization supported by ELCA World Hunger.

After her examination, Saleha was thankful for her good health.”

“Before the malaria program began,” says Owkin Jackson, “we used to frequent the hospital.” Malaria was a constant presence in the lives of Jackson and his family, who live in Amena, a small village in Uganda. Jackson continues: “But then the Lutheran malaria program came [supported by the ELCA Malaria Campaign], and the village health team members, trained volunteers on malaria prevention and treatment, came to our home to help us. My daughter-in-law, Kiya, received a net and slept under the net while pregnant. Our village health team member helped her to get her government pre-natal care papers, so she could access good malaria care.” Expectant mothers have a high risk of contracting malaria, but Kiya was able to take preventive malaria medication during her pregnancy to ensure she and her child would remain healthy.

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After Jackson’s family began participating in the program, they noticed significant changes in their health. “The cases of malaria in my household have reduced,” Jackson says. “Now, the moment I notice the signs of the disease, I rush the child directly to the village health team member for testing and treatment. I used to have to travel long distances to access treatment, but now I can just go to the village health team member. That’s why I am very thankful to the ELCA and The Lutheran World Federation for supporting this program.”

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when the church does community well, we do it well," shared Pastor Margaret. "We come around the table to gather for lunch and God's

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Use these stories in your Sunday bulletins, newsletters and other communications to highlight the lifesaving work made possible by gifts to ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Malaria Campaign and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Visit www.ELCA.org/hunger/stories for these and additional stories.

Reproduce this piece on the back of your favorite story or as a stand-alone update about ELCA World Hunger.

ELCA World Hunger

Nearly 1 billion of our neighbors – one in eight people in our world today – live in poverty. 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 nearly 60 countries around the world, ELCA World Hunger starts by listening to the needs of our neighbors and getting their ideas to break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Then we work alongside them to make those dreams a reality. From microloans to health clinics, water wells to animal husbandry programs, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that get to the root causes of hunger and poverty and bring food to the community at a location that was a natural gathering place for many. Pastor Margaret and Noah have been able to serve around 75-100 neighbors a week since 2014.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

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ELCA World Hunger

"We must understand that the church, the community, the neighborhood, the school, the community center, the place of business, and the plaza are all places that people need to be, and need to be served." – Joyce Cantu

"The community around Shobi’s Table believes that the church belongs to the community and not the other way around," Pastor Margaret says. "So we are right there with them in the community, providing food, friendship, faith and service."

In Quechua, “Runa” means a whole, integral, important well-rounded person. In Incan, “Huch´uy” means a house or place. In Quechua, “Huch´uy Runa” means a house of people.

The school, commonly known as “Runa or House of Boys,” is a primary school for the children of the Andes. In Quechua, the name Runa means whole, important, well-rounded person. This house for the children. For many of the children, this is their first school experience.

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