

Projecting my future

COLOMBIA

ELCA.org/hunger



Tall and rail-thin, *Maria may appear young and shy, but when she is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia's (IELCO) Proyectando Mi Futuro program, the 14-year-old's leadership skills are on shining display. Maria lives with her mother, grandmother and two younger siblings in a tiny home in Caracolí, a neighborhood outside Bogota, Colombia.

Her grandmother, like many of their neighbors in the crowded barrio, fled her hometown years ago to seek a better life. The streets here are dusty, the homes pieced together with scraps of wood and corrugated steel. Many lack water, electricity and sustainable protection from the elements. The challenges are easy to see.

Fortunately, so are the opportunities. Through your support of ELCA World Hunger, IELCO's Proyectando Mi Futuro is working with young girls and women like Maria in Caracolí to develop their leadership skills and inspire their hopes.

Through her participation in self-esteem classes, Maria has been motivated to do well in school and perhaps go on for further education. Last year, Maria's group decided to learn hairstyling skills, and today, Maria is so proficient that she and the other young women offer their services to their neighbors. This lets Maria contribute to her family's income.

This year, the group – with some new members – has decided to focus on manicure and pedicure skills, and Maria is thrilled to expand her services in this new area. In addition to skill-building and self-esteem classes, the families in Caracolí receive counseling from staff with IELCO, who provide home visits every two weeks.


Thanks to your support of ELCA World Hunger, families like Maria's are turning their hopes for a better life into reality in Caracolí.

**Name withheld for privacy*

A new life

TANZANIA

ELCA.org/hunger



When Brian was born prematurely, his doctors told his mother that he would never walk, talk or function normally. Ashamed of his diagnosis, his family, kept him at home. That was until Building a Caring Community (BCC) staff visited Brian's family and invited Brian to enroll in the therapeutic day program.

He flourished at the day program, and at age 3, he began to walk. At 5, he was enrolled in a primary school that serves children with special needs.

Brian is one of more than 200 children with intellectual and physical disabilities served by the BCC program, a partnership between the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Mosaic International, a faith-based organization in Nebraska serving more than 3,000 people with intellectual disabilities.

Today, there are 10 BCC day centers, supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, helping families move beyond isolation and stigma and into full

participation in their communities. In addition to caring for children at the center, children, like Brian, with complicated medical needs receive regular physicals and visits to doctors and hospitals when necessary. The BCC also trains parents to care for special needs, sets up projects that increase family incomes, and provides job opportunities for young people with disabilities beyond school age.

For Betsy Buschkemper, a BCC volunteer and a pediatric nurse, working with the BCC has moved her from “feeling pity” for children like Brian to celebrating “the potential and the happiness and joy they feel and know in life that they wouldn't have had a chance for otherwise,” she said. “Brian has a shot at a normal life now and is a happy little boy.”

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, children in Tanzania are moving from isolation to active participation in the community. Thank you for helping our church do what God has called us to do.

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.

Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support ELCA World Hunger (WHG0038)

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Safety net for refugee children

EGYPT

ELCA.org/hunger



Yohannes was 16 when he arrived in Cairo, Egypt, alone. He made his way to Egypt from Eritrea, in East Africa. He crossed the Sudan, and with food hard to come by, he went without eating for two days.

Upon arriving in Cairo, Yohannes came to St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) seeking help. StARS, a program supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger, offers unaccompanied refugee children food, education and psychosocial support. First order of business for Yohannes: a warm, home-cooked meal.

Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, StARS feeds 350 refugee children two meals a day, four

days a week. And, with the help of the program, Yohannes has learned about nutrition, budgeting, and services available to him in Cairo.

The program also offers him a safe space for playing sports and building friendships. “If StARS did not exist, I would go without food for the entire day,” Yohannes said. “Nobody can study with an empty stomach.”

“And here I get the chance to learn and to be with my friends.”

Today, Yohannes is attending school. He has a brighter future thanks to your support of ELCA World Hunger.

More than land

CAMBODIA

ELCA.org/hunger



Huon Sok lives with her husband and six children in Kiri Akphivoath, a rural village in Cambodia. Lack of food, drinking water, healthcare and schools were challenges they faced daily.

As a part of a new government project, Huon and more than 800 other families each received a small plot of residential and agricultural land for farming. Her first year owning the land was a challenge. The land was covered by thick bushes and stumps, and she lacked the resources to prepare the land for planting crops.

“Although our living condition during the first year on the new land had not yet significantly changed, we felt happier than before because we had our own land now, and we hoped that our life would be better soon,” Huon said.

Today, her family's life is looking brighter. Through a program supported

by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, lands have been cleared for planting, and communities are gaining access to water, energy, healthcare, education and agricultural training. Huon's land is now ready for sowing. She plans to grow cassava, corn and watermelon.

With income from her crops and her earnings from a small, pig business established through a microloan, she and her husband will be able to continue sending their children to school and earn a steady income as business owners. If she and her family can continue to live on and farm the land for five years, they will gain title to the land.

Your gifts are helping make a life-changing difference. Thank you for supporting ELCA World Hunger.

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Give Today

Nearly 800 million people – 1 in 9 people in our world today – are hungry. 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, we start by listening and learning how we can accompany them to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty – for good. 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. In 2017, our goal is to raise \$24.5 million to support the work of our worldwide network of companion churches and partners in the fight to end hunger. 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.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Use these stories in your Sunday bulletins, newsletters and other communications to highlight the lifesaving work made possible by gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. Visit ELCA.org/hunger/resources for these and additional stories.

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

Reproducible Stories 2017



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Hope in the drought

AFRICA
ELCA.org/disaster



A disaster of global proportion continues to take place, but is going relatively unnoticed. Drought is impacting millions of people globally, with southern and eastern Africa the most heavily affected. Many people are facing a multi-year drought, which has resulted in low crop production, rising food prices and household food insecurity.

Countries, communities, places where Lutheran churches have been at work for generations, are suffering. Lutheran Disaster Response, working with companion churches and trusted partners, has hands and feet on the ground providing care, support and hope.

In regions where little rain has fallen over the years, change must take place for people to survive. Lutheran Disaster Response is helping support projects such as irrigation systems, education

around crop and vegetable production, water management, and using tools and resources to help people get the most out of their land. People like Shamble.

In his first year, Shamble is already seeing positive effects. He says, "I was trained and given an improved variety of drought resistant teff [a crop similar to wheat]. My life and my family's life has really improved, I have built a new house and been able to buy some sheep and cows."

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response bring lifesaving aid and resources needed to help those in crisis from disasters. Together, we are working with communities to be more disaster-resilient, helping save lives, improve livelihoods and mitigate the effects of disasters.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help the church respond to the needs of people after a disaster strikes. Working in collaboration with other disaster response organizations and church entities enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response.

Will you help with your gift today?
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He attended a seminar and learned alternative farming techniques – techniques that reduce cost and waste – from the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, or CEOSS, an organization that reaches about 2 million Egyptians a year in more than 100 rural and urban communities. Supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger, CEOSS teaches farmers modern agricultural methods,

Ahmed Fathallah is a farmer in the community of Kafr Abo Shehba, a city in the Bani Suwayf region of northeastern Egypt. Ahmed cared for his lands the same way his family had for generations. With changes in the environment, Ahmed found his farming methods difficult to sustain. "I would buy seeds from local merchants and prepare the land using traditional agricultural methods. It was very expensive and unproductive," Ahmed said.

Farming growth
EGYPT
ELCA.org/hunger



traditional members that not everybody coming to church today is going to look like them or act like them, and that's OK," Emily Ebaugh, a member since 1984, says. "This ministry has been transformational to our church."

Today, the once tiny food pantry offers neighbors a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and frozen meat, canned goods and toiletries. Allowing residents to make their own food selection empowers them, Ebaugh said, and helps ensure that food is used and not wasted.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help our church love and serve our neighbors. Much of the work made possible in the United States supports new or expanding community efforts to address hunger.

Thank you for helping our church be a place our sisters and brothers can turn to in their time of need.

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Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger touch the lives of farmers like Ahmed through education and training. Thank you for your support. This important work would not be possible without you.

The new techniques have helped Ahmed and his family increase their income. Today, his children are enrolled in and regularly attend school, the family has healthcare, and Ahmed is more confident about his future.

including using compost (organic fertilizer) to decrease the amount of chemical fertilizers the farmers use. "I worked with CEOSS to implement a compost model," Ahmed said. "It helped me produce safe, good crops and save a lot of money. I learned to recycle agricultural wastes in a good manner."



The gift of giving back

UNITED STATES
ELCA.org/hunger

More than 14 years ago, First Lutheran Church in Bryan, Ohio, made a commitment to serve its neighborhood, a diverse community of lower-middle-income working families. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped support and grow the church's Food and Fellowship program in 2003.

Gifts went toward expanding the food pantry, and the congregation began a Sunday supper series, offering nutritious meals enjoyed and prepared by neighborhood residents. The dinners are followed by a program, topics ranging from health and nutrition to growing a community garden. Inspired by one of the speakers, the congregation started its own garden, which has been a blessing for the food pantry and a great educational tool for the community.

The congregation's commitment to their neighborhood has meant change. "Part of the process has been educating our

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