

SUMMER STORY

By Gillian Southey, CWS communications coordinator.

Women plant food crops in South Sudan where bitter conflict and drought have pushed many into hunger.

Photo: ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey



GIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD

In a humble house in Nicaragua, a farmer sits down to eat the evening meal of beans, rice and vegetables with his young family. For a moment, he feels the pride of knowing that he has grown all the food himself – the rice he has bought from the sale of the vegetables he has taken to market. Best of all is the satisfaction of knowing that everyone has enough to eat. Together they give thanks for the food and the help CEPAD has given them to make this possible, especially during another severe drought.

On the other side of the world in troubled South Sudan, a young mother is busy planting out seedlings on the small plot of land she has been allocated. After fleeing the violence and hunger in her village 80 kilometres away, she is eager to feed her children. Under the guidance of Maridi Service Agency, she is planting eggplant, tomatoes, onions, carrots, okra and *sukuma wiki* (collard greens) so her family will have something to eat and a little to sell. Learning to garden is a way to cope with the trauma of war and a means to feed her children. Like many South Sudanese, she has had enough of the fighting and longs for a normal life.

These are signs of hope in a world where hardworking people are going hungry in spite of their best efforts. “Give us our daily bread” could become more than a prayer but a commitment to make sure that everyone has the food they need to live every day.

It is something CWS partners do. In rural communities, they are sharing resources and teaching people new farming techniques without costly inputs. Saving seeds, compost tea, worm farms, organic sprays and mulching systems all have their place. Switching from growing one crop to a multi-crop regime has improved productivity and the family diet. Supported by the best local science, experts have developed new techniques so farmers can



In Haiti, boys weed family gardens. (left)

Photo: ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey

Donis grows food for his family to eat and sell in Nicaragua. Photo: CWS/Trish Murray



provide for their families on small plots of lands. Working together the farmers can solve some of their problems and help each.

In Sri Lanka, the Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (Monlar) is working at every level to improve food for families. Like CEPAD, they train farmers to grow a rich variety of foods and encourage them to help out when disaster strikes. They have worked to build alliances with 2,000 families working on the country’s tea plantations as well as some of the small farmers who make up 80% of its rural population. Monlar has pushed for investment in training in sustainable agriculture for small farmers. Arguing against the World Bank’s position that small-scale farming is not profitable, they are showing the way. “Their survival is based on the regenerative capacity of nature and on access to natural resources,” says Moderator Chinthaka Rajapakse.



Monlar teaches farmers to make liquid fertilisers and insect sprays (right) and to propagate plants (right) saving costly inputs.

Photos: Monlar and CWS



Ama Takiloa is encouraging Tongan women to improve their gardens and family nutrition. Photo: CWS/Trish Murray

Through education, protest marches, lobbying and more, Monlar is campaigning against harmful agricultural practices that destroy people's livelihoods and the land.

STOPPING HUNGER

We cannot help everyone but we can do more to stop hunger spreading. In 2016, for the first year in more than a decade, the number of hungry people increased, driven largely by conflict – more than 1 in 10 people do not have enough to eat. Pushing for global action will help.

In 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations expressed a global commitment to a planet where 'no one is left behind'. Aotearoa New Zealand signed on to this 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development made up of 17 goals and 169 targets for all countries. The Sustainable Development Goals put ending hunger at number two.

TIME FOR ACTION

In countries rich and poor, the struggle to eat is getting harder for the poorest people. Will you help our partners tackle hunger in their communities and achieve food justice? **Please support the Summer Appeal so more families can escape poverty and survive disaster.**



Sustainable Development Goal 2: By 2030 end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

HUNGER FACTS

815 million people were chronically hungry – 11% of the global population. 489 million live in countries affected by conflict.

613 million women of reproductive age are anaemic (around 33% of total). (The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017)

1 in 4 children live in countries affected by conflict or disaster. (UNICEF)

YES, I WANT TO HELP MORE FAMILIES HAVE ENOUGH GOOD FOOD TO EAT.

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