

# Fighting Hunger from the Ground Up

A CAMPAIGN OF AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE



**W**hy does a typical family in the developing world spend 80 percent of its income on food? Why are more than a billion people chronically hungry when our planet produces more than enough food to feed everyone?

## ► The Facts

- Twenty-five thousand people die each day due to malnutrition
- Every six seconds, a child dies from starvation and hunger-related causes
- More than 60 percent of the world's chronically hungry people are women

Hunger is not the result of food shortage. It's the result of a deep flaw in our global economy. Throughout history, people subsisted primarily on foods that were grown in nearby fields. But today, thanks to free trade agreements, farmers in developing countries are forced to compete with wealthy, multinational farming conglomerates. This has decimated small-scale agriculture because local farmers can't profit when their goods are sold alongside a flood of subsidized, mass-produced food. Local agricultural

economies have collapsed and indigenous people worldwide are engaged in a desperate struggle to defend their land and water from being exploited by international industry. They are also struggling to defend their right to affordable, locally grown food.

## ► The Future

**AJWS more than 80 grassroots organizations** that are putting food production back in the hands of local communities. Whether big or small, your donation will go to people in Africa, Asia and the Americas who are:

- Teaching farmers to grow food on small tracts of land using sustainable methods
- Endowing communities with seed banks and harvest storage facilities
- Founding agricultural cooperatives and jumpstarting profitable local markets
- Empowering indigenous communities to advocate for their land and water rights
- Giving women the means to own and cultivate land, providing for their families and communities

**The right to food is a human right.** In order to provide sustainable solutions to food injustice, global hunger must be addressed from the ground up. By investing in communities' ability to grow and sell their own food, even the world's poorest people can move out of poverty. It doesn't take much to help one village start a farm, but the outcome is profound: food, income, independence, life.

## ► The Impact

- An increase in local capacity to produce and sell food
- The improvement of health among children and adults to halt hunger-related deaths and reduce the need for malnutrition-related medical care
- An increase in personal and community income, which will raise the standard of living and education
- The recovery of depleted soil through sustainable farming methods and the use of natural fertilizers
- An end to foreign use of indigenous land for mining and resource exploitation

**All of AJWS's partners support grassroots change by and for local people**, for example:

- Red COMAL, in Honduras, has organized 16,000 peasants into farming collectives
- ROSE, in India, has conducted field trainings for 13,000 women farmers
- ASPROCIG has established 75 new farms in Colombia
- Lambi Fund of Haiti has transformed an impoverished mountain village into a profitable farming community

To support this work, AJWS urges the U.S. government and the UN to promote local food production as a basic principle of economic security. AJWS also advocates for fair trade agreements, debt cancellation for impoverished nations and reform of foreign assistance programs.

## ► Get Involved

**Global hunger is a Jewish problem. Global hunger is a human problem.** According to *Pirke Avot, Ethics of our Fathers*, "Without sustenance, there is no Torah." Human nourishment is a prerequisite for all of our learning because, without food, it is impossible to think and impossible to thrive. As Jews, consumers and global citizens, we are responsible for creating a hunger-free world.

**To save lives is a core Jewish imperative and central to AJWS's mission.** Every community that AJWS supports has become increasingly self-sufficient, economically empowered, and nutritionally sound. Markets are carrying more affordable, locally grown goods, and community members are mobilizing to defend their rights.

**We will not accept a broken world. Together, we can end global hunger.**

Join our campaign to fight hunger today—  
[www.ajws.org/hunger](http://www.ajws.org/hunger).



**American Jewish World Service (AJWS)** is an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship within the Jewish community.

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