

ENDING HUNGER IN BIHAR, INDIA



WELCOME ELCA LARGE CHURCHES

APRIL 8, 2016

INSPIRED TRANSFORMATION

Your congregation can end hunger for thousands of people in Bihar, India. By providing necessary support, training, and education, your congregation will empower people to feed their families and improve their incomes. Your investment will have an immediate and life-long impact on children as they not only grow up healthy and strong, but as they gain skills and knowledge that lead to permanent food security.

- **We will help transform barren land into fertile farm plots.** Farmers will replace decades-old farming methods with modern sustainable solutions, like tilling the soil, constructing seepage tanks, and creating trenches to capture water.
- **We will help families grow more and nutritious foods.** Farmers will receive the best seeds for growing vegetables like eggplant, cucumbers and peppers. They will learn better methods for planting and fertilizing that can double, and even triple, crop yields.

- **We will dramatically increase family incomes for those who have achieved year-round food security.**

With more and better quality crops, and group savings accounts, families will increase their income. They will be able to meet the needs of their households and afford medical care without having to borrow money at extremely high interest rates from predatory lenders.

- **We will empower women to be agents of change.**

Women will start self-help groups and then form larger associations, where they come together to support each other, learn better farming techniques and start savings accounts.

- **We will keep families together and send children to school.**

Men will no longer have to migrate for work. Instead, families will work together on their flourishing farms and children will be able to attend school.



**IF YOU OFFER YOUR FOOD TO THE HUNGRY
AND SATISFY THE NEEDS OF THE AFFLICTED,
THEN YOUR LIGHT SHALL RISE IN THE DARKNESS
AND YOUR GLOOM BE LIKE THE NOONDAY.**

– ISAIAH 58:10 (NRSV)

**AFFIRMING GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE,
WE WORK WITH LUTHERANS AND PARTNERS
AROUND THE WORLD TO END POVERTY,
INJUSTICE AND HUMAN SUFFERING.**

– LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

Your congregation can experience the power of becoming personally and uniquely involved in caring for people living in the world's poorest places, through a partnership with Lutheran World Relief. Your congregation can be transformed through educational activities, personal interactions, and travel experiences. As you live out your call to love and serve your neighbor, you will grow into a deeper relationship with Christ. We invite your input on how you would like to engage your congregation but here are several opportunities for you to consider:

- **You can better understand the challenges of poverty by actively learning about hunger and water issues** through a wide variety of educational activities. LWR staff can work with you to develop a toolkit that could include resources for worship, Sunday school and fellowship.
- **You can experience kinship with people who are working hard to provide for their families and strengthen their communities** by becoming personally engaged through frequent updates, photos, videos, and testimonies that connect you with people in project communities. LWR can develop a customized web portal for your congregation and provide material for you to upload on your own website. If interested, members of your congregation can visit with LWR's field-based program managers (through online interactions such as Skype calls or project staff visiting your congregation).



A screenshot of the KINDSight website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Projects, Leaders, How Can I Help?, Who We Are, Sign In, and JOIN. The main header features the text "PRADAN Women Farmers in India". Below the header, there is a brief description: "In rural India, women depend on farming to feed and support their families. Many can't grow enough, which means their families live in poverty. The PRADAN: Women Farmers of India project helps women escape the cycle of poverty." A yellow banner below the description says "One-time donations to this project will be matched up to \$10,700.00". The "Project Overview" section includes the location "Barmer Region, Barmer, INDIA", the goal amount "\$322,751", and three icons with statistics: "231/2,879 people prospering", "7/87 acres of farmland improved", and "229,279/2,865,980 pounds of vegetables grown and harvested". On the right side, there are buttons for "Create an Event GIVE YOUR TIME", "Support this Project GIVE YOUR MONEY", and "Spread the Word: f t e". At the bottom, there is a link "Unlocked Items" and a small note "1/3".

LIFE TRANSFORMATION IN BIHAR, INDIA

Bihar, India is one of the poorest places in the world. People depend on farming to survive, yet the farms are small and the soil is dry and rocky. The difficult land doesn't hold water and rarely yields enough to feed a family year round.

Children are hungry, eating a meager diet of rice and maize. Their poor diet leads to stunted growth and one out of every two children is malnourished. Children go to school until about the third grade, if at all. There is no money for education, especially for girls. Fathers are not at home for much of the year because they've had to migrate to cities to find work. Mothers are left to care for the household and grow what little food they can.

Families live at the absolute margins, marked as the lowest class of Indian society. The tribal and Dalit populations of rural Bihar face discrimination at almost every level, from access to education and medical care to restrictions on where they can live and what jobs they can have.

Women are especially marginalized. They have little to no education. They cannot read or write and often do not even know how to write their own name. They bear most of the burden of raising the children while doing the heavy labor of carrying water, weeding, planting, and tending their small plots to grow food against the odds of a baking sun and uncertain rains.

But there is hope. LWR is working with women farmers in a number of communities in Bihar to grow vegetables and earn income. With LWR's help, the women have formed self-help groups where they learn improved farming techniques, gain financial literacy skills, and find support from each other. LWR has helped farmers diversify their crops and produce higher yields of vegetables for nutritious consumption and for sale.

Participating families have gone from having only 4-6 months of food a year to having year-round food security. They have increased their income an average of 30 percent, and many women have joined the farmers association.



"We were only able to grow enough food to last four or five months. When the food was gone, we would have to go far away to work as farm labor to survive."

– MINA DEVI

By partnering with LWR your congregation can build on what LWR has started and reach new communities in desperate need, who are eager for our support and have seen the transformation in neighboring villages. We can help them grow enough food to feed themselves and their families year-round.

- Farmers will replace decades-old farming methods with modern sustainable solutions, like tilling the soil, constructing seepage tanks, and creating trenches to capture water. Families will learn better methods for planting and fertilizing that can double and even triple crop yields.
- Farmers will access the high-yield seeds for growing rice and wheat along with vegetables like eggplant, cucumbers and peppers, which will help improve nutrition.
- Women will form Self Help Groups, in order to build a community safety net and provide loans to one another. Through their group savings accounts, they will be better able to meet the needs of their household such as education, shelter and medical care without having to borrow money at extremely high interest rates from predatory lenders.



“Five years back, I wouldn’t have believed you could get this much money from farming vegetables. My life is secure now, and most importantly, my family is provided for.”

– MINA DEVI

PROJECT KICK-OFF

PURPOSE

To build excitement and enthusiasm for the project within your congregation.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The Kick-Off Kit will be a comprehensive resource that can be used during a single weekend kick-off or over several weekends. The resource can include:

- Suggestions for stories and information that can be used in sermons, temple talks and ministry moments
- Designed video screen slides
- Intergenerational Sunday school activities for all ages (activity sheets/coloring pages for youth, as well as Adult Forum materials with discussion questions)
- Inspirational and educational video showing examples of project activities, using footage from a recent LWR project in India



EXAMPLE TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR KICK-OFF SUNDAY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction for Congregational Leaders
- 2. Worship Resources
 - a. Children's Coloring Sheet
 - b. Designed video screen slides
 - c. Prayers for Project India
 - d. Children's Sermon
 - e. Sermon Illustrations (with visuals)
 - f. Offering Activity Ideas
- 3. Educational Activities
 - a. Pre-K and Elementary Activities
 - b. Middle School and High School Activities
 - c. Adult Forum Bible Study and Project Overview
- 4. Fellowship Activities
 - a. Gather Around the Table
 - b. Games and Activities

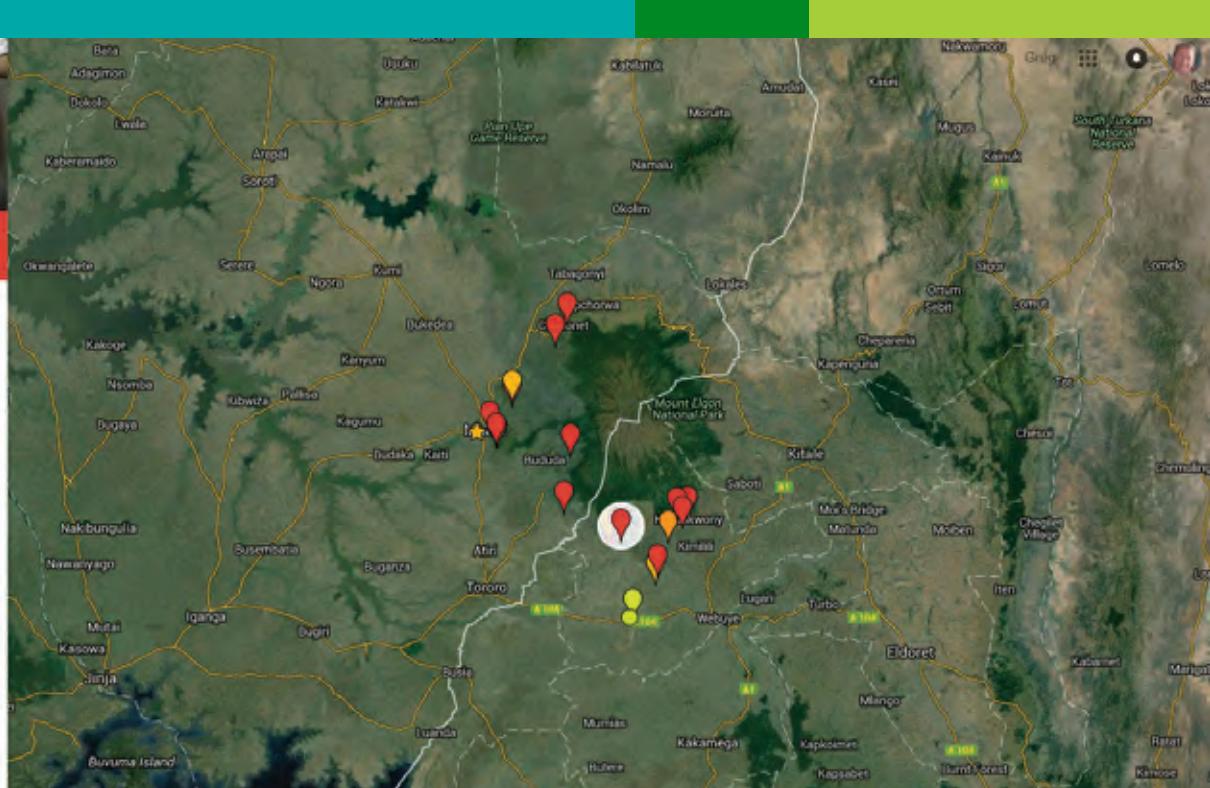


← 01/09 Martin Manyonge, farmer ...

name:
01/09 Martin Manyonge, farmer and Nahashan Mwdo, secretary of the local VSLA.

description:
We meet Martin Manyonge, farmer, at his home. After sa
while also Nahashan Mwdo, secretary of the local VSLA,
joins the conversation.

Read more
at: <https://cafeevaluation.wordpress.com/2015/09/01/martin-manyonge-farmer-and-nahashan-mwdo-secretary-of-the-local-vsla/>



WALK WITH A COMMUNITY

PURPOSE

To allow your congregation to feel connected to a specific community involved in the project.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Your congregation's leaders and members will better understand the project and become acquainted with people who are directly impacted. Additionally, farmers and partners will get to know the individuals who are making this project possible. This will build personal relationships between people — educating each other about their needs, interests, and what life is like where they live.

- Your congregation will receive background information on a specific community/ward in the project area, including GPS coordinates and details on weather, population and landscape.
- Please pray for this specific community. Likewise, the community will be provided with the name and information about your congregation as a way to connect with their brothers and sisters supporting them in the United States.
- If possible, LWR can facilitate periodic Skype calls and/or webinars to connect your congregation's members with farmers and partners in your designated community.
- LWR can create an interactive map, which will be available on the Online Toolbox, so your congregation can zoom in on the community/ward for project activity updates.



REGULAR PROJECT UPDATES: STORIES, PHOTOS, VIDEOS

PURPOSE

To engage, inform and update you and your congregation on the project you are supporting, and enable you to share inspiring and powerful stories with your members.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- On a monthly basis, your congregation will receive an informative email. Emails will include links to the most up to date resources available on the Toolbox website – such as videos or photos – that describe the project and the difference your congregation is making through their giving.
- Each month LWR can provide descriptive stories about individuals' or families' experiences as part of the project. The stories will be enhanced with personal accounts from LWR's president and CEO about what is happening or what will happen with the project.
- Twice a year your congregation will receive videos that include stories about project participants and the impact of the project on their lives.
- As photos are received, your congregation can access them in a shared folder – such as Dropbox – so that you can use them in messaging. Your congregation will be notified when new photos are available.

EXAMPLE PROJECT STORY

OUR SUPPORT IS HELPING TO END HUNGER IN BIHAR, INDIA

MINA DEVI never knew she could make a real income selling vegetables from her garden.

But that's just what she's doing, thanks to our support. Mina lives in Bihar, one of India's poorest places and one of the poorest regions in the world.

Mina recalls that when she was young, she could not finish school because her family couldn't afford to send her. As an adult, her family was nearly financially devastated when she desperately needed medical care. Unfortunately, this story is all too common among the women of Bihar. Many times, when an urgent need arises, families just don't have the money and have to borrow from a loan shark. The exorbitant interest and fees keep families mired in debt and poverty. That's why we are working with women

farmers like Mina to grow vegetables, earn income and build better lives for their families. We've helped women form self-help groups where they learn improved vegetable farming techniques, financial literacy skills and can support one another. For example, if a woman in the group needs money, she can borrow from the group savings at a low interest rate.

These days Mina grows all types of vegetables, including gourds and vibrant eggplant. She's able to sell her vegetables at the market and earn an income to not only support her family's basic needs but also to send her children to school and pay for medical care. Her husband helps in the garden too. Together we're helping this family is working their way out of poverty and into a future of lasting promise.



ONLINE TOOLBOX

PURPOSE

To provide your congregation with dynamic digital content that can be used to create customized and personalized communication that uniquely reflects the needs and interests of your members.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The Toolbox website will feature a wide variety of communication support pieces, as well as raw material that allows you to build your own engagement strategy.

The Toolbox will include:

- Web images and banners to promote on congregational social media.
- Mapping options for embedding information in congregational websites.
- Regularly updated text for congregational emails, news updates for web pages, and program description narratives.
- Photos, videos and story collections.
- Biographical, demographic and geographic information about the region.

The Toolbox will enable you to upload finished materials for sharing with other congregations.



Web banner

SOCIAL MEDIA

PURPOSE

To provide opportunities for your congregation to share and document ideas, accomplishments and resources with fellow congregations supporting this work in India.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- LWR can create a Facebook group, open to all members of congregations supporting this project.
- Congregations will be encouraged to upload their own photos, videos and updates.
- LWR staff will be available to actively monitor the page to answer questions and provide updates as needed.
- As appropriate, we can consider how to connect social media interactions with other engagement opportunities.



The project Facebook page will be similar to the LWR Quilter's Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/lwrquilters/), which has more than 1,000 members! Members post several times daily, sharing photos of the Quilts they have made for LWR, asking questions of each other and sharing in the community of quilting

CELEBRATE PROJECT MILESTONES

PURPOSE

To engage your congregation in the life of the project and help you celebrate the project's milestones alongside communities in India.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Approximately two times per year, your congregation will receive a special Project Box, filled with resources and symbolic items for celebrating the project's latest milestone. For example, a Project Box could include packets of the seeds communities are now planting, along with instructions on how to host a milestone celebration by planting a community garden.
- Share pictures and stories of your congregation's milestone celebration, so that we can communicate your partnership to the participating communities.
- We'll make sure to alert you of the Project Box arrival at least one month in advance so you can plan your church calendar accordingly.



LWR SCHOOL KITS

PURPOSE

To provide a tangible way for members of your congregation to connect to the communities they are supporting by giving them an opportunity to engage both their heart and hands in service to others.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Your congregation can assemble LWR School Kits, which will be distributed in Bihar, India:

- Your congregation will receive detailed instructions for hosting a School Kit drive within your congregation. The completed School Kits will be sent to LWR's warehouse in a specially marked box and shipped to Bihar, India to be distributed to communities in need.
- Congregations participating would need to pledge one container of School Kits (approximately 15,000) to assure that group's Kits are going directly to Bihar.
- Distribution of Kits in region will be determined based upon needs assessed with local partners.





CONGREGATIONAL VISIT FROM FARMER, PARTNER OR LWR INDIA STAFF

PURPOSE

To enable your congregation to meet a farmer whose life is being directly affected by their support, thus helping them visualize the impact of their support.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- LWR can facilitate and coordinate the travel of a farmer, a partner and/or an LWR India staff member to travel to one or more regions of the United States, where he/she will visit select congregations. Travel will be scheduled during specific times of the year when the farmer is able to leave his or her field. Congregation members will be able to ask questions, learn about what life was like before the project, and how the project has affected the farmer and his/her family.
- We'd love for you to sponsor evening events and invite other area churches to attend.



PROJECT SITE VISITS

PURPOSE

To bring members of your congregation to see and experience the project first-hand and to meet the families you are supporting.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- LWR will prepare your members for travel to India by providing:
 - A detailed trip itinerary
 - Step-by-step instructions concerning passports, visas, immunizations, and embassy registration
 - A comprehensive security briefing
 - A relevant reading list and reflection questions
 - Introductions to LWR India staff through email and/or Skype calls

- LWR will manage all aspects of the project site visit, including:
 - Travel arrangements (accommodations, meals and ground transportation)
 - Flights should be arranged by your congregation
 - Morning and evening devotions
 - Meetings with farmers and their families
 - Potential volunteer opportunities

- Site visit costs are the responsibility of the individual/congregation.

- LWR will facilitate post-travel activities for your congregation and will equip trip participants to share their stories within your congregation and your community. We'll encourage trip participants to reflect on their experiences during the days, weeks and months following the site visit and will also invite them to share their experience with the LWR family.

NOTES



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

800.597.5972 | lwr.org