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A Miracle Tree Combats Malnutrition in Africa
Dutch Postcode Lottery Invests in Scale Up of The Hunger Project’s Program to Educate Communities to Produce and Utilize Moringa Trees to End Hunger

New York, NY – The National Postcode Lottery in the Netherlands, a lottery program that donates 50 percent of its proceeds to charities, announced yesterday a nearly €1.3 million three-year grant to The Hunger Project, to scale up its successful Moringa nutrition program in Benin to Uganda, Ethiopia and Malawi.

“It almost seems too good to be true – leaves from a tree, which can grow almost anywhere, that are a solution to hunger. Yet it is true,” said Evelijne Bruning, Country Director of The Hunger Project in the Netherlands.

Moringa is a tropical tree whose leaves are packed with more vitamins and minerals than most foods we know. The tree is extremely rich in protein, vitamins A, B and C and other minerals that are key to combatting malnutrition.

“The Hunger Project developed a strategy, together with farmers and local volunteers, of knowing, planting and eating,” Pascal Djoossou, Country Director of The Hunger Project in Benin explained. Through the program, communities are mobilized to create nurseries to grow Moringa and factories to produce Moringa powder. The Hunger Project and its volunteer leaders also educate communities about the benefits of this power food and train them how to cook with it. These trainings are part of a larger program to educate people about proper health and nutrition for pregnant and nursing mothers and young children. By breaking the cycle of malnutrition at the start, healthy mothers deliver healthy babies who can grow into healthy, productive adults.

Mrs. Christine Kpatali, 22, is from Lèma village in Benin and participates in The Hunger Project-Benin’s Health and Nutrition Program. Last year, she shared “I have been using Moringa leaves for three months as a vegetable supplement for myself and in the porridge I feed the baby. I can testify that diseases like diarrhea, vomiting and coughing, from which he repeatedly suffered before I started using the Moringa leaves, have since vanished.”

In scaling up the Moringa nutrition program with the support of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, The Hunger Project expects that 90,000 people will know what nutrients young children need, have a Moringa tree and know how to cook with it; 21,000 farmers will be trained in effective agricultural techniques and have access to seeds and tools; and 23,500 children will be weighed and followed to monitor their nutrition during the first years of their lives.
About The Hunger Project

The Hunger Project is a global non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty by pioneering sustainable, grassroots, women-centered strategies and advocating for their widespread adoption in countries throughout the world. The Hunger Project is active in 22 countries throughout the world, with global headquarters based in New York. For more information, visit www.thp.org.

The pioneering Moringa program in Benin has been jointly financially supported by Dutch private investors the Katakle Group, the Dutch Embassy in Benin and the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) in the Netherlands. The Hunger Project greatly appreciates the involvement of many stakeholders, including local and international non-governmental organizations and local government, in making the pilot program such a success.

About the Dutch National Postcode Lottery

Since 1989, the Dutch National Postcode Lottery has been raising funds to support organizations working for a fairer, greener world. Fifty percent of its income goes to charity; disbursing €312 million in 2014. The lottery has grown to become the Netherlands' biggest charity lottery and supports almost 100 non-governmental organizations. Since its founding, the lottery has dispensed over €4 billion to its beneficiaries and ranks third among the biggest philanthropic investors in the world. For more information visit: http://www.postcodeloterij.nl/organisatie/perscentrum/factsheet-english.htm

To schedule an interview with Evelijne Bruning or Pascal Djohossou, please contact Jenna Recuber at jenna.recuber@thp.org or (212) 251-9110 or Erin Greenberg at erin.greenberg@thp.org or (212) 251-9140.

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