

Digital Media Kit



The Hunger Project is a global nonprofit organization working to create a world without hunger. We believe that women are key change agents and that resources, education and training are critical to ending hunger. Community-led programs throughout Africa, South Asia and Latin America leverage local leadership and elevate women's voices to sustainably create a world without hunger.

Please reach out to Anna Slattery to learn more about The Hunger Project and schedule an interview with one of our many experts.

media@thp.org

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Seida Abole and Woinshet Biru show their harvest. Ethiopia, 2022.

About The Hunger Project.

The Hunger Project has a more than 45-year track record of standing in partnership with people living in poverty as they work to end their own chronic hunger.

We reach communities across rural Africa, South Asia and Latin America. To ensure long-lasting, community-led action, we train volunteer leaders, who carry on local efforts to improve health and nutrition, education, food security and family income.



11.9 million

people reached in 11,777 communities in Africa, South Asia and Latin America in 2022



2 million+

people trained in our Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops since 2008



550,798

people trained in women's leadership since 2008

The Hunger Project.

Our Vision.

A world without hunger.

Our Mission.

To facilitate individual and collective action to transform the systems of inequity that create hunger and cause it to persist.

Our Approach.

Our programs are based on three fundamental pillars that, when combined, facilitate sustainable progress toward ending hunger:

- Mobilizing people at the grassroots
- Supporting women as key change agents
- Forging partnerships with local government

Our model supports people living in rural villages to become the agents of their own development.

We work with women. We firmly believe that empowered women are key change agents and are an essential element to achieving the end of hunger and poverty. When women are able to access resources and support, we see them shift community priorities toward issues of sanitation, nutrition, health and education.

We work locally. Local leadership is critical to the development of these programs. In all countries where we work, we hire locally. The national teams are supported by National Boards or Advisory Committees which include pre-eminent members of civil society, national government and the private sector.

We work towards self-reliance, not dependency. We leverage government resources and inspire community action to holistically address the systems of inequity keeping hunger in place.

Partnerships.

Our programs are funded by generous individuals and families, in addition to many institutional funders and partners. They include Citi, Microsoft, Deloitte, Starbucks, Azim Premji Foundation, Eurofins Corporation, USAID, US Department of State, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Postcode Lottery, the World Bank, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and UNICEF.

Operations.

The Hunger Project was established in 1977. The Hunger Project is governed by a Global Board of Directors comprised of prominent leaders in global hunger and poverty reduction, public policy, democracy building and business. With a global budget of approximately \$25 million across 22 operating countries, our global staff leverages limited resources to make sustainable progress in ending hunger in more than 16,371 communities worldwide. We consistently receive the highest ratings and accreditation from Charity Navigator, the Better Business Bureau, and CharityWatch.

Meet Our Global Spokespeople

**The
Hunger
Project.**



Tim Prewitt, President and CEO

Tim is an international executive, CEO and board member with more than 20 years of experience leading global teams to deliver impact at scale, through agricultural development, gender empowerment, and community-led development. Tim is an expert on global food systems and has been on the forefront of their transformation throughout his career. Tim has lived and worked in more than 30 countries. He is a highly regarded speaker on agriculture, poverty and economic development, and has spoken at the World Economic Forum, Clinton Global Initiative, and World Food Prize.



Rowlands Kaotcha, Global Vice President, Director for Africa and Mexico

Rowlands is based in Malawi and is a member of our global executive team. He directs program strategies and supports the capacity of our country leaders in Africa, Mexico and India. Rowlands is an international advocate and speaker and is passionate about mobilizing individuals to end their hunger. He has held many leadership roles with The Hunger Project since joining in 2001, including Country Director for Malawi and Mozambique. He also led The Hunger Project's expansion into Zambia in 2019.



Jenna Recuber, Global Vice President, Communications and Fundraising

Jenna joined The Hunger Project in 2005, first as Publications and Events Manager. Now, as Global Vice President, she is responsible for overseeing the whole of the global brand and fundraising initiatives for The Hunger Project, increasing awareness of and capacity for its mission and programs around the world. Prior to joining The Hunger Project, Jenna engaged in policy communications for six years for the 2020 Vision Initiative of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), an international research organization working on issues of food and nutrition security.



Anna Slattery, Manager, External Affairs

Anna Slattery is the External Affairs Manager for The Hunger Project. In this role, she manages global media engagement and events. Prior to joining The Hunger Project, Anna worked for USAID, leading high-level trips and managing digital communications for a diverse portfolio of issues, including women's empowerment, humanitarian relief and global health.

**The Hunger Project has local leaders in 23 countries that
powerfully speak to many issues related to hunger.
Please reach out to Anna Slattery at media@thp.org for an interview.**

Strengthening Climate Resilience.

Our why.

While we must all deal with the effects, people living with chronic hunger bear the heaviest burden of climate change as they largely live in rural regions and rely heavily on agriculture. Weather-related environmental shocks, including drought and flooding, affect food security and well-being for many families, particularly small-scale food producers. That is why building resilience to climate change is crucial and at the heart of our work across Africa, South Asia and Latin America.

Our how.

We are dedicated to ending hunger through innovative and sustainable strategies that prioritize rural communities and women. Our community-led climate work is adapted to the challenges of each unique context. Our climate adaptation and resilience work is focused on four key areas:

Elevating Women. The empowerment of women and girls with agency, income, skills, time and leadership is not just an incidental benefit, but a central aspect, in achieving climate justice. Therefore, all of our climate programs are focused on elevating women's leadership and ensuring equal access to information, training and community resources.

Promoting regenerative agriculture. We support community farms, where villagers learn composting, intercropping and other methods, like drip irrigation, to improve crop yields, restore soil fertility and structure and make the best use of scarce resources.

Increasing access to sustainable agricultural technology. Across the world we provide training and mobilize people to adopt sustainable agricultural technology and practices, and encouraging them to demand agricultural extension services from their government.

Facilitating reforestation and tree planting campaigns. We establish tree nurseries, which can reforest communities, control soil erosion, and become entrepreneurial village businesses that supply families with fruit trees that not only capture carbon, they also provide nutrition and income. Village partners also plant and manage woodlots to remove pressure on forests for firewood.



111,527

participants trained in
climate adaptation
since 2008



2 million+

native tree seedlings
grown in Ethiopia since
2017 to support a
national reforestation
agenda



9,850

farmers trained on
agro-ecological practices
in Uganda in 2022

Our why.

Access to nutritious food is a fundamental human right. Yet millions of people, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, do not consume the variety or quality of food needed to support proper development and health. This creates a cycle of malnutrition that can lead to a higher incidence of health challenges and cognitive disabilities, affecting their performance in school and their job opportunities as adults—forever diminishing their future opportunities. Malnutrition cannot be solved merely by food aid, it requires sustainable sources of nutrition year round. Through our work, we aim to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to attain and maintain optimal nutrition, thereby breaking the cycle of malnutrition and fostering a healthier future for all.

Our how.

Empowered women serving as key change agents is essential to achieving the end of malnutrition. Women bear almost all responsibility for meeting basic needs of the family, yet are systematically denied the resources, information and freedom of action they need to fulfill this responsibility. That's why our nutrition programs focus on elevating women and ending harmful norms that hinder their nutrition. Our programs:

Educate on maternal and childhood health. We host tens of thousands of women at training workshops in which healthcare professionals outline the basics of nutrition for both children and mothers, the importance of pre- and postnatal care, and share information about supplements for children and mothers where needed.

Monitor maternal and childhood health. We work with local nursery schools to ensure that students are guaranteed access to a full nutritious meal every day they are in attendance. We also host sessions where healthcare workers oversee on-going child health and weight monitoring.

Train farmers on sustainable practices. Our partners learn techniques to sustainably improve crop yields, providing entire communities with not only increased access to food but the knowledge necessary to diversify crops and create nutritional diets.

Emphasize local, nutritious foods. By promoting diverse and balanced diets, filled with familiar, locally-available, nutritious foods, we strive to enhance the overall nutritional status of communities.



401,586

participants trained in
nutrition in Burkina
Faso since 2008



298,469

children have received
growth and nutrition
monitoring in Uganda
since 2008



52,818

attendees at courtyard
meetings on nutrition in
Bangladesh in 2022

Our why.

Accessibility and inclusion play a crucial role in enabling communities to play an active role in shaping their own future. Marginalized groups, including people with disabilities, people belonging to discriminated castes, and people living in remote communities, are often overlooked and are denied access to information, technology and resources needed to fully participate in daily life. When properly supported with the tools needed to overcome stigma, marginalized people play a leading role in ending hunger.

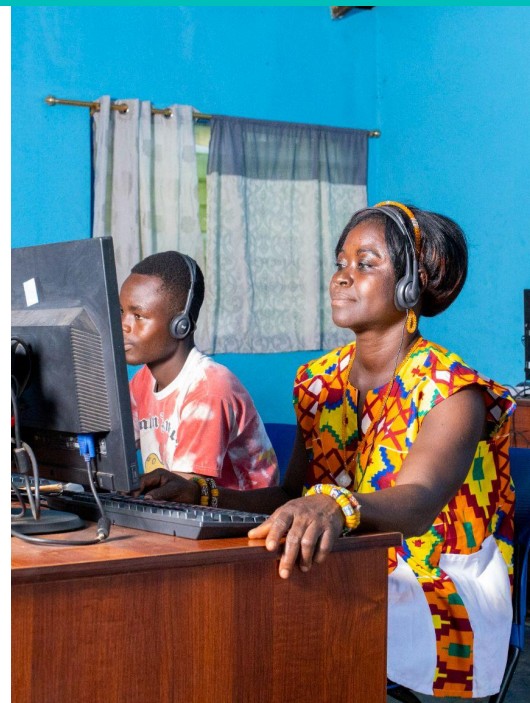
Our how.

Our programs strive to dismantle the systemic barriers that have historically disadvantaged groups and promote a more inclusive and equitable society by facilitating access to education, vocational training, and economic opportunities to support individuals to improve their livelihoods and break the cycle of poverty and hunger. Our accessibility and inclusion work focuses on three main areas:

Shift Mindsets. We work to shift the mindset within individuals and communities regarding marginalizing traits, including disability, mental illness, caste and ethnicity. Such a mindset shift supports communities to overcome stigma and start creating a collective vision for what is possible. In India, we work with elected women in particular to ensure that marginalized individuals have equal opportunities to access resources, participate in decision-making processes and contribute to their communities' development.

Ensure Access to Inclusion Tools. The technologies available to ensure accessibility and inclusion are improving every day. We work with communities to identify tools that are easy to use, work in their contexts and support the most marginalized people to overcome their unique challenges. For example, in Mexico indigenous women are learning digital skills using an Android-based "Butterfly" app which enables entrepreneurs to access materials in their native language, eliminating barriers that can prevent skills development.

Bridge the Digital Divide. Our partnership with Microsoft to bridge the digital divide combines skills training with infrastructure improvement to ensure that women and people with disabilities have the power to access rapid and current information, improving education, agricultural productivity, livelihoods and rural healthcare, which are key aspects in ending hunger.



“Women are the backbone of society and by ensuring that women are able to be connected, we will change the world.”

Vickie Robinson
Microsoft Airband Initiative
NGO/CSW, March 2023

Our why.

Access to clean water and sanitation facilities and practicing good hygiene are key for ending hunger. Waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera and dysentery claim the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, particularly children, each year and leave many more malnourished. Women in particular bear the brunt of the lack of availability of clean and safe water as they are often forced to walk miles per day to fetch water. Reliable access to clean, close water reduces that burden, and allows women the time and security to invest in their families, businesses, and communities.

Our how.

We partner with rural communities to ensure increased access to clean water and improved sanitation, the development of new water sources, and the implementation of water conservation techniques. Our programs:

Build water and sanitation capacity. We establish water project boards made up of community leaders who are trained on how to monitor, maintain and repair water systems. We also train a core of local leaders in water safety and purification so they can lead workshops throughout the community and expand grassroots knowledge.

Develop new sustainable water sources. We work with communities and local governments to drill new wells and boreholes, to repair existing ones, and to build and repair water towers and rainwater harvesting systems.

Ensure a reliable supply of clean water. We train community leaders on equipment for testing and pumping water and building and repairing latrines in homes, schools and public spaces. We work with local governments to focus public resources on water infrastructure projects.

Implement water conservation techniques. We mobilize communities to initiate drip irrigation projects, which minimize the use of water and fertilizer by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, and to develop water catchment systems, which collect rainwater from a roof or other surface before it reaches the ground and store it for future use.

Build sanitation programs. Good hygiene is more than a convenience; water borne illness is a leading cause of childhood deaths around the world. Our global training and capacity-building projects improve living conditions and save lives.



56,759

participants in WASH community meetings, workshops, and campaigns in 2022



6,202

latrines have been constructed, installed and rehabilitated in Malawi since 2008



346

courtyard meetings on WASH in Bangladesh in 2022



reasons
to be **cheerful**

Uganda's Communal Food 'Epicenters' Aim to End Hunger Forever

Pushing past the conventional food aid model, a regenerative farming system offers a recipe for success — and self-reliance.

By: Peter Yeung

May 26, 2023



Bulbous green squashes larger than a young child are piled up on the floor of Faridah Nakayiza's lounge. Outside, a thick branch of freshly cut, bright yellow bananas is balanced on the back of her bicycle. Over in her backyard, a small oasis of tropical vegetation, a cluster of juicy papayas hangs from the trees.

"Before I looked older, but now I look much younger," says Nakayiza, a 44-year-old from the village of Bulugu in central Uganda. "It's because I can feed myself better, I can eat all kinds of nutrients. And I grow it all myself."

The upturn in Nakayiza's fortunes began in 2018 when the mother of eight signed up at a local facility known as an "epicenter." These spaces, launched by global nonprofit [The Hunger Project](#), offer a range

of ecological and agricultural services to about a dozen nearby villages. They have been the catalyst for empowering communities to feed themselves — with the aim of finally putting an end to the scourge of world hunger.

At Uganda's 12 epicenters, which each serve up to 15,000 people, community members are taught how to set up and manage communal farms. They learn regenerative agriculture practices such as composting, intercropping and drip irrigation. These techniques have in turn helped promote biodiversity and improve crop yields and soil fertility. Epicenters take a holistic approach to fighting hunger: they usually include a bank, a nursery school, toilets, clean water and a medical clinic.



Faridah Nakayiza grows bananas, cassavas, pumpkins and more in her backyard garden. Credit: The Hunger Project

Each is run by a leader elected by the villagers, and soon after taking the post, they hold a workshop together to identify the community's most pressing issues – such as health care, access to water, or food insecurity — to inform how the epicenter will be run. The leaders are supported by voluntary “animators” who help mobilize the community. After five years, the epicenter must become self-reliant — meaning it must run without external support. Ten have already reached this benchmark.

The Hunger Project's model runs contrary to past efforts to cut malnutrition across rural Africa, according to Irene Naikaali, the nonprofit's country director for Uganda. During the 1980s and '90s, development aid was focused on programs to deliver food and supplies — but ones that always disappeared once the funding dried up. Long-term food security, she argues, can only be achieved if people are independent.

“We felt the charity-based approach was not helping our communities to become self-reliant,” says Naikaali. “The best way of solving world hunger is not a ‘relief’ model that creates dependency and so actually worsens the problem. Communities have to be at the forefront of anything that will work in the long term.”

That may help explain why, despite decades of efforts, world hunger is far from being eliminated. More than 345 million people across the globe are expected to face “high levels of food insecurity” in 2023, according to the United Nations' World Food Programme, which represents a rise of 200 million people compared to pre-pandemic levels. About nine million people die every year, or 24,000 people per day, from hunger.

Across the Horn of Africa, which includes Uganda and seven other nations, the issue has been compounded by conflict, increasing food prices and the longest drought in 40 years. Today, 36.4 million people in the region are suffering from hunger.

“It's a double-edged sword,” says Julian May, director of the Centre of Excellence in Food Security at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. “You're faced with starving people, so we're flying in cheap corn from the USA to feed the population. But this displaces the possibility of local markets developing within the population.”

Yet The Hunger Project's approach is clearly bearing fruit. The nonprofit works with 7,630 households, or about 35,000 people, in Uganda. Over the past two decades, the proportion of Ugandans suffering from hunger has fallen by 58 percent and those suffering severe hunger by 73 percent. Only one percent still face severe hunger.

Faridah Nakayiza says that before she took on the training, even though she grew her own food, she would often struggle to feed her children. “I used to have difficulties accessing food,” she says. “My children would have little before they went to school.”

But over the course of four years, she attended dozens of trainings — including classes on increasing crop production and seed management — at the nearest epicenter, which is about five kilometers from

her home. “Now there’s much more, we have excess,” says Nakayiza, who grows bananas, cassavas, pumpkins and more.

By empowering individuals to be self-sufficient, the epicenters also play a role in improving gender equality, as women become more independent. “In Uganda, men usually control everything,” Nakayiza says. “But this shows women like me can provide.”



Faridah Nakayiza explains her vision road journey. Credit: The Hunger Project

But with the improvements in production came another challenge: food waste. Families were able to feed themselves, but struggled to use or sell the excess. The UN estimates that worldwide, 14 percent of all food produced is lost between harvest and retail. “We concentrated so much on production,” says Naikaali. “But food security relies on them being able to preserve their food, store it, process and add value.”

In response, The Hunger Project has trained 11,622 people in food processing, and 1,306 households are using food banks to store food long-term. “You won’t go wanting in the next month,” says Nakayiza, who has built a micro processing factory on her land to process millet, soy and pumpkin, which she and her family dry and grind to preserve it.

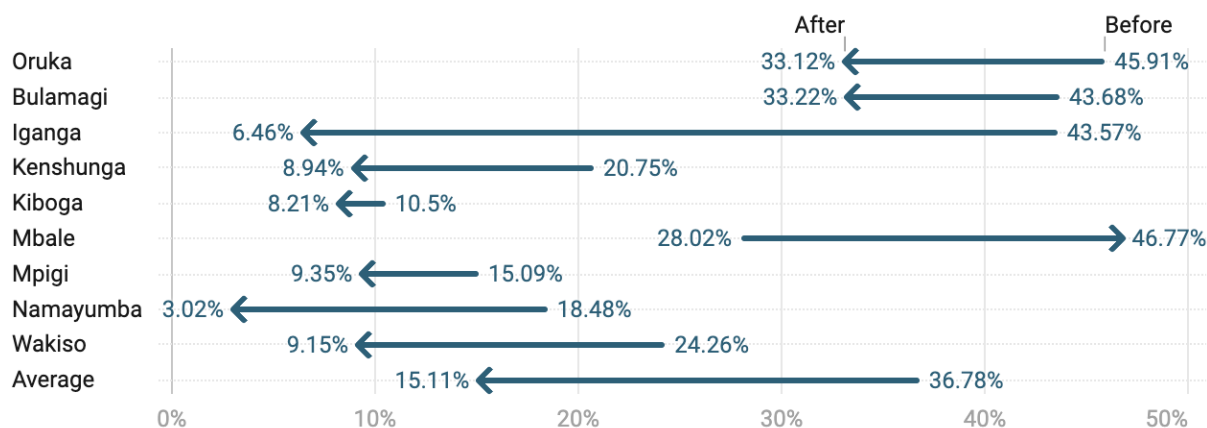
However, since The Hunger Project began its work in Uganda in 1999, progress has not always been so organic. Conflict across the country has meant some communities remain difficult to reach, even now. And coordination with local government and other nonprofits working in the same region requires major ongoing effort.

“While we focus on making communities self-sufficient, other partners still give them paid stipends, which can water down their motivation,” says Naikaali. “And once the government sees us working in a region, they often hand everything over to us, even though we are only supposed to supplement the work of the government.”

In the case of one of Uganda’s epicenters, Mbale, surveys show that levels of hunger rose significantly between 2015 and 2018. The Hunger Project said this could have been due to “climate shocks and pest invasions” or the fact that the 2018 survey was carried out during harvest, when little food remained in the fields. It added that despite those issues, there was an 88 percent increase in households that own businesses in Mbale.

Hunger fell in all but one of The Hunger Project's epicenters

Prevalence of households with moderate or severe hunger



Data for epicenters where at least two hunger evaluations were carried out.

Source: The Hunger Project • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Professor May warns, too, that the complexity of food security means that it will not be solved easily: food production is one aspect, but affordability is another, as is the extent to which the available food is nutritious and can be consumed safely. “Each of those dimensions makes it difficult to achieve food security,” he says.

But May also points to various other efforts already underway on the continent. Two million Rwandans, a fifth of the population, were moved out of food insecurity in just five years due to a focus on science-led policy and localized responses. Nigeria has restricted the imports of food products like rice in a successful effort to boost local agriculture. Many African countries also signed up to the Malabo Declaration in 2014, agreeing to invest their budgets into accelerated agricultural growth.



What Happens When Our Food Systems Fail Us? We're Finding Out | Opinion

TIM PREWITT , *PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE HUNGER PROJECT*

ON 10/31/22 AT 8:00 AM EDT

Today, millions of people are at their local markets making tough choices—buying less food and determining how they can stretch their budgets into more meals.

Today, millions of farmers will watch their farmland go untended, hindered by the skyrocketing cost of fertilizer.

Today, millions of children will go to bed hungry.

This is what a broken food system looks like.

Our global food systems include all people, processes, and infrastructure needed to feed our world. It encompasses all the producers, processors, transportation, and distributors that take our food from the field to the market or grocery store. It includes the corporations that largely determine what we eat. And it includes us, the consumers.

Every one of us participates in the global food supply chain, one that is vulnerable to disruptions from climate change and environmental degradation, geo-politics and violent conflict, and economic downturns as well as inefficiency and waste.

Our global food system feeds billions of people every day. But not everyone has access to healthy, nutritious foods. Millions of families around the world are without access to basic nutrition. When our food systems break down, as it has this year due to the war in Ukraine and flooding in Pakistan, food prices skyrocket, and famine rises. The ripple effect lasts for years.



A Sasini employee works in a tea field at Kipkebe Tea Estate near Musereita, Kenya on Oct. 21, 2022.

PATRICK MEINHARDT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

While the world scrambles to support the communities experiencing famine, we must also strengthen our food systems to withstand future shocks. We cannot trade long term progress for immediate solutions. We must do both. And it's especially critical for us to strengthen our

food systems, starting at the local level, as catastrophes continue to happen with increasing frequencies.

Let us also remember that local communities have extraordinary power to solve their own challenges. We at [The Hunger Project](#) have been working with communities in rural areas of Africa, Asia and Latin America for over four decades to develop long-term solutions to improve food systems. Drawing from this work and my colleagues' on-the-ground experience around the world, I believe there are three areas the world should invest in order to build resilience in our global food system.

First, we must take care of our land. Just as indigenous land management is being identified as an effective way to mitigate and adapt to the effects of the climate crisis, caring for our soil is essential to continue feeding our planet. Indigenous, climate-resilient crops use less agro-inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and they also have high nutritional value. For example, smallholder farmers in Uganda are leveraging organic manure and other natural plant residues as fertilizers and pesticides on their farms—a more sustainable method of cultivation which shows their characteristic resilience and ingenuity, and preserves the soil for future harvests

Next, we must invest in small-scale farmers, especially young farmers, who represent the future of agriculture. When we support their ability to grow their own crops, we strengthen local markets—and lessen the global impact on climate because food is grown and harvested closer to the people who need it. We must also support women, who provide the majority of agricultural labor but continue to account for most of the world's hungry, with the tools to become change agents in the fight to end hunger, on both a regional and a national scale.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we must dispel the notion of hunger as a naturally occurring phenomenon. When speaking about the global food crisis, many people use the phrase "lack of access" to describe the communities who are most affected by hunger and poverty. But, as we at The Hunger Project have said before, there is no such thing as lack of access—only denial of access. A global food system must mean that everyone—regardless of

nation or income—has available healthy food. To be free from hunger is a [human right](#) and there must be accountability for those actors who shirk their responsibility through incompetence or for profit.

Building sustainable local food systems has a ripple effect: enhanced biodiversity, better management of natural resources and increased access to markets for farmers. It creates more inclusive global and local food value chains—and promotes social sustainability. It means women, consumers and smallholder farmers can continue to build resilient and thriving communities.

We have a choice to uphold or dismantle our broken food systems, and although it will take a global effort to solve this global problem, investing in community-grounded solutions can provide a path to a future free from hunger.

We all must recognize our role in creating a better, more resilient food system for all.

Tim Prewitt is a food security expert and the president and CEO of [The Hunger Project](#).

The views expressed in this article are the writer's own.