



# PHP POST

Summer 2017 | Presbyterian Hunger Program | [pcusa.org/hunger](http://pcusa.org/hunger)

Food Week of Action

## FOOD WEEK OF ACTION AND WORLD FOOD DAY

We are called to work for a world where everyone has sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food — and where those who produce and prepare the food are fairly compensated, respected and celebrated. The Global Food Week of Action (October 15-22) is a special time for Christians and others around the world to act together for food justice and food sovereignty.

The first step is to look honestly at our current situation. While our aggregate food choices have an impact on the shape of our food system, positive change is unlikely unless we also address the deep inequities and damage of the dominant model, which has a racialized history. The model was founded on the theft of Indian lands and exploitation of slave labor; and harm to workers in the food chain and to the environment continues.

With reduced poverty and enhanced resiliency as our goals, we are called to bring about a system that protects the environment and climate and ensures the right to food for everyone.

The Global Food Week of Action includes World Food Day (October 16), International Day for Rural Women (October 15), and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17).

### 2017 Food Week Solidarity Actions

1. Boycott Wendy's, tweet, and deliver manager letters in solidarity with farmworkers. [boycott-wendys.org](http://boycott-wendys.org)
2. Support family farmers by pushing for transparency around land investments by pension funds, starting with TIAA-CREF. [bit.ly/TIAAact](http://bit.ly/TIAAact).
3. Raise your voice to push for land, worker and climate justice in the next Farm Bill. Find background and priority actions at [bit.ly/17farmbill](http://bit.ly/17farmbill).

### Connect Up!

Start planning now and let people know what you have planned for Food Week or anytime in October!

- A. Get updates and join the conversation by joining the Food Week of Action Facebook event at [bit.ly/foodweekfb](http://bit.ly/foodweekfb).
- B. Get your activity or event on the Food Week list and map by filling out the form at [bit.ly/announce17](http://bit.ly/announce17).
- C. See what others have done the past two years at [bit.ly/wfdmap16](http://bit.ly/wfdmap16) and [bit.ly/action16list](http://bit.ly/action16list).

Find worship and educational resources and activity ideas at [pcusa.org/foodweek](http://pcusa.org/foodweek).



A woman harvesting pineapple in a community that is a part of the West Africa Initiative in Liberia. Valery Nodem

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## Letter From the Coordinator

By Rebecca Barnes, Coordinator for Presbyterian Hunger Program

**FOOD.** We need it daily, but we have many different experiences with it.

For some, food is a vocation—for farmers, gardeners, farm workers, food chain workers, chefs, parents, and more. For others, it’s sensory delight and community celebration—wedding feasts, family meals, church potlucks, or a special candlelit dinner. For many, lack of food or the inability to grow enough are critical hardships. For still others, it is a dull, mandatory, daily act that doesn’t provide pleasure. Also, food can be an unhealthy coping mechanism, an addiction, or a constant struggle against one’s body’s rejection of it.

Relationships with food are complicated. While our daily consumption of basic nutrients and calories connects us to the other created beings in God’s good creation, I think humanity’s varied relationships to food are unique. One thing that distinguishes many of us from God’s other creatures is that our food is often less an immediate, direct result of our own labor, and we can be far removed from the processes that brought food before us (from the earth that produced it to many laborers who touched it along the way). This becomes even truer the more privilege one has—such as consuming out-of-season produce, specialty items, or food that doesn’t grow in our geographic area.

In this issue, we’re using the lens of food as a “justice” issue that invites us to take action. What does it mean to relate to food in a way that is fair to the land, that empowers and respects workers, and that builds the community that sits at table to consume it? While our relationships with food are complicated and varied, we know that as beings who eat on a regular basis, we can do so carefully and thoughtfully. Regardless of where we are in the spectrum of our individual relationship to food, how do we think more equitable food practices could help heal a splintered world?

Organic farming cooperatives, campaigns to protect fertile land from being grabbed unfairly for profit, compassionate responses in local congregations and around the world for neighbors near and far who are hungry—there are many ways we can respond to the biblical call to feed those who are hungry.

Sometimes it is farmers, farmworkers, and food chain workers who hunger—so our call to action is to be mindful of their struggles and the things they ask for, like economic security, worker protections and basic rights. Sometimes it is populations of people in war-torn or disaster-impacted areas of the world—so our call is to work for peace, resilience, and on the root causes of climate change and hunger. Sometimes it is the privileged who “hunger”—for deeper and more spiritual connection—so being more thoughtful about food can actually help heal those who

are isolated and insulated from food processes.

In all of these situations and more, may God guide our hearts, minds and actions, so that we may faithfully answer God’s call and so that all people may be fed.

### Factory Farming and Humane Treatment of Animals

The 2016 General Assembly passed a resolution called ‘On Advocacy Against Factory Farming’. See GA actions and rationale on PC-Biz at [bit.ly/factoryfarm](http://bit.ly/factoryfarm).

The resolution encourages faithful witness and advocacy by Presbyterians with the goal of reducing cruelty to animals, improving conditions for workers, and reducing environmental damage on any size farm.

The seminal 1990 PC(USA) report, ‘Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice,’ asserts that humanity and nature are so inextricably bound that the suffering of one affects the other. It states that, “human life and well-being depend upon the flourishing of other life and the integrity of life-supporting processes that God has ordained.”

As people of faith we seek to fully understand various perspectives and to act according to our conscience in ways that are respectful of all.

Find more information, educational resources, and action recommendations at [presbyterianmission.org/food-faith/factoryfarms](http://presbyterianmission.org/food-faith/factoryfarms).

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# Faith, Food & Mindfulness


As Presbyterians the primary place we come together around food is the Communion Table; but more often we are eating and drinking together at church dinners, community meals and fellowship hour. In our daily lives we eat a variety of things in a variety of ways in a variety of places. How, in our everyday lives, can we practice our faith when it comes to food and eating?




**Advocating:** There are a variety of issues related to food justice to consider—whether a food was produced humanely, organically and safely; whether it came from a local farm or from thousands of miles away; and whether the farmers and farm workers themselves have enough to eat and were paid fairly. Learn how you can support food justice efforts at [pcusa.org/foodweek](http://pcusa.org/foodweek).



**Praying:** Blessing the meal is how we express our gratitude to God for the gift of food and other blessings in our lives. At mealtimes, we remember those who are hungry, and we offer prayers for those who grew and prepare food. We give thanks for the sun, rain and soil that helped the plants grow healthy and strong.





**Gathering:** Food is our sustenance, our nourishment, part of God's bountiful gift of creation. The earth produces, we eat, and our bodies are fueled for living. Food is also where we come together. Gathering intentionally around meals provides nourishment not only physically but also spiritually and emotionally.



**Gardening:** Raising vegetables and herbs not only provides us with fresh, nutritious food, it is a good way to get closer to the rhythms of the earth, witness anew the miracle of life, work up a sweat, and engage the senses of touch, smell, sight and taste.



**Composting:** Composting is a great way to make use of table scraps and food waste. Combined with other organic matter, scraps and waste break down and form soil that can be returned to nature and used to nourish gardens. Check [www.epa.gov/compost](http://www.epa.gov/compost) for information, tips and ideas on how to compost in a way that suits your home and lifestyle.



**Purchasing:** Consider where your groceries come from. In the US, Fair Trade Certified products currently include coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate, vanilla, rice, fruits, and sugar, and now some domestic fair trade items are emerging (such as almonds, pecans and cranberries from Equal Exchange). Check [pcusa.org/fairtrade](http://pcusa.org/fairtrade) and [equalexchange.com/dft](http://equalexchange.com/dft) for more information.



# Become a Hunger Action Congregation

Hunger Action Congregations was launched this year on the first of June, and congregations completing the application by September 15 will be recognized on World Food Day in October. This new covenant acknowledges and celebrates the faithful work of Presbyterians to alleviate hunger and end its root causes, while inspiring even more holistic and justice-oriented action.

A congregation doing hunger-related work in one or more of the six identified areas is eligible to be a Hunger Action Congregation. A congregation doing activities in all six areas will be a Certified Hunger Action Congregation and will receive a certificate to post in your church.

All Hunger Action Congregations are invited to share stories about their activities with PHP, and we will communicate periodically with updates, opportunities, and stories from other congregations to encourage the deepening and widening of your hunger ministries.

More than twenty congregations have covenanted already, and here is a sampling of what they are up to:

**Hunger alleviation** (providing food in a dignified way with an eye to long-term structural solutions)

- Growing organic produce on a rooftop garden and giving it to a local soup kitchen and pantry
- Supporting a neighborhood elementary school's breakfast & lunch programs



Participating in a crop drop is just one of the ways Faith Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Alabama, participates in hunger action ministry.

**Development assistance** (addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable development)

- Hosting a winter farmers' market
- Supporting a shelter for the unhoused
- Offering cooking classes for youth using food from the church garden

**Hunger Education** (learning about systemic causes of hunger, leading towards faithful action that is informed and directed by directly affected people and partners)

- Supporting a Boston Food Justice Young Adult Volunteers.
- Taking an annual adult mission trip to Gleanings for the Hungry
- Using the Just Eating? curriculum ([pcusa.org/justeating](http://pcusa.org/justeating))

**Lifestyle Integrity** (adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect all of God's creation)

- Using an underground cistern for water sustainability for church gardens
- Offering fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate, recycling, and using Eco-Palms

**Corporate and Public Policy Witness** (advocating and campaigning for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes, promote self-development, and care for creation)

- Calling on Wendy's and Publix to join the Fair Food Program ([pcusa.org/fairfood](http://pcusa.org/fairfood))
- Doing an Offering of Letters ([bread.org/2017-offering-letters](http://bread.org/2017-offering-letters))
- Contacting Congress through the Office of Public Witness ([capwiz.com/pcusa](http://capwiz.com/pcusa))

**Worship activities** (incorporating prayer, education, and preaching about ending hunger and its causes into worship)

- Sermons on hunger, poverty, injustice
- Prayers, music, minutes for mission on hunger topics

Presbyterian Hunger Program extends our appreciation and congratulations to those who have already covenanted to be a Hunger Action Congregation. We are excited and look forward to learning about the many creative ways you are responding to hunger and poverty in your communities.

**Become a Hunger Action Congregation! visit [bit.ly/hungeractionform](http://bit.ly/hungeractionform).**

# PHP IMPACT REPORT 2016



The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes. As a part of this mission, PHP gave over 160 grants totaling more than \$1.2 million, impacting communities across the United States and 37 countries in 2016. You make this work possible through gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, Centsability, and the Hunger Fund.



Pam Lupfer

Presbyterians from White Plains Presbytery & others stood in opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This was the biggest trade agreement in history & was defeated!



Valery Nodem

A woman from Kangama in Sierra Leone preparing rice seeds. Kangama is a very active village participating in the West Africa Initiative.

A Texas Earth Care Congregation has a Good Earth Garden and Arbor where organic vegetables are shared with the local homeless shelter.



Trinity Presbyterian Church



Maria from Guatemala / Pueblo a Pueblo

“Now, I am proud to say that not only do I know how to identify a variety of different plants and species, I also know how to plant them.”



# ADDRESSING the ROOT CAUSES

## MORE AND BETTER FOOD

- **23 Hunger Action Advocates** served 1,600 congregations.
- **26,650 pounds of food** donated by farmers to food banks in the U.S.



- **\$25,000** in SNAP incentives to farmers' market customers in Maine generated over \$50,000 in purchases for local, healthy food.

- **11,000 free vegetable seedlings** provided by one Presbyterian church to residents living in a food desert, which produced a harvest of 3.9 tons of food worth \$16,650



## SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE

Since the Fair Food Program was implemented in 2011, more than **\$25 million** has been paid out to farmworkers in Fair Food Premiums; **135,000 farmworkers** have received "Know Your Rights" materials; and **1,100 farmworker** complaints have come in through the 24-hour complaint hotline, **100%** of which have been resolved."

- **\$9.1 million in compensation** to victims of sweatshop fires in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

- Cincinnati passed a wage theft ordinance for more than **33,000 low-wage workers**

- **\$15 million** for weatherization of low-income households in Seattle



## MORE LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT

Climate and environmental injustice deepen hunger and poverty. PC(USA) certified Earth Care Congregations work to make God's world livable for all people and all God's creatures—through planting community gardens, installing solar panels, using fairly traded coffee, waving sustainably harvested "eco-palms" on Palm Sunday, and/or advocating for strong climate policies.

- **191 certified PC(USA) Earth Care Congregations**

- More than **1,000 Presbyterians** purchased at least 79,000 lbs of Fairly Traded coffee



# ES OF HUNGER

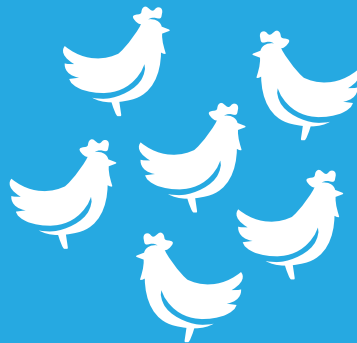
• **50 fuel efficient stoves** constructed and installed in family homes in Guatemala

• **16 grain storage facilities** built or repaired in Sierra Leone and Cameroon



• **55,115 pounds of grain** distributed through community food banks

• **500 chicks** given to families around the world



## DID YOU KNOW?

PHP gave over **160 grants** totaling more than **\$1.2 million**, impacting communities across the world in 2016.

Small change adds up. **\$41,381** raised in Cents-ability for local and national hunger in 2016.

PHP helped the Office of Public Witness mobilize more than **7,000** Presbyterians and others on critical public policy issues.

PHP's social media engagement continues to grow **4,582** page likes on Facebook **1,298** Twitter followers

For blogs, resources, trips and more go to [presbyterianmission.org/hunger](http://presbyterianmission.org/hunger)

PHP is supported by generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OG999999) and the Hunger Fund (H999999).

• In Iowa, minimum wage raised to \$10.75 by January 2019 affecting 60,000+ workers. New York's minimum wage will be at **\$12.50** by 2021, with a promise from the governor to raise it to **\$15** in the future



• **2,600 people** regained access to lands that had been forcefully taken from them



• **187 training sessions** to build grassroots capacity around the world

• **4 major campaigns** waged for environmental justice with Indigenous Peoples



• In Washington state, an extra **\$1.6 million** was added to the budget for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), for food-insecure households

• **93,020 planted trees**, 128 nurseries and 40 family gardens in partner countries



• **150 farming households** were collectively certified as organic in Udaipur's Gati Village, resulting in the village becoming the first fully organic farming community in the Indian state of Rajasthan

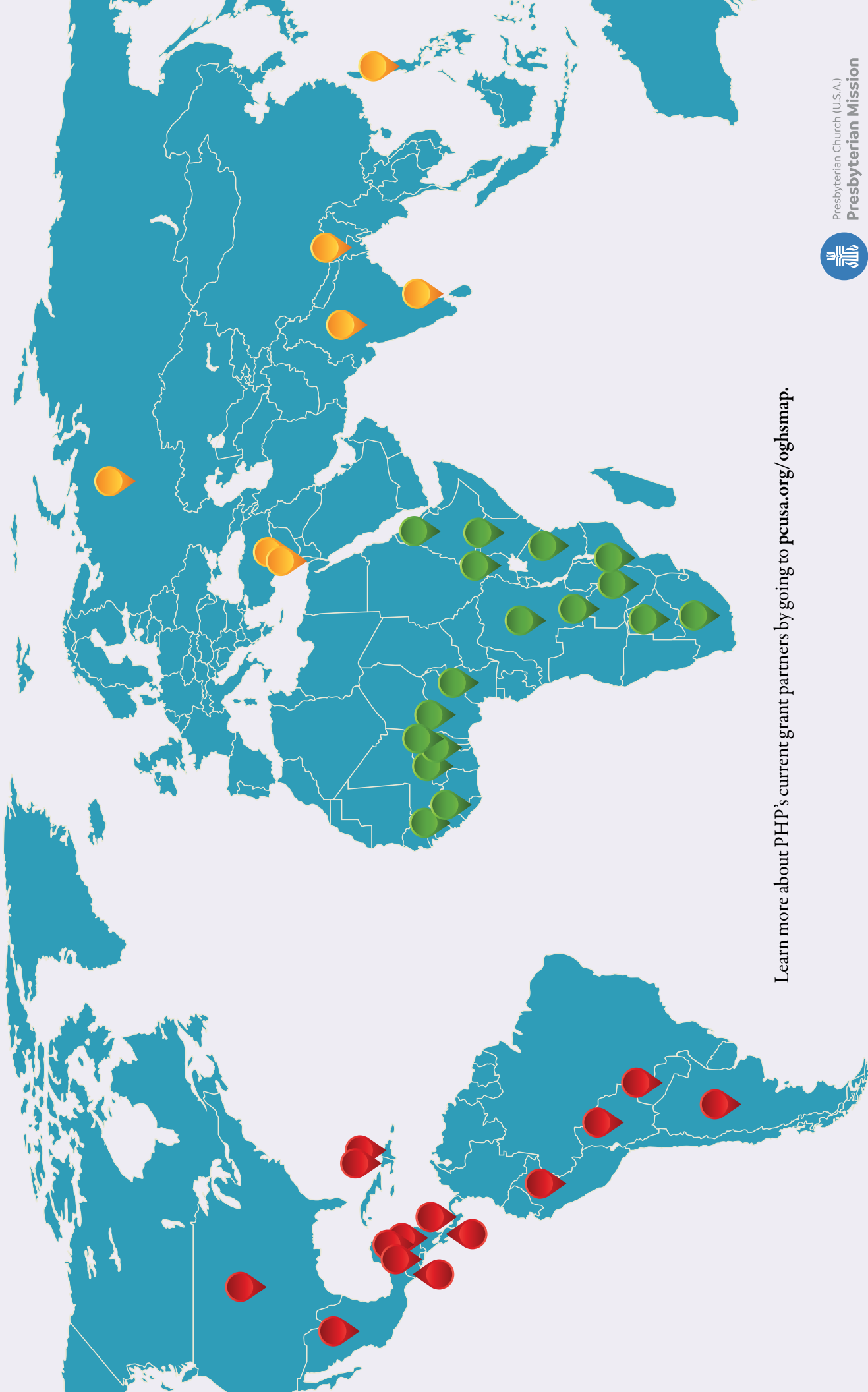
• **45 latrines** were built in India

• 1,088 congregations ordered **192,560 Eco-Palms**

• **12 wells** and hand pumps built or repaired in Sierra Leone and Liberia



# PHP Impacts Communities Across the U.S. and 37 Countries



Learn more about PHP's current grant partners by going to [pcusa.org/oghsmap](https://pcusa.org/oghsmap).



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**



# Rural farming community in India becomes organic farming model

## Presbyterian Hunger Program provides critical funding for the initiative

Excerpted from the June 2017 PNS article by Rick Jones, Mission Communications Strategist for PC(USA)

Rural farmers in India are celebrating the certification of Udaipur's Gati Village as Rajasthan's first fully organic farming community. The designation will allow Gati to market its crops and products internationally. Nearly 300 farm families are covered by the designation as they seek to market major crops that include wheat and corn.

For several decades, the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) has been supporting local communities around the world that are trying to move away from corporately controlled seeds and return to a traditional seed model of saving and sharing.

"India is one country where our partners are working to promote traditional seeds over genetically-engineered seeds," said Valery Nodem, PHP's international associate for hunger concerns. "We've been supporting groups that are trying to revive and retrieve traditional seeds because they believe the seeds are good for health, the soil and can produce a better yield if they are conserved and selected the right way."

Since 1995, suicide has affected more than 300,000 Indian farmers, according to government census records, because of the stress and cost of farming.

"Farmers were told to buy corporate-produced seeds because they were told the seeds would be better," Nodem said. "Farmers bought them not realizing they would have to buy more pesticides. One pesticide led to another and as a result, a lot of farmers got trapped in a cycle of debt and couldn't dig out."

PHP provided Udaipur's Big Medicine Charitable Trust (BMCT), with a grant for 2016, which collectively certified more than 150 farming households as



Big Medicine Charitable Trust

A field in Udaipur's Gati Village, which has become Rajasthan's first fully organic farming community.

organic in the Gati village community and established Rajasthan's first women-farmer-run production company and heritage seed saving center.

"Many individual Rajasthani farmers have been certified as organic through various pricey third-party certifications. Some are subsidized by organizations who buy all of their produce to serve the high-end organic market," said W. David Kubiak, BMCT development director. "Individual certification, however, is extremely problematic here when neighbors' fields and waterways are drenched with herbicides and pesticides. Gati's collective certification model ensures the reality of an 'organic' crop as well as inspiring stronger village solidarity and cooperative community bonds."

Kubiak says the certification news offers hope to hundreds of other villages that have been hiding the fact that their crops are uncontaminated because they were ashamed they could not afford the

widely advertised "modern chemical methods." He adds that the certification also offers vindication to farmers who rejected agro-chemical inputs from the start.

"For Rajasthan, this is a big and timely milestone, because the state government has recently issued unfunded mandates to 11 districts to create organic blocks (rural subdivisions) as soon as possible. The Gati model offers them a clear, inexpensive and successful map," Kubiak said.

The entire process was a long time coming: "It took well over a year, including holding 44 educational meetings and after gaining community consensus, gathering land, crop and economic data from all participating families." Kubiak felt that the PHP grant was not just helpful but was "critical to the project" since no other agency or non-government organization "seemed to understand its significance."

# World Food Day Sermon Starters

Rev. Betty J. Tom, Pastor, Servant Leader, and PHP Advisory Committee Member

The celebration of World Food Day will be held on Monday October 16, 2017. One of the main goals of this celebration is to raise the world's awareness of the issues that stem from food insecurity, poverty and hunger. The Presbyterian Hunger Program is one of the world partners who work to "alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes."

One of the many ways that the church can impact the world's awareness of the issues around poverty and hunger is by sharing the "Good News" found in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. In our proclamations we can lift up our Creator God's intention that all of God's people, all over the world, would have access to clean, safe, healthy food.

Some of the scriptures that might inform our commitment to proclamations on World Food Day are: Leviticus 19:9-10, Deuteronomy 24:19-20, Ruth 2:15-18, Isaiah 58:6-7; 10, Matthew 25:35-40, James 2:14-18, I John 3:17-18

As we read these scriptures in preparation for preaching sermons for World Food Day, we can reflect on the following questions/reflections:

- What do the scriptures tell us about God's intentions and concerns for the hunger and the poor?
- Why do you believe poverty still exists?
- Using the scriptures as a guide, explain how total eradication of hunger is possible.
- How can believers respond in word and in actions to hunger and poverty in our local and global communities?
- What text in the scriptures gives us hope in the face of staggering numbers of people who daily do not get sufficient food?

## Addressing Homelessness

Though we personally may not be able to provide a house to all in need, here are a few simple ways through which we can provide an experience of 'home' to another in . . .

**5 seconds:** Slow down and say hello to someone on the street.

**One hour:** Treat someone in need to lunch. Take it a step further by finding a restaurant next to a laundromat and dine while together you do laundry!

**An Afternoon:** Create care packages (a gallon ziploc bag, toothbrush, multivitamins, rain poncho, nutritious snack, personal note, grocery or fast food gift card, invitation to your Church's service) and distribute them.

**A Lifetime:** Learn about your local Homeless & Housing Coalitions and become an advocate for those who are homeless. Contact the Presbyterian Network to End Homelessness (PNTEH) at [www.pnteh.net](http://www.pnteh.net) or at [www.facebook.com/presbyNTEH](https://www.facebook.com/presbyNTEH) to get connected to local and national groups who are fighting to end homelessness.



## World Food Day Prayer

by Rev. Betty Tom, Pastor/Servant Leader/PHP Advisory Committee member, Based on Psalm 145

Loving Creator God,

We praise you because you are gracious, compassionate and faithful to all of your promises. Your eyes see us, your hands are open to us, and you desire to satisfy the needs of living things.

Great Provider, it is not your desire that any of your creatures should suffer hunger. May the food that we eat make us aware of untold numbers of people who do not have enough food to eat.

May the clean water that we drink remind us of the millions of people who do not have clean water to drink. May we never be satisfied while others are hungry and may our thirst for justice never be quenched.

In the name of the One who is the Bread of Life, we praise you, O God, and bless your Holy Name.

Amen.

# Addressing the Threat of Famine

Eileen Schuhmann, International Program Assistant

Famine is ugly. Some of you may remember seeing a 1993 photo published by the New York Times in which a skeletal little girl struggles to continue her journey to a United Nations feeding center in South Sudan while a vulture keeps watch for her death.

The photo provides us with a harsh visual of what is at stake, but many of us are still left feeling disconnected, paralyzed and overwhelmed when faced with the magnitude of the crisis

In fact, the U.N. is calling the current world famine crisis “the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945.” It is estimated that more than 20 million people are at risk of starvation.

Presently, South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen are the countries at greatest risk of famine due to conflict and drought.

Conflict disrupts food availability and access by preventing people from accessing the lands they farm. Also, it is difficult to transport produce to market. Drought makes food production challenging and means water shortages for people and animals.

Since famine is considered a disaster, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the lead responding agency for the PC(USA). In emergency disaster situations, such as famine, PDA partners primarily with ACT Alliance to help address immediate needs.

In South Sudan, PDA is also working with Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency to distribute emergency relief items and food. In Syria, PDA has been engaged in responding to the humanitarian needs of displaced persons and refugees as well resettling refugees in the United States through Church World Service.

While the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) is not designed to respond to disasters like PDA, we work to build the capacity of communities to develop systems that ensure food security and work to prevent food shortages from happening. We are currently collaborating with partners to find ways to promote agricultural techniques for sustainable food, nutrition and income security in both South Sudan and Syria.

Over the past several years, PHP has built up a system of community grain banks in the North of Cameroon through our Joining Hands network RELUFA. The grain banks have served as an important safety net against food insecurity there, especially with the added pressures on resources that have come with the presence of more than 60,000 Nigerian refugees who fled to the region to escape Boko Haram.

PHP collaborated with PDA, Self Development of People, and ecumenical partner Agricultural Missions to initiate the West Africa Initiative (WAI), a cooperative farming and livelihoods program initiated after years of civil war in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. Not only has the WAI helped

rural communities to recover and improve their food production systems and income generating possibilities, but the program also prevented potential famine from occurring in WAI communities when the Ebola crisis struck.

Facing the daunting challenges of famine, what can you do?

1. **Pray** for those suffering from hunger, and pray for peace and sustainable solutions
2. **Send letters to Congress** through the Office of Public Witness at [capwiz.com/pcusa](http://capwiz.com/pcusa) on:
  - Supporting humanitarian assistance and an end to the conflict in South Sudan
  - Welcoming Refugees through the US Refugee Resettlement program
3. **Give** to PDA Disaster-Relief South Sudan (DR000042) or Disaster Relief-Lebanon/Syria (DR000007)
4. **Support** long-term sustainable food, farm system and economic development by sending donations to PHP (H999999)



ACT/Paul Jeffrey

A woman cutting grass in South Sudan.





## PHP POST

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