



**fh**

**food for the hungry**

let's end poverty together

Summer 2015

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## Responding to poverty

Ruth Chapter 2 is a wonderful example to us all of how God wants us to respond to poverty. Although God supplies all our needs, he did not take away the need for Ruth, the poor foreigner, to work hard and glean the borders of the field, or for Boaz, the wealthy landowner, to be generous and just in how he supported Ruth and the other gleaners. Food for the Hungry uses these same principles to respond to those living in poverty in the world. We first recognise that it is God who provides for all our needs, but he wants us to provide people with the opportunity and encouragement to work, to lift themselves, their families and their communities out of poverty. It is through the generous supporters of Food for the Hungry that we are able to walk with the poor as Boaz walked with Ruth. Together we are all co-workers in God's creation, a creation where work is good and brings dignity to those who engage with it. Those who can facilitate it have the privilege to demonstrate God's love and justice in a world full of need. Thank you all for your support over the past months. Without your prayers and financial gifts we would not be able to play our part in empowering many thousands of people. Some of the following stories highlight wonderful examples of what God is doing today through your generosity.

Paul Cornelius  
(pcornelius@fh.org - 01494 674898)



Paul Cornelius - CEO  
Food for the Hungry UK



## Walking with families in Nkunga, Kenya

We are now seeing the results of strong relationships built with the Nkunga community in Kenya. We have encouraged and walked with them since 2005. The progress achieved means we are now scheduling a gradual exit plan. The focus is now on community and church empowerment. Recent activity has included:

- Training groups involved in income generating activity and formation of church self-help groups
- Establishing demonstration farms and teaching better farming techniques

- Working with parents and schools to encourage participation. Academic performance improved in Nkunga school National Exams by 27% (189.75 to 242) in the last year enabling more children to graduate to secondary school.
- Training community and church leaders.

## Who is Food for the Hungry?

We are a Christian international development organisation that has been serving the poor globally since 1971. We tackle root causes of poverty until the change created can be sustained and communities graduate. We have a track record of real and lasting change in some of the toughest situations on the planet. Our mission is to walk with churches, leaders and families in overcoming all forms of



human poverty by living in healthy relationship with God and His creation.

### PHOTOS:

**TOP:** FH staff member, Charles Kiilu with members of the community

**RIGHT:** Children in a drama during the Easter celebrations



## The FH approach to poverty

The World Bank conducted a survey with the true experts in poverty, the poor themselves, by asking more than sixty thousand poor people from sixty of the poorest countries this question: "what is poverty"? In the West, we talk of poverty as lack of resources (reflecting our culture) and assume the problem can be solved by money alone. The poor themselves typically talked more of shame, inferiority, and powerlessness.

*"For a poor person everything is terrible - illness, humiliation, shame. We are cripples, we are afraid of everything: we depend on everyone. No one needs us. We are like garbage that everyone wants to get rid of."*

**(A mother in poverty)**

This isn't an academic exercise. Describing the problem plays a major role in defining the solution. If we believe the problem is a lack of material resources, then that is what we will address.

Food for the Hungry enters a community with a plan to leave. We listen to the people describe their challenges. We come alongside with prayer, guidance and support as they work to solve their problems. We help communities gain access to clean water, health and nutrition, education and livelihoods. They form disaster

risk reduction plans. When they no longer need outside help, we celebrate with them and move on.

In short, we are working to enable the poor to tackle their true problems, not handing them the things we think they need. We believe this is the route to life-changing and lasting transformation. The stories in this newsletter illustrate this.

## Daring to Dream

**WOMEN OF ACTION**  
releasing potential, overcoming poverty

### Women of Action in Bangladesh



FH has been working with the Horijon community of Hindu untouchables in Bogra for eight years. The British brought them from India to clean the dusty and waste filled streets. Limited access to education, corrupt moneylenders and damaging superstitions trapped these people in a cycle of poverty for generations. Most had lost hope of improving their lives. FH has established a pre-school, homework clubs as well as women's learning and savings groups.

Pre-school - For the first time, the Horijon community dare to have hopes and dreams for their children

## Giving opportunity to children and parents in Mwumba, Burundi

**Sometimes when addressing poverty the conversation needs to shift from what the poor lack to what they have, "willing hearts and minds that need an opportunity."**

Areas where supporters have given the community opportunity within the last six months include:

- The construction and equipping of a new school on Gihama Hill. Previously, children had to walk more than an hour to get to a very overcrowded school. The community has made land available, local government has provided teachers, and funds from supporters have enabled the building of the school.
- Leasing land and establishing farming associations for 100 of the poorest families.

Janvier Bukuru is a member of an association. He is a 64 year old widower with 5 children. He says: "I thank God for the work FH Burundi is doing. Before joining the association, it was hard to find food to feed my family. My family now has enough food to reach the next harvest. I still have to work hard to make reserves and have a portion left for market but the first step is done."



#### PHOTOS:

- TOP:** Grateful mothers  
**MIDDLE:** Gihama Hill school now gives children the opportunity of education  
**MAIN:** Janvier Bukuru, a member of a farming association  
**INSET:** Harvesting Irish potatoes

## One good thing leads to another

**Better functioning markets... leads to more trade... leads to higher income for pastoralists... leads to less malnutrition for children**

The UK government financed a project to reduce poverty among rural pastoralists in Northern Kenya. The FH team has worked to improve the efficiency of three livestock markets by introducing traders to the markets and encouraging local communities of pastoralists to participate and sell their livestock to increase income. Enthusiastic communities have embraced the changes to such an extent that market sales have tripled in a year. Even more importantly, surveys have shown that income for pastoralists have increased by almost 50%, bringing a direct reduction in poverty.



## Improving mother and child health in Haiti

This project, also sponsored by the UK government, aims at decreasing malnutrition, teaching prevention and treatment of common childhood illnesses, and increasing the uptake of maternal care. Using a care group (community cascade) model refined by FH in other developing countries, community-elected volunteers are trained to carry lifesaving health information to 7,200 pregnant women and caregivers of children under five. At bi-weekly meetings, the volunteers receive a lesson in maternal health from community health workers trained by the project, and then carry their new knowledge back to their neighbours. Results so far have been encouraging. The mothers being trained are eager for information on how to look after their children more effectively and are keen to share the



message around their community. The project has also increased respect among male community members for the women as their understanding of best practice in looking after children has improved.

*"I now receive more affection, attention, tenderness and my husband treats me with respect"*

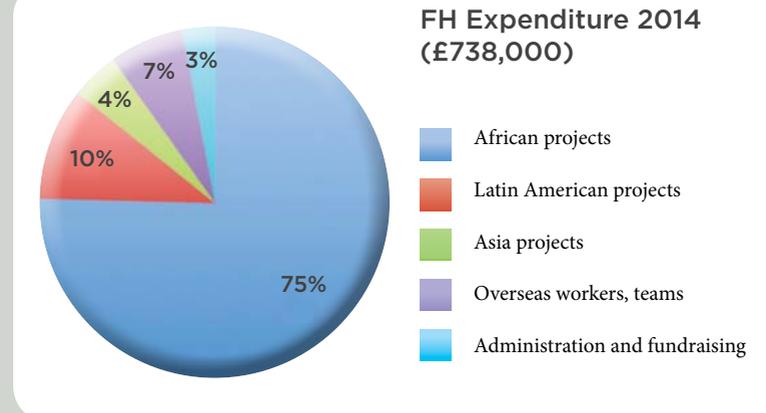
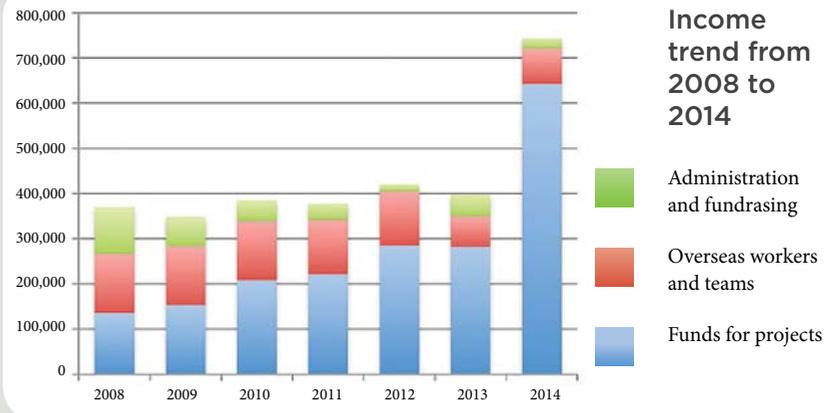
**Orisme Dieudonne**  
*A care group Volunteer*

## FH Finance 2014

A look at the income trend from 2008 to 2014 and FH Expenditure in 2014

Thanks to your support, FH income increased significantly in 2014. Major factors included a successful campaign to support maternal health in the DRC, being awarded two grants from the UK government and increases in general donations.

We thank God for the opportunity to increase our service and to help inspire hope in some of the world's most difficult places.



# I would like to support the work of Food for the Hungry



I would like to give £  monthly  quarterly  annually

## Standing order form Name and full address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager of

Bank address:

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank sort code    Account number

PLEASE PAY THE ACCOUNT OF

FH UK | Account number: 40359173 | Sort code 20 62 53 | Barclays "Norwich", Leicester LE87 2BB

The sum of  In words

Commencing  and like sum every  month / quarter / annum until further notice  
( delete as applicable )

Signature

Date signed

## Your details

Title  Name

Address

Postcode  Phone

Email

Tick to increase the value of your gifts  *giftaid it* Date

I would like Food for the Hungry UK to treat all donations I have made for the four years prior to this year and all donations from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations unless I notify you otherwise. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the tax year at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p in tax for every £1 that I give.

I would prefer to give a **single gift** to support the work of Food for the Hungry

Enclosed is my gift of £

Please enclose a cheque payable to FH UK

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY,  
47 BURGESS WOOD ROAD SOUTH,  
BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS, HP9 1EL



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