



Freedom from Hunger Organization Overview

Mission

Freedom from Hunger brings innovative and sustainable self-help solutions to the fight against chronic hunger and poverty. Together with local partners, Freedom from Hunger equips families with resources they need to build futures of health, hope and dignity.

Vision

Freedom from Hunger believes that a world without hunger can be achieved through the principles and practices of self-help, collaboration, innovation, sustainability and respect for the contributions of its in-country partners and the families it serves.

Who We Serve and Why

Because young children are most vulnerable to the ravages of malnutrition, Freedom from Hunger designs its self-help services for women—the primary caretakers of young children. Freedom from Hunger equips women to succeed at the very thing they are already determined to do—feed their children, improve their families' health and create positive change in their villages.

Where We Work

Freedom from Hunger works in developing nations where chronic hunger is suffered by a large portion of a country's population. The focus is on rural regions where poverty and hunger are at their worst. The organization's programs and services are at work in Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Togo and Uganda); Asia (India, the Philippines); and Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Peru).

Worldwide Programs and Services

- **Credit with Education** – This innovative program combines microfinance (cash credit and savings services) with vital lifeskills education in health, nutrition and business management. Loans range between \$50 and \$300 and interest payments keep the program financially sustainable. Over the history of the program, women's groups have borrowed more than \$405 million and have repaid virtually every penny.
- **Microfinance And Health Protection** – The Microfinance And Health Protection (MAHP) Initiative helps poor families avoid illness, obtain healthcare and pay for the care they receive. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline and others, MAHP combines microfinance, health-related learning sessions and links to local healthcare providers to promote health.

Special focus is given to malaria education, engaging women in dialogue to dispel myths about how malaria is spread, while also providing mothers with instruction on how to prevent and seek treatment for the disease. New financial services include health savings accounts, emergency health loans, pre-paid health plans and micro health insurance. MAHP pilots are under way in Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, India and the Philippines.

- **Financial Education** – In a collaboration with Microfinance Opportunities and with funding by Citigroup, Freedom from Hunger has created a special education module that helps very poor women create a budget and manage their cash flow, plan to save money in a safe location, avoid over-indebtedness, strengthen their bargaining position with suppliers, banks or even neighbors, and learn what to expect from a bank and how to use their services. As in other education modules, it is not necessary that the women be literate or numerate.

Evidence of Impact

Freedom from Hunger has conducted numerous impact studies on its programs, showing significant gains in child nutrition and family food security, as well as increases in household income and improvements in women's self-confidence. Studies are currently being performed on the organization's malaria initiative, MAHP and other programs. Freedom from Hunger uses progress tracking tools and "Social Performance Measurement" to manage day-to-day programming for success and to ensure that the mission to end chronic hunger is turning into reality.

Partners

Freedom from Hunger leverages its innovation and knowledge by transferring skills, capacity and technical know-how to local partners that share its vision of an end to chronic hunger. To date, Freedom from Hunger has trained more than 50 local organizations in 17 countries to establish microcredit, education or other services for poor, rural communities. Freedom from Hunger also shares its resources with other U.S.-based international development organizations with the belief that a collaborative approach achieves the greatest success.

Reach for Three Million

Freedom from Hunger has set forth a goal to deliver its proven self-help services to 3 million direct participants (almost a tenfold increase over the 500,000 women now served) by 2010. With an average of 5.5 members in each family, that would mean Freedom from Hunger would be helping a total of 16.5 million people achieve lasting food security.

Organization Facts

Founded in 1946, Freedom from Hunger brings innovative and sustainable self-help solutions to the fight against chronic hunger and poverty. Together with local partners, Freedom from Hunger equips families with resources they need to build futures of health, hope and dignity. The Davis, California-based organization is helping more than 500,000 families in 17 countries, providing resources to approximately 2.2 million people around the world in achieving lasting food security. For more information, please visit www.freedomfromhunger.org.