

Theory of Change

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WhyHunger envisions: resilient, powerful and unified networks and alliances of grassroots organizations and communities working at the root causes of hunger and poverty to build and strengthen social movements worldwide. These movements, led by people most impacted by poverty and institutionalized oppression, will transform our food system into one that is socially and economically just, protects our planet, nourishes whole communities, and ensures the rights of all people to nutritious food, productive land, clean water and sustainable livelihoods.

We believe that:

- Nutritious food is a human right. A world without hunger is possible.
- Food charity will never end hunger.
- We can end hunger by transforming the broader social inequities, systems and policies that perpetuate hunger and poverty.
- Transformation is only possible through autonomous social movements led by people and communities who have experienced oppression and injustice in the food system.
- Grassroots support organizations, like WhyHunger, exist to strengthen social movements and play a critical role in building a society rooted in social justice where all people have dignified access to food and sustainable livelihoods.
- The “true” solutions to ending hunger, ensuring an adequate right to food and nutrition, and building a just food system are:
 - **Food justice:** the demand for dignity, respect, rights and equity at all points of the food system – including growers, farm workers, food packers, restaurant workers, and eaters.
 - **Food sovereignty:** the right of all peoples everywhere to determine their own food and agriculture policies; the democratization of access to the resources needed for food production; dismantling corporate control of the food system.
 - **Social justice:** When all people have agency over the decisions and resources needed to live a life of dignity, and are able to fully participate in shaping a just transition to a society that dismantles structural racism, gender subjugation and inequities in health, economics and the environment.

- Agroecology is the pathway to a just food system that nourishes people at all points of the food chain and works in harmony with the planet, mitigating the negative effects of climate change, while building community and strengthening democratic processes.
- Political education, a shared analysis, relationship building and anti-oppression practices are essential to movement building and must be prioritized alongside direct action.

To realize these values and beliefs, we approach our work in the following ways:

- We support grassroots organizations, community leaders, alliances and those most impacted by hunger and injustice in order to strengthen the conditions for social movements to emerge and grow.
- Our support is primarily through capacity building, resource mobilization, technical support, information sharing, convening, storytelling, narrative change and advocacy.
- We build partnerships through authentic relationships and accompaniment in order to:
 - support food access organizations to shift from a charitable response to hunger to a systems-change response rooted in social justice and the right to nutritious food.
 - build power that strengthens the impact of movements for systemic transformation and collective liberation.
 - strengthen the capacity of social movements to support communities in developing and spreading agroecological practices and processes as a means to dismantle industrial agriculture, advance climate justice, and strengthen democracy.
 - support international learning exchanges to build solidarity, develop strategic alliances and connections, and build unity around a common vision for ending hunger.
 - shift the dominate narrative to reflect true solutions to hunger rooted in food justice, food sovereignty and social justice.
- We connect and mobilize the resources of artists, funders and other NGOs in direct support of and in solidarity with our partners to contribute to the groundswell of organizations, communities and funders invested the true solutions to hunger.
- All internal practices are rooted in a critical anti-oppression analysis reflective of our values and practices of allyship, accompaniment and shared learning in order to stay accountable to the grassroots organizations and social movements we support and effectively shift power as experienced by staff within the organization.