RAPID RESPONSE & COVID-19

LEARN MORE
Hunger is not a new problem, but it is solvable. COVID-19 has only exacerbated the social injustices that have long existed at the root of hunger, from racism to the lack of a living wage. This is the moment for all of us to come together to strike at the root causes of hunger and ensure the most basic human right to nutritious food for all.

NOREEN SPRINGSTEAD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHYHUNGER
Working with our partners, WhyHunger made critical investments in transformative solutions to hunger led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and other deeply impacted communities. Through our Rapid Response campaign and International Solidarity Fund, we mobilized $845,223 in emergency funding to 42 partner organizations and social movements in 8 countries for rapid response activities.

Food banks have been pushed to their limits. A study from WhyHunger and Duke University conducted in 2020 found that more than half of emergency food providers were forced to partially suspend programming while demands increased due to COVID-19.

THE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

1. Distributing nutritious food, medication, masks and hygiene supplies to vulnerable and impacted communities.
2. Developing the capacity of urban and rural small-scale farmers to grow sustainable food and build local distribution infrastructure.
3. Supporting food banks and pantries struggling to meet rising demand in the United States.
5. Global campaign to “Stay Home but Not Silent” to counter human rights violations amidst lockdowns.
“We are incredibly grateful to the Grassroots Action Network at WhyHunger for your generous investment. In the past year, your support has helped us to quickly and efficiently respond to the evolving needs of the community members we serve to minimize the impact of Covid and limit interruptions to service-provision.”

DC GREENS (WASHINGTON D.C, UNITED STATES)

“We were grateful to receive emergency grants and donations from generous neighbors and organizations, including WhyHunger, to support the increased costs of our changed work and increased demand for our services.”

HALEY HOUSE (MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES)
BUILDING GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS

Around the globe, WhyHunger supports communities to organize, grow food and regain control of their local food systems through our International Solidarity Fund. In 2020, we invested $689,808 in strengthening social movements through 50 community-based projects in 25 countries led by rural peasant, fishing, youth and Indigenous communities to build food sovereignty, engage more people through political education and organizing, and meet the challenges presented by COVID-19 and climate change.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed our unjust food system and the need for communities to have greater control over their own food. When communities have power over their food, not only are they able to nourish themselves, but they are also better equipped to address the effects of climate change, health crises, and corporate interests that put profit over people.

It is critical that communities are able to move beyond food access to build food sovereignty, which is defined as the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound methods, and to determine their own food and agriculture systems.

“FOOD SOVEREIGNTY”

noun

The right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound methods and the right of people to determine their own food and agriculture systems.

Asociación Femenina para el Desarrollo de Sacatepéquez (AFEDES)/ Women’s Association for the Development of Sacatepéquez, Guatemala. Photo Credit: AFEDES
“Until I am free, you are not free either.”
FANNIE LOU HAMER

*“Growing Solutions to Hunger & Climate” Video*
2020 FOOD SOVEREIGNTY HIGHLIGHTS:

• Women in El Salvador leading a pilot project to raise pigs sustainably to supplement and enrich local families’ diets and build their income.

• Farmers in Puerto Rico hosting online growing information sessions with farmers across the island and providing the required masks, gloves and other personal protection equipment needed for small-scale farmers to sell their produce at local markets.

• Women in India providing basic nutrition education to children in 10+ rural communities and teaching them to grow food sustainably.

• A BIPOC community in the southeastern United States developing a farm and mutual aid network model that provides weekly produce shares and medicinal herbs to its members.

• LGBTQ+ and BIPOC leaders in the United States Mid-Atlantic region providing inclusive educational opportunities in natural building, carpentry, timber framing, low-impact forestry and basic land stewardship skills focused on ecological restoration and sustainable food production.

It is extremely important that we dedicate ourselves to rescuing and strengthening our cultural practices and traditional knowledge, as well as ensuring our food sovereignty and restoring our relationship with Mother Earth.

MOVIMIENTO POR LA DEFENSA DE LOS TERRITORIOS Y ECOSISTEMAS DE BOCAS DEL TORO
(MOVEMENT IN DEFENSE OF TERRITORY OF BOCAS DEL TORO ARCHIPELAGO) - PANAMA
BLACK FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Supporting Black Food Sovereignty is a critical strategy in WhyHunger’s work to address systemic hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. Systemic and institutional racism, disenfranchisement and state-sanctioned violence against Black communities have resulted in gross economic, political and social injustices. Research indicates that Black communities suffer disproportionately from food insecurity; struggle hardest to access and afford fresh food, adequate health care and housing; and face the deepest inequities in health, income and employment. These cruel realities have also led to devastatingly disproportionate rates of COVID-19 illness and death in Black communities.

WhyHunger’s partners in the movement for Black Food Sovereignty are working locally, regionally, nationally and internationally to reimagine and build a food system that prioritizes the health and well-being of all people and the planet and is rooted in the belief that food sovereignty is a human right.

Our partners are creating a new food system that restores the earth, preserves human dignity and fosters self-determining food economies through sharing collective knowledge and skills, building cooperative food and farm businesses, purchasing land collectively, and re-establishing agriculture extension services.

Being able to be in relationship with the land that you can grow food that is life-sustaining and nourishing for your families and for community, that is connect to your culture, is that it’s all about and what it means for me to be a Black farmer. Food and farming will always play a role in our joy.

SUZANNE BABB, CO-DIRECTOR OF U.S. PROGRAMS, WHYHUNGER
BLACK FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

In 2020, WhyHunger supported partners in the Black Food Sovereignty movement by leveraging critical funding to:

1. Train and equip Black farmers to grow food sustainably and resource land acquisition and infrastructure projects that allow them to scale production and boost their income.

2. Resource collaborative efforts led by Black urban and rural farmers and community gardeners to provide regular deliveries of healthy food to homebound and vulnerable Black seniors.

3. Build an educational training center focused on creating local food distribution infrastructure, food production, ecological restoration and land stewardship.

4. Create an online directory of Black food producers to increase access and opportunity for both producers and consumers to connect to one another.

5. Support parts of a Black-led food supply chain, including farmers’ markets, food hubs, grocery cooperatives, food distributors and food makers throughout North America.

6. Support the development and replication of a food chain model that provides Black churches in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia an opportunity to buy in bulk from Black farmers in the Mid-Atlantic region.
AGROECOLOGY

Agroecology produces nutritious food in harmony with the earth, helps mitigate climate change and strengthens communities. The most effective way to accelerate and scale the use of agroecology is through farmer-to-farmer training and organizing.

WhyHunger supports agroecology trainings around the globe and provides technical support to the People’s Agroecology Process, a grassroots-led process in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada that has brought together hundreds of organizers and farmers from Black and Indigenous, farmer and farmworker communities through agroecology encounters and trainings over the last six years. WhyHunger offers logistical, technical and financial resources to the People’s Agroecology Process, including support for their first publication and a virtual launch party that brought together farmers and organizers to discuss their visions and struggles for justice through agroecology.

WhyHunger continued to deepen relationships with and provide support for four global social movements: La Via Campesina International, the World March of Women, the World Forum of Fisher Peoples, and the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous People. These movements represent over 200 million farmers, Indigenous people, peasants, and fisherfolk working to build food sovereignty and social justice for all. WhyHunger mobilizes funds and provides logistical and technical support and international solidarity to these movements, helping to ensure small-scale farmers, women, youth and Indigenous communities across the globe can produce nutritious food, maintain their land rights and strengthen their ability to organize.

“AGROECOLOGY”

Agroecology works with nature to produce healthy and nutritious food. It’s a form of agriculture that marries modern science with Indigenous knowledge and the wisdom of those who work the land. But it’s also so much more than sustainable farm practices; it’s a way of life.

Asociación de Trabajadores del Campo (ATC)/Rural Workers’ Association, Nicaragua
2020 has been, of all the years, one of the most difficult both internationally and nationally. We thank you WhyHunger very much and sincerely hope that this collaboration or partnership lasts and continues well.

TETKOLE PEASANT ASSOCIATION (HAITI)
FROM CHARITY TO JUSTICE: TRANSFORMING THE EMERGENCY FOOD SYSTEM

608,653 in direct FUNDING

WhyHunger provided over $608,653 in direct funding to help 14 organizations and community leaders across the U.S. bolster initiatives around childhood nutrition, community organizing, narrative change strategies and Black food sovereignty. By deepening local impact and building stronger connections regionally and nationally, WhyHunger is helping communities address their own immediate needs and create long-term change.
WhyHunger stewards the Closing the Hunger Gap (CTHG) Network, the national alliance of emergency food providers working to shift from charity to justice.

IN 2020, WHYHUNGER SUPPORTED CLOSING THE HUNGER GAP TO:

- **Organize a Racial Equity webinar** jointly sponsored by Bread for the World, attended by 985 people and organizations.

- **Participate in a Right to Food and Just Transition Panel** coordinated by Action Aid and including panelists from the National Family Farm Coalition and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP).

- **Focus on racial injustice** as a root cause of hunger and racial justice as a critical part of the solution, including the creation of a statement in support of protests against police brutality and in defense of Black and Brown lives.

- **Collaborate with the Poor People’s Campaign** on production of a webinar connecting immigration rights and housing.

- **Establish a partnership with the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives (USFWC)** as a strategically in helping CTHG member organizations explore economic justice and cooperative models as part of their work to end hunger.

- **Created an 8-Point Checklist for Organizational Transformation** to help food providers take practical steps to address the root causes of hunger.

- **Organize food access organizations** across the U.S. to lead a national narrative change process, creating a strategy centered around hunger, economic justice, and the rights and dignity of essential workers in preparation for 2021 campaigning.
PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO FOOD

LEARN MORE
PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Nutritious food is a human right! WhyHunger employs many strategies to protect and expand the human right to food across the nation and around the globe, from policy making and organizing to our WhyHunger hotline and unique online Find Food tools.

The U.S. is one of only a few countries that has never ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which includes the right to food and adequate nutrition. In 2020, WhyHunger and the Human Rights Clinic of the University of Miami School of Law stewarded the first-ever submission to the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review concerning the state of the right to food in the United States. This landmark report reframes hunger in the U.S. as a human rights issue and will be an important tool for organizers across the country working to establish nutritious food as a human right.

WhyHunger partnered with 30+ international NGOs, grassroots activists and scholars from across the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom to launch the Global Solidarity Alliance for Food, Health and Social Justice. This alliance understands that food banking cannot end hunger and is building collective strategies and alternative models to promote more effective solutions that ensure the right to nutritious food around the world.

Global Solidarity Alliance, North Carolina, USA
Changing the narrative! WhyHunger continues our work to transform the dominant narrative about hunger in the U.S. though our storytelling and organizing strategies. The global impact of COVID-19 and the call for racial justice in 2020 have increased the visibility of hunger and food insecurity as key issues to overcome as we work to ensure everyone’s basic human right to nutritious food.

Hunger is indeed a solvable problem. We need a new narrative – a shift in our mindset from thinking of hunger as the problem to looking at hunger as a symptom of greater forces at work in people’s lives creating poverty.

NOREEN SPRINGSTEAD, WHYHUNGER
The right to adequate food and nutrition is both a call to action and a global legal framework for coordinated reform in food and agriculture.
ARTISTS IN ACTION

LEARN MORE
WhyHunger believes music has a unique power to heal, inspire, unite and drive change. Co-founded by artist Harry Chapin, WhyHunger has been mobilizing artists and their fans to raise awareness and funds to support our work for decades. Artists Against Hunger & Poverty is stewarded by 50 participating artist ambassadors, including founding member Bruce Springsteen, Tom Morello, Carlos Santana, Cindy Blackman Santana and Yoko Ono Lennon. Throughout the pandemic and despite the crushing blow of COVID-19 to the music industry, artists like Phish, Dead & Co and Jesse Colin Young championed WhyHunger's efforts from their living rooms, studios and homes, engaging their fans and raising over $118,000 to support our work through virtual concerts and online activations.
WhyHunger and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) were the co-beneficiaries of PLAY ON, a primetime TV music special which aired on CBS and streamed globally on YouTube and nationally via SiriusXM. This virtual concert, created by SixDegrees.org, united stars like Kevin Bacon, Bruce Springsteen, John Legend, Bon Jovi, Eve, Jon Batiste, LL Cool J, Maren Morris, Machine Gun Kelly, Sara Bareilles, Ziggy Marley, Andra Day and more at iconic venues around the country, celebrating the power of music to impact lives and drive change.

PLAY ON raised over $7.3 million, with key support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Hard Rock International, Ford Foundation, JP Morgan, Southern New Hampshire University, Mary Kay Inc., Secunda Family Foundation and many others to support WhyHunger and LDF. Special thanks to Executive Producers Anthony Mason, Greg Williamson, John Varvatos, Kevin Bacon, LL Cool J, Nicole Rechter, David Wild and Steve Jordan.
Ending hunger has been an issue close to my heart for decades. I believe nutritious food is our most basic human right. My friends at WhyHunger are tackling the systemic issues at the heart of hunger and poverty so that we can all live in a just and hunger-free world.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN IN PLAY ON, Aired on CBS
Hungerthon 2020 raised over $1 million for the fifth consecutive year, fueling programmatic work and educating listeners through 30+ radio interviews with our partners at SiriusXM, Audacy New York and iHeart Radio New York. Artist ambassadors and celebrities, including Yoko Ono Lennon, Bruce Springsteen, FRZY, Billy Joel, Taylor Swift, Marshmello, Kenny Chesney and more, elevated the campaign through merchandise, auction donations and promotional support.

Hunger is solvable. Every Fall, WhyHunger’s Hungerthon brings together radio personalities, listeners, celebrities and you to help end hunger in America. Donate now to tackle the root causes of hunger and nourish our community.

A big thank you to our Radio Sponsors:
WHYHUNGER IS A 4 STAR CHARITY

A donation to WhyHunger moves the needle beyond charity to strike at the root causes of hunger, nourishing people now and fueling long-term solutions that help create social, racial and economic justice.

WhyHunger is a 4-star charity, with the highest rating for excellence in fiscal management, accountability and transparency from America's leading independent charity evaluator, Charity Navigator.

90 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to programmatic work, so when you donate to WhyHunger you can be sure your money is spent responsibly and with the greatest impact.
DONORS & SUPPORTERS

WhyHunger was humbled by the response of our donors and supporters to the crises of 2020!

- **INDIVIDUAL GIVING INCREASED BY** 218%
- **MONTHLY SUPPORTERS INCREASED BY** 74%
- **FOUNDATION PARTNERS INVESTED OVER $2.36M IN OUR WORK**
DONORS & SUPPORTERS

In partnership with the Albertsons Companies Foundation’s Hunger Is initiative, Sony Music Entertainment, and USA for Africa, WhyHunger made significant investments in grassroots solutions to hunger across America to support healthy food access, childhood nutrition, sustainable food production, and provided grants to support Black-led organizations working to end hunger and advance Black Food Sovereignty in Africa and the United States.

Charitable partnerships brought in over $632,000 from partners like Hard Rock International, The Institute for Integrative Nutrition and vitafusion™ Gummy Vitamins to fuel our work.

$632,000

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS
2020 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

TOTAL REVENUE: $6,226,907

TOTAL EXPENSE: $5,320,198

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: $906,709

Beginning of year: $1,577,733
End of year: $2,484,442
THANK YOU for supporting WhyHunger!

Founded in 1975 by the late Harry Chapin and radio DJ Bill Ayres, WhyHunger believes a world without hunger is possible. We provide critical resources to support grassroots movements and fuel community solutions rooted in social, environmental, racial and economic justice. WhyHunger is working to end hunger and advance the human right to nutritious food in the U.S. and around the world.

Learn more at WhyHunger.org.