

# MISSION MOMENT

## A New Frontier in Responding to Hunger

**Hunger can be brought on by disasters, poverty, or conflict—but the experience of hunger to those who are hungry goes deeper.** In a world where climate change disproportionately impacts places and people already struggling with food insecurity, now is the time to share—generously and creatively.

In Nueva Frontera (New Frontier) and other rural areas in the department of Santa Bárbara, Honduras, a new program is unfolding, and has already reached 500 families. Esmerelda Robles is a 27-year-old wife, mother, and farmer who lives in the Macuelizo region, and has benefitted greatly from the installation of an eco-stove which has significantly reduced the soot that previously covered her home. “Before, I had a permanent cough,” Esmerelda says. “Now, with just a load of firewood, you cook, you don’t need much (unlike the stove we had before), and it is very helpful for our lungs that there is no smoke.”

Beyond this life-affirming aspect for individual families, the most important contribution of these eco-stoves is their significant reduction in the use of firewood. This is all part of the new frontier of innovative CWS programs developed with local partners, and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, to improve food security while adapting to climate change.

For Esmerelda and her family, other aspects of this program include learning about food and nutrition, hygiene, waste management, and environmental protection. She

has participated in training sessions about planting crops and producing fertilizers and has received seeds which have allowed her to grow most of the food her family eats, such as: plantain, cushaw pumpkin (ayote), chili peppers, and yucca. She is also able to sell or exchange her produce with neighbors.

Additionally, Esmerelda was part of a “pass chain” activity in the program, where she received several foster animals. This activity consists of a family receiving a pregnant pig, sheep, or cow and feeding and caring for it. When the next piglet, lamb, or calf is born, it is passed on to another family, which in turn will do the same. Esmerelda describes her village as “a beautiful place with friendly people, with good coexistence. We all know each other because we have always been there. I was born and raised here.”



CWS PHOTO

Food sustains life. Responding to hunger is an affirmation of life. Let us not grow weary of affirming life! Regardless of the cause of hunger, One Great Hour of Sharing responds – both locally and globally. Like Esmerelda, many of our global siblings living at the intersections of hunger and climate change are already reaping the harvests of your past generosity. But there are still more families in need of these life-affirming programs. It’s time to share.

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up...So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all.” —Galatians 6.9-10

The suggested Sunday for the OGHS Offering is March 19, 2023.

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## Holistic Security Through OGHS

Hunger is defined as a condition in which a person does not have the physical or financial capability to meet basic nutritional needs—for a sustained period.

What, then, does the opposite of hunger look like? For Maribel and her family in the Carazo region of Nicaragua, it looks like a holistic food security program called CIEETS. Through a CWS local partnership with Growing Hope Globally, the CIEETS program provides training in diversity farming that teaches families to grow many different crops, so that one bad harvest or failed planting season doesn't have a devastating impact on their livelihoods. Additionally, a diversified diet leads to better overall nutrition.

“Thank God we are part of the CIEETS project,” Maribel says. “Thanks to the Pastor of the Nazarene Church, the CIEETS program came to my community and my family life. I praised and blessed His name.”

In addition to crop diversification, the CIEETS program also assists with water safety, irrigation, sanitation, and hygiene – all of which helps strengthen food security throughout the area. For communities like Maribel's, this is especially important because there are low levels of coverage in basic services. For Maribel's family, these aspects of the program have included learning to farm with irrigation, as well as the replacement of a latrine that had reached the end of its useful life. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and hurricanes Eta

and Iota in 2020, it has been exceptionally difficult for Maribel's husband to find work. This means that the skills Maribel developed and the support her family has received have been even more critical throughout this time. “We learned how to produce with irrigation. Anything we harvest is welcome, this is the basis of our livelihood,” she says.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports programs like CIEETS, helping Maribel's family, plus 290 other families from her region, create sustainable farming and safe water and hygiene practices for their community. Programs like this address the root causes of food insecurity and bring real and sustainable change—one community at a time, all over the world. In Maribel's words, “May the Lord increase the blessings on the CIEETS project, and on each of the brothers and sisters and their families who dedicate resources to our support, we also tell them those good things come from above and hands that give, never they will come back empty.”

Holistic security for entire communities is one way your giving hands will never come back empty. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share. “So let us not grow weary of doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all.”—Galatians 6:9–10



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## It's Time for Zero Hunger

**Food sustains life.** Responding to hunger is an affirmation of life. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The time is always right to do what is right.” Ending hunger is always the right thing to do.

What does ending hunger in West Timor, Indonesia look like?—the Timor Zero Hunger program. With your support, CWS has been working with the Oe Ekam community in West Timor since 2018, where there are now five farmers groups.

Dominggus is the leader of the Tosilo Toselo farmers group. “In the past, each family was only able to plant Chinese cabbage, tomatoes, and chili on about 100 square meters (2% of an acre) of land per family,” says Dominggus. After feeding their families, some community members were able to generate a small surplus and sell it in the local market, earning around \$3.50-\$7.00 each time they sold produce.

Before the Timor Zero Hunger program, the dry season made it difficult for the people of Oe Ekam to harvest crops year-round because they could only plant vegetables during the short rainy season from December to March. “The Timor Zero Hunger program has been a life changing experience for members,” says Dominggus. “We were able to expand our farmland to about 2.5 acres. We were also able to diversify: now we harvest white mustards, cabbage, kale, green beans, bitter melons, tomatoes, chilies, zucchinis, cucumbers and papayas. Over the past two years we have been able to harvest much more and eat vegetables every day. Once or twice in a week we sell our crops in the local market in the district capital. On average our members make \$17.50-\$52.50 for each harvest. Now we can harvest 3 to 4 times in a year,” he added.

The Timor Zero Hunger program has trained farmer groups on how to make organic liquid fertilizer and how to ward off pests and disease. With CWS support, the Tosilo Toselo group also built a cistern and installed a pipe that is over half a mile long to bring more water from a spring directly to their land. The program

also taught them about the benefits of drip irrigation, and they have built a drip irrigation system for themselves.

All of this would not have been possible without your gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing, which support programs that address the root causes of food insecurity, bringing real and sustainable change to communities like Oe Ekam.



Dominggus shares his gratitude for your generosity and the Timor Zero Hunger program: “Thank you, CWS. This program has changed the life of all our members.”

The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share. “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up...” Galatians 6:9

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