

HARVEST OF LETTERS



Be a voice for ending global hunger!

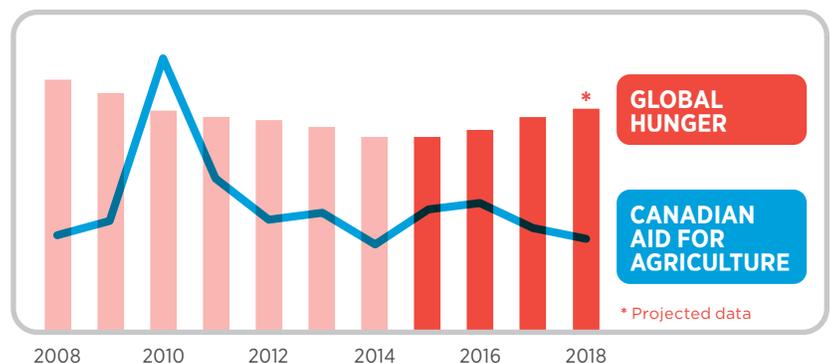
Did you know the number of people who suffer the indignity of hunger around the world has increased by 36 million over the last three years?

Despite important progress on hunger over the last few decades, increasing global conflict and climate variability are now pushing more people into hunger. Recent disruptions to food supply, lockdowns and economic downturns due to COVID-19 are expected to more than double the number of people facing severe food insecurity in the coming months.

At the same time, the amount of Canadian aid for food producers living on the margins has been decreasing! The connection between global health and the importance of food security has never been more clear.

Food is essential. Since 70% of people who experience hunger are food producers, NOW is the time for Canada to increase its support for small-scale farmers—especially women—NOT cut back.

Our values affect how we respond to the needs of the more than 821 million people who go to



bed hungry each night, whether here at home or abroad. Values of compassion and generosity help build a global community where poverty and hunger are no longer acceptable.

But values alone do not create change.

The commitment and actions of non-governmental organizations, business leaders, academics and individuals like you hold governments to account. Such actions have contributed significantly to a real improvement in people's access to basic rights, like food.

If decision makers don't hear from their constituents, they may assume people don't care about global hunger. When we come together and speak up, **our voices make a difference.**

Whatever your reasons for ending poverty and hunger – **generosity, equality, environment** or **upholding human dignity and rights** – your member of Parliament needs to know!

IF YOU CARE ABOUT

Did you know that investing in small-scale farmers, especially women...

Poverty Reduction



...is strongly tied to **poverty reduction**, meaning economic growth from agriculture is much more effective in raising incomes compared to growth from other sectors.¹

Education & Healthcare



...leads to more **well-nourished children** going to school and receiving the medical care they need.

Gender Equality



...could **reduce the number of hungry people** in the world by as much as 17%, or 100-150 million people!

Climate Change



...can **promote farming techniques** that diversify seeds and crops, reduce deforestation, increase soil carbon and fertility, and reduce water usage.

Food for All



...means **more nutritious food**: If women farmers had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase crop yields on their farms by 20-30%.

Global Health



...can help ensure healthy **diverse diets**, generate income for families to cover medical expenses, and build resilient **rural food systems** to ensure communities have an adequate supply of nutritious food.

Humanitarian Crises



...**reduces the losses** people experience after extreme weather events and can help families bounce back after conflict forces them to flee.

Write a letter to your MP!

Let your member of Parliament know that you care about global hunger, and that you want Canada to increase its effort to overcome it.

Letters may be sent postage-free to any member of Parliament:

MP NAME (with title)
HOUSE OF COMMONS, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0A6

Or you can look up their email on www.ourcommons.ca and send it by email.

Be sure to let Canadian Foodgrains Bank know when you've sent a letter!

Use this form: www.foodgrainsbank.ca/letter-form so it can be counted with others sent from around the country, to show cumulatively that Canadians do care!

Dear (name of your member of Parliament),

I am pleased that Canada is committed to strong support for the world's poorest and most vulnerable, especially for women and girls.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating impact around the world. And while the virus knows no borders, the impact of the global health crisis will disproportionately harm those who are already vulnerable both here in Canada and in developing countries. That's why Canada's support for the world's most vulnerable is needed now more than ever.

Canada should work together with other governments to respond to COVID-19 health impacts while also providing assistance for immediate and longer-term food needs.

I care about this issue because...

I ask for your support for a generous Canadian response in Canada and abroad to address the immediate COVID-19 health crisis—and support for food security and livelihoods so the health crisis doesn't lead to a food and poverty crisis.

This includes support for social protection programs to ensure people can access immediate food. This also includes support for small-scale farmers—especially women—so they can access seeds and other inputs needed to farm, get their products to market, and help build healthy, resilient rural communities with abundant food.

Canadian aid to combat COVID-19 should not come at the expense of existing aid but rather be made in addition to current commitments.

Please voice this important message to the Minister of International Development.

Sincerely,

It's a good idea to start with something positive.

Don't assume your MP knows about this issue. Some context will help him/her to take the appropriate action.

Use the diagram on the opposite page to add your personal values, knowledge or experience that makes this an important issue to you.

Be clear about what you are asking for.

Make sure your return address is somewhere on the letter so that your MP can reply.



Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 churches and church-based agencies working together to end hunger



Other ways to show you care

- Meet your member of Parliament to discuss this issue (it's easier than you think!)
- Host a letter writing event – contact us for help!
- Double your impact: Take a photo of yourself, your letter, or your letter writing group and share it on social media
- Learn more and spread awareness about why Canadian aid is important

Find out how to do this and more at foodgrainsbank.ca/letters

Not sure who your MP is? Search by entering your postal code at the House of Commons website www.ourcommons.ca

We need to hear from you

Thank you for writing your letter! Let us know in one of the ways below:

Email foodjustice@foodgrainsbank.ca
Tweet @Foodgrains (or mention us on Facebook)
Online foodgrainsbank.ca/letters
Phone 1-800-665-0377

Canadian Foodgrains Bank
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