

STORIES OF IMPACT

The difference you're making



International
Development
AUSTRALIA

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Your gifts are producing a plentiful harvest in vulnerable communities.

Gifts of seeds, farming tools and quality training are seeing families producing enough crops to feed themselves – and more. Fed children mean healthy children. Healthy children can go on to become educated children, who can make a lasting impact in their community. **Read more on page 2.**



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ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN TAKE ACTION.

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MEET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE TURNING YOUR DOLLARS INTO TRANSFORMED LIVES.

MALAWI.



Your gift multiplied Violet's harvest.

How a newly-revised ancient method of farming is transforming communities in Malawi today.

Violet* and her family knew the pain of an empty, grumbling stomach all too well. They would often go to sleep hungry, unsure when they would next eat.

Violet would work hard in her plot of land, tirelessly toiling her crop. She would harvest a few bags of maize, but it was never enough to last the year.

Your support as a Water and Health sponsor changed everything. Through The Salvation Army's conservation agriculture program, Violet learned new farming techniques. She now harvests five times more than before.

"I learned a number of techniques such as how to make manure and post-harvest handling. It helped me to increase my yield," says Violet. "Before we would harvest two to three bags and now we harvest 10 to 15 bags from the very same plot of land."

The Salvation Army Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project (which is part of our Water and Health initiatives) provided Violet with seeds, fertiliser and

other tools to set herself up, alongside training and support. She learned a method called "Farming God's Way".

Using just a small area of land, Farming God's Way teaches people how to plant and harvest enough maize to feed a family of six for an entire year.

Maize is a staple food in countries like Malawi where Violet lives. More widely known in Australia as corn, it is a valuable source of fibre, protein, carbohydrates, and various vitamins and minerals such as iron and magnesium. In general, it is a better source of nutrition than, for instance, white rice or potatoes.

Farming God's Way relies on an attention to detail. Farmers are urged to follow the biblically-inspired process closely, be on time for the seasonal changes, do everything to high standards and work for minimal wastage. It values natural mulching to provide nourishment for the soil, whereas recent methods of farming

have involved heavy ploughing and burning excess crop.

Farmers also learn how to plant other vegetables or legumes to supplement the family's diet and rotate crops to help manage their financial risk.

YOUR A-MAIZE-ING IMPACT

The results of employing the Farming God's Way technique speak for themselves. In home after home, crops are thriving. This leads to families living nourished and healthy lives.

"Now we have enough food," says Violet. "We have enough to feed the family and to give to other relations and we sell anything that is left over."

Violet and her family are no longer going to bed hungry and uncertain. Instead, because of you, they are going to bed content and waking up happy and hopeful for the day – and years – ahead.

**Name changed*

Thank you for your ongoing impact



889 farmers (55% female)

in Malawi trained in Farming God's Way – leading to increased food security for 57 communities.



9834 children educated

– through regular schooling, hygiene training, anti-human trafficking awareness, health and fitness.



8212 women equipped with new skills

– chicken income-generation training, literacy, savings and loans, anti-trafficking, HIV/AIDS awareness.



14 countries

impacted this year.



Here's another way you can have a positive impact on people's lives...

As a valued partner with us in transforming lives, could we please ask you to do us a favour? Would you join us in prayer for the following people, communities and projects?



- Praise God for the lives being changed in Myanmar. Thanks to the generosity of donors and the local community's engagement, hundreds of people living with HIV are receiving counselling and hope.
- Pray for the provision of seeds and farming tools to help farmers grow a stable food source through Farming God's Way.
- Pray for the Self-Help Groups operating in India. Pray for resources, quality teachers and empowered leaders in local communities so that women can earn a sustainable income and support their families.
- Pray for the girls receiving support from anti-trafficking programs. Pray for their healing from past trauma, for strength to overcome their challenges and to resist future attempts, and for courage to spread the message.
- Pray for more supporters of the newest WASH project in South Africa – because clean water, toilets and hygiene training in schools and communities is life-changing.

Keep giving all year long

Choose Salvos Gifts for those you love

When it comes to gifts, intention is important, but it's impact that counts.

Salvos Gifts keep on giving – love to your recipients and hope and dignity to those who need them most.

\$12 buys a chicken for a family in need.



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Visit salvosgifts.org.au or call 02 9466 3105

The Salvation Army
AUE Territory & The AUE
Inaugurated By
Major General Khan (The Div
On
3rd July 20



Thank you for inspiring women to rise up so they can make a contribution to their community – and empower the next generation.

“Life before the project was not very good compared with now,” says Rahisan, a member of a Self-Help Group in India. “We have a shop and we are earning from that ... [Now we can] help the young girls and we are thinking about how to give them education.”



We need you

We know you are a kind, generous person who is trying to balance out the inequalities in this world. Thank you for your commitment to vulnerable people overseas.

But there are communities who still need partnership from people like you so children, women and men can experience new life and hope. Would you please consider becoming a regular giver (if you're not already) or giving a one-off donation?



For **\$40** you can supply a farmer with seeds and a hand shovel to grow crops for a healthier life.



For **\$64** you can give women in India the opportunity to start a business.



For **\$100** you can buy a toilet and promote sanitation in a community.

Or become a Salvos Sponsor with an ongoing commitment of \$35 a month and give life-changing hope. (If you're already a Salvos Sponsor, would you please consider a second partnership?)

Please fill out the coupon enclosed with your newsletter or go online to salvationarmy.org.au/international-development



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ACFID
MEMBER



AFRICA.

Meet the front-line workers who are translating your donations into transformed lives.

We are so grateful for your compassionate and generous support, so we thought you'd like to meet the people who are working with communities on the ground. **Connor McBride and Naami Thompson** are Salvation Army International Development (SAID) project coordinators. They are passionate about reducing inequality and working with partners like you to make the world a better place.

“Our world has enough resources for everyone to have their basic human rights [met], yet due to inequality, this isn't the case,” says Connor McBride, who oversees initiatives including income-generating, anti-human trafficking and women's empowerment projects in east Africa. “I believe our world can work in a way that is good for everyone, not just those with more power or privilege ... [but] the goal of no poverty requires the involvement and partnership of many stakeholders.”

Authentic involvement from the people in the countries in which SAID operates is essential to transforming lives. This involves partnership with, and input from, community leaders, village elders, local government agencies, other local not-for-profit charities, school teachers and members of the community.

Your kindness and generosity as a Salvos Sponsor make their involvement possible. So where do SAID project officers such as Connor and Naami fit in? They are the stewards of your generous donations. They seek to work alongside overseas partners and uncover how best to serve a community's needs.

A VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP

As SAID works toward a goal of empowering vulnerable people and eliminating poverty, Connor is particularly inspired by Nancy¹. Nancy is a teacher who runs her school's Rights of Children Club as part of the SIMBA

project in Kenya. (Her story was featured in your Salvos Sponsors Autumn 2019 newsletter. Past issues are available at salvationarmy.org.au/international-development)

“She has so much passion and expertise for educating children living with disabilities,” says Connor. “Meeting people like Nancy is a great reminder that her partnership in this project is so incredibly valuable.”

Naomi, who oversees Farming God's Way in Malawi and the South Africa WASH project among others, agrees: “I always look forward to seeing my partners and having the opportunity to learn from them. Visiting the communities in which the project is being implemented and seeing their ability to be creative and work in a collaborative manner reminds me of what it means to be human.”

YOUR GENEROSITY IS FUNDING CREATIVE, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

A valuable partnership with overseas communities helps Connor and Naomi successfully steward funds from donors like you to find local solutions to issues of poverty.

Consider the fact that globally, at least two billion people use a drinking water source contaminated with faeces (WHO, 2019)². While building a toilet or a water pump is the start of the solution, it is not the whole picture.

In certain communities, a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project first involves addressing the distance at which the clean water is located, as a long walk reduces the time a child spends at school. Perhaps a community already has water and toilets, yet requires hygiene education or maintenance training. Maybe girls need sanitary hygiene facilities or a community has people with disabilities and requires accessible toilets. The WASH project can adapt to meet some or all of these needs.

“It's not enough to just build a toilet,” says Naomi. “The realities of life in the countries in which we work are complex ... We have to be constantly thinking of new ways to be flexible, adaptive and responsive. It can sometimes leave us a little frustrated, as at times we want to be able to move quickly to alleviate immediate suffering. But that's often not what is best in the long term and what will have the most impact.”

And, it's only through your sponsorship that we have the ability to creatively adapt our programs to the changing needs of those you are supporting and make an effective, lasting impact on people's lives. Thank you for your commitment and partnership.

¹ Name changed

² www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water