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President's Report to the Global Board

Jill Lester, President and CEO
April 2009

We should not “be daunted by difficulties, but conquer them by patience and perseverance.”
-Samuel Smiles

Introduction

We are viewing this year of financial stress as a period of “consolidation for future growth,” a time to refocus, restructure and reposition The Hunger Project (THP) to ensure that we are fully ready and prepared to take advantage of the economic recovery as soon as “green shoots” begin to appear. While we are indeed feeling the weight of the current economic climate, we are using this time as an opportunity to explore alternative sources of funding, a time to reinforce with existing investors the value we place on their partnership, and a time to put in place more powerful ways to coordinate our fundraising efforts across the entire organization.

Despite working to a smaller budget, we continue to make progress in our work to end hunger and poverty. I am sure you will be inspired, as I am, by the outstanding achievements of our partners on the ground, when you read our Program Country reports.

We have made significant and pleasing progress in our Impact Assessment program, which will enable us to more powerfully demonstrate our impressive outcomes. In addition to our own assessment program, this year two independent organizations have also conducted assessments of our work in Africa (Uganda, Malawi and Senegal). Their reports not only validate our work, but provide valuable and supportive tools to share with potential and current investors.

We are also building wider appreciation and awareness of THP with a broader public audience and have made significant advances in building alliances and partnerships with other civil society organizations, funding institutions and universities as we seek to expand our influence and complement our strategies.

Going forward, it is critical that we work together across our global organization in building a united team, in which all participants learn from each other, are grounded in our shared commitment to the end of hunger and poverty, and leverage our strength as a worldwide and well respected global movement. I am confident that our focus, determination and progress will ensure that we end this year as a strengthened, more effective and more united organization.

Key Achievements

Continued Progress in Our Programs

Our partners in Africa, South Asia and Latin America continue to make progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as they strive to end their own hunger and poverty.

Country reports with detailed updates are included but highlights from the past six months include:

- In Burkina Faso, we have worked in conjunction with the National Government and launched five Nutritional Education Centers to help reduce the prevalence of malnutrition. The centers are located within the epicenters and are supervised by health and sanitation agents from the government. They provide information and demonstrations on health issues such as breastfeeding, diet and nutrition, hygiene, family planning and using insecticide-treated bednets. This tremendous resource will help our partners take actions to ensure the health of their families. Country-Director Dr. Dicko intends to scale-up this project and open centers in all 15 epicenters in Burkina Faso.
- In Ethiopia, in partnership with Rotary International and four local Rotary Clubs, THP completed the Shonta Water Project, which is providing safe water to over 6,000 people at the Jaldu Epicenter. The community took responsibility for managing the entire project, and stand prepared to make technical repairs when needed, without financial support from THP. Now, women and children will not need to travel three to six kilometers each day during the dry season to fetch water, and community members will no longer be exposed to waterborne diseases.
- In Senegal, a major innovation over the past six months has been the implementation of a mobile communication network connecting THP-Senegal staff and epicenter partners. The use of cell phones enables daily communication and facilitates the exchange of information, whatever the distance of the area. At the epicenter, members can use the telephone to talk to a THP staff member. While the initial objective of the project was to cut down THP-Senegal's telephone bill, the use of mobile phones has also led to more intensive communication between THP and its partners, and will facilitate exchanges between members of different epicenters.
- In India, in early March, Country Director Rita Sarin, on invitation from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, made a presentation on "Capacity Building and Empowerment of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs)" in a national seminar for EWRs, senior government officials and representatives from several state institutes of rural development, bilateral organizations, international and local nonprofits and academia.
- In Bangladesh in early January, Youth Ending Hunger (YEH), the youth-wing of THP-Bangladesh, held its annual conference to mobilize the young people of Bangladesh to take action to end hunger. About 700 young women and men attended the conference and worked together to plan projects for 2009 on issues such as quality education, an anti-tobacco campaign and building IT skills. The conference was co-hosted by the World Health Organization, the Bangladesh Open Source Network, the Bangladesh Math Olympiad Committee and JAGOREE.
- In Mexico, The J'Pas Joloviletik Cooperative, formed by a group of our women partners, has become the first textiles handicrafts organization to receive fair trade certification in the country. Our partners played an important role in setting the guidelines for the certification of textile handicrafts, which will enable other grassroots women to use this

opportunity. This same cooperative of women has also launched an online store on e-bay, where they sell their handicrafts.

Fundraising: Building on Our Momentum

Fundraising has been a major emphasis for the period. Exceeding our target for our Best Year Yet campaign at the end of 2008 was a huge achievement for our global team, a true demonstration of the strong commitment of our investor base and helpful in providing many lessons to use when designing future coordinated global campaigns. In early 2009, our focus has been to build on the momentum of this achievement by renewing 2008 and 2007 investors who had not yet made pledges or invested in 2009.

In addition, Program Country Directors are seeking out opportunities for in-country fundraising. In early 2009, THP-Uganda submitted a proposal to the Ford Foundation regional office for Africa in Nairobi, and earned a grant for our microfinance program in 2009. In Mexico, the Federal Government through the Secretary for Social Development (SEDESOL) awarded THP-Mexico a grant to strengthen our mobilization in Zacatecas in 2009. These amounts go directly to our Program Countries.

We have seen a surge in online investment from first-time investors. We are also working to expand our investor base through our Reach Out Campaign to increase the size of our e-mail list, one of the primary factors in increasing online investment.

We are also tapping into younger investors and working with schools and colleges to access not only the philanthropy and enthusiasm of younger audiences, but hopefully, encourage their lifetime commitment to THP.

In addition, our Planned Giving program has seen a 120% increase in the total amount of confirmed planned gifts since the close of 2007.

Great Strides in Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment is critically important for us to powerfully illustrate to current and future investors, and to the international development community, that we are having a demonstrable impact on the ground. Our Impact Assessment program has four targeted groups:

- To support the women and men working to end their own hunger and poverty by helping them identify gaps, set priorities and track progress;
- To enable THP staff and partner organizations to continuously improve programs;
- To enlist new sources of funding and be accountable to current investors; and
- To engage in advocacy work with multilateral funders, governments, and other thought-leaders to help persuade them that our bottom-up, gender-focused approach is deserving of wider adoption in the development field.

We now have a global-wide Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Task Force to oversee the design, development and implementation of our M&E system. In time to report to the Global Board this April, we have completed the first major phase of this work by systematically gathering indicators of inputs and outputs. I am extremely proud of this accomplishment and am

confident it will help us to cross-fertilize best practice across Program Countries, identify areas for improvement both locally and nationally, assist in identifying new funding opportunities and help The Hunger Project more powerfully advocate to have our methodology endorsed by large multilateral agencies and national governments.

This year, two independent organizations have conducted external assessments of our Epicenter Strategy in Africa. The in-depth assessment of our work in Uganda in January '09 delivers a powerful validation of our work in Uganda, clearly communicating our methodology, identifying ways in which THP is seen as distinctive among NGOs doing similar work and making recommendations for future enhancements to our programs. Members of the consulting team gave a presentation to THP staff in New York, presented to a group of investor-activist leaders at our National Leadership Conference in Chicago in March, and presented to our Global Board in April. The enthusiastic and heartfelt reaction of all groups to these presentations attests that this is a powerful tool for endorsing the contributions of current investors and demonstrating results to potential investors in the future.

The Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO), based in The Netherlands, conducted external evaluations of our work in Malawi and Senegal in late 2008/early 2009. The evaluators have submitted a comprehensive, compelling and favorable report of Malawi that acknowledges the effectiveness of our holistic approach, based on our three pillars.

In addition, the Yale, Berkeley and the University of Ghana long-term control-group evaluation of our scale-up in Ghana is steadily progressing. As of the end of 2008, baseline household surveys in both THP-mobilized areas and randomly selected comparison areas were completed.

Enhancing Our Reputation and Increasing Our Presence

We have made significant progress in expanding THP's presence and influence. Several Hunger Project staff members have represented THP globally at high-level meetings on issues of relevance to our work, ensuring that THP is at the table for such discussions and sharing our methodology and unique perspective as widely as possible.

- Åsa Skogström, Country Director of THP-Sweden, represented THP at a high-level UN meeting on "Food Security for All" in Madrid in late January co-chaired by the UN Secretary-General and Prime Minister Zapatero of Spain.
- Elisabeth Roelvink, Board Member of THP-Netherlands attended the Governing Council annual meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome in mid-February.
- At the end of February, John Coonrod represented the CEO at the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Forum on Inequality and Hunger, organized by the UNDP Regional Center in Colombo (UNDP-RCC) in Sri Lanka in partnership with FAO and the UN Millennium Campaign. We are grateful to UNDP-RCC for covering John's travel costs.

- In Mexico, our Country Director, Lorena Vazquez continues to serve on the Government's Citizen's Consultative Council, directly advising the Minister and President on development issues.
- I have held meetings with many contacts in our sector, including both Ireland's and Australia's Ambassadors to the UN, representatives of AusAID, the head of the UN Democracy Fund and Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. In April, I spoke at Unite for Sight's 2009 Global Health and Innovation Summit on "Achieving Global Goals through Innovation," along with other presenters such as Jeffrey Sachs, Nicholas Kristof, and our Chairman.

We will continue to seek opportunities to present our work and advocate our methodology to influential audiences since the universal reaction is always one of appreciation and admiration.

Our newly redesigned public website has had an average of more than 20,000 unique visitors over the past six months and is generating significant funding from completely new investors (apart from existing investors making pledge payments or new investments online). This project, begun only six months ago, has already generated 12 times its cost. We are continuing to implement changes in a second phase of the project – including more interactive features like RSS feeds, “share with a friend” features, a blog and a more streamlined homepage and donations form.

Driving more people to our public website is our Google Grant AdWords campaign. Google Grants is a unique in-kind advertising program harnessing the power of Google AdWords advertising product. Google Grants has awarded AdWords advertising to hundreds of non-profit groups whose missions range from animal welfare to literacy, from supporting homeless children to promoting HIV education. Since our Google Grants advertising campaign was launched four months ago, ads for THP have been shown nearly 1.4 million times and have generated 43,000 clicks to our website!

Positive media coverage is steadily increasing. In India, Rita Sarin, our Country Director, was interviewed for a story entitled “Agents of Change March On” in The Times of India—India's leading national daily. Similarly, our Australian colleagues have had great success in obtaining coverage with a two-page spread with a snapshot of our work in *AFR Boss* magazine, Australia's leading business publication and Sydney Morning Herald, Australia's largest general new daily.

We have established a new partnership with one of the world's most creative advertising agencies, Droga5, who is working with us, pro bono, on more powerful positioning of our brand to better communicate our unique value in the increasingly crowded non-profit landscape. Droga5's clients have included MTV, Puma, Coca Cola, Unicef and Activision.

External Challenges

The external environment has obviously provided daunting challenges. A recent World Bank study anticipates that the world economy will contract by 1.7% this year, the first decline since World War II. While developing countries are still estimated to grow this year, some countries

will undoubtedly fall into recession. The poorest people of the developing world will inevitably feel this crisis severely, and it is urgent to continue our work to build the resilience and self-reliance of people living in conditions of hunger and poverty.

The global food price crisis, while no longer making daily headlines, is still a pressing issue, particularly when coupled with the financial downturn. And, increasingly frequent and unpredictable weather incidents, a result of global warming, are putting the crops and income activities of our rural women food farmers at risk.

Furthering Our One Team Approach

We have finalized our organization-wide Code of Conduct and distributed it to all staff world-wide. The Code is a set of guiding standards and principles to which we aspire, in practice and in spirit. To build and sustain our reputation of excellence and integrity, we must take personal responsibility for setting the highest standards in the quality of our conduct. The Code is the first step, and, in the coming months, we will develop a Professional Standards document to further reinforce accountability and responsibility.

Our global Intranet has been formally launched, and is being increasingly used across the world by all staff. It includes information on THP policies and procedures, access to resources such as discussion forums on M&E and image galleries, and has a tracking mechanism for institutional funding proposals.

Global staff are increasingly thinking and functioning as one THP team, informing each other of progress, building on achievements, learning from successes, and sharing ideas for improvement. This pattern of behavior helps us form a much stronger team, enabling us to reach our shared goals in a unified, coordinated and more effective manner.

Conclusion

In conclusion, despite the current global economic downturn, THP is steadfastly making significant progress towards achieving our overall mission of ending hunger and poverty:

- Program Countries are making steady and solid progress, working on cohesive, well-designed and highly relevant program priorities for the year.
- We are enjoying an enhanced reputation and widening influence among relevant players at all levels;
- We are being invited to join in international discussions on issues relating to our work;
- Our current investor base is engaged and committed, and we are reaching out to new audiences, including youth and institutional funders.
- We have established new partnerships with well-known organizations such as the Ford Foundation and the United Nations – not only for funding our work, but also for in-kind contributions, networking and advocacy opportunities.

- We have made significant advances, both internally and with external organizations, in our impact assessments, which attest to the impact of our work. This is providing a springboard for new opportunities, in fundraising, in education and advocacy, and in further enhancing our programs.

We will continue to use 2009 productively, positively and strategically to ensure that we are building a strong and solid base upon which THP can grow successfully in the coming years.

Overview of The Hunger Project Work in Africa During the first quarter of 2009

By Fitigu Tadesse, VP for Africa Programs

The current financial challenge

In spite of the current economic downturn, our work continues to produce positive results in 110 epicenters, of which 17 are self-reliant, in eight African countries. It is under these difficult circumstances that our work has clearly enhanced the credibility of The Hunger Project (THP) among local communities and local governments, while it has also enhanced their commitment to work with us in partnership on programs eradicating hunger and poverty. The success of our work in Africa is based on the realistic strategy that we have adopted, which has direct relevance and impact in Africa. Instead of entering African communities with preconceived ideas of what villagers must do to end hunger and poverty, as most conventional development agencies do, THP responds to the demand of African communities themselves. THP relies on the local population's wisdom and knowledge of their own environment and culture, in order to envision, design and implement interventions that are appropriate to each village. In addition to the visible physical results of our work, its impact affects concrete policy changes at the local government level. Ultimately, we hope this will affect national policy through local representation in the Parliaments.

Microfinance

The popularity of our microfinance program, the African Women Food Farmers Initiative (AWFFI), continues as our offices in Africa receive continuous requests from communities to expand our work in their areas.

AWFFI is a unique program that focuses on the specific needs of women food farmers — the primary producers of Africa's food supply. By providing access to credit, AWFFI unleashes their economic potential, enabling them to fulfill their vital role in the food security and the economic development of their villages, communities and nations. In addition, the AWFFI Torch events, in which a symbolic torch is passed from one woman food farmer to another across Africa, have succeeded in heightening awareness of the recognition owed to the women farmers who struggle daily to ensure that their families have basic nutrition.

Having heard of the good results in THP partner villages in Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda indicated he may consider financial support to THP for our work in Uganda last July 2008 during Jill Lester's visit. President Museveni's proposed commitment is a demonstration of his active partnership with THP and it represents a new approach to the development paradigm. THP's methodology is certainly not "business as usual" in the development field.

The following reports by our Country Directors focus on the measurable results of our work in the domain of microfinance for men and women and its impact in the lives of our partner in

many villages. THP has mobilized communities, supplied needed training and provided the initial infusion of capital (in the form of the capitalization of revolving funds) in order to enable communities to become self-reliant on a sustainable basis and to permanently end hunger and poverty in their communities.

The total number of epicenters in Africa is now 110.

Consolidation budget – Implications for epicenter construction

As a result of both the international financial crisis and the fact that increased 2008 program funding was based on a deficit budget, for 2009, our programs in the eight countries in Africa are based on a smaller budget, designed to consolidate the work within the existing epicenters. Some epicenter underwriters have agreed that their investment this year can go towards funding core budgets; although, this was not an option for some underwriters, and a limited number of epicenter buildings are being constructed.

Activities of special notice in our programs

Ethiopia

The Jaldu water project funded by Rotary International and Ethiopian Rotary clubs has been inaugurated by investors and members of Rotary international team. This project provides safe drinking water to over 6,000 people members of the Jaldu Epicenter.

Ethiopia has now six epicenters.

Ghana:

Scale up program: THP-Ghana has so far started the construction of eight new epicenters as part of the Year Three Program of the Robertson Foundation. These eight new epicenters are: Abehenease; Osonson; Darmang; Anyansu; Dominase; Otuater; Asenema; Kokobeng.

By the end of June, 20 epicenters will have been built since the scale up program started in 2006.

Regular Program: In addition to the eight scale-up epicenters, THP-Ghana will build another epicenter at Fesi Bame which is underwritten by THP-Australia.

Ghana now has 40 epicenters including scale up epicenters in the Eastern Region.

Malawi

Work in the existing six epicenters is going well. The attached activity report from THP-Malawi shows the excellent results obtained during this period. A new epicenter at Kachindamoto is being underwritten by a Dutch foundation, and we have proposed to them that construction take place over two years.

THP-Malawi has just concluded a visit from external evaluators sent by THP-Netherlands to ensure that our work of achieving the Millennium Development Goals is on the right track. We feel that the report validates THP's strategy and work on the ground.

Malawi now has seven epicenters.

Mozambique

THP-Mozambique has strengthened its work in Chokwe and Manhiça, by reaching an agreement with the local government that THP can now use the reconfigured health centers in these two epicenters, while building ones consistent with government requirements. In addition, THP-Mozambique has now started activities in a third epicenter called Zuza in the Gaza province.

Mozambique now has three epicenters.

Senegal

THP-Senegal's work has expanded remarkably during this reporting period because they undertook the simultaneous completion of previously unfinished epicenters. In addition, THP-Senegal received an external evaluation team from The Netherlands who monitored its work in the epicenters and microfinance.

Senegal now has 17 epicenters.

Uganda

THP-Uganda work has progressed during this period. THP-Uganda received the visit of an external, independent consulting company, who visited Uganda to evaluate the impact of the Epicenter Strategy and microfinance on the lives of our rural partners. The overall assessment was highly positive, concluding that THP has the right model to mobilize communities to achieve the end of hunger and poverty in a relatively short time.

Uganda now has 11 epicenters.

Benin and Burkina Faso

The programs in these two countries are going well as shown in their attached activity report.

There are 12 epicenters in Benin and 15 in Burkina Faso.

Partnership and fundraising in THP-Africa

This year, THP-Africa launched a remarkable effort to fundraise locally, remarkable because in some countries there is only limited local funding available and an absence of a fundraising culture for NGO activities. However, the effort of creating partnerships with other local and international NGOs has already been more successful than anticipated, as the following examples show:

- Benin: local governments in epicenter districts;

- Burkina: National ministries, local governments, Plan International;
- Ethiopia: partnership with Global 2000-Sasakawa; USAID, GTZ, local governments in the epicenter districts;
- Ghana: local governments, many local NGOs on women's affairs;
- Malawi: Novib/Oxfam, UNICEF, UNFPA, MACRO for HIV/AIDS, local governments and national ministries;
- Mozambique: local governments in epicenter districts, local NGOs;
- Senegal: local governments, national Ministry of Health and Women Affairs, International NGOs such as ICCO, local NGOs; and
- Uganda: Local governments; international NGOs such as ICCO and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Ford Foundation, national government ministries such as NAADS, Uganda Investment Authority.

Future objectives

In the medium term, and as finances allow, THP will seek to expand its presence in Africa. Expansion criteria for countries include: the presence of an Africa Prize Laureate; a clearly established democratic system of government; and demonstrated commitment by government to prioritizing the issues of ending hunger and poverty in that country.

From a longer-term perspective, THP aims to create a vision whereby the governments of African countries across the continent lead the work of ending hunger and poverty based on THP's proven strategy and methodology. Indeed, one of THP's objectives has been to demonstrate to African societies that the Epicenter Strategy is a practical model to adopt to eradicate hunger and poverty and achieve the MDGs. The external evaluations we have received provide independent support that further validates our strategy. Having now demonstrated that the Epicenter Strategy works in a variety of different climates, countries and cultures, THP can begin to work to convince governments to adopt the Epicenter Strategy, should they wish to achieve the MDGs in a comprehensive and sustainable manner over a short period.

The Hunger Project-Benin

Overview

The main achievements for the past six months are:

- 1) Completing Bétérou Epicenter and organizing its inauguration ceremony;
- 2) Assuring food security in all of THP-Benin's epicenters including the new Bétérou Epicenter;
- 3) Stressing two types of income-generating activities to diversify and assure self-reliance in epicenters:
 - a. Off-season gardens at Kpinnou Epicenter, and
 - b. Village shop at Kpinnou and Dékpo Epicenters; and
- 4) Keeping the on-time loan repayment rate at 100%.



Photo: Example of diversification of revenue sources in the epicenters: Off-season garden farming on Kpinnou Epicenter community land.

Details on Progress

- 1) The construction of Bétérou Epicenter was completed in December 2008. The inauguration took place on March 10, 2009 during the recent investor trip with investors from The Netherlands.
- 2) At the end of the first quarter of 2009, all the food banks at our eight constructed epicenters were filled to their full capacity. Three main sources enabled THP-Benin to have stocked food banks :
 - a. Production from the community farm on the epicenter land;
 - b. Production from farms at the village level through a contest; and
 - c. Purchases of supplements (when need be).
- 3) Support to income source diversification: Epicenter self-reliance depends upon the possibility of obtaining revenues from diversified income-generating activities. Support to the off-season gardens at Kpinnou and to the village shop at Kpinnou and Dékpo Epicenters helps ensure future self-reliance in those epicenters.

- 4) In the epicenters of Zakpota, Ouissi, Akpadanou, Kpinnou, Wawata and Gohomey, the loan repayment rate has been maintained and/or raised to 100%. This is the result of intensive monitoring and training from our African Woman Food Farmer Initiative (AWFFI) team. However, in Avlamè and Dékpo, the loan repayment rate is still under 100% (with an average of 83%). This will be taken into account in the future so that requisite actions will be duly implemented.

Partnerships

A partnership with a governmental project that supports education in the Dassa district has resulted in the construction of two furnished classrooms with latrines in the epicenter of Ouissi.

In addition, THP-Benin continues to collaborate with:

- Decentralized structures of the Ministry of Health to reduce the infant mortality rate, promote maternal health and fight HIV/AIDS and malaria; and
- Decentralized structures of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Breeding and Fishing for promoting food security.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

On the occasion of the 21st World AIDS Day, THP-Benin organized a debate conference on December 5, 2008. The topic was: “Exercer le Leadership pour limiter la propagation du VIH/SIDA” (Leadership for fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS.” For this event, THP-Benin gathered journalists, HIV/AIDS animators, THP-Benin staff and other guests such as Dr. Julien Tchibozo, an HIV/AIDS specialist. On that occasion, the Country Director delivered a speech which was relayed in the daily newspaper “Le Quotidien info-plus” on December 9, 2008.

In his speech, the Country Director highlighted that leadership should be exerted by all: THP-Benin staff, epicenter committee members, animators, heads of women’s or men’s groups, and so forth. In whatever activity they are to lead, or whatever meeting they hold (VCAWs, literacy classes, credit granting or nutrition follow-up sessions), the Country Director asked people to recall how they would protect themselves against HIV/AIDS.

He also indicated that the best way to show leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS is to support education as a key to development. He stipulated in the name of THP-Benin: “We would like to seize this opportunity of the 21st World AIDS Day to renew our support to education for all, in particular, to the education of young people and more especially the education of girls. We are expressing this today by allocating the symbolic amount of 100.000 CFA (US\$206) to contribute to the fund recently granted by THP to support girl’s education in Zakpota Epicenter.”

Recent Innovations

A recent innovation at THP-Benin concerned the use of organic fertilizer from household refuse and other sources. The objectives were:

- To assure fertilization of poor soils at low cost so as to significantly increase food production; and
- To clean-up villages by disposing of polluting deposits.

This operation is called “Villages Propres – Champs Fertiles” (Clean Villages - Fertile Farms”). Apart from household refuse, other sources are used such as:

- Excrement from animal breeding units; and
- Rotten cotton grains from cotton grain plants.

This important innovation creates organic fertilizer which is then deposited into seedbeds at the beginning of the rainy season.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



Mr. Anagonou Hounzavi feeding some of his chickens.



Mr. Anagonou Hounzavi in his rabbit breeding unit.

Mr. Anagonou Gangnon Hounzavi is an example of a partner who has succeeded in giving sense to his vision.

Mr. Hounzavi is 35 years old. He is married and has a 10-year-old daughter. He used to live in Cotonou but then migrated back to his rural village, Yénawa–Hahamè in Kpinnou Epicenter in 2006. He tried, unsuccessfully, to become a medical assistant. He decided then to get involved in chicken breeding. Here too, he failed since he had no prior training for that.

Casually, he was informed that THP was organizing a meeting with the population at Hahamè on chicken farming. At the meeting he heard a statement that stirred him: “Poverty should not be for

villagers in your context ...” The link between crop farming and domestic animals breeding was emphasized to the participants. He meditated on this deeply and drew from that a path to his vision. He decided to follow the stream so far as to see the outcome.

Mr. Hounzavi was one of 50 participants who took part in the THP chicken farming training, and he quickly applied the skills he learned. With his own means, he started a poultry farming unit with only six chicks in early 2007. Today, he has more than 115 chickens. By selling them in the market, he succeeded in starting a rabbit breeding unit with two females and one male in 2008. To date, he has 10 female rabbits, four males and 94 young. The average cost of a five-month old rabbit is CFA 3,000 (US\$6). He is an important supplier for some restaurants in the city of Lokossa, about 15 km from his village. He also uses rabbit excrements to fertilize his own farm.

Through his experience, he has mastered the skills of treating the animals through vaccinations and administering appropriate medicines when need be. His neighbors count on him for assistance with this much needed skill.

Mr. Hounzavi says that thanks to THP, he has learned that “God has endowed us with all we need to be self-reliant and developed. What we need is to be brought to the light to get the skills we need to turn our standard of living into paradise.” He added that he is committed to go his way.

He is able to support all of his family on a daily basis from the resources provided from his chicken sales (only two or three chickens when the need arises). With the revenue he yields from the chicken breeding unit, he managed to build a house for the rabbit breeding unit and start the activity. Today, 10 people, including three women, train with him on chicken farming. He is very proud to talk about his experience.

Impact Assessment

The main objectives for this period were:

- 1) Create detailed action plans for THP-Benin activities in 2009;
- 2) Create and report on Key Performance Indicators (KPI); and
- 3) Report on the 60 indicators and post the required data on the website.

1. Create detailed action plans for THP-Benin activities for 2009

This objective has been fully achieved. Indeed, planning for 2009 activities on a quarterly basis for each unit/program is available. It will be evaluated at the end of the year in order to draw out progress made and to explain, when need be, the gap between the planned activities and the ones carried out.

2. Create and report on Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

These indicators are intended to mark THP-Benin’s progress in regards to food security, health, education, microfinance, and other relevant initiatives. The concerned indicators are agreed on

by THP Global Office, the investors from the Netherlands and THP-Benin and are to be posted quarterly from January 15, 2009.

Some difficulties appeared in the first attempt to collect data. The indicators have been revised and a reviewed presentation table has been designed to be posted during the recent mission of The Netherlands investor trip in March 2009. An example of the presentation table, filled in for the fourth quarter of 2008 for Avlamè, Bétérou and Zakpota is presented below.

Example of presentation table for KPI, filled in for the four quarter of 2008 (case of the of Avlamè, Bétérou and Zakpota epicenters)

Fields targeted for KPI	Indicators	GOAL	EPICENTERS OF THP-BENIN			
			Avlamè	Bétérou	Zakpota	
Microfinance	On-time recovery rate (%)	95	No recovery	No credits	100	
Food security	Food bank filling rate (%) for 8 epicenters built	100	100	60	100	
Health	# of children immunized per epicenter	100	206	127	186	
	# of people participating in HIV/AIDS workshops per epicenter	200	164	260	230	
	# of bednets made available to partners per epicenter	50	65	106	274	
Education	# of pre-primary school children in 4 epicenters	Girls	25	27	Not yet started	29
		Boys	25	16		21
		Total	50	43		50
	# of new people attending literacy classes for all epicenters	400	322			

TO BE AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2009

3. Report on the 60 indicators and post the required data on the website

This exercise has helped THP-Benin realize that a number of indicators did not reflect all of the impacts of THP-Benin's actions. On the basis of the exchanges with THP's Global Office through a teleconference and other considerations, a list of more realistic indicators have been

made available. The required data for reporting on these indicators for the first quarter of 2009 will be finalized very soon.

Benin Country Profile

Population (male, female)	6,769,914 (male: 3,284,119; female: 3,485,795)
Percent of population in rural areas	53.9%
GDP per capita	1,175
Infant mortality rate per 1000	88
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	840
Life expectancy	55 years
Percent population undernourished	14.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (male, female)	male: 0.8%; female: 1.5%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	3,300
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	1.2%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 63.4%; female: 41.1%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 90.1%; female: 75.2%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	43.7%

The Hunger Project-Burkina Faso

Overview

The present report summarizes the progress The Hunger Project-Burkina Faso (THP-Burkina) has accomplished in implementing the Epicenter Strategy in Burkina Faso, during the past six months (October 2008 to March 2009). The Epicenter Strategy develops a comprehensive community initiative which builds the capacity of rural communities through increased decision-making and the fulfillment of their fundamental needs.



During the last six months, THP-Burkina was able to finalize the building of its fourteenth L-shaped epicenter at Vowogdo. Other major accomplishments include:

1. The provision of safe-drinking water to all epicenters;
2. Restocking the epicenter food banks;
3. Training TOTs (trainers of trainers) capable of duplicating HIV/AIDS and Gender Inequality Workshops;
4. Educating thousands of women and men in preventive health, especially malaria prevention; and
5. Establishing weighing centers for girls and boys of 0 to 5 years.

Of all these accomplishments, restocking epicenter food banks at their maximum capacity was the most challenging work during the past six months, due primarily to the national and international food crises. Ensuring communities have at least one borehole in each of the 14 epicenters to ensure access to safe drinking water is another challenge that THP-Burkina is still struggling to meet.

An additional accomplishment of major importance is a partnership established between THP-Burkina and local and national government officials at the highest level.

Photo: Government officials attending one of THP-Burkina Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAWs).

Details on Progress

AREA OF ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES SET FOR 2009	WORK ACCOMPLISHED THE PAST SIX MONTHS	DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED	MEASURES TAKEN TO SOLVE DIFFICULTIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	WORK REMAINING TO BE DONE
I. Food Security	1. Build a food bank in the village of Wedgo, in the epicenter of Vowogdo to bring the total number of food banks in epicenters to 23.	1. The new food bank is in the process of being built and will be ready for food storage by June 2009.	1. No specific difficulty is encountered.	-	-	Food bank construction to be finished by June 2009
	2. Build two food processing units (grain mills) in the epicenter of Vowogdo	2. These two units are under construction and will be complete by June 2009.	2. No specific difficulty is encountered.	-	-	Units to be functional by June 2009
	3. All epicenter food banks fully stocked until next harvest. 1,150 metric tons of grains stored in epicenters.	3. Epicenter food banks were filled only to 25% of their storing capacity.	3. Rainfall irregularity and deficiency was a major setback. The national and international food crises were also important setbacks.	3. THP-Burkina is searching for ways and partnerships to implement drip irrigation technology in partner epicenters.	More investment needs to be directed toward the implementation of drip irrigation in countries confronted with drought.	-
II. Health	1. Train local TOTs capable of duplicating HIV/AIDS and Gender Inequality Workshop	1. 150 TOT trained in 14 epicenters.	1. Training difficult because of the inability of participants to take written notes.	1. THP-Burkina built partnership with the Government	-	-

	2. Train 60 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and local health workers	2. Thirty-two TBAs and local health workers trained	-	-	2. To help TBAs become more functional, THP-Burkina will allocate bicycles in the near future.	
	3. Create child weighing centers	3. Five weighing centers completed	-	-	3. Intention to replicate program into other areas	
III. Education/Literacy	1. Opening 200 literacy centers for a total of 6,000 women and men to be trained.	1. 174 centers opened for 5,220 women and men trained	1. No specific difficulty is encountered.	-	1. With the productive partnership that THP-Burkina is presently maintaining with the Government, it will be able to train more and more partners.	
	2. Involve as many women as men in literacy training as possible	2. More than 3,530 women were trained	-	-	2. By 2011, THP-Burkina hopes to involve all 110,000 women of its partner epicenters in its Woman Empowerment Program (WEP)	-
IV. AWFFI-Burkina	1. Build women's capacities in key areas such as leadership training	1. Hundreds of women were trained in leading meetings and organizing and motivating groups.	1. No specific difficulty is encountered.	-		
	2. Train 180 women in	2. 65 women from				

	new income-generating activities.	Nongfaïré Epicenter were trained in soap manufacturing.	-	-		
V. Environment	1. Plant 750 trees in epicenters.	1. THP-Burkina wishes to plant more trees in epicenters if the funds are available.	-	-		1. Trees will be planted during the coming rainy season, which begins in June 2009.
	2. Latrinization in epicenters	2. Eight semi-modern latrines, to serve as community models, are being constructed.			2. THP-Burkina hopes to mobilize enough funding to support latrine construction in 1,500 households.	2. By May 2009 all eight semi-modern latrines will be fully built.

Partnerships

In October and November 2008, THP-Burkina had meetings with high-level government officials, including the Minister of Health, the Minister of Literacy and Formal Education and the Minister of Women's Empowerment. As a result of these meetings, THP-Burkina was invited by the Minister of Women's Empowerment to attend a forum entitled "Investing in Women and Girls for Sustainable Development" presided over by H.E. Blaise Compaore. During the forum, AWWFI Program Officer, Irene Kaboré gave a short presentation on THP-Burkina's work.

THP-Burkina was also invited by the ministry to attend the national celebration for International Women's Day, held in the northern city of Dori on March 8, 2009. Seizing the opportunity, the Country Director for THP-Burkina pleaded for the intensification of girl's education and the eradication of traditional practices (forced marriages, female genital mutilation, etc.) still occurring in the country.

In addition, the Minister of Literacy announced that the Ministry will fund 96 Hunger Project literacy centers in four epicenters (Bissiga, Fétombaga, Nongfairé and Loaga). This restricted funding of US\$82,000 will allow THP-Burkina to provide literacy classes to an additional 2,880 partners in 2009. The funding will be sent directly to local epicenter accounts, and will be managed directly by the epicenter committees.

The Minister of Health instructed the health workers in local districts housing THP-Burkina epicenters to fully collaborate with our NGO.

Broad Awareness and Advocacy

The methodology and conclusions of the HIV/AIDS and Gender Inequality Workshop, held at Vowogdo Epicenter on December 4, 5 and 6, 2008, were in large part broadcast on local FM radio stations and in national press.

Recent Innovations

In 2008, THP-Burkina and INERA introduced triple bag technology for safe storage of cowpea crops for long periods of time without damages from pests such as bruchids and tribolium. This technology has revolutionized the ability of agricultural producers to protect their hard earned harvests from great losses from insects, thus earning more money from their work.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



Question 1: Can you tell us your name, your age and where are you from?

Answer: My name is Yabré Belemgnégré and I am from Vowogdo. As far as my age is concerned, I don't know how old I am.

Question 2: You don't know how old you are or you don't want to tell?

Yabré Belemgnégré: Let's talk about other things.

Question 3: O.K. How long have you been involved with THP-Burkina?

Yabré Belemgnégré: I learned about THP-Burkina in 2003 when it started working in my area and they asked to meet leaders from 10 villages.

Question 4: You just said that you answered when leaders were invited to the first meeting THP-Burkina organized in Vowogdo area. How do you see yourself as a leader?

Yabré Belemgnégré: I was then, and I am still, the leader of the woman grouping named Soogtaaba from the village of Vedgo-petit, one of the 10 partner villages of the epicenter of Vowogdo. I am also a member of the AWWFI Epicenter Committee.

Question 5: Indeed, a leader you are. Tell us now if your involvement in THP-Burkina work has had any impact on you and your family? If so, to what extent?

Yabré Belemgnégré: Yes it has a lot. I have learned in THP-Burkina workshops, of which I am now one of the animators, that development, more than anything else, requires preparedness including a vision, a commitment and due actions. I have also learned that if anything has to be done in our villages, it will have to be initiated and sustained by us, the local populations, first and above all.

Question 6: Can you name any other tangible impacts?

Yabré Belemgnégré: Yes, there are. Just to mention a few, I would name the loan I acquired from AWWFI-Burkina which enabled me to carry out income-generating activities and now be able to send my kids to school and take better care of my family. I would also mention the literacy training I've received from THP-Burkina, which took me out of obscurity.

Question 7: Anything else you might want to add?

Yabré Belemgnégré: Just to say a thousand of thanks to THP-Burkina and ask them to keep up the good work. The change in our communities may seem slow, but it's really happening.

Impact Assessment

THP-Burkina's main objectives for impact assessment are through the evaluation of several indicators, such as the number of women and men trained in VCAWs and HIV/AIDS workshops, the number of 100-kg bags in food banks, the number of girls and boys in epicenter nursery schools, the number of women and men attending literacy classes, the number of girls and boys vaccinated, the number of TBAs trained and the number of pregnant women accessing health center services.

THP-Burkina is actively working to establish a partnership with the National Research Institute, INERA, to be able to widen the application of fertilizer micro-dose technology to all its epicenters.

Burkina Faso Country Profile

Population (male, female)	13,730,258 male: 6,635,318; female: 7,094,940
Percent of population in rural areas	81.4%
GDP per capita	1,322
Infant mortality rate per 1000	122
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	700
Life expectancy	47 years
Percent population undernourished	17.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (male, female)	male: 1.9%; female: 1.8%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	9,200
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	1.6%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 46.7%; female: 33.1%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 52.5%; female: 42.9%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	56.5%

The Hunger Project-Ethiopia

Overview

This report presents the performance of The Hunger Project (THP)-Ethiopia covering the period October 2008 to March 2009. The main activities that marked the last six months were:

- Epicenter agricultural activities;
- Construction of Machakel Epicenter;
- Inauguration of Jaldu community water supply project (photo to the right); and
- Facilitation of the commencement of operation of completed community projects.



Details on Progress

1. Eradicating Hunger

The main interventions in which THP-Ethiopia is engaged to ensure food security in the epicenters are: epicenter farming, food banks, input supply, an Input Revolving Fund, and farm trials and demonstration.

Achievements	Measurement
Food security	<p>The epicenters produced 163.54 bags of cereals, 12.6 bags of legumes and 3,990 kilograms of potato. A total of 932 partner community members participated in the harvesting.</p> <p>1,205 kilograms of the potato produced is stored to prepare potato seed for next the season.</p> <p>1,800 kilograms of potato seed was sold to community members.</p> <p>101.2 kilograms of potato was produced using drip irrigation.</p> <p>The food banks in the epicenters currently have 632.98 bags of cereal and legumes stocked.</p> <p>82 partner community members who had been participating in our Input Revolving Fund program repaid 121.94 bags of grain (a total of 178.84 bags were expected).</p>

	<p>Epicenters earned 86,130.28 Birr (US\$7,824) from the sale of medicine, grain, potato seed and other sources.</p> <p>The epicenters currently have 18 hired staff. The salary of six staff members is paid by the epicenters' own income.</p> <p>600 heifers belonging to 535 farmers were artificially inseminated at the Debre Libanos Epicenter animal clinic.</p>
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2. Achieve Universal Education

Construction of 15 furnished literacy centers was planned in the period. Three dry pit latrines were also under construction in three literacy centers.

Achievement	Measurement
Access to basic education	<p>Including the newly registered children in Mesqan, the epicenters' nursery schools enrolled 115 children (52 girls). The children are fed one meal a day.</p> <p>16 boys and 12 girls in the nursery class at Debre Libanos Epicenter were transferred to grade one after evaluation by district education experts.</p> <p>Six literacy centers were completed. Three others are nearly complete for a total of nine literacy centers in Mesqan and Debre Libanos which began operating in the quarter. All furniture for the schools was supplied during the quarter.</p>

Since most of the projects are remotely located and the farmers were busy with agricultural activities, project performance in Jaldu was slower than anticipated. In addition, the soaring price of cement and long wait time required for purchasing materials from government sources, who offer a relatively lower price, further contributed to slow progress.

3. Gender and Women's Empowerment

Achievement	Measurement
Microfinance	<p>434 African Woman Food Farmer Initiative (AWFFI) and 143 Strategic-Planning-in-Action (SPIA) members, who were organized in 39 and 11 loan groups respectively, were given loan amounts of 351,000 Birr (US\$31,884) and 108,100 Birr (US\$9,820) respectively.</p> <p>230,876 Birr (US\$20,972) and 158,246 Birr (US\$14,375) was collected as repayment from loan partners.</p> <p>21,695.51 Birr (US\$1,971) and 5,865.21 Birr (US\$533) was mobilized in savings. The savings to-date from AWFFI and SPIA amounts to 117,040 Birr (US\$10,632) and 180,340.70 Birr (US\$16,382) respectively.</p> <p>2,426 men and women loan partners attended training on different topics related to saving and credit activities, gender issues and HIV/AIDS and family planning.</p>

4. Access to Basic Health

Four Health Posts were constructed (two in Jaldu, one in Debre Libanos and one in Machakel) during the period.

Three epicenter clinics provided health services to the respective Epicenter communities.

Achievement	Measurement
Access to basic health	<p>Construction continued on two Health Posts (HP) in Jaldu and Debre Libanos.</p> <p>The necessary industrial materials for the construction of one HP in Machakel were fully supplied.</p> <p>Three epicenter clinics in Jaldu, Debre Libanos and Mesqan were operating.</p> <p>Three nurses were assigned to Mesqan and Jaldu Epicenter Clinics. Jaldu clinic was previously run by health extension workers.</p> <p>372 adults were treated, 109 used family planning services and 161 mothers received pre and post natal services. 2,556 people were given information on family planning.</p> <p>Child Health Monitoring was conducted for 62 children, and 94 children were vaccinated.</p>

5. Ensure Environment Sustainability

In the period, THP-Ethiopia engaged in the construction of potable water sources, forest nursery plantation and awareness-raising workshops. Fifteen safe water supply projects were under construction in Jaldu, Debre Libanos, Mesqan and Machakel Epicenters.

Achievement	Measurement
Access to potable water	<p>The physical achievements of the projects were: eight water sources are 95% completed, one is 90% complete, two are 50-65 % complete and two are 10-15% complete. Six are in the early stages of construction.</p> <p>Jaldu (Shonta) water supply project, which is expected to provide water to about 6,000 members, is 97% complete. Seven out of 10 water points and two cattle troughs were made operational after the inauguration on November 22, 2008, in the presence of partner community members, woreda and zone government representatives, Rotary Club members and THP-Ethiopia staff and Country Director.</p> <p>The funding required in addition to the Rotary contribution was covered by THP-Ethiopia. The community contribution in the form of trench excavation, back filling, sand and stone collection and transportation of all construction materials to the specific sites was estimated at Birr 100,000 (US\$9,084).</p> <p>A Water Project Board, which has 14 members, has been established and trained on the management of the scheme. THP-Ethiopia organized the training for The Water Project Board, and it was given for five days by woreda water desk and zone water development experts.</p> <p>In six completed water projects, 24 water scheme caretakers were trained.</p>
Forest nursery plantation	<p>Indigenous tree (<i>Cordia africana</i>) seed sown in Debre Libanos Epicenter was damaged due to frost.</p> <p><i>Dovalies</i> and eucalyptus tree nurseries were established in Jaldu and Debre Libanos Epicenters. The seedlings will be used by the epicenters and distributed to epicenter communities.</p>
Environmental sanitation	<p>Among AWWFI and SPIA partners in three epicenters, 589 households constructed and started using dry pit latrines on their land.</p>

6. Community Participation

Epicenter committee meetings: A total of 34 meetings (out of 42 expected) were held, and 124 issues were discussed by the four Epicenter Committees in the period. On average, 33 Epicenter Committee members attended the bi-monthly meetings. The overall attendance was 52% on average. The attendance was least in Machakel and Jaldu. The highest attendance was observed in Debre Libanos followed by Mesqan Epicenter. In Debre Libanos female members' attendance is the highest and was the least in Machakel.

7. Other Activities

New epicenter: The project document for Wurib Epicenter was finalized and presented in a workshop which was attended by partner community members and woreda government bodies. Signing of project agreement is undergoing.

Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAWs): To facilitate Epicenter Committee election to replace those who will end their terms soon and promote THP principles, a VCAW was conducted in Mesqan Epicenter. The program was attended by community representatives and government officials. A total of 80 representatives attended the program.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

STVO, a local television agency, had extensive news coverage of the inauguration of Jaldu community water supply project in Oromia language.

Impact Assessment

Monitoring progress was frequently conducted at different levels by the respective THP-Ethiopia staff, Epicenter Committees, sub-committees and government bodies. This provides an important opportunity to evaluate the degree of commitment of various parties involved, so that expected outcomes are attained as scheduled. Monitoring the impact of programs was done by closely following up Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) indicators.

Ethiopia Country Profile

Population (male, female)	73,918,505 male: 37,296,657; female: 36,621,848
Percent of population in rural areas	83.8%
GDP per capita	1,192
Infant mortality rate per 1000	77
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	720
Life expectancy	56 years
Percent population undernourished	46.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (male, female)	male: 0.9%; female: 1.9%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	67,000
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	2.0%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 28.6%; female: 33.8%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 75.2%; 69.3%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	39.0%

The Hunger Project-Ghana

Overview

In line with The Hunger Project's (THP's) objective to increase food production and security, farmers have been supplied with 3,884 kg of maize seeds and 834 bags of NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium) and ammonia fertilizers to cultivate 485.5 acres of maize farms, which are expected to yield approximately 252,460 kg.

A total of 976 women received GHC 76,360 (US\$60,126) in loans for the expansion of income-generating activities, particularly farming as compared to 595 women receiving GHC 46,800 (US\$36,850) in the previous six months under the African Woman Food Farmer Initiative (AWFFI) microfinance program. The extension of the credit scheme to new epicenters in the Eastern Region largely accounts for the increase in the amount disbursed and the number of recipients.



Construction of the eight "year three" epicenter buildings (i.e. epicenter buildings to be completed during the third year of our grant from the Robertson Foundation) is progressing satisfactorily and is expected to be completed by June 2009. Some of the buildings have reached window level while others are even at the lintel level.

The expansion of THP-Ghana's activities under the scale-up program has resulted in the training of many more animators who are themselves reaching out to an increased number of people in the communities. For example, the number of people who participated in Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAW) increased from 8,916 in the previous period to 22,835 in the current reporting period. The Women Empowerment Project (WEP) animators also reached 12,400 people as compared to 9,568 in the previous period while the HIV/AIDS animators sensitized 12,837 people compared with the 11,387 previously reached.

The number of children attending child welfare clinics for weighing and immunization increased from 3,806 in the previous period to 4,616 as a result of the increasing number of epicenter clinics, especially in the Eastern Region where the scale up program is being implemented. A total of 98 babies were safely delivered compared with the 60 in the previous six months. The 12 epicenter clinics recorded 3,865 out-patients as compared to 2,828 in the previous period.

One of the key challenges has been the limited capacity of the District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) to provide health personnel, drugs and equipment to all the new epicenters that have been completed. Therefore, they can not ensure efficient delivery of health care services at the epicenter clinics. However, efforts are being made to overcome this problem through strengthening of THP's collaboration with the Ghana Health Service at the national level.

Details on Progress

Achievements	Measurement
Food production and security improved.	<p>As the next major farming season approaches the Agricultural trainers of trainers (TOTs) have educated 5,944 farmers (2,963 males and 2,971 females) in 142 partner communities. The farmers were educated on pest control, application of fertilizers and weedicides as well as effective maize storage techniques with the aim to promote increased food production and security.</p> <p>A total of 2,435.5 bags of 100 kg each (243,550 kg in total) of maize was harvested from 480 acres of farm cultivated by the partners with input support from THP during the farming season in 2008. Maize production per acre increased from 4.02 bags (402 kg) in 2007 to 5.2 bags (520 kg) as a result of the improved methods of farming being adopted by the farmers. A total of 3,884 kg of maize seeds and 834 bags of NPK and ammonia fertilizers have been supplied to partner farmers for the cultivation of 485.5 acres of new maize farms this year, which are expected to yield approximately 252,460 kg.</p> <p>The existing 18 epicenter food banks were stocked with a total of 221.5 bags (22,150 kg) of maize.</p>
Epicenter buildings constructed.	<p>The eight epicenter buildings earmarked for construction in the third year of the scale up program are ongoing at different stages of construction and are expected to be completed by June 2009. The buildings are being constructed at the following epicenters: Osonson, Dorminase, Otuater, Anyansu, Asenema, Abehenase/Atobriso, Darmang and Kokobeng.</p> <p>The mobilization of eight communities for the construction of epicenter buildings in the fourth year is in progress.</p>
Awareness increased through VCAWs.	<p>Community-level VCAWs were organized in 378 communities, which covered 22,835 people comprising 11,289 males and 11,546 females.</p> <p>District-level VCAWs were organized in the three remaining new districts in the Eastern Region (Akwapim South, Yilo Krobo and Kwahu North), which covered 400 people from 112 communities.</p>
VCAW animator-initiated projects supported.	<p>During the reporting period, the following communities were supported to complete kindergarten school buildings that they had initiated: Afabeng, Akotekrom, Otaipro, Zevor, Dademantse, Besease and Ofoasekuma, all in the Eastern Region.</p>
HIV/AIDS awareness	<p>Thirty-one new HIV/AIDS animators were trained, bringing the total number of animators trained so far to 162. The trained animators</p>

increased.	reached 12,837 people, including 7,181 females (54%) in 146 communities, educating them on the causes and prevention of the disease and highlighting the role of gender inequality in its spread. The number of people targeted to be reached was exceeded by 8%.
Gender awareness increased (WEP).	The WEP Animators carried out education on the civic, legal and reproductive health rights of women. They also organized education programs to enhance voter knowledge on the nuances of elections under the “We Know Politics Project,” which was implemented in partnership with Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF). The animators reached 12,400 people (5,076 males and 7,324 females) in 257 communities. The animators exceeded their target by 71%, mainly due to the voter education programs that were organized. Forty-four new WEP Animators, as compared to 40 that were targeted, have just completed the second in the series of three training workshops.
Partner communities assisted to improve their incomes through microfinance.	A total loan of GHC 76,350 (US\$60,118) was disbursed to 976 women as compared to GHC 21,389 (US\$16,842) that was disbursed to 397 men to support increased income generation under the microfinance program. About 90% of the loans were disbursed to farmers to enable them to expand and intensify their farming activities.
Maternal and child mortality reduced.	Child Welfare Clinic attendance recorded at 12 epicenter clinics was 4,527 comprising 2,393 females and 2,134 males. The children were weighed and immunized against the childhood killer diseases (i.e. polio, measles, TB, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis ‘B’ haemophilus, influenza type ‘B’ and yellow fever). Ninety-eight babies (51 females and 47 males) were safely delivered at the clinics. The epicenter clinics recorded 687 ante-natal patients during the reporting period.
Malaria and other diseases reduced.	The epicenter clinics recorded 3,865 out-patients, of which 45% were malaria cases. This represents a 5% drop in reported malaria cases at the clinics as compared to the previous reporting period.

Partnerships

- In an effort to strengthen THP’s partnership with local government and to advocate national recognition of the Epicenter Strategy as an effective approach to rural development, the Country Director (CD) met with the Minister for Local Government and Rural Development. The CD briefed the Minister on THP’s activities and how they are impacting the lives of people in the rural areas. The Minister expressed interest in collaborating with THP, which would leverage the required to take forward the partnership agenda.

- In accordance with the existing partnership with the Ghana Health Service (GHS), Health Personnel, some equipment and drugs were supplied to the new epicenters in the Eastern Region including Supreso, Nkawanda, Ankoma, Wawase, Akotekrom and Kyeremase. As part of THP's effort to strengthen partnership with the GHS, the CD met with the Director General of the GHS to brief him on our development activities generally and the Community Health Improvement Program in particular. They also discussed priority areas of collaboration based on the challenges facing the Health Program which include the limitations in the supply of Health Personnel, equipment and drugs to the new epicenters that are being constructed.
- During the period under review, THP collaborated with the following government departments and NGOs to train new animators, especially in the Eastern Region where the scale up program is being implemented:
 - Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) – for the training of 31 HIV/AIDS animators;
 - Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) – for the training of 44 WEP animators; and
 - Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) – for the training of 40 Agricultural TOTs.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

- A feature article was published in the *Daily Graphic*, Ghana's most read newspaper (October 16, 2008) on the "We Know Politics Projects" which was implemented in partnership with WILDAF, Gender Center, CoWIG and FIDA-Ghana. The article covered an interview with the CD on the objectives of the project. The project aimed at increasing the participation of women in Ghana's 2008 general elections and to ensure that the concerns of women were taken on board by the Presidential and Parliamentary aspirants.
- A campaign that was organized in Matsekope Epicenter on "Violence Against Women" was given coverage by a local FM station (Radio Ada) on December 11, 2008, highlighting the various types of violence against women and their effects. The campaign was organized as part of the worldwide celebration of "16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women" by women and gender activists.
- A delegation of the Ghana Chapter of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), which included the CD of THP, met with Ghana's newly elected President to congratulate him on winning the election and to discuss critical issues affecting women. The President assured the delegation that he would empower the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Department to review laws and practices that are inhumane and discriminate against women. He also reaffirmed his government's commitment to appointing 40% of women in his administration. The meeting with the President was reported by the print and electronic media including GTV and the *Daily Graphic* on February 5, 2009.
- *The Daily Graphic*, published a feature article entitled "Combating Violence Against Women – The Role of The Hunger Project" in the March 10, 2009 edition. This article highlighted the campaigns organized by THP in the Matsekope and Kyempo Epicenters to mark the

worldwide celebration of “16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women” in December 2008.

- On March 16, 2009 the *Daily Graphic* reported on a durbar organized by THP in the Kwaboadi Epicenter to mark the celebration of International Women’s Day. At this durbar, the CD, Dr. Naana Agyemang-Mensah called for behavioral change, particularly among men, to end the culture of violence against women.
- The CD held two important meetings with key government officials during the reporting period. The first one was with the Director General of the Ghana Health Service (GHS) on March 17, 2009. The objective was to brief the Director General on THP’s Community Health Improvement Program. The second meeting was with the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development on March 24, 2009. The CD briefed the Minister on THP-Ghana’s activities and their impact on people living in rural communities in Ghana. She highlighted partnership with local government as one of the key pillars of THP’s work. The two government officials were impressed with THP’s work and achievements in Ghana.

Recent Innovations

The fast growing number of epicenter buildings, especially in the Eastern Region, has resulted in an increased demand for health personnel, drugs and equipment, which has strained the local authority’s capacity. Having realized the difficulty in getting the DHMTs to respond adequately to our needs, we have decided to extend our partnership with the GHS beyond the district level to the national level. It is in light of this that the CD met with the Director General of the GHS to brief him on THP’s programs generally and the Health Improvement Program in particular with the view to seeking his assistance in staffing and equipping the epicenter clinics.

Profile of a Leader in the Community

Comfort Kissiwaa is 49 years old and a native of Nsuta in the Nsuta-Aweregya Epicenter in the Eastern Region. She is married with five children (four girls and a boy). She is educated up to the secondary school level. Prior to joining THP-Ghana, she was working as a kindergarten teacher at Nsuta with an average annual income of GHC 140 (US\$110) and was also engaged in farming to supplement her income and for subsistence.



Comfort joined THP-Ghana in 2000 after a mass VCAW at Nsuta, which, according to her, had a remarkable impact on her and how she perceived life, generally. Her entry point into THP was the Women Empowerment Project (WEP), through which she began to gain prominence in the community as a result of the opportunity she had to educate people on their civic, legal and health rights. Subsequently, following her participation in several AWWFI VCAWs, she joined an AWWFI credit group in her community through which she received loans five times

for the expansion of her farming activities. Comfort was later elected as the Secretary of the Nsuta-Aweregya Epicenter Executive Committee. In 2004, she was appointed Manager of the Epicenter Community Bank, after passing a competitive interview that was conducted for the position.

Reflecting on her past and the positive transformation that has taken place in her life, Comfort now believes that almost everybody has unlimited innate potential and abilities that can be realized with the right mindset and the necessary support. She said her association with THP has helped to change her from a timid and shy person to an outspoken person, full of confidence and drive.

Apart from the positive changes that have taken place in Comfort's personal life, her involvement with THP has had significant impact on her family as well. The loans that she has received from THP have enabled her to expand her farming activities which have resulted in increased food production and income. Her annual income, which used to be about GHC 140 (US\$110) only, has increased to approximately GHC 1,000 (US\$787), including what she earns as the Manager of the community bank. With the increase in her income she provides support to her husband to feed, clothe and educate their children. She has also gained respect in the family and now participates in family meetings.

As the Manager of the community bank, Secretary to the Epicenter Executive Committee and a WEP animator, Comfort plays a key leadership role in her community and has even become a role model for most people, especially young girls. Through WEP educational activities, she has encouraged several parents to send their children to school, particularly the girl children, which has resulted in an increase in the number of girls enrolled in basic schools in her community. She has also contributed to either resolving or referring many marital disputes to the state agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

Comfort is truly an example of how THP's work is empowering women and causing a positive change in their own lives as well as that of their families and communities.

Impact Assessment

The main focus of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process during the period was to analyze the data generated by our trained village-based M&E animators. These trained animators had, in the earlier reporting period, collected a wide range of data through household surveys; conducted focus group discussions; held key informant interviews; and collected data from institutions like schools, clinics and the village-based TBAs. This generated a lot of data, and we began a manual process of analyzing the data. A simple software program was designed to facilitate data entry with the help of volunteers at the head office. The data entry process has been completed and the analysis has begun in order to arrive at conclusions that will be fed into the global M&E system/website.

The M&E officer plans to organize further training for the project officers, their assistants and secretaries to enter all data from the field in the data entry software so that the work at the M&E department at the head office will be expedited in the process of data entry, analysis and reporting. Data collection instruments have been revised and, in the coming quarter,

arrangements will be made to give refresher training to all the animators to begin another round of major data collection.

In terms of building partnerships, the project officers are collaborating with personnel at the health institutions to regularly provide relevant health data as part of the data collection process. Reporting formats have been designed to enable the health personnel to provide relevant data.

Future Plans

The following objectives will be pursued in the next six months (April–September 2009):

- The construction of eight “year three” epicenter buildings completed;
- The construction of eight “year four” epicenter buildings initiated;
- 14 epicenter clinics provided with health personnel, drugs and equipment;
- Review workshops organized for TBAs (68), Agric TOTs (135), WEP animators (80) and HIV/AIDS animators (90);
- VCAWs organized to train 23,000 people;
- 9,500 people reached with HIV/AIDS education;
- 10,300 people reached with WEP education; and
- Refresher training organized for M&E animators and program staff on the M&E processes.

Ghana Country Profile

Population (male, female)	18,912,079 male: 9,357,382; female: 9,554,697
Percent of population in rural areas	53.7%
GDP per capita	2,660
Infant mortality rate per 1000	76
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	560
Life expectancy	57 years
Percent population undernourished	12.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (male, female)	male: 1.5%; female: 2.7%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	21,000
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	1.9%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 79.7%; female: 75.8%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 72.9%; female: 70.9%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	30.0%

The Hunger Project-Malawi

Overview

The last six months have been truly eventful with considerable happenings that have not only kept us busy, but also motivated and sometimes challenged. Our objectives included:

- 1) Increase food production through farm-input schemes and modern technology trainings;
- 2) Monitoring and evaluation of our work, including an internal assessment of the Pilot microfinance initiative for HIV-positive people and an external evaluation of THP-Malawi's program;
- 3) Upgrading Mpingo to a full epicenter;
- 4) End of year 2008 close-out requirements;
- 5) In-country resource mobilization;
- 6) Improve access to microfinance services through new loan disbursements, community savings mobilization and loan repayment campaigns;
- 7) Negotiations with Neno district health office (DHO) to commence provision of services for children under five years of age at the Ligowe Epicenter dispensary;



HIV/AIDS IMPACT MITIGATION

In 2006, THP-Malawi discovered that most microfinance initiatives (MFIs) bypass HIV-positive people because they are considered a “risky” lending group. Utilizing its microfinance arm, THP-Malawi, with funding from Novib, allocated K150,000 (approximately US\$1,100) to pilot credit scheme exclusively for HIV-positive people, the results of which would be used to advocate for improved access to microfinance services for people infected by HIV/AIDS. An internal assessment of the pilot was done within the reporting period, and indicated a repayment rate of 89.23% (the remaining 10.77% was due to the deaths of three of the group's members, which, if properly hedged, could be managed). The report recommended that the program be scaled-up to other epicenters. Refer to section entitled “Profile of a Leader” for a success story of an HIV-positive individual who participated in this program and is now a THP animator specializing in HIV/AIDS.

Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
Food security improved.	<p>A total of about 314 metric tons of maize grain, which was stocked in the six epicenter community food banks, was sold to epicenter partners during the quarter and this ensured access to food for our partners.</p> <p>A total of 1,643 farmers (50% of whom are women) received loans for farm inputs after undergoing modern farming technology trainings. Each one of these farmers has managed to cultivate a total of 1.0 acre of land and is expecting an average maize production of 1.75 tons, an increase over the 0.6 ton which they usually produced before this scheme.</p>
Project to upgrade Mpingo sub-epicenter to full epicenter progressing on schedule.	Upgrading works of Mpingo sub-epicenter into full epicenter are now 65% complete and are on schedule. The works include construction of nurses' quarters, a maternity wing, classroom for nursery school pupils and a library. We signed a MOU with the Ministry of Health and Blantyre DHO, who have committed to furnish the maternity wing with necessary equipment and provide nurses and drugs.
Improved access to adult education through Functional Literacy and epicenter nursery schools.	<p>There are a total of 107 learning centers with 1,034 active adult learners (930 women). A total of 445 learners graduated during the quarter after being declared literate by the Ministry of Gender and Community Services.</p> <p>There were 186 pupils (106 girls) in the five epicenter nursery schools.</p>
Access to basic health services improved.	<p>Negotiations with Neno DHO to commence provision of under-five clinic services at Ligowe Epicenter dispensary were successful, and services commenced in December 2008. A total of 1,416 children (667 girls) of less than five years of age were immunized in our four functional epicenter dispensaries.</p> <p>Other services provided included outpatient services, family planning services, psychiatric services and supplementary feeding by the Government of Malawi's Ministry of Health.</p>
Improved community access to microfinance.	A total of K2,673,200 (US\$19,642) was disbursed to 228 people (133 women and 95 men) as new loans while K3,762,217.76 (US\$27,644) was repaid by our partners. A total of K203,000 (US\$1,492) was disbursed as new credit to people living with HIV/AIDS. Outstandingly, Champiti, Ligowe and Mpingo Epicenters maintained an on-time repayment rate of 100%, while Jali, Nchalo and Nsondole Epicenters have an average repayment rate of 85%.

Ensure improved people's access to safe drinking water.	The 22 boreholes, which THP-Malawi drilled in between 2002 to 2007, were functional during the reporting period and provide safe drinking water to 3,900 households (each household with an average of five people).
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Partnerships

New partnerships were developed during the reporting period as follows:

- UNICEF through Neno District Assembly for provision of Ligowe Epicenter nursery school utilities.

THP-Malawi continued to partner with the relevant ministries and assemblies within the Government of Malawi and with other civil society organizations, namely:

- Ministry of Social Welfare for epicenter nursery schools management;
- Ministry of Gender and Community Development as our responsible line ministry as well as for management of our functional literacy program;
- All local assemblies in the districts we are operating in;
- MACRO for provision of voluntary testing and council for HIV/AIDS (VCT); and
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for provision of female condoms.

Following THP-Malawi's appointment to play host as secretariat (from 2008 to 2010) of the Malawi Novib Partners Network, comprising four¹ NGOs who are receiving funding directly from Novib, we submitted a proposal to Novib's KIC² department which was funded to support the network operations for the period.

The objectives of this network are:

- 1) To provide a platform for sharing information and experience amongst Novib partners and their communities in Malawi on the one hand and between Novib partners and JOPM partners and their communities on the other;
- 2) To strategize on engaging important national processes pertaining to HIV/AIDS and sexuality;
- 3) Capacity building of network members in line with the work related to HIV/AIDS prevention from a gender and sexuality perspective; and
- 4) Communication and dissemination of best practices on HIV/AIDS-related work and rural birth attendant issues.

¹ The Hunger Project Malawi, Joint Oxfam Program in Malawi, Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association, CCAO Livingstonia Synod

² Knowledge Infrastructure for Change between and among Novib partners

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

Following a recommendation from the government, Zodiak Radio Station (a private radio station) visited Jali Epicenter as a best practice for community development and effective community participation. They conducted interviews with Jali Epicenter's Chairperson.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



Elizabeth (left) with friends and relatives shelling maize she harvested from her garden.



Elizabeth pointing at the cow (the big grey one) she is about to sell.

Below is an extract from one case study of an individual named Elizabeth Kalimbuka, who participated in THP-Malawi's pilot credit scheme exclusively for HIV-positive people. Elizabeth is now one of THP's specialized HIV/AIDS animators.

My name is Elizabeth Kalimbuka, and I am a widow of Pangilesi partner village, born on the 16th of July, 1963. I tested HIV-positive in 2004, and I am a member of Ambuye Tiyang'aniren CBO [community-based organization] founded in 2005, in Nchalo Epicenter, with support from THP-Malawi.

After undergoing a business management training, I took a loan of K10,000 (about US\$75) in June 2006 and started a butchery business. I bought the first cow at about K7,000 (US\$55), and used K2,000 (US\$16) to pay laborers and for market rentals and other utilities. I made a profit of K3,000.00 (US\$24) after selling the meat (30% profit on capital in four days). After some cycles, I made enough capital and I was able to change my business to buying live cows, fattening them and then selling them live. This is more lucrative and less involved.

Right now I have three cows that are being kept in the kraal waiting to be sold. I managed to buy seven bags of cement costing MK15,750 (US\$116) and I have now fully rehabilitated my dwelling house. I am paying school fees for my nephew, Madalitso, who is studying at Blantyre Secondary School and my niece, Ellen, who is undertaking a professional course in Blantyre.

I am now able to buy enough food to feed my family. Currently I have 10 bags of maize and one bag of rice [the next harvest season was just four months away at this time, so villagers only needed a maximum of eight bags of maize]. I've also diversified from my cattle business. I have employed a few laborers (men) who mold bricks for me, and once the kiln has been burnt, I sell

the bricks to people who are building houses. A single kiln fetches around K46,000 (US\$338) for me.

I will always be grateful to THP-Malawi for the trust they had in us, people living with HIV. The training in business management helped me to manage my loan very well. Of course, it has not been easy going all along, but I am glad to tell you that I managed to repay the whole loan plus interest. I am glad that I am one of the shining stars here in Nchalo and am urging other MFIs to follow what THP-Malawi did: offering loans to people who are HIV-positive. Thank you very much.

Impact Assessment

A Dutch team from The Netherlands, together with THP-Malawi, conducted the first external evaluation of THP-Malawi's program. The report indicates a strong positive impact of our work and further outlines areas for reflection.

An internal impact assessment of the pilot microfinance initiative for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV) was conducted in December 2008, and it established a repayment rate of 89.23% (the remaining 10.77% due to deaths of three of the group's members, which, if properly hedged, could be managed). The report has recommended that we scale-up this initiative to other epicenters.

Malawi Country Profile

Population (male, female)	13,066,320 (male: 6,365,771; female: 6,700,549)
Percent of population in rural areas	82.8%
GDP per capita	731
Infant mortality rate per 1000	76
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	1,100
Life expectancy	50 years
Percent population undernourished	34.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (male, female)	male: 10.2%; female: 13.3%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	68,000
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	11.9%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 83.7%; female: 82.3%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 89.1%; female: 94.6%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	73.9%

The Hunger Project-Mozambique

Overview

Over the last six months, The Hunger Project (THP)-Mozambique has made great progress by concentrating on the implementation of activities with tangible results for our partners. These activities included: food processing, food conservation, health care, income generation and communications.

Training in food processing has had positive impacts in our partners' lives. Villagers understand the importance of this knowledge for food security, and are able to use such skills for income-generating activities. For example, our partners in Chokwe make and sell bread in our epicenter and save money in the bank.



Partners produced about 2,000 kg of maize and approximately 400 kg of beans. More than half of the beans were sold at Chokwe Epicenter. In addition, THP-Mozambique trained 36 partners in low-cost technologies for food production in conditions of rain fed-agriculture at Chokwe Epicenter (photo above).

THP-Mozambique has also addressed environmental issues at Chokwe Epicenter, such as tree planting and improved latrines for children at the local primary school. At Manhiça Epicenter, THP-Mozambique introduced a plant nursery, which has a large impact because our partners can now grow fruit trees and learn the best practices on fruit production.

Partners at Chokwe Epicenter receive health care in one room of our epicenter because there is no equipment to have our clinic fully functional. Vaccinations for children and pregnant women were given in February and March 2009. Partners participated in voluntary HIV testing, and people with diseases like malaria, diarrhea and malnutrition were also assisted in our epicenter. The introduction of health care at Chokwe Epicenter is one of THP-Mozambique's best accomplishments of the period and has made the major difference between the prior six months and this six-month reporting period. Health is a serious issue, especially in Chokwe, as there is no health center close to our epicenter villages.



To facilitate communication in the epicenter area, THP-Mozambique introduced a public cell phone at Chokwe Epicenter (photo to the left). This has a large impact, because many epicenter villagers have relatives working in South Africa. With this public cell phone they can communicate with their families and relatives easily.

In addition, THP-Mozambique has trained 34 animators in both epicenters for collecting data and coordinating other epicenter activities.

THP-Mozambique has also started to mobilize the people in Zuza (Gaza Province) and is preparing all processes for land acquisition in order to build the epicenter.

Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
Food production	<p>There is more than two tons of grain stored at Chokwe Epicenter and still more maize to harvest next month (end of April/early May).</p> <p>The nursery at Manhiça Epicenter has more than 550 plants.</p> <p>At Manhiça Epicenter, partners are improving their nutrition by using food processing knowledge acquired during the training organized by THP-Mozambique.</p> <p>THP-Mozambique and extension workers from the agricultural sector/government trained 36 villagers (22 women; 14 men) including animators, leaders and peasants at Chokwe Epicenter.</p>
Income-generation activities	<p>At Chokwe Epicenter, partners continue to make and sell bread. Partners also sold beans as a result of food production at Chokwe Epicenter. In addition, some partners started their own businesses, making and selling bread, as a result of training organized by THP-Mozambique.</p>
HIV testing and health care	<p>At Chokwe Epicenter, 64 people were tested for HIV (46 women; 18 men) of which 12 tested positive (9 women; 3 men).</p> <p>Vaccination: 600 children and 14 pregnant women were vaccinated. 349 people suffering from various diseases were assisted at</p>

	Chokwe Epicenter.
Adult literacy classes	A total number of 254 partners (233 women; 21 men) attending literacy classes in both epicenters. This figure is higher compared with the first quarter of 2008 (174 students).

Challenge	Reasons/Lessons Learned
Clinic at Chokwe Epicenter is not used; only a small room is used as a clinic.	Due to government regulations, we are in the process of restructuring the health department. As a result, the health center is not yet fully functional. We expect the local government to approve the changes we made and they have promised to provide nurses and additional drugs for the pharmacy, in as much as their budget permits.
Microfinance initiative restructuring	Some unauthorized activity was identified in the African Woman Food Farmer Initiative (AWFFI) program at one epicenter. Immediate remedial action was taken and existing control mechanisms have been reinforced.

Partnerships

THP-Mozambique is partnering with government institutions such as the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Health and other local administrations.

The health department visited our clinic at Chokwe Epicenter approximately six months ago. In February of 2009, we began to use a room at the epicenter as a small clinic while we are waiting to have the clinic at the epicenter fully functional. The government sends medicines and drugs, and has sent a team from the district to our epicenter to provide vaccinations and HIV testing.

THP-Mozambique has been working with the government's education and agricultural sectors for more than a year. The government continues to pay literacy trainers, and the agriculture sector sends its extension worker to work with THP-Mozambique if needed.

Local administrations have visited epicenters in Chokwe and Manhiça.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

The Administrator of the District of Chokwe visited Chokwe Epicenter during the first quarter of 2009. In Manhiça district, THP-Mozambique presented our experiences to the Administrator of the District and other members of local Government.

Recent Innovations

THP-Mozambique trained partners at Chokwe Epicenter in the use of low-cost technologies for food production in conditions of rain fed-agriculture. The villagers decided to organize an

experiment in their own villages. Partners have cultivated a piece of 0.5 hectare of land and have divided it into two parts. On one half, they use traditional technologies of food production and on the other half, they put into practice what they have learned. In this way, they can compare the results and also train those who did not have a chance to attend the training.

Profile of a Leader in the Community

Mr. Caetano Malhaule is the President of Chokwe Epicenter. He is 35 years old, married and the father of five children. For 10 years, he worked in South Africa and he later decided to come back to Mozambique. In 2008, he was invited by some epicenter villagers to be part of THP-Mozambique because of his dedication to community work. He was elected as president of the epicenter in 2008. Mr. Malhaule has mobilized other members of the community to fix the irrigation system at Chokwe Epicenter.

It was hard work, and a lot of money was needed to solve the problem. He therefore mobilized the community to join hands and solve the problem together.

Mr. Malhaule is now attending literacy classes. He considers agricultural activities, AWFFI and literacy classes as the most relevant actions. He is committed to THP and all of its activities.



Photo is Mr. Malhaule in the epicenter's community garden.

Impact Assessment

The main objectives of THP-Mozambique for impact assessment this period were related to health care, especially in Chokwe. Although the health clinic at the epicenter is not fully functional, our partners have been receiving health care in one of our epicenter's rooms. Progress has been made and all information for our monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is provided by the women who assist our partners at Chokwe Epicenter.

For other activities, the impact assessment is based on information collected by our 34 animators and the M&E Officer.

Mozambique Country Profile

Population (male, female)	20,530,714 (male: 9,787,135; female: 10,743,579)
Percent of population in rural areas	62%
GDP per capita	1,345
Infant mortality rate per 1000	96
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	520
Life expectancy	50 years
Percent population undernourished	45.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (total)	12.5%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	81,000
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	12.5%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 58.4%; female: 47.5%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 79.0%; female: 73.1%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	74.7%

The Hunger Project-Senegal

Overview

During the last six months, the construction of two epicenters, Dinguiraye (featured in the photo on the right) and Ndereppe, has been completed. The equipment has also been set up.

As far as the microfinance program is concerned, the funds granted to organizations and individuals are being repaid at the epicenters' banks. At the same time, THP-Senegal has submitted an application to the Ministry of Finance such that all previously recognized banks will maintain bank status under a new national law being applied in 2009. Such recognition by the State is necessary for them to access credit lines available at the national market and to reassure customers.



Regarding food security, it should be remembered that food producers received significant quantities of fertilizers and seeds in May 2008. It was agreed that one quarter of 2008 campaign crops would be saved as stock at the food bank during the first quarter of 2009. Thus, the cereal crops expected were 183 tons, while stocks to be saved by producers in the cereal banks were 53 tons. Presently, only 42 tons of cereals (millet + rice + beans) are available in the cereal banks, since some producers take a long time to bring the expected quantities. THP-Senegal staff has already started to go around to epicenters in order to persuade those producers to bring crops.

The Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) launching took place in November 2008. In fact, 15 trainings of trainers have been held for the WEP's three main fields: health, leadership and women's rights. Since February 2009, WEP trainers have already trained 1,771 persons (148 men and 1,623 women) in the three fields.

Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
Food security access	290 epicenter producers have plowed 305 hectares of millet and produced 183 tons of grain. From the 53 tons expected in the cereal banks, 42 tons are

	already available in the epicenters cereal bank.
Epicenter construction	<p>Dinguiraye Epicenter construction finished in November 2008. It has been equipped by THP-Senegal and has increased the population's massive enthusiasm all around. All the important administrative, political and religious meetings take place in the epicenter. The most impressive aspect is that all parents have registered their children in the kindergarten.</p> <p>In addition, Ndereppe Epicenter was finished on March 22, 2009 and THP is getting ready to equip it.</p>
Fight against HIV/AIDS	<p>More than 250 persons (men, female, youth, pupils, political and religious authorities, health experts, etc.) mobilized themselves in the fight against HIV/AIDS celebration day held on December 1, 2008 at Dinguiraye Epicenter.</p> <p>During that day, HIV/AIDS testing enabled 31 people to screen themselves. No positive cases were identified among the 31 volunteers.</p>
Women's equality and independence promotion through the Women's Empowerment Project	Nearly 1,771 persons (148 men and 1,623 women) have been mobilized through WEP animation on issues related to women's rights, reproductive health and leadership. Partners are particularly excited about the birth certificate registration at the epicenters. Since the beginning of the program, 180 WEP volunteers have been identified.
Partners' mobilization and capacity building through epicenters Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAWs)	Nearly 2,158 persons (143 men and 2,015 women) have been mobilized through VCAWs on various issues related to health, education, food security, childhood malnutrition and on THP principles and philosophy.
Epicenters' women's literacy	Literacy training is currently ongoing for the benefit of 600 women, who are learning literacy, numeracy and management in local languages in the three epicenters of Dahra, Coki and Sam Contor. The training will have an important impact on the management committees set up in epicenters, especially in transparency, visibility and sustainability.
Kindergarten children's education	281 children have access to kindergarten education in Dinguiraye and Sanar Epicenters thanks to the support of

	THP-Senegal which provides them with educational and food support.
Nutritional support to children and fight against child malnutrition	3,230 child food bags, produced by Mpal food unit, have been put at the disposal of epicenters for children under five years of age, including those registered in the kindergartens. Each child has the right to one nutritious meal at school.
Access to health care through Health Mutuels	1,387 recipients from Dahra Epicenter got access to health care thanks to the epicenter's Health Mutual, which has 469 members. Coki Epicenter Health Mutual is in the process of being set up. 195 members have already registered. Its activities will start in the next quarter.
Beginning of Sanar Epicenter small hospital activities	THP-Senegal equipped Sanar's small hospital, whose activities have started with the matrons' and nursing staff's support. But we realize that people do not access the small hospital. The epicenter committee is thinking about a solution.
Access to credits thanks to Mutuels of Saving and epicenter credit program	More than 94,000,000 CFA (US\$193,671) has been granted to 170 organizations and 1,900 individuals to help them develop income-generating activities.
Epicenter community micro-enterprise financing	3,200,000 CFA (US\$6,593) has been granted to 17 successful organizations with amounts ranging from 150,000 (US\$309) to 200,000 CFA (US\$412) for them to develop and reinforce their micro projects. These loans do not require initial contribution.

Partnerships

THP-Senegal has a strong partnership with decentralized state services, especially the Department Accreditation Agencies and Health Districts.

- Saint Louis Accreditation Officer has placed three state school masters (trained and paid by Senegalese Government) at Sanar Epicenter for the children's education at the epicenter's kindergarten.
- The partnership with Dinguiraye primary school masters enabled the training of 3 kindergarten monitors for Dinguiraye epicenter preschool.
- The Dahra health service signed an agreement with the local Health Mutual to facilitate members' access to health care on account of the mutual to pay the fees.

- In November 2008, THP-Senegal signed a partnership agreement with Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) (The Netherlands) for non-formal education in Dahra and Coki Epicenters. The program started in December 2009 and covers the period 2009-2011. Its objective is the women's capacity building through:
 - Literacy for 450 women;
 - Thematic training for 540 women for the development of income-generating activities: food-processing, management, milk production, cattle breeding; and
 - Access to credit for Dahra and Coki Epicenter organizations.
- In October 2008, the Local Development National Program (LDNP) contributed funds to Dendeye Rural Community for the construction of Sam Contor Epicenter's fence wall. The epicenter's construction is planned for 2009.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

Many events organized by THP-Senegal have been subject to media coverage over the last six months:

- The celebration of World AIDS Day held at Dinguiraye Epicenter was covered by RTS (National TV and Radio) and by Sud FM radio station (first private radio station in Senegal) on December 1, 2008;
- WEP Training of Trainers in Louga before the Development Regional Agency Director of Louga (Sud FM Radio on November 11, 2008);
- The ICCO program launching and Coki literacy animators' diploma delivery (Dunya FM Radio of Louga on January 8, 2009).

Recent Innovations

The major innovation over last six months has been the mobile communication network development connecting THP-Senegal staff and the epicenter partners. The use of cell phones at any time and without limitation enables daily communication. At the epicenter, each member can use the telephone to talk to a THP staff member. It is also possible for THP to get needed information at any time and whatever the distance of the area.

It should be noted that the initial project objective was to cut down THP-Senegal's telephone bill. This innovation is not only going to reduce the telephone communications cost, but it will lead to more intensive communication between THP and its partners. It will also favor exchanges between members of different epicenters.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



Mrs. Pene Diarra, is 48 years old and is Vice-President of Dahra Epicenter Committee (featured left explaining how the health mutual functions). She is married, has four children and has completed secondary school. Mrs. Pene has participated in many trainings in organizational and financial management, marketing, health, women's and reproductive rights, leadership and personal development.

She joined the Dahra Epicenter Committee in 2006 and was in charge of health care access. Her commitment to serve the community was related to fact that she was running a female organization of 250 members.

To build her group members' capacities and help them get access to financial resources, she encouraged the women to register both at Dahra Epicenter and at the savings and credit mutual.

Diarra was charmed by THP-Senegal's VCAW, and she became devoted to the challenge of increasing the populations' access to health care. With support from USAID, she mobilized 30 voluntary animators to set up a health mutual in 2007.

Presently, the health mutual has 469 members and 1,387 recipients. The health mutual enables the populations to get access to health care with 75% refunds for first health care services and 100% for childbirth for women.

Thanks to THP-Senegal, Diarra has acquired knowledge in activity planning through her role in the Epicenter Committee, and she has natural interpersonal skills. Her participation in the WEP Training of Trainers (TOT) was an occasion for Diarra to build other women's capacities in women's rights, leadership and reproductive health.

Diarra has become a leader whom the community of Dahra greatly trusts. She holds many positions: Chairwoman of Manko loan group comprising 250 women, Chairwoman of the health mutual and vice-chairwoman of the epicenter committee. She is constantly in demand from the local medical authorities and partners in development (USAID, LuxDEV). She acts as councilor for the populations on issues such as women's rights, reproductive health, and the fight against diseases such as malaria and AIDS.

Impact Assessment

In order to reinforce the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, in October 2008, THP-Senegal organized a training session in project management and monitoring on behalf of the technical staff.

THP-Senegal's team is supported by animators and volunteers doing MDG indicator data collection. Collection takes place quarterly at the epicenter and with the local representatives in charge of education and health (health district, Department Accreditation). The epicenter trainers and animators have been trained in data collection and processing. These animators are also helped by the epicenter resident female animator, management committee members and the female bank manager. Finally, all the data are processed through to THP-Senegal and are checked by the M&E and AWWFI Officers. They analyze and input the data they process directly in the data base.

In February 2009, THP-Senegal set up a mobile (GSM) telephone network connecting all staff and epicenter representatives from different areas. This new opportunity enables everybody to communicate freely at any time; it also facilitates the data collection for a better M&E.

Senegal Country Profile

Population (male, female)	9,552,442 (male: 4,665,730; female: 4,886,712)
Percent of population in rural areas	49%
GDP per capita	1,850
Infant mortality rate per 1000	60
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	980
Life expectancy	59 years
Percent population undernourished	23.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (male, female)	male: 0.4%; female: 0.9%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	1,800
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	1.0%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 58.6%; female: 43.9%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 73.1%; female: 71.4%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	33.5%

The Hunger Project-Uganda

Overview

This reporting period covers activities for October 2008–April 2009. During this time, the following activities were achieved:

- Pro bono impact assessment of The Hunger Project (THP)-Uganda’s work by an independent, external consulting firm;
- Consolidation of epicenter building components by completing Mbarara Epicenter nurses’ quarters;
- Maintaining and ensuring effective partnerships with other organizations including Ford Foundation and the government;
- Ensuring epicenter food security;
- Community training and mindset change through Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAWs); and
- Ensuring community and women’s empowerment through the African Woman Food Farmer Initiative (AWFFI) microfinance program and other integrated programs in the epicenters.



The most significant aspect about this period was the impact assessment of THP-Uganda’s work. Through this study, we were happy to have our work validated and know that we have had a significant impact in the lives of our partners despite our very small budget and other challenges. The study also concluded with recommendations for improvement, especially in the area of impact assessment and reporting.

Photo: Some of the evaluation team with THP Uganda staff outside THP-Uganda office after a debrief of the impact assessment study.

Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
Food security achieved.	<p>20 tons of grain stored in epicenter food banks, totaling 7.2 million Ush (US\$3,349) on revolving food accounts. Partners have food stored at the household level until the next harvest and have diversified crops for better nutrition.</p> <p>38 hectares of cassava was planted in Kiboga Epicenter for multiplication. The epicenter nutrition project produced over 1,000 kg of nutritious porridge, which was sold to schools and communities, especially to pregnant mothers.</p> <p>4,000 kg of improved seed was distributed to partners for increasing production in coming season.</p>
HIV/AIDS awareness increased.	7,800 partners participated in the HIV/AIDS programs leading to a cumulative total of 83,000. As a result, youth and men's clubs were established to encourage "responsible fatherhood" and healthy living behavior in communities.
Increased access to health services.	<p>A total of 7,095 patients accessed health services at epicenter health clinics compared to 10,200 in the previous period, contributing to a 30% decrease in morbidity.</p> <p>Animators continued to sensitize partners on the use of mosquito nets and use of pit latrines. Health awareness workshops were organized for 6,400 partners in Mbale and Iganga Epicenters. Film shows on sanitation, health, malaria and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including AIDS were shown to partners. A total of four schools were visited, reaching 3,090 people.</p> <p>Four health clubs have been formed, and action plans that included an emphasis on body hygiene and use of sanitary pit latrines were created.</p>
Improved child and maternal health.	25 schools were visited by epicenter health staff for immunizations. A total of 10,165 children were immunized against killer diseases and 709 mothers accessed antenatal services in the epicenter clinics.
Increased awareness in sanitation, hygiene and environmental	Water treatment tablets were accessed by our partners in Iganga through the Population Services International (PSI) partnership.

<p>protection.</p>	<p>The number of animators training people in water purification technologies increased to 253. Water-borne illnesses were reduced by over 70% in the epicenters.</p> <p>During this reporting period, in partnership with the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), THP established a tree nursery at Kiboga Epicenter that provides 80,000 tree seedlings of pine and eucalyptus species to partners.</p>
<p>Changed mindsets, increased literacy and improved access to early child education.</p>	<p>A total of 7,625 partners participated in VCAWs leading to a cumulative total of 183,625. An additional 1,525 animators were trained, leading to a cumulative total of 25,377; and an additional 118 “trainers of trainers,” or TOTs, were trained for a cumulative total of 712 TOTs.</p> <p>The six epicenter nursery schools have a daily attendance of 290 pupils who receive a nutritious meal.</p> <p>33 Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) classes comprised of 560 learners were mobilized in Mbale, leading to a cumulative total of 256 in all epicenters. Of this total, 223 classes have been handed over to the local governments. More than 90% of the adult learners are women.</p>
<p>Women’s economic empowerment achieved.</p>	<p>Partners are in the final stages of registering a fifth rural bank in Kiringente Epicenter, targeting a minimum of 500 fully paid-up members with shares for the start up. So far, a total of 1,240,000 Ush (US\$577) worth of shares and 13,878,950 Ush (US\$6,455) accumulated savings have been mobilized towards the formation of this bank.</p> <p>A total of Ush 384,100,000 (US\$178,651) was disbursed by AWWFI–Uganda to 992 partners (747 women and 245 men) organized in 114 groups. Timely repayment was 93%.</p>
<p>Program consolidation and enhanced village and local government partnerships.</p>	<p>Mbale Epicenter partners mobilized 33,434 bricks; 38 trips of river sand; and 42 trips of pit sand. They are now ready to start construction. More materials are in the villages ready to be ferried to the site. The district local government finalized provision of its share of the contribution towards the construction.</p> <p>Construction of the Mbarara Epicenter health staff house was finalized in partnership with Mbarara District as part of the epicenter program consolidation.</p>

Challenge	Reasons/Lessons Learned
Unpredictable weather changes.	The prolonged dry spell/season is affecting food production. Partners can not plant in time and this leads to low harvests.
Constrained delivery of health services due to scarcity of drugs at the epicenters	Reduction of local government district health budgets has led to scarcity of drugs in the health centers, hence impacting negatively on the delivery of health services.

Partnerships

- We continued to uphold partnerships with government at both local and national levels. Our work was supported by relevant ministries concerned with our work in addition to the President’s personal endorsement of THP.
- The Rural Banks are considering the possibility of receiving funds from the government’s program, “Prosperity for All,” which is coordinated by the microfinance support centre.
- We entered phase two of a grant partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in December 2008, and began implementation for the multiplication of 2,961 disease-resistant cassava variety in Kiboga Epicenter. During this period, 41 hectares have been established in communities.
- We also received a small grant from the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) for establishing a tree nursery at Kiboga Epicenter. The seedlings are given to epicenter partners for planting in their fields to improve on the environment.
- Ford Foundation Regional Office in Nairobi has awarded THP-Uganda a grant for improving our microfinance program and for partner business improvement.
- An implementation partnership with Population Services International (PSI) was strengthened. This is a health marketing and education program that has been operating in Iganga Epicenter in partnership with THP to sensitize partners in water purification technologies so as to reduce water-borne illnesses including diarrhea, cholera, and dysentery.
- In Mbale Epicenter, the Farm Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Project (FEFCO) has established a tree plantation at Busoba near the site where the epicenter building will be located. In addition, in partnership with Red Cross, our animators in Mbale Epicenter distributed 240 packets of water purifiers to partners after a sensitization on safe water chain.

- We entered into a partnership with the Ministry of Health under the Health, Sanitation and HIV/AIDS Program. Mobilization and sensitization in hygiene and sanitation was done in communities and schools in Mbale and Iganga Epicenters. We screened film shows with recordings on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sanitation, and hygiene messages, and distributed other IEC materials to schools and community members.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

An article about the 2008 winners of the Africa Prize for Leadership, Janet Nkubana and Faiza Jama Mohamed was published in Uganda's print media, *The Monitor*, on October 22, 2008.

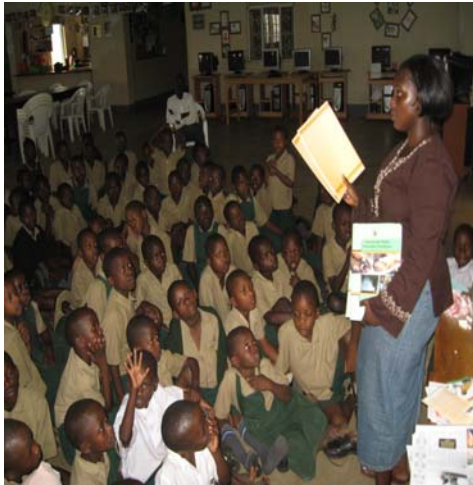
THP-Uganda participated in the commemoration of the International Day for Eradication of Poverty in October 2008. A three-day program to mark the event in Uganda was organized by the Parliamentary Forum on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Events that we participated in included a book exhibition in the Ugandan Parliamentary Lobby displaying THP's literature and a procession walk on Kampala streets for a clean-up drive in one of the slum areas in Kampala. THP work was again documented in the government-owned newspaper *The New Vision* on October 16, 2008.

THP-Uganda also participated in the events to mark the International Women's Day in March 2009. The theme for Uganda was "Increasing Investment in Girl Child Education as a Pre-requisite for Development." We were part of the National Planning Committee for the event and Iganga Epicenter Nursery school and women partners performed at the function. The Minister of Education was impressed by the poem about early childhood education that was presented by Iganga Epicenter nursery school children on the importance of educating the girl child and women's empowerment. The Guest of Honor was His Excellency the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni. THP's message for the day was also published in the National Newspaper.

The mobilization activities on hygiene, sanitation and HIV/AIDS in Mbale Epicenter were also covered and broadcasted by one of the local radio stations, Open Gate Radio. This program coincided with District Sanitation Week, which was launched in Mbale on March 18, 2009. All this gives impetus to the work of ending hunger within the country.

Recent Innovations

A strong partnership between THP animators and schools in Mbale Epicenter has been forged, forming “youth health clubs” to address issues of hygiene, sanitation and HIV/AIDS. We adopted film shows as one of the methods for information dissemination to our partners in health, food production and sanitation programs. The films assist in easier adoption since we have proved that people learn faster when visual aids are used.



An official from the Ministry of Health sensitizes school children in Iganga Epicenter, March 2009.



Sensitization of health issues in Iganga Epicenter in Mbale Epicenter, March 2009.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



Mrs. Mukama Hajira of Nsale Village in Iganga Epicenter is a 43-year-old woman who owns a five-acre garden of cassava and maize. She also has an ox plow for working on her garden (photo to the left). She joined THP in 2003 after attending a VCAW in her village. This led her to mobilize a group of 11 women to start a Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) class. An Agriculture Extension Officer

trained the class in life improvement as well as improved agricultural practices. It was at this time that Hajira got these skills in addition to her numeracy skills.

In 2003, her group, Nsale Atambula Women's Group, to which she acted as Chairperson, joined the AWWFI program. She got a loan of 150,000 Ush (US\$70) from THP, which she invested in a three-acre garden of maize. With additional income and appropriate training, she was able to expand on the acreage, as well as to diversify her economic activities by establishing a market stall. With this, she was able to provide scholastic materials for her four primary school-going children. With good profits from the projects, she paid back in time.

In 2004, she got another loan of 300,000 Ush (US\$140) with which she bought a cow and increased the acreage of her garden to six acres. Though she had a piece of land before acquiring the loans, she had never utilized it fully due to lack of capital. With available capital she opened more land for agriculture and engaged in commercial activities. She paid the loan back in time and bought a second cow. The cows produce milk, which she sells. Her children are now in high school and are ably meeting their school requirements. Hajira now owns two goats, two cows and an ox plow, which is rented out to her neighbors at a fee.

With the inauguration of IFFI rural bank, Hajira bought 13 shares, making her one of the women with the highest number of shares. She is currently servicing a loan of 400,000 Ush (US\$186), and has bought two more cows and roofed her house with iron sheets. She plans to expand her milk business as she increases savings for her children.

Hajira is currently a chairperson of the Village Loan Committee, and she is happy to be respected in her home and the community at large, since her decisions are impacting positively to achieve the end of hunger and poverty in her community.

Impact Assessment

The main objective for impact assessment during this period was to have a clear understanding of a results-oriented monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework in all epicenter communities with impacts well documented and disseminated. To this end, the external impact assessment report provided a good opportunity for THP-Uganda to prove the effectiveness of the Epicenter Strategy and its methodology in empowering communities to end their own hunger. As a result, recommendations for improvement have already caught our attention as points for reflection and improvement.

During this period, we trained new sets of research teams and retrained the old ones. In addition, we developed a logframe for all epicenters pegged on the set goals. This should ease activity implementation and impact tracking by partners, staff, district officials and/or external researchers.

Uganda Country Profile

Population (male, female)	24,442,084 (male: 11,929,803; female: 12,512,281)
Percent of population in rural areas	87.6%
GDP per capita	1,519
Infant mortality rate per 1000	78
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	550
Life expectancy	50 years
Percent population undernourished	19.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (male, female)	male: 5.0%; female: 7.5%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	77,000
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	5.4%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 88.3%; female: 84.2%
Gross primary school enrollment rate (male, female)*	male: 116%; female: 117%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	51.5%

*Gross primary school enrollment refers to the number of children enrolled in a level (primary or secondary), regardless of age, divided by the population of the age group that officially corresponds to the same level. The net primary school enrollment rate in Uganda is 82%.

The Hunger Project-Bangladesh

Overview

As we continued to strengthen our three-pillar strategy across the country, we had an opportunity to make a special contribution within pillar three – partnership with local government – through our participation within the Shujan alliance during the recent parliamentary and mid-tier elections.

- During the national and Upzila (sub-districts) election, we carried out massive awareness campaigns to emphasize the importance of good governance.
- Supported transparency, by publishing the disclosure statements of 2,500 contesting candidates on a website. (This new disclosure law was one of the reforms The Hunger Project (THP) has strongly supported).
- In partnership with UNDP, we printed 2,050,000 posters, 1,600,000 listing of candidates and 8,500,000 leaflets emphasizing the importance of honesty and competence among candidates. We distributed all the materials among voters all over Bangladesh.
- Arranged 86 “Meet the Candidates” meetings at 86 out of 300 parliamentary constituencies.

This was the first time such activities were undertaken by THP in Bangladesh.

The principal objectives of the current period were to:

- Unleash the leadership and creativity of grassroots women, as well as make them aware of gender-related issues so they can establish their rights and contribute to social development.
- Empower and inspire animators to form social units (such as Shujan chapters, volunteer trainers, women leaders, YEH, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, and animator core teams) in a planned way in 82 unions (clusters of villages) where THP-Bangladesh is working so they can advocate to *union parishad* (UP, local government) bodies and government functionaries to provide facilities to grassroots people for achieving the MDGs.
- Encourage public opinion to seek honest and competent candidates in national and Upzila elections and thereby promote good governance.



Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
Developed the leadership capacity of grassroots women.	Special training provided to 154 grassroots women through three courses on gender, leadership and women's empowerment issues. To date, 2,050 women leaders received training. During this period, 257 monthly follow-up and training sessions were also arranged.
Increased awareness on prevention of early marriage, dowry and violence against women as well as ensuring women's rights.	<p>Trained women leaders and animators organized 324 campaigns on different issues, and 640 meetings on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), dowry, education and domestic violence. The meetings included: 68 discussion meetings; 244 marriage registrations; and 1,030 courtyard meetings.</p> <p>Women leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopped 142 early marriages; • Rescued two girls from trafficking; • Arranged 75 dowry-free marriages; • Provided legal support to 12 oppressed women; • Settled 103 family disputes through arbitrations; • Developed 84 self-help groups; • Organized 31 skills trainings in income-generating activities such as weaving; • Planted 6,200 trees; • Motivated the parents of 1,896 children for their primary education; • Mobilized villagers to install 634 sanitary latrines and 54 tube wells; and • Tested 1,750 tube wells to ensure water is clean and arsenic-free. <p>550 women are involved in income-generating activities.</p>
New group of trained volunteers.	Provided 70 four-day animator trainings to 5,324 social activists (2,384 men and 2,940 women). The cumulative number of animators as of this report is about 121,935.

<p>Public opinion created in favor of honest and competent candidates as well as electoral and political reform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three roundtable discussion meetings; • 10 citizen dialogues; • Two People’s Voice (TV) shows; • 15 human chain rallies; • 11 preparation meetings for face-to-face meetings; • 117 face-to-face (Projection Meetings); • 29 meetings with UP bodies; • Three planning workshops with the Shujan Committee; • 196 general meetings with Shujan members; and • 15 Shujan committees formed in new areas. <p>About 33,693 people (male: 22,546; female: 11,147) were involved in these events.</p>
<p>Trained new youth group and ensured quality education in institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth volunteers started 25 literacy centers, where 625 illiterate adults and children (male: 385; female: 240) enrolled; • 26 Youth Ending Hunger (YEH) new units were formed; • Trained 192 youth leaders; • 29 parents’ meetings held; • 91 campaigns on different issues led by youth leaders in different schools and colleges; and • About 700 students participated in Youth National Conference.
<p>Involved underprivileged people in Participatory Action Research (PAR).</p>	<p>THP-Bangladesh trained 30 core facilitators through one foundation course. Through 10 workshops at the union level, 296 animators were trained as PAR facilitators. PAR activities extended to 10 new unions, and the total union coverage is 25 unions. During this period, 72 gono-shangatons (PAR organizations) were formed, with the cumulative number of organizations now at 288 and total members at 5,588.</p>
<p>Formed social unit at unions where THP-Bangladesh works to strengthen UP-led women-focused mobilization.</p>	<p>Social units (such as Shujan groups, volunteer trainers, women leaders, YEH, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, UPs, and core groups) are being formed in a planned way in 82 unions.</p>
<p>Created resource/skilled persons by providing skill development training.</p>	<p>During the period, 47 skills training on 10 trades such as mushroom cultivation, block batik, fish cultures, tailoring, etc. were given to 419 men and 1,133 women.</p>

	455 of them are now engaged in different income-generation activities.
Increased awareness on improving hygiene practice, sanitation and safe drinking water (HYSAWA FUND Project.)	Through 11 special VCAWs focused on total sanitation at 11 unions, 297 animators took responsibilities as ward catalysts, and they formed 714 Community Development Forums (CDF).
Advocacy and awareness increased on contemporary socio-political issues, such as self-reliant development, women's rights and good grassroots governance, through media campaign.	During the reporting period, THP produced four special television (electronic media) programs named "Jonatar Katha," which were telecast by Bangladesh Television.

Partnerships

Under the banner of Shujan, partnerships were formed with UNDP, Transparency International Bangladesh and the Anti-corruption Commission of Bangladesh. UNDP provided printing costs for all voter empowerment materials. Meet-the-Candidates (Projection Meetings) were arranged in partnership with Transparency International Bangladesh and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Previous partnerships with HYASWA, SPANDAN-B and AGAMI, associations of expatriate Bangladeshi, are ongoing. AGAMI will provide funding to Gono Uddak Junior Girls School, Laksam.

Partnerships with many civil society organizations and NGOs, such as Action Aid, Manusher Jonno, and Plan Bangladesh, and with individuals and businesses are continuing through the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) and Shujan.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

We have a good relationship with all national and local electronic as well as print media. The Country Director regularly takes part in talk shows arranged by electronic media on different social and political issues, such as self-reliant development, women's rights and good grassroots governance.

Profile of a Leader in the Community

Hosne Ara Asma, known as Asma, was born in 1976 in the village of Asan Nagar, Alamdanga Upazila of Chuyadanga district. Financial conditions of her parents were not good, but they were very interested in educating their daughter. Unfortunately, while Asma was a student of class



nine, she married Kamal Hossain of their locality, who was her boyfriend. Her parents did not agree to this marriage. Mr. Kamal was an influential person of that area.

In 1996, Asma gave birth to a girl child. She was very happy with her husband and newborn child. But all of a sudden, a big disaster happened in her life. Her husband was killed by miscreants. Seeing no way forward, Asma took shelter in her parents' house and became a burden on her parents. As she was a young woman, everybody looked at her with greedy eyes. A well-wisher of her village named Abdus Salam helped her get a job at an insurance company. She left this job and joined an NGO. She felt insecure and lonely everywhere, and got married again. But her second husband was not good, so she divorced him.

In the year 1997, she took THP's animator training.

There, she realized that every human being is able and is the creator of her or his own fortune. She also realized that the fortune of women is not dependent only on the will of one's husband, parents or God. It depends on the women themselves. To get rid of this mindset, women have to come forward and take initiative. Asma feels that only economic emancipation can establish the rights and dignity of the women in society as well as in the family.

Asma had sewing and tailoring skills. Therefore, she purchased a sewing machine and started a sewing and tailoring business with a very small amount of capital. Two other women, Minara and Rita, joined her and new momentum was added to her business.

After that, Asma trained ten women in tailoring and sewing and formed an organization with them named "Women Welfare Sangshata" (*Sangshata* means "society"). She also imparted training to 32 women on block-batik.

Asma also took part in a three-day "Special Women Leaders' Training Course." She is secretary of the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum of Alamdanga Upazila branch. Asma now regularly arranges courtyard meetings on early marriage, sanitation, nutrition, and gender related issues.

For economic emancipation of the women, she also realizes that education is an important factor and therefore established 3 adult education centers. In cooperation with other local animators, she is running these schools. Now, Asma is a well-known woman in the area. Her only dream is for the same realizations that she had to come to her society and to educate her daughter.

Impact Assessment

To track the activities of volunteers and staff, THP-Bangladesh has developed a new monitoring system. A team in the Dhaka office is responsible for monitoring and evaluation (M&E). They analyze our monthly plan and achievement report of the volunteer trainers, women leaders, youth leaders and staff, and whether their activities and monthly plan are relevant with our ten steps for achieving the end of hunger and poverty³. They then provide them feedback and recommendations. At the regional level, a regional coordinator sets targets, produces results and reports on them. A team in Dhaka compiles the data and feeds it back to the regional offices.

Some results of the period include:

- New voters became aware of the importance of casting their votes for honest and competent candidates.
- As part of the political empowerment of women, many women's networks took part in the Upzila election, and 21 THP-trained women leaders won. This is a great achievement for our women leaders that will inspire others.
- Animators, alongside local people and UP bodies in 11 unions of the Patnitala Upazila in Nagaon district, are aiming to achieve 100% safe sanitation. From the beginning of the program in July 2008, it was found that only 36% of the households in the unions mobilized by THP used safe sanitation practices. After the massive mobilization led by animators, the rate has increased to 45%.
- 625 formerly illiterate adult and children can now read and write as a consequence of the literacy movement.

³ The ten steps in Bangladesh are: (1) create a critical mass of animators in the unions; (2) awaken and mobilize the people; (3) mobilize students; (4) prepare for local-level planning; (5) promote local-level planning and implementation; (6) support income-generating activities; (7) create village-level people's organizations; (8) carry out continuous monitoring and self-evaluation; (9) document the process; and (10) strengthen the *union parishads* (local government institutions).

Bangladesh Country Profile

Population (male, female)	130,522,598 male: 67,731,320; female: 62,791,278
Percent of population in rural areas	75%
GDP per capita	2,217
Infant mortality rate per 1000	52
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	570
Life expectancy	63 years
Percent population undernourished	30.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate	NA
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	1000
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	0.1%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 71.1%; female: 73.2%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 90.6%; female: 93.8%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	49.6%

The Hunger Project-India

Overview

The past six-month period has been unique in that the national leadership of The Hunger Project (THP)-India has focused much attention on fundraising. The team in India continues to work with THP Partner Countries in writing proposals and raising funds. The five-year Ribbink Van Den Hoef Foundation grant for the state of Madhya Pradesh was a measure of our success.



Federations of elected women have been strengthened in the four states of Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Overall, 32 block-level federations, with a membership of 1,900 elected women representatives, have been formed in these states. Of the 23 districts where these federations are formed, seven come partially or wholly under the Fifth Schedule⁴. In these districts, the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act⁵ is applicable.

In Karnataka, the federation of elected women representatives (FEDEW) has nominated a new steering committee and has elected office bearers for the first time. FEDEW Karnataka proposes to register itself under the Societies Registration Act (1960) of Karnataka in April or May 2009.

The eighth Sarojini Naidu Prize, held on October 2, 2008, was a great success. Mr. P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister to the Government of India, was the esteemed chief guest. More than 1,300 article entries were received. Elected women leaders from 14 states came to Delhi for the occasion and also met the Congress President, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi at her residence to share their success and challenges (photo above).

The National Platform to Promote Decentralisation (NPPD) was launched in New Delhi. This first national consultation meeting of the NPPD was organized in partnership with the National

⁴ The constitution of India enables the government to enact separate laws for the governance and administration of the tribal dominated areas. Such tribal dominated areas, as identified by the State government are then declared as [Fifth Schedule](#) areas. Such areas have special rights and the Governor of the respective states have powers to make regulations for better governance and for protecting the rights of the tribal community.

⁵The Panchayat Extension Act (PESA) for the scheduled area was enacted by the Union government in 1996. Under this act the Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zilla Parishad have been provided with some special powers in the scheduled area. The government of Orissa brought about an amendment in the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act on December 22, 1997 in conformity with this act. This is known as the Orissa Gram Panchayat Amendment Act 1997.

Institute of Rural Development in Hyderabad. More than 30 representatives from civil society groups, academia, government, and multilateral and bilateral agencies such as The Ford Foundation, UNDP and SDC participated in the meeting. The stakeholders reiterated that THP should continue in its role as facilitator and secretariat for the NPPD.

Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
Training of Trainers (TOTs) Workshops	10 TOTs held. 201 trainers trained. Modules refreshed. Federation training module developed. All modules printed.
Women's Leadership Workshops (WLWs) and Follow-up Workshops	Conducted in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Maharashtra. 70 WLWs trained 998 elected women representatives (EWRs).
SWEEP – Pre-election Campaign	Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are planning for SWEEP. Will be launched later in 2009.
Federation Building in Karnataka	Federation representatives from 21 districts met at the state level. Election of FEDEW office bearers done.
Federations facilitated in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar	32 block-level federations with 1,900 EWRs members.
7 Media Workshops	173 journalists interfaced with EWRs. Write-ups of EWRs in several mainstream newspapers across India. SNP 2009 received 1,327 entries.
National Platform for Promoting Decentralization	NPPD launched in November 2009. Research studies commissioned.

Partnerships

THP's partnership with the Government of India to set up media hubs has moved to the next phase. A pilot center is housed in the state office of The Hunger Project in Bhopal, which has already forged a partnership with media. The next phase will look at media partnerships in Rajasthan.

The Government of India is a key stakeholder in NPPD. Alongside the partnership at the national level, several efforts have been made to meet with state governments to promote decentralization in Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh.

Edita Vokral, Assistant Director General of SDC and head of bilateral aid to India from Switzerland, visited our work in Maharashtra. She interacted with the elected women leaders and also attended a federation meeting.

THP's partnership with Environment Defense Fund (EDF) on strengthening women's leadership in forging the agenda of climate change in rural India continues. This partnership will develop a film on climate change and its impact on India. The film is now being edited. Once finalized, THP will hold a premiere in New Delhi. In the next phase, the film will be used as a vehicle to generate dialogue on climate change amongst the rural leaders to enable them to find locally sustainable solutions for their problems.

THP's partnership with SALA IDA (now known as SKL International) continues. In March 2009, seven EWRs from seven districts of Karnataka visited Sweden along with seven THP non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. The EWRs visited two municipalities and dialogued with female politicians of Sweden. They also visited different Swedish federations/associations to learn about the structure, membership and sustainability of large federations.

THP-India hosted an investor trip from Sweden and The Netherlands. The investors visited villages in Orissa and interacted with the elected women leaders.

Sriparna G. Chaudhuri, Director, THP-India, also met investors in Germany, the United Kingdom and Sweden to talk about the path-breaking work of THP with the elected women leaders in village panchayats in India. Sriparna spoke at several events in these countries.

THP-India team member Kanika Kaul attended a SIDA-sponsored course in Sweden entitled "International Training Program on Democratic Institutions and Participatory Democracy."

We receive in-country funding contributions to THP-India from:

- a) Government of India (GOI);
- b) New Zealand Embassy; and
- c) Ribbink Van Den Hoek Foundation.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

Mainstream newspapers and alternate media like *The Times of India*, Indo-Asian News Service (IANS), One World South Asia, *Orissa Today*, *Dinamalar*, *Indian Express*, *The Asian Age* and *Hindustan Times* covered the 2008 Sarojini Naidu Prize and interviewed the elected women leaders who were in Delhi for the occasion and a meeting with the Congress President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. Monglik Thongshin, an elected representative from the state of Arunachal Pradesh shared her vision of empowering women and girls in her community to generate incomes. Her story was covered by *The Times of India*, which caught the attention of two government officials from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Just recently, these two officials contacted Monglik and promised to provide her with funds to establish a weaving centre for the young women and girls in her village, making Monglik's dream come true! These same officials also expressed their

amazement that THP provides such top-quality and effective training to elected women in such remote and isolated villages as Monglik's.

In Uttarakhand, the SWEEP campaign focused on a radio program, which ran for 21 days. The campaign successfully reached more than 15,000 people both directly and indirectly.

In January 2009, The Hunger Project-India, along with its partner Vikas Samvad and other bilateral organizations such as CRY and UNICEF, organized a three-day workshop called “Dialogues with the Media” in Madhya Pradesh. Leading dailies from six states – Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Jharkhand and Punjab, as well as news portals, sent their reporters for the workshop.

In January 2009, elected women leaders from block-level federations representing five districts of Karnataka called for a press conference in order to raise their voices against the government. Paying for their own travel, women leaders came to Bangalore to talk about the notifications of the government that labeled Gram Panchayat Representatives as failures in implementation and execution of panchayat work. Twelve journalists from different media agencies participated in the meet and covered the issue in both English and Kannada newspapers.

THP-India collaborated with The Ministry of Women and Child Development (Government of India), UNIFEM and the Norwegian Embassy in Delhi to celebrate International Women’s Day in March 2009. Approximately 700 guests, who included senior government officials, diplomats, bilateral organizations, civil society organizations and women from diverse groups across the city, attended the festivities. In addition, *The Times of India*, India’s leading National Daily interviewed and quoted Ms. Rita Sarin Country Director of THP-India, in an article entitled “Agents of Change March On.” This article highlighted the achievements of elected women leaders across the country and the difference they are making in their communities.

The Country Director, along with the senior team members, has attended 26 strategic meetings in the last six months to initiate new partnerships and deepen the agenda of women and local governance with the Government of India, bilateral agencies and other key stakeholders.

Recent Innovations

THP-India has adopted the Anti Sexual Harassment Policy and is in the process of setting up a Committee. According to the Supreme Court of India Vishakha guidelines, every organization is mandated to adopt an Anti Sexual Harassment Policy.

THP-India commissioned a book on the lives of seven EWRs from seven different states. The book is entitled “A Woman in Politics.” The stories have been written by well-known authors and journalists and have been edited by a freelance writer and columnist. Harper Collins India has shown keen interest in publishing the book.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



Dalimba Majhi, Ward member, Golamunda Gram Panchayat, Golamunda Block, District Kalahandi, Orissa

In 2007, when the seat in the ward was reserved for Scheduled Tribe (women), Dalimba Majhi aged 24, was asked by people in her area to contest, as she happened to be the most educated of women in their ward. A ninth-grade graduate and a first-time entrant, she was encouraged by her father-in-law, who saw this as an opportunity to do something worthwhile in their village. She contested against one other woman and won by a margin of 60 votes.

Soon after, her electoral victory, Dalimba attended a Women's Leadership Workshop (WLW) organized by THP in Golamunda Block. Following the WLW, she shed her initial hesitation and her shyness evaporated.

In a short stint of two years, Dalimba has managed to get a road constructed under the centrally sponsored National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), facilitated fourteen old age pensions and one Indira Awas Yojana (a government housing scheme) house for her ward. This is a commendable achievement for such a young woman. Golamunda block is known to be one of the most misruled blocks of Kalahandi district. Here, even male ward members find it difficult to get any work done due to continuous interference and harassment by unruly elements (contractors, corrupt officials) and do not attend Gram Panchayat meetings.

Apart from being a ward member, Dalimba is also an *Asha* worker (Accredited Social Health Activist) under Janani Suraksha Yojana [Women's Protection Programme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)]. Until now, she has successfully motivated and assisted 20 mothers in safe delivery at the local hospital. Her readiness to assist any person in distress has endeared her to the villagers.

Coming from a community where female literacy is very low, Dalimba gives special emphasis to girl child education. When she came to know that many girls were dropping out of school after grade III, she went door to door urging the parents to let their girl children complete their primary school education, and to ensure they could at least read and write Oriya competently. Her campaign paid off and five girls, who had earlier dropped out of school, are now in grade VI. Dalimba further wants to improve the overall education facilities at Golamunda to ensure a better life for her own as well as all other children in the village.

Apart from her father-in-law, Dalimba's husband gives her his complete support. The people in her ward are very happy with her work, and they cooperate fully with her. Her role as an *Asha* worker also entails visits to a wide variety of people in her ward, who now also come to her with their problems, in addition to her own constituents.

Nevertheless, Dalimba rues that a lot remains to be done.

Impact Assessment

The main objective of impact assessment for this period was to track and quantify the activities per our strategy:

- Data has been uploaded on the THP website for year 2008.
- Coding sheets based on all the activities of THP-India have been developed to track programs across India, so consistency in reporting is maintained.
- THP-India has submitted a detailed logframe to identify key outputs and inputs.

Future Plans

- THP-India will be planning and implementing SWEEP in three large states: Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, and Karnataka.
- THP-India will be hosting an investor trip in November 2009.
- The federation of elected women in Karnataka will be launched in May 2009.
- EDF-funded film on climate change will be premiered April/May 2009.
- THP commissioned book profiling the stories of seven elected women will be published and launched by Harper Collins in September/October 2009.

India Country Profile

Population (male, female)	1,028,610,328 male: 532,156,772; female: 496,453,556
Percent of population in rural areas	71.3%
GDP per capita	3,827
Infant mortality rate per 1000	57
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	450
Life expectancy	63 years
Percent population undernourished	20.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (male, female)	male: 0.4%; female: 0.3%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	NA
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	0.3%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 86.7%; female: 77.1%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 96.1%; female: 92.2%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	41.6%

The Hunger Project-Mexico

Overview

Following rigorous reflections on our learnings from 2008, The Hunger Project (THP)-Mexico has revised our strategy to refocus on the territories where we can justify our presence, responding to precise criteria that reflect our three pillars. At the same time, we are fostering a dialog with SEDESOL (Secretaría de Desarrollo Social – National Social Development Ministry) at the three levels of government that is consistent with our three pillars.



Our goal is to establish objective and robust evidence that our model works so that we can make it available throughout Mexico, to other entities in Latin America and worldwide.

There are distinct zones in our work in Mexico:

- **North:** In Zacatecas: six municipios, 24 communities and in Durango: two municipios and 10 communities.
- **South:** Chiapas: at the women's cooperative J'Pas Joloviletik, where we mostly are working on empowering indigenous women in San Cristobal de las Casas and Ejido 11 de Abril, municipios Unión Juárez, which is a former successful agricultural coffee model of the 1950s and a model on how globalization affected the community and created a backlash into poverty.

Sadly, insecurity has permeated across the country, as the infamous “ZETAS,” a group of former military men organized to perform all sorts of crimes from drug dealing to kidnapping, are active everywhere. The efforts of the federal government are well known, yet the official figures do not reflect the current climate of insecurity that exists both in urban and rural areas.

While we already had good alliances at the municipal and state levels, we have achieved a breakthrough in forging alliances with government at the national level. We have now established two forms of partnership with SEDESOL:

- In the state of Zacatecas, we have been granted the official status of being an “Agency for Local Development,” which means SEDESOL will directly fund us to implement our program;
- We have successfully created a pilot program in the state of Hidalgo that will launch in April. This program, initially formulated during Jill Lester's visit in November, will have us train

SEDESOL staff to utilize the methodology of THP to catalyze a bottom-up process of rural development in all sectors.

Regarding alliances with other key actors of society, we are at work with the Institute for Social Development which is the branch of ITESM (Technological Institute of Superior Studies of Monterrey) that intends to generate social development throughout the country. We have been working in partnership with ITESM leadership to incorporate THP principles into their structure. In April, the coordinators of their Centers for Community of Learning (CCAs) will be trained as catalysts (animators) and start the first steps of mobilization.

Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
Cutting-edge, strategic action plan. Revision and update of the actions taken in 2008 based on the three pillars.	Final document understood and owned by each and every team member of THP. The same process of ownership is taking place in the field.
Mobilization experience.	4,174 participants in 157 Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAWs). 19 catalyst trainings. Community actions or initiatives on MDGs: Health, 2; Environment, 8; Income generation, 36, Infrastructure, 13.
Women's awareness of their rights in Zacatecas.	53 women from different municipios participated in the workshops that took place in collaboration with the Institute for Zacatecas Women. Women's rights workshops conducted to commemorate International Women's Day.
Women's empowerment in Enrique Flores Magon, Durango.	The local women's group that manufactures and sells clothes joined with THP staff to celebrate International Women's Day. The women led and created their own workshop to talk about the events, which culminated in this commemoration with the rest of the women in the community.
Women's empowerment in Oriente, Durango.	Women are having "Ejido" (cooperative) conversations on women's rights; traditionally this was

	not appropriate. They are also participating in assemblies.
Empowering indigenous women.	After a long history of depending on external agencies to manage any aspect of their business, the women are becoming more independent.
Sustainability of the cooperative J'pas Joloviletik. Ownership of their own legal process.	30 indigenous women have assumed new positions in the council of the cooperative in Chiapas. Also, they are in the process of fulfilling the legal requirements for the sustainability of the cooperative.
Chiapas cooperative computer skills training.	Ten women finished a training in basic computer skills.
Towards community mobilization in Chiapas.	VCAW translated to Tzotzil, and the first VCAW was held.
Stronger alliance with the state government.	Renewal and expansion of agreement endorsed and signed by the Governor Amalia García in Zacatecas. It grew from 2 to 10 government agencies.

Challenge	Lessons Learned
The virtual store is active but not yet generating the expected income.	EBay has proven to be an expensive medium for sale. Other alternatives are being tested. However, the relationship with the women has been reinforced, and they are taking solid steps towards formalizing their business.
Scale up mobilization in communities.	By the end of 2009, we had worked in 113 communities. However in a rigorous look, we were far from having real presence in each and every community. We had 519 catalysts, but few had given VCAWs. We now have a new, more inspiring version of the VCAW. We learned that one municipal coordinator can not, in the first year, generate sufficient mobilization as far as expansion and depth towards sustainability. The profile of the coordinator requires a higher level of communications and skills to build relationships and to work towards a long-term vision.

	<p>Also, given the geographical conditions and dispersion of communities, some clusters might have five communities, some less. There are some communities that do not fit our current criteria, and we are therefore taking the necessary steps to withdraw from those communities.</p>
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Partnerships

Ongoing Partnerships:

- **National Institute for Women** (INMUJERES, Instituto Nacional para las Mujeres) granted us funds for the Women’s Cooperative J’pas Joliviletik “Hands that Weave,” to create a virtual store.
- **Lagunero Council of NGOs** (CONSEJO LAGUNERO DE ONG’s) gathers civil society organizations of the La Laguna region in Durango; we have participated in it since 2006. The Lagunero Council serves as the connecting actor in transparency granting the resources that the municipality has, by law, assigned to the organized civil society.

New Partnerships:

- **Institute of Zacatecas Women** (INMUNZA) designated one of their staff to work exclusively with THP, an already trained catalyst, Bertha Goytia.
- **Municipal and “ejido” agreements.** There is a written agreement for each and every one of the municipios where we are at work in Durango and Zacatecas and also with the “ejido” authorities.
- **CDI** (National Commission for Development of the Indigenous Towns) is at work in the creation of the Internet site without cost for the cooperative store J’Pas Joloviletik in Chiapas.
- **Fair Trade Mexico** (Comercio Justo México) to certify best quality and fair prices of the handcrafts that the indigenous women manufacture. Given that there is no precedent in Mexico, this opens doors for other cooperatives and communities in the country.
- **Zacatecas Government Agreement:** we sat down with the Women’s Institute of Zacatecas (INMUNZA), Agency for the Integral Family Development (DIF) and Youth of Zacatecas (INJUZA) to design a specific action plan derived from our missions and mutual plan actions for 2009. This has and still requires very well invested time so that the actions follow a long term sustainable plan, congruent with our principles.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

1. The signing of the Zacatecas Agreement with the State Government was covered by local newspapers. The agreement was signed by the official representative of the governor, Amalia García, and our President and CEO, Jill Lester.
2. The magazine *Psychologies* included an article on THP's approach to women's empowerment commemorating the International Women's Day.
3. Mexican Institute of Radio conducted a radio interview regarding our work, focusing on our bottom-up approach.
4. Ibero-American University used our work as a model to focus on bottom-up and women's empowerment.
5. Forum for Social Society Organizations used our work as a model to focus on bottom-up and women's empowerment.
6. Mexico Migrante, regarding Zacatecas migration.
7. Given the participation of our Country Director on the Citizen Advisory Board for SEDESOL, the organization has had access to important information, other organizations and forums. Thus, the relationship with federal government continues to be strengthened.

Recent Innovations

Impact Assessment:

- There is now a person accountable for the outcomes of each of the three pillars.
- Our central office dashboard reflects the main key indicators of mobilization and other activities like grant proposals so that the vision and its key indicators are always present and alive.

Learning Culture:

- Regarding the implementation of a learning culture, we created a strategic team, which holds monthly meetings in which a shared understanding is continually discussed.
- A process has started in which manuals from the VCAW, Catalysts Training and Training of Trainers (TOT) are being revised and updated, taking into account the mobilization experience.
- As part of our mobilization efforts, we now have a system established to spot and include all key groups from the communities in the mobilization.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



Raquel Soto Hernández, from Colonia Ricardo Flores Magón, Durango

Raquel is in her 40s. All her life she had been behaving according to what was expected from her. She was a good housewife. She neither studied nor worked nor had income of her own. Her son and daughter were raised to believe in and act according to gender roles. Some time ago, Raquel began to realize that she wasn't happy. She felt stagnated. When she met THP, she found the tools she needed to set herself free and be able to make a change in her life, family and community.

Nowadays, Raquel has autonomy and mobility. She has been exercising her leadership with other women and youth. They began baking and selling bread in order to get money for a community savings fund. She is also mobilizing the community to improve their little clinic, to collect money to buy a medicine cabinet, and to get some women trained in first aid. In addition, Raquel organized a volleyball team, and now the team travels to different communities to play. She has learned that she has the power to make things happen and that it is her responsibility to transform her life and her community.

At the beginning, her husband and son were pretty angry with Raquel. Now, they are even starting to participate with her in different activities. Similarly, her daughter is now questioning her own behavior and is starting her own liberation process.

It is an honor to partner with such a wonderful woman leader!

Impact Assessment

The metrics to fulfill the promises for mobilization were number of trainings and catalysts; number of clusters and number of villages.

For the next six months we will be tracking the results per pillar:

- Mobilization: VCAWs, trainings, TOTs, community action meetings, and actions and initiatives toward the MDGs;
- Gender equality: campaigns, participation of women in mobilization; and
- Alliances with governments: VCAWs for government, trainings.

Mexico Country Profile

Population (male, female)	103,263,388 male: 50,249,955; female: 53,013,433
Percent of population in rural areas	24%
GDP per capita	11,532
Infant mortality rate per 1000	29
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	60
Life expectancy	74 years
Percent population undernourished	5.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (total)	0.3%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	11,000
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	0.3%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 98.2%; female: 97.9%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 99.8%; female: 99.0%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	2.0%

Bolivia

In Bolivia, The Hunger Project contributes funding to a partner organization, **Fundación Acción Cultural Loyola (ACLO)**, for its project on "Rural and Indigenous Leaders Training for the Exercise of Power in a Local Development Context." This document is ACLO's report on this project.

Overview

In the last six months, ACLO's work has been designed to adjust existing and apply new methodologies to the planned activities in the project, both in the training of men and women leaders and in supporting the action and advocacy of peasant and indigenous organizations. We are taking into account that the main challenge is to support the adoption and implementation of the new Bolivian Constitution. This will aid in the realization of social, political, economic and cultural transformations that have been demanded for many years.



Details on Progress

Achievement	Achievement Measurement
Training program for indigenous leaders and <i>campesinos</i> updated and running	A training program for indigenous leaders and <i>campesinos</i> was organized and updated, with a second group, made up of 152 leaders (59 women and 93 men), in the process of training until June 2009.
Teams of committed and updated educators	Three teams of educators from Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija (7 women and 5 men) are refreshing their knowledge and skills in educational techniques for working with adults.
Indigenous leaders and <i>campesinos</i> trained	In two training courses, 308 <i>indígenas</i> and <i>campesinos</i> (125 women and 183 men) from Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija gained leadership skills for influencing public policies and local development. 99 <i>campesino</i> leaders (70 men and 29 women) from Chuquisaca Center have been trained with financial support from local governments.

Achievement	Achievement Measurement
Proposals for local development	Three proposals that contribute to local development, on issues such as strengthening livestock production and unifying <i>campesino</i> organizations, were developed and promoted by <i>campesino</i> organizations from Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija.
Strategic Alliances in <i>campesino</i> and indigenous organizations	<i>Campesino</i> and indigenous organizations of Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija are motivated to establish strategic alliances, with no significant progress to date.
Advocacy Training	In two training courses, 308 <i>campesinos</i> (125 women and 183 men) from Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija are strengthening their skills in managing and influencing public policies.
Women leaders, both indigenous and <i>campesinas</i> , trained and in representative positions	In two training courses, 125 indigenous women and <i>campesinas</i> from Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija gained leadership skills for influencing public policies and local development. 41% (51 women) of the 125 women trained occupy decision-making positions in their <i>campesino</i> /indigenous organizations.
Indigenous and <i>campesina</i> development proposals	Organizations of indigenous and <i>campesino</i> women are motivated to build local development proposals. They have already incorporated proposals in municipal management in 2009: leadership training, organic gardens, poultry farms and craft and sewing centers.
<i>Campesino</i> and indigenous leaders in positions of power	30% of <i>campesinos</i> and indigenous people that participated in the training program (43 women and 51 men) in Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija are involved in critical areas and processes of governance.
Radio Reporting Training	In two years of this project, 60 communities (38% women) from Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija have completed their training in radio communication through monthly internships at ACLO.

Partnerships

In the last six months, due to management efforts by *campesino* organizations, agreements were established with four municipalities in Chuquisaca (Sopachuy, Tarvita, Alcalá and El Villar), who economically supported the development of training workshops for indigenous leaders and *campesinos* in their municipalities, thus expanding program coverage.

In November 2008, an agreement was reached with the municipal government of Tacobamba (Potosí), through which six training workshops for leaders were developed (since December 2007). The agreement was promoted by Ms. Sabina Fernandez, councilor of the municipality, who also participated in the training program supported by THP.

The relationships with nine indigenous and *campesino* organizations in Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija have been maintained and strengthened. The close link with the indigenous and *campesino* organizations is critical to the impact of our actions.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

ACLO Foundation directors have continuously participated in radio and television programs with local, national and international coverage, and are exposing complaints and reflections on the violence and racism that emerged and deepened in 2008. Discussions of the opportunities and challenges presented by the process of change Bolivia were also aired.

Through three FM radio stations aimed at the urban audience of Sucre, Potosí and Tarija, ACLO delivers its opinion on various topics, promotes respect for individual and collective human rights, disseminates views and proposals from *campesino* organizations, and promotes the State's Constitution that was approved and enacted in January-February of this year.

The ACLO Foundation, directly or in conjunction with networks of development institutions, have had contact with authorities of municipal governments and Bolivia's central government to raise concerns or suggestions concerning public policy design and implementation, especially relating to: municipal development projects; water management and soil pollution in the Pilcomayo River; and implementation of distance primary education programs by radio.

Recent Innovations

In recent months, ACLO teams, together with the indigenous and peasant organizations, have developed methodologies to support and nurture the development of public policy proposals and plans that create favorable conditions for a dignified life, social and cultural integration, respectful intercultural relationships and sustainable development.

Responding to the accelerated process of urbanization in recent years due to intense urban migration, ACLO has initiated pilot projects to promote processes of rural-urban linkages, particularly for communications activities from three radio stations in frequency modulated (FM) in Sucre, Potosí and Tarija.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



Lola Mamani Bellido (Potosí)

Lola was born on July 31, 1963 in the Quechuas community, which is in the Puna municipality and Linares province. She is 46 years old, and studied in her community's school up to seventh grade. She is married and is a housewife.

From an early age, Lola was dedicated to promoting women's participation and groups and supported the creation of the Association of Women Leaders, which subsequently led to The Bartolina Sisa de

Potosí Women's Federation in 2006. Along with several organizations, Lola worked to create the Quchas borough, which, in the upcoming municipal elections (April 2010), will be a new Potosí municipality that will elect their own authorities.

In 2007, Lola discovered the THP Leader Training Program through an agreement signed with The Bartolina Sisa de Potosí Women's Federation. Her husband supported her greatly; he visited the ACLO offices to determine when the training would start. In August 2008, Lola joined the training program for leaders.

Since attending the leadership training workshops, Lola has shown increased dynamism in her support of the women's organization that she manages as well as in seeking better health care and education in her borough. Above all, she encourages other women to be trained.

In a male-dominated "macho" context, where women are undervalued, her main learning experience is having overcome her fears and strengthening her self-esteem. Now, Lola operates as a better leader and has strengthened her core values. Lola has more information and more discretion in exercising her responsibilities. In particular, she has tools to mobilize organization participation, proposal development and the management of social control toward municipality government. Her participation in training events is active and encourages other women to continue the training process.

As the leader of the Quechuas Women's Organization in 2009, Lola prompted and was part of the organizational process to create a Primary Education Center for distance learning by radio, and she is being trained as a teacher guide to help overcome the low level of education of farmers and peasants. Lola prompted another woman leader to assume the post of "executive secretary" (highest authority) in the borough's women's rural organization. Lola has had an influence on three women assuming leadership or management positions in The Bartolina Sisa de Potosí Women's Federation.

Bolivia Country Profile

Population (male, female)	8,274,325 4,123,850, 4,150,475
Percent of population in rural areas	35.6%
GDP per capita	2,984
Infant mortality rate per 1000	50
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	290
Life expectancy	66 years
Percent population undernourished	23.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (total)	0.2%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	500
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	0.2%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 99.0%; female: 97.9%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 95.8%; female: 96.7%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	19.6%

Peru

In Peru, The Hunger Project contributes funding to a partner organization, **Chirapaq Center for Indigenous Cultures of Peru**, for its project on "Strengthening Organization and Networking of Mixed and Indigenous Women's Organizations." This document is Chirapaq's report on this project for the period January-March 2009.

Overview

We can characterize the first quarter as: valuing and acknowledging our progress and advancing the fight against hunger and sustainability.

The Latin American Summit on Climate Change and its Impact on Indigenous Peoples was held within the context of climate vulnerability, increased disease, loss of water sources (Peru has lost 22% in the last 10 years), increasing desertification of soils and poor performance of the production and biodiversity in the countryside. One hundred and fifty leaders of indigenous organizations from Latin America raised their voices against the state policies that result in hunger and poverty and which ignore human rights, specifically of indigenous peoples. *(Photo: Latin American Summit on Climate Change. Lima, 24-25 March 2009)*



THP's support has helped to ensure the strengthening of Chirapaq's network for the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of South America and the Permanent Forum of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru.

In Peru and through our Permanent Forum, we have strengthened regional platforms in four strategic provinces with large indigenous populations: Ayacucho, Amazonas, Junín and Puno. We have designed action plans for training, organizational strengthening, and monitoring and influencing public policy on issues of food sovereignty, environment, health and education. This has boosted the visibility and activities of 15 indigenous organizations, ensuring the exercise of rights to consultation, participation, food, primary health care and culturally relevant education, for more than 8,000 indigenous women. It has also aided in the development of more inclusive approaches to public officials and development agencies, through public debates on the implementation of programs in our countries, as well as addressing the issue of identity and human rights of indigenous peoples at local and regional levels.

Regarding food sovereignty and climate change, efforts have focused on the control, conservation, biodiversity enhancement and care of water resources; promotion of local markets; the recovery and promotion of traditional technology that is highly adaptable to changing climate conditions; and ensuring that indigenous people are consulted on these issues.

(Note: The UN Conference of Parties to the Convention on Climate Change is coming up this December 7-18 in Copenhagen <http://en.cop15.dk/>. Many of the actions in this report are designed to maximize the opportunity for improving both the lives and influence of indigenous peoples.)

Details on Progress

During the period January to March 2009, we enhanced the process of decentralization of our Indigenous Women's Program and the Permanent Forum of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru, into four regions and 15 organizations in Ayacucho, Junín, Puno and the Amazon. Our aim was to increase effectiveness in the development of national actions and international impact. This has resulted in the creation of four regional platforms, which seek to coordinate initiatives and monitor activities and impact from the indigenous organizations in each region. This enables each regional platform to develop their own regional action plans, identifying allies and opportunities for public and political impact.

In Ayacucho, the platform is pressing the priorities of self-recognition, intercultural education, violence and the impact of climate change on food sovereignty.

Also, leaders of the Pomatambo Microbasin presented at the Consultative Committee of the Province of Vilcashuamán, the results of parasitological surveys of children under five years of age from 11 Quechua communities in the province, which were carried out in February 2009. This action led to a campaign on food hygiene and health with an emphasis on hand-washing.

In Junín, the regional hub of Central Peru is made up of several indigenous organizations who promote the themes of intercultural education and health in the region.

We promoted participation and channeling of efforts through our regional delegations at a Health Forum in Junín region. In the Andean region of Junín, we are concerned about high levels of suicide among adolescents and youth, family violence and sexual violence. In the Amazon area, we focus on high levels of early pregnancy and inadequate health services. To address this, we are considering the creation of Intercultural Training Institutes for indigenous youth and the creation of a facility where pregnant women in labor can be supported according to their customs and traditions.

In Puno, the Regional Platform consists of indigenous organizations, who under the Permanent Forum of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru, are working for the establishment of the Regional Management of Women in the Puno Region and to control the environmental impacts of mining. In the month of March, there was a landslide at the Carabaya mining site resulting in deaths, injuries and homelessness.

In the Amazon region, the indigenous organization that is driving the process is Awaruna Huambisa, which has formed an agreement with the Provincial Government of Santa Maria de Nieva-Condorcanqui resulting in a commitment to fund the training of indigenous leaders in the province.

Nationally, the Permanent Forum for the Coordination and Continental Liaison of Indigenous Women of the South American Region held the Latin American Summit: Climate Change and Impact on Indigenous Peoples on March 24-25, 2009. This in the context of the preparatory actions for the Indigenous People's Global Summit on Climate Change to take place in April in Alaska. (See <http://www.indigenoussummit.com>). The Latin American Summit involved 76 leaders of indigenous organizations in Mexico, Central and South America, who shared a report on the Impact of Climate Change on Indigenous Peoples related to sustainable development, food sovereignty and security, life and health of indigenous people and impact on women and the younger generations.

Leaders of indigenous organizations made an effort to formulate effective strategies and solutions from the knowledge of indigenous peoples to be presented at the Indigenous People's Global Summit on Climate Change. They captured the experiences and lessons from many indigenous peoples and analyzed the impact and consequences of programs and offerings for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, from the perspective of women, indigenous peoples and future generations.

Partnerships

To ensure sustainability of Chirapaq's actions, we have signed 12 agreements with indigenous organizations who are working within the regional agenda; two Technological Education Institutes; one local government in the district of San Juan Bautista to Ayacucho for the promotion of youth activities with Quechua; and 11 with each of the Local Education Management Units of the department of Ayacucho, to work for intercultural education Quechua peoples.

In addition, we have strategic alliances with:

- The National Center for Intercultural Health, which formed the National Advisory Committee on Sexual Reproductive Health, jointly with the Permanent Forum of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru. At this level, we promote the National Action Plan on Sexual Reproductive Health.
- The Ministry of Women, with whom we maintain a partnership to implement the Plan for Equal Opportunities in relation to the Millennium Development Goals of the UN.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

Eleven provinces in the Ayacucho region have been promoting the proposal developed by Chirapaq for intercultural education, with 250 teachers engaged in bilingual education and the rights of our peoples.

On the issue of food sovereignty, Chirapaq's network disseminates information to the Ayacucho Quechua community in the province of Vilcashuamán and Huamanga.

Recent Innovations

- Decentralization of the actions of the Indigenous Women's Program at the national level into four regions, with permanent staff in three of them and minimal resources allocated to each area in order to give more sustained support to indigenous organizations.
- Formation of regional platforms, with an agenda defined from the perspective of indigenous peoples, and visibility as part of the national indigenous movement.
- Recovery and validation of indigenous peoples' knowledge, technologies and initiatives to fight hunger and poverty, as part of a process of promoting and integrating them into policy actions.

Profile of a Leader in the Community



To ensure our goals, four of our 90 indigenous leaders in the country are driving the revitalization of the Permanent Forum of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru and its regional platforms. These women are active in their organizations and advocates of change, with a high degree of responsibility and commitment to their organizations in the fight against hunger and poverty.

One of these is **Evelin Acuna**, an 18-year-old Quechua. Evelin joined the organization ASMUC (Association of Rural Women of the River Vilca in

Huancavelica) with her mother, who often is her supportive partner. Evelin participates in activities of her the organization, including decentralized training workshops developed by Chirapaq with THP.

Born in the community in Huancavelica Moya, Evelin faced food shortages, violence, state indifference, abuse, lack of rights and exclusion. In her own words: *"...We do not need indigenous social programs that divide us. For us, the training, education, and information about our rights strengthens us, enhances our self-esteem. We realize that we are not poor, as they say, but that our proposals to improve the economy of the family are good and very important. We are able to access government services as long as we ask how we are to be supported, because we just want this support to succeed."*

Peru Country Profile

Population (male, female)	27,274,000 male: 13,665,000; female: 13,609,000
Percent of population in rural areas	25.4%
GDP per capita	6,624
Infant mortality rate per 1000	21
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	240
Life expectancy	73 years
Percent population undernourished	12.0%
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate (total)	0.5%
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	3,300
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	0.5%
Literacy rate of people aged 15 – 24 (male, female)	male: 98.5%; female: 97.2%
Net primary school enrollment rate (male, female)	male: 98.3%; female 99.8%
Percent population earning less than \$1/day	8.2%