### The Hunger Project (THP) – Switzerland Newsletter



#### Investing in a fair future worth living

Investing in our work means to be a partner to the people on site. Investors of The Hunger Project express their partnership and solidarity with the local people actively and directly by their personal and financial commitment. They are confident that the necessary changes on site can be achieved with their investment in the strengths and abilities of the people in the program countries.

We do not distinguish between donors and recipients. Investments in the programs of The Hunger Project lead to local developments which are also positive and profitable for us. The local people make these developments possible with their hard work. They and we are both givers and takers. We all benefit from the investments. It is about a fair future worth living for all in the One World. Please invest in our work!

# Are you looking for original and sustainable Christmas gifts?

Men's underwear made from recycled PET bottles or an environment-friendly, portable water bottle that makes worldwide any water clean and drinkable by means of the built-in revolutionary filter. Find out more on www.wonderlands.ch and www.watertogo.ch/thp/de/ (in German) or www.watertogo.ch/thp/ (in French). CHF 25 of each bottle sold and 5% of the sales price of each underwear goes to THP



#### Experience report – visit of an epicenter in Malawi

Corinne Corradi, geographer, formerly active in international development cooperation, reports on her visit to a THP epicenter in Malawi: "Honestly, I was skeptical when I reserved a day of my trip to Malawi to visit an epicenter of The Hunger Project: curious but skeptical!

I had seen, supported or worked on many projects before, and I had often asked myself whether they would be sustainable for and by the local people. When I met Esther, however, I quickly realized that this woman had seized her chance; she had developed a vision. The Hunger Project had advised and encouraged her to apply for a loan in the form of seed and fertilizer. Since then, her harvest has multiplied, and with the proceeds Esther has financed a small house and her daughter's secondary school. By this time, she is able to harvest more than 25 sacks of corn (at 50 kg per sack) every season, and she is also an employer who hires field workers. She sells the corn at the epicenter, and she has paid back the loan in the form of corn. The epicenter stores the yields in





#### THE HUNGER PROJECT SWITZERLAND

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a granary, thus keeping local reserves for drought times, something the market would not do otherwise. Like this, everyone benefits, and the population around the epicenter is protected from drought and volatile market prices. Esther is 36, single, and was previously considered a vulnerable household. The epicenter has made a



new start possible for her and many others. Later, when such persons have regained their foothold, they will return something to the community, thus enabling a new group of people to benefit from the counselling and the loans. Those are robust principles by which the village community is guided: from awareness of its own responsibility and ability to act to good leadership decisions for itself and all the others. In addition to a women's hospital that is functioning independently by now, schools, an independent bank and some small businesses have also been created. Now that the village has organized access to the government power supply, a mill and a small tailor shop will be added as well. These are small steps, but people are motivated

and actively involved in establishing their local social networks and infrastructures to benefit better from the basic government services. I would have liked to stay longer to learn more about the community and the epicenter. What I have seen, however, has convinced me. Keep up the good work!

## Partner Story from Florence Anass in Ghana

Florence Anass, 45 years old, married, 3 children, living in the community Mintakrom, reports: "When THP started educating us in our community concerning savings, loans and how to be business oriented in any business one finds himself/herself doing, I regularly participated in the education programs. Also, the Women Empowerment animators taught us how to support our husbands in taking care of our own children. They made me to understand that it is not the sole responsibility of my husband to take care of the children. They educated us on domestic violence issues, how to co-exist peacefully with our life partner, gender roles, human rights issues and sexual and reproductive health rights. As a matter of fact, the continuous educational sessions changed my way of thinking, which is from doing

things "as usual" to a more decent, mature and advanced way of doing things.

After putting all the ideas together, I took a loan from the epicenter bank to expand my business. I applied the business skills I acquired



through the educational sessions and my trading business started progressing steadily. I got surprised myself. As the business was improving, I had to move from the table top into a "metal container shop". Now my provision store is generating enough money to support my husband to take care of our

children. I also cook rice and sell in front of my provision store which is also generating another stream of income to support the family. Our elder son has completed university and is now working at the Tema harbor; the second child is in the Senior High School while the last child is in the Junior High School. I can confidently say that I am now economically empowered and I am living happily and peacefully with my husband. Now that there is free progressive Senior High School in Ghana, our focus is to save towards educating our two remaining children at the tertiary level. With the future in mind, my immediate plan is to contribute voluntarily to the Pension Scheme so that life would be more comfortable after I attain sixty years of age. THP has really brought hope into my life and I owe them tons of gratitude."

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to ending chronic, persistent hunger by 2030! Alexandra Koch, Managing Director THP Switzerland