



Income



Income-generating activities help families pay for essentials like food, medical costs and school fees, while microloans enable starting or upgrading small businesses. These and other long-term solutions to ending hunger and poverty are at the center of the programs supported by ELCA World Hunger.



Chili peppers boost income for farmers in Indonesia

Chilis can be harvested multiple times a year and grow relatively quickly, giving farmers more opportunities to sell them at markets. One kilogram can sell for 30,000 IDR (\$3), so over three months, the crop has the potential to add up to 2 million IDR (\$200) in revenue. Now, Yaatulo and Mariata have diversified their income sources.



On a half-acre of land on Nias, Indonesia, that belonged to his father, Yaatulo and his wife, Mariata, grow bananas to support themselves and their two children.

While they work hard, the income from the bananas wasn't enough to support the family, Yaatulo says. Bananas are only harvested once a year, bringing the family an income equivalent to about \$40 (U.S.) a month.

"Sometimes we don't eat rice, maybe not for two days, just banana or cassava," Yaatulo said. "It makes me want to work harder so I can feed [my family]."

One day while working, he heard about a development program of the Center for Disaster Risk Management & Community Development Studies supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. He decided to join, and soon he had the support to borrow enough money for chili seeds. Over two months, Yaatulo and Mariata cleared their land and dug trenches to plant more than 1,000 chili bushes.

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"I will pay [the loan] back in three months so that someone else can use the money," Yaatulo says.

Through ELCA World Hunger, this church accompanies our neighbors like Yaatulo around the world as they work to end hunger and poverty. Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, farmers like Yaatulo have improved access to the tools, training, livestock, seeds and more that will help their families increase farm production and have more to eat and sell on the market.

Yaatulo and Mariata have become an inspiration for others in their community, examples of what can be accomplished with hard work and resourcefulness. Yaatulo has also offered his experience to others who ask for help starting their own farms.

Through it all, Yaatulo has his eyes set on one thing: education for his two children.

"We are listening and learning," Yaatulo said. "I feel very happy, and my No. 1 priority is schooling for my children."