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Front Cover Image: Oliva works on her group's demonstration
farm in the Visayas region of The Philippines © IFI-VIMROD

Lent & Good Friday Appeal 2022



Your gift will change the
lives of many communities
living in poverty.

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In a busy wing of the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, little Manna is being weighed by Hanan, a general nurse working in the hospital's paediatric unit. Like all too many babies in Gaza, Manna was born severely underweight. Her mother, Heba, says, "I took Manna to many doctors and nurses before, but she didn't improve". Now, aged seven months, Manna has made good progress since she was taken into the Ahli's Child Nutrition Program a month ago. After four visits to the program, she's doing well. Her weight has improved, and she's now moved from "severely" to "moderately" underweight. Heba says, "Here at the Ahli, the nurse measured my child and gave me some advice, and now she has benefitted. I'm very happy."

Hanan says the key success factors in helping the babies put on weight are the mother's cooperation and being able to buy more nutritious food for the family. In Gaza, long-afflicted by sanctions and war, it can be a huge challenge for families to buy nutritious food. Many are dependent on refugee rations (some have been refugees since 1948) which are often high in calories but low in nutrition.

As well as educating the mothers in nutrition, encouraging breast-feeding, and keeping a close eye on the babies' progress, the hospital gives the mothers fortified biscuits and multivitamins to supplement the babies' regular diet. Eighty percent of children who participate in the program

Checking the baby's weight at the Ahli Hospital © AID/ Julianne Stewart



Image: People in a remote village of Myanmar wearing their newly-delivered face masks ©CPM

Image: Village officers in Sri Lanka giving church volunteers the names of the most vulnerable households © Church of Ceylon.



improve. And when they don't, they can participate for a further three months - if crucial funding can continue...

Three years ago, in the rice-growing municipality of Purok Ni Bulan in The Philippines' Isabela province, a group of 13 farmers came together to form a Neighbourhood Association. They pooled all their capital, which amounted to about the equivalent of \$1,000 and requested a "Receivers to Givers" grant from AID's Philippines partner, E-CARE. They wanted to improve their rice production, to break the cycle of poverty.

Now, the project has provided enterprise development training to the group, including how to prepare financial records.

Jenny, the book-keeper for the Association, says, "I feel happy, the project provides many things. It helps us make savings, without realizing... It improves personal relations among members...I also realize doing financial work is difficult, but through trainings, I am learning how to prepare financial records!"

Jenny and her group were often forced to borrow capital at high interest rates just to earn their living. But now, thanks to a 10% savings component, they have increased their Association's capital six times from the initial \$1,000 to more than \$8,000, using the "Receivers to Givers" facility. And the bonus is that each time they pay the capital

back to E-CARE, they get to choose another group to receive a grant. So, the money keeps circulating and an increasing number of community groups are saved from the grind of poverty and the grip of money-lenders.

Projects like the Al Ahli Child Nutrition Project and the E-CARE Community Capacity Enhancement Project are just two projects of the many which will benefit from Anglicans in Development (AID)'s Lent and Good Friday Gift Appeal this year. Other projects include helping women like Josephine in Kenya to get the training they need to raise poultry for improved family nutrition and profit. Or supporting AID's partners to gain training themselves so that they can continue to provide vital support to their local communities.

Your donation can improve lives for babies like Manna in Gaza, for communities like Jenny's in the Philippines, and much, much more.



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