

THE LINK

Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter published
by International Needs Canada

SUMMER 2025

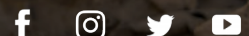
FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

**How nutrition
drives health,
learning, and
hope**



international needs
transformed lives, changed communities

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Equipping Students to Thrive: The Ephphata School Agricultural Project



Founded in 1983, the Ephphata School brings hope to deaf and hard of hearing children in Lubumbashi, DRC. In a society where disabilities are often misunderstood or stigmatized, families with limited resources often prioritize their other children, leaving many deaf and hard of hearing children without access to education.

Ephphata is changing this reality. Today, more than 250 students are enrolled. The school now has multiple classrooms, vocational workshops in carpentry and sewing, a dormitory for students who live too far away to commute, and farmland to help sustain its needs.

So far, only a small portion of this land has been cultivated. **Now, Ephphata is ready to expand its agricultural work and make greater use of this valuable resource.** The expansion is guided by several key goals:

- **Improving Nutrition:** Integrating more vegetables into student meals so they stay healthy and focused in class.
- **Enhancing Education:** Introducing hands-on agricultural learning for older students.
- **Strengthening Food Security:** Reducing dependence on outside sources through a reliable food supply.
- **Boosting Financial Stability:** Selling a portion of the harvest to support the school's operations.

This project will provide a new well for irrigation, essential farming equipment, and wages for three workers. The school will grow a variety of vegetables, including cabbage, tomatoes, okra, peppers, amaranth, eggplant, onions, and potatoes.

Thanks to funds already raised, much of what is needed for this project is in place. With just \$14,000 left to go, your support will strengthen food security, health, and education for Ephphata's students, helping them grow and reach their full potential.



Growing Strong in Guatemala: Kimberly's Bright Future

In rural Guatemala, many children grow up without access to early education, and poor nutrition often limits their development and future opportunities. Chronic malnutrition is a constant challenge in these communities, affecting not only children's physical growth but also their brain development and ability to learn. **But exciting change is taking place in the community of Paley.**



Thanks to your support, the Survive and Thrive program is breaking these cycles by laying strong foundations for learning and health from the very beginning. **Each week, young children take part in interactive learning sessions that build skills for school and healthy development, while mothers attend nutrition workshops and cooking classes.** Families learn how to prepare affordable, nutritious meals using local ingredients, giving them practical tools they can use every day.

Four-year old Kimberly is a shining example of the impact this program is having. When she joined last year, she was severely malnourished. Most of her meals were candy and chips, and she wasn't getting the nutrients her body needed to grow. After attending the workshops, her mother learned how the foods we eat can either support or hinder long-term development, and she began making nutritious meals at home.

Kimberly also receives Chispuditos, a special meal supplement for children under five. It's full of vitamins and minerals that help her grow, strengthen her immune system, and support her brain development. Today, she's healthier, more energetic, and ready for the future.

Your generosity makes stories like Kimberly's possible. Thank you for helping children in Guatemala grow, learn, and thrive.



Your Support Multiplied: The Impact of Group Sponsorship



Child sponsorship stands at the heart of our mission. It's a powerful way to make a lasting difference, and through your support, thousands of children have broken free from poverty's chains and charted their own paths forward.

While the traditional model of sponsorship continues to transform lives, **we introduced a group sponsorship approach a few years ago called the Group Empowerment Programs**, offering donors another avenue of support. Rather than one-to-one sponsorship, this approach allows donors to support groups of children, contributing any amount they choose monthly and pooling resources for broader impact.

Currently operating in Bangladesh, Ghana, and Uganda, the **Group Empowerment Programs provide students with education, nutritious meals, healthcare, skills training, and community support.** By focusing on entire schools, the programs ensure every child in need receives the tools and opportunities needed to thrive.

We share updates on the Group Empowerment Programs twice a year, with the latest released this August! Scan the QR code to view these reports and see the remarkable impact of the programs, or email us at sponsorship@internationalneeds.ca to learn how you can support them today.



Mahi is part of the Group Empowerment Program in Bangladesh, and her story illustrates real impact in action. After a session on gardening in class, Mahi received seeds to grow pumpkin, gourd, and cabbage. She brought them home, and the whole family planted the seeds in every unused space around their home the very same day. Over the next few months, their garden flourished, providing fresh vegetables for the family.

Those simple seeds sparked change that reaches far beyond the classroom. Mahi gained practical skills and confidence, her family's nutrition and health improved, and the entire household came together around a shared project. This is the power of community-focused giving. One educational opportunity can create lasting impact, strengthen families, develop skills, and transform entire communities.

Walk for Water 2025: Clean Water through Community Action



Introduced in 2023, the Walk for Water fundraiser has quickly become an annual summer tradition! This year, the first walk took place in Ontario, organized by advocates at Women Making a Difference, and the second walk was held in Alberta, organized by Bonavista Church.

The goal of the walks was to raise enough funds to provide one community with two boreholes, five latrines, and five handwashing stations. **Thanks to the dedication of walkers and supporters, the events raised an incredible \$57,000, enough to complete this work in one community and nearly cover the full amount needed for a second!**

With these funds, the villages of Ziasso and Mana will soon have access to clean water and proper sanitation, transforming the lives of families who have long faced daily struggles without safe water.

These walks highlight the dedication of Canadian leaders and advocates, and show how the support of people like you can create real, lasting change. While we celebrate this success, we are excited to keep the momentum going and reach even more communities in need of clean water.

To everyone who participated, donated or supported the events, thank you!



Interested in hosting a Walk for Water or another fundraising event in your community? We'd love to hear from you! Whether it's an activity, social media challenge, or even a garage sale, we can provide resources and guidance to help you make your fundraiser a success. **Email us at communications@internationalneeds.ca to start planning your impact today.**



Access to clean water is well known to reduce water-borne illnesses and help communities thrive, but it also has a direct impact on nutrition. When a borehole is installed, our partners pair it with a small platform to manage runoff. This platform collects excess water, which can then be safely directed into troughs, providing a reliable water source for livestock. This not only reduces water waste but also keeps livestock healthy, boosting food security and overall health!

Welcome Annika and Priscilla: Two New Voices Join Our Mission

The International Needs Canada family is growing! We're excited to introduce two women who have stepped into key roles, each bringing their unique gifts to our global mission.



Annika joins us as Office Coordinator. With a healthcare background, she was eager to apply her skills in a kingdom-minded organization and join God's work worldwide. When she's not at the office, Annika enjoys writing, checking out local coffee shops, and taking long walks with her husband.



Priscilla joins us as Communications Coordinator. A recent Wilfrid Laurier graduate in Communications Studies and Public Policy, she has experience in both private and public sectors and loves connecting people to meaningful causes. In her free time, you'll find her journaling and sewing.

From Kenya Inspiring Update



There's so much happening with our projects and programs that we can't fit it all into our quarterly newsletters - like videos! Scan the QR code to watch a short video from Kenya, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for even more stories and updates.



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Praise & Prayer Corner

Praise: We are grateful to welcome new members to our team, whose fresh ideas and energy will help drive our work forward.

Prayer: Please remember our partners worldwide in your prayers as they dedicate themselves to uplifting children and families in need.