REDUCING HUNGER IN ETHIOPIA

Tirunesh, 41, is a potato farmer and mother of six from the Gamo Gofa district. Like many others, she struggled to feed her family between August and November each year – known as the ‘hungry season’. She was using traditional farming practices and local seed varieties, which are prone to disease and couldn’t produce enough food for her family.

When a family’s food stores run out – whether from low rainfall, land shortages or other factors – they quickly become malnourished. Children in particular become weak and vulnerable to illness.

Tirunesh was selected for a training program to improve her potato production. The program targets women, who face challenges such as lack of land due to local traditions. Tirunesh learned new techniques, such as ploughing, ridge-making and pest management. Using different potato seeds, Tirunesh put her new skills into practice, harvesting three tonnes of potatoes in her first season.

She also built a ‘dark storage’ facility to cut down on post-harvest loss. After receiving some basic materials, such as nails and iron sheets, Tirunesh hired a carpenter to complete the facility using locally-sourced materials. The facility can store and protect potatoes for over four months.

“The new potatoes are disease-resistant, high-growth and have a good yield,” said Tirunesh. “Before the construction of the dark storage, I kept the potatoes under the soil and that exposed them to disease and reduced the shelf life of the product.”

In her last season, Tirunesh sold 500kg of potatoes for USD$95 and kept another 25kg for the next cropping season. She allocated the rest to household consumption.

“I reduced the hungry season by two months and used my income to buy a cow and a sheep,” said Tirunesh.

These animals have helped her diversify her income and put money aside for her children’s education.

Find out more about our food security projects at: actiononpoverty.org/food-security

Where do your donations go?

Over 90 per cent of your money goes directly to our programs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Just five per cent goes to program support, administration and overheads.

This means you can trust us to help as many people as we possibly can. Last year, we reached over 320,000 people, empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty.

Find out more in our Annual Report at actiononpoverty.org
MEET OUR NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD

After two years on the Board, John Kell has taken up the position of Chair. A partner with Hicksons, John has provided us with expert legal advice for years and is looking forward to finding new ways for Action on Poverty (AOP) to make a global impact.

Our sincerest thanks and appreciation go to John Rock, who served as Chair for the past 16 years and remains a valued member of the Board.

Q&A with John Kell

How did you hear about Action on Poverty?

Right now I am a partner with Hicksons, but AOP was a pro bono client of my previous firm, Hunt & Hunt.

Why did you want to become involved with us?

I have been involved with community groups in one form or another for most of my adult life. International development was my first love. In the mid ’80s, I spent a year in Korea and a year in Papua New Guinea. I hoped this would turn into a career but unfortunately that didn’t happen. When I became involved with AOP, I knew it was an opportunity to pursue these interests.

What experience do you bring to the Board?

Before I joined AOP, I was a director of two community housing providers which merged to become Bridge Housing, based in Redfern. I am involved in the firm’s pro bono activities, including organising a legal clinic for asylum seekers at the Asylum Seekers Centre in Newtown.

What have you enjoyed most about being on the Board thus far?

Learning about AOP, and working with the other directors and management. We held a strategy planning session late last year which was very interesting.

What has been the biggest challenge to being on the Board thus far?

For all charities, funding is a big concern. In the present environment, it is a particularly big concern for international development agencies. We spend a lot of time thinking about how we might get more funding.

What do you hope to achieve in your role as Chair?

I want to work with the other directors and management to continue the very good work we do. For an organisation like ours and the challenges we face, innovation is essential. I want to be a part of that innovation for AOP.

What do you think sets AOP apart from other charities?

We give people the capacity to develop in a way that they can control. There aren’t many charities as passionate about that as we are.

Thank you for giving clean water to Cambodia

Thank you to everyone who donated to our New Year’s Appeal. You raised over $10,000 to bring clean water and sanitation to Cambodia!

Your gifts will help us repair dams, install water tanks at schools and help farmers adapt to a drier climate.

Help us reach even more people in need. A gift of $40 can provide clean water for a family of 10 people. Visit actiononpoverty.com/donate to give your tax-deductible gift.

Entertainment Book

Order your 2017-18 Entertainment Book or digital subscription now for hundreds of amazing deals on dining, attractions, shopping and more. $14 of the purchase price goes back to us and our life-changing programs around the world.

If you pre-order your 2017-18 Entertainment Book before June, you’ll also receive six great early bird offers. Find out more at actiononpoverty.org/entertainment-book

Write to: PO Box 12 Crows Nest, NSW 1585 | Phone: 02 9906 3792 

ACTION ON POVERTY NOW  | APRIL 2017

ACTIONONPOVERTY.ORG/DONATE
SANH’S SPECIAL HOMESTAY

At just 21, Sanh has a lot of responsibility. He manages his parents’ homestay in Hoa Binh, Vietnam, as part of our Community-based Tourism project. Sanh is responsible for greeting guests, taking bookings and payments, and cooking delicious meals. This frees up Sanh’s parents to farm rice and bamboo, increasing their household income.

Both Vietnamese and international guests come to Hoa Binh to experience the stunning landscape and culture. On their tour, guests stay in traditional homes managed by locals like Sanh. Most are Muong – a local ethnic minority. Tourism allows the Muong to increase their income while also sharing their language and culture with others. Guests also have the opportunity to see Action on Poverty projects first-hand.

Three years ago, Sanh left Hoa Binh to look for work in Hanoi, a three-hour drive away. At first, he worked in a restaurant, but eventually left the city to work as a wage labourer on rubber plantations. While the labour was difficult, Sanh says the instability was the worst part.

“The wages were low, and I was always moving around from job to job,” he said. “It was hard.”

When his parents decided to open a homestay, Sanh decided to return home to help out. At first, he wasn’t sure if the project would succeed.

“I didn’t think the area was well-known enough for tourism, and no one in my family had any experience with greeting guests or hospitality.”

However, the rugged, isolated terrain proved to be a drawcard for tourists. And with some training and practice, Sanh’s skills and confidence as a host soared. A quick learner, Sanh was soon looking for new ways to improve his homestay.

He noticed the fish at market were expensive and scarce. To prepare the best meals for his guests, he decided to invest in his own fish cage on the nearby lake. Sanh’s fish cage provides plentiful meals for his guests, and additional fish can be sold to tourists.

However, combined with his duties at the homestay, the work is hard. Sanh sleeps at the lake several times a week, rising at 4am to tend and feed the fish, before returning home by 6am to begin cooking breakfast for his guests.

When asked if he found his workload too heavy, Sanh simply chuckled and said that on days he has no guests, he finds himself bored.

“I’m just glad to be home,” he said. “Before, I didn’t have any stability in my life. But now with the homestay, I hope that my family and I can have stable futures.”

Find out more about CBT at actiononpoverty.org/trekvietnam

Let’s be social

We love sharing our success stories with our community via social media. Keep up-to-date on our latest news from the field by following us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

We also love to hear what you’re doing to take Action on Poverty! Remember to tag us:

Facebook: @AFAPActiononPoverty
Instagram: @afap_action_on_poverty
Twitter: @AFAP_action
ANNIVERSARY OF CYCLONE WINSTON

Cyclone Winston swept across Fiji just over one year ago on 20 February 2016. The worst cyclone in the region’s history killed 44 people, and left countless others without access to food, shelter or clean water.

With your help, we raised $20,000 to help those who had lost their homes and livelihoods. Teaming up with Partners in Community Development Fiji, we focused our recovery effort on Nadi district in the north.

Your gifts bought essential tools, such as hammers, saws and knives, to help people rebuild their homes and public buildings. These items belong to the whole community, so every household has access to them when needed.

Your gifts also provided much-needed seeds so families could begin growing their own food again. Without their gardens, villagers were forced to rely on expensive food from shops. Since their traditional crops, such as sweet potato and cassava, would not be ready for months, we provided fast-growing vegetables such as long beans, eggplant, tomato, cucumber and cabbage for immediate nutrition and variety during this time of food scarcity.

Today, communities in Nadi are continuing to rebuild village infrastructure, and to develop their gardens to improve their health and nutrition.

You can help more communities in Fiji and the Pacific prepare for natural disaster by giving a tax-deductible gift at actiononpoverty.org/donate.

SAYA’S VISION COMES TO LIFE

When she learned that some children don’t have access to clean water, eight-year-old Saya decided to make a change. She teamed up with her grandmother, Dianne, to raise over $2,000 to bring clean water to a remote kindergarten in Vietnam.

Saya’s water tank is now up and running at the school, providing safe drinking water for 60 students and four teachers.

Saya’s grandmother, Dianne, is one of our long-time supporters, and has instilled her passion for eradicating poverty and inequality in her whole family.

“My grandmother has been fundraising to help people for many years,” said Saya. “She has inspired me to help others who don’t have enough water to drink or food to eat.”

Want to put your passion into action like Saya? Find out more at actiononpoverty.org/fundraise.