



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

2021

Global Food Initiative Fund Allocations

Church of the Brethren

International Allocations

Democratic Republic of Congo: Pig Project

\$6,292.00

Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Congo) received this grant to support a new pig-raising project at the Lusenda congregation in the territory of Fizi. Offspring from the parent stock of pigs will be given to families in need with a particular focus on people with disabilities, the elderly, and widows. The multi-year goal is to reach 150 households. The grant covered the costs of purchasing 12 pigs, pig feed, materials to build a piggery, a stipend for a caretaker, and fees for a veterinarian to make regular visits.

Ecuador: Indigenous Food Crops Project

\$11,000.00

Fundacion Brethren y Unida (FBU – the United and Brethren Foundation) grew out of the work of Brethren missionaries in the 1950s. FBU is completely independent presently and works with youth, senior adults, and women’s groups. This grant was given in response to a rare hailstorm and flooding that caused crop loss and damage to irrigations systems. Funds were utilized to replant crops and forages, as well as repair irrigation systems.

Since 2017, FBU has received over \$40,000 to support food-related programming.

Haiti: Tree Nursery and Agricultural Supply Store**\$15,030.00**

Leadership of Eglise des Freres d’Haiti seeks to build on past agricultural work, shifting to an agribusiness model as part of its long-term goal of greater financial self-sufficiency. An agricultural supply store will be established in the community of St. Raphael in the Central Plateau region. Sales will not be limited to the immediate community but will extend to Haitian Brethren farmers and their neighbors across the country. Two existing components of this project in St. Raphael are a tree nursery and a fishpond – both developed as part of a 3-year soil conservation and animal production project funded through a partnership with Growing Hope Globally (GHG). Grant funds will be used to construct a small store and purchase agricultural supplies such as seeds, chemical and natural fertilizers, veterinary medicines, and tools, with a portion of the budget covering transportation and administrative start-up costs.

Haiti: Project Evaluation & Growing Hope Globally Project Wrap-Up**\$8,030.00**

A 3-year soil-conservation and income generation project of Eglise des Freres d’Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) in partnership with GHG has concluded. Regular evaluations are required by GHG. A final country-wide evaluation that cost \$5,000 was held in 15 communities over 17 days. Results were mostly positive showing evidence of improved animal care, increased farmer knowledge base, testimonies of more children in school, and constructed soil erosion prevention barriers in these communities. The evaluation acknowledged that not as many families were reached as had been anticipated, likely due to numerous lengthy work stoppages for staff over the past few years due to political unrest and insecurity. A \$3,000 grant was provided to cover the salaries of two agronomists during a time of transition to a new project that will experience significantly reduced outside support and will seek to be self-supporting.

Honduras: Urban Chicken and Vegetable Production**\$11,030.00**

The Viviendo en Amor y Fe (Living in Love and Faith) church, the recipient of this GFI allocation, is in the Flor del Campo neighborhood of Tegucigalpa. This congregation has over 30 years of community work experience to bring to this new venture. This 2-year project, focused on poultry and vegetable production, is a three-way partnership with a local NGO (and long-time GFI partner) Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG - Project Global Village). PAG staff will provide training in year 1 for 8 families who will receive chickens. Each family is required to donate labor and some materials costs for the construction of chicken coops. Funds will cover costs of poultry feeders and waterers, laying hens and one rooster per family, medicines, transportation, and technical assistance for PAG staff, vegetable seeds, training workshops, and construction of used-tire gardens.

Nigeria: Soybean Value Chain Project**\$17,000.00**

This grant was provided to the Agriculture department of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) to enhance its Soybean Value Chain project. Now in its fourth year (the first two supported by grants from the Nigeria Crisis Fund), this program supports the work of 15 volunteer extension agents (VEAs). The VEAs work with farmers across northeast Nigeria and assist with technical and marketing advice. The project continued its work with women's groups and soybean processing, as well as providing quality seed and farming inputs for purchase through stores operated by EYN. Funds (\$2,000) were included in this grant for two, week-long training workshops to be led by an outside consultant/trainer. Workshops had to be postponed due to an uptick in violence and kidnapping across northern Nigeria.

Rwanda: Pig Project**\$18,800.00**

This project among the Twa people in northwest Rwanda, completed its third year. GFI partner, the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda, established a pig farm in 2019 with a GFI grant. This current round of funding builds upon past work in establishing a central pig farm in the northwest part of the country. Two grants were given to this project in 2021. The first was an emergency grant of \$3,500 for pig feed in January, when COVID restrictions in the region caused supply chain problems and a spike in feed prices. A second grant, totaling \$15,270, was provided in November. This represents the final grant for this project and covered the construction of two new mini barns near the villages of Mudende and Kanembwe. Each barn will house pigs owned by individual families to facilitate better care and supervision by a local veterinarian. A grain mill was purchased, and a shed constructed to house the mill. Feed costs will be reduced through the in-house production of feed. The GFI allocated a total of \$45,000 to this project over three years.

South Sudan: Tree Nursery and Agricultural Development**\$5,000.00**

Working closely with Brethren Disaster Ministries, this \$5,000 allocation was added to a larger grant from the Emergency Disaster Fund in the amount of \$24,500. Funds were made available to Global Mission staff at the Brethren Peace Center in South Sudan for civil war recovery and development work. GFI funds will be used to support the establishment of a tree nursery and other agricultural extension outreach.

Uganda: Maize Mill Project**\$5,030.00**

This new effort is being undertaken by leadership of the Church of the Brethren in Uganda. A grain mill will be purchased, and a structure will be built to house it. Ugandan Brethren work with five communities in the Kasese district, with plans to reach 500 participants. Focus of the work will be on the most vulnerable community members including widows, orphan-led households, and the elderly. Trainings will be offered to teach participants how to produce maize flour food items for sale and for household consumption, along with micro-financing to purchase seed and fertilizer.

Domestic Allocations

US: Alpha and Omega Community Center (Lancaster, Pa.)

\$2,000.00

The Alpha and Omega Community Center's food distribution program received funding to purchase a new freezer and a new refrigerator. The new appliances allow Alpha and Omega to receive and distribute more perishable food items from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and Community Action Program, or individual churches.

US: Capstone 118 (New Orleans, La.) – Casual Labor Fund & Goat Fencing

\$4,000.00

The GFI offers grants for community garden organizers connected to local churches and district ministries. Capstone has a casual labor fund that allows staff to pay community members who have specific needs to receive compensation for work connected to the gardens. Capstone works in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward where it has established beehives, aquaponics systems, community gardens and orchards. This \$3,000 allocation is the fifth and final year that funds for this purpose are being made available for the casual labor fund. Matching funds were provided each year by the Southern Plains district. Also, a \$1,000 emergency grant was given to purchase mobile fencing when Hurricane Ida damaged fencing used to contain Capstone's goats. This new mobile fencing will provide greater flexibility and access to more vacant lots in the community that are suitable for goat grazing.

US: GraceWay International COB Community Garden (Dundalk, Md.)

\$2,000.00

The GraceWay congregation's community garden serves a community with many African and S. American immigrants. The church uses the garden produce to share with low-income families and to teach about the need for healthy food. This is the fourth year of support for this community garden. Funds were used to buy lumber for raised beds, soil amendments, fencing, and other garden supplies as this garden expanded in 2021.

US: Springfield First COB Community Garden (Springfield, Ill.)

\$1,500.00

The Springfield First congregation's community garden outreach received \$1,500 to support a small stipend for a garden advocate to organize volunteers and reach out to community families in the Harvard Park School District. Food from the garden is shared through a local program called Compass for Kids.

US: St. Peter Lutheran Church Community Garden (Southport N.C.)

\$1,000.00

Occasionally the GFI receives grant requests from congregations affiliated with other denominations asking for support for their community gardening efforts and the GFI is glad to offer a helping-hand. The St. Peter church gardening project received \$1,000 to be used as part of a larger \$8,500 budget. GFI money was used toward the purchase of fencing materials, topsoil, planter boxes, tools, and seeds.

Advocacy and Administrative Contributions

US: Bread for the World Annual Hunger Report **\$500.00**

Each year the GFI contributes to the publication of Bread for the World's annual Hunger Report in support of advocacy for domestic and international food security.

US: Growing Hope Globally (GHG) **\$11,643.00**

Each year the GFI pays an annual fee on behalf of Brethren congregations participating in GHG Growing Projects.

US: National Farm Worker Ministry **\$2,000.00**

The National Farm Worker Ministry is a faith-based organization which supports farm workers as they organize for justice and empowerment. Each year the GFI contributes to this ministry.

Subtotal – International Allocations	\$97,212.00
Subtotal – Domestic Allocations	\$10,500.00
Subtotal – Advocacy and Administrative Contributions	<u>\$14,143.00</u>
Total Allocated 2021	\$121,855.00
Total Contributions 2021	\$214,958.00

For more information on any of these programs or initiatives, please go to www.brethren.org/gfi/stories/ to see copies of current issues of E-news – the electronic newsletter of the GFI. E-news is available in print form to all Brethren congregations via the Source packet and to anyone upon request.

Church of the Brethren Global Food Initiative Fund

1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120. Tel 800 323-8039

www.brethren.org/gfi