

Church of the Brethren
Emergency Disaster Fund

November 24, 2025

Appropriation 25-23 — General Ledger #58055— Project 2460B

Minutes

Bethlehem Bible College Shepherd Society – Israel-Hamas War

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) request an additional allocation of \$20,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support the Restoring Hope Campaign of Bethlehem Bible College's Shepherd Society to provide up to 400 children in Gaza with 3D printed prostheses, along with training, follow-up care, rehabilitation sessions, and psychosocial support/trauma recovery services.

On Oct. 7, 2023, a Hamas led militant group attacked communities and military bases in Israel. During this attack, 1,195 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, including 815 civilians. Another 251 Israelis and foreigners were taken captive into the Gaza Strip. In response, Israel declared a state of war with Hamas on Oct. 8, followed by a blockade of the Gaza Strip on Oct. 9, including cutting off electricity and blocking all food and fuel shipments. Israel began air strikes through missile attacks and bombing on Oct. 11, resulting in one of the most destructive bombing campaigns in modern history. The Israeli military began the invasion of the Gaza Strip on Oct. 28. The invasion and systematic destruction of buildings and homes in the Gaza Strip continued, with brief ceasefires. On January 19, 2025, a ceasefire went into effect which called for the gradual release of hostages being held by Hamas and laid out a path for ending the war. The ceasefire was halted on March 18, when Israel ordered airstrikes in Gaza, citing Hamas' refusal to release more hostages and its rearming and reorganizing. The renewed bombing was more intense than before. Israel also halted all humanitarian aid into the Gaza strip, which has led to widespread hunger with the United Nations reporting that 100 percent of 1.9 million people were facing food insecurity with 641,000 in the catastrophic level.

The Israeli government contended that Hamas militants were embedded among the Palestinian people, justifying the prolonged war that resulted in the loss of lives and the mass destruction of homes, businesses, and infrastructure in Gaza. As of mid-November 2025, the United Nations reports more than 69,000 Palestinian fatalities and nearly 171,000 injuries, while 1.9 million (more than 90 percent) of the 2.1 million people living on the Gaza Strip are displaced. Damage assessments show that 92 percent of the homes, 88 percent of commercial buildings, and 81 percent of roads are destroyed.

In October 2025, a peace plan proposed by the United States, resulted in a ceasefire, with the Israeli forces moving behind a designated "yellow line" and still controlling about 58 percent of the Gaza Strip bordering Israel. Phase one, beginning on Oct. 10, 2025, has mostly held as of Nov. 17, although there have been pockets of fighting with accusations from both sides of violation of the agreement. Israel has continued to bomb targets and shoot at civilians. According to the BBC, it has destroyed 1,500 buildings in areas under its control. The ceasefire agreement required the return of living hostages held by Hamas in Gaza (20 were released) as well as the bodies of hostages who had died (25 have been released, with three remaining). It also required the release of thousands of Palestinians, both alive and dead, held by Israel. Humanitarian aid, which was previously controlled by Israel, is now coordinated by a U.S. military-led "coordination center", representing more than 40 countries and organizations, with the plan

to address food security as quickly as possible, however Israel still imposes restrictions on the flow of aid and the aid that does get through is nowhere near the amount that is needed.

Life for Palestinians living in Gaza has been exceedingly difficult in the months since the war began. The constant forced displacement meant that families sought shelter in temporary camps or in overcrowded conditions in the homes and buildings that still, sometimes only partially, stand. Since the ceasefire, people outside of the Israeli controlled area have been returning to their homeplaces which have mostly been destroyed. Palestinians from the yellow line areas are not allowed to return. Due to Israeli security concerns, Palestinians are not allowed to leave the territory. The people are living in deplorable conditions with limited food, water, sanitation, and shelter. Even as some aid is getting through, the need is great. Ninety-one percent are facing acute food insecurity, and some are living in famine conditions. The levels of stress and trauma are extremely high among the children and adults in Gaza. The war has impacted all Palestinian people, Christian and Muslim, including those living in other parts of the Palestinian territories or Israel.

This new request is for additional support of the programming of the Shepherd Society, the humanitarian outreach arm of Bethlehem Bible College, an academic university college located in the West Bank. The goal of the Shepherd Society is to provide a means for the global community to encourage and financially assist marginalized, needy, and low-income Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. The Shepherd Society has been working to provide relief to the Palestinian citizens of Gaza since the start of the war. They have developed a proven network of trusted colleagues that we work with in-country, including the Anglican Diocese in Jerusalem, the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, the Greek Orthodox Church, and others inside Gaza.

A previous EDF grant of \$25,000 to the Shepherd Society in November 2024 focused on several program activities including the provision of emergency food, water, fuel, and other supplies for displaced people in the Gaza strip and vulnerable families in the West Bank; support for an educational program for children in Gaza City who have not been able to attend school due to the war, including psychosocial support; winterization supplies; and the development of trauma counseling training programs.

In Gaza City, the Shepherd Society has been providing support for Palestinians (both Christian and non-Christian) who have taken refuge in and around St. Porphyrios Orthodox Church. Because basic medical care in the city has been very precarious since the war began, the church now operates a medical clinic in its courtyard, which is also supported by the Shepherd Society. Assistance has also been provided to Al Ahli Baptist Hospital, which was the only fully functioning hospital in the city and the main hospital dealing with the casualties from Israeli airstrikes before it was bombed by the Israeli army on March 13, 2025. The attack shut down the hospital and destroyed the emergency room, pharmacy, chapel, and the oxygen generation facility for the intensive care unit.

A second EDF grant, of \$20,000, in April 2025, focused on medical support both for the clinic at St. Porphyrios Orthodox Church and for medicine and medical equipment to Al Ahli Hospital, to help it continue to serve the people of the area.

The Shepherd Society has recently announced the Restoring Hope Campaign with the goal of raising at least \$200,000 for a project to provide prosthetic limbs to up to 400 children in Gaza. The program also includes follow-up care with the child and family.

According to UNICEF, Gaza has the highest number of child amputees per capita in the world. There were an estimated 2,000 children in need of prostheses before the war. They have been joined by about 4,000-4,500 others since the war began. The provision of a prosthetic limb, along with ongoing care and recovery services, brings hope, mobility, confidence, independence, and dignity. It allows the children to participate in education and social activities and lessens the burden on the family. It will also allow them, when the time comes, to enter the workforce.

The Shepherd Society is partnering with the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR) hospital, which was founded in 1960 to serve people with disabilities in Palestine and has pioneered prosthetics in the country. Finding that the old prosthetics technology was costly and time consuming, they are now using 3D printing which produces a high quality device at a reduced cost. Their 3D printer, along with training on its use, was provided by UNICEF. They will work with established clinics in Gaza where trained technicians will use their cell phone or a tablet to take measurements which go directly to BASR, where the prosthesis will be made. The device will be sent to Gaza through Jordan or Egypt. Once in Gaza the device will be fitted to the child. There will be follow-up care with the child and parents to make sure they know how to use it properly. The children will also receive rehabilitation sessions and psychosocial support/trauma recovery services.

According to UNICEF, 3D printed prosthetics cost around one sixth of the price of traditional prosthetics and can be made efficiently based on digital measurements taken using a smart phone. This helps solve the common issues of seriously injured children facing long and treacherous journeys to clinics to be assessed. They also allow for the fact that as children grow, or if the device breaks, they need new and updated components. In addition, 3D prosthetic devices can be made to fit each person, which makes them more comfortable and better to use. It is hard to say specifically how much a prosthesis will cost as each case is unique. Costs range from \$1,000 to \$15,000 or more. A “simple” limb can be as little as \$1,000-1,500, but a more advanced one—especially those designed for improved movement and with multiple joints—can range between \$7,000-15,000 (or more).

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Michaela Alphonse, Erik Brummett, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna Eller McFadden, Dierdre Moyer, Karen Shively Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Shannon McNeil Smith, recorder

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Church of the Brethren
Emergency Disaster Fund

December 19, 2025

Appropriation 25-24 — General Ledger #58055— Project 2474

Minutes

Eglises des Freres d' Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) – Hurricane Melissa Recovery

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) request an allocation of \$120,000 to support the Hurricane Melissa long-term recovery program of Églises des Frères d'Haïti. This will provide goats, seeds, tools, veterinary services, and home repairs to families impacted by the storm.

Between late October and early November 2025, Hurricane Melissa, one of the strongest Atlantic storms on record, brought torrential rainfall, flooding, landslides, and destructive winds across Haiti's southern and some western departments (states). The storm continued west making landfall with Jamaica before moving north across Cuba, causing extensive damage in these countries.

Hurricane Melissa caused at least 43 deaths in Haiti, flooded more than 11,900 houses and severely damaged roads and other infrastructure, leaving families in rural areas isolated and without assistance. Leadership from Églises des Frères d'Haïti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) report the greatest impact on the Haitian church communities is damage to agriculture, including both crops and animals, leaving many families with little food not destroyed in the storm or a harvest. This loss has drastic long-term impacts for many families that rely on their small farms and gardens to survive. The reporting by the Haitian church is corroborated by United Nations assessments that found server losses of crops and cattle, leaving millions food insecure.

Complicating the situation further, Haiti remains in the midst of multiple crises (economic, political, gang violence, gender-based violence, kidnapping, a cholera outbreak, and very high inflation) that have merged into a spiraling humanitarian tragedy. As the lowest per capita income country in the western hemisphere, the Haitian people were already at high risk of food insecurity, poor nutrition, and poverty. This combines to form a humanitarian disaster filled with human rights violations and a hunger crisis that impacts half of the people living in the country.

The lack of a functioning government and rule of law, the food insecurity, and the control of regions by whichever gang is the most violent has direct and dire impact on Églises des Frères d'Haïti. The church already had been forced to abandon its headquarters and some church properties as the gangs invaded the areas, some members have been kidnapped, and others have lost personal property.

After Hurricane Melissa, members of the Church National Committee (leadership structure of Églises des Frères d'Haïti) visited each congregation and the surrounding communities to assess needs and develop a response plan. The 588 families come from the communities of Saut Mathurine, Bonbadopolis, Gonaïves, Savarin, Remon Saint, Saint Louis du Nord, Ouanaminthe, Cap Haïtien, Pignon, Marianne, and Saint Raphaël.

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Michaela Alphonse, Erik Brummett, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna Eller McFadden, Dierdre Moyer, Karen Shively Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

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Church of the Brethren
Emergency Disaster Fund

February 17, 2026

Appropriation 26-1 — General Ledger #58505 — Project 2467B

Minutes

Humanitarian Response to Escalating Violence in South Sudan

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) request an additional allocation of \$213,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support staff of the Church of the Brethren Mission in South Sudan in providing humanitarian relief for families impacted by the escalating violence and to help build a new headquarters closer to Juba.

South Sudan enters 2026 amid with violence escalating ever closer to a civil war that is nationwide in scope, politically driven by tribal alliances, and increasingly lethal for civilians. The conflict has seen a sharp escalation in fighting since late December 2025 between government forces (SSPDF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A IO). The front lines are expanding across Jonglei, Upper Nile and the Equatoria states. Reports include the use of airstrikes, mass displacement, and daily civilian casualties. This surge is occurring as humanitarian operations are attacked and looted, forcing suspensions and leaving communities without food, shelter, or access to aid.

Church of the Brethren Global Mission has a long history of service in South Sudan, resulting in the planting of four churches with other preaching points emerging. In the midst of the past wars and multiple crises, sustained efforts have been difficult, but the mission has been able to continue while also providing relief and agriculture programming through EDF grants until the current outbreak of unrest.

A crisis management meeting was held in May 2025 in Uganda to care for staff impacted by the violence and unrest, and to start planning relief operations. Sharon Norton (Global Mission executive director), Roy Winter (Service Ministries executive director) and former mission staff Roger Shrock met South Sudan staff Athanasus Ungang, two of his team members, and Peter Tibi, from the South Sudanese organization Reconcile, to consult on positioning for the future in South Sudan. As part of this meeting, two new team members were hired. Kerubino, a community development expert, will lead programming for Brethren Global Services and Nyakanitha, a nurse midwife, will lead women's ministries. This new leadership team has continued crisis response planning and the implementation of programming in critical areas, even as the civil war expands to more areas.

The initial grant of \$35,000 provided for this emergency five-day meeting, supported the relocation of four families of staff members (a total of 50 people) to Uganda, and provided funds for an emergency food distribution at an IDP (internally displaced persons) camp near Juba. With their families relocated, these staff have been better able to focus on providing aid and developing program activities.

A second grant of \$125,000 in May 2025 focused on providing humanitarian relief to support families impacted by the escalating violence/war in Mayom County, Torit County, and at the Mangateen IDP camp near Juba, and recent flooding in Unity State. The following table shows the combined expense for this program through 2025. The balance of \$7,577 is supporting programming in 2026.

Planning for 2026 is built around Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) working closely with Global Mission (GM) staff, both in the US and South Sudan, to plan and coordinate programing, while sharing expenses. The grant request will cover operational expenses necessary to implement humanitarian relief programming in conjunction with the South Sudan mission program. The programming for 2026 will continue focused on the communities of Mayom, Mangateen, and Torit. The plan will focus on helping families address the trauma they have experienced, reducing intracommunity conflict, and targeting relief in areas Church of the Brethren congregations are being developed.

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board Members Michaela Alphonse, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna McFadden, Deirdre Moyer, Karen Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

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Church of the Brethren
Emergency Disaster Fund

February 18, 2026

Appropriation 26-2 — General Ledger #58500 — Project 2463D

Minutes

Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the DR Congo) – Invasion of Goma and the Eastern DR Congo Response

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) request an additional allocation of \$75,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support a three-month (February–April) relief for Congolese refugees in Burundi and impacted families still in the DR Congo.

The eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is in the midst of one of the most severe humanitarian and security crises in its recent history. Over the past two years, the M23 rebel group has mounted a sweeping offensive across North and South Kivu provinces, overrunning the largest cities and displacing millions. Beginning with the fall of Goma in early 2025 and followed soon after by the capture of Bukavu, M23 has entrenched itself across vast stretches of both provinces, establishing parallel administrative structures and exerting direct control over people’s lives. The rebels continued expansion—fueled by regional geopolitical tensions and alleged external backing—has intensified the suffering of already vulnerable communities.

South Kivu’s strategic city of Uvira, situated along the border with Burundi, became another focal point of this crisis. After heavy fighting and significant civilian displacement, M23 forces seized control of the city in late 2025, closing down critical humanitarian and military corridors. Although diplomatic pressure prompted a partial rebel withdrawal in early 2026, the situation remains unstable: Congolese forces have reentered the city, but sporadic clashes, arms proliferation, and widespread civilian trauma continue to define daily life. Throughout the region, frontlines shift quickly, and no meaningful ceasefire has taken hold despite sustained international mediation efforts.

As of early February 2026, the eastern DRC stands at a critical juncture. Diplomatic initiatives, ranging from US-brokered agreements to regional peace frameworks, have started important dialogues, yet on the ground realities continue to deteriorate. Experts on this part of Africa continue to share deep concerns that this conflict could expand into a regional war. Communities in and around Goma, Bukavu, and Uvira are navigating extreme instability, with limited protection, scarce livelihoods, and urgent humanitarian needs.

Prior to the invasion, the Goma Center Church of the Brethren helped plant a new church near the camps for displaced people, called the Wugunga Church of the Brethren. Since the invasion members have been sheltering in Goma or have fled to Burundi. While there is no reported loss of life among the Brethren, there is limited access to food and many of their jobs ended with the conflict. The majority of the Church of the Brethren congregations are located south of Bukavu along Lake Tanganyika. The Uvira Church is on the northern edge of Lake Tanganyika, 76 miles to the south. The headquarters of the Church of the Brethren in the Congo are just 21 miles further south in the village of Ngovi.

To support the Congolese Brethren, four grants have provided targeted assistance since the invasion of Goma. The early February 2025 emergency \$30,000 grant helped provide emergency food and supplies to communities with Church of the Brethren families in the Goma area. The distribution was done slowly and one house at a time to avoid attracting the attention of criminal or rebel groups. A \$20,000 grant at the end of February provided similar emergency aid to families in Bukavu and other impacted areas in the South Kivu Province. Since the banks were closed (and remain closed), leaders of the Rwandan Church of the Brethren received the grant funds and provided the DR Congo church leaders with U.S. currency to purchase maize flour, dried beans, vegetable oil, and soap for the families identified as most in need.

The third grant of \$50,000 provided initial support for up to 15,000 households at the Musenyi and Makamba refugee camps in Southern Burundi, including funding for an aid distribution while the Congolese church continued developing a more comprehensive response plan. The program was refined during Roy Winter's visit to meet with the Congolese and Burundi church leaders and visit the Musenyi Camp in early May 2025. The grant also covered travel, housing and meeting expenses for all participants.

The Musenyi Refugee Camp is in the Rutana Province, near the border with Tanzania. It was originally designed for about 10,000 refugees, but currently houses just over 20,000, mostly from the DR Congo, including Brethren families, and is located on flat land that is prone to flooding. Run by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the camp is underfunded, with officials reporting that they can offer only limited medical care and food supplies, with the per person per month ration of beans and rice reduced to only 4.4 pounds.

The fourth grant of \$298,600 has supported relief programming and trauma relief training for Congolese refugees in Burundi and impacted families still in the DR Congo. There were challenges that delayed some programming, mostly related to negotiating with the refugee camp leadership and the United Nations staff to have the programming plans approved. The other delay happened when Uvira was attacked, closing the banks where the program funds are held. This prevented the planned December 2025 programming from being implemented. The table below details the 2025 expenses and remaining balance that will be carried over to 2026.

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board Members Michaela Alphonse, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Deirdre Moyer, Karen Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Shannon McNeil Smith, recorder

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Church of the Brethren
Global Food Initiative
October 27, 2025
Appropriation 15-25

Minutes

Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) - Small Animal Microbusiness Projects in Honduras.

The Global Food Initiative Review and Advisory Panel and Jenn Hosler, Manager of Global Food Initiative recommend an allocation of \$35,000 from the Global Food Initiative fund to Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) for its Small Animal Microbusiness Projects in Honduras. This grant comes with the approval of Executive Director of Global Mission, Sharon Norton.

Proyecto Aldea Global is a long-time grantee for both Global Food Initiative and Brethren Disaster Ministries' Emergency Disaster Fund. This organization is based in Honduras and was founded by Church of the Brethren member Chet Thomas. For more than 40 years, it has been "empowering families to reduce poverty and build just, peaceful, and productive communities based on Christian values." PAG operates "according to five development principles where (1) projects must be initiated by people, (2) development cannot be given away, (3) development involves breaking the cycle of subsistence poverty, (4) projects must be in harmony with the environment and (5) development is not complete without spiritual renewal."

Honduras is challenged by high rates of poverty and social inequality. Almost two thirds (63%) of Hondurans live in poverty, while one in five people (20%) living in rural areas deal with extreme poverty (World Food Programme, 2025). Hunger and food insecurity are significant problems, with a quarter of children suffering from malnutrition. Malnutrition causes lasting impact on a child's well-being: a fifth of children (19%) under five in Honduras suffer from developmental delays due to malnutrition.

Most rural households depend on agricultural production as a main source of food and income. However, rural families without access to land for the cultivation of crops must find other economic activities to supply food for their families, to generate income, and employment. Rural families without land to farm live with day-by-day food insecurity. Family fathers work for other farmers as laborers earning an insufficient daily salary when work is available. Most times these poorer families suffer from a poor diet which is reflected in health and nutritional deterioration, especially those family members in vulnerable conditions such as children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and the elderly.

The goal of PAG's Small Animal Microbusiness Projects is to improve food supply and family income of Honduran families through the implementation of pig and chicken raising projects. These small production projects will support 40 new families in 2025, ensuring adequate family nutrition and generation of additional family income, while teaching farm families the proper skills for management and reproduction of pigs and chickens. Additionally, these projects will seed future projects, as this project follows a "passing on the gift" style model, where families "pay back" the project by reproducing more chickens and pigs to give to a second group of 40

families to start their small animal projects. Families will be provided with the species (a sow ready to be bred or fourteen hens and one rooster), and the necessary training to build the animal infrastructure (pig pens and chicken coops). Ongoing visits by PAG's technicians will also be provided to ensure that families carry out the project successfully.

Due to the challenges faced by international nongovernmental organizations with the elimination of USAID, many international humanitarian and development organizations are competing for increasingly limited grant funds to support global poverty reduction. In light of this difficult funding climate, this grant allocation also includes support for staff salaries, logistics and transportation, office expenses, and program overhead.

GFI has supported PAG's small animal projects over the years, from 2012-2016, with a total of \$139,343.27 over five years. This grant funding supported several hundred small animal projects directly, plus indirectly supported those family participants passing on their "gift" animals. Additionally, GFI previously funded staff learning visits (2016-2017) between PAG staff and agricultural and medical staff from l'Église des Frères d'Haïti, a multiyear project (2018-2019) for a greenhouse and seedling production, and administrative support during the height of the COVID-19 crisis (2020).

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by David Steele, General Secretary; Ed Woolf, Treasurer; and Mission and Ministry Board members Michaela Alphonse, Erik Brummett, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna Eller McFadden, Dierdre Moyer, Karen Shively Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

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Church of the Brethren

Global Food Initiative

November 24, 2025

Appropriation 17-25

Minutes

Nigeria EYN Soybean Value Chain Project

Jenn Hosler, Manager of Global Food Initiative, recommends an additional allocation of \$5,000 from the Global Food Initiative fund to support the Soybean Value Chain project of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria's (EYN) Agriculture staff (part of EYN's Integrated Community Based Development Program - ICBDP).

The Church of the Brethren's Global Food Initiative has supported EYN Agricultural Development Program's Soybean Value Chain Project since 2020, while also contributing to other soybean trainings and workshops prior to the present project. The Soybean Value Chain Project seeks to promote the awareness and cultivation of a valuable crop that can be processed into value-added, nutritious products that can be marketed and sold for income. This "value chain" seeks to alleviate poverty, increase incomes, and develop livelihoods for small holder farmers.

The present grant provides sustaining support for the Soybean Value Chain Project's Volunteer Extension Agents, or VEAs. It will provide a yearly stipend for 15 VEAs as they conduct their activities and support farmers throughout Adamawa and southern Borno state of Northeast Nigeria. The VEAs are based in 45 communities, each VEA covering three District Church Councils (DCCs). The project is expected to reach more communities in the future. The VEAs provide expertise to guide farmers in soybean cultivation, value chain, and sustainable farming practices.

The grant supports 1) the strengthening of VEAs through trainings and motivation, 2) the provision of farm inputs for VEAs demonstration plots, 3) Training on processing and value addition of Soybeans to 30 women, and 4) extension services to approximately 4500 local farmers. It includes funds for the yearly stipend for VEAs, program supplies and materials, transportation, and support for workshop leaders.

This is the sixth time funds are being requested from the GFI for this project, with prior funding occurring in the following years and with the following amounts:

2020 - \$12,500;

2021 - \$17,000;

2022 - \$15,000;

2023 - \$25,000;

2024 - \$5,000 remaining project funds for work not conducted in 2024 (some was conducted) will be contributed toward additional soybean extension work in communities in 2025.

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by David Steele, General Secretary; Ed Woolf, Treasurer; and Mission and Ministry Board members Michaela Alphonse, Erik Brummett, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna Eller McFadden, Dierdre Moyer, Karen Shively Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

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