



“

This is a new phase for women. When I look back at when I was young, women were in complete despair. Now, we have made a great leap forward. Today, with so many women leaders at the village council level, I am hopeful for a new world that will have space for women and the underprivileged.”

- BESANIYA SAKET,  
Elected Woman Representative  
in India trained by  
The Hunger Project



**LETTER  
FROM  
OUR CEO,  
MELANIE  
NODEN**

I am delighted to present to you this report - the first we've published since I joined the organisation in April 2016. It shows the uplifting and concrete results that The Hunger Project achieved in 2015 in partnership with you and the women leaders we have trained and empowered in India, Bangladesh and Africa.

At The Hunger Project we believe that a leader doesn't need a leadership title. We have trained women to unleash their leadership - including young girls who got married at 12 and dropped out of school and women who go to bed hungry most nights. As a result of The Hunger Project's development and leadership workshops, we see these women transform to become fiercely courageous and tenacious women.

In the face of enormous obstacles like corruption, harassment and threats they wake up every day and figure out not just how they are going to

feed their families, but how they will transform the system that has in the past kept them subjugated and denied them access to education and healthcare.

We are proud to have you share our bold goal: to have women empowered and taking action in their communities, speaking out on important issues for women and children, being powerful decision makers, setting the agenda for development and transformation and ultimately being leaders for the end of hunger. Together we are enabling women to rise up and create a future free from hunger!

Your investment in the Unleashed Women Leaders Initiative is what empowers women leaders to have the confidence, skills and power to transform the status of women and girls: from discriminated against, to valued and equal members of their communities. In 2015, you collectively

raised AU\$273,000 for women's leadership programmes - which means that to date through this Initiative, you have helped us to raise AU\$1.82 million to empower women leaders.

Your partnership is essential in making this possible and will have a lasting impact in the lives of our Indian, Bangladeshi and African women partners.

I look forward to walking this path with you as we continue to unleash the leadership of our women village partners globally. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Noden".

**Melanie Noden, CEO  
The Hunger Project Australia**

**THE  
WOMEN  
YOUR  
INVESTMENT  
HAS  
UNLEASHED**



**ELECTED  
WOMEN  
IN INDIA**

These women leaders live in a small town 2 hours out of Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh in India. Like so many other women across India, the issues they face include child marriage (more than half the women in this photo were married under the legal age, some under 10 years old), open defecation, lack of education, and social ostracism for daring to champion reforms that benefit all.

They have been trained by The Hunger Project and have been mobilising to form a federation (a solidarity group so they have numbers and clout to create change). The women attend The Hunger Project's training workshops and do exercises in teamwork, sharing strategies and tactics, and sharing a feeling of hope. Where before the obstacles felt overwhelming as a solo change leader, as a federation, new possibilities bloom.

**SUMITRA  
BANGLADESH**



37-year-old Sumitra used to go for days without eating. Her husband struggled to earn enough money to support their family of five. Sumitra dreamed of sending her children to school but couldn't see anyway that could happen.

She heard from another woman in her village about special skills training workshops delivered by The Hunger Project, and signed up. Sumitra has kept poultry like hens and ducks, but didn't really know how to care for them properly so they would often die, leaving her without sources of food or income for her family. With The Hunger Project's training on modern techniques for cattle and poultry rearing, she was able to properly care for animals – and now she has six goats, four cows, five hens, three ducks, and two pigeons. With these animals, she can feed her family, and also sell milk and eggs for extra income.

In addition, she completed The Hunger Project's women's leadership training course and became an active leader creating change in her community. She can now afford to send her two young daughters, and her son, to school – so she is effecting change for the next generation of leaders too.

**DADO  
ETHIOPIA**



When Dado's sister-in-law and brother died, Dado was forced to drop out of school and care for her 5 nephews when she was just 12, even though she was still a child herself. Overnight she became the head of the household and the primary carer for 5 young boys – without access to the skills and resources needed to do this.

She was trained by The Hunger Project through the Vision, Commitment, Action workshop and as a result her self-esteem improved and she was confident in her own ability to take on a leadership role within her community. Dado was also trained in modern farming techniques and bought improved potato seeds and a fuel-efficient stove from the Epicentre. This enabled her to increase her crop yield and have more food to feed herself and her 5 nephews.

With the pressure to find food to feed 6 people every day relieved, she was able to look around to see where else she could make an impact. She stepped up to serve on the local savings and credit committee and the Epicentre Committee, helping to implement education, health, microfinance and other community development programs in her area.

**THE IMPACT  
OF YOUR  
INVESTMENT  
IN 2015**

With your partnership, we can remove the barriers that keep women in rural, remote India, Bangladesh and Africa living in hunger; we can unleash their strength, creativity and voices. What opens up for them then is the possibility of creating enabling environments for themselves, their children and their families. They come to see themselves as agents of change capable of ending the vicious cycle of poverty and discrimination that so often plays out in developing countries.

The results shown here reflect the total investment in our women leaders by our dedicated Australian community of investors, of which you are an essential and integral member.

**AFRICA**

**1,780**

Women graduated from Functional Adult Literacy classes being able to read and write for the first time.



**5,717**

Women farmers trained in modern farming and agriculture methods.



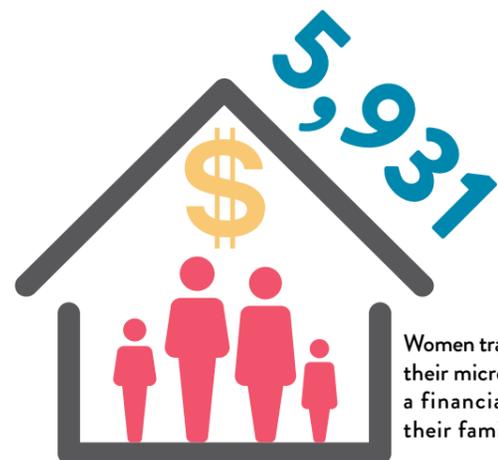
**857**

Babies born in clean, safe maternity wards at our Epicentre health clinics.



**12,367**

Women trained to feed themselves and their families more nutritious food.



Women trained in how to leverage their microfinance loans to build a financially stable future for their families.

**BANGLADESH**

**73**

Child marriages halted so girls can be children not adults, and go to school.



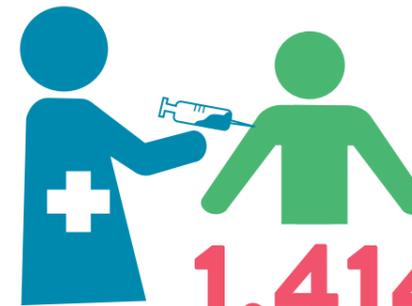
**1,044**

Births registered so children can access health and education services.



**1,414**

Children immunised against deadly but entirely preventable diseases.



**1,156**

Women trained in income generating activities to bring in money for their families.



**INDIA**

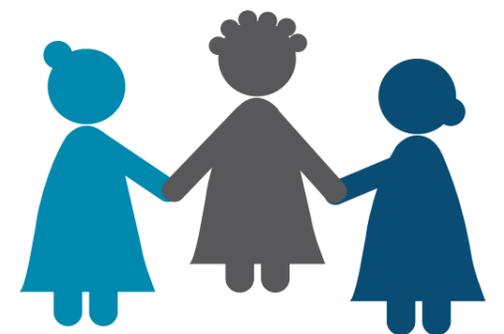
**2,470**

Elected Women Representatives participated in Federation meetings where they used their collective power to fight for change



**1,021**

Elected Women Representatives were trained in Women's Leadership workshops to strengthen their leadership and empowerment



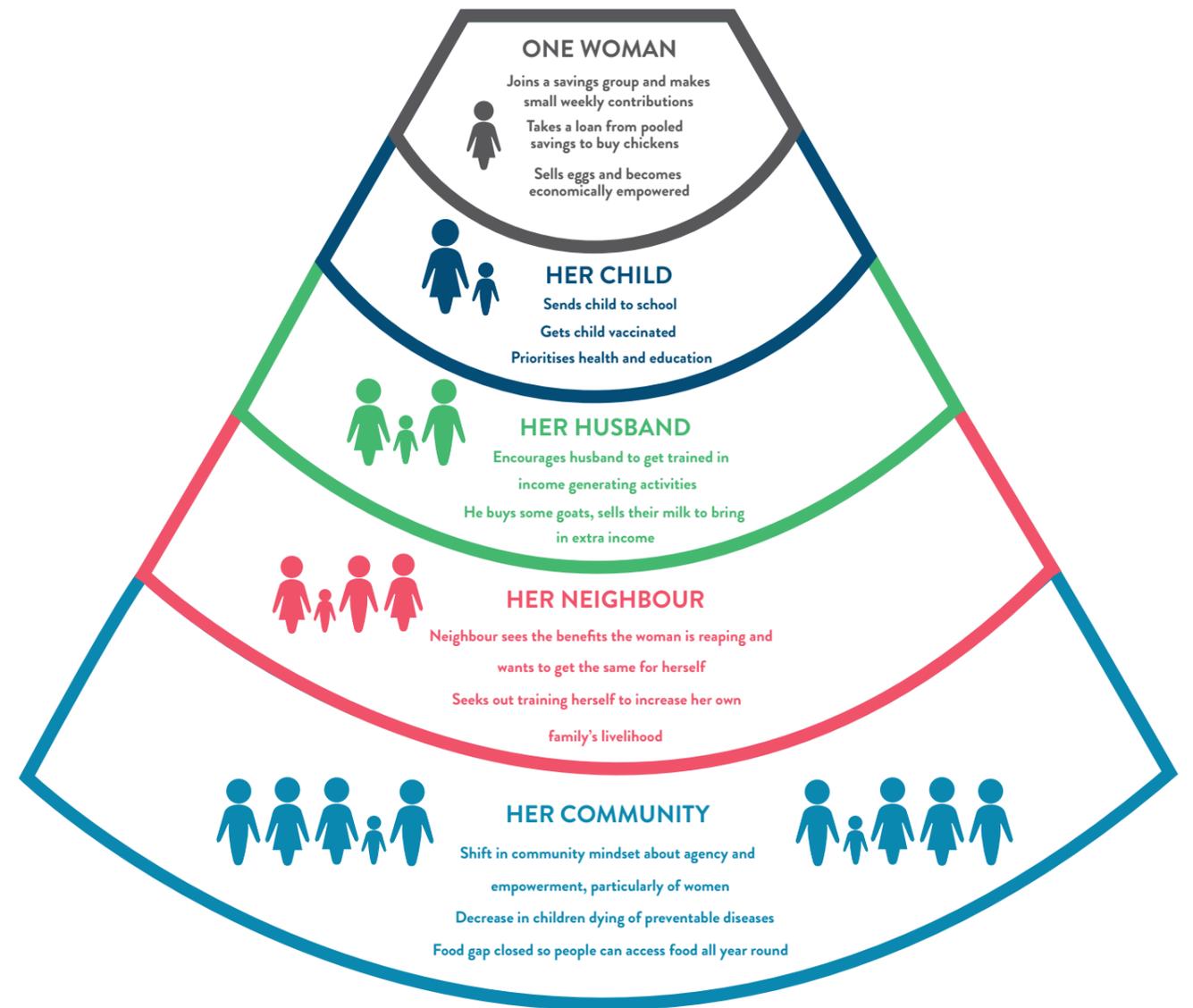


“The Hunger Project does not give any financial incentives to people, but The Hunger Project gives what money can't buy: The Hunger Project teaches people To speak, protest and be aware of their rights.”

– ROJEDA BEGUM,  
Kathuli Union Parishad member  
trained by The Hunger Project  
in Bangladesh

## THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF YOUR INVESTMENT

We know that when women work and are empowered, they invest 90% of their income into their families and communities. That means that when The Hunger Project trains one woman leader, the ripple effect that this catalyses is enormous. The infographic below demonstrates the amplifier effect of your investment in just one woman - imagine then how your collective investment is amplified across all the women leaders who you have unleashed!



## SPOTLIGHT ON: MATERNAL HEALTH

800 women die from pregnancy or child-birth related causes every day (2014 data). Half of these deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa, where there are huge gaps in access to healthcare and resources. The World Health Organisation has identified maternal health as a key priority for the world to address. Filling the gaps of health systems in rural, low-income settings and diligently tracking maternal deaths are needed to solve this crisis. The Hunger Project does both these things throughout our work in Africa. We train communities in good health and nutrition-seeking behaviours; build clinics in rural areas designed with a focus on maternal health; and work with local government to staff and resource clinics. We've measured our results and have seen concrete progress in the communities where we work. The results shown here are from 32 Hunger Project Epicentres in Africa.

## THE RESULTS

There has been a  
**39%**  
increase in women  
making at least  
1 antenatal  
care visit.

Women in our  
Epicentres make  
an average of  
**4.9**  
antenatal visits.

There has been a  
**188%**  
increase in births  
attended by  
a trained  
birth attendant.

**90%** of births  
in our Epicentres  
are supervised  
by a trained birth  
attendant.



Mothers at Ndereppe Epicentre in Senegal learning about nutritious food to feed their newborn babies.

Photo credit: Johannes Ode

**OUR INVESTORS WHO ARE UNLEASHING WOMEN LEADERS**



**PATRICK CANION**

“It seems pretty simple to me: women get stuff done! I love that The Hunger Project is all about educating and empowering women to be able to make the changes that they themselves know will improve the lives of their families and communities. I’m proud to be able to support a practical, efficient cause that changes lives in such a profound fashion.”

- Patrick Canion  
Investor in The Hunger Project since 2013

**ANKE LASSERE**



“Being a mother of two young boys I was very touched when I heard Cathy Burke and the village women representatives speak about the dreadful choices that some mothers in developing countries face due to the seemingly hopeless situation they’re in. However, women are natural connectors - and resilient! Educating and empowering them not only impacts their family but the whole community effectively. This is why I support the Hunger Project’s proven solution- (rather than problem-) focused, respectful and sustainable approach to ending hunger - starting with the women!”

- Anke Lassere  
Investor in The Hunger Project since 2013

**THANK YOU**



In many countries where hunger still persists, a huge paradox still exists: on the one hand, societies entrust the birthing, raising, feeding and educating of a family to women; on the other hand, this same society systematically denies women the education, voice, freedom of movement, opportunity and safety to be able to carry out this duty.

That’s why having women empowered is critical to ending hunger and poverty. Thanks to your dedicated investment in - and visionary commitment to - a different future for women, their families and their communities, The Hunger Project has been able to unleash the leadership, creativity and capacity of women globally so they can end their own hunger. We are delighted to recognise the following Unleashed Women Leaders Initiative investors who contributed in 2015:

**\$10,000 or more:**

- ACME Foundation**
- Ailan Tran**
- Cathie Reid & Stuart Giles**
- Diane Grady & Chris Komor**
- Griff Morris, Solar Dwellings**
- Lesley McLennan**
- MECCA Brands**
- The Gonski Foundation**
- The Protter Family**
- Anke Lassere**
- Annie Gridley**
- Faye Longmuir**
- Jillian Formentin**
- Karen O’Donahoo & John Halse**
- Macquarie Group Foundation**
- Patrick Canion**

The Hunger Project Relief Fund is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient with the Australian Tax Office. Monetary gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



ACFID  
MEMBER

The Hunger Project Australia is a proud member of Australia Council for International Development (ACFID). ACFID is the peak Council for Australian not-for-profit aid and development organisations working to attain a world where gross inequality and extreme poverty are eradicated.

The Hunger Project has been awarded the highest possible 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, the leading independent charity evaluator, which compares and rates leading charities based on their performance and accountability.



The Hunger Project Australia has a complaints handling procedure in place. Please direct any complaints to our Chief Operating Officer on (02) 9222 9088 or [complaints@thp.org](mailto:complaints@thp.org)

We are also a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct which is a voluntary self-regulatory sector code of good practice. Information about how to make a complaint to ACFID can be found at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

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**THE HUNGER PROJECT AUSTRALIA**

[www.thp.org.au](http://www.thp.org.au)

+61 (0)2 9222 9088

ABN 45 002 569 271



The Hunger Project Australia



@thehungerprojectau



@thpaustralia



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