

Wilfred's Story

In November I was fortunate enough to travel to Uganda with The Hunger Project's 2030 Leaders Program and meet our village partners. During this trip, I met a young man called Wilfred (pictured). The small village in western Uganda where Wilfred was born had struggled with poverty for decades and for young men like Wilfred there were very few opportunities to improve their circumstances. For Wilfred and most members in the community hunger was a part of life and families were resigned to the fact that this is how life would continue. This was until 8 years ago when, on advice from his mother, Wilfred visited his local Hunger Project Epicentre to participate in one of their free workshops on modern farming techniques. With his new skills he was able to harvest greater yields and for the first time in his life, put aside some money for savings. With the money he had saved he was able to take out a microfinance loan at the epicentre and buy more land for his banana crops. Wilfred is now one of the most successful banana farmers in the area! With the money he has made he has been able to build a house with concrete walls, install a satellite dish and buy a television. Most importantly his two young children never miss a meal.



Not satisfied with just improving his own family's situation, Wilfred now volunteers with The Hunger Project as an 'Animator' (a trained local volunteer leader). After long days tending to his crops, he jumps on his bike and visits members of his community to pass on the skills he has learned through The Hunger Project's workshops and to offer hope that it IS possible to create a different future and to end hunger.

Wilfred is one of the 275,000 volunteers globally trained by The Hunger Project, who use their knowledge, time and energy to improve the lives of the people in their communities. Wilfred's story really inspired me. It helped me to understand the importance of self-belief and really appreciate how hard work and dedication will result in extraordinary transformations. What I also took from Wilfred's story is the importance he placed on giving back. He used what little spare time he had to improve the lives of those around him, which to me is the sign of a true leader and a great man.