

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the program work?

This Program works in multiple ways - the first phase begins before you even step foot in a THP Program Country. Through the process of engaging in your fundraising and investment, many are surprised by their sense of accomplishment, community and expanded leadership.

Arriving in one of countries where The Hunger Project works and meeting our village partners for the first time, you will be embraced in one of the most awakening welcoming ceremonies you will ever experience.

You will spend time in Epicentres built by the women and men in the community. Here you will have the opportunity to interact with the Epicentre Leaders and discuss with them their successes, challenges and plans for the future.

This is a truly unique opportunity to understand resilience and courage by asking questions like: “What does it take to move a community from being at the mercy of hunger to stocking a food bank with enough resources to feed 10,000 people in the lean season?” and “What does it mean to a woman who once couldn’t read or write, to now own her own business and be a leader in her community?”

You will walk through villages, and be invited into the mud homes of families with little more than a bed and chair. You will sit with them in a rich and respectful conversation where you may be inspired and confronted by how openly they share a window into their lives.

This is not textbook learning. Through our facilitated workshops and your own personal reflection time, you will create powerful meaning that will shape your vision for the world.

By participating in The Hunger Project Australia’s Programs, you will not only have a truly unique immersion experience, you will return with clear steps to enter into the next phase of your leadership.

You mention leadership, can you tell me a little more about what being a leader means?

We believe that everyone has the ability to be a great leader. We see this in the women who can’t read or write who takes the actions necessary to bring water or electricity to her village. That is why we view reallocating significant resources and raising the money to participate in the program as a leadership act.

It takes leadership to step out of your comfort zone and step into the future, knowing that you’re going to make a difference. You are tapping into the inner knowing that this needs to be done, that you will make a difference, and you are the person who can do this. By doing so you will have a life changing experience and get to connect with likeminded people here in Australia, and meet the most extraordinary women making a difference for generations to come.

Why do I need to invest or fundraise?

Our program is not only an opportunity for you to extend your leadership it is also a financial commitment to the work of The Hunger Project. You must personally invest or raise a minimum of \$10,000. This money goes directly to The Hunger Project programs and does not cover any costs for participating in the program on the ground (see Terms & Conditions for details)

We are quite intentional about setting a fundraising or personal investment amount that stretches you. Playing small won't serve you. We will be meeting women and men who take extraordinary actions each and every day to ensure their families and communities are hunger free. Imagine the courage and stretch for a woman to take out a small loan and set up a little roadside stall.

At The Hunger Project we see personal investment and fundraising as a leadership act. This process is the start of your journey. If raising or investing \$10,000 isn't much of a stretch for you then we encourage you to commit to a higher fundraising target as your first leadership act.

Stretching ourselves is an act of consciousness, solidarity and connection. We want you to be able to sit with our partners in the village, look them in the eye and authentically know in your heart that you are their partner.

\$10,000 seems like a huge amount, how will I be able to raise that amount of money?

We understand that the thought of raising \$10,000 is daunting. Part of the journey is unlocking our ability and our resources and getting creative. Firstly, get clear on your 'why'. Why this is important to you. Women in villages go through this same process. Can they really be a person who can make things happen?

It's amazing what can happen once the commitment has been made by you, you will find that it becomes your reality, and a new world opens up to you. When you share your reason for doing this from the heart, you will capture attention from the most amazing places.

The 'how' will be different for every participant. Past participants have held events, run marathons, sold unwanted things. Get your friends involved, they will have ideas that could help you. We will share the challenges, and we are here and happy to be a sounding board and a supporter in your journey. We will also help you keep track of the money you are raising through your personalised fundraising page on The Hunger Project Australia website.

Upon being accepted you will receive a fundraising guide full of ideas to get you started!

If I am already an investor in The Hunger Project will I still need to fundraise or invest the full amount?

Yes. As mentioned above, this Program is designed to have you lift yourself out of your comfort zone and take actions that you wouldn't normally take.

Having you invest in our work is always such an honour - be it before, during or once the program has been completed. Funding the end of hunger will take more than 'business as usual' and we are committed to empowering leaders everywhere to seeing what they are truly capable of.

What will happen if I don't raise \$10,000?

If you don't raise the money before the due date, we will discuss options with you whereby we may ask you to make up the difference to achieve your goal. If you are not able to do this you will not be able to participate in the in-country immersion.

The money you raise will still go to fund the amazing work of The Hunger Project. You'll be included in the family of The Hunger Project Australia and invited to events, kept updated and be offered other chances to be involved.

Does the \$10,000 include all my travelling costs?

No, in addition to the AU\$10,000 you will need to cover your own airfares, vaccinations, visa and insurance costs. You will also be required to pay on-ground costs of AU\$3,500 prior to departure.

What does the \$3,500 cost cover?

On-Ground Costs include but are not limited to; transport and fuel in the program country, accommodation for the Program dates only, workshop facilitation and materials, Program staffing costs, group meals as outlined in the Itinerary, group airport transfers in the program country and for program dates only. The On-Ground Costs exclude return airfares, travel insurance, vaccinations, a visa to enter the Program Country, in-room hotel charges, spending money and airport transfers if extending your stay beyond the Program dates.

Do I have pay anything upfront?

Upon being selected and agreeing to the terms and conditions you will need to pay a Program Deposit of AU\$1000. This non-refundable deposit that will go towards your on-ground costs. See terms and conditions for full details. The balance of the costs will need to be paid 60 days before departure.

What happens once I apply?

We will email you to acknowledge receipt of your application and a member of the team will be in contact with you to set up a time to speak about your application and to get to know you a little better. This call is designed to get you ready to step up to the opportunity or to choose not to participate in the journey

We will be happy to answer any of your questions during the call. Please allow around 45 - 60 minutes for this call.

What happens after I'm selected?

Upon selection we will send you an email welcoming you to the program. You will need to agree to the terms and conditions and pay the Program Deposit of AU\$1000. Shortly after you will receive a Welcome Pack to help you get started on your fundraising journey with links to set up and begin personalising your fundraising page.

I'm a very busy person; realistically how much time will I need to participate?

You will need to commit to the 4 pre-trip calls, the immersion in country (7 days, however we recommend you add a day either side of the program dates as well), and it is essential that you attend the 3 re-entry calls on return. Each of the calls is one hour.

If you are fundraising, then you will need to dedicate time to this especially as you will be managing your fundraising alongside your work, personal or family life. We recommend you plan your ideas/event to work with you.

Those who have a clear plan and dedicate time consistently to their fundraising goals are the most successful.

I don't know much about The Hunger Project yet will this matter?

Don't get stuck thinking you need to be an expert in The Hunger Project or their programs yet. You will get to know the team at The Hunger Project. You will be provided you with materials and you will be invited to workshops and other learning environments to give you an overview of our work so you can speak to friends and colleagues

Is there any fundraising support?

The Hunger Project Office is always here to support you with understanding all there is to know about our work. We have a team of fundraisers who will be here to help you on your journey. The best support though comes from the other participants and sharing your journey on the calls.

We have a fundraising platform built into our website that means you will be able to not only see how much you have raised but track how the group is going as well.

We will send you a Fundraising Pack to help you get started with your fundraising once accepted on the program. On each of our Program calls you will have the opportunity to ask for help or guidance.

When can I begin fundraising?

You can begin fundraising at anytime however making payments to your fundraising page will only be available once the Welcome Pack and link to initiate your fundraising page has been administered.

Where does the money I raise go?

The money you raise is invested in our program countries, where it is needed most. Your impact will be far and wide as the money you raise will be invested across all our Program Countries in Africa, India, Bangladesh and Latin America. The funds are spent where the need is greatest: food security, nutrition, microfinance and income generation, education, health and sanitation, or clean water.

Your money and leadership enables our village partners to end their own hunger. You give your time and resources so that they can have the tools and skills they need to take control of their futures. For more information on The Hunger Project's impact visit <http://thp.org.au/our-impact/>

The Hunger Project is also registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient with the Australian Tax Office meaning all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Can you give me an idea of what the money will do?

\$10,000 in Africa could give 160 women microfinance loans so they can start small businesses to bring in an income for their families. One loan of approximately \$60, when invested in women trained by The Hunger Project can be transformational and the pivot point to building self-reliance and the end of hunger. Women will invest in their business, feed, clothe and educate themselves and their children, build better homes that improve their family's health and that is only just the beginning!

Can I extend my trip?

Yes. Our travel and logistics partners, HUMA Charity Challenge, will be more than happy to help you make arrangements. Many participants enjoy additional excursion after the Program.

What kind of visa will I need?

HUMA will advise you of the visa that you need to gain for entry into the country. This process can take up to 2-4 working weeks where you may need to send your passport with documentation to the consulate. HUMA will support you in this process.

My passport expires soon could that be a problem?

You will need at least 6 months left on your passport from the date you depart Australia until the date you return to Australia.

What will I need to take?

We will send you specific country information so you can prepare for your trip. We will also provide you with a Briefing Pack that includes a suggested packing list one month before departure. Further details will be discussed on the final preparation call.

Your Health

You will need to be able to walk a minimum of 5 km unaided in order to participate in the program. We often walk on unpaved and uneven surfaces (dirt roads) when visiting a rural village area. We recommend that you have a good level of fitness and health to ensure you enjoy this experience.

You will need to be prepared for all weather conditions as the days can often be long and hot which can have an impact on your health. Drinking plenty of water and avoiding excess alcohol is recommended.

It is your responsibility to disclose any medical conditions that may need special attention (heart conditions, diabetes, anxiety or depression) at time of application. In some cases we may ask you to seek professional advice before being accepted on to the program.

Will I need to get vaccinations?

You may need to get vaccinations. We advise you to see your GP as it will be dependent on your medical history. Some countries require you to have a certificate upon entry. We recommend you visit <http://smartraveller.gov.au> and read the Health recommendations for the country you are visiting before visiting your Doctor. We will provide you with a guide to the area and the types of activities you will be participating in.

Is it safe?

Your safety is of the utmost importance to us and we adhere to a Risk Protocol to ensure safety at all times. We regularly monitor international travel warnings and are in constant communication with our ground staff many months before we depart and during the program.

We are also partnered with HUMA Charity Challenge, a subsidiary of World Expeditions. World Expeditions is one of the world's leading adventure travel companies offering ground breaking itineraries on every continent. The company has been operating small group trekking and adventure travel holidays and vacations since 1975. HUMA will support the program with all travel, planning, logistics and provide an on-ground local operator to ensure our safety.

Please be aware that if in the lead up to the program we deem it no longer safe to travel, we reserve the right to change the country or look to reschedule the program. You will be kept informed during this process.

Security is our priority and we monitor this closely, however you can find out more yourself at Smart Traveller - <http://smartraveller.gov.au>

What security is in place in the program country?

We assess the security needs for each program country and arrange discrete security services to support our safe travels when necessary. We will brief you prior to departure and on arrival of best safety practices.

Whilst we take your safety seriously, it is your choice to participate in the program and as such accept the risks (known and unknown) of travelling internationally. Please see terms and conditions for more information.

What will our accommodation be like? Will I need to share a room?

Accommodation will vary from nice to rustic! It will always be safe and secure. We will try and accommodate you and your preferences; however, you may need to share a room depending on the location. This may be the case when we are in rural areas.

Can I take photos during the immersion program?

Yes, provided you do so respectfully and gain permission where possible. Please see our terms and conditions for information regarding Media and Child Protection when taking images.

As a group, we will also organise photos, films, and interviews that capture the experience and promote the story of the journey and the amazing work of The Hunger Project.

What will the village and the people we meet get out of me going on this trip?

Connection! Us being there gives them renewed impetus and an opportunity to showcase the enormous efforts they have gone to, to transform themselves and their community. They get to be centre stage. This is a big opportunity for them to share their stories and know that somewhere in the world they have a partner who believes they are the key to ending their own hunger.

I have a niggling voice in my head stopping me from committing; how will I know if I'm ready?

Talk to us, tells us what you are feeling. The trip will be fun as much as it will be a learning experience. You will have the most amazing stories to share, you will get to go where not many people go; it is not a tourist route. You will get to sit in the dirt with women who will share their story with you, you will be able to go into people's homes and see first-hand how they live. It will be a truly unique experience, and the opportunity is yours.

I have small children and I am uncertain about the impact this trip may have?

We understand. As a mother, we all want our children to grow up knowing the value of life and where they live and what they have. We want our children to be happy and healthy, to have dreams and believe that they can do anything they put their minds to. What better way to do this than to lead by example, to inspire them by sharing your experience and your learnings with them?

Most likely there will be other women participating who will be going through the same journey as you so you will feel supported in this process.

What happens if I cancel or can no longer attend?

If for some reason you are no longer able to attend the trip, your commitment to fundraising or investing the full amount still applies and your fundraising efforts are non-refundable. Your money will already be impacting women, men and children across the world before you even leave Australia.

Places on the Immersion trips are limited, and for this reason, having a place on the trip means ensuring that you are able to meet and/or exceed this target.

You may be liable for covering the on-ground costs if you happen to withdraw from the Program two months prior to departure. Please see the full terms and conditions.

What happens when I get back?

This journey will be life changing in many ways. Besides the actual experience of interacting with The Hunger Project, there will be friendships made, plans hatched and new directions taken. We are committed to supporting the community that emerges.

You will be required to attend the re-entry call as scheduled once you return this call is important and designed to support and help you re-orient back in into life, and complete the trip.