

IMPACTS 2016



BUILDING GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS

In 2016, a total of **102 grassroots partners** benefited from WhyHunger directly sharing resources and granting funds for specific projects and travel in the amount of **\$485,000** to help communities **develop their own solutions to hunger and poverty** and **build their capacity to engage in long-term change**.

WhyHunger's **International Solidarity Fund** invested **\$305,699** in strengthening existing and emergent social movements for food justice and food sovereignty by supporting **25 community-based projects in 13 countries** to end hunger among peasant, fishing, and indigenous communities worldwide. Additionally, we secured a donation of **\$500,000** to support and grow the fund in 2017. By investing in local community-led activities like agroecological training, leadership development for women and youth and capacity building projects, tens of thousands of families are benefitting from immediate access to nutritious food and education while the food sovereignty of entire communities is strengthened.

WhyHunger organized and **accompanied key social movement and grassroots partners from the Global South** through **five strategic site visits to the United States** where our allies from Brazil and Zimbabwe were able to meet, learn, share and build solidarity with WhyHunger and allied organizations by supporting and practicing agroecology in the U.S. These exchanges are critical steps in helping to build capacity for individual organizations while strengthening the fabric of the growing social movement for food sovereignty and justice for all.



We continue to **foster and grow the U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance**, providing **organizational and technical support** for the Alliance and the 2016 Food Sovereignty Prize and Food Sovereignty Encounter. In 2016, we helped the Alliance to **create and implement a new regional structure**, increasing their effectiveness to build food sovereignty locally. We helped **initiate a strategic dialogue between three growing movements; *La Via Campesina*, the *Climate Justice Alliance* and the *US Food Sovereignty Alliance***, to build collective power and strengthen the ability for joint-initiatives and cross-sector support at the intersection of hunger and the environment.

FUELING SOCIAL JUSTICE



WhyHunger is actively supporting and stewarding a **national alliance of emergency food providers** to shift from a model of charity as the solution to hunger to a **model of social justice**. In 2016, we facilitated a leadership retreat to establish a clear vision, goals and plan for the growing network and the **Closing the Hunger Gap** national conference in fall 2017, which aims to attract more than **500 participants** from all 50 states.

Our popular *Food Justice Voices* series **What Ferguson Means for Food Justice**, a powerful collection of articles featuring the grassroots voices of Black leaders working within movement building and food justice, produced 3 new issues. We launched a new report titled **School Breakfast at Half Century - A Look Back to Move Ahead** from activist, author, professor and WhyHunger Board Member Janet Poppendieck, an **animated video If You Give Someone a Fish** illustrating our theory of change, and **Connecting Hunger & Health in Brooklyn and Beyond** a video that tells the story of food justice and health in everyday lives. These publications and materials helped to educate and engage hundreds of thousands on the issues and solutions at the root of hunger and poverty.



WhyHunger continues to organize grassroots partners using our **community of practice methodology** around the intersection of hunger, food, agriculture and social justice. In 2016, we convened and led communities of practice for 70 participants around **Hunger and Health** in the Mid-West and Mid-Atlantic regions and nationally around **Youth and Food Justice** and **Race and Food Justice**.

WhyHunger supported and accompanied **Rooted in Community**, a national youth food justice alliance, as they work to organize youth food justice leaders to build collective power. In 2016, WhyHunger provided **capacity building support** by facilitating a process to re-envision the organization's governmental structure and by providing funding for youth to participate in their annual Youth Leadership Summit where they joined in **skills building, co-learning, creative arts and direct action**.

After two years of organization and incubation, the **National Black Food and Justice Alliance**, an independent alliance of Black-led organizations, is on its way to a national membership base of 100 organizations coming together around amplifying the voices and impact of black leaders calling for land justice, food justice and racial justice.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Need help
finding healthy, free food in your community?

The WhyHunger Hotline helps those in need find local healthy food resources. Call between 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday, to speak with an advocate.

Call the WhyHunger Hotline **1 800 5HUNGRY** (1 800 548 6479)

Text your zip code to **1 800 548 6479**

Search online at whyhunger.org/findfood

WhyHunger became the **first and only U.S.-based member** of the international **Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition**, which promotes the realization of the human right to nutritious food and acts jointly to support advocacy campaigns, community-driven solutions and collective action to address violations and abuses. Our participation is a critical step in bridging the gap between the international and U.S. based efforts to realize the right to nutritious food for all.

WhyHunger is developing the **most comprehensive database** of food access organizations in the U.S., placing an emphasis on those that provide nutritious food. Currently with **20,932 organizations** and growing, we are utilizing whyhunger.org/findfood, a new **texting service** and our **WhyHunger Hotline 1-800-5HUNGRY** to assist over **394,296 individuals annually** to access healthy food in their communities.

WhyHunger co-organized two well attended workshops on the *Right to Food in the U.S.* and **People's Agrarian Reform** in conjunction with La Via Campesina North America at the **2016 World Social Forum** in Montreal. Through these forums, we were able to build **international solidarity**, provide **scholarships** for community-based leaders to attend and begin to **strategize with social movement leaders** in support of our shared mission.

WhyHunger celebrated a **\$1.1 million record-breaking Hungerthon**, our signature fundraising and awareness building public outreach campaign, in partnership with **CBS Radio New York, SiriusXM, Cumulus New York** and **iheartmedia New York**. 2016 Hungerthon Ambassadors **Emily Kinney, Kenny Loggins** and **Switchfoot**, used their platforms to help raise awareness about the campaign and spur their fans into action along with social media support from **Yoko Ono Lennon, Jack Johnson, Usher, Bruce Springsteen** and more. WhyHunger staff, celebrity ambassadors and community-based partners educated listeners and raised awareness via **30+ substantive radio interviews**



In 2016, our **Artist Against Hunger & Poverty** program partnered with **Bruce Springsteen** and **Prophets of Rage** at their NYC concerts to raise funds and build awareness onsite. We also teamed up with Prophets of Rage on their first-ever tour where we invited grassroots partners in local tour markets across the U.S. to be onsite at the concerts to collect donations to alleviate hunger in their communities.

The **2016 Summer Meals Rock for Kids** campaign brought together a variety of musicians who support WhyHunger's work to help children get access to free meals in their neighborhood during the summer. Artists such as **Paul McCartney, Bonnie Raitt, Rascal Flatts, Chris Cornell** and more lent their voices and talents to raise funds and awareness through social media and auction items.

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