

## The Hunger Project - Switzerland

**Bright prospects in Africa – bleak prospects in Europe**

Europe's capacity to absorb refugees will soon reach its limits. Some people are convinced that, with targeted support, many migrants would be able to live in dignity in their home country.

That is exactly what we are trying to achieve with your contribution!

This year, The Hunger Project Switzerland supports, among other projects, the microfinance program in Burkina Faso. The microfinance program (MFP) of The Hunger Project is a part of its epicenter strategy. It is managed by women and primarily supports women.

The main emphasis of the program is to support African peasant women, which is why more than 80 percent of the MFP partners are women. The program focuses on education, granting loans and economizing; it disburses micro credits to a group of women and men by way of an epicenter bank, and it encourages a culture of economizing. In this way, the people who have obtained a loan are able to acquire the financial means for their economic autonomy. They utilize the small loans primarily for farm work and small businesses, so that they can successfully increase their household income. Thanks to this sustainable aid, they can support themselves and their families in their own country and do not have to leave their home countries any longer. Our partners in the program countries and we at THP thank you for your contribution.

**Interview with our volunteer Stella Maris Cunidi**

Stella Maris Cunidi was born in Argentina. She is a business economist and a certified IT business engineer specializing in business evaluation and projects in the insurance sector. She has been living in Switzerland since 2013, and she committed herself to THP a year ago. Contact: [stella.cunidi@saplement.com](mailto:stella.cunidi@saplement.com)

**How did you get to know THP?**

I really wanted to support a social project actively. When I arrived in Switzerland, I surfed on the internet in order to find foundations whose focus of work agreed with my beliefs concerning development cooperation and values and whose methodology I considered effective. I found all this at THP, and straightaway reported for duty as a volunteer.

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**THE HUNGER PROJECT SWITZERLAND**

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***What appealed to you when you learned about The Hunger Project?***

People who live in precarious conditions strive for autonomy; this, I believe, must have priority. The bottom-up strategy of the epicenters in Africa focusing on self-reliance, sustainability and a systematic interaction of factors like nutrition, education and support appeal to me. I am also highly interested in the concept of micro-finance programs; that is why I wanted to observe the challenges of the THP micro credit programs. I recently accomplished a long journey on the Indian subcontinent, and I feel close to the women of India. I appreciate their empowerment in the villages which I find challenging.

***What do you do for THP?***

My contribution is searching for potential partner organizations that might act as donors and generate synergies. I concern myself with the analysis of several hundred foundations and programs; I systematize their dates and summarize their information in reports.

***What is your personal benefit of this work?***

I have learned a lot about foundations in Switzerland and I have met many committed persons during this time. My personal aim, from the beginning, has been to support people who suffer from hunger and poverty, and I have taken a step forward in this respect. A sustainable development is possible with willpower, professionalism and cooperation.



Please contact  
Alexandra Koch for  
further information  
concerning  
volunteer work.

***Partner Story from Mozambique***



Monica Jonasse Ngovene is a 45-year-old widow and mother of four children (two girls and two boys). She joined The Hunger Project Mozambique in 2007 at ChokWe Epicenter, where she participated in the first VCA (Vision, Commitment, Action) workshops carried out in her village. These workshops caught her attention, and she decided to join other epicenter programs and activities, too.

Monica finds all those programs very interesting, but she thinks that above all the microfinance program could help to solve many immediate problems in the short-term perspective. She applied for a microfinance loan, which was finally disbursed to her at the 25 de Setembro village.

In 2008 she started a small business, purchasing and selling food products. She said that it was not easy at first, due to her inexperience and many difficulties she had to face, but with persistence she was finally able to overcome the difficulties, and she met with success. The profits allowed her to pay for the school fees for her children. Monica says with great satisfaction that because of the microfinance program she was able to buy cattle. Monica is using the cattle to help her

on the farm and one day, if necessary, she will sell the animals to have enough money for her children's education.

In addition to her business, Monica says that she has participated in several THP trainings, which have contributed a lot towards improving her life.

For instance, she participated in trainings for bricks manufacture and has now produced her own bricks to renovate her house. "I am very grateful to THP Mozambique, it has been the salvation of my life. I can't imagine what my life would be like today without the support by the Hunger Project" Monica said in her last statement, and finally she expressed a desire to expand her business by starting to breed poultry.

