

March 2009

One Acre Fund

Empowering the chronically hungry to pull themselves out of poverty

Dear Friend of One Acre Fund - The rains are always a wonderful time of renewal here in East Africa. Brown fields turn green with new life, and the heat is lifted by a cool breeze. Similarly, our new website is like a fresh splash of rain, and we hope you will pause to have a look. Thank You!! - Andrew



Cara and seven of her twelve children

In Western Kenya, the poorest families are often the biggest ones. Cara Chebananii is a maize farmer in Western Kenya. She has twelve children ranging in age from 4 to 21, and recently gave birth to a thirteenth.

Cara's family faces an all-too-common future. They are too poor to buy seed and fertilizer, the most basic of farm technologies. Cara used to save dried maize kernels from her previous harvest and plant them the next year. Her community has shockingly little farming knowledge, and she was never certain about when to plant and how to space her seeds. Although her soil is relatively fertile, her poor-quality seeds and lack of knowledge meant that she would yield only a few hundred pounds of maize per year, or about one pound per day. A pound of food is nowhere near enough for twelve kids. For the "hunger months," Cara sustains her family by working as a casual laborer on other people's farms and by feeding her twelve children only one meal per day.

This year will be different - Cara's thirteenth child was born at the same time as her first Acre Fund harvest. Using modern seed and fertilizer, she more than doubled her farm's profits, filling her house with food and even generating income from food sales.

Cara reports that this is the first year that she can provide all of her children with three meals per day. Already Cara is amazed to see how much healthier and more energetic her children are from having regular meals of maize and other vegetables that she is able to buy with her extra income. She also has increased confidence as a farmer and a woman. Research shows that over time, increased equality in her household and increased earning power may result in a decision to have fewer children for farmers like Cara.

Cara's thirteenth child will never know what it is like to be hungry.

Cara is one of many who have taken her first steps out of a hopeless poverty trap with Acre Fund. Your support has made this possible for Cara and many others like her.

Together we serve!

<http://www.oneacrefund.org>

One Acre Fund launches new website!

One Acre Fund has come a long way from a simple idea three years ago, and we wanted our web presence to reflect our increased professionalism and commitment to transparency. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Director of US Operations Justin Burt and our Board Chair Matt Forti, we now have a newly-renovated home on the web.

You will find extensive information on our [program model](#), a [publicly-available dashboard](#) showing the progress we've made towards our goals, and a revamped [Photo and Video Gallery that includes a brand new 4-minute video of our work](#). If you like what you see, you can even use our new [Tell a Friend](#) feature to pass the word along to everyone you know!

Rwanda farmers repay 98% - and counting!

We recently completed the major harvest season in Rwanda, and our 2,000 farmers showed us their appreciation by repaying us 98% of what we loaned to them. Some are still paying "slowly by slowly," and we hope to end up near to 100%.

One Acre Fund begins recruitment season

In preparation for our August planting, both One Acre Fund Rwanda and Kenya recently started our next field officer recruitment season. Our target is to hire 60 new field staff in the coming two months. Hiring of staff is our biggest constraint on growth, and we are continually improving our hiring procedures. One day we hope to hire hundreds of field staff every season!
