



**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER

ANNUAL REPORT  
2023

# Dear friends,

2023 marked a special year for Rise Against Hunger: our 25th anniversary. This brought an opportunity for reflection on the real impact we've made in the lives of millions of people facing hunger over the past 25 years, and a reminder of the work still to be done.

Many of you joined us in 2023 to celebrate our organization's milestone. 2,163 people volunteered to package meals with us across eight community events in honor of our 25th anniversary, including a three-day event in Raleigh, North Carolina, where we are headquartered. Collectively, volunteers at community events in New York, Indianapolis, Chicago, Charlotte, Nashville, Raleigh, Los Angeles and Birmingham packaged 389,016 meals to provide urgent food assistance to people in need. And even more of you joined us for other meal packaging events across the United States and around the world, with over 331,000 volunteers packaging 57.4 million meals.

In addition to recognizing our anniversary, we remained unwavering in our commitment to ending global hunger, serving more than 3.6 million people in remote, last-mile communities in 37 countries in 2023. We continued to address immediate nutritional needs for families facing hunger and responded to emergencies to support more than 994,000 people in 14 countries during times of crisis. We also worked alongside community leaders in eight countries to implement sustainable agriculture projects that produced 3,610 metric tons of food for consumption and income generation. For all of these numbers, there are stories to tell — every person we serve is someone's parent, child, sibling or friend, and we are honored to be part of their story and support them in paving the way toward brighter futures.

Our work in 2023 — and over the past 25 years — wouldn't have been possible without your support. The work to end hunger truly starts with a meal and starts with you. Thank you for coming alongside us in our mission! When Ray Buchanan founded our organization in 1998, he was driven by the vision of a world without hunger, and that vision still drives us today. The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that as many as 783 million people — almost 10% of the world's population — face hunger. That means there is still work to do to achieve Ray's vision. Our work to end global hunger continues, and we hope you'll continue with us!



*Rick Kearney*

**Rick Kearney**  
Rise Against Hunger Chief Executive Officer

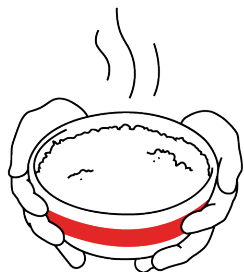


Photo credit: Rise Against Hunger

Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by nourishing lives, empowering communities and responding to emergencies. Targeting remote, last-mile communities within hunger pockets designated “serious” or higher by the Global Hunger Index, we work with local leaders to harness the strengths of their communities and tackle their own food and nutrition security challenges with agency, dignity and resilience.

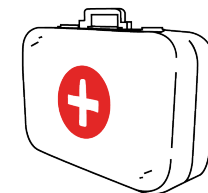


## PATHWAYS TO END HUNGER



### NOURISHING LIVES

While long-term food security takes root, our **Nourishing Lives** pathway provides nutrition and encourages education through school feeding, vocational training and health clinics.



### RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

From droughts to floods, in conflict zones and political crises, the **Responding to Emergencies** pathway deploys food and aid in communities when it is needed most.



### EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Our **Empowering Communities** pathway promotes improvements in agricultural production and rural livelihoods to help individuals increase their incomes and access to food.

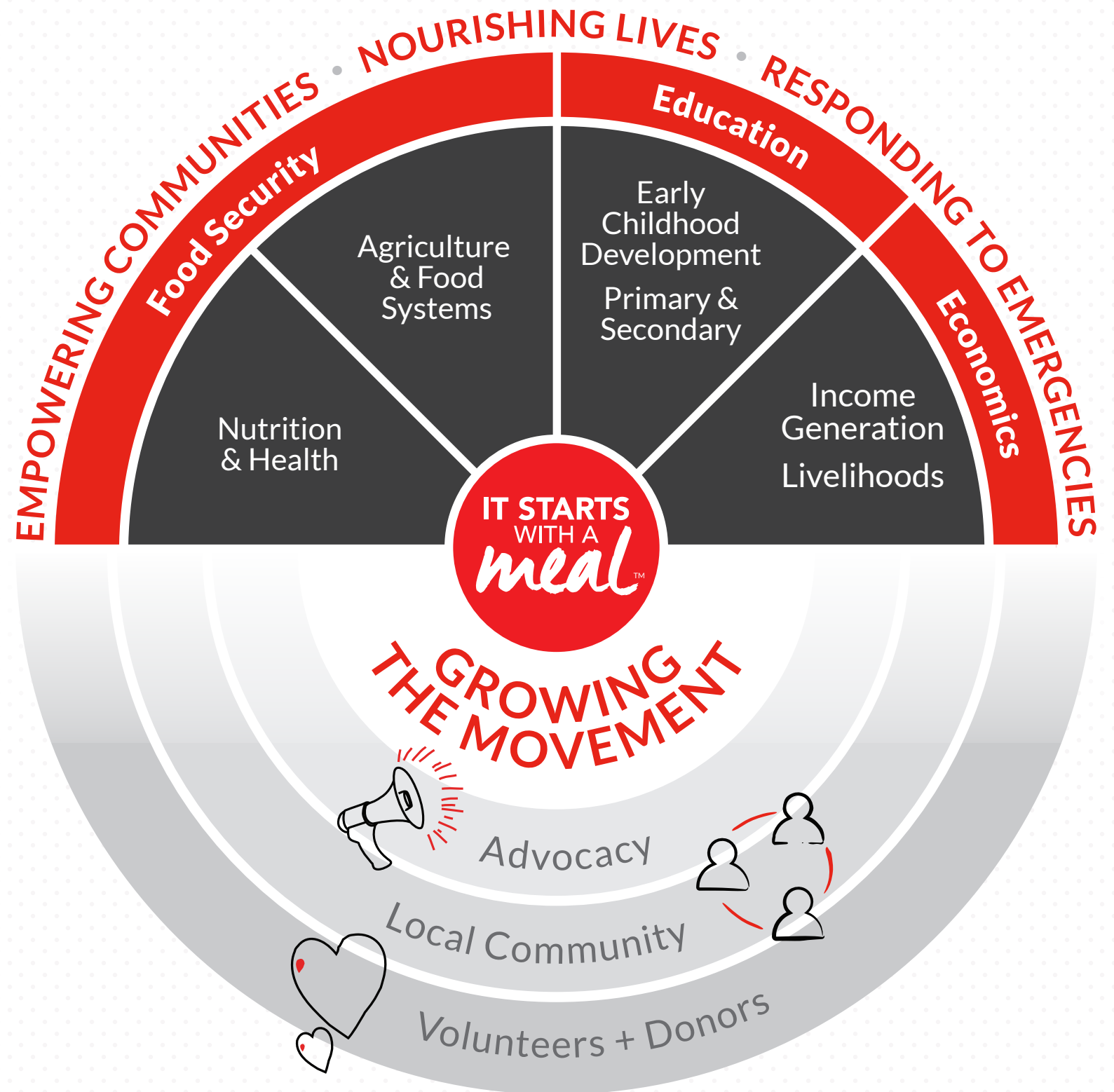


### GROWING THE MOVEMENT

We recognize that hunger will not end without **Growing the Movement**, and engaging hundreds of thousands of volunteers and advocates each year to build awareness and activation.

# Our Model: Building Toward Self-Reliance

This framework illustrates how Rise Against Hunger's programs put last-mile communities on a path to self-reliance. Meals provide the fuel for Rise Against Hunger to empower last-mile communities, but our programmatic impact extends far beyond providing food. Our area of mission expertise creates measurable impact through local advocacy and community-strengthening efforts, as well as expanding and engaging a global volunteer and donor base.



**3,665,952**  
*lives impacted*

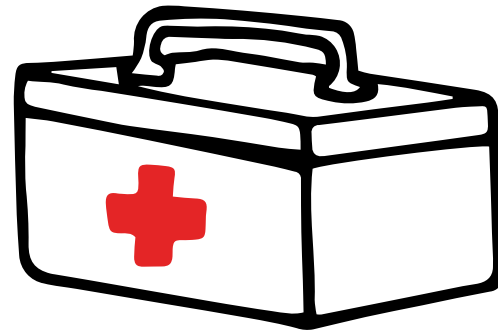


**4,836**  
*metric tons*  
**FOOD PRODUCED/  
PROCURED**

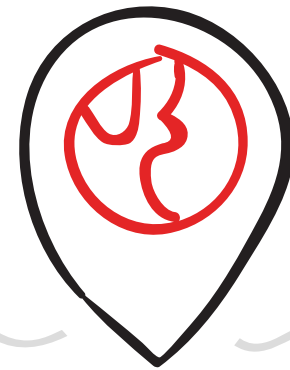


**57.4**  
*million meals*  
**PACKAGED**

**\$45** *million*



**IN DONATED GOODS, PRIMARILY  
MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES**



**37** COUNTRIES  
SERVED



**78.9 million** *meals distributed*

**INCLUDING RISE AGAINST HUNGER  
MEALS AND LOCAL + REGIONAL  
PROCUREMENT OF FOOD**



IT STARTS  
WITH A *meal*™

Millions of lives are nourished each year  
— and it starts with you.

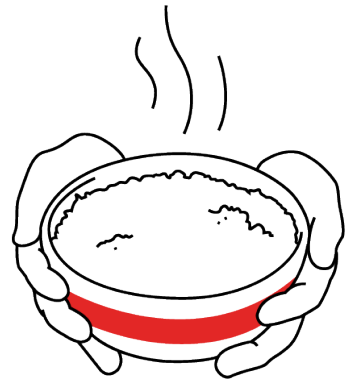


**3,027**  
MEAL PACKAGING  
EVENTS

**331,199**  
VOLUNTEERS  
ENGAGED



STORIES OF IMPACT

**NOURISHING LIVES:***Bungkol Elementary School*

In Magdalena, Philippines, Bungkol Elementary School's 282 students receive daily meals provided by Rise Against Hunger Philippines. The school also has a robust garden, which it was inspired to start after seeing Rise Against Hunger Philippines' nearby Good Food Farm. Mothers serve as volunteer cooks to prepare the nutritious school meals, adding eggplant, malunggay, okra and more from the garden for further enrichment.

Bungkol Elementary's school feeding program supports the nutrition and education of the children – including 10-year-old Leigh Matthew. A creative child and grade 6 student, Leigh Matthew dreams of becoming an artist when he grows up. The school meals support his continued education as he works toward his bright future.



I like going to school because I can meet my friends and play games with them and learn.

– Leigh Matthew, student







STORIES OF IMPACT

# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES:

## *Bargarh District, India*



Millets, small grains packed with nutritional value and health benefits, are resilient crops due to their ability to withstand harsh weather conditions. In India's Bargarh District, Rise Against Hunger India works with local farmers to increase the production and local consumption of indigenous millets. After facilitating training and providing donated equipment that supports efficient post-harvest processing, farmers like Binjadhar Pinjra have increased their crop yields.

Partnering with the Ahinsha Club, Mandya Hotel (Millet Cafe) was established for farmers to learn traditional recipes and ways to prepare the millet, which adds value to the crop and enables the farmers to earn even higher profits. For thousands of farmers, these increased earnings continue to provide a reliable source of income to support their families and communities.



Compared to other crops, growing millets is very economical for this drought-prone area. Even if there is shortage of water, it does not affect our millet production.

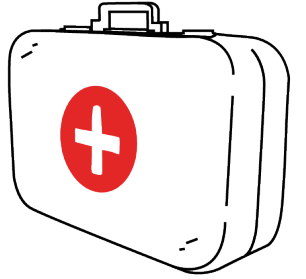
— Binjadhar Pinjra, millet farmer





## STORIES OF IMPACT

# RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES:



## *Ukraine Conflict*

The conflict in Ukraine, which began in 2022, has resulted in widespread displacement and a refugee crisis, with many fleeing to neighboring countries for safety. In partnership with Rise Against Hunger Italia and Bread of Life, Grygoriy\* plays an instrumental role in facilitating the distribution of Rise Against Hunger aid into towns in Ukraine along the border with Romania as the local leader of New Life ministry.

When the conflict started, the first wave of refugees left Ukraine to take shelter in Western Europe. Those without financial means to do so took shelter in border towns and surrounding villages, where they faced shortages of housing, food and clothing. Many were left with no income, and have nowhere else to go. Rise Against Hunger food kits, which have been distributed since the early days of the crisis, have sustained families facing extreme hunger. In 2023, Rise Against Hunger Italia worked with local partners to distribute 2.4 million meals, supporting 53,460 displaced people.



Since I am also a community leader, I can openly express the gratitude of our people for the aid received. It is overwhelming to our Ukrainian citizens to see the humanity and the dedication of friends throughout the world.

— Grygoriy, local ministry leader





STORIES OF IMPACT

# GROWING THE MOVEMENT:

## *The Dobbins Family*



Helping to end global hunger is a family affair! On November 18, 2023, Catherine Dobbins, her husband and a number of their children packaged meals during Rise Against Hunger’s three-day 25th anniversary celebration event in Raleigh, North Carolina, after a long history with the organization.

While attending North Carolina State University in 2009, Catherine met Ray Buchanan, our founder, and packaged meals for the first time. When Catherine and her husband got married in 2011, they decided to host a meal packaging event at their wedding; their dedication to service had initially brought them together. During a day of love and impact, 50 wedding guests packaged 10,000 meals.

Catherine and her husband now have seven children, and she was excited to have her kids package meals at the 25th anniversary event and help nourish families around the world. She described it as a full-circle moment — in the works since she first heard about our mission 14 years earlier.



I can help. I can do something bigger than myself.

— Catherine Dobbins





**\$72.8 million**

**Total consolidated revenue  
in the past fiscal year**

**\$72.5 million**

**Total consolidated expense  
in the past fiscal year**

**Expenses by type:**

- 92.7% *Program expense*
- 4.8% *Administrative expense*
- 2.4% *Fundraising expense*

Rise Against Hunger's 2023 audited financial statement and Form 990 will be available on our website this summer.

[RISEAGAINSTHUNGER.ORG/FINANCIALS](https://RISEAGAINSTHUNGER.ORG/FINANCIALS)

*Thank you.*

**Organizational Donors**



**\$1,000,000+**

Catholic Medical Mission Board  
Heart to Heart International  
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**\$100,000+**

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**\$50,000-\$99,000**

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MetLife  
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NRI Vasavi Association (NRIVA)  
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**2023 Signature Activation Sponsor**

Red Star Yeast

*Thank you.*

**Global Influence  
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Photo credit: Rise Against Hunger

*Thank you.*

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*Thank you.*

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IT STARTS  
WITH A *meal*™

You, our community of Hunger Champions, have made it possible for Rise Against Hunger to continue our vision of a world without hunger by empowering communities and paving the way toward brighter futures, one meal at a time.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US REACH REMOTE,  
LAST-MILE COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE!**



[riseagainsthunger.org/give](https://riseagainsthunger.org/give)

