

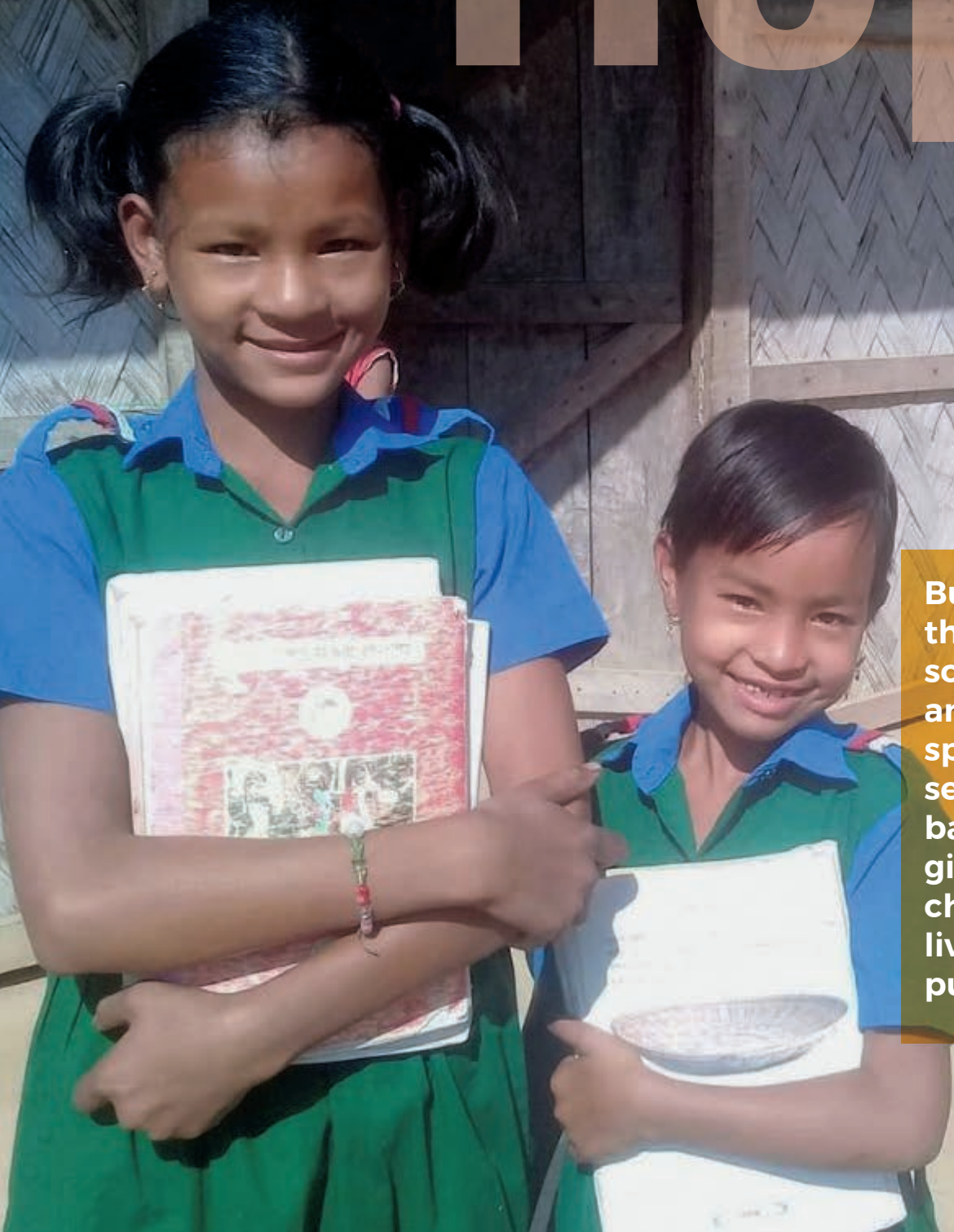
COMPASSION IN ACTION



2020

ANNUAL REPORT BUDDHIST GLOBAL RELIEF

giving HOPE



Buddhism teaches that hunger is a source of acute pain and a barrier to spiritual growth. BGR seeks to remove that barrier and thereby give people the chance to live healthy lives of dignity and purpose.

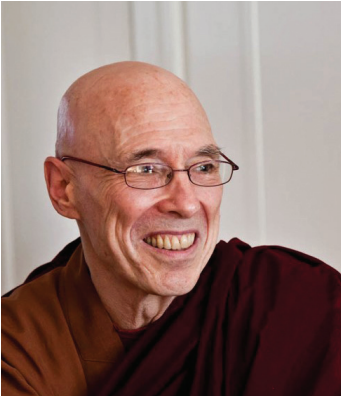


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MESSAGE

From the Chair



Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi

While 2020 began like any other year, within two months the entire world found itself gripped by a horrific pandemic that shattered lives and upended whole economies. The global reach of this pandemic, as dreadful as it has been, has taught us a precious lesson about human interdependence, showing us that we live in an intricate web of relationships in which each thread is connected to every other thread, even the most distant. Our actions—good or bad, wise or foolish—travel along this web, with impacts extending far beyond their point of origin.

If we are to flourish and achieve our own highest potentials, we cannot remain locked in the walls of our narrow private concerns, but must open our hearts to the suffering of others. We must do our best to promote the common good, working to ensure that everyone can obtain the basic requisites of a dignified life. This is the aspiration that gave birth to Buddhist Global Relief and has sustained us for over twelve years.

BGR began with a narrow focus—to bring relief to people afflicted with chronic hunger and malnutrition—but over time our mission has broadened as we sought to tackle the underlying roots of hunger, especially poverty and lack of access to education. The five projects featured in this report highlight the breadth of our mission. A long-term partnership in Vietnam provided meals to poor hospital patients, and also offered scholarships to needy students. A project in Bangladesh gave vocational training to married adolescent girls, and offered them capital to start their own businesses. A project in Brazil trained women to work as caregivers and seamstresses. A partnership in Kenya taught women farmers organic agriculture. And funding for a meals program at the Maha Bodhi school in Arunachal Pradesh, India, not only improved the students' health, but led to progress in their studies.

These are just a few of the 40 projects made possible through your help during our fiscal year 2019–2020. As always, we deeply thank our dedicated Board members, capable staff, selfless volunteers, and especially our donors, whose compassion and generosity have made these achievements possible. We could not do it without you, and we look forward to your support long into the future. May all blessings be with you and your families.

Sincerely, with loving-kindness,

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi

MESSAGE

From the Executive Director

I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors for once again supporting Buddhist Global Relief during fiscal year 2020, which runs from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. BGR's work continues to be critical as global issues unrelentingly exacerbate world hunger. Amid crises around the world, our goal is and has always been to serve and uplift those most in need, regardless of faith, culture, or location.

In our twelfth year of service, BGR's mission of helping the world's poor continued to resonate with a growing number of supporters. During fiscal year 2020, we allocated \$781,853, or 91 percent of our expenditures, to direct programs. Our administrative ratio was 2 percent, and another 7 percent was devoted to fundraising and promotion. For details, see our financial report on pages 24 and 25.

In the spring of 2020, life was upended for many around the world as the COVID pandemic raged. By early 2021, the U.N.'s World Food Programme estimated that 174 million people were experiencing crisis-level food insecurity, an increase of more than 25 percent over pre-pandemic numbers. BGR has responded by donating more than \$45,000 in emergency funds to alleviate hunger in communities in both the U.S. and globally.

In the fall of 2020, with the U.S. still in the grip of the pandemic, we launched our inaugural Buddhist Action to Feed the Hungry series of online events. These events have proven to be a wonderful way to connect with our Dharma community around the world, while raising funds to assist those most in need. We look forward to continuing to host online retreats and other programs in the coming years.

I am humbled to serve Buddhist Global Relief under the most excellent leadership and guidance of our founder, Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, along with the Board, advisors, staff, and team members. Our close relationships with our partners have enabled us to deploy meaningful projects in areas of most need.

We could not do this work without you, our community of donors, volunteers, and Dharma friends. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and hope you will continue to support our mission as we grow into the future. Let us tread this path of love and compassion hand in hand to give the people we serve hope for a better future in a more just and equitable world!

With loving kindness,



Kim Behan



Kim Behan

Vision & Mission

VISION

We are inspired by the vision of a world in which debilitating poverty has finally been banished; a world in which all can avail themselves of the basic material supports of a meaningful life—food, clothing, housing, and health care; a world in which everyone can achieve a satisfactory level of education and freely pursue that which gives their life value and purpose; a world in which all people dwell in peace and harmony with one another and with the natural environment.

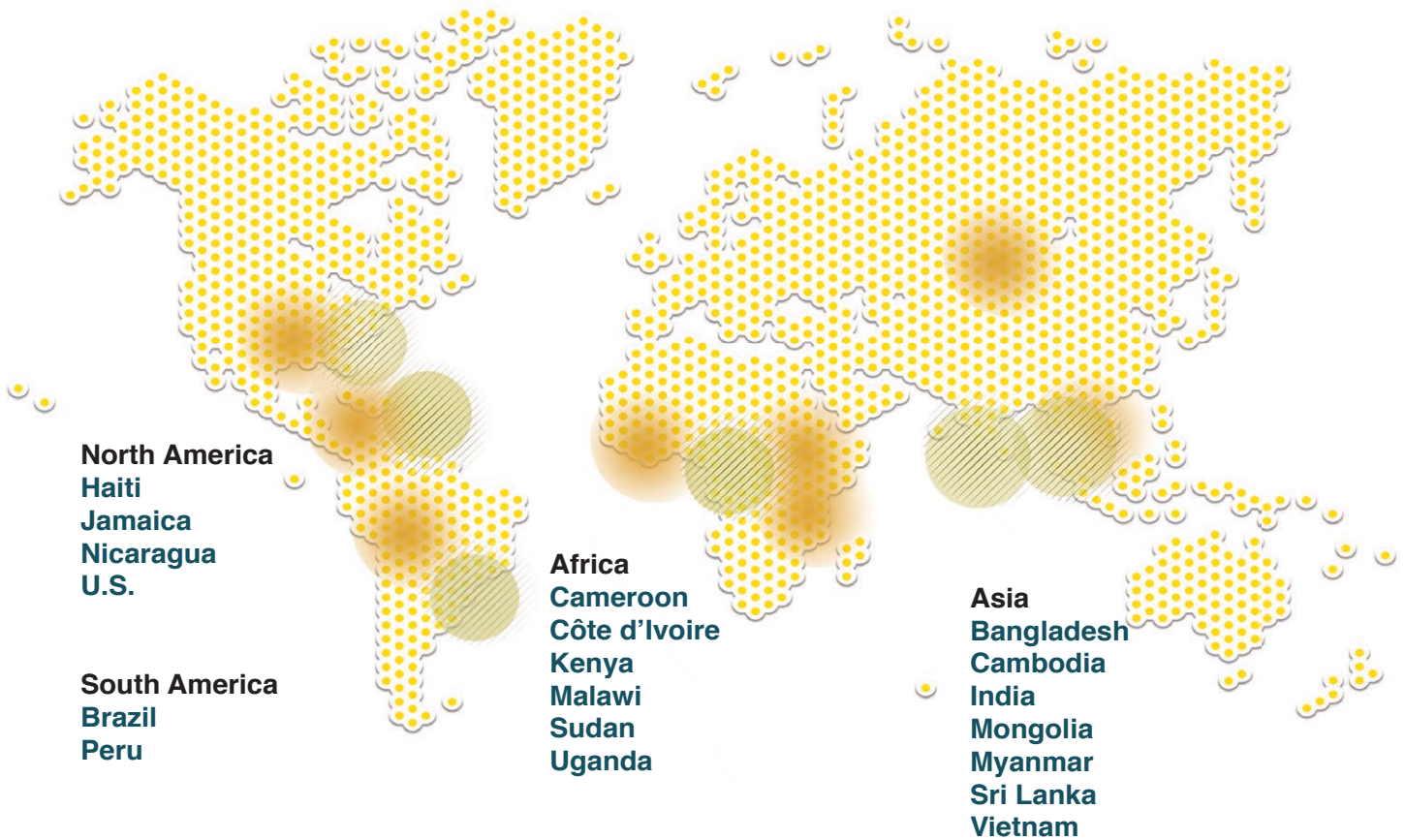
MISSION

Our mission is to combat chronic hunger and malnutrition. Bearing in mind the Buddha's statements that "hunger is the worst kind of illness" and "the gift of food is the gift of life," we sponsor projects that promote hunger relief for poor communities around the world. We pursue our mission by:

- providing food assistance to people afflicted by hunger and malnutrition
- helping develop better long-term methods of sustainable food production and management appropriate to the cultures and traditions of the beneficiaries
- promoting the education of girls and women, so essential in the struggle against poverty and malnutrition
- giving women an opportunity to start right livelihood projects to support their families.

We also seek to raise awareness of global hunger and advocate for an international food system that exemplifies social justice and conduces to ecological sustainability.

Where We Serve PROJECTS



BGR projects are designed to address chronic hunger and malnutrition, to promote greater food productivity at the grassroots level, and to tackle the root causes of food insecurity. We partner with organizations already operating on the ground, with whom we formulate and implement our projects. Buddhism teaches that hunger is a source of acute pain and a barrier to spiritual growth. BGR seeks to remove that barrier and thereby give people the chance to live healthy lives of dignity and purpose. Recognizing that all human beings share a common desire for happiness, we lend a helping hand to our unseen brothers and sisters across the globe, enabling them to fulfill great dreams and tap unrealized potential.





Vocational Training
for Women in
São Paulo

BRAZIL



In a community where many people lack access to healthy food and dignified living conditions, women studied sewing or elder care to acquire the skills needed for successful employment in these fields.



An elder care student named Graça said, “I’m here to talk about the free Elder Care course. I really enjoyed participating; there were two weeks of interaction and exchange of information. The teachers who participated were clear and objective, which facilitated learning.”

Elder care workshop participant Juliana said, “All the classes, all the lectures we saw ... about the laws, many things that I didn’t know, about nutrition too, there was a lot that I also had no idea about, that I didn’t know! The last class, which was with the nurse, was wonderful, I learned a lot; it was a very good course, very useful for us, and I would like to thank GAIA and BGR for this opportunity!”

In the Campo Grande community of São Paulo, Brazil, many people lack access to basic needs such as healthy food and decent living conditions. Social services such as schools and hospitals are stretched thin, and literacy rates are low.

BGR partner GAIA (Group for Assistance of the Elderly, Children, and Adolescents) was founded by two sisters who are professional social workers to provide vocational training for women in Campo Grande. A BGR-funded project with GAIA supported training in sewing or elder care for 120 women, through workshops, talks, and courses designed to give them skills as formal or informal workers earning money to supply their families’ basic needs. The women were taught the theoretical and technical skills needed for employment as caregivers in institutions or private homes, or as seamstresses. In addition, they received instruction and support to assist them in obtaining appropriate work documents, accessing social services, and improving their families’ nutrition.

In 2020, COVID hit São Paulo very hard. However, GAIA was able to pivot quickly to providing modules for online learning. Almost everyone in Brazil has a cell phone, and the students were able to access the content online.



At the beginning of the pandemic, GAIA purchased materials and set up a voluntary seamstress task force. They made 1,600 masks, which were distributed to the community and donated to other communities as well. These are very poor regions, with few resources and little governmental assistance. GAIA also purchased food and mobilized the donation of resources and food. They distributed 370 basic baskets in June, July, and August. BGR support was fundamental and essential to this emergency effort.



Vocational Training
for Married
Adolescent Girls in

BANGLADESH



The IMAGINE project provided vocational training for married adolescent teenagers in Bangladesh to help them shape their own futures.



In addition to providing smartphones and cell service to 65 graduates of the IMAGINE training, BGR's grant provided seed capital for 50 girls to open their own mobile repair and telecom retailing businesses. Robi reports that of girls receiving seed money, 58 percent have built businesses that are performing at a "good" or "excellent" level. For those ranked "moderate" or "poor," Robi is providing additional support to help girls overcome their challenges and build their businesses.

After graduating from IMAGINE's Robi residential training program, Miti, who was married at age 18, began selling SIM cards, talk time, and mobile repair services to local women. After developing a business plan and marketing strategy, she hopes to finish her education and establish a permanent mobile retailing shop in her community. Already she has gained confidence and independence; she sees herself as a role model to other married girls. "My family and society respect my job. Now I can raise my voice, am able to participate in the decision-making process in my family, and can go anywhere I desire," she said.

Many girls in Bangladesh are married as young teenagers and pressured by family to begin having children shortly after marriage. Girls ages 15 to 19 are twice as likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth as older women, and the babies born to young mothers have a 50 percent increased risk of death. The Inspiring Married Adolescent Girls to Imagine New Empowered Futures (IMAGINE) project, with BGR partner CARE, provided vocational training for married adolescent teenagers in Bangladesh so they could pursue alternative opportunities and shape their own futures.



Through this grant, 200 young women participated in an entrepreneurship and training program in IT, telecom sales, and mobile repair. The students were provided with laptops and mobile repair kits, as needed.

One hundred young women received training in mobile repair and retailing, and 50 of these students participated in a month-long residential training with Robi, the second-largest telecom retailer in Bangladesh. Upon graduating from the training, students received smartphones and other mobile-related products, as well as ongoing mentoring and support from Robi, as they established their own businesses.

Protima, married at 20, also participated in the Robi program. After the training, she received startup capital and started a small business where she sells talk time and repairs phones. Like Miti, Protima also hopes to open her own shop one day. Her new role as a businesswoman has given her autonomy and a renewed sense of her own possibility. "The community now recognizes me as a women entrepreneur in mobile business," she said. "My mobility has increased and my family, as well as community, shows respect to me."

This article is adapted from project reporting by CARE.

Sustainable
Livelihoods Support
for Farmers in

KENYA



This project provided training to women farmers and kitchen gardeners, many of whom reported that their children had been hungry before and now have sufficient food.



A BGR partner since 2018, the Grow Biointensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (G-BIACK) works to address food insecurity and malnutrition and raise the income of poor farmers through environmentally-sustainable agricultural methods. Responding to a crisis of soil degradation in the project areas in Machakos County, Kenya, G-BIACK teaches farmers growing methods to reclaim depleted soil while facilitating the cultivation of cash crops that will bring the greatest improvement to their livelihoods.

This BGR project provided training to 840 women farmers and kitchen gardeners, many of whom reported that their children had been hungry before and now have sufficient food. The project had four objectives: to improve the livelihoods of poor women living in rural communities in Machakos County; to share information related to family health and nutrition; to link the women to local organizations to support them in their livelihood development; and to teach ecologically sound principles and techniques.

Drought struck the region during the project period, and near the end of the year, Covid affected in-person trainings. Our partner reports that, despite these obstacles, the trainings were highly successful at achieving the stated goals. A

majority of participants created home gardens that were drought-resistant and that incorporated swales and terraces to limit water runoff. Many utilized Grow Biointensive compost methods to rejuvenate depleted soil. Farmers created tree nurseries on their crop land. Participants reported feeling more independent as they grew their crops for food and income.

Participant Jenifer Kamene spoke about the value of using organic fertilizers and pesticides, rather than the heavy chemicals she had used in the past. She said: "Chemicals destroyed my farm and I became very poor. I was wondering what was happening in my farm because I could not produce any food due to poor soils. But just a few months after G-BIACK came, I am rich. I have food. This is my joy!"



Mary Mutheu, a resident of the Mithini community in Machakos County, also participated in the trainings this year. "The biggest need of people in Mithini is food," she said. "A year ago, I was buying vegetables for my family every time. But now see my kitchen garden: It is flourishing with indigenous vegetables. This is what I needed. Nothing else." She added: "May G-BIACK reach out to all of this region with this knowledge. May they continue teaching women until all of them create a kitchen garden like mine."

Improving Children's
Health and Education in
the Himalayan Foothills

INDIA



The Arunachal Pradesh branch of the Maha Bodhi Maitri Mandala provides food to undernourished students, improving their health while also enhancing their capacity to succeed in their studies.



Situated in a remote corner of northeastern India in the Himalayan foothills, the Arunachal Branch of the Maha Bodhi Maitri Mandala educates the children of the poor and needy people of the region, most of whom are members of the Chakma tribes. Surviving on subsistence farming, nearly 35 percent of the region's population falls below the Indian poverty line. Today, there are 640 students enrolled in the Maitri Mandala school and 253 children living in the dormitories.

In 2018, the school's leadership was struggling with a complex set of interconnected challenges. The children who came to the school were malnourished and grappling with a variety of health-related concerns that limited their ability to concentrate, study, and learn. Funds needed to operate the school and serve even more children had to be diverted to health care. Poor educational outcomes also meant that students would drop out, and the school and other programs could lose community support.

A BGR grant enabled Maitri Mandala to put into practice a simple theory of change: provide three nutritious meals to students daily to improve student health, which, in turn, would improve educational outcomes.

Within the year, the Maitri Mandala reported that BGR support had enabled them to vastly improve both the quantity and quality of food served to the children. The impact was almost immediate. The number of children each month who complained of illnesses related to malnutrition dropped by 50 percent, and more children were participating in sports and other physical activities than ever before. Equally significant, 94 percent of senior students passed the national exams required in order to advance academically. Reduced health care costs meant that the organization could increase teacher and staff pay.

The onset of the pandemic required still more innovation on the part of the Maitri Mandala. Confronted with a nationwide lockdown, they used BGR support (which had now doubled) to provide rice, sugar, flour, milk, and other food items to the families of their poorest students.



The experience of the Maha Bodhi Maitri Mandala Arunachal Branch is proof that by joining together, we can make a difference, no matter how intractable or complex the problem. People of good heart, motivated by compassion and focused on what is essential, can open up the future to a child and to a community.

Food Assistance
and
Scholarships in

VIETNAM



One of BGR's earliest partners, the Vietnam Red Cross provides meals for hospital patients and scholarships for children in need.



In a village affected by poverty and malnutrition, this project supports the nutritional needs of some of the most vulnerable people—those who are both poor and sick.

Scholarships for Children

In Vietnam's rural areas, many families live by subsistence farming on small pieces of land. In a country heavily affected by floods and drought, these farmers' livelihoods are often precarious, and they have minimal access to social services and health care.

The poverty facing these families makes school unaffordable for many; additionally, children—especially girls—frequently work alongside their parents to help ease the immediate economic hardship.

To support these impoverished families in affording an education for their children, each year BGR sponsors scholarships to students in Vietnam's Tam Binh and Cam Duong districts. The scholarships, administered by the Vietnam Red Cross, enable 705 students in primary, middle, and high school to attend school, providing families with annual enrollment fees, school uniforms, books, and educational materials.



BGR support has enabled thousands of students from low-income families to receive an education, the most effective path out of generational poverty. These are children from the poorest families who achieve good grades and display good conduct. Without this aid, these students would lack the means to continue their studies.

In the 2019 fiscal year, Buddhist Global Relief supported 37 partners. But in the year of BGR's founding, 2009, our organization supported three partners. Among these is the Vietnam Red Cross, whose scholarship and hospital meals programs remain a cornerstone of BGR's work to assist those in need.

Hospital Meals Program

In Vietnam, the price of a hospital stay does not include food. Already challenged by hospital expenses, most patients and their families are hard-pressed to buy food, so necessary to recuperation from illness. In partnership with the Tam Binh chapter of the Vietnam Red Cross, since 2009 BGR has been providing thousands of free meals to patients at the Tam Binh hospital.

Red Cross volunteers, most of whom are in their sixties and seventies, donate their time to prepare and serve healthy vegetarian meals of rice, tofu, and in-season vegetables to patients at the hospital. Each of fourteen teams supplies meals for four weeks; together the teams provide meals to hospital patients for a full year. In the 2019 project year, BGR support funded more than 68,000 meals.

PROJECTS **In Brief**



Action Against Hunger

Improving Agricultural Diversification and Food Access in Cambodia

Supported training in agroecology methods for home gardening and climate-resilient rice production. The project also funded the construction and rehabilitation of small ponds to provide water for agriculture and domestic use, as well as the creation of village rice banks to address food insecurity for the poorest families.



Art Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC)

Meals for Hungry Schoolchildren in Jacmel, Haiti

Provided 35 students in ACFFC's programs with at least one nutritious, filling meal per day, six days per week. For many of the students, the meals they receive here are their only opportunity to eat each day. Without the feeding program, many of the children would spend their days either looking for food or working rather than attending school.



Asociación Grupo de Trabajo Redes

Empowering Women in Peru

Educated women about their legal rights and improved their skills to enable them to get better-paying jobs, thereby directly helping them and their families, and protecting them from physical and sexual abuse.



Bangladesh Buddhist Missionary Society

Food Support for School of Orphans in Bangladesh

Funded a feeding program at the Orphans Home Complex, located at Betagi in the rural Chittagong Hills region, providing hunger relief to 56 children from destitute families for twelve months.



Bodhicitta Foundation

A Girls' Home and Women's Social Service Center in India

Supported the education and training of 30 teenage girls at risk of having their education cut short and of being forced into early marriage due to poverty, providing instruction in nursing, social work, or law, as well as job training so they can become agents of change and help others when they return to their villages.



Brazilian Institute of Studies and Community Support (IBEAC)

Healthy Vegetarian Meals in São Paulo, Brazil

Supported a communal kitchen to promote healthy diets among low-income residents. Trainees received education in nutrition and the preparation of healthy vegetarian and organic foods, then shared their knowledge with the community through workshops at schools, health clinics, and other local sites.



Burma Humanitarian Mission

Education of Medics' Children from Myanmar (Burma)

Supported the education of the children of “backpack medics,” who provide mobile medical care within Myanmar. The children live over the border in Mae Sot, Thailand. The grant funded students’ uniforms and school supplies, as well as school fees.



CENCUDER Cameroon

Feeding Program for Schoolchildren in Cameroon

Provided nutritious hot lunches for 107 undernourished children attending the local Ebase-Bajoh primary school. Since its introduction in 2015, the feeding program has increased enrollment and lowered dropout rates, especially among village girls.



Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD-Cameroon)

Vocational Training for Single Mothers and Marginalized Women in Cameroon

Provided a permanent space for CCREAD’s vocational training center, built with BGR support in 2017. The new building provides space to train up to 200 people per session and will also provide a learning space for orphans and for children who accompany their mothers to the training center.



Centro de Trabalho Indigenista (CTI)

Supporting Traditional Agricultural Practices Among Guarani Women in Brazil

Trained women from the indigenous Guarani Mbya community in promoting and applying traditional agricultural practices in five villages of the Tenondé Porã Indigenous Land, in São Paulo. In expanding the use of these ecologically sustainable traditional methods, the project aimed to increase community food security, to strengthen cultural connections, and to empower women.



CENWOR—the Centre for Women’s Research

Livelihood Training for People With Disabilities in Sri Lanka

Provided vocational training to about 60 people in the Anuradhapura district. The project also aimed to improve the quality of life of those who are totally dependent on others by providing education to caregivers, families, and the wider community.



Community Relief and Development Action (COREDA)

Education of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Cameroon

Supplied basic school furniture, literacy materials, and computers for the education of orphans and underprivileged children in the semi-urban slums of Tiko, a city in southwest Cameroon. The project provides a foundation for these children to learn valuable skills to equip them for well-paying jobs in a modernizing society.



Easton Area Neighborhood Centers

Easton Urban Farm in Easton, Pennsylvania

Supported the Easton Urban Farm, a 5/8-acre plot on which community volunteers grow vegetables, fruits, and seedlings for distribution to low-income residents of the city of Easton. The project also builds community through workshops and internships, introducing young people to cultivation and harvesting methods.



Ecology Action

Training in Climate-Resistant Agriculture Methods in Malawi and Kenya

Trained farmers, a majority of them women, in Grow Biointensive climate-resilient agriculture methods, including composting, planting beds and kitchen gardening, crop rotation and diversification, soil and water conservation, and rainwater harvesting.



Helen Keller International

Improving Nutrition Among Children in Côte d'Ivoire

Trained health workers to provide childbearing women and children in the district with education and support in maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, supplemental feeding, food preparation, and other topics necessary to the health and nutrition of pregnant women, infants, and children.



Helen Keller International

Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition in Kenya

Improved delivery of nutrition health services for mothers, infants, and children in need of nutritional assistance at critical developmental stages. The project's direct beneficiaries are estimated to be 55,000 adults (40,000 women) and 200,000 children.



International Cooperation Center (ICC)

Supporting Smallholder SRI Rice Producers in Vietnam

Promoted the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) among smallholder farmers in the Phu Thuong commune of Vietnam. This project improved farmers' income by connecting them with an expanded market of potential customers and supporting consumer education to increase demand and raise prices for SRI-grown rice.



Jamyang Foundation

School Lunches for Girls in Bangladesh

Provided daily healthy meals for 128 girls in kindergarten through sixth grade at Visakha Girls' School, which serves disadvantaged girls from the remote village of Dhoshri and surrounding villages. Before this project was established, many of the students were so malnourished that they had trouble concentrating and often dropped out of school; the girls are now healthy and happy and able to focus on their lessons.



Joan Rose Foundation

Food Program for Vulnerable Children in Haiti

Supported a food program providing two nutritious meals, five days a week, to approximately 100 children and 40 adults. For many of these children, these meals provide their only source of nutrition during the week. The food program allows the children to focus in school and tutoring sessions, improves their overall nutrition and well-being, and takes a financial burden and stress off their parents.



Keep Growing Detroit

Creating a Food-Sovereign City in Detroit, Michigan

Provided seeds, transplants, and resources to support residents in growing their own food gardens and securing access to fresh, low-cost vegetables. The project also distributed produce from Keep Growing Detroit's farm to food-insecure families in Detroit and funded community outreach events.



LICADHO, the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights

Monitoring the Welfare of Women and Infants in Prisons in Cambodia

Provided much-needed food and hygiene materials to pregnant women, new mothers, and infants in eighteen Cambodian prisons. The project also monitored the rights and welfare of these incarcerated women and their children.



Lotus Outreach International

Nutritional Support for Garden of Peace School in India

Provided nutritional support for students and staff members at Garden of Peace school in Tamil Nadu. This project also provided students with school uniforms, books and other materials, and transportation assistance.



Lotus Outreach International

Maternal and Child Health in Rajasthan, India

Provided training to 30 health workers to administer immunization programs, improve hygiene and health practices, and collect community health data in 18 very poor villages of Rajasthan. Direct beneficiaries included more than 500 pregnant and lactating women and their children; indirectly, the project was expected to benefit all the almost 73,000 residents of the region.



Lotus Outreach International

Rice Support for Students in Cambodia

Provided rice support to female students receiving scholarships through Lotus Outreach's educational programs. The project provides reliable nourishment to a population affected by food insecurity while also freeing up limited familial resources for the girls' education.



Lotus Outreach International

Scholarship Program for Young Women in Cambodia

Provided secondary school scholarships to 16 young women, covering tuition and fees, medical services, and housing, as well as textbooks and school supplies and a monthly stipend. By facilitating access to higher education, the program activates the social and economic potential of young women at the margins.



Mahabodhi Tawang Centre

Food Aid for the Mahabodhi Maitri Mandala Children's Home in India

The Mahabodhi Maitri Mandala Children's Home houses, feeds, and educates 124 children in need. On Sundays and holidays, the children visit the elderly people living at the nearby Mahabodhi Home for Elders. This project supported the Centre's food program, which provides nutritious meals three times a day to 208 people, including 157 children, plus elderly people, monks, and organization staff.



Maitreya Charity

Hot Lunches for Schoolchildren in Mongolia

Provided schoolchildren, ranging in age from 6 to 17, with nutritious meals as well as providing mentoring, educational supplies, disease prevention training, basic hygiene instruction, clothing, vitamins, social activities, and games.



Moanoghar

Furniture for a New Classroom Building in Bangladesh

Supplied much-needed furniture and equipment for a new classroom building at Moanoghar School, which provides free or highly-subsidized education to about 1,250 disadvantaged children from different ethnic indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.



North Country Mission of Hope

Educational Sponsorship of Girls in Nicaragua

Sponsored the education of 122 girls, including eight who are attending college. Each student in the program receives tuition and/or registration fees, school books, and the government-mandated school uniform, along with shoes, socks, and the required school insignia.



Oxfam America

Helping Farmers Affected by Conflict and Drought in Sudan

Provided agricultural inputs and training in improved farming techniques to 500 households in the Kass Locality, located in the western part of South Darfur State. Farmers were trained in water harvesting techniques, as well as suitable methods of vegetable gardening that enable farmers to increase production.



Oxfam India

Supporting Smallholder Women Farmers in Uttar Pradesh, India

Increased income and nutrition security among smallholder women farmers, many of them Dalit (the former “untouchables”), through training in climate-resilient agricultural methods and in the production of nutritionally rich crop varieties. The project also strengthened the collective bargaining power of women farmers through the support of women farmers’ groups.



Rachana

Socioeconomic Well-Being for Vulnerable Communities in Cambodia

Supported food security and improved living conditions in thirteen villages of two communities in Takeo province. The project trained family farmers in climate-resilient rice and vegetable cultivation techniques. Rachana also worked in schools to create a curriculum on climate-resilient agriculture and supported school gardens to implement these methods.



Reciprocity Foundation

Meals for Vulnerable New Yorkers in New York City, New York

Supported a food program offering high-quality vegetarian meals to vulnerable New Yorkers, including survivors of domestic violence, homeless families, new immigrants, young veterans, LGBTQ persons, and those facing long-term chronic illness or pain.



Trees That Feed Foundation

Meals for Primary School Students in Haiti and Jamaica

Provided breakfast meals to 900 children, ages 5 to 10, at five schools in Jamaica, and five in Haiti. The meals are a healthy porridge primarily made from breadfruit, an environmentally sustainable crop grown by local farmers.



Wawa Sonqo

Improving Nutrition for Children and Families in Peru

Addressed malnutrition in children and young people in the Palomar sector of the Ch'illka community, in the Andean foothills. The project trained families in the cultivation, preparation, processing, and preservation of fruits and vegetables, offered nutritional education, and provided instruction and materials for the construction and use of simple greenhouses.



What If Foundation

Education for Children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Supported the Father Jeri School, which provides a quality education to 300 children who otherwise would likely fall through the cracks of Haiti's education system. Covering full tuition for half of its students, this grant helped to provide these children with a foundation upon which to build a healthy, productive future.



What If Foundation

Meals for Hungry Children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Provided life-sustaining nutrition to children in the Ti Plas Kazo community of Port-au-Prince. For many children, Na Rive's Lamanjay food program provides the only substantial meal of the day, and many children will walk miles just to receive this meal. The program is helping to support the children's physical and cognitive development, and to nutritionally support their parents as well.

2019 WALKS

To Feed the Hungry

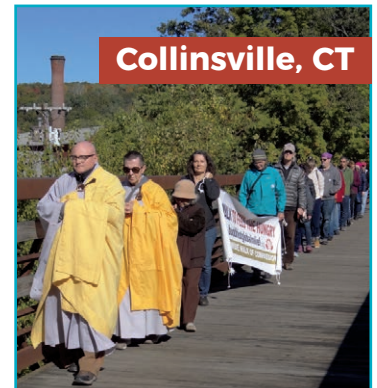
Buddhist Global Relief's tradition of Walk to Feed the Hungry fundraisers continued strong in the autumn of 2019, with fundraising Walks held in twelve U.S. cities and Surrey, England. Solidarity walks were held by our partners in Nagpur and Kurumbupalayam, India.

The Walks are a wonderful time to share the joy that fills our hearts when we help others. In this fiscal year, BGR raised more than \$69,000 to help sponsor our projects around the world as they provide food for the hungry, education for children and young people, vocational training that enables women to become independent and productive, and training in sustainable agricultural techniques for farmers in Africa, Asia, and South America.

Our Walk coordinators continued to provide the spark and organizational skills that make the Walks possible, and local team members, along with BGR board, staff, and volunteers, generously supported these events, so critical for the continuation of our mission. We are grateful to all who helped us make a difference this year!



Berkeley, CA



Collinsville, CT



New Hudson, MI



New York, NY



Garden of Peace Solidarity Walk, India



Portland, ME



Portland, OR



San Diego, CA



San Jose, CA



Seattle, WA



St. Louis, MO



Surrey, England



Houston, TX



Bodhicitta Solidarity Walk, India

Financial STATEMENTS



For more than a decade, Buddhist Global Relief has been committed to providing relief to the poor and needy throughout the world. To that end, we continually strive to use our resources with utmost efficiency in order to provide as much assistance as possible to our partners for the direct benefit of individuals and families in need.

During the fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020), our twelfth year of service, BGR maintained the steady growth in donation revenue seen since its inception. Our revenues totaled \$818,178. Our expenditures totaled \$863,378, of which \$781,853, or 91 percent, was allocated to direct programs.* Our administrative ratio was 2 percent, and another 7 percent was devoted to fundraising and promotional efforts.

As we conclude another year of work, we offer you, our donors, our deepest gratitude for your continued support!

*Note: We utilized part of cash carried forward from FY2019 to support projects in FY2020.

Statement of Activities

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

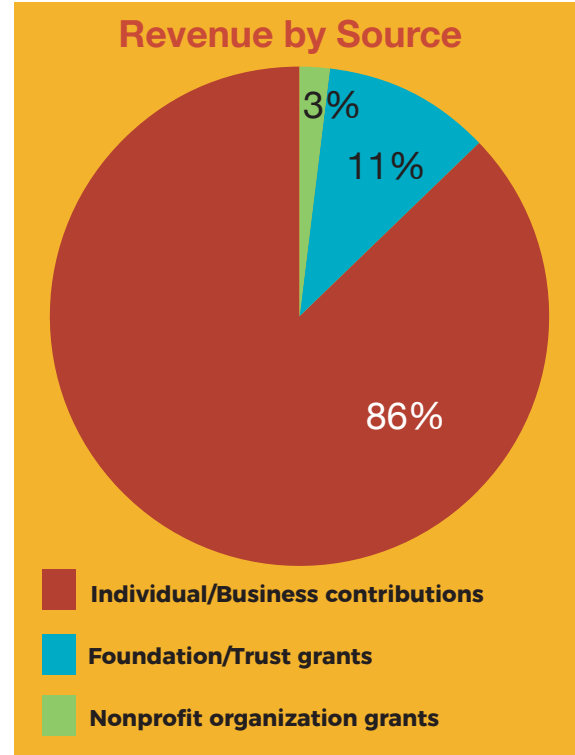
REVENUE

Individual & Business Contributions	\$ 707,054
Nonprofit Organization Contributions	23,612
Foundation Grants	87,082
Investment Income	<u>430</u>
Total Revenue	\$ <u>818,178</u>

EXPENDITURES

Direct Program Costs	\$ 781,853
Administration	19,320
Fundraising	<u>62,205</u>
Total Expenditures	863,378
Deficit	\$ <u>(45,200)</u>

Administration as a % of total revenue = 2%



Statement of Financial Position

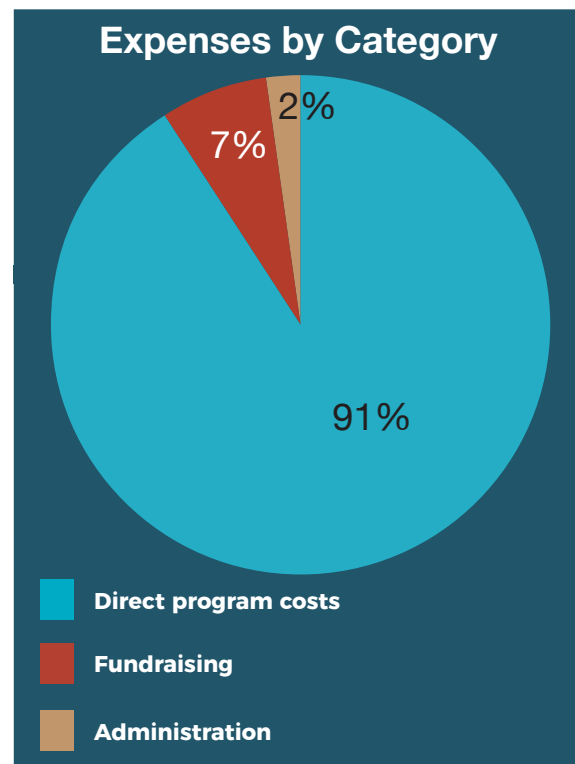
June 30, 2020

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 58,235
Accounts Receivable	8,018
Unconditional promise to give	387,694
Other Assets	<u>698</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>454,645</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ <u>13,125</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ <u>13,125</u>
Fund Balance	
Fund Balance Jul 1, 2019	486,720
Deficit	<u>(45,200)</u>
Fund Balance Jun 30, 2020	<u>441,520</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ <u>454,645</u>



Partnerships for HUMANITARIAN ACTION



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER For 40 years, across nearly 50 countries, the nonprofit Action Against Hunger has been a leader in the global fight against hunger.

ART CREATION FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN Serving children and families in need in Jacmel, Haiti, this foundation's mission is "to build a passionate community of future leaders, visionaries, and dynamic thinkers who are empowered to better their lives and their world through the arts and education."

ASOCIACIÓN GRUPO DE TRABAJO REDES This Peruvian organization helps women in low-paying jobs improve their skills, raises awareness of women's rights to decent pay and working conditions, and advocates for the removal of children from the domestic labor market.

BANGLADESH BUDDHIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY Ven. Jivanananda Mahathero founded the Society in 1977 with a focus on dispensing humanitarian services to orphans, widows, and others in need.

BODHICITTA FOUNDATION The Bodhicitta Foundation was founded in 2003 by the Australian Buddhist nun Ayya Yeshe, and provides counseling, education, and women's empowerment to the Dalit community in Nagpur, India.

BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY STUDIES AND SUPPORT (IBEAC) IBEAC is a non-governmental organization operating since 2008 in five neighborhoods in Parelheiros, in the south of São Paulo, a peripheral area with extremely low socioeconomic status.

BURMA HUMANITARIAN MISSION Burma Humanitarian Mission supports health care, human rights, educational, and advocacy projects serving disadvantaged communities in Myanmar.

CARE Founded in 1945, CARE is a global humanitarian organization whose work in hunger relief, health, education, climate, equality, and disaster response serves nearly 90 million people worldwide.

CENCUDER CAMEROON This organization seeks to help rural youths and women improve their lives through education and training in life and vocational skills.

CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CCREAD-CAMEROON) CCREAD-Cameroon has worked since 2006 to support marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls through education, health, and community empowerment projects.

CENTRO DE TRABALHO INDIGENISTA (CTI) Founded in 1979, CTI supports the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples in Brazil through environmentally sustainable, culturally responsive programs and trainings.

CENWOR, THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S RESEARCH This nonprofit, nongovernmental organization helps Sri Lankan women realize their full potential and achieve equality in all spheres of life.

COMMUNITY RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION (COREDA) This nonprofit has been actively providing support services for vulnerable communities in the Southwest and Northwest provinces of Cameroon since 2009.

EASTON AREA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS Through its Easton Urban Farm, Easton Area Neighborhood Centers, Inc. provides produce to low-income residents of the city of Easton, Pennsylvania.

ECOLOGY ACTION OF THE MID-PENINSULA Ecology Action promotes a small-scale agricultural system, Grow Biointensive, which increases crop yields and conserves resources.

GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE CENTRE OF KENYA (G-BIACK) G-BIACK promotes Grow Biointensive Agriculture methods and other sustainable development techniques among small-scale farmers in Kenya.

GRUPO DE ASSISTÊNCIA AO IDOSO A INFÂNCIA E A ADOLESCÊNCIA (GAIA) GAIA provides formal and informal education and social work services for underserved women and families in the low-income neighborhood of Campo Grande in São Paulo, Brazil.

HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL Helen Keller International, one of the world's oldest nonprofits, works in countries throughout the world to prevent blindness and reduce malnutrition.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CENTER The International Cooperation Center of Thai Nguyen University in Vietnam undertakes international collaborative projects in agriculture aimed at reducing poverty.

JAMYANG FOUNDATION The Jamyang Foundation supports innovative educational projects for indigenous girls and women in the Indian Himalayas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

JOAN ROSE FOUNDATION The Joan Rose Foundation works in Haiti to serve impoverished children and their families by providing food, education, clothing, medicine, love, and support.

KEEP GROWING DETROIT Keep Growing Detroit promotes food sovereignty in Detroit by supporting residents in growing the fruits and vegetables consumed in the city.

LICADHO (THE CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS) Since 1992, LICADHO has worked to protect civil, political, economic, and social rights in Cambodia and to promote respect for them by the Cambodian government and institutions.

LOTUS OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL Lotus Outreach International is dedicated to improving the education, health, and safety of at-risk and exploited women and children in the developing world, especially Cambodia and India.

MAHA BODHI MAITRI MANDALA, DIYUN The Maha Bodhi Maitri Mandala society provides education, vocational training, health services, and agricultural support to the poor tribal people of northeast India.

MAHA BODHI TAWANG CENTRE Located on a six-acre plot in the Himalayan region of Tawang, in Arunachal Pradesh, the Centre provides housing, food, quality education, and health care to local children and elderly people.

MAITREYA CHARITY Maitreya Charity supports Asral NGO, a Mongolian nonprofit established in 2001 under the auspices of Ven. Panchen Ötrul Rinpoche with the objective of keeping families together and preventing children from going onto the streets.

MOANOGHAR Moanoghar's mission is to support a secure future for the marginalized communities of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh by providing free or highly subsidized education to children in the region.

NORTH COUNTRY MISSION OF HOPE The North Country Mission of Hope fosters hope and empowers the people of Nicaragua through programs in community development, ecological sustainability, education, and health care.

OXFAM AMERICA A member of the Oxfam International confederation, Oxfam America works to create innovative solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice in more than 90 countries.

OXFAM INDIA Oxfam India is a fully independent Indian organization fighting poverty and injustice and working to create a more equal, just, and sustainable world.

RACHANA Rachana is a Cambodian NGO that has been promoting health care and ecologically sustainable agriculture among rural populations in Cambodia since 1994.

RECIPROCITY FOUNDATION The Reciprocity Foundation offers counseling, vocational training and college preparation, and other wellness services to vulnerable New Yorkers including homeless youth, survivors of domestic violence, and others.

TREES THAT FEED FOUNDATION The Trees That Feed Foundation fights hunger and malnutrition by planting fruit-bearing trees that feed people, create jobs, and benefit the environment in twelve countries across the globe.

VIETNAM RED CROSS The Vietnam Red Cross, founded in 1946, serves those affected by poverty and provides health care, emergency assistance, and humanitarian relief for the ill and victims of war and natural disasters.

WAWA SONQO Asociación Civil sin Fines de Lucro Wawa Sonqo was founded in 2006 in Cusco, Peru, with a mission of breaking the cycle of poverty that affects nearly a quarter of Cusco's population.

WHAT IF? FOUNDATION The What If? Foundation works with Haitian partners to provide much-needed food and educational opportunities to impoverished children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Thank You for Your SUPPORT



Buddhist Global Relief's work is dependent on the individuals and organizations who support us financially. Your generous donations provide direct food aid, support the education of children in need, empower women and girls, and provide training in sustainable agricultural methods to improve food security and relieve hunger worldwide.

We are honored to publicly thank the following individuals and organizations for their support and partnership during the 2020 fiscal year, July 2019 through June 2020. We wish that we could include the names of everyone who has contributed to our work this year, but space does not permit this. May the merits of your offerings spread joy throughout the world!

Each donor is important to us. If your name is not listed correctly, please accept our apologies and notify us by emailing us at info@buddhistglobalrelief.org.

\$200,000 or above

Anonymous

\$30,000 or above

Organizations

Yin Shun Foundation

Individuals

Peter Farnum & Christine

Ann Dean

C. Alison McLean

Patrick Okell

\$10,000 to \$29,999

Organizations

Tan Teo Charitable

Foundation

Individuals

Bhikkhu Bodhi

Celia Pi-Yin Chen

Thomas E. Green

Joy L. Robinson

Joel Rosenblum

Phoebe Signer

Lisa Wong Fund

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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Society of USA

Dharma Charitable

Gift Fund

Power

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Benjamin

Fernando & Barbara

Camacho

George & Donna Clapp

Eleanor Heath

Chee Meng Ng

Janice R. Sheppard

\$2,500 to \$4,999

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the United States

ImpactAssets

Mid-America Buddhist

Association

New York Insight

Meditation Center

Individuals

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Norman & Lina Chang

Tom & Jody Chang

William Davidson

Ruth Diane Gross

Fang Hang

Lynn & John Kelly

Khanh Nguyen

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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Although we would certainly like to publicly thank everyone who donated to BGR, for reasons of space and cost in producing this report, we have to thank many of you with a general statement of gratitude for your generosity.

May all those who contributed to our work, in any way and in any amount, reap an abundance of blessings. If we have inadvertently omitted you from this list, we offer our sincere apologies.

Abolghasem
Khademolreza
Su Hwa Kiang
Rachael Kilsby
Lee Kuo-Hsien
Dung Le
Johnathon M. Lee
Teng Lim
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Zeyin Wu
Fun Sun & Baw Chyr Yao
Man-Li Yeh
Shu Yuan Yen
(Ven. Chi Hong)

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Edward Unthank
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McCartney Wilkins
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Helena (Halusia)
Witkowski
Lisa & Robert Wong
Chenghsi Yang
4 Noble Truths

How You Can HELP



Your donations feed children and send them to school, provide adults with the skills to improve their livelihoods, and help farmers improve their methods so they can better feed their families. Even small donations can make a real difference in the lives of impoverished families in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Together, we are changing the world. We welcome both one-time and recurring donations. BGR is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your gift is deductible to the full extent allowable under IRS regulations. There are many ways to donate.

DONATE ONLINE

Make a secure donation with your credit card on our website: buddhistglobalrelief.org/donate.

SEND A PERSONAL CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR MONEY ORDER

Please make your check payable to:

Buddhist Global Relief
2020 Route 301
Carmel, NY 10512

MAKE A WIRE TRANSFER

A wire transfer of U.S. dollars can be made to BGR's bank account. For instructions, please call BGR's toll-free number, 1-888-852-7579.

COMPANY MATCHING GIFTS

Your employer may have a matching gift program that will double or triple your contribution. Obtain a matching gift form from your personnel office and send it with your tax-deductible contribution to: Buddhist Global Relief, 2020 Route 301, Carmel, NY 10512.

MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT

You can donate online to honor a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Visit our website at buddhistglobalrelief.org/donate to learn more.

MAKE A CHARITABLE GIFT OF STOCKS OR BONDS

Making a gift of stocks or bonds may help reduce your taxes while generously supporting BGR's mission. For more information, please call us at 1-888-852-7579.

BEQUEST AND ESTATE PLAN GIVING

Leave a gift to Buddhist Global Relief in your will or trust to support our work to break the cycle of poverty for generations to come. For information about bequest and estate plan giving, please email us at info@buddhistglobalrelief.org.

CONTRIBUTE TO BGR THROUGH CFC #74375

U.S. federal government employees can donate to BGR through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). If you are a U.S. federal employee, please consider contributing through our CFC #74375, and spread the word to your colleagues, family, and friends at work.

HOST AN EVENT

Organize a Buddhist Action to Feed the Hungry event, a day of mindfulness, a chant-in, a Vesak event, or host your own special event to raise funds and share information about the work of BGR. Email us at info@buddhistglobalrelief.org for information, inspiration, and support.

VOLUNTEER

You can support the work of BGR by becoming a volunteer. BGR volunteers are located all over the world. Information on volunteer positions currently open is available on the BGR website at buddhistglobalrelief.org/volunteer.

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can support us by setting your charitable organization to Buddhist Global Relief. Go to smile.amazon.com for more information and to sign up.

STAY CONNECTED

Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram; see our photo albums on Flickr; watch us on YouTube!



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Buddhist Global Relief

2020 Route 301, Carmel, NY 10512 USA

www.buddhistglobalrelief.org



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PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

2021 Buddhist Action to Feed the Hungry

FUNDRAISING SEASON

In 2020, in response to the Covid pandemic, Buddhist Global Relief moved many of our events online. During an incredibly difficult year, this change enabled us to connect with Dharma friends across the U.S. and around the world.

In Fall 2021, BGR is again hosting a series of online Buddhist Action to Feed the Hungry gatherings. These gatherings will be held in addition to our in-person Walks, which we hope will also be held this year whenever possible.

For information about our online and in-person Buddhist Action events, please visit us online at buddhistglobalrelief.org.

We hope that you will join us!

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Jamyang Foundation
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p. 6-7:
Group for Assistance
of the Elderly,
Children and
Adolescents (Brazil)

p. 8-9:
CARE (Bangladesh)

p. 10-11:
GROW BIOINTENSIVE
Centre (Kenya)

p. 12-13:
Maha Bodhi Diyun
(India)

p. 14-15:
Vietnam Red Cross
(Vietnam)

p. 24:
CENCUDER
(Cameroon)

p. 29:
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p. 30:
Lotus Outreach
(Cambodia)

Inside Back Cover:
Art Creation
Foundation for
Children (Haiti)

*Prior to giving, one is joyful;
While giving, one settles the mind in trust;
After giving, one is elated;
This is success in the act of offering.*

Anguttara Nikāya 6.37



Buddhist Global Relief

2020 Route 301, Carmel, NY 10512 USA

www.buddhistglobalrelief.org