



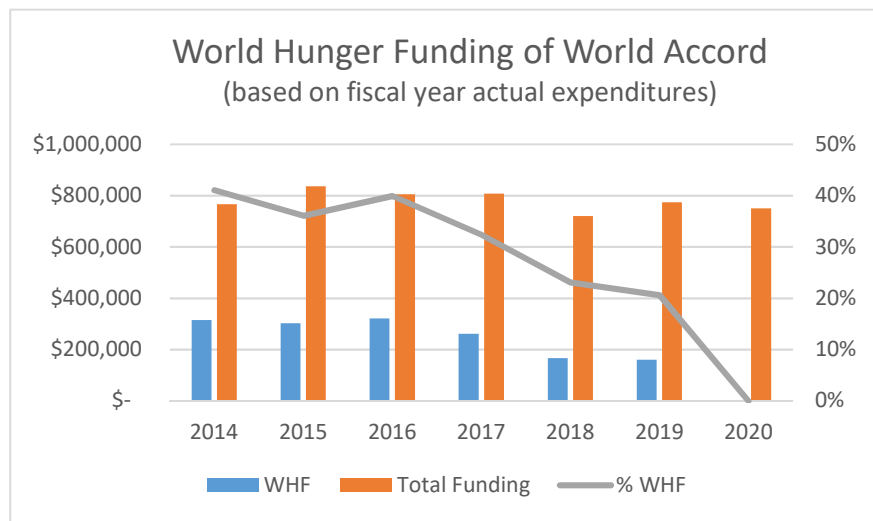
May, 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

World Accord is entering a new phase in our existence as an organization and we wanted to bring you all up to date on what has been happening and our vision for where we need to go. In order to continue to bring transformation to the lives of thousands living in poverty around the world, World Accord is having to adapt to new realities and adapt quickly.

With reductions needed in the Worldwide Mission Budget, our organization learned in February that we will no longer be able to count on any funding for our programs from the World Hunger Fund (Abolish Poverty – End Suffering). For more than 30 years, we have been blessed with a large portion of our program funds being generously provided by the WHF and unfortunately we have become dependent on the WHF and the funding it provided. Sadly a loss this large has the potential to damage our programs, our partner organizations and World Accord as an organization.

World Accord has been running on a shoestring in order to divert more of our general funding to programs to cover the initial shortfall. While we were blessed once again this year to have our Nepal program fully funded, fiscal 2019 (which began April 1, 2018) will be the first year that I can remember where we were not able to give complete assurances to our other three primary partners in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador that we could fully fund their programs for the year. All we could guarantee them is the funds we currently have on hand. This represents about a 50% cut to them for the coming year and - at the moment – no guarantees of any funding at all for 2020. The budgeted amounts in orange on the chart are what we require for 2019 and 2020 to keep the current level of funding to partners but try as we might, we don't have a source for the funds sufficient to make up for such a large shortfall.



Yet there is hope. The Canadian government has opened the doors to applications once again for organizations the size of World Accord and we have been working hard. We submitted a joint proposal to Global Affairs Canada last June for a program for Guatemala that – if it is funded – would go a long ways to bridging the overall gap we are facing. That one we worked on and submitted jointly with the Mennonite Economic Development Associates. We have been waiting a long time already and hope to hear in the next few months.

In addition to that we submitted a proposal to Global Affairs Canada in January for Nepal. Again, it will be a few more months before we will know if funding is forthcoming. This one alone would be excellent for funding of Nepal but we would still have to guarantee the match funding. It would not help us at all with the funding of the rest of our program partners. We are looking for opportunities to get grants wherever we can. We also continue to assist our partner organizations in their search for funding from other sources.

Last year one congregation helped us with a major gift and around this time in 2016, Canada East Mission solicited major gifts from 4 congregations across Canada to help us ensure that World Accord programs and partners were not hurt by the loss of program funds. In recent discussions we have had with Church leadership here in Canada, it was suggested that we write letters to congregations to inform them of our situation and ask if they might be able to help in some way but include all functioning congregations in Canada and not simply the ones that were blessed with funds from sales of their church properties.

It may seem that few congregations in Canada would have the means be able to respond to such a request. Yet, it is often surprising to discover what we can do when we make a commitment to a cause. It may surprise you to learn that there is one congregation in Canada that has contributed more than \$100,000 to World Accord over the years and it is not a congregation that has a lot of money or really a very large congregation. In fact they rarely touched their bank account to do this. It was all raised by a community event held specifically for the purpose of raising funds for World Accord. They have sent World Accord more than twice as much as the next leading supporting congregation. How do they do it? Community Garage Sales in Chilliwack, BC.

Making a commitment to a cause is an excellent way to engage your greater community. I believe people in your neighbourhood might be willing to join you in accomplishing something like poverty alleviation. Helping to eradicate extreme poverty is important; something people can generally agree about and work together to achieve. I would ask that your congregation consider being a catalyst – or leaven if you will – in your greater community to support our cause and hopefully engage your neighbours at the same time. Show everyone that this cause is something you care about and they will come to know you as a church that cares. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we know you care about people living in extreme poverty elsewhere on the planet. Your congregation has shown it every time someone supported Abolish Poverty – End Suffering. Why keep it a secret? Why not show your community how much you care? It is an excellent way to meet people and strike up a conversation. It is an outreach opportunity. So we are not asking for your money.....we are asking for your help.

So what does World Accord need? All in all we are short by approximately \$180,000. That could be accomplished by 30 congregations each committing to raise \$6000 for us. Or 60 congregations raising \$3,000 for us. Of course the reality will look much different and depend greatly on how many congregations across Canada seize this opportunity for outreach. So yes.... I am asking you for help. To take a leap of faith and make a commitment to grab onto this outreach opportunity and trust that the spirit will lead us to the “how we can make that happen” in a way that will benefit not only the program of World Accord, but your congregation’s outreach efforts.

World Accord was started by the church and has been doing outreach and poverty alleviation on behalf of the church for more than 37 years. Many church members still feel a sense of ‘ownership’ of World Accord. If you commit to helping us we will do everything we can to support your outreach/fundraising efforts. The big question is...will you help us?

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request and may the spirit guide your discussions.

In service and in peace



David Barth,
Executive Director,
World Accord – International Development Agency