



Dining for Women

## Program Fact Sheet

**PROGRAM:** One Acre Fund

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.oneacrefund.org>

**MISSION:** To empower chronically hungry farm families in East Africa to permanently lift themselves out of hunger and poverty

**ONE REASON WE LIKE THIS PROGRAM:** *One Acre Fund helps women and families lift themselves out of poverty by increasing their farming skills set—providing material resources such as appropriate seed and fertilizer and crop insurance—and facilitating greater market reach. They provide a complete, functioning market system—making it possible for even the poorest and most rural farmer to generate more income, and permanently solve their own hunger problems.*

**ONE ACRE FUND'S STORY:** In 2005, founder and recent Kellogg School of Management graduate Andrew Youn visited Kenya during a summer internship experience in Africa. There, speaking with subsistence farmers, he learned that modern agricultural techniques could lead to significant boosts in productivity and cuts in malnutrition. One Acre Fund was officially launched in February 2006, serving 38 farm families in Bungoma, Kenya through women's self-help groups. Since then, One Acre Fund has grown to serve 8,000 families, including 32,000 children, and has established operations in several other districts in Kenya, as well as Rwanda.

### HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

One Acre Fund is concentrated on one-acre subsistence farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa – one of the largest groups of "forgotten poor" in the world. When entering a new community, One Acre Fund first mobilizes existing self-help groups, and consolidates 100+ farmers into a farm producer group. A field officer is attached to this group to administer program services: group formation, contract signing for credit, local farm input distribution, education services, and receipt of repayment. Over time, each field officer serves 200 farmers.



These field officers are typically recruited from the communities in which they work. One Acre fund recruits staff that have strong teaching abilities and leadership potential within their own communities. 5-10 field officers are supervised by one "field manager." At full growth, each district of operations will have 5 - 10 field managers, supervising 50 - 100 field officers, serving 10,000 - 20,000 farmers.

In order to maximize efficiency and minimize losses, One Acre Fund provides fertilizer and environmentally-sensitive planting materials, commercial seed that is professionally graded, stored, and selected. One Acre Fund has pioneered a crop insurance product that pays farmers in the event of a significant drought or disease. Additionally, they work as a market go-between to help farmers get the best prices possible. The cash received from crop sales creates a savings-and-investment cycle that leads to self-driven, permanent elimination of hunger.

**WHERE THEY SERVE:** Western Kenya and Western Rwanda

**WHAT DINING FOR WOMEN WILL SUPPORT:** It costs One Acre Fund about \$100 to purchase and deliver the seed and fertilizer for one family. Funds raised from Dining for Women will directly support the bundles of seed and fertilizer necessary for Rwandan families that One Acre Fund will enroll in their program this coming October.

**COUNTRY AT-A-GLANCE: Rwanda**



- ❖ **Geographic size:** 10,161 sq. miles; slightly smaller than Maryland
- ❖ **Population:** 10,473,282 (2009 est.)
- ❖ **Median age:** 18.7 years; male 18.5 years; female 18.9 years
- ❖ **Average life expectancy:** 50.52 years
- ❖ **Fertility rate:** 5.25 born/woman
- ❖ **Ethnic Groups:** Hutu (Bantu) 84%, Tutsi (Hamitic) 15%, Twa (Pygmy) 1%
- ❖ **Main exports:** Coffee, tea, hides, tin ore

**History:** In 1959, three years before independence from Belgium, the majority ethnic group, the Hutus, overthrew the ruling Tutsi king. Over the next several years, thousands of Tutsis were killed, and some 150,000 driven into exile in neighboring countries. The children of these exiles later formed a rebel group, the

Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), and began a civil war in 1990. The war, along with several political and economic upheavals, exacerbated ethnic tensions, culminating in April 1994 in the genocide of roughly 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The Tutsi rebels defeated the Hutu regime and ended the killing in July 1994, but approximately 2 million Hutu refugees—many fearing Tutsi retribution—fled to neighboring Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire. Since then, most of the refugees have returned to Rwanda, but several thousand remained in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC; the former Zaire) and formed an extremist insurgency bent on retaking Rwanda, much as the RPF tried in 1990. Despite substantial international assistance and political reforms—including Rwanda’s first local elections in March 1999 and its first post-genocide presidential and legislative elections in August and September 2003--the country continues to struggle to boost investment and agricultural output, and ethnic reconciliation is complicated by the real and perceived Tutsi political dominance. (CIA THE WORLD FACTBOOK)

While the country is currently at peace, Rwandans continue to struggle with the legacy of genocide. National reconciliation is a long-term endeavor that has the commitment of the government and the support of the international community.

**Economy:** Rwanda is a poor rural country with about 90% of the population engaged in agriculture. It is the most densely populated country in Africa and is landlocked with few natural resources and minimal industry. Primary foreign exchange earners are coffee and tea. The 1994 genocide decimated Rwanda's fragile economic base, severely impoverished the population, particularly women, and eroded the country's ability to attract private and external investment. However, Rwanda has made substantial progress in stabilizing and rehabilitating its economy to pre-1994 levels although poverty levels are higher now. GDP has rebounded and inflation has been curbed.

Despite Rwanda's fertile ecosystem, food production often does not keep pace with population growth, requiring food imports. Rwanda continues to receive substantial aid money and obtained IMF-World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative debt relief in March 2005. Rwanda also received Millennium Challenge Account Threshold status in 2006. The government is working to reduce poverty by improving education, infrastructure, and foreign and domestic investment and pursuing market-oriented reforms although energy shortages, instability in neighboring states, and lack of adequate transportation linkages to other countries continue to handicap growth.

**FINANCIAL PROFILE:** In 2007, One Acre Fund spent \$496,954 on program expenses, 90% of their total expenses. It directed \$55,318, only 10% of their expenditures, to administration and fundraising.

**DFW HISTORY WITH PROGRAM:** New program

**SOURCES:**

<http://www.oneacrefund.org>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUCRK18JW5I> One Acre Fund short Youtube video