“What’s for dinner?” “I’m starving.” “There’s nothing here to eat.” They’re common phrases often uttered without thinking. The fact is, for many, “What’s for dinner” implies a choice of nutritious food. “I’m starving” translates to “I haven’t eaten in a few hours.” And while we may not have all ingredients to make tonight’s meal, our refrigerators and pantries are, by all accounts, well-stocked. Those are the good facts.

For some, these are the harsh realities: “What’s for dinner?” really means “Will there be any dinner?” And “I’m starving” means exactly that. Someone is starving.

Chronic hunger and undernutrition affect many in New Zealand, impacting children’s ability to focus in school; workers’ productivity and contributions to economic growth; and senior citizens’ fight of infection, due to weakened immune systems.

Now, with Hunger grants from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions can be an even greater part of the solution. “Hunger is pervasive worldwide,” said Eveline Chandra, past council chair in Indonesia. “LCIF’s Hunger grants will support school-based feeding programs, food banks, feeding centres, and similar facilities. We’re helping communities become stronger and healthier.”
Despite global production sufficient to feed the entire population, chronic hunger remains a chronic problem. Political and economic instability, rising food and energy prices, and climate change all contribute to this sad truth: Hunger-related challenges are urgent – even in New Zealand.

**Hunger... a Complicated Challenge**

Hunger is increasing steadily. LCIF, funding Lions’ global humanitarian work since 1968, is there and part of the solution.

** THAT’S HERE. GLOBALLY, HUNGER LOOKS LIKE THIS:**

- 1 in 9 people is chronically hungry
- Chances of food insecurity – 10% higher for women
- At least 50% of children under age 5 have hidden hunger
- Lack of essential nutrients
- 2 billion people lack regular access to nutritious and sufficient food
- 25% of children are stunted due to lack of nutritious food
- 0-14-year-olds meeting vegetable serving guidelines
- Declining!
  - 2011-2014: 57%
  - 2014-2017: 53%

**New Zealand children (19%) live in severely to moderately food-insecure households**

**HUNGER GRANTS**
- Support school feeding programs, food banks, feeding centres, etc.
- US$10,000 - US$100,000

**MATCHING GRANTS**
- Fund construction and equipment costs
- US$10,000 - US$100,000

**DISTRICT AND CLUB COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS**
- Apply to local district and club projects
- Grant amount varies

**LEO SERVICE GRANTS**
- Fund Leo-led projects
- US$1,500 - US$5,000

**SOURCES/NOTE:**