KEY MOMENTS IN

Heifer's **History**

Heifer International was founded on the belief that those with access to the right knowledge and resources can be equipped to pull themselves out of hunger and poverty.

This belief inspired what would become Heifer International in 1944 when the first shipment of in-calf heifers, provided by U.S. volunteers and farmers, arrived in Puerto Rico to assist families in need.



Dan West, a relief worker in the Spanish Civil War conceives his "not a cup, but a cow" concept providing not handouts but the means to forge better lives.

The first livestock shipment organized by Heifer reduces milk shortages in Puerto Rico.

1945 to 1947

Heifer-sponsored "Seagoing Cowboys" begin escorting livestock to Puerto Rico, Spain and Ecuador after World War II.



Friends and supporters purchase the Fourche River Ranch, now Heifer Ranch in Perryville Arkansas.

1974

Heifer begins working with families and communities in Tanzania, marking its first presence in an African country.

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1986

1990s

2000

U.S. President George H.W. Bush gives Heifer the

Heifer standardizes its work with communities into a

model that remains a priority for Heifer's work with

As Heifer evolves it incorporates many other value

communities today. Central to VBHCD are the

Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD)

12 Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development that

chains, training and extension services, community and

social development and facilitating good environmental

practices to help communities become more resilient.

Presidential End Hunger Award.

form the foundation of our work.

Heifer's projects served six million households around the world.

2000s

2020

Heifer has served more than 36 million households

2021

Heifer adopts a new Strategy Framework which includes Signature Programs to support work in achieving our 2030 goal.



2022

Heifer launches the Heifer Ranch Center for Regenerative Agriculture in Perryville, Arkansas.

2024

Heifer is operating in 19 countries and is committed to building Signature Programs that focus on scale, permanence of impact and partnerships.

2010s

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1930s

Heifer responds to aid requests from South Korea to assess their needs.

By 1952,

Heifer and the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency plan a shipment of hatching eggs to the country.

By 1954,

222 goats, 331 pigs, 70 chickens, 216,000 hatching eggs, 500 rabbits and 200 hives of honeybees had been shipped to South Korea.



1955

Heifer starts work in India, delivering 20 Jersey cows through the Ministry of Agriculture.

1958

The first U.S. regional office is established in Massachusetts. Regional offices were established in many U.S. states during this time with hundreds of volunteers in each region.

1960

A shipment of heifers to Russia symbolizes American friendship during the Cold War.

From 2010 to 2015

U.S. President Ronald Reagan's

Commission on Volunteerism

presents Heifer with the

Volunteer Action Award.

Heifer sees enormous change across the organization - our portfolio, resources and geographical footprint are focused on fewer countries and scalable programs to attain greater impact for the people we serve.

2012

Heifer receives the Kiwanis International World Service Medal.



2015

Heifer introduces living income as a goal for farming participants.



2015 - 2020

Heifer joins the broader global development community in aligning our work to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We set the goal of supporting 10 million families to earn a sustainable living income by 2030.

Heifer launches its Caring for the Earth (C4E) approach to to address environmental and climatedriven challenges by working with farmers to build a resilient food production system.