



News from

**PWRDF**

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada

# under the sun

JUNE 2022

WORKING TOWARDS A TRULY JUST, HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL WORLD

WOMEN CARING FOR CREATION



# ROW BY ROW

## Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo heal from violence while learning to farm

BY JANICE BIEHN

Near the southeast corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo, among the steep green mountains, sits the town of Kaziba. On five hectares of farmland, women are learning how to make compost and plant seeds in rows. Eggplant, cabbage, beans, corn and plum seedlings are neatly spaced and sprouting up.

The project is one of three farmer field schools established in 2019 by Maison Dorcas, part of the Panzi Foundation. The Dorcas Rurale program in Kaziba supports 100 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. PWRDF is funding the three-year program now in its final year.

Mostly women but also a few men are working together in what is called Mutuelle de Solidarité, or solidarity groups. This community-integrated approach empowers women and challenges long held beliefs that women are weak. The solidarity group approach and agro-pastoral activities have enabled several women and households to get out of precarious situations and regain their livelihoods. PWRDF funded 14 out of the 57 solidarity groups, with each group averaging 25 members. PWRDF also funded 17 business plans developed by the groups.

Barhasima Karhambwa, a pastor and counsellor in one of the Kaziba groups, says this approach has brought more benefits to the community. Families have seen their socio-economic situation improve.

Matumaini Espérance, a resident of

nearby Bwegera, says that the group has helped her learn what it means to contribute, but even more so, it has promoted social cohesion between the members of the different communities living in Bwegera.

Louise Safi M'Sanvura agrees. Beyond social cohesion, through the solidarity group she has learned several agricultural techniques and was able to build her own house, thanks to income earned through her agricultural activities and the loan received from the group. The beneficiaries saw their standard of living improve, which encouraged other people to either join the project or emulate the beneficiaries in order to achieve the same result.

PWRDF has been supporting other activities at Maison Dorcas that improve the standard of living for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Through training in income-generating activities such as basketry, soap making, carpentry and sewing, women are successfully re-integrating into their families and communities. More than half of the women started income-generating projects with the skills they gained and the reintegration kits with which they were provided. They produce, display and sell their products at covered structures known as Nobela centres. Survivors continue to strengthen social ties by helping each other and selling their wares together under the same shelter.

(with files from Panzi Foundation)



### EDUCATION FOCUS – YEAR 2 WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The second year of our Creation Care: Climate Action Education Focus is now underway. Throughout this year until April 2023 we will be offering resources and other opportunities to reflect on the connection between climate change and women. Four online learning modules are planned, the first being released in August in time for the Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4). All PWRDF partners adhere to gender equality principles in their work, but these modules will highlight projects that specifically support women's empowerment. They will be designed for use at home or with a church group.

According to UN Women, "As climate change drives conflict across the world, women and girls face increased vulnerabilities to all forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking, child marriage, and other forms of violence." And these risks increase for Indigenous and Afro-descendent women and girls, older women, LGBTQ+ people, women and girls with disabilities, migrant women, and those living in rural, remote, conflict and disaster-prone areas.

Around the world, women depend more on, yet have less access to, natural resources. According to UN Women, agriculture is the most important employment sector for women in low- and lower-middle income countries. "During periods of drought and erratic rainfall, women... work harder to secure income and resources for their families. This puts added pressure on girls, who often have to leave school to help their mothers manage the increased burden."

Visit [pwrdf.org/creation-care](http://pwrdf.org/creation-care) to access the Year Two learning modules, as well as the Year One module, which focussed on food security and climate change.



The Year 2 Education Focus got a head start with our Lenten resource, *Nurturing Creation*. Scan this QR code to download the entire resource.





Mobile vaccination teams head out into the community (MUSO PHOTO).

**P**WRDF is supporting a pandemic response in the West African country of Mali, partnering with Global Affairs Canada and non-governmental organization Muso. The project supports Muso's COVID-19 response in the capital of Bamako, including personal protective equipment for community health workers, contact tracing and monitoring, and a COVID-19 vaccination campaign aiming to increase the rate of full vaccination from 26% to 40% in target areas. The Government of Canada is the lead funder of the project and PWRDF is providing \$47,000. Muso is the implementing partner and has been operating in Mali since 2008.

Landlocked and with a population of 19 million, Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa in terms of land mass. Mali's interim authorities cancelled democratic elections that were to be held in February, and in response, the country is facing sanctions from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Several NGOs working in the country have warned that these sanctions will be devastating and threaten to cut off much needed humanitarian aid. According to ReliefWeb, 70% of Mali's food is imported and 1.2 million Malians are facing a food crisis.

As of January 21, 2022, there were 29,360 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 704 deaths, reported to the World Health Organization. As of January 24, 2022, a total of 1,409,266 vaccine doses had been administered. Two thirds of COVID cases were identified in the capital city of Bamako, where the six-month vaccine rollout will operate.

Despite improvements in the health system over the last 20 years, women in Mali continue

to encounter numerous barriers when accessing health for themselves and their families. As a result of COVID-19, existing barriers to health services have increased. Mali's health system is struggling to respond to the pandemic; vaccine hesitancy and poor contact tracing and monitoring are worsening the situation.

The project will remove barriers to care such as cost, distance and gender inequality. It will equip frontline workers with the tools needed to provide care safely, for both infected and non-infected people, and allow regular health care operations to continue.

The project design is informed by Mali's National COVID-19 plan and the World Health Organization, as well as the lessons learned from Muso's 15 years of community response and outreach in Mali.

Muso has deployed three mobile vaccination teams from each of its 12 community health centres. Each team will have three vaccinators for a total of 114 vaccinators across all facilities. All vaccinators will participate in a one-day training session on the new vaccine, how to communicate its efficacy and what those receiving the shots can expect.

These teams will then travel outside their health facilities to markets and other locations in the catchment area to reach people in the community. Supervision teams from the district will provide quality control through periodic visits to the mobile outreach sites.

To underline and reinforce this campaign, Muso will also train health personnel at vaccination facilities to support inputting vaccination information into database systems.



## YOUTH COUNCIL SHARES STORIES OF BANGLADESHI FARMERS

**L**ast year, PWRDF's Youth Council launched a new podcast called AJustGeneration. Now they are participating in season 2 of the Ontario Council for International Cooperation's podcast, Tapestry 2030.

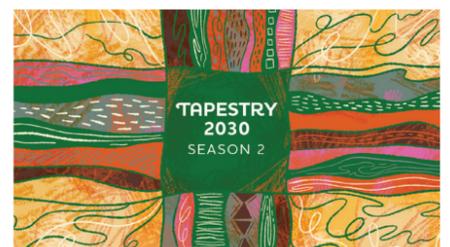
Season 1 of Tapestry 2030 launched in February 2021 with support from podcaster Safa Shahkhalili and illustrator Amanda Schutz. Season 2, will further OCIC's "exploration on the future of

international cooperation and global solidarity and the partnerships needed for gender transformative, sustainable development with a focus on the concept of "localization."

The subject of PWRDF's episode will be the Nayakrishi farmers of Bangladesh working with long-time partner UBINIG. This episode covers the colonial impact on traditional farming, and how Indigenous knowledge opened the door to climate

mitigation practices such as building bamboo bindings to prevent water erosion, and conserving and sharing seeds.

Youth Council members Robyn Sulkko, Program & Partnership Team Liaison from the Diocese of Ottawa, and Duncan Chalmers, Chair of Resources from the Diocese of British Columbia, produced the episode with mentorship from the OCIC team and Su McLeod, PWRDF's Youth Engagement Coordinator.



Scan this QR code to listen to Tapestry 2030 episodes, and visit [pwrdf.org/youth-movement](http://pwrdf.org/youth-movement) to listen to AJustGeneration.



# WOMEN REBUILD THEIR LIVES RETURNING TO GUATEMALA

As two 20-year partnerships come to a close, we look at the legacy of Madre Tierra and Ixmucane

BY JEANNETHE LARA  
PWRDF DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

In the 1970s and 80s, Guatemala was embroiled in civil war. Thousands of people fled from rural Indigenous communities to the southern Mexico states of Chiapas, Campeche and Quintana Roo. Many communities, that for generations had lived together, were dispersed, separated, lost their land and ended up in refugee camps. The Indigenous way of life was disrupted and, due to differences in language and culture, many lost contact with their roots.

PWRDF was among several international

organizations who contributed to these communities in the UN refugee camps. For over a decade, precarious shelters were built, beans and corn planted, and children born. Women took the lead in organizing their communities and learned more about literacy, health, agriculture and leadership. They developed new skills and energy, and began to see themselves in a new light. With more control of their lives, women became vital in the peace negotiations and the process of returning home in the '90s.

Some groups were offered land, under the condition that they would form cooperatives and settle down in the land allocated by the government, for which they

would pay later. Many settled with their families across the Peten region in northern Guatemala and established the Indigenous organization Ixmucane. Other women settled in three farms in the southern part of the country, near the Pacific coast in the state of Esquintla, and established Madre Tierra (Mother Earth).

With approximately 400 members each, from different ethnic backgrounds, hometowns and languages, Ixmucane and Madre Tierra became key in the resettlement process. The plan was to support women's participation in public life and in their community development while improving health, education,

productivity and rights. PWRDF support and contributions for more than 20 years to these organizations has been vital to the return, resettlement and reintegration process. Our support has focussed on training women in project management, health, literacy, leadership and income-generating activities, mostly related to agriculture.

As the journey from displacement to resettlement winds down, so too will PWRDF's financial support. The partners are in the process of documenting the impact that PWRDF support has had on the women and their families.

**Here are a few of their stories:**

Maria Domingo, 27, became a member of Madre Tierra about five years ago, but remembers attending workshops about the environment and violence against women as a girl with her mother. As a new board member she is developing leadership skills and was able to finish high school through support from PWRDF.



While being a member of Madre Tierra, Ana Matias, 29, became a member of the Community Development Council. "I have learned a lot about developing my own leadership capacity," she says. Matias always wanted to go to university, and held fast to her dream. Thanks to a grant that was part of PWRDF's support, she is now in her fifth year of university, studying to be an agronomic engineer. Matias has also learned about emergency preparedness and is the local coordinator for disaster reduction. For the past few years, the area has experienced severe flooding.



"There is so much discrimination in our society," says Dominga Montejo, 51, adding that she has learned a lot working with Madre Tierra. "I have learned to work as women, and I have learned about the rights of women." Through the many programs, Dominga has also taught women about their rights, and empowered them to be part of the community structure.

Gregoria Garcia Suchite Goyita, 61, is the Vice-President of Ixmucane. She credits the organization with training and empowering her to become a community leader. "I learned how to work with other colleagues, how to listen to other women, how to be independent and how to value myself as a woman." Goyita soaked up opportunities like a sponge. "I took advantage of all the different courses and decided to stay in education. I speak with other women, educate them on health issues, equality and I also teach children."

"I would like to learn more," says Marina Lucas, 34. The treasurer of the board is grateful for how much she has learned about the rights of women and now to work with a computer. Madre Tierra has supported her education. Her mother is also a member and many years ago received funds buy a cow, pigs and chickens for her family farm as part of a cattle project led by Madre Tierra.

Angelica Denise Cen, 25, has been with Ixmucane for three years. She says that before then, she was very shy and afraid of participating in groups. As the secretary of the board, Angelica has the job of taking minutes. "I didn't think I'd be able to do it, but I learned how to write and the other women encouraged me."



Christina Ambrocio, 46, has been with Ixmucane for nine years. When she joined she was not comfortable speaking in public, like many of the women. There was fear of rejection by men. She is now the treasurer and controls the income and expenses. "I couldn't have done that before."



Eulalia Silvestre Hernandez, an Indigenous Maya, is one of the founders of Ixmucane. "With Ixmucane

I learned a lot about women's rights and found a pathway to study," she says, adding she is now a social worker. Hernandez credits the women of Ixmucane for supporting her through a painful process of claiming the title of her family's land from her former husband and also for helping her go back to her roots. "There is a pact to educate ourselves, to grow, to know other women and to get courage from other women." Ixmucane helped us to mature and to grow as women. We owe all the achievement to women and particularly to the legacy of ancestors who died in this process.

Catalina, 46, serves on Ixmucane's board of directors and has been a member for 20 years. She joined at a time when she had left an abusive relationship and started over as a single mother with a six-month-old daughter. "Through Ixmucane I woke up," she says. "I finally understood my rights as a human being, as a woman. I also learned that I can't pass on violence to my children."



"Ixmucane changed my life," says Margarita Sebastian Mateo, 46. Before joining, she didn't like to go out, but with the training, "It was like I woke up. I realized the need for women to go out, to participate, to have a voice." She now defends women's rights and helps other women find their own voices and realize they have a life and can be independent. Because of my change, my daughters have a better life too.



## EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN UGANDA

Hellen Lunkuse says she didn't have a childhood at all. "I had to learn keen survivor skills as early as five years because my father was a serial abuser, beater and polygamous, having fathered way over 30 children." At 11, her father wanted to marry her off to the man who had raped her. "I had nobody to stand up for me, till my mother risked her marriage and everything to save me." Lunkuse

founded Rape Hurts Foundation in Uganda in 2008. In 2020, PWRDF began partnering with RHF to support its work of empowering women to manage their social-economic development through strengthening human rights awareness, healthcare, community participation and advocacy. Addressing women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence is at the core of their work.



Scan this QR code to view Hellen's reflection at a Praying with PWRDF session this past March marking International Women's Day.

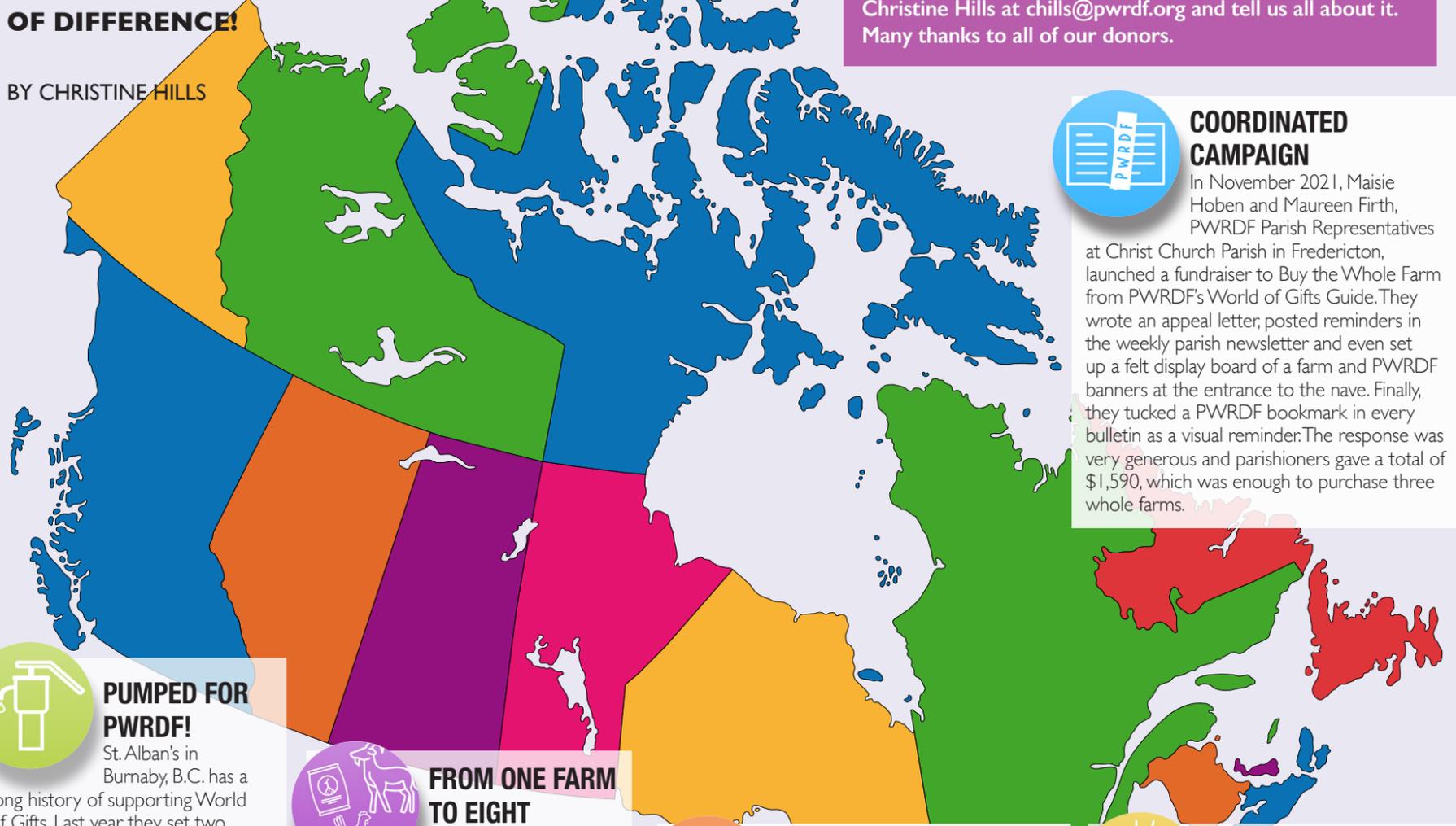
# Thanks to you

**ANGLICAN PARISHES ACROSS CANADA ARE SUPPORTING PWRDF – AND MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!**

BY CHRISTINE HILLS

## PWRDF wants to hear from you!

Please share your fundraising success stories to inspire others and to spread the word about the good work you have done! Email Christine Hills at [chills@pwrdf.org](mailto:chills@pwrdf.org) and tell us all about it. Many thanks to all of our donors.



### COORDINATED CAMPAIGN

In November 2021, Maisie Hoben and Maureen Firth, PWRDF Parish Representatives at Christ Church Parish in Fredericton, launched a fundraiser to Buy the Whole Farm from PWRDF's World of Gifts Guide. They wrote an appeal letter, posted reminders in the weekly parish newsletter and even set up a felt display board of a farm and PWRDF banners at the entrance to the nave. Finally, they tucked a PWRDF bookmark in every bulletin as a visual reminder. The response was very generous and parishioners gave a total of \$1,590, which was enough to purchase three whole farms.



### PUMPED FOR PWRDF!

St. Alban's in Burnaby, B.C. has a long history of supporting World of Gifts. Last year, they set two fundraising goals to support the purchase of a well with a solar pump (\$2,600) and PWRDF's Indigenous Responsive Programs. A parishioner created a small 'pumping station' from a photo in the gift guide and pinned it on the bulletin board. Every week they added a sticker to represent the donations climbing up the ladder towards the goal, and shared a photo in the weekly newsletter. Even though most parishioners had been connecting online during the pandemic this was still an effective way to get the word out. The total raised reached \$3,596, prompting PWRDF Parish Representative Deirdre Thornton to say: "It's always a successful fundraiser!"



### FROM ONE FARM TO EIGHT

It was just before Advent and British Columbians were devastated by atmospheric rivers, massive flooding, land slides and avalanches. Yet St. Paul's in Vancouver was looking outward and considering a parish project for the upcoming season. Rector's Warden David Facey-Crowther announced at the end of the service that he wanted to buy a farm through PWRDF's World of Gifts. "Goats, chickens, maybe seeds for planting and it will only cost \$530." As the congregation filed out, enough funds had already been raised to buy two farms. By Christmas Eve they had six farms, going on seven. By the end of the fundraiser, \$4,290 had been donated, enough for eight farms!



### PLANNING PAYS OFF

In 2021, St. Thomas, Morden in Manitoba planned their support for PWRDF and partners for the year: During February and March they raised \$645 for Indigenous Midwifery. From April to June, parishioners gave \$545 to the All Mothers and Children Count program where funds were matched by the Government of Canada 6:1 before the deadline of June 30. From July through September they were blessed to receive \$1,100 for the Light for Every Birth project to provide solar suitcases in Mozambican health clinics. The drought in Morden reminded and inspired parishioners to focus on the importance of water, so donations from October through December were allocated to a Hand Pump Well in Kenya at a cost of \$1,200. In all, \$3,490 was donated to PWRDF.



### SMALL PARISH MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Members of the Parish of Maberly-Lanark, outside of Ottawa, proved that small can be mighty by organizing a PWRDF World of Gifts fundraiser during November. PWRDF Parish Representative Gayda Errett was unable to attend services due to mobility issues so People's Warden Debbie Cox pitched in. Amazingly \$665 was raised. Parishioners chose to support Buy the Whole Farm, Tools for Greening Spaces in Cuba, a Water Tank in Kenya and two New Mom Starter Kits for Lesotho. Size was definitely not a factor because the parish's overall spirit and generosity were beyond measure.

## A lasting legacy



PWRDF is grateful to the thousands of people who support our programs through financial gifts and volunteer hours. It means the world to us – and our partners. When you are planning your estate, remember PWRDF and other charities you support in your will. For the Reverend Roslyn Macgregor, PWRDF's Representative for the Diocese of Montreal, leaving a gift to PWRDF in her will is her way of showing love for an organization that has opened her heart.



Scan the QR code to read Roslyn's story.

## YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT PWRDF

**YOUR GIFT CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. THANK YOU!**

Donations can be made online at [pwrdf.org/give-today](http://pwrdf.org/give-today) or by filling out this form and mailing to the address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a one-time gift of  
 \$40  \$80  \$125  \$500  other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to PWRDF or provide credit card information.

Please circle credit card type:  VISA  MasterCard  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

OR  
 I would like to make a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by credit card (info at left)

I would like to make a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by pre-authorized chequing to be withdrawn on

1st of month  16th of month

Please enclose a personal cheque marked "Void."

OR  
 To donate by phone, please call toll-free at 1-866-308-7973. (Do not leave credit card information in a voice message.)

**Mail your gift to PWRDF**  
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