October 2021 - October 2022

Final Report

Seed Programs International
PO Box 9163
Asheville, NC 28815

+1-828-337-8632
info@seedprograms.org
seedprograms.org

# Table of Contents

**Garden in a Box Program**

1. Executive Summary  
2. Tropical Agribusiness Development Trust (TRADET)  
3. Amba Farmers Voice  
4. Sprout Mountain Farms & Conscious Alliance  
5. Sustainable Communities Initiative for Empowerment (SCINE)  
6. Fight Against Hunger  
7. Tree of Life Ministries  
8. Integrated Agricultural Association  
9. Mparo People’s Project  
10. Accounting and Financials  
11. Conclusion
Seed Programs International would like to express our sincere gratitude for a grant to Seed Programs International. This grant has enabled us to support eight organizations in six counties with over 90,000 packets of seed. International and domestic programs were supported with these funds. Our programs empower local leaders and communities as they do the hard work to improve their livelihoods through vegetable production.

The programs supported with this grant provide relief for families that were negatively impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns, armed conflict, climate challenges, inflation, and food supply shortages. The World Bank estimates that over 97 million additional people entered extreme poverty in 2020 due to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. Likewise, 161 million more people faced hunger in 2020 compared to the previous year. There has been some recovery, however the war in Ukraine has caused challenges with raising prices for grain, fuel, and fertilizer. Current global estimates indicate more than 700 million people live in extreme poverty and nearly 690 million people are hungry.

Our programs rely on empowering communities with the resources needed to do the hard work to improve their livelihoods. We support them in program set-up and acquiring resources for vegetable production and training. Then, they do the work on the ground to create tangible results to become food secure and earn an income. The programs supported with this grant include school gardens, women cooperative farming groups, home container gardens, seed distribution after a training, home gardens, and community farms. By empowering communities to do the hard work, our programs reduce dependency on aid and build capacity to create resilience for future stressors.

Photo: Fight Against Hunger, Kenya.
“Before I could not understand the beauty in practicing urban farming but when I received seedlings from SCINE’s nursery bed I was able to set up my urban garden as you can see in the background. When starting this garden, I didn’t take it seriously. It was an alternative to my being jobless so I saw it as something to help me pass time. Right now, I can tell you that the garden has turned out to be my first Job because I have managed to expand it. We have had our first harvest waiting for a second one. I have provided my family with vegetables. The community members have picked high interest in urban farming. They have made booking for seedlings in the next season and are ready to buy from me.”

- Yasin Ssekamate from Kyebando

“My garden has continuously provided vegetables for my family. It has also enabled me to sell some vegetables to my neighbors in the community at a relatively low price in comparison to the market price. The money raised helps me in other home expenses while I save the rest in a women savings group. I am grateful to SCINE for the support always.”

- Sarah, from Kamwanyi
Project Location: Kayunga, Tororo, and Busia districts, Uganda
Packets of Seed Dispersed: 9,720

This project supports families that were experiencing financial challenges exacerbated by COVID-19 lockdowns. According to a study published in World Development in 2021, two-thirds or respondents in Uganda said they experienced income shock due to COVID-19 containment measures. Likewise, the proportion of food insecure households increased by 44%. Food and seed prices showed significant increases during this time due to movement restrictions.

This project supported 88 families with a quarter acre of land by providing seeds to plant home gardens. King of Kings University provided agricultural training in soil and water conservation, making organic manure, vegetable growing and processing, crop rotation, and fruits production. The project faced challenges due to reduced rainfall that affected watermelon and tomato yields. However, project participants had improved household income and the families expressed very positive views and appreciated the support. This program was continued for a second growing season.
For the second growing season, program participants planted tomato and bean seeds. Western Uganda is currently experiencing a drought and vegetables cannot be successfully produced without a water source. To adapt to this, the tomatoes were planted in a swampy area to ensure the crop had enough water to flourish. 59 farming families participated in the tomato production program. Tomatoes are a preferred crop since quality produce earns a high market price. The harvest has started and the yield is proving to be better than the previous season.

Both the beans and tomatoes have given the farmers some hope of economic improvement. For example, before program participants had received seed, one of the households received a loan from a local micro-finance institution to fund her farm for the season. However, due to drought and lack of training and financial skills, she lost all of her crops. With no option to pay back the loan to the bank, she decided to run away and left her husband and children. Through this program with seeds and training, her husband was able to produce a successful harvest to sell at market. The crops earned the family enough income to pay back the loan. Without fear of financial insecurity, his wife also returned to the family. This program is not only building food security, but is also helping families in Western Uganda break the vicious cycle of poverty.
This project supported Southern Cameroons refugee women living in Nigeria that left their homes due to the Anglophone crisis. Amba Farmers Voice is a free agricultural education program created to address the humanitarian and food crisis created by the 6-year long war. Most Southern Cameroonian refugees living in Nigeria are dependent on handouts for survival. This program aimed to utilize seed and agricultural trainings to improve crop production and reduce chronic poverty. Seeds were distributed to women refugees that expressed interest and had land available to grow the seeds. Planting started in late April, once the rains started. Additional seeds were also purchased in Cameroon. This project experienced several germination challenges that were discussed to ensure greater success in the future. Watermelon purchased in Cameroon had the best germination.
Project Location: Walewale, Ghana  
Packets of Seed Dispersed: 11,070

Over the summer, Isaac Zama of Amba Farmers Voice traveled to a remote village in northern Ghana to conduct trainings with Winrock International’s Farmer2Farmer program. After the trainings, he distributed seed packets to the program participants. In Walewale, over 25 men and women attended the trainings in How to Make Animal Feed, How to Make Compost Manure, and How to Raise Maggots to feed fish, pigs, and chickens. Isaac also visited Tinkpanga-Sawaba, a small village of about 100 people whom are mostly subsistence farmers. The training and seeds were mainly provided to women in the village, since the women do most of the farming for the village. Over 35 women in the village received seed. The trainees that accepted the seed packets promised to send pictures once they plant the seeds next year. Not all seed packets were distributed during these training programs and more distribution programs are planned for the seed.
Project Location: Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, USA
Packets of Seed Dispersed: 905

This project supports residents of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, which is home to 40,000 Oglala Lakota. Sprout Mountain Farms contacted Seed Programs International to donate over 4,000 lbs. of seed potato that was overproduced. We partnered with Conscious Alliance to send 400 lbs. of potatoes to Pine Ridge Reservation. This reservation is one of the most food insecure communities in the U.S. Malnutrition and chronic diet-related diseases are common and the average life-expectancy is 48 for men and 52 for women.

Conscious Alliances has been supporting the Pine Ridge Reservation since 2002. In 2014, they initiated a school gardening program. Due to the success, additional raised garden beds were constructed in 2017 at the homes of community members. A green house has also been built to grow produce. The donated potato seed will be planted in these garden plots and greenhouse. These programs have raised community members’ interest in gardening and serve as a boost to their healing and self-sufficiency.
Sprout Mountain Farms &
Conscious Alliance

Project Location: Chicago, Illinois, USA
Packets of Seed Dispersed: 6560

This project partnered with Conscious Alliance and Chicago Grows Food to provide 2,900 lbs. of potato seed donated by Sprout Mountain Farms to families struggling with food insecurity in the Chicago metropolitan area. According to the Chicago Food Equity Agenda, 19% of people living in the Chicago metropolitan area struggled with food insecurity in 2020.

Chicago Grows Food is an organization that distributes emergency grow kits to individuals and families facing food insecurity, runs educational programs, and supports home gardeners with seeds, materials, and knowledge. Their organization believes in equitable and holistic health outcomes that empower environmentally-conscious food production, land stewardship, food access, food security, and nutrition. The potato seeds were distributed in home garden kits, highlighted at seed library educational gatherings, and planted in home and community garden projects.
Sprout Mountain Farms & Conscious Alliance

**Project Location:** Buncombe County, North Carolina, USA  
**Packets of Seed Dispersed:** 1835

This project partnered with Conscious Alliance to provide 810 lbs. of potato seed donated by Sprout Mountain Farms to agricultural-based free food distribution programs and learning centers throughout Buncombe County in North Carolina. These organizations include: Lords Acre in Fairview, Bounty and Soul in Black Mountain, Shiloh community garden, Dr. Wilson/Black Mountain community garden, Root Cause Farm, Sandhill community garden, Grace Covenant Garden, WeCan community garden, Pisgah View community garden, Burton Street Peace Garden, Sandhill community garden, Beaverdam community garden, Verner Early Childhood Center. Food produced in these gardens are donated to food banks and community members that are food insecure and would like to add nutritious vegetables to their diets. The community gardens are planted by volunteers and incorporate learning activities into their planting programs.
Project Location: Kampala, Uganda
Packets of Seed Dispersed: 3,895

This project supports urban farming in slum communities of Kampala, Uganda. Residents in Kampala slum communities experienced extreme difficulties during the COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda, which started April 1, 2020 and extended for over a year. According to a study published in BMC Public Health in 2022, of 425 household heads interviewed in a Kampala slum community, 71% of respondents said they had limited access to food, 77% reported an interruption in education, 86% said they had a drop in daily income, and 63% saying they lost employment.

We are supporting two programs with this organization. One program is providing training, material and seeds to create over 100 household gardens to provide nutritious vegetables to families struggling with food insecurity, supporting 500 individuals in the slum communities of Uganda’s sprawling capital. Harvests are ongoing and participants are reporting that their access to nutritious food for their families has increased significantly. Participants are bringing excess vegetables to market to produce income, leading to a successful recovery after increased poverty due to COVID-19 lockdowns.
The second program created a school garden at Golden Times Primary School. The school is located in the Wasswa zone, which is a slum community in Makindye division of Kampala. The school has 326 students, between the ages of 3 and 15, and 10 teachers. Most of the parents of students that attend this school do not have a formal source of employment to facilitate a nutritious meal plan to support their children’s growth and development.

The school garden has now been created and planted. The garden provides students with a living classroom to provide hands-on learning. Students participate in all stages of gardening, including digging, tilling, planting, and harvesting. The schools will prepare and cook the produce to supplement the students’ diets to improve their nutrition and enable academic success. The garden will also provide a much-needed green space within a heavily urban community. The green space will allow something new for the children to touch, taste, smell, see, and hear. Incorporating gardening into educational settings can help alleviate stress and provide a sense of calm to participants.
**Project Location:** Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya  
**Packets of Seed Dispersed:** 3,000

This project supports refugees living in and around Kakuma Refugee Camp, the second largest refugee camp in Kenya, housing approximately 160,000 people. Residents include refugees that fled war and/or conflict in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Uganda. According to the Work Bank, approximately 68% of the refugees living in Kakuma live below the poverty line of $1.90 a day. Most refugee families living there are dependent on food rations provided by the United Nations World Food Programme. This program aims to help families become independent of these rations through food production and income generation by smallholder farming.

This project is providing permaculture training, gardening supplies, and seeds to 136 people to create home gardens. This project is currently underway. Thus far, training has been provided for 16 family farms, supplies have been distributed, and farming is underway. This program is anticipated to span 2 years to provide appropriate training and capacity building for smallholder farmers.
In addition to supporting permaculture gardens at the household level at Kakuma Refugee Settlement, this project is supporting a permaculture-based project at Lokitang Primary School. Lokitang Primary School is one of the main schools located in Kakuma Refugee Settlement, with 1,267 students. Through this program, Fight Against Hunger is teaching students from Class 8 to run and manage the garden. The produce from the garden goes straight into the school-wide feeding program.

As approximately 68% of residents at Kakuma live off less than $1.90 a day, many families depend on schools to provide at least one nutritious meal for their children per day. For many children, this is the only full meal they get each day. Prior to the establishment of this garden, the school lunch provided at Lokitang School was posho and sometimes beans. Posho is the local name for a bread-like starch made from water and maize flour. While filling, this meal lacks adequate minerals and vitamins needed to support healthy brain development for these children. By supporting a vegetable garden on-site, the school will be able to have an ongoing source of sustainable nutrition to supplement lunch diets for the school children.
Project Location: Idudi, Uganda
Packets of Seed Dispersed: 28,000

This project supports households, women’s groups, and church groups by providing them with seeds and agricultural support to create life sustaining nutrition. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in Uganda, for children under five years of age, 53% are anemic, 29% suffer from stunting, and 11% are underweight. For women of reproductive age, 32% are anemic and 9% are underweight. Uganda experienced additional difficulties due to COVID-19 lockdowns that extended for over a year.

The seeds were split between nine groups to a total of 314 people. The average family size in Uganda is 4.5 people, thus this program is anticipated to directly benefit over 1,000 people within the communities. The recipients are planting the seeds within their groups to work together and share their harvest. The program also includes regular site visitations from a member of the ministry to provide counseling on nutrition and instruction on farming. Seeds were provided for tomato, spinach, cucumber, Chinese cabbage, green bean, onion, watermelon, sweet pepper, carrot, and cabbage. It is anticipated that adding this mixture of vegetables and micronutrients to their diets will help the program participants become more food secure, have a more balanced diet, and improve their overall health.
Project Location: Foumban, Cameroon
Packets of Seed Dispersed: 13,070

In Foumban, Cameroon, it is estimated that 88% of smallholder farmers are unable to grow enough food to sustain their family throughout the year and 35% of children are stunted. Currently 500 internally displaced families are living in Foumban. With local partner Integrated Agricultural Association, we are improving food security and reducing poverty by establishing household gardens and conducting capacity building workshops. The program has trained 10 Trainer of Trainers (ToTs) and 15 stakeholders in agricultural production. These ToTs went on to train 250 women and youth farmers.

In October, vegetables seeds were distributed to 61 Fulani households in Koudoum village who have access to running water and streams to help them irrigate their gardens during the dry season. More training and seed access will be provided during the next planting season, starting in March 2023. This program will support families without access to a water source and will coincide with the next rainy season.

This project is ongoing and supports program participants with seeds, training, and agricultural supplies.
Project Location: Kabale, Uganda
Packets of Seed Dispersed: 13,410

Seeds of carrot, spinach, onion, tomato, green pepper, eggplant, and bean were distributed to women farmers participating in the Send A Seed Women’s Project. Currently 65 women are participating in the program. The women formed groups of two to four to manage the crops. Once the crops were ready to harvest, they shared the produce among the group and sold the excess at market to earn an income. Seed is still available to continue ongoing ‘kitchen gardens’ to produce vegetables during the dry season and will contribute to ongoing food security.

In the words of one of the project leaders in the women’s association, Kemirembe Hope, "I am happy to have been given this opportunity to serve and lead my fellow women members of our community with this vegetable seed distribution and training program. This project is good and we are very appreciative. Because of the variety of vegetable seeds that were provided, we have been able to take more produce to market to increase our income and opportunities. We hope to be supported with more quantity of seeds in the future to build the project.”
Conclusion

Thank you for the generous donation to support people in need of crisis recovery. Our programs support farming families with a hand up so that they can create sustainable change in their communities. With your support, we were able to provide over 90,000 packets of seed to recipients in eight organizations in six countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, and USA.

Many of our program partners we supported with this grant were first time partners for Seed Programs International and we anticipate continuing and growing our partnership with many of them. By working with small, local organizations to provide the support and resources needed to get started, we are able to empower local leaders to make the decisions most appropriate for their living situation. Your support has created real change in lives of thousands of individuals.

Thank you again for your generous grant. We hope to continue to work with you next year as we implement sustainable change and work toward ending hunger and poverty.

Photo: Mparo People’s Project, Uganda.