

2019 THE FACE-TO-FACE PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT

Year at a Glance

21,009

OF FAMILIES WITH THEIR OWN GARDENS

84,036

OF PEOPLE DIRECTLY BENEFITTING FROM GARDENS

370

OF COMMUNITIES WITH GARDENS

310

OF FACE-TO-FACE GARDEN FACILITATORS & FIELD OFFICERS

83

OF FACILITATOR TEAMS

11

OF FACE-TO-FACE STAFF (US, Malawi, Cambodia)



Sofina Malijana and her husband enjoy income from selling surplus vegetables, such as sweet potato leaves.

The Year in Review

Continuing our focus on using home victory gardens to fight poverty and hunger at the family level, Face-to-Face (F2F) began 2019 with employing 150 garden facilitators in central and southern Malawi, and in Pursat Province in Cambodia. During the year, F2F confronted new challenges by turning them into opportunities to improve and fortify field strategies, leading to more long-term, sustainable, and self-reliant results for the poorest villagers.

Floods and Droughts in Malawi

In Malawi, floods and two cyclones devastated large swaths of the country, including the districts where F2F operates in. Although they mostly lacked capacity and basic supplies, 187 evacuation camps were set up after March's slow moving Cyclone Idai destroyed thousands of homes and fields.

Our Response: As soon as the floods abated, F2F put special effort into helping families recreate their gardens as quickly as possible — those who did were able to have food within weeks, in contrast to families who had neither maize harvest or gardens and who would have no food until a year later.

The challenges associated with Malawi's dry season from April to November were made even worse in 2019 because of the floods. The rains washed away topsoil causing the soil to become hard, infertile, and unable to hold moisture. By August, fields were parched, wells had run dry, and villagers spent hours retrieving water.

Our Response: F2F emphasized re-using water from bathing and washing dishes, applying thick mulch, reducing the size of gardens, planting nursery beds, and cultivating drought tolerant and indigenous plants. Families who followed these practices were able to harvest food through the dry season and grow other vegetables quickly when the rainy season began.

Reluctance to Change in Cambodia

Since the 1970s genocide and the decades of instability that followed, Cambodian villagers have been reluctant to speak out or change habits. Even F2F's garden facilitators, while knowing firsthand the benefits of victory gardens, initially expressed a lack of confidence in successfully teaching these practices to fellow villagers. Women facilitators in particular thought that they wouldn't be able to convince neighbors to try victory gardens.



Our Response: F2F spent more time teaching facilitators how to speak in public — to smile, to engage in conversation, and to keep encouraging students to ask questions. It was crucial to develop facilitators' own self-confidence. We also stressed that facilitators needed to always show their own gardens to other villagers, to give them a vision of what a high-yielding victory garden looks like.

Expansion of Gardens in Malawi

In 2019, F2F's Victory Garden Campaign expanded into 4 new Traditional Authority districts in central and southern Malawi, adding nearly 100 new communities. Along with creating new gardens, F2F began emphasizing the need to improve existing gardens, as we know that the longer that

After seeing surprising results in their own victory garden, Khun Nim and her husband have become enthusiastic proponents of companion planting and other strategies that allow more produce to be grown in tighter spaces.



While Cyclone Idai destroyed Delia Mlombe's maize in March 2019, her victory garden continued providing food for her family.

families benefit from their gardens, the more likely they will maintain and improve them over the long term.

By the end of 2019, our now nearly 300 facilitators and field officers had counted 20,802 victory gardens that were feeding around 83,000 people based on one garden benefitting 4 people. Besides having more food, villagers were saving money, earning income from selling surplus vegetables, and keeping families safely together rather than having members search long distances for food or work.

Spectacular Gardens in Cambodia

While at first skeptical of this new way to grow food, 23 villagers completed their one-year training program in September 2019, demonstrating that they have experimented with at least 30 kinds of vegetables, 5 kinds of container gardens, 3 types of compost-making, and 3 types of fertilizer-making.

21 of these graduates continued on to becoming victory garden facilitators, whose task is to both teach victory gardens to other villagers as well as to develop their gardens as best they can. The aim was to have these facilitators gain as much hands-on experience as possible with everything related to victory gardens.

The facilitators did not disappoint — some of their gardens, using a great array of garden practices and strategies, recorded an astonishing 60 kinds of vegetables. The quality of the produce and the fact that they are grown organically has attracted considerable attention from villagers who are in increasingly greater numbers wanting food that hasn't been grown with chemicals.



Magret and Simon with their baby daughter.



Magret with her four children.

MALAWI PROFILE MAGRET & SIMON

Magret and Simon's family often went to bed without food, but with the help of local facilitators, they learned how to create a victory garden.

Soon, they were able to feed themselves and their 4 children. Even better, they began having surplus vegetables, which they sold to fellow villagers. In the course of just one year, Magret and Simon have:

- *bought school uniforms*
- *bought salt, cooking oil, clothes, 2 watering cans*
- *built a strong roof for their house*
- *bought 7 chicks, which became 70 chickens*
- *acquired 2 goats*
- *paid the maternity clinic*
- *rebuilt their flood-damaged house*
- *donated to a local charity*
- *opened a village savings account*

Just from having a victory garden, Magret and Simon are forever changing their lives. For the first time, Magret and Simon can now begin planning for their own future.

2019 in Numbers

# of active gardens in Campaign	21,009
# of families with their own garden	21,009
approx. # of people directly benefitting from gardens	84,036
approx. # of communities with gardens	370
# of Face-to-Face garden facilitators & field officers	310
# of facilitator teams	83
# of Face-to-Face staff	11
F2F total 2019 expense divided by 21,009 gardens	\$16
F2F total 2019 expense divided by 84,036 people	\$4
# of active gardens in Malawi	20,802
# of families with their own garden	20,802
approx. # of people directly benefitting from gardens	83,208
# of Face-to-Face Malawi staff	7
# of active gardens in Cambodia	207
# of families with their own garden	207
approx. # of people directly benefitting from gardens	828
# of Face-to-Face Cambodia staff	2
# of Face-to-Face USA staff	2
# of times USA staff traveled to Malawi and Cambodia	6
# of days USA staff spent in Malawi and Cambodia	75



Dy Sokhom has over 50 kinds of plants in her spectacular garden, which has attracted the attention of local community leaders.

The Year Ahead: 2020 (written as of May 2020)

F2F started 2020 with exciting new activities. In Malawi, we restructured our 310 facilitators into team groups who could work more effectively with target communities. More emphasis was placed on helping families with existing gardens improve their quality and sustainability, including planting and caring for trees and cover crops.

In Cambodia, facilitators began developing garden-related business plans. These plans help facilitators explore various income-generating garden strategies while teaching them to record expenses, income, and activities. For F2F, this exercise gives us a better understanding of the different ways villagers can earn income from gardens.

F2F's Covid-19 / Victory Garden Response

By March 15, F2F knew that an immediate response to Covid-19 in Malawi and Cambodia was needed. With both nations being dangerously vulnerable to the pandemic and its longer-term economic fallout, F2F began training staff from March 17, advocating washing of hands, social distancing, and the wearing of washable masks.

In April, F2F officially launched its Covid-19 / Victory Garden Response to teach over 80,000 villagers to protect themselves from the coronavirus, distribute soap and masks, and stress the importance of victory gardens for short- and long-term food security. Anticipating widespread shortages, F2F believes that victory gardens will enable villagers to persevere through unprecedented challenges caused by Covid-19's impact on the global economy.

Putting More Resources Now, to Prepare for the Future

Even with the fundraising challenges that all charities are facing because of the coronavirus, F2F is committed to putting even more resources on the ground to help as many villagers as possible prepare for an increasingly uncertain future. While we're cutting back on admin costs such as rent, we're increasing efforts to teach Covid-19 to villagers and help them develop their gardens to ensure long-term food security and income-generation.

Villager's best hope during this pandemic is preparation. We believe that victory gardens are their best strategy.



Thuy Muni and wife by their bamboo circular garden.



Thuy Muni in October 2018 before creating his victory garden.

CAMBODIA PROFILE THUY MUNI

Thuy Muni has a rice field that produces once a year, which isn't enough to sustain his family of 7. Muni tried cultivating vegetables as well, but even with heavy chemical use, he failed to keep out pests and viruses.

In 2018, Muni joined the Campaign as a garden trainee. Muni had nothing to lose, so he experimented with everything that was taught to him. Now, he has plenty to feed his family and a good supply of surplus vegetables that he sells to local vegetable vendors.

Now that he's older, Muni says his garden is perfect for him — he can garden whenever he wishes and the amount of hard labor is minimal, unlike his experiences with rice farming and commercial vegetable growing.

As the possibilities unfold for the many ways he can earn income from his garden, Muni believes that he can ensure that his grandchildren complete their schooling. He'll also be sure to teach them how to garden as well.

2019 FINANCES

INCOME

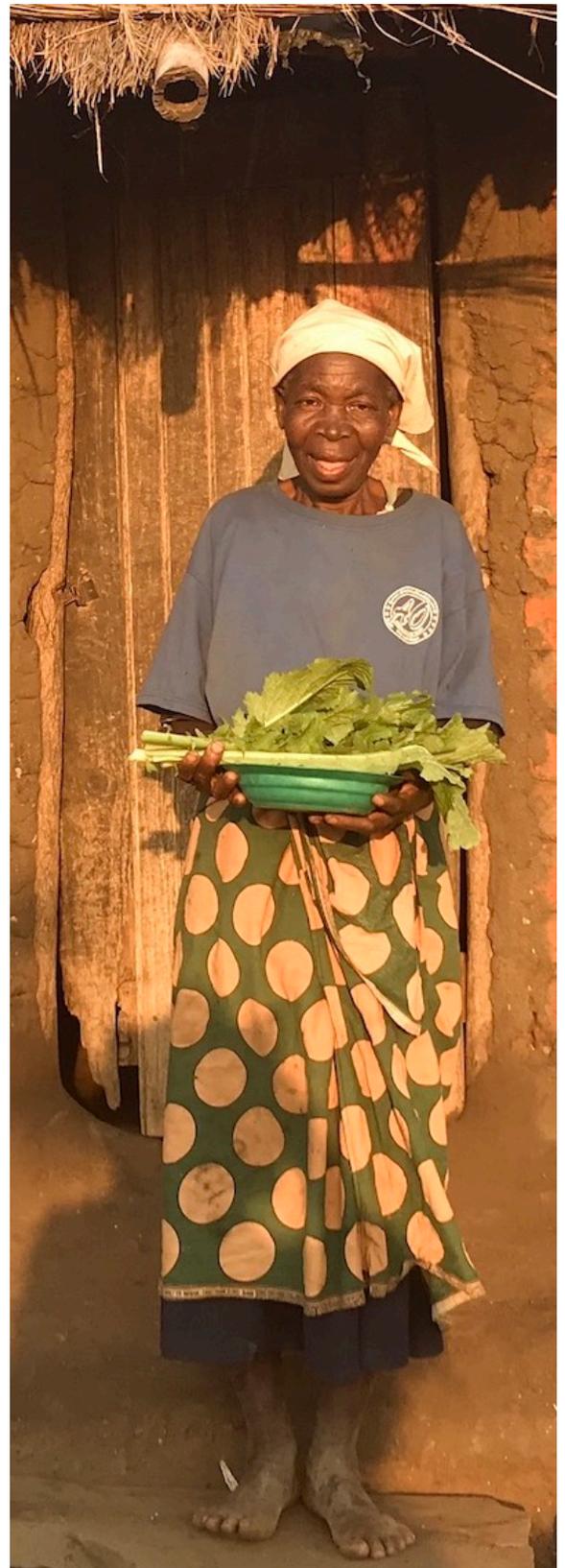
Corporate	\$6,670
Foundation	\$27,721
Individual	\$137,106
Restricted	\$79,709
Misc.	\$757
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$251,963
Income directly to Malawi	\$108,820
Income directly to Cambodia:	\$8
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$108,828
Total Income	\$360,791

EXPENSES

F2F Admin & Operations	\$128,263
Program: Travel	\$13,836
Program: Malawi	\$163,958
Program: Cambodia	\$34,972
<i>Program: Subtotal</i>	\$212,766
Total Expenses:	\$341,029

CASH & ASSETS

2019.01.01 Total Cash	\$166,833
2019.01.01 Special Gifts	\$0
2019.01.01 Investment	\$83,848
Total as of 2019.01.01	\$250,681
2019.12.31 Total Cash	\$175,179
2019.12.31 Special Gifts	\$440,000
2019.12.31 Investment	\$104,882
Total as of 2019.12.31	\$720,061



FACE-TO-FACE RESPONDS QUICKLY TO COVID-19



Face-to-Face Covid-19 / Victory Garden Response

Since mid-March 2020, F2F has mobilized over 300 facilitators and field officers in both Malawi and Cambodia to conduct Covid-19 workshops for over 80,000 villagers. Mask-wearing, hand-washing, and ways to improve one's victory gardens are the focus of these workshops, as well as distributing locally-produced soap and masks.