

2021

THE FACE-TO-FACE PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT



VICTORY GARDENS
THE FACE-TO-FACE PROJECT



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Dear Face-to-Face Friends,

As we reflect on 2021, another difficult year due to Covid, we find that there is much to celebrate. Our capacity to increase the scope, breadth, and depth of our work has been possible due in large part to the support of you, our Face-to-Face (F2F) family.

In 2021, our work included by necessity a continued Covid-19 response. As cases spiked several times in both Malawi and Cambodia, F2F committed to facilitating Covid outreach sessions at every chance we got.

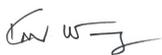
In rural Malawi, we knew that knowledge and prevention was by far the best and only defense the villagers had against Covid, especially because few other organizations or agencies were helping. As a result, F2F held scores of Covid workshops, repeatedly dispelled vaccine rumors, and distributed thousands of units of soap and masks. And yet, Covid hit nearly half of our staff, resulting in the tragic death in July 2021 of Christine Malunga, one of our brightest and most capable workers in Malawi. We miss her dearly.

Despite restrictions on traveling and gathering (as well as our own staff's need for recovery time), our Victory Garden Campaign has continued to result in an array of positive impacts on village economy, the environment, education, and health. Villagers have not only been enjoying a steady source of food, they've also been able to pay school fees, buy medicine and household necessities, boost nutrition, increase their savings, and improve their quality of life.

Communities have been experiencing an increase in village savings banking groups, a decrease in child stunting and malnutrition, and a greater capacity to carry out community projects such as repairing boreholes, fixing roads and buildings, and reforesting local woods.

Thank you for helping us empower and strengthen the resiliency of people and at-risk communities. We're excited to roll out new and improved strategies in 2022 that will strengthen the role that victory gardens play in improving lives, one careful and steady step at a time.

Very best,



Ken Wong, F2F Executive Director



In May of 2021, director Ken Wong met with thousands of Malawi villagers to promote vaccinations and rebuke Covid conspiracy theories.

OUR MISSION

At The Face-to-Face Project we believe the best way to break the cycle of poverty is to nurture self-reliance, and the first step toward self-reliance is to make food security accessible to everyone. Our Victory Garden Campaign aims to mobilize rural grassroots communities in Malawi and Cambodia to achieve sustainable solutions in the fight against hunger and poverty. Through creating high-yield, low-cost victory gardens, families can reduce the risk of relying on one crop, learn how to grow enough food to eat, increase income by selling surplus food, improve nutrition, and lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Along the way, people begin changing the way they think about food security, nutrition, charity, climate change, and family and community resiliency.

OUR VISION

We envision a world in which communities work together to end hunger and poverty.

OUR IMPACT

18,028

OF FAMILIES WITH THEIR
OWN GARDENS

81,126

OF PEOPLE DIRECTLY
BENEFITTING FROM GARDENS

344

OF COMMUNITIES WITH GARDENS

391

OF FACE-TO-FACE GARDEN FACILITATORS & FIELD OFFICERS

78

OF FACILITATOR TEAMS

17

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



YEAR IN REVIEW

Despite the many challenges of the last two years, F2F's Victory Garden Campaign continued to see great change and success in 2021. Thousands of villagers in Malawi and Cambodia continued to make real strides. Continuing our focus on using home victory gardens to fight poverty and hunger at the family level, F2F's Victory Garden Campaign was shown to not only help provide sustainable food for families, but also make huge differences economically, environmentally, educationally, and nutritionally within communities.

Large Increase in Savings

Villages with lots of victory gardens reported that the number of village banks increased dramatically. These small banking groups are mostly made up of women — a sign that women not only have their own money but also the freedom to make their own financial choices. With the help of village banks, they're able to manage their money and improve their lives.



Village Chief Taimu (above center) reports that women are forming learning groups and starting small businesses — all because the gardens have given them the freedom to take control of their lives.



In Kazitenge Village, this group of women, all victory garden owners, started a village savings banking group, which now has 85 members. With mandatory weekly deposits of \$1.25, these women help families save money as well as carefully give out loans.

They and 6 other banking groups in Kazitenge account for this village's 900% increase in savings over the past 5 years.

Repairing Public Works

Village Chief Chalulu (photo on next page, in blue shirt) explains that in the past when this borehole broke, it would take three months to raise enough money to fix it. But when the borehole broke recently, it only took three days to collect the money — an indication that gardens enable families to save money to the point they now have enough to spare to help repair public works.



The villagers say that victory gardens always help them save money, even if some families don't have enough to sell.



Restoring Forests

Village Chief Kanduna (left, in black jacket) wanted to restore the forests that used to surround his village. After discussing this with his villagers, they decided to all chip in to buy 10,000 trees. This was possible because people now have savings due to their victory gardens. Together they manage this forest, using the wood in a controlled manner so people benefit while the forest remains healthy.

Decrease In Malnutrition

Village Chief Phunduma (right, in yellow) received data from the local hospital that showed a big decrease in child malnutrition cases in just a few years. Because children have more food and families have money to pay school fees, administrators report that school absentee rates have also fallen.





2021 HIGHLIGHTS IN MALAWI

1. **Malnutrition Rates Declining**

Holy Cross Hospital workers reported a decline in child malnutrition cases from 180 in 2019 to 102 in 2020. Only 24 cases were reported from Jan – April 2021.

2. **# of Village Savings Bank Groups Increasing**

Chief Kasiha reported that the # of village savings bank groups in their village increased from 2 to 10 in the past few years. Each group has 12 to 20 people, and weekly contributions are mk500 – mk1,000 (\$0.75 - \$1.25).

Chief Mtombozi reported their # went from 1 to 7 groups, each with 10-30 people; weekly contributions are mk100 – mk500 (\$0.15-\$0.75).

3. **Strengthening Women's Rights & Opportunities**

Chief Taimu, a female chief, says women have more courage to start businesses. Her village has a cooking group, who learn to cook varieties of vegetables while best retaining nutrition. Wives, who usually handle family finances, are now making their own prudent decisions about spending, saving, and investing.

4. **Children's School Absence Rates Declining**

Chiefs reported that children are less likely to be hungry, short school fees or money to buy soap, which is the typical cause of missing school.

5. **Domestic Fighting Cases Decreasing**

Chiefs report less family disputes, because many wives aren't depending on their husbands to give them money to run the affairs of the family.

6. **Decrease in Stealing**

Fewer cases of stealing, especially of food from (non-victory) gardens near rivers during the dry season. Because older children are attending school more there have been fewer youth-related disturbances.

7. Community Development Projects Able to Find Funding More Easily and Quickly

Chief Chalulu raised ~mk100,000 (\$133) to fix a borehole by collecting mk250 from villagers. He did this in 3 days — in the past, it would take him months to raise this amount of money.

When asked by the District Commission to give mk70,000 (\$100) to repair a road bridge, Chief Mtombozi raised this faster than any of the other villages that were asked.

Chief Kanduna raised money from his villagers to buy trees to replant a deforested area.

GARDENS KEEPING CAMBODIAN FAMILIES SAFE DURING COVID

While Cambodia had few Covid cases in 2020, the nation had been on lockdown since January 2021 as the virus continued to infect hundreds of people a day. The lockdown hurt Cambodia’s economy and resulted in widespread unemployment. In Pursat Province however, victory gardens continued to flourish. In 2021, nearly 800 families were seeing their gardens provide nutritious food and keeping them safe as the need to go to the market or look for work was minimized. Even if families don’t sell surplus vegetables, their savings from not buying food is significant. Face-to-Face believes our Victory Garden Campaign in Cambodia can continue to grow so that it quickly reaches thousands of new families in need.





In Cambodia, Noy Chanthy (below) fell sick with Covid and spent a month in the hospital. During this time, Chanthy's family, including her two children, were not permitted to leave the house. Chanthy says it was her garden that got the family through this difficult time. The children could harvest food every day, enjoy being outside, and even sell vegetables from the home to make up for lost income.

During Covid, the gardens have helped Cambodian and Malawian families earn income while keeping them safe and healthy. Resiliency to floods, drought, economic downturns, and challenges like Covid make victory gardens a sensible and relevant anti-poverty strategy.



VICTORY GARDEN PROFILES

JUNIOR KASHIONI



School fees are a requirement for most families in Malawi. 4-year-old Junior Kashioni's family unfortunately struggled to pay these fees and send him to school. Junior wanted to stop missing school and after hearing about the success of F2F's Victory Garden Campaign decided to create a family Victory Garden. Now the 6th grader provides vegetables for his family, pays his own school fees, and buys soap to wash his school uniform, all from the extra money he makes from selling surplus vegetables.

JINNEY CHIKONDI

Jinney Chikondi started her very first Victory Garden in 2019. She grows 8 different types of vegetables, including pumpkins and okra. Since growing more food at home and spending less at the market, she's now saving money. Over the past year she was able to save \$142 and purchase a bicycle for \$77 so she could do her errands, keeping the extra savings for other necessities.



CHUN SIM & SEANG SAMET

Victory gardens provide a host of benefits as the gardens are a practical, accessible, sustainable, and low-risk strategy for those who can't afford to take any risk at all.

Take for example Chun Sim and her husband, Seang Samet. They live in Sdok Chum village in Cambodia and are both farmers by trade. They first created their victory garden in October 2018. Their initial plan was to only grow herbs. Fast forward 2+ years and Chun has expanded her garden to include more than 30 kinds of vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees.



She has chosen to grow both long-term plants (plants that produce food several months after planting and come back annually) and short-term plants (those that can be harvested in 2 months or less). To make it easier to retain water during the dry season, conserve space, and easily relocate during the rainy season, she has begun using foam containers to plant some of the long-term vegetables like green onion, lemon grass, turmeric, and chili, and bamboo circle enclosures and plastic bottles for a lot of the short-term vegetables, like green mustard, cabbage, long bean, and cucumber.

Chun and her family have stated that in addition to the benefits that victory gardens provide in normal times (food security, added health benefits, and additional income from the sale of surplus vegetables) they now have a greater sense of security during Covid knowing that they are able to provide for their family without having to go to the market to buy food.



Chun Sim, pictured here in March 2021, has been growing a variety of vegetables in her victory garden including green mustard, green onion, parsley, wax gourd, a variety of herbs, and frog leg.

2021 FINANCES

INCOME

Corporate	\$13,362
Foundation	\$73,248
Individual	\$128,911
Restricted	\$80,000
Interest, Dividend, Misc. Revenue	\$1,834
Misc. Credits	\$11,659
Cash Infusion from Investments	\$35,000
Subtotal	\$344,014
Income Directly to Malawi	\$147,609
Income Directly to Cambodia:	\$0
Subtotal	\$147,609
Total Income	\$491,623

EXPENSES

F2F USA Admin & Operations	\$121,607
Program: Travel	\$10,214
Program: Supplies	\$1,989
International Wire Transfer Fees	-\$95
Program: Malawi	\$75,000
Program: Cambodia	\$33,600
Program: Subtotal	\$120,708

Total F2F USA Expenses \$242,315

Malawi Total Expenses	\$205,595
Cambodia Total Expenses	\$28,766
Subtotal	\$234,361
Minus F2F USA Grant to Malawi	\$75,000
Minus F2F USA Grant to Cambodia	\$33,000

Total Expenses \$126,361 *(Minus US Grants)*

Total F2F USA, Malawi, Cambodia Expenses \$368,676

CASH & ASSETS

Total Cash 2021.12.31	\$372,013
Total Investment 2021.12.31	\$193,216

Total Cash & Assets \$565,229 *(2021.12.31)*



INFORMATION

ADDRESS

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75 Livingston Street, 30A, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Email: info@facetoface.org

HOW TO DONATE

Online: www.facetoface.org/donate
By Mail: Brooklyn address above

SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

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The Face-to-Face Project is pleased to acknowledge the following members of our global movement who are committed to a future free from hunger.

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“The freedom of man is the freedom to eat.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

The Face-to-Face Project

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