VICTORY GARDENS do much more than helping families grow their own food. Often in surprising, wondrous ways, we're witnessing communities improve quality of life as large numbers of families beat hunger and instead save money, earn income, and gain resiliency and stability because of their gardens.

Communities Helping Themselves
Because families have savings, communities are able to collect money and fund projects that help everyone. Examples include:

- buying materials and food for traditional funeral services
- paying for borehole repairs
- collecting food for childcare center feeding programs
- purchasing saplings for reforestation projects
- acquiring ambulance bicycles

Communities Being Awarded Outside Aid
Due to their engagement, dedication, and organization, communities with successful victory gardens are being awarded various aid from outside organizations. Some examples include:

- World Vision: Prioritizing those with victory gardens when selecting families to participate in their programs
- UNICEF/UKAID: Providing solar panel water harvesting and distribution systems to villages with gardens
- Malawi Government: Extension workers prioritizing villages with gardens when deciding where to conduct compost-making workshops
- World Bank: Building water harvest tanks for a village with gardens

Above: Mthombazi village, with over 100 gardens, collected funds from gardeners to build a community house that also serves as a school.


Goneko village’s solar water harvesting system
Simioni village’s livestock distribution
Kanyumbu village’s water harvesting tanks

23,000 FAMILIES (~103,000 PEOPLE) with VICTORY GARDENS eating better, saving money, and taking small but steady steps out of poverty
CHUN SIM and her husband, Seang Sameth, worked as migrant farmers in Thailand. Along with being separated from family, the work was physically exhausting and low paying. After returning to Cambodia, the couple became hooked on victory gardening in 2019. Growing without chemicals appealed to them and they came to love experimenting with victory gardening’s myriad of techniques. A visit to their garden astonishes anyone who sees it.

Sim produces more in her small space by vertical gardening. This strategy includes container gardens that conserve water, provide different soils for different plants, and are resilient from heat waves, droughts, and floods.

GAINING RESILIENCE AND INCOME THROUGH DIVERSITY

While the size of their small plot remains unchanged, Sim and Sameth have expanded upwards to make use of vertical space with poles, ropes, and hundreds of plastic bottles. Dozens of containers allow them to conserve water and cultivate various vegetables with different growing needs. Nets protect plants from hard rain and hot sun.

Earning ~$100 a month by selling what they don’t eat or give to friends, the couple are saving more money than ever before. Because of their garden, Sim and Sameth also can remain close to family and engage in work that is safe, rewarding, and reliable.