

A DECADE OF GROWTH

DEVELOPMENT IN GARDENING



IMPACT REPORT

2015 – 2016



DIG

VISION

We envision communities that are healthy and resilient working together to preserve and protect their environment.

MISSION

Development in Gardening's projects enable vulnerable and HIV-affected communities to meet their own needs and improve their well-being through nutrition-sensitive and sustainable agriculture.

DIG'S DECADE OF GROWTH:

DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2005, Steve Bolinger and I, just out of college, were working as Peace Corps volunteers in Senegal. While I was focused on women's health, Steve had just finished a garden project at Hospital Fann in Dakar, transforming a tiny, neglected patch of land into a verdant garden to feed the HIV patients fresh, nutritious foods, building their strength enough to take the life-saving drugs they were prescribed. The garden was an immediate success and the hospital saw their patient population thrive.



the meals of over 44,000 people. Hundreds more have become entrepreneurs, using their gardens to pay school fees, improve their homes, and improve their futures.

DIG has grown deeper and wider alongside them. Programs like our *Mobile Farmer Field School* allow us to help communities once thought unreachable. DIG's *Farmer Business School* inspires widows with no education to become entrepreneurs. Our *Cooking and Nutrition Programs* give new understanding of what can be grown and how that can impact health; our

Seeing a need for projects like this throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, Steve and I wanted to replicate it. We met in a café one day to discuss how that might become a reality, and the idea of Development in Gardening (DIG) was born.

Young Mothers' Program equips women like 26-year-old Bernice with gardening and nutrition skills that will help feed her daughter Ruby, so she might be Bernice's first child to live past the age of five.

We wanted these Gardens to belong to the people who worked them. We wanted them to know how to grow organic produce in sustainable ways, to make a longstanding impact on their nutrition. We wanted people to know how to feed themselves, their families and their communities, and to be self-reliant. We imagined a world where malnutrition was a thing of the past.

DIG's community has grown rich and diverse. Now, 10 years in, we find ourselves still dreaming of a more abundant world, more equipped than ever to accomplish our goals, growing this work beyond anything we might have imagined. It's been amazing to see what a garden can grow.

Sitting there in that Dakar café, we never could have dreamt what DIG would become. Over these 10 years, DIG has developed more than 100 Community Gardens with 46 local groups and over 2,000 Home Gardens in 8 African countries. These gardens supplement

With blessings of love and abundance,

SARAH KOCH, CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2005 THE FIRST SEED

Hospital Fann Garden in Dakar, Senegal, is developed under the direction of Dr. Salif Sow and the US Peace Corps to serve the nutritional needs of Infectious Disease Ward patients, primarily People Living with HIV.

Peace Corps volunteer, Steve Bolinger, is **inspired to replicate** Hospital Fann Garden's success and **start DIG.**





LEARNING BY DOING

Through DIG's School Permaculture Initiative, teachers and students work together to transform the unused spaces of their campuses into vibrant fruit and vegetable gardens. Selecting five vulnerable government-run primary schools in Western Kenya, serving over 2,600 students, DIG has been engaging these youth on two levels—first, at school, where students learn in a collective hands-on environment, and then, at home, where they have the opportunity to lead their families and make an impact on their personal nutrition and income.

For reasons often rooted in limited family resources, many of the area's students will never finish their primary education. Fewer still will make it through secondary school. While public education is free in Kenya, the uniforms, books, supplies and meals are not. It takes a lot for a family to piece together the cost of a child's education and it is never taken for granted.

At ages 11 and 12, Faith and Emily attend Kadiang'a Primary, an underfunded government-run school serving over 600 children with only 8 teachers. The sisters have been proudly working in their school's DIG garden for almost a year now, soaking up new skills and techniques, excited by what they have been able to grow.



This year, DIG selected 150 uniquely vulnerable students to receive vegetable seeds and material support to implement gardens at home. Faith and Emily were two of those students.

Receptive of the honor, Faith and Emily's parents encouraged them by sectioning off a tiny plot of land for the girls to cultivate. The girls tend their garden with pride and care, sharing their knowledge with their six brothers and sisters. Together they weed and transplant, water and wait.

Spinach, carrots, beets, kale, and green peppers are abundant along the garden rows. The spinach, carrots and green peppers are new to their family diet, and the girls excitedly share their harvest with

2006 SOWING

DIG is founded by Steve Bolinger and Sarah Koch, and is incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
DIG **assumes management of Hospital Fann Garden**, which flourishes to this day.
DIG's first projects, PTA and CTA HIV-Clinics, are launched with seed-funding from Family Health International and Catholic Relief Services.



SENEGAL

2007 SUN AND WATER

One DIG farmer inspires us to focus on the household level, shifting from strictly facility programs. Since that first garden, DIG has developed **over 2,400 home gardens**.
US **First Lady Laura Bush** visits CTA Garden.
US **President Bill Clinton** visits Hospital Fann and Clinic Gardens in Dakar.
Developed our **75th Home Garden**.



the family, teaching their parents about the nutritional benefits their bounty contains.

"My favorite vegetable is carrot," shared Faith. "I like to eat them raw and I know they are filled with Vitamin A, which is good for my eyes." Emily loves the spinach, and her family loves the variety. They are using the new produce to enrich many of their traditional Kenyan dishes, which are usually just made with the local kale, *skumawikki*. Skumawikki translates as "push the week" since it can be harvested every few days, ensuring there will always be something nutritious to eat from the garden.



Small rural farming households in Kenya often lack opportunities for income and can struggle with maintaining fresh produce for long periods of time after the harvest. As a way of addressing both of these challenges, DIG works to link these families with local markets. Now, Faith and Emily's mother takes any excess produce their garden grows to the Kadiang'a market where she regularly sells out. The girls themselves set up a farm stand at their school's *Community Participation Day*, proudly selling their carrots to the families of their peers. Together they have earned enough to pay for the girls' school fees and textbooks for the next year.

The girls' parents have been amazed at how their daughters are ensuring their own continuing educations, and how the entire family has benefited. "These girls have really reduced our food expenditures," their father boasts. **"Nowadays, we don't spend money buying vegetables. Nothing is wasted, and we actually get income from selling the extra. Our new garden has reduced our weekly expenditure on food by half. We are able to feed our family of ten and still save over \$4 a week."**

"The school garden provides more than just a physical and social outlet," says the head of Kadiang'a Primary. The garden lessons are combined with a clear understanding of nutrition, basic financial and marketing support, and family participation. "We see these students staying in school longer. They are better equipped for success in the classroom and beyond."



2008 TRANS- PLANTING

DIG hosts its first **agricultural trainings** with the Batwa People, a displaced, non-agrarian ethnic group from Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

With Hope Initiative, DIG builds a **Youth Feeding Garden** in Namibia.



DIG works with its first **Community Based Organization**, Budondo Food Security HIV Group (BFSG), and makes a long-term commitment to capacity-building. BFSG wins the Blue Ribbon at the Jinja Agricultural show, and is invited to build a garden at the Ugandan President's birth home.



FACILITATOR PROFILE

SARAH OBONYO

When Sarah Obonyo joined DIG's Mobile Farmer Field School Program, she had been looking for opportunities to better provide for her family. With limited education and no formal work experience, job opportunities were difficult to find, and like most women with her background, she fell back on small-scale agriculture as a default.

An enthusiastic and capable student, Sarah graduated from DIG's Mobile Farmer Field School in 2013. DIG was immediately aware of her energy, wit, quick capacity to learn and confidence in the garden. After her program graduation, DIG interviewed Sarah to see if she would be a good fit as a local DIG Facilitator. Her eagerness blew us away and we hired her on the spot.

Women play a major role in food systems throughout the developing world. In Sub-Saharan Africa, women provide as much as 60% of the labor on family farms. Women, however, often have little to no control over land, farm income, agricultural resources, or commercialization of crops, and they rarely have opportunities to receive training and support in agriculture. Sarah, like several other strong women leaders in the area, is working to address these

issues because when women farmers have the same resources as men, yields typically increase by as much as 30%.

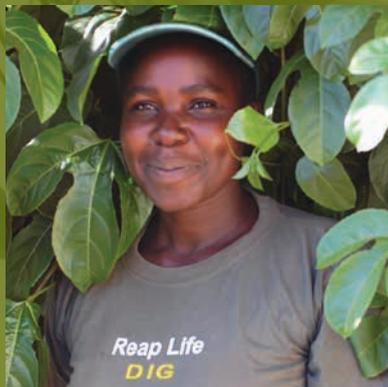
Though Sarah never finished secondary school, she is intelligent and incredibly resourceful, and has proven to be an exceptionally capable teacher. Sarah lives with her husband and four small children in Rongo, a small, rural town near DIG's center of operations in Western Kenya, and for almost four years now she has been a proud local facilitator and

tireless advocate for DIG. An irreplaceable member of the DIG team, Sarah helps lead DIG's Western Kenya extension projects as one of a five-facilitator team.

Because of her positive rapport with children and a particular interest in permaculture design, she has become DIG's lead facilitator for our Sustainable Schools Initiative. DIG has invested in her growth and development, providing her with continued education from such leading regional experts as The Permaculture Research Institute of Kenya and The Kenya Forest Research Institute.

Not only a gifted facilitator and an admired key member of our Kenya team, Sarah is performing the vital role of inspiring young women across the region to envision a greater future, proving they too can lead projects and speak with confidence in front of both men and women, while still nourishing their families and dreaming of better things to come.

We thank Sarah for making DIG a richer organization, and for all that she does for and through her community.



FOLLOW THE UNEXPECTED LEADER

Sabina Onyango is a member of a highly motivated HIV support group in Western Kenya. With a particular curiosity around nutrition for People Living with HIV, Sabina's group requested access to DIG's program on sustainable agriculture for small-holder farmers. She became increasingly excited about what she was learning and almost immediately started implementing new techniques in her home garden.

Admiring his wife's efforts and enthusiasm, her husband, Jeremiah, soon enlisted as a member of the group as well. Together, they attended weekly DIG Trainings for 5 months. Jeremiah particularly appreciated learning about double-dug beds and raised enriched beds, understanding how these techniques make planting and attending to crops easier. He started using available resources he had once overlooked, such as animal manure and kitchen and yard waste for compost. Even with the small portion of their land committed to vegetable gardening (1/8 acre), these new ideas quickly and dramatically increased their yields.

It is unusual in this part of Kenya to see men and women working together in this way, and DIG was encouraged to see Sabina admired



and being treated as a respected and valued member of her family.

Assisted by DIG's Seed Cost-Share Support Program, Sabina grows kales, carrots, beets, bulb onions, green pepper and other vegetables, both new and locally familiar. "They have incredible crop diversity which is making a big impact on her and her husband's health," says DIG's Regional Coordinator, Olivia Nyaidho. Studies have shown that dietary diversity is one of the best indicators of nutritional health and it has even greater importance for people living with HIV.

Part of the DIG training incorporates financial planning, record keeping and farm business management. Sabina keeps excellent, detailed records on her month-to-month expenses and profitability. She started harvesting and selling her excess produce in May 2015. She averages \$40/month in sales, with spikes in July (\$45) and August (\$67).



2009 TAKING ROOT

DIG observes **increased replication of its DIG Garden Model** because of peer-to-peer instruction.

Steve Bolinger transitions from DIG leadership to become a **trusted advisor** and contractor.



DIG partners with Mothers-to-Mothers to build 2 gardens **focusing on vulnerable youth and pregnant/nursing mothers** in Kenya.

DIG works with Karama Connection to develop a garden for **orphaned HIV-positive children** in Tanzania.



Actively referring to her records in order to make informed decisions on garden planning, Sabina says her farm records keep her motivated. The money she earns from her garden is used to pay school fees and purchase necessary household items from the market. Jeremiah not only now supports his wife's efforts, he praises, assists, and is personally encouraged by them.

Based on their garden's success, Sabina and Jeremiah decided to expand the land they use for vegetable cultivation, and plan to increase the land dedicated to vegetable gardening by 1-2 acres by reducing their sugar cane production (a crop with little to no nutritional value, high nutrient and water demands, as well as an

over-18-month harvest schedule). Together, they believe this shift will both help them meet their household nutritional needs and increase their income.

"What is most compelling to me is seeing a woman become a leader, recognized in her family and her community. To watch as she discovers her potential and exercise her gifts to create real, lasting change in her life and the lives she's responsible for. That encourages me every day," says DIG founder, Sarah Koch. "It's about so much more than just what grows from the dirt, though that is the foundation of our work."

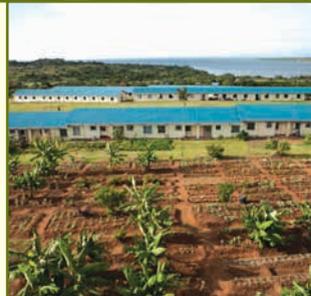


2010 OPEN- POLLINATING

Project Redwood Foundation sponsors the creation of **DIG's Nutrition & Garden Manuals** to spread the DIG model.

DIG establishes the WISER Girls' School garden, **supplementing over 20,000 meals** for their students in Kenya.

Trained over 1,000 people living with HIV in **sustainable agriculture**.

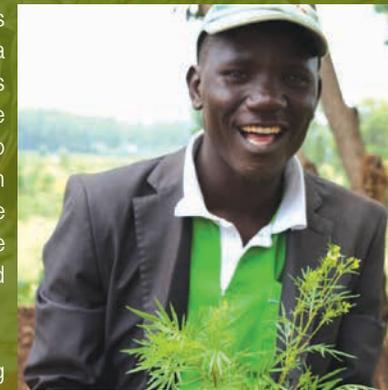


FACILITATOR PROFILE

VINCENT ODIWUOR ONYANGO

Having been raised by his mother after his father passed away when he was just a year old, DIG's work with young mothers and widows resonates deeply with him. He now not only leads the program, he started to train his mother's friends in vegetable farming in his free time. Now, each of them has a home garden and have formed a cooperative, the Njura Widows, to share with one another and to market any excess.

Vincent found out about DIG's farmer training program through Lwala Community Hospital. Coming from a well respected family in the Kandiang'a village of Lwala, he immediately excelled at the DIG training, showed great interest and an amazing capacity to adopt the agricultural skills. Shortly after his graduation, DIG saw the incredible work he was accomplishing at home and in his community, and invited Vincent to join a DIG Training of Trainers in August 2012. After the training, DIG hired him as a Local Facilitator.



Vincent has also transformed his home through DIG. His garden now feeds not just his family but the families of his three brothers. He built a new house and started a poultry project through The DIG Staff Savings and Loan.

One of our favorite things about Vincent is his desire and willingness to learn new things. He is usually the first to do professional development and adopt new skills like soil testing, marketing and value addition, and permaculture. When asked about what motivates him around DIG's work, he says: "The fact that my work

involves making a change in other people's lives. I like to transfer knowledge I learn from DIG to community members, and see how their lives change as a result of making gardens. Before DIG, many people grew just sugarcane and would spend all their money on vegetables. But now people in this region grow their own vegetables, and even have enough to sell. My work with DIG has changed everything"



2011 TRANS- PLANTING

DIG enters into its first **university partnership** with The University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia to develop four HIV Clinic Gardens in Zambia.

DIG forms a strategic partnership with Lwala Community Alliance in Western Kenya, shifting DIG's focus from single-site to **deep community transformation**.

DIG passes the **\$1 million mark** for support of our projects.

Noah Derman joins DIG executive staff as Deputy Director.



ZAMBIA

DIG'S PROGRAMS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Through our **Mobile Farmer Field School Program** and **Farmer Business Schools**, participants grow gardens for both home consumption and income generation. Farmers learn how to plan and harvest year-round in both dry and rainy conditions, to select crops based on nutritional value and profitability, and to connect with markets to sell on a regular basis.

Farmers learn to keep records, evaluate the real costs and profitability of their farms, and start saving for their future. They're encouraged to participate in local Savings and Loan groups, often getting linked with other partner organizations specializing in micro-finance, such as Kiva. As a result of these initiatives, we have seen DIG's farmers making meaningful economic gains.

When a traditional farmer with little or no formal education begins to see her or himself as an entrepreneur, an important shift happens: doors open and light bulbs turn on - sometimes quite literally.

In 2015, **DIG's Mobile Farmer Field School** trained 363 farmers. Six months after graduating, 100% of the participants' gardens were still thriving. DIG saw a 30% increase in the practice of garden record keeping, a 60% increase in garden planning, and a 25% increase in garden business planning.

2016 marks DIG's 10-year anniversary and coincides with the start of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Agenda's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to unify and mobilize the world to end all forms of poverty, fight inequality and stop climate change.

With three interconnected elements of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection, DIG is actively addressing 7 Key SDGs.



DIG adapts the **FAO model** and begins using the **Mobile Farmer Field School Curriculum** to reach vulnerable community groups in rural Western Kenya.

DIG assists Project Okurase to develop an **organic farm in Ghana.**

Developed our **1000th Home Garden.**

Developed our **25th Facility Demonstration Garden.**



2012 MATURING

DIG commits to multi-year **investment in Western Kenya**, partnering with Segal Family Foundation, YACREN and Lwala Community Alliance to expand our impact and programs, encompassing hospitals, schools, community groups, and households.

DIG is awarded its **first public grant** through DOD/USAID to develop a sustainable agriculture project with the Armed Forces of Burkina Faso, serving People Living with HIV.

DIG presents at the **AIDS 2012 Conference** in Washington, D.C.



BURKINA FASO & GHANA

DIG'S PROGRAMS AND THE UNITED NATIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Those who were particularly interested in farming as a business continued into our more specialized **Farmer Business School** training. In 2015 this program trained 184 farmers to build their capacity in entrepreneurial and management skills. DIG's Rangala group saved over \$1,300 in 6 months from produce sales alone. On average, every \$100 invested in a DIG farmer's garden earns or saves that farmer roughly US \$300 every year. That money is most often used to ensure a healthy household diet, make needed home improvements, and send children to school.



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

DIG's mission is perhaps most aligned with the second SDG goal, which is vitally considered throughout every one of DIG's programs.

DIG believes access to nutritious food is a basic human right, and can be especially lifesaving for vulnerable populations living in poverty and fighting life-threatening diseases such as HIV.

Our **Young Mother's Program** seeks to equip out-of-school teenage mothers, ages 14-19, to better provide for their families. Since January 2015, DIG has mentored 104 young mothers, teaching them sustainable farming practices with practical applications regarding the specific nutritional needs of their families as well as offering them opportunities for income support by marketing excess produce.

146 women were trained on childhood nutrition as a part of DIG's and Lwala Community Alliance's **Thrive Through Five** and **Priority Household** initiatives. 88% of the mothers DIG worked with developed, and continue to maintain, home gardens. These mothers increased the number of meals they sourced from their gardens each week by 36%. Not only that, their average income increased from \$0.38 per week to \$2.05 from their produce sales alone, (a 440% increase) which is significant as most of these families live on less than \$1.00 per day. Not only were they sourcing more produce from their gardens, but they were also significantly increasing the diversity of their diets and their income.

Before engaging with DIG's programs, these families were consuming on average one vegetable variety per day. That has since increased to an average of 4 per day, with some homes measuring as many as 7 vegetable varieties used in their daily meals.

Studies show that dietary diversity is one of the greatest indicators for nutritional well-being, and has become a focused priority in DIG's 2016-2018 Strategic Plan.



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

DIG's work with **Priority Households** (households in danger of falling behind nutritionally) also illustrates our commitment to SDG #3. By 2030, this Goal aims to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under the age of 5. **Proper maternal and**

child nutrition is critical for this goal to be reached, which is why DIG has made this one of our primary endeavors.

Our clinic partner in Western Kenya, Lwala Community Alliance, assesses a child's immediate danger of malnutrition and then refers the family to DIG to address the causes through our nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Training. With rates as high as 25%, anemia is of particular concern in the Lwala catchment area, especially among young mothers and children. DIG places special emphasis on growing iron-rich crops such as beetroot, hibiscus (roselle), spinach, butternut squash, moringa, and others. In 2016, Lwala's Clinical Director, Dr. Wycliffe, reported fewer cases of anemia, and credits much of that change to DIG's program. "I commend DIG for their training on sustainable gardening practices to young mothers in North Kamagambo. In 2014, Lwala hospital would receive, on average, 3 cases of severely malnourished children under age 5 every day, but due to the concerted efforts between DIG and our community health programs, this has gone down. **The severely malnourished children are referred to the hospital for food supplements, and then their mothers are linked to DIG to train on gardening. As a result, these young mothers now have vegetable gardens for sustained household nutrition. Some of them have extensive gardens and even sell vegetables to buy food they can't produce. Young mothers have learned how to feed their children balanced meals.**"

The participants in our **Priority Household Program** are able to design ways of preparing their gardens, and later their meals, to ensure their children are getting a diverse diet, rich in micronutrients. Caren Aoko joined DIG's program after concern was raised about

her son, Felix. Weighing just 7.5lbs at his six-month check-up, Felix was both malnourished and anemic. Working alongside eight other women in **DIG's Priority Household Program**, Caren developed her skills and planted a home garden designed to meet Felix's needs. In just five months Felix weighed 17lbs, had a normal body mass index, and no longer registered as anemic.



ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

SDG #5 is deeply embedded into DIG's core values. **Development is only sustainable when women and girls are included in leadership and decision-making roles. Women's unequal access to, and control over, resources is a major underlying cause of global hunger, which is why DIG prioritizes the inclusion and empowerment of women and girls in all our agricultural programs.**

80% of DIG's farmers are women and our programs are built around equal access to resources and farming expertise. Women are always meaningfully included in DIG opportunities at all levels of our organization, from program participants to organizational leaders and executives.

The chairwoman of DIG's *Tiang Oware Group*, a Farmer Business School HIV support group, has been encouraged by the impact her group has been having in the area. "Typically, in our Kenyan

2013 DEEPENING ROOTS

With Olivia Nyaidho assuming the role of Kenya Program Coordinator, DIG achieves its goal of having **all host-country national staff** in Kenya, with DIG Program graduates trained to become DIG facilitators.

The DIG Nutrition & Garden Manuals are **published**, with initial distribution to 30+ organizations.



DIG adopts the **Mobile Farmer Field Schools Program**, and works with the Youth and Rural Children Empowerment Network (YACREN) to provide services to remote communities in need.

DIG partners with Keep A Child Alive and Alive Medical Services in Uganda developing HIV Support Group Garden Cooperatives to supplement the hospital's **food distribution program**.



culture, the learning goes from men to women, but now we have men coming over to our houses and our gardens every day to learn from us! Our daughters see that, and that's important."



PROMOTING SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

SDG #8 is another ambitious yet achievable goal in which DIG is actively engaged. DIG's **Farmer Business School** and **Value Addition / Marketing Program** seeks to shift smallholder farmers' ambitions from simply farming for sustenance to farming as a business opportunity. **By teaching improved ways of growing, then connecting those practices with business concepts such as market research, planning, savings, microfinance, supply-and-demand, and others, DIG farmers are transforming into entrepreneurs.**

In 2015, DIG started two organic farm stands in North Kamagambo, Kenya, where participating farmers could sell their excess produce. 32 farmers have faithfully supplied and managed these stands, providing much needed produce to the local community. Open just 2 days per week, each stall earns roughly \$30/week in sales, a potentially life-altering amount.

DIG initiated a garden project with Kabogwe, an HIV Support Group outside of Kampala, Uganda, at the end of 2014. Kabogwe came to DIG through our partners, Keep a Child Alive and Alive

Medical Services, both interested in improving the nutrition and well-being of their HIV patients. After their DIG training classes, the 30-member group became highly motivated by economic growth through agriculture and they began planting specifically for the markets. By the end of 2015, the group had established themselves as a reliable market provider and began selling back to the hospital where they received services. In December, they sold 1,400 bundles of nutrient-dense vegetables to Alive Medical Services, who provided those bundles to other HIV patients through their food distribution program. This exchange alone earned the



group over US \$415, which, when added to the group's other sales, more than doubled their overall saving to over US \$800. The group's savings accounts continue to grow as they prioritize crops, such as passion fruit, selected specifically for their local markets.



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

None of DIG's programs would be relevant if we did not address the challenges presented by climate change to smallholder farmers. Climate change is already impacting public health, food and water supplies, migration, peace and security. The UN boldly states that, "climate change, left unchecked, will roll back the development gains we have made over the last decades and will make further gains impossible."

DIG is addressing this reality at the grassroots level, with the farmers it most devastatingly affects. By committing to organic agriculture techniques in all our programs, **DIG is working to help farmers preserve and restore their soil's structure and fertility, reduce erosion caused by wind and water, increase the water-retention of their soil, and ultimately become more climate-resilient.**

Every DIG garden features and promotes a variety of nutrient-rich, locally-durable, drought-resistant plants. We have seen our farmers expand their garden varieties from an average of 1.6 crop

varieties grown to 4.2 varieties grown, with upwards of 7 varieties in a single home garden. Increasing a farm's biodiversity helps decrease the farmer's chances of losing entire harvests due to unpredictable weather, rising temperatures and increased pest and disease pressures.

Simple garden design modifications can also increase climate resilience by incorporating additional planting techniques such as banana circles, berms, and swales to help manage flooding

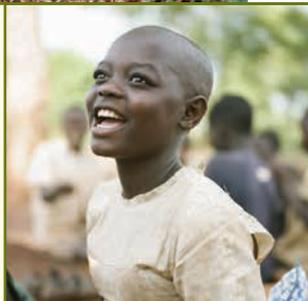


2014 CROSS-POLLINATING

DIG hosts a **regional conference** connecting DIG Local Facilitators for projects in Kenya and Uganda to share ideas and exchange best practices.

To move people beyond just subsistence farming, DIG develops its **Farmer Business School Curriculum**.

DIG farmers are partnered with KIVA to encourage **micro-enterprise and entrepreneurship**.



2015 HARVESTING

DIG creates and approves its first **strategic plan**.

DIG expands its **focus on young mothers** and mothers with at-risk babies under the age of 5.

DIG partners with USAID, UC-Davis and Berkeley, and Global Health Corps on **internship programs**.

Developed our **2,000th Home Garden**.



and retain precious water. **After 3 months of DIG's training, we measured a 50% increase in our farmers' practical application of these and other climate-resilient design techniques.**



PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS; SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS; COMBAT DESERTIFICATION; AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

DIG's vision for the world is to see communities that are healthy and resilient, working together to preserve and protect their environment, right in line with SDG #15. From DIG's **Permaculture**



School Initiatives, where we promote food forests, our **Moringa and Fruit Tree Promotions**, and our soil amendment efforts, every one of our projects seeks to repair damaged land, promote reforestation, and encourage biodiversity.

Farmers trained by DIG demonstrate practices in reversing land degradation by being twice as likely to use soil quality management practices. They are converting their land from cash crops to horticulture crops, and moving from chemical-dependent agriculture to all-organic practices. DIG-trained farmers are able to sustainably manage and improve their lands; they are nearly 8 times more likely to purchase non-chemical fertilizer, 2 times more likely to purchase certified seeds and nearly 3 times more likely to receive agricultural investment to expand their farms.

DIG is committed to continue to play our part working towards the new Sustainable Development agenda to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

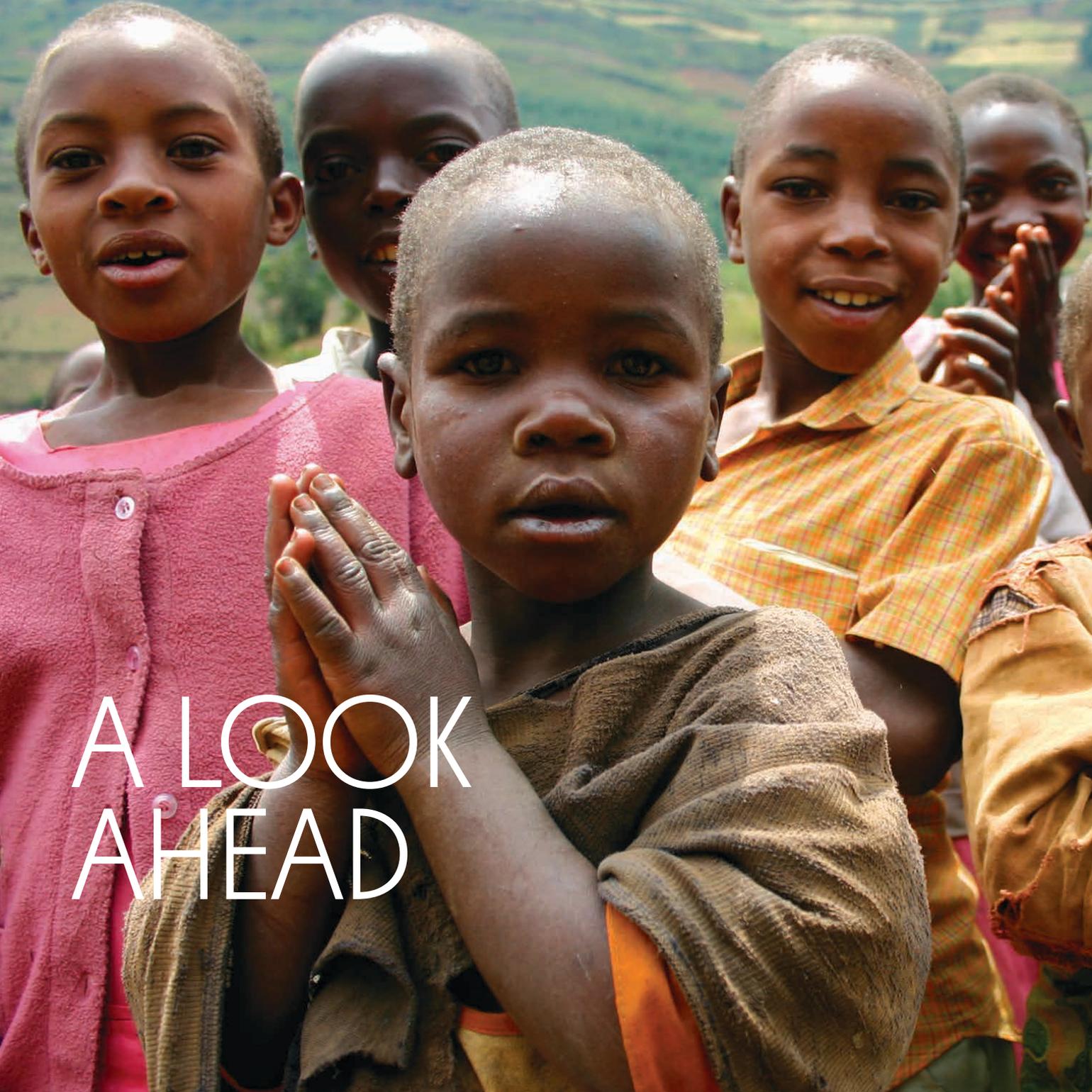
In this, DIG's second decade of growth, we hope to continue to lead through partnership, vision and action, to broaden our community impact, and to make further strides towards achieving these seven vitally important Sustainable Development Goals.



2016
A NEW
GROWING
CYCLE
BEGINS

- DIG aligns with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, engaging 7 of 17.
- DIG launches a **new Batwa Project** in Uganda through a Dining For Women grant.
- Olivia Nyaidho is promoted to **East African Director**, helping to scale DIG's presence in the region.
- Dig has trained over 3,600 people living with HIV in sustainable agriculture.
- DIG now benefits over 44,000 people with an increased household income, nutrition and diet diversity, and improved gardens.





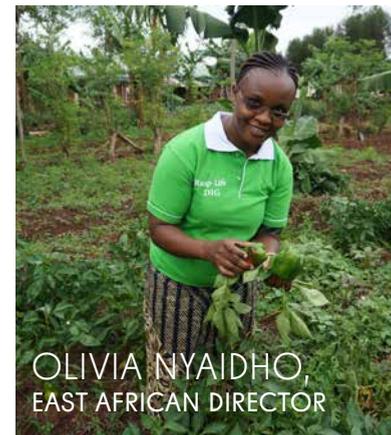
A LOOK AHEAD

Over the past 10 years, DIG has been cultivating a fertile and rich foundation for growth. What started with two Peace Corps Volunteers dreaming over tea has become something of a movement.

Today in East Africa, DIG boasts a completely local staff—trainers, facilitators, coordinators—some of whom graduated from our grassroots programs and others who were attracted to our work after graduating from leading African universities. This staff is the face of DIG, collaborating with guests, interns, and other multinationals.

DIG's East Africa operations are now led by Kenyan national, Olivia Nyaidho. With a BS from Egerton University and Masters of Arts in Project Planning and Management from The University of Nairobi, Olivia had been sought after by far larger organizations than DIG, many of which had offered her greater benefits and better living conditions. She chose to grow with DIG, investing herself in our shared vision: that we can achieve more resilient and healthier communities by working together to preserve and protect our environment.

As our East Africa Coordinator, Olivia weaves the thread of DIG's work, connecting vulnerable communities in countries eager to adopt our programs.



OLIVIA NYAIDHO,
EAST AFRICAN DIRECTOR

Olivia coordinates the collaboration between DIG's Kenya and Uganda Teams so that best practices and successful project models can be shared and refined. She increases the technical capacity of DIG's local facilitators by connecting them with graduate students and universities from the US and East Africa through regional workshops. With a vision for scale, Olivia explores partnerships with larger networks and organizations, opening our work to a wider audience. Always interfacing with other organizations and exploring potential project collaborations, Olivia is DIG's envoy, helping us envision new ways our programs can evolve and have the greatest impact.

Olivia is empowered, and that empowerment is contagious. The mother of two young boys, Olivia displays for them and others that work—especially for a woman—can be a calling and not simply done for sustenance. Her sons see her as an equal provider in the family, thus gender inequity is not part of their early experience. In the gardens, she stands among young girls and they see themselves in her. She stands among grown men and they show her respect.

As DIG readies itself for the decade ahead, we look to Olivia for leadership as we deepen our roots in East Africa. Olivia's heart, world view, and many talents provide DIG with immeasurable strengths. Three years ago, we had a vision for Olivia's role with DIG. Today, Olivia gives us a vision for DIG's future even stronger than we had imagined.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARK COLVIN

(Board Chair & Treasurer) Denver, Colorado

GREGORY BOGDAN

(Board Vice Chair) Denver, Colorado

ALAN SILVERMAN

(Board Secretary) New York, New York

BRAD CARLSON

(Board Member) Miami, Florida

DENNIS HESKEL

(Board Member) Georgetown, Kentucky

PAULETTE NICHOLS

(Board Member) Peekskill, New York

BETH PANN

(Board Member) Atlanta, Georgia

SALIF SOW

(Board Member) Seattle, Washington

DAVID TOUSTER

(Board Member) Los Angeles, California

ADVISORY BOARD

STEVE BOLINGER (DIG Co-Founder, Advisory)

BETH DANNHAUSER (Advisory)

PAPE GAYE (Advisory)

STEPHANIE KAPLAN (Advisory)

DAVID MADDY (Advisory)

TERRY SLAUGHTER (Advisory)

WILLIAM TOBIN (Advisory)

BILL WATTS (Advisory)

BILL WESTWOOD (Advisory)



2015 SUPPORT & REVENUE*

Grants and Contracts | \$39,778

Contributions | \$254,373

In Kind Contributions | \$103,451

Other Revenue | \$4,621

TOTAL SUPPORT | \$402,223

EXPENSES

Program | \$292,050

General & Administration | \$59,563

Development | \$39,294

TOTAL EXPENSES | \$390,907

Change in Net Assets | \$11,316

Net Assets, Beginning of Year | \$103,815

Net Assets, End of Year | \$115,131

*Audited finances year ending December 31, 2015.

2015 & 2016 DIGNITARIES

FOUNDATION & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Aid for Africa
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Dining for Women
Foundation for Sustainability & Innovation
Full Circle Living
Global Health Corps
Imperial Court de San Diego
Joseph Tse Charitable Works
Kairos Church
Project Redwood
South Highland Presbyterian Church
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP
Tio Foods
UC Davis IAD Graduate Group

MASTER GARDENERS \$5,000 – 10,000+

Milos Besta
Greg Bogdan
Dennis Heskel & Tricia May Bowdidge
Steve Burmeister
Scott Carino
Brad Carlson
Stephen & Beth Dannhauser
Rebecca Davis
Analia & John Earhart
Jeff Hargreaves & Patrick Mebine
Paige Kelly
Thad & Suzanne King
Steve Kruper
Rodrigo Lelis
Joe McCullough

Sara Narum
Tilden Nordholm
Dianne Smith OConnor
Mark Rubnitz
Brent Soper
William Tobin
Patricia & Jim Wheeler

COMMUNITY GARDENERS \$2,500 – 5,000

Anita Barnes
Stephanie Bell
Mark Colvin
Cynthia Davies
Mary Rulon & Don Dunn
Mac & Amy Durrett
Eric Endahl
Stephanie & Mike Kaplan
Art Kelleher
Philippe Lafont
Beth Pann
Ben Portman
Laurie Readhead
Brian Voogd
Bill & Erin Watts

HOME GARDENERS \$1,000 – 2,500

Philip Adams
Ron & Leah Adams
Harvey & Donna Allen
Peter & Sheila Anderson
Lud Baldwin
Kent Blade
Steve Bolinger

Lars & Sarah Glenn Boman
Dean Boswell
Tom Maddox & Randy Clark
Bill Collison
Don Cords
Esther & Chris Crane
Amy Cunningham
Gregg & Anne Dana
Bill Derman
Lonnie & Craig Edwards
Ruth Fisher
Neal & Meredith Foushee
Pape Gaye
Kenan & Nick Hill
Stuart & Elizabeth Finn Johnson
Don & Sue Koch
George & Joe Lee-McDonnell
David Maddy
Wandia & Anthony Mbuvi
Paul McCullough
Chad Mendoza
Larry Wall & Luis Ovalle
Carl Latkowski & David Perkins
William Phillips
Kyle Poyser
Lisa Randolph
Micki Sauer
Jack Schall
George Scharffenberger
Eric Shearin
Wamwari Waichungo

KITCHEN GARDENERS \$500 – 1,000

Stephanie Aferiat
Giff & Allie Beaton
Bill Benzie
Miles Berger
Richard Berger
Dan & Karen Carey
Sara Chaplin
Mark Chong

Clarissa Joy Coccia
Kas Deadwyler
John Dempcy
Quess Derman
Paul Duke
Liebe & Seth Gadinsky
Liane Genoni
Laurence Green
Toni Hansen
Barbara Hatch
Chris & Meghan James
Jonathan A Kaplan
Beverly Klein
Jamie & Andy Lord
Nicholas Lundberg
Ted Marsters
Bill Melamed & Jamey Lundbald
Kellie Morrissey
Dave & Katya O'Leary
Scott Orcutt
Richard & Kathy Roat
Jace Rogat
Jeni Rulon
Amanda Russell
Chris & Leslye Ryan
Suzanne Sawyer
Gail Schulze
Alan Silverman
John Snyder
Scott Stevens
Mark & Christine Thaiya
David Touster
Raymond Tsao
Andrea Turgeon
Dan VanDerWerff
Tony Vigil
Suzanne Vizethann
Don & Cece Webster
Eliyahu Wolfe
Sandy & Mike Wood

HERB GARDENERS \$250 – 500

Jill Ackles
Jean Adero
David Ammann
Georgetta Bell
John & Suzanne Benton
Bruce Bernstein
Harlan Bleecker
Drew Butler
Josh & Renee Byrd
Cherie & Larry Challain
Cindy Ciciora
Sharon Cody
Adam Coppoletti
Bradley Cordell
Paul Davis
Wilfred Delphin
Jim & Jo Ditzel
Enid & Jerry Draluck
Susan Puckett & Ralph Ellis
Barbara & Tim Exley
Tom Faughnan
Dan Ferbal
Carl & Rosemary Fisher
Bill & Jane French
Elisa Gambino
John & Julie Gilliom
Katy Ginanni
Joel & Carole Gingiss
Patrick & Wangari Githuku
Robert & Isabel Gould
Gayden Green
Marc Grossenbacher
James Groton
Melissa & Doug Honabach
Leah Honicky
Troy Inman
Kent Ireland
Doug Jackson
Curt Janka
Virgil and Ruth Jensen
Fredrick Johncox
Faith Johnson
Karin Kane
Kimberly Kennedy

Brad Koch
Bryan Lee
Catherine Lentz
Ron Lopez
Shawn Luttrell
Will Mallari
Richard & Donella Markham
Eric Martell
Ann Mcstay
Don & Kristy Miley
Aaron Smith & Tom Moore
Connie Morelle
Bob & Susan Negri
Luke Paparella
Jack & Debbie Perkins
Ed & Denise Ponczak
Tracy Regehr
Kara & Chris Rozell
Rolfe & Nancy Schroeder
Karim & Zahra Shariff
Anthony Shields
Margaret Shuttlesworth
Dana Van Slycke
Carol Snyder
Katherine & Stuart Starrett
Walt & Diane Stone
Saul Touster
Karen Watts

SEED SOWERS \$1 – 250

Rich Abbe
Don Alden
Claire Alexander
Andrew Allan
Marv & Shirley Allan
Kim Allen
Riley Alsman
Courtney Anderson
Carl Anhalt
Kerri-Ann Appleton
Lucinda Armstrong

Sheila Armstrong
Jane Ashford
Scott Atkinson
Maie Ayoub
Mary Joyce Bacon
Chad Badynee
Vanessa Bain
Matthew Bank
Rachel Bar
Phillip & Aven Barbosa
Tiffany Barriere
Becky Bartlein
Rea Katz & Richard Bartlein
Susan Basiri
Edward Bauer
Robin Behrstock
Mike & Kelsey Bernacki
Susan Bertomaschi
Cassie Besselink
Dave Betty
Jack Bevers
Suraj Bhatia
Barbara Black
Miguel Blanco
Jeffery & Catherine Bonner
Matthew Boyd
Sheri Braemer
Bridgeport Diocesan Schools Corps
Ben Brooks
Jocelyn Brookstein
Kevin Brouillard
Holly Brower
Katherine Brown
Lone Bryan
Tom & Pam Buck
Elizabeth Burdette
Kay & John Buzza
Chris & Heather Byars
Lauri Byrne
Jonathan Cahoun
Matthew Call
Andrea Cappell
Julie Carlson
Roger Carlson

Francoise & Milton Carroll
Aleen Carter
Jonathan Chaplin
Stephen Chappell
Adam Charron
Megan & Rich Cheng
Wangui Chiuri
Alaina Fiskars Clark
Greta & Corky Clark
Mary Carolyn Cleveland
Gray & Katherine Clevenger
Roz Clopton
Shoshanna Cogan
Tim Coker
Pam Colbert
Drew Colvin
Ed & Memily Colvin
Dwight & Nancy Conlan
Will Conquest
Lee Cooper
Cyrus Copeland
Roy Coss
Erika Council
David Craig
Justin Cressy
Judith Croce
Paul & Shiela Cropley
Nick Crossland
Michael Cruson
Crystal Cruz
Lindsay Fiskars Cutting
Micah & Mary Lyn Dalton
Mark Daniels
Linda David
Glenn & Christine Davis
Louise & Jeffrey Davis
Trudi A Davis
Shaelynn Dawson
George DeMeglio
Thomas Deimler
Nicol DelliSanti
Jeff DePree
Herbert Derman
Christopher Derrick

2015/16

DIGNITARIES CONTINUED

Betsy Dibiasi
Desiree Dixon
Robert Dodd
Robert Douglas
Alexandria Duke
Polly Edwards
Roby Egan
Gretchen Eisenhut
Miriam Ellner
Tim Emery
Linda Epstein
Steve Essington
Michael Evans
John Farber
George Farkas
Chantal & Jules Feinberg
Rachel Feinberg
Jud Felder
Stacy Ferayorni
Virginia Fick
Katia Fisch
Robert & Susan Fishbein
Michael Foley
Andrew Fordham
Robert Franzetta
Glen Fretwell
Kirk Garcia
Michael Geiger
Scott Gerace
Aren Gerdon
David Gilinsky
Lisa Gilman
Bill & Judy Ginn
David Gittleman
Ada Giusti
Robert Glascock
Todd Gloria
Robert Francis Goldrich
Marc Goldstein

Jolene Gonsorozes
Jan Perry Goodwin
Don & Mary Brown Gould
Jacqui Grant
Barry Gray
Peggy Gregory
John Griffin
Mike Groch
Claudia Gropper
Lori Gubin
Kim Hall
Mark Hall
Hans Hallgren
Ben & Lois Halpern
Brittany Hansen
Gary & Melinda Harden
Peter Kandell & George Harding
Larry & Lere Harper
Dr. Alfredo Harris
Vicki Harwyn
Stefan Hauswald
Karin Havens
Steve Heyl
Brad High
Daniel & Jill Hightower
Matthew & Laura Hogue
Kathy Bell & Joy Hobbs
Emmy Howard
Bob & Carolyn Hunter
Ed & Gail Hurley
Mayson Hwa
Bob & Gayle Hylen
Steven Jacks
BJ Jackson
Devashish Jain
Stephen James
Emily & Joey Jarrell
Laura Johns

Deanna Johnson
Larry Johnson
Nick Johnson
Todd Johnson
Mark & Maggie Johnston
Rachel Jolly
Cory Jones
Margaret Kaiser
Jim Kamis
Elizabeth Kasabian
Joel Katleman
Margaret Katleman
Brian Kavinaugh
Joel Kehle
Leland & Marty Keller
Miriam Anne Kelly
Tegan Callahan & Greg Kennedy
Leanne Kenton
Jan & Jim Kimble
Janet M Kimble
Anna Kittinger
Laurie Klatscher
Rebecca Knoche
Carl & Carol Koch
James Kotouias
Daniel Kozak
Karl Krumholz
Erik Kudrna
Sarah & Alex Kuligowski
Tyler Kuppig
Ray Humphreys & Jonathan Labman
Hanna LaHood
Henar Landa
Nancy & Peter Langham
Aida Le
Richard Lee
Gregory Lehane

Tom Leonardis
Kat Leung
Chris Leutzinger
Allen Levine
Andrew Levine
Mark & Elizabeth Levine
Jason Levy
Barbara Lidsky
Sara Litke
Sean & Mary Littlefield
Bart & Lesley Lloyd
Rhonda Locher
Susan Locke
Hallie Lorcg
Brian Losonsky
George Loustalet
Aliber Lozano
Myrna Lubin
Randy Luffman
Rachel Lyons
Kathryn MacLeod
Relindis MacMillan
Stephen Magill
Lu Mahon
Martin Majewski
Lesley Mandel
Virginia Maner
Theresa Manthei
Bernard & Lynn Mapes
Dave & Pat Martell
Stephen Martin
Adriana Martinez
Kelly Martone
Ian Masaway
Mary McCann
Carole McCracken
Edye McCullough
Dana Goldman & Jonah McDonald
Jessica Lou McGee
Ellen & Dean McGormley
Joel & Kate McGormley
Marilyn Mclean
Michael McMahan
Nicole Meshko

Paul Milana
Darcy Millard
Mark & Susan Millenson
MaryLou Miller
Patricia Mintz
Rae & Howard Mintz
Julian Moore
Susan & Peter Morgan
Ernesto Mourelo
M. Kathleen Mueller
Len & Heidi Mueninghoff
Alice Mutisya
Kathini Mutisya
Susan Mwaura
Chris Myers
Stacy Nathan
Joanie Neumayer
Kristin Brown & Pete Nicholas
Lindsay Nordholm
Tim Nordholm
Judith Odhiambo
Nathan Ogilvie
Kacie Oliver
Sarah Ordover
Glen Ostergard
Dennis Oswald
Joseph Pacheco
Katina Pappas-DeLuca
Luisa Parra
Antonio Pascual
Seth Wiley Doane & Andrea Pastoreli
Lorelle Patterson
Allison & Rosa Peters
Robyn Pettinger
Big Mike Phillips
John Phillips
Dave Pierce
Laura Podewils
Alyssa Pollman
Wanda Pope
Neil Porter
Andy & Betsey Poulos
James & Raegan Powell
Matt Preridi

Lindsey Price
Sarah Proctor
Nancy Puckett
Drew Racine
Lee Brainerd & Ned Racine
Ronny Rakes
Christian Ramers
Jim Obrien & Steven Rangel
Nancy Raphael
Beverly Reilly
Tricia Reilly
Alain Reinhardt
Daniel Reisbeck
Luis Reyes
Pilar Reynaldo
Lori Riccardi
Tomas W. Rodriguez
David Main & James Rogers
Florence Rogow
Bill Romary
Raana Rosenfeld
Andrew Row
Fabio Rutili
Lucie Rwambaisire
Ellen Saad
Carole H Sachs
Karima Salmi
Brent Sammons
Robert Sanborn
Anne & David Sapp
Savannah Sassler
Whitney & Chris Saxon
Benedict Schever
David Auten & John Schneider
Morrie Schulman
Marisa Schumacher
Steven Scott
Neil Sekhri
Heather Share
Brian Sharp
Chris Sherrill
Anthony Frank Shields
Cory Silverstein
Max Sitzer
Erin Slaughter

Terry & Jennifer Slaughter
Norman Slawsky
Dale Smith
James & Becky Smith
Sam & Elizabeth Smith
Sam Spaeth
Chris Stallard
Jeff Stawicki
Brant Stewart
Caleb Stewart
Kaylan Stinson
Kelsey Surbaugh
Nate Swett
Jennifer Taylor
Timothy Taylor
Tony Testa
Todd & Laurel Thisius
Amy Thompson
Sunnie Tideman
Theodore Tindall
Brooke Tomes
Ben Tompkins
Christopher & Tacie Topazi
Todd Tourville
Joshua Touster
Melody Triuisione
Kathleen Trocheck
Nathan Tross
Jim & Sonja Truesdell
Aaron Vaksvik
Nick Vamvakas
Emilie Venables
Josie & Fay Venables
Chris Vincent
France Nguyen Vincent
James Vincent
Fay Viola
Alisha Virani
Rochelle Vitcov
Maxwell Walker
Tom Wall
Michael Wallace
Kirsten Ward
Sarah Warren
Samantha Wasala

Bob & Lucie Washburn
TJ Kirkpatrick & Sarah Weilant
Joan & Marco Weiss
Jessica Welch
Jere Wells
Tegan West
Adam & Jen Whalen
Lisa Wheeler
Cindy Wiley
Jane Wilkinson
David Will
Gordon Williams
John Williams
Fred A Wingstrom
Richard Wofford
Simmy Wolfe
Deborah J Wood
Katie Archibald Woodward
Natalie Woodward
Douglas Wright
Ellen Yaffe
Joni Young
Roy Young
Abdi Yusef
Jason Zebrowski
Joan B. Zulanch

IN—KIND SUPPORT

[Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP \(Office\)](#)
[Simon Cyrene Groups \(Media\)](#)
[Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta \(Legal\)](#)
[Seed and Light International \(Seeds\)](#)
[Tony Howard & MicroTribe \(Website\)](#)
[Paige Kelly \(Admin\)](#)

CORPORATE MATCHING

[Apple](#)
[Bank of America](#)
[BBVA Compass](#)
[Gap Inc.](#)
[Google](#)

[Macy's and Bloomingdale's](#)
[Microsoft](#)
[The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#)
[Time Warner](#)

PROGRAM PARTNERS

[Agriculture Improvement Support Services](#)
[Alive Medical Services](#)
[Budondo Food Security Group](#)
[Food and Agriculture Organization](#)
[Global Batwa Outreach](#)
[Global Health Corps](#)
[Horticulture Innovation Lab](#)
[Keep a Child Alive](#)
[Lwala Community Alliance](#)
[Rongo District Ministry of Agriculture](#)
[Soft Power Health](#)
[USAID Research and Innovation Fellowships](#)
[Youth and Child Rural Empowerment Network](#)

IN—COUNTRY INTERNS/FELLOWS

[Belinda Richardson](#)
[Chris Vincent](#)
[Giavanna Accurso](#)
[Gloria Oweta](#)
[Michael Wallace](#)
[Samantha Wasala](#)
[Sara Litke](#)

Special thanks to Bob Miller & Cary Norton (Photography), Ann McStay (Copy-Editing), Mackenzie Crone (Design) and David Touster (Content and Design Editor) for donating their time and talents for this Impact Report.



Development in Gardening
999 Peachtree St. NE Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30309 USA
reaplifedig.org