



Opened in April 2017, **Drought-Resilient Gardens for East Africa** supported partnerships with Grow East Africa (GEA) in Ethiopia and Seed Savers Network in Kenya (SSNK). In addition to support from project donors, GlobalGiving awarded \$7,500 for further drought and famine crisis relief in the region.

### About Drought-Resilient Gardens for East Africa

Working closely with founders Daniel Wanjama of SSNK and Yohannes Chonde of GEA, this project served some of the most vulnerable communities in Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia who faced crisis-level food shortages resulting from the 2017-2018 drought.

**Grow East Africa** is positioned at a crossroads for Kenyan-Ethiopian IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons). Soyama, a small town in Southern Ethiopia, is the new home to hundreds of displaced people, mostly women with children, who have fled northward from Mega, Ethiopia to escape violence and drought.

Yohannes has built strong relationships within both the IDP and local communities. He is tasked with not only providing a short-term solution for folks who are fleeing their homes and establishing new lives, but GEA must also provide a long-term solution that enrolls and integrates local communities in ways that benefit both groups.

**Seed Savers Network Kenya** has strong support for women's groups and school gardens, providing access to agricultural training, good vegetable seed, tools, and other resources. By focusing on seed quality, access, and preservation, Daniel is strengthening his communities' resilience against future crises and the changing climate.

Many SSNK farmers are women who organize in saving groups who pool resources to ensure that their investment in good seeds, water sourcing, training, and shared supplies reach those most in need. This networking and education empowers women to gain more control over their lives and move toward collaborative self-sufficiency.

Daniel and Yohannes have exceptional local expertise and a commitment to serving the most vulnerable in their regions. In times of crisis, Women and IDPs face heightened, often life-threatening, challenges. Vegetable gardens persist as a source of life-affirming income and nutrition that adapts to change and helps ensure women's safety and economic power.



*"Seed Savers Network Kenya continues to promote agrobiodiversity and seed access for improved food security amongst smallholders farmers. During drought, vegetable farmers in our network rely upon urban farming technologies learned from our trainings that minimizes water usage and increases vegetable output."*

— Daniel Wanjama, SSNK Founder



*"Grow East Africa's agricultural projects work with vulnerable farmers, many of whom are women, by training them in improved practical agricultural methods, helping them access quality agricultural inputs and technology, and linking them to viable markets. In doing so, farmers are able to prevent hunger, preserve land for future use, and obtain long lasting food security."*

— Yohannes Chonde, GEA Founder





*“Just a few years ago, we were a community that was worried about what we would eat tomorrow and what the future looks like.*

*Today, not only are we growing our own food, but we’re making plans for the future of our people and our community.*

*Thank you for choosing to invest in our community and in our well-being.”*

*Fate, GEA Farmer, Soyama Women’s Group member, Ethiopia*



## Farmers Accessed Resources...

14,100 local seed packets for  
4,466 individuals from  
3,875 households in  
43 farmer groups

## ...and Skills

92 group trainings  
327 garden advisory visits

Training included: **gardening** (soil preparation through harvest, processing, and storage), **nutrition** (new vegetable introduction and food preparation), and **livelihood** (market access and finances).

**Drought-Resilient Gardens for East Africa** helped farmers grow larger crops, improve their nutrition, and earn more economic power. The water tank and drip irrigation installations will support IDP livelihoods for years to come.

## Your Support Changed Lives

Your support, and the support from GlobalGiving, has improved health and income for thousands of people in the region. Long-term indigenous assets have grown, and GEA and SSNK have forged connections that will serve the organizations and their farmers for years to come.

For the IDP groups that Grow East Africa serves, this project has literally helped them establish new lives. For the communities that Seed Savers Network Kenya serves, this program has helped keep children in school and has shared agricultural knowledge and practice with a generational cohort in the region. In the end, this project helped the communities served by GEA and SSNK become more resilient in the face of famine, drought, sociopolitical upheaval, and other recurring crises.

In villages and cities alike there is a clarion call for new strategies to build community resilience, reduce dependence on aid, and develop lasting, locally-run strong social and economic ties. Local leaders like Yohannes and Daniel are ensuring this will happen. SPI will continue working with SSNK and GEA on future projects, which you can find at the end of this report.

*We offer our sincere and humble gratitude to each donor who supported this project, to GlobalGiving, and to the international partners who made this project possible.*

*For similar projects, see:*

Gardens Give Hope, Health, and Income in E. Africa →  
Seeds and Support for School Gardens Worldwide →

