

2020
Impact
report



SeedChange

Formerly USC Canada

Together,
we're
stronger



Soungalo Coulibaly, Mali

Results that speak for themselves

In 2020, we concluded our five-year Seeds of Survival Scale-Up Program, funded by the Government of Canada and donors like you. In Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Burkina Faso, Mali and Ethiopia, your donations helped farmers deepen their knowledge of ecological farming, crop breeding and seed saving. You supported farmer co-ops and farmer-led advocacy, helping farmers break down barriers and lift up their communities. **The five-year data is clear: your generosity is delivering healthier diets, better livelihoods, improved climate resilience, and greater autonomy in every community.**



Amidou Boureima, Burkina Faso

6 countries
438 communities
58% women
35% youth

Healthier diets with more fruits and vegetables

Over the five-year program, you helped thousands of families harvest fruits and vegetables for the first time. The share of households growing fruit swelled from 42 per cent to 66 per cent; for vegetables, the share increased from 60 per cent to 81 per cent. Plus, households that grew fruits and vegetables at the start of the program grew nearly twice as many varieties by the end. **With your support, more families can grow healthy, diverse fruits and vegetables. They've also gained a new source of revenue by selling fresh produce.**



Dado Traoré, Mali

57% more families growing fruit
35% more families growing vegetables

Growing income & market power

In the last five years, 223 enterprises launched or expanded to sell crops, seeds, seedlings or goods made from their harvests. Of these, 105 are women's groups and 39 are youth-run co-ops. These groups help them navigate and break down the barriers they face to entering the marketplace. By supporting collective enterprises, you've helped farmers of all ages and genders share the costs and risks related to doing business. **You've helped farmers improve their ability to set a fair price for their work—an important step towards a just food system.**



Ester Lopez Gutierrez and her daughter Heisel, Honduras



223 collective enterprises
● Women's groups (47%)
● Youth-run microenterprises (17.5%)

A woman with dark hair, wearing a pink and white striped shirt and a light-colored skirt, stands in a lush green cornfield. She is smiling at the camera. In the background, there are more corn plants and trees.

Liliam Morales, Nicaragua

65 community seed banks
32 field gene banks
43 community grain banks
or grain reserves
257 new varieties

Building climate resilience through biodiversity

Your donations helped farmers grow a greater diversity of crops. Overall, farmers in the communities you support now have better access to 257 new, locally-adapted crop varieties. By diversifying their crops, farmers are increasing their farms' resilience to climate change. For example, a farmer can grow one type of corn that is drought tolerant and another that can endure very wet conditions. This diversity lowers the risk of a failed harvest because the farmer is better prepared for whatever the season brings. **Your support made harvests more dependable and helped farmers adapt to climate change.**


An older man with a white headwrap and a white shirt with a dark vest stands in a cornfield. He is smiling and holding a large ear of corn. In the background, there are more corn plants and a person working in the field.

Mohammed Awel, Ethiopia

95% of households use
three or more ecological
practices
At least **6,000** farmers
received training

Enhancing ecological expertise

Growing food ecologically requires in-depth knowledge and ongoing innovation. There is always more to learn when it comes to building soil fertility, protecting crops against pests and producing quality seeds. Thanks to you, 95 per cent of households in our five-year program are now using three or more practices they learned through farmer to farmer learning exchanges, mentorships and training sessions. They also report increased comfort and confidence with ecological practices, and soil and water conservation. **Over the last five years, you helped over 6,000 farmers learn new practices to grow more food, sustainably.**

Three women and a young child are standing outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a purple shirt and a blue headscarf. The woman in the middle is wearing a blue and white patterned shirt and a red skirt. The woman on the right is wearing a white shirt and a blue face mask. They are all smiling. In front of them are several large woven baskets filled with food, including what looks like corn and beans. A red truck is visible in the background.

Eloisa López García, Damiana Estela Cruz, Albertina Juana Vasquez de León, Guatemala

Together, no matter what

In 2020, COVID-19 created new hardships for farmers. Your generosity helped our partners quickly deliver targeted support. In Nicaragua, farmers received emergency seeds and seedlings thanks to donors like you. In the Dry Corridor of Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua, the Government of Canada funded an additional emergency food security response program. Elsewhere, farmers found support through the seed banks, farmers' groups and co-ops you helped them establish.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that we need to take better care of each other and the Earth. Growing food ecologically does both. **Thank you for supporting farmers through hard times. Together, we'll continue to grow a better future, one seed at a time.**

This is what **your** support can do.

Tomasa and Ambrosio did not farm prior to the pandemic. But rising food prices meant they worried not only about COVID-19, but about affording food, too.

For the Mam Mayan couple in Guatemala, their anxiety around food eased when they were visited by a technical advisor from our local partner organization, ASOCUCH.

What ASOCUCH could offer—**thanks to support from donors like you**—was immediate help to create a large home garden. They could also provide access to seeds grown by local farmers who also participate in SeedChange's programs.

Their garden changed everything.

With just 100 square metres, Tomasa and Ambrosio now grow carrots, radishes, spinach, chard, broccoli and more. They feed themselves, their four adult children, three grandchildren, and they give vegetables to neighbours in need. After that, Tomasa still has enough left to sell.

For Tomasa and Ambrosio, the impact of your donations has been safety from hunger and an opportunity for the whole family to learn new skills. **You can help more families like Tomasa's find comfort, safety and hope in the powerful act of growing food.**

Please give today.

weseedchange.org/donate



Tomasa and Ambrosio stand in the 100 square metre garden they started last May with your support.
(Gerardo Gómez/ASOCUCH)

In 2020, your support helped our partners provide vital health and safety information to farmers as the pandemic unfolded.

When communities needed them most, our partners helped increase seed supplies and provided technical support to help farmers start their growing season on time. But with a new season ahead and challenges still growing, the need for support remains urgent.

This work is only possible with your sustained support. Become a monthly donor today.



Damiana Estela Cruz, Albertina Juana Vasquez de León, Guatemala (Sergio Alonza)



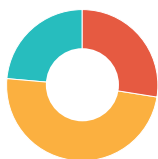
Aïssata Ongoïba, community seed bank manager, Mali (USC Mali)

This is where *your* support went in 2020.



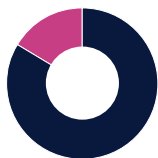
Summary

Revenue: \$5,619,012



- Support from general public: **27.2%** (including through USC Foundation)
- Global Affairs Canada: **50.7%**
- Other (including private foundations): **22.1%**

Expenses



- Program: **\$4,743,777 (84.4%)**
- Non-program: **\$874,335 (15.6%)**



SeedChange is grateful to the staff and board members who are committed to making the world “a better, kinder place,” in the words of our founder Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova.

SeedChange Board members Ama Amponsah, Karim Salabi, Bernard Ndour, Nicole McDonald, Alejandro Argumeda, Nicole Côté, Sarah Crocker, Kim Delaney, Boaventura Eugenio Monjane, Constanza Monterrubio Solis, Dr. Padmapani L. Perez, Dr. Priscilla Settee, Tiffany Traverse

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Board and staff lists as of October 2020

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You make this life-changing work happen.



Donate online. It's easy, fast, safe and secure.
weseedchange.org/donate



Call our toll-free number: **1.800.565.6872** and press 1



Please mail your cheque to SeedChange
56 Sparks Street, Suite 600, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5B1

SeedChange Summary Financials for the year ending April 30, 2020

Net assets **245,954**

Statement of revenue and expenses

Global Affairs Canada	2,851,026
Support from general public	685,605
USC Foundation	840,000
Other (including private foundations)	1,242,381
Total revenue	5,619,012

Program expenses	4,743,777
Non-program expenses	874,335
Total expenses	5,618,112

Net revenue over expenses **900**

USC Foundation Summary Financials for the year ending April 30, 2020

Net assets **5,121,432**

Comprised of

Lotta Hitschmanova Legacy Fund	4,467,849
Stewart Moore Endowment	320,892
Manson & Mary Toynbee Endowment	201,245
Kurt & Evelyn (Russell) Haas Endowment	103,683
Rick McTaggart Memorial Fund	27,763

Statement of revenue and expenses

Bequests and other	160,261
Investment income	(203,700)
Total revenue	(43,439)

Administrative & fundraising expenses	214,104
Contribution to SeedChange	840,000
Total expenses	1,054,104

Net expense for the year **(1,097,543)**

For audited financial statements, please visit our website at weseedchange.org/accountability or contact us.

 **SeedChange**

We are a registered Canadian charity: 11927-6129-RR-0001

SeedChange was founded by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova in 1945 as the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada (USC Canada).



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