



Surviving the Food Crisis

UMCOR Helps Farmers Grow Food
for Themselves

“This land is not just for us. I want my children to learn what I have learned.”

—Yongor Kolubah, ICPM participant, Liberia

UMCOR ADVANCE # 982188
Sustainable Agriculture &
Development Program

UMCOR IN AFRICA

Each year, more than 3,000 persons benefit from UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture and Development Program (SA&D), either directly as newly transformed farmers or as people who have heard of the new methods by word of mouth. More than half of the beneficiaries are woman. Sixty percent of the training recipients teach the new methods to their friends. UMCOR has SA&D programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Gambia, Liberia, Mozambique and Sierra Leone, and has supported programs in Gambia, Nigeria, and Senegal.



Yongor Kolubah, 29, displays her growing nursery at her vegetable farm where she grows corn, cabbage, cassava, potatoes, peppers and more.

Hope for a Harvest

Yongor Kolubah of Caldwell Village, Liberia used to watch her husband grow food to the best of his ability on their one and a half acre vegetable farm. Unfortunately, what they produced together was not enough for them to sell at the market. In fact, it was barely enough to sustain them or their two children. So, her husband took on a job at a local rubber factory to help make ends meet.

When Kolubah heard about UMCOR's Integrated Pest and Management (ICPM) training that was being offered in her community, she joined in hope of learning what she and husband had missed in trying to produce market-quality vegetables.

Sharing the Wealth

After an intensive, 18-week Farmer Field School training, Kolubah immediately applied what she had learned. Her first cabbage harvest was a huge success. She earned a substantial amount of money selling produce and seeds at the local market as well as to her neighbors. When people in Kolubah's community saw her success, they too wanted to join Kolubah on her farm.

Embracing UMCOR's farmer-to-farmer model—a method which encourages farmers to pass on what they have learned to other farmers in the community—Kolubah let the community join her farm. She allowed several people in her town grow food on her land and shared her newly-acquired knowledge with them. Kolubah also celebrates with them as they reap the prosperous benefits. She said, “This land is not just for us. I want my children to learn what I have learned.”

Today, Kolubah's average intake from her vegetable farm is \$85 a month—earning more than her husband. She has since encouraged her husband to join her back on the farm so they can increase their profits.



Kolubah and her husband pose in front of their new home made possible through techniques learned at UMCOR's ICPM training.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

When you give to UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture & Development Program, UMCOR Advance #982188, you are helping farmers overcome the weight of the worldwide food crisis by giving them the opportunity to support and feed their families.

Your gifts help the lives of farmers by improving their quality of life and standard of living. Farmers have the opportunity to live in better homes and their children can attend school for the first time.

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June H. Kim/UMCOR
Judith Santiago/UMCOR

What's more, UMCOR's ICPM training has also afforded Kolubah and her family the opportunity to build a new home where they will soon live with their two children. Kolubah is now empowered to go to school herself to learn how to read and write as well as provide her children a good education.

Farmer Field School

UMCOR's Farmer Field School doesn't just address crop and pest management techniques, but it also covers topics of community concern like HIV/AIDS, managing finances, and community organization. The farmers develop a stronger sense of unity as they work together to better themselves and their families. In Liberia, a group of farmers banded together to produce and sell rice, using the proceeds to dig a community well. In other areas, the farmers used what they learned in Farmer Field School about savings programs to develop their own credit unions.

"I am proud of myself. I never went to school, but now [after ICPM training] I want to go to evening school to learn how to read and write."

Yongor Kolubah

Giving Hope

UMCOR's SA&D Program is offering hope to small-scale farmers, empowering them to make better life choices as well as partake in their own community development. Farmers throughout Africa are learning from one another, encouraging one another and empowering others to grow and learn to improve their communities. Your gifts to UMCOR's SA&D Program are gifts for a promising future.

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