

Imagine caring for your crops, pouring your hopes into the soil, only to watch them suffer under relentless sun. Or the reverse, a flood tears through your land, sweeping away everything you've worked for. This brutal unpredictability of water defines life for countless farmers globally. Yet, through strategic guidance and support from EARN, our partners are implementing permaculture principles like swales, berms, ponds, and agroforestry – and seeing positive results!



> Combating Water Scarcity

"We experienced the worst drought in an already dry location. With a lack of reliable water for irrigating the crops, most trees and crops died...With swales, berms, ponds and agroforestry, life is coming back. We had a bumper crop."

- *Creative Solutions for the Environment, Malawi*

Their recovery showcases a landscape regenerating and yielding new harvests.

> Mitigating Heavy Floods

"We used to see our land flooded every year," shares Joshua. Now, by adopting permaculture principles: "With swales, berms, and trees, there is no flooding. This has increased productivity significantly."

- *Common Ground for Africa, Kenya*

The fear of ruin has been replaced by the quiet confidence of consistent yield.

> Providing Acces to Clean Water

"We harvest rainwater and have storage of 10k liters. We drill underground water and provide access to clean water to the surrounding villages. We have about 20 very long swales and berms and six large water ponds collectively sinking more than 100,000 liters of running water every large rainfall."

- *Budondo Intercultural Center, Uganda*

This effort does more than just maintain their farms water table, it provides essential clean water to surrounding villages.

50,566

meters of berms/
swales installed

6.68

million gallons
of water holding
capacity created

Water





Let's imagine landscapes where the sound of insects has faded, birds are no longer nesting, and the vibrant plant life is reduced to just a few species. This, too, is a global farmer's reality, one often unfolding in our grantees' fields. Yet, through agroforestry and permaculture practices, communities are seeing a return of life.

> The Return of Wildlife

"Our land was desolate and dry. Only a few trees. [Now] life is coming back. Birds are returning. We are seeing turtles, foxes, frogs, and even the African Serval Cat."

- *Creative Solutions for the Environment, Malawi*

As they integrated swales, berms, ponds, and agroforestry, the land responded with astonishing vitality, transforming what was once a bare landscape.

> Regenerating Indigenous Species

"[We're seeing] high vegetation cover at wildlife sites and increased wildlife...Indigenous trees are coming back with five new species identified this year."

- *Bundondo Intercultural Center, Uganda*

This isn't just about species survival, it's about the multiplication of life.

> Increasing Overall Biodiversity

"The biodiversity multiplies over time. We have been able to diversify crops, livestock, insects, as well as other animals..."

- *Gardens For Health International, Rwanda*

It's a living, interconnected web, growing richer and more resilient with each passing season.

> Beneficial Birds and Insects for Natural Pest Control

"We have observed an increase in beneficial insects and birds on our farm, which has helped with pest control. The diversity of plants on our farm has increased, creating a more resilient ecosystem."

- *Common Ground for Africa, Kenya*

A more resilient ecosystem means more stable harvests and a farm that can better withstand environmental shocks.

292

species of trees
planted

79

species of other
crops planted

72,942

trees planted on
demonstration
farms

308,911

trees grown in
nurseries

Biodiversity





The health of the soil directly translates to human well-being and economic stability. Just as a vibrant gut biome is key to human health, a rich, healthy soil is the foundation for nourishing food, food that not only fills bellies but acts as medicine, and creates financial resilience.

> Increasing Nutritious Meals

"Now we are eating two meals a day and sometimes even three."
- Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment, Uganda

This increase in regular, sufficient meals has a powerful ripple effect.

> Improved Health

"Sickness with the girls has reduced from eating more healthy food. Girls are more healthy and have a more balanced diet."
- The Neema Project, Kenya

This direct link between better food and improved health means fewer missed school days and a stronger foundation for the future.

> Increased Yields

"Food production has increased by more than 100% in the last two years. We produced close to 16 tonnes of fresh food, vegetables and fruits, 2,000 liters of milk, 50 piglets and 19 goats."
- Budondo Intercultural Center, Uganda

These figures aren't just numbers, they represent improved food security and a significant economic opportunity.

> Increased On-Farm Income

"The increased production has been very helpful. It has cut food costs by 50%. This has helped us increase the number of girls admitted. We were able to add 22 girls this past year from food saving costs."
- The Neema Project, Kenya

25,215
kgs of produce
harvested from trees

64,530
kgs of produce
harvested from
other crops

22,850
kgs of meat products
harvested

17,188
livestock/fish
raised on grantee
farms

*Yield data is from 2024 & 2025 only

Food Security & Economics





Reflect about the soil beneath our feet—not just as ground or dirt—but as the earth’s living gut, a complex microbiome, much like our own. This micro world is the true engine of our food systems, yet years of conventional practices, erosion, and climate shifts have often left it depleted, hard, and lifeless. The visible transformation is truly remarkable.

> Creating More Vibrant Soil

“[The] soil fertility increased. We see more earthworms during rainy season. [We’ve seen] a significant improvement in soil fertility and structure, making it easier to cultivate.”

- *Common Ground for Africa, Kenya*

This improved soil isn’t just easier to work, it’s bursting with new vitality. These improvements are the direct result of deliberate, regenerative actions.

> Changing Practices

“[We use] mulch from grass cuttings and living fence of calliandra, leucaena, and sesbania trees. Practicing rotations, and using compost.”

- *Youth Environment Service, Uganda*

Communities are systematically building the very essence of healthy soil, layering in vitality piece by piece. These are not just methods, they are commitments to restoring the soil health.

> Water Retention

“[Our soil] has improved significantly, with more organic matter and better water infiltration.”

- *Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment, Uganda*

These changes directly translate to more resilient crops.

> Improved Yields

“[We are] producing composts using available local materials which in turn contribute to putting available natural resources to use.”

- *Gardens for Health International, Rwanda*

This resourceful approach not only enhances soil quality and increases yields, but also fosters sustainability within the community’s own ecosystem.

280

permaculture fields installed

316

acres of permaculture fields maintained

Soils





Beyond the soil and harvests, the deepest roots of change lie within the community itself. One of the most profound shifts is the empowerment of those who are often overlooked.

> Valued Members of Society

"With help to create a training center and train village farmers, we as people with disabilities are now seen as valued members of our community. [Increased] vegetables are helping families to earn money. People with disabilities do not have a need to beg."
- *Karambi Group of People with Disabilities, Uganda*

For many, these impacts are deeply personal. Imagine the dignity and belonging that comes from moving from a position of perceived vulnerability to being a respected contributor.

> Empowered Women and Youth

"[Our permaculture program has] empowered women and youth, giving them skills and opportunities for income generation."
- *Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment, Uganda*

The impacts are tangible and personal, illustrating a newfound financial independence.

> Ripple Effects in Daily Life

"Parents can now pay for books... men are more busy farming and less drinking... [and there has been] reduced domestic violence."
- *Common Ground for Africa, Kenya*

These shifts paint a picture of communities where productivity fosters stability and stress reduction.

> Community Engagement

"Community members are more engaged in farming activities and are eager to learn new permaculture techniques. [Our program] has brought our community closer, working together to improve our farms."
- *Common Ground for Africa, Kenya*

The strength of these initiatives lies in their ability to foster widespread community engagement and a shared vision.

647

trainings offered by EARN grantee partners

13,679

people trained in permaculture by grantee partners

233,074

trees given to community members

9

level of hope on average (out of 10)

Community

