



# FOOD SECURITY

How **LITTLE THINGS**  
can make a **BIG DIFFERENCE**

Bakina Zacharia is a farmer who lives in remote Idole Village in Dodoma, Tanzania. For years she's grown onions, a popular crop in her area, but struggled to make enough money to support her family. Part of the problem was that Bakina harvested and sold her crops in the fall at the same time as all the other area farmers. This meant the markets were flooded with crops, driving down the price she could get for hers.

**But recently, something changed for Bakina. It was just a little thing. But it made a big difference.**

With some help from a donor, her village government built a simple storage shed. And Bakina leased it.

The new shed is nothing fancy, just some bricks, boards and chicken wire. How this differs from traditional storage is that the onions are stored up, off the floor, which means they can be kept for longer periods of time without rotting.

This simple, inexpensive technology was a need identified by the community. And it has changed Bakina's life.

Now, instead of selling her onions at the market's peak, Bakina stores them until she can get the best price. Last season she was able to sell her onions for six times more than the price she would have received at harvest, making the shed rental a great investment.

According to Bakina, having storage is like being able to go to a bank. "If I need some money right away," she



says, "I can go to the shed, sell a few at the going price and get the money — but the rest I will save and wait until the price goes up."

A simple shed has proven to be a game changer for Bakina. Farming used to barely make ends meet. Now Bakina earns enough to buy food, pay for school and make plans for the future, including expanding her business.

Bakina's storage shed is proof positive that even the smallest investments can make a big impact on the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and global food security.

**U.S. foreign assistance can help fight global hunger by helping farmers like Bakina grow and market their food.**

We need assistance that:

- Effectively reaches small farmers to help them grow more food and sell their crops for a fair price
- Gives farming communities a voice in the planning and execution of development initiatives that affect their futures
- Increases foreign assistance for international agricultural development, food security and nutrition

We're already doing a lot with just a little — imagine what we could do with a little bit more!

**To learn more about these issues visit us at [lwr.org/foodsecurity](http://lwr.org/foodsecurity).**