


Church of Central Africa Presbyterian  Biantyre Synod

Mulanje Mission Hospital

P.O. Box 45, Mulanje, Malawi, Tel.: +265 (0) 992 261 569 / 999 286 503 / 884 480 222
E-mail: info@mmh.mw

Sustainable Livelihoods Program Semi-annual report

July – December 2020



Reported by

Hastings Chitengu, Sustainable Livelihoods Programme Officer

Tikondwe Katumbi, Primary Health Care Coordinator

Dr Arie Glas, Medical Director

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1. Introduction

Mulanje Mission Hospital through its Primary Health Care (PHC) department in partnership with Local Government Sectors continued with the implementation of the Sustainable Livelihoods Project in Mulanje District during the period under review.

2. Beneficiaries

Households of Traditional Authorities Chikumbu and Mabuka in Mulanje District, Southern Malawi and learners in ten primary schools in the area.

Most of the work was carried out in the 10 model villages in the catchment area.

The project also continued supporting ten primary schools through the School Gardening Programme. Activities in primary schools include gardening, introduction of livestock and expansion of environmental conservation and tree planting.

3. Partners and project coordination

This program has been made possible with support from the Good Little Company, Fane Valley Cooperative, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Greenpop, Stichting Steun Malawi, the English Reformed Church and Wilde Ganzen, and various individual donors contributing to the program and to carbon offsetting.

Involvement of different stakeholders like the government extension workers, teachers and community at large has assisted to increase the coverage and timely completion of activities.

4. Achievements during the period

4.1 Successes

The Village Savings and Loans committees made a good income during the period; over 45 million Malawi Kwacha was contributed in 10 villages, equating to approximately 58,000 US\$ in savings reinvested or used for household needs. Likewise the irrigation schemes, three in total, generated 3,8 million Malawi Kwacha for farmers.

660 follower farmers were trained in improved agricultural techniques by 30 lead farmers.

40 beehives were procured and distributed, and 5 new tree nurseries established, while 84 young goats were passed on to new farmers.

4.2 Overview of all indicators

The table below provides a summary of all achievements during the period.

Program Area	Activities	Indicator	Annual target	Period reported	Achieved during reporting period	Cumulative achieved (since 2017)	No of Farmers involved during reporting period			% of annual target achieved	Remarks
							Male	Female	Total		
1. Coordination and Monitoring of Project activities	Enhance Farmer to Farmer Extension Activities	No of Lead Farmers trained and active	22	July-December 2020	22	22	13	9	22	100%	
		No of Lead Farmer Review Meetings	2	..	2	21	13	9	22	100%	
		No of Para-Vets Trained and active	22	..	22	22	13	9	22	100%	
		No of Review Meetings	2	..	2	21	13	9	22	100%	
2. Improved Opportunities for members of vulnerable communities to gain knowledge and skills	Mounting of demonstration plots using various conservation agriculture technologies	No of follower Farmers Trained and assisted by the Lead Farmers , annual	660	..	660	9.800	204	456	660	100%	
		No of Demonstration Plots mounted with various technologies (Model Villages)	220	Jan-December 2020	158	840	68	72	140	72%	Rainfed plots
		No of Demonstration Plots mounted with various technologies (Community Gardens)	30	..	19	158	8	10	18	63%	Rainfed plots
		No of Demonstration Plots mounted with various technologies (School Gardening)	100	..	60	480	5.159	5.173	10332	60%	Rainfed plots
3. Improved Agricultural Productivity	Train Farmers on CA Practices	No of Farmers Trained	1.500	July-December 2020	897	6.800	204	693	897	60%	
	Train Farmers on Back Yard Gardening	No of Backyard Gardens established	1.500	Jan-December 2020	714	4.982	166	497	663	48%	Rainfed plots
		No of Farmers Trained	1.500	..	1257	6.896	424	833	1257	84%	
	Train Farmers on Crop Diversification and Food Budgeting	No of Farmers Trained	1.500	..	1257	4.267	424	833	1257	84%	
	Goat pass-on program	No of Goats Passed-on	100	..	87	224	39	48	87	87%	
	Livestock Productivity	No of Raised Standard Kholas Constructed	80	..	46	346	16	30	46	58%	
4. Increased Community Economic Activities	VSL Groups active	No of active members	1.500	..	671	671	185	486	671	45%	
		Amount contributed	102.139.500	..	45.689.960	204.345.880	185	486	671	45%	Achieved amount equates approx 58000 US\$
		Amount shared	102.139.500	..	45.689.960	204.345.880	185	486	671	45%	
		No of Farmers Involved	240	..	154	1.946				64%	
	Community Gardens	Amount Generated		..	990.000	14.289.000,00				N/A	
		No of Enterprises Generated	6	..	4	4				67%	
	Irrigation	Amount Generated		..	3.860.000	9.426.800				N/A	solar irrigation
		No of Farmers Involved	300	..	72	484	42	30	72	24%	
	Bee Keeping	Amount Generated		..	1.356.000	3.124.245	42	30	72	N/A	
		No of Bee Hives Procured & Distributed	300	..	40	146	22	18	40	13%	
		No of tree nurseries established	7	..	5	67				71%	
5. Increased Resilience of Rural Communities to the Impact of Climate Change	Increased agro-forestry and fruit tree production and management	No of tree seedlings raised	21.000	..	13.864	181.568				66%	
		No of tree seedlings procured	4.000	..	3.500	13.200				88%	
		No of tree seedlings received as donation		..	900	3.800				N/A	MMCT
		No Agro-Forestry trainings conducted		..							
		No of marker ridges constructed (m)	10	..	8	40				80%	
	Scaling up soil and water conservation	Area c Water Harvesting Technologies (ha)	5	..	3	23	45	128	173	60%	
		No of Community Members trained	500	..	342	678	98	244	342	68%	
	Saving Energy Cook Stove Production	No of Stoves Produced	500	..	219	587				44%	

4.3 COVID 19 Response: food security

Through a special grant from ERC/Wilde Ganzen around COVID-19, the project conducted improved home gardening training. The target was to train 720 households in 36 villages on improved home garden technologies. This was achieved and the project has been successfully completed now. The table below gives a summary of this COVID-19 response.

	Activity	Number of Beneficiaries		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Home Garden Trainings	122	598	720
2	Crop Diversification and Food Budgeting	109	41	150
3	Land & Water Resources Management	118	32	150
Total		349	671	1,020
Topics covered during the training 1. Importance of home gardening 2. Layout of home gardening 3. Sowing of different vegetables Integrated Pest Management in vegetable gardens 4. Processing and Utilization of vegetables 5. Organic fertilizer making and application.				

4.4 Carbon Emission Compensation Fund

Individuals and companies contributed funds to Mulanje Mission Hospital that were used to purchase and manage tree seedlings planted in the catchment area. During this period the planted trees were monitored for presence of weeds and growth.

5. Challenges

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially 3rd quarter teaching activities were delayed as there were restrictions on group meetings.

Another challenge is the discrepancy between various non-governmental organizations working in the area. Some are used to give beneficiaries financial incentives to take part in programmes, which MMH does not normally do. With this insistence on participation and self-development, the SL program has to put in an extra

effort to recruit participants during early stages of projects. However, in the long run this is what we believe will create lasting change.

6. Planned activities for January – June 2021

- Interface meeting for Mlatho and Chole Reforestation sites
- Tree Growth monitoring
- Tree planting, about 15,000 seedlings at Chole, Mlatho and Mulanje Mission
- Bee keeping trainings and meetings including beekeeping for orphans and vulnerable children
- Post-harvest handling training
- Agriculture teachers network training, rolling the program out to 21 primary schools
- Primary school cooking demonstrations
- Irrigation planning meetings, trainings in preparation for the coming dry season
- Construction of Mwanamvula Irrigation Scheme
- Launch of by-laws for Mlatho Hills
- Leadership and Resource Mobilization training
- Field days
- Establishment of more tree nurseries
- Exchange visits for farmers
- Procurement of a digital projector with AccessAgriculture videos in Chichewa and screening of the videos at the Resource Centre and at communities (see www.accessagriculture.org)
- To establish an pilot cooperation in producing Moringa seed for oil production with a Malawi based partner, based on 4500 trees among 90 farmers. The leaves will be used for producing a nutritious food supplement for the local market.
- To experiment with producing chilli sauce for the local market
- To continue processing honey to Malawi Bureau of Standards quality requirements

7. Pictures



Tambala Village Savings and Loan Association sharing proceeds



Sikoya Village Savings and Loan Association sharing proceeds



Mlatho Hills Reforestation area in it's third year of reforestation. Note that some trees have now grown big!



Misanjo Primary School Agriculture Committee, in front of the goats' house or 'khola'

MMH, March 2021