


Church of Central Africa Presbyterian  Blantyre Synod

Mulanje Mission Hospital

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Sustainable Livelihoods Programme Annual

Report

April, 2022 - March, 2023



Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Beneficiaries.....	3
3. Partners and programme coordination	3
4. Achievements during the period	4
5. Challenges	7
6. Planned activities for April 2023-March, 2024	7

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1. Introduction

Mulanje Mission Hospital through its Primary Health Care (PHC) continued with the implementation of the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme in Mulanje District during the period under review (April, 2022-March, 2023). This is the 6th year the programme was implemented in its' current form.

2. Beneficiaries

Households of Traditional Authorities Chikumbu, Mabuka and Nkanda in Mulanje District, Southern Malawi, mostly within the catchment area of the hospital, and children in primary schools in this area.

Most of the work was carried out in the 10 model villages in the catchment area. The project also continued supporting 19 primary schools and one nursery school through the School Agriculture Programme. Activities in primary schools include gardening, introduction of livestock and expansion of environmental conservation and tree planting.

3. Partners and programme coordination

This programme has been made possible with support from many partners and individuals. Notably we received a grant from Stichting Nieuwe Waarde from the Netherlands for the first time, and enjoyed a partnership with shipping company DHL through Greenpop.

The programme enjoyed intensive visits with farmers and funders from GLC/Fane Valley/Action Renewables/Bleubird just after the reporting period, and also the landscape restoration team from DHL/Greenpop who have lots of knowledge and experience. These are great learning opportunities for all involved.

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.

A learning visit by SL took place with African Parks in Liwonde National Park.

Coordination of the programme happens through monthly programme meetings, which are combined with other primary care activities at the hospital. Following

Partners in the SL programme 22-23

Name	Country
Good Little Company	UK
Fane Valley Cooperative	UK
Greenpop	South Africa
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church	USA
English Reformed Church	Netherlands
Christian Blind Mission	Germany
Moyo/Ansbach für Malawi	Germany
Stichting Nieuwe Waarde	Netherlands
Stichting Steun Malawi	Netherlands
Presbyterian World Service & Development	Canada
Action Renewables	UK
Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church	UK
Bleubird	UK
DHL Logistics	Malawi



Visitors from Fane Valley inspecting Sikoya Irrigation Scheme

this, procurement decisions are made and activities planned on a monthly basis. Resource allocation decisions are made on the basis that each investment should reduce dependency on the programme.

4. Achievements during the period

4.1 Successes

The Village Savings and Loans Associations made a good income during the period; over 60 million Malawi Kwacha was contributed from 52 VSL groups with a membership of 1,258, equating to approximately 58,782 US\$ in savings reinvested or used for household needs.

Likewise the irrigation schemes, three in full use during this period, generated 12 million Malawi Kwacha for farmers. The reconstruction of the 10ha Wasi Solar Powered Irrigation Scheme and construction of Sikoya Irrigation Scheme has been a success story. The project is going to benefit over 50 farmers and 85 farmers of Wasi and Sikoya and surrounding villages respectively. 1398 follower farmers were trained in improved agricultural techniques that are climate resilient. These trainings were given by 30 lead farmers.

1500 beehives were procured and distributed, and 5 new tree nurseries established. Over 40,000 tree seedlings were raised and planted in hotspots, fields and homesteads. It was obvious following cyclone Freddy that forested areas were in much better shape than denuded places.

This year saw a start of a more work with energy-efficient cookstoves. This is important as using wood for cooking is a major driver of deforestation. Over a thousand Changu-Changu Mbaula (energy efficient cookstoves) were constructed laying the foundation for many more in the coming year. Each stove is GPS-located and photographed.

138 goats were distributed to farmers, with a focus on those with disability and the primary school gardens. Another 74 goats born in the programme could be passed on.

A plantation was established using commercial tree species on Mulanje Mission, in order to protect the natural forest and increase income opportunities for the Mission.

It is expected that Sikoya, Ngóma, Tambala (Mikoko) and Bwanali villages are going to phase out of the Model Village Approach that we use, after successful implementation of the activities this year.

Communities all across Mulanje have become more interested in using less chemical fertilizer and learn how to use organic fertilization methods. This is because fertilizer has become very expensive following the war in Ukraine and high energy prices and improves uptake of the organic methods the programme promotes.

In our Carbon Offsetting programme, 1275 US\$ was contributed equalling planting and maintenance of 500 trees (150 metric tonnes of CO2 captured).

4.2 Overview of all indicators

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



Woman with vetiver grass taking part in soil conservation

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM- ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023 SEASON (APRIL, 22-MARCH, 23)

Program	Activities	Indicators	Annual Target	Achieved During the reported period (2022/2023)	No of Beneficiaries (2022/2023)			Remarks
					Male	Female	Total	
1. Coordination and Monitoring of Project activities	Enhancing farmers to Farmer Extension Activities	No of Lead farmers trained and active	32	32	18	14	32	
		No of Lead farmers Review Meeting	4	4	18	14	32	
		No of Paravets trained and active	30	30	14	16	30	
		No of Paravets review meetings	4	4	14	16	30	
		No of Training sessions-Lead Farmers	6	6	18	14	32	
		No of Training sessions-Paravets	4	4	14	16	30	
2. Improved Opportunities for members of vulnerable communities to gain knowledge and skills	Mounting of demonstration plots of various technologies	No of follower farmers trained and assisted by the lead farmers	1,500	1,398	438	960	1398	
		No of demonstration plots mounted with various technologies (Model Villages)	300	260	16	28	44	
		No of demonstration plots mounted with various technologies (Community Gardens)	30	21	6	9	15	
		No of demonstration plots mounted with various technologies (School Gardening)	200	120	8,064	6,832	14896	
	Field Days and Open Days conducted	No of Field Days Conducted	6	4	382	492	874	
	Post-Harvest Handling	No of Sensitization meetings conducted	15	8	197	442	639	
		No of community members trained	1000	450	98	352	450	
	3. Improved Agricultural Productivity	Practices	No of farmers trained	4000	3,893	968	2925	3893
Train Farmers on Backyard Gardening		No of farmers trained	4000	3,893	968	2925	3893	
		No of Backyard gardens established	4000	3,893	968	2925	3893	
Train Farmers on Crop Diversification and Food Budgeting		No of farmers trained	4000	3,893	968	2925	3893	
Train Farmers on Integrated Pest Management		No of farmers trained	4000	3,893	968	2925	3893	
Livestock Productivity		No of Goats procured and distributed	200	138	46	58	104	
		No of Goats Passed-on	100	78	34	44	78	
		No of Raised Standard Kholas constructed	100	47	10	37	47	
4. Increased Community Economic Activities	VSL Groups Active	No of active members	1500	1258	216	1042	1258	
		Amount Contributed (Jan-Dec, 22)	30,000,000.00	60,000,000.00	216	1042	1258	
		Amount Shared (Jan-Dec, 22)	30,000,000.00	58,654,382.00	216	1042	1258	
	Community Gardens	Amount Generated	10,000,000.00	6,800,000.00	88	213	301	
	Irrigation	No of Enterprises Generated	6	6	0	0	0	
		Amount Generated	16,000,000.00	12,000,000.00			0	
		Area Developed (ha) annually (Sikoya)	10	13.5	32	53	85	5
		Area Developed (ha) all schemes	42.8	42.8	96	151	247	
		Area Utilized (ha) (Annually)	42.8	37.5	96	151	247	
	Bee Keeping	No of Farmers involved	200	150	57	93	150	
		No of farmers trained	200	150	57	93	150	
		No of Beehives Procured & Distributed	200	150	57	93	150	
		Tonage harvested and sold at Thandizani(kgs)	5,000	800			0	
Amount Realised in MK		16,000,000.00	5,560,000.00			0		

5. Increased Resilience of Rural Communities to the impacts of Climate Change and Environmental Management	Increased agro-forestry/Aforestation and fruit tree production and management	No of tree nurseries established	6	5	33	61	94
		No of tree seedlings raised	48,000	40,265	33	61	94
		No of tree seedlings procured	10,000	12,000			0
		No of tree seedlings received as donation	5,000	680			0
		Area under natural regeneration (ha)	3	5			0
		Area Planted to vetiver and Bamboos (ha)	2	1			0
		No of groforestry trainings conducted	15	12	82	214	296
	Scaling up soil and water conservation practices	No of marker ridges constructed	400	120	21	38	59
		Area under water harvesting technologies	3	1.2	21	38	59
	Energy Cook Stove Production	No of Community Lead Volunteers Trained	5	15	7	8	15
		No of Community trained	1,000	1,400	321	1079	1400
		No of stoves constructed	1,000	1,078	288	790	1078



Women from Tambala village used proceeds from the Village Savings and Loans Association to buy a mattress – their first for many



Young woman living with disability received a wheelchair and was able to return to school

5. Challenges

- Increased demand of services for villages in and outside the catchment area. The need is larger than we can provide for, especially following Cyclone Freddy in 2023 which destroyed over 50% of the maize crop in Mulanje.
- The ever increasing prices of inputs due to inflation (over 40% this year).
- Destruction of some of the previously conserved forests on Mlatho Hills following community disagreements and lack of support from the local leader.



Maize crop destroyed during cyclone Freddy in March 2023

6. Planned activities for April 2023-March, 2024

- Identification of five new model villages (Phase 4) and development of Village Action Plans
- Training of Village Development Committees and other committees of the five new model villages
- Interface meetings for Reforestation sites
- Tree growth monitoring and tree planting, about 30,000 seedlings in all environmental hotspots
- Bee keeping trainings and meetings including beekeeping for orphans and vulnerable children and a focus on women
- Post-harvest handling training
- Agriculture teachers network meetings and primary school cooking demonstrations
- Irrigation planning meetings
- Construction of Luwanje Irrigation Scheme and any other additional schemes (if funds available)
- Leadership and Resource Mobilization training
- Field days

- Exchange visits for farmers and members of staff

By the time this report is out, a new staff member has been appointed with a focus on marketing and value addition to agricultural products. Access to market is a critical area we would like to improve for small holder farmers in 2023.



Partnership with DHL Africa through Greenpop in reforestation



The SL programme team L to R: Vincent, Christopher, Kondwani, Pilirani, Hastings and Harry



Part of the catchment area with Mulanje Mountain in the background