


Church of Central Africa Presbyterian  Blantyre Synod

Mulanje Mission Hospital

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Sustainable Livelihoods Program Annual Report

April, 2023-March, 2024



Reported by

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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 Program in Mulanje District during the period under review (April, 2023-March, 2024)

2. Beneficiaries

Households of Traditional Authorities Chikumbu, Mabuka and Nkanda in Mulanje District, Southern Malawi and learners in nineteen primary schools and one nursery in the area.

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

The project also continued supporting twenty 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, Christian Blind Mission, Greenpop, AfM 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

Most of the work was carried out in **9 model villages** in the catchment area, also **twenty primary schools** and their teachers are supported through the Primary School Agricultural Network. Activities in primary schools include **gardening, introduction of livestock and expansion of environmental conservation and tree planting**. We believe that a new generation needs the skills to farm productively and sustainably in a changing environment.

One of the highlights this year was the construction of a 7 hectares Luwanje Irrigation Scheme which will save seventy smallholder farmers of Luwanje Model Village and the surrounding villages. Currently, the project has constructed six irrigation schemes five are solar powered while one is a gravity fed scheme. The Village Savings and Loans Associations did not perform well during the year due to the effects of cyclone Freddy and the dry spells experienced during the 2023-2024 season ; almost 48 million Malawi Kwacha was contributed as shares from 52 VSL groups with a membership of 1,258, equating to approximately 27,413 US\$ in savings reinvested or used for household needs.

The other success story is the establishment of six tree nurseries in different villages where by members produced a total of 45,000 different tree species. The seedlings were planted in all the targeted environmental hotspots within the catchment area and in schools.

The implementation of energy-efficient cookstoves project is another success story of the year. This is important as using wood for cooking is a major driver of deforestation. Over ten thousand ChanguChangu Mbaula (energy-efficient cookstoves) have been constructed against the targeted 12,000 stoves for 2023-2024 season which is 87% achievement. Each stove is GPS-located and photographed.

On micro economic development, the program has managed to train 200 new beekeepers and provided them with beehives and other accessories. Currently, the program has a total number of 650 well equipped beneficiaries. Farmers are now able to realize more benefits from the honey sales. The introduction of value addition activities at Thandizani Resource Centre is an extra mile in the SL Program. These groups were trained on chili sauce and Jam Production and are expected to start production soon.

The most interesting thing is the introduction of Child Protection and Safeguarding in all the primary schools in the catchment area. The School Management Committees (SMCs) were trained to look into child protection and safeguarding issues that affects attendance in schools mainly among children with disabilities.

On disaster response and recovery, the Area Civil Protection Committees (ACPCs) and Village Civil Protection Committees (VCPCs) were trained in Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) with an aim of including people with disabilities when they are planning, implementing and responding to disasters in their respective areas.

4.2 Overview of all indicators

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

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS 2023/2024 SEASON ACHIEVEMENTS

Program Area	Activities	Indicator	Annual Target	Reporting Period	Achieved during the reported period	No of Farmers involved			% 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	32	April, 23-May, 24	32	18	14	32	100%	
		No of Lead Farmer Review Meetings	4	April, 23-May, 24	4	18	14	32	100%	
		No of Para-Vets Trained and active	30	April, 23-May, 24	30	16	14	30	100%	
		No of Review Meetings	4	April, 23-May, 24	4	16	14	30	100%	
2. Improved Opportunities for members of vulnerable communities to gain knowledge and skills	Mounting of demonstrations plots of various technologies	No of follower Farmers Trained and assisted by the Lead Farmers	20,000	April, 23-May, 24	20,136	6,189	13,947	20136	101%	
		No of Demonstration Plots mounted with various technologies (Model Villages)	220	April, 23-May, 24	177	68	72	140	80%	Rainfed
		No of Demonstration Plots mounted with various technologies (Community Gardens)	30	April, 23-May, 24	23	8	10	18	77%	Rainfed
		No of Demonstration Plots mounted with various technologies (School Gardening)	100	April, 23-May, 24	80	13765	11941	25706	80%	Rainfed
3. Improved Agricultural Productivity	Practices	No of Farmers Trained	20,000	April, 23-May, 24	20,136	6,189	13,947	20136	101%	
	Train Farmers on BackYard Gardening	No of Farmers Trained	9,000	April, 23-May, 24	8,951	6,784	2,167	8951	99%	
		No of Backyard Gardens established	9,000	April, 23-May, 24	6,862	3,986	1,591	5577	76%	
	Train Farmers on Crop Diversification and Food Budgeting	No of Farmers Trained	9,000	April, 23-May, 24	8,951	6,784	2,167	8951	99%	
	Train Farmers on Integrated Pest Management	No of Farmers Trained	1,500	April, 23-May, 24	1396	438	958	1396	93%	
	Livestock Productivity	No of Goats Passed-on	160	April, 23-May, 24	137	66	71	137	86%	
		No of Goats Procured and Distributed	300	April, 23-May, 24	200	55	45	100	67%	
	No of Raised Standard Kholas Constructed	80	April, 23-May, 24	68	21	47	68	85%		

4. Increased Community Economic Activities	VSL Groups Active	No of active members	1,500	April, 23-May, 24	1,258	928	326	1254	84%	VSLs were affected by Cyclone Freddy
		Amount contributed (Jan-Dec, 23)	100,000,000	April, 23-May, 24	48,000,000	928	326	1254	48%	
		Amount shared (Jan-Dec, 23)	145,000,000	April, 23-May, 24	60,000,000	928	326	1254	41%	
	Community Gardens	No of Farmers Involved	240	April, 23-May, 24	154	103	88	191	64%	
		Amount Generated	3,000,000.00	April, 23-May, 24	1,690,000	103	42	145	56%	
	Irrigation	No of Enterprises Generated	10	April, 23-May, 24	6	145	98	243	60%	23 Irrigation season
		Amount Generated	40,000,000.00	April, 23-May, 24	24,000,000	145	98	243	60%	
	Bee Keeping	No of Farmers Involved	800	April, 23-May, 24	580	486	94	580	73%	
		Qty of Honey Produced (kgs)	1600	April, 23-May, 24	1,480	42	30	72	93%	
No of Bee Hives Procured & Distributed		300	April, 23-May, 24	160	98	168	266	53%		
5. Increased Resilience of Rural Communities to the Impact of Climate Change	Increased agro-forestry and fruit tree production and management	No of tree nurseries established	5	April, 23-May, 24	5	33	16	49	100%	
		No of tree seedlings raised & Distributed	38,000	April, 23-May, 24	36,890	867	322	1189	97%	
		No of tree seedlings procured	15,000	April, 23-May, 24	12,865	867	322	1189	86%	
		No of tree seedlings received as donation	5,000	April, 23-May, 24	900	0	0	0	18%	
		Area under Natural Regeneration (ha)	8	April, 23-May, 25	4	867	322	1189	50%	
		No Agro-Forestry trainings conducted	10	April, 23-May, 24	12	45	34	79	120%	
	Scaling up soil and water conservation practices	No of marker ridges constructed	1,200	April, 23-May, 24	800	45	128	173	67%	
		Area under Water Harvesting Technologies	5	April, 23-May, 24	4	45	128	173	80%	
	Energy Cook Stove Production	No of Community Members trained	14,000	April, 23-May, 24	13,845	9,864	3,981	13845	99%	
No of Stoves Produced		12,000	April, 23-May, 24	10,812	8,024	2,788	10812	90%		

5. Challenges

- Increased demand of services for both beneficiary villages and non-beneficiary of the projects
- The ever increased prices of inputs
- Reoccurrence of Natural Disasters 2022-2023 season (Cyclone Freddy) and El-nino where by most of the demonstration fields were affected.

6. Planned activities for April 2024-March, 2025

- Identification of five new model village (Phase 4).
- Development of Village Action Plan for the five new model villages.
- Training of Village Development Committees and other committee of the five new model villages
- Interface meetings for Reforestation sites
- Tree Growth monitoring (continuation)
- Tree planting, about 45,000 seedlings in all environmental hotspots
- Bee keeping trainings and meetings including beekeeping for orphans and vulnerable children
- Post-harvest handling training
- Agriculture teachers network trainings and review meetings
- Primary school cooking demonstrations
- Irrigation planning meetings, trainings in preparation for the coming dry season
- Construction of Tambala and reconstruction of Bololo Irrigation Scheme and any other addition schemes (if funds available)
- Leadership and Resource Mobilization training
- Field days
- Establishment of more tree nurseries
- Exchange visits for farmers and members of staff

PICTURES



Tree Growth Monitoring Training



Some members of Kachere Nursery School at their garden



Beneficiaries of Disability Livestock Pass-on Project



Primary Schools Safeguarding Training for SMC

MMH, May, 2024