


Church of Central Africa Presbyterian  Blantyre Synod

Mulanje Mission Hospital

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Sustainable Livelihoods Programme Annual Report

April, 2024-March, 2025



Reported by

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1. Introduction

Mulanje Mission Hospital, through its Primary Health Care (PHC) Department and in partnership with Local Government Sectors, continued implementing the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme in Mulanje District during the period under review (April 2024 – March 2025).

2. Beneficiaries

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

Most of the work was carried out in the 10 Model Villages in the catchment area.

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

3. Partners and Project Coordination

This programme has been made possible with support from the Good Little Company, Fane Valley Cooperative, Greenpop, Stichting Steun Malawi, the English Reformed Church, Wilde Ganzen, Christian Blind Mission (CBM), AfM, and various individual donors contributing to the programme and to carbon offsetting.

Involvement of different stakeholders such as government extension workers, teachers, and the community at large has helped 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 10 Model Villages in the catchment area. Nineteen primary schools and their teachers are supported through the Primary School Agricultural Network. Activities in primary schools include gardening, the introduction of livestock, and the 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 10-hectare Tambala-Chikumbu Irrigation Scheme, which will serve eighty smallholder farmers of Tambala Model Village and the surrounding villages. Currently, the project has constructed seven irrigation schemes—six are solar-powered, while one is a gravity-fed scheme. The 67 Village Savings and Loan Associations, comprising 1,541 members, contributed nearly MK 91 million in shares—the equivalent of approximately USD 40,000—significantly outperforming the MK 48 million contributed during the previous reporting period. These funds were reinvested or used for household needs.

Another success story is the establishment of seven tree nurseries in different villages, whereby members produced a total of 50,000 different tree species, including fruit trees. The seedlings were planted in all the targeted environmental hotspots within the catchment area and in schools. The implementation of the energy-efficient cookstove project is another success story of the year. This is important, as using wood for cooking is a major driver of deforestation. Over eleven thousand Changu-Changu Mbaula (energy-efficient cookstoves) have been constructed against the target of 12,000 stoves for the 2024–2025 season, which is a 90% achievement. Each stove is GPS-located and photographed.

On micro-economic development, the programme has managed to train 300 new beekeepers and provided them with beehives and other accessories, with support from various donors such as Bluebird and CBM. Currently, the programme has a total of 900 well-equipped beneficiaries. Farmers are now able to realize more benefits from honey sales. The value addition activities at Thandizani Resource Centre are going well. Over the past year, the programme has added new products such as candles and cassava flour.

On Child Protection and Safeguarding, the programme added five secondary schools in the catchment area and three outside the catchment area, on top of the primary schools we already work with, so that secondary school students are accommodated as well. The aim is to make secondary schools safe spaces for everyone and more accessible for people with disabilities. Twenty-six (26) School Management Committees (SMCs), both in secondary and primary schools, were trained to address child protection and safeguarding issues that affect school attendance, mainly among children with disabilities.

On disaster response and recovery, all thirty Area Civil Protection Committees (ACPCs) and Village Civil Protection Committees (VCPCs) were trained in Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR), with the aim of including people with disabilities when 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 PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024-2025 SEASON (APRIL, 24-March, 25)

Program	Activities	Indicators	Annual Target	Achieved During the reported period (April-March, 25)	No of Beneficiaries			Remarks
					Male	Female	Total	
1. Coordination and Monitoring of Project activities	Enhancing farmer to Farmer Extension Activities	No of Lead farmers trained and active	32	42	23	19	42	10 LF were added from New Model Villages
		No of Lead farmers Review Meeting	4	4				
		No of Paravet trained and active	30	40	19	21	40	
		No of Paravet review meetings	2	4				
		No of Training sessions-Lead Farmers	6	10				
		No of Training sessions-Paravets	4	4				
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	3,000	2,960	964	1,996	2960	
		No of demonstration plots mounted with various technologies (Model Villages)	300	43				The lower achievements are attributed to the underperformance of the schemes, primarily caused by water shortages and limited access to agricultural inputs.
		No of demonstration plots mounted with various technologies (Community Gardens)	30	20				The performance of the demonstration plots was poor due to adverse weather conditions and limited availability of inputs. Unlike rainfed cropping, all inputs for winter cropping were provided by the farmers themselves, which further affected outcomes.
		No of demonstration plots mounted with various technologies (School Gardening)	200	62				This is due to the unavailability of inputs following the phase-out of funding support for primary schools.
	Field Days and Open Days conducted	No of Field Days Conducted	6	2				Demonstrations were conducted at Mwanamvula and Luwanje Irrigation Schemes. Typically, these activities are supported by the project office, but due to a lack of funding, this was not possible.
		No of field day participants	1200	113	32	81	113	Most fields were affected by dry spells, resulting in only two demonstrations being conducted.
	Post-Harvest Handling	No of Sensitization meetings conducted	15	0				

		No of community members trained	1000	0	0	0	0	Most of the farmers' produce was retained for household consumption, limiting the volume available for sale or broader distribution.
3. Improved Agricultural Productivity	Farmers trained on improved agric practices	No of farmers trained	6000	4,895	903	3992	4895	The trainings are conducted concurrently.
	Train Farmers on Backyard Gardening	No of farmers trained	6000	4,895	903	3992	4895	
		No of Backyard gardens established	6000	4,895	903	3992	4895	
	Train Farmers on Crop Diversification and Food Budgeting	No of farmers trained	6000	4,895	903	3992	4895	
	Train Farmers on Integrated Pest Management	No of farmers trained	6000	4,895	903	3992	4895	
	Livestock Productivity	No of Goats procured and distributed (SL Main)	250	50	19	31	50	Goats were distributed to CBM beneficiaries. Previously, the project provided one goat per beneficiary, but we have now aligned with the government policy of distributing five goats per beneficiary. This policy shift explains the reduction in the number of beneficiaries reached.
		No of Goats procured and distributed (OVC)	25	25	12	13	25	
		No of Goats Passed-on	100	23	14	9	23	
		No of Raised Standard Kholas constructed	100	34				
	4. Increased Community Economic Activities	VSL Groups Active	No of active members	3000	1541	204	1541	1541
Amount Contributed (Jan-Dec)			60,000,000.00	53,985,000.00				
Amount Shared (Jan-Dec)			60,000,000.00	91,300,000.00				The share purchase price was K500 per share, compared to K200 in the previous season. This increase in share value contributed to the overall financial growth despite a similar number of shares being bought.
Community Gardens		Amount Generated	10,000,000.00	3,286,000.00				The reduction was due to a lack of adequate moisture in many fields, as most farmers relied on residual soil moisture.
Irrigation		No of Enterprises Generated (types of crops)	8	8				Maize, Onion, Cabbage, Tomato, Irish Potato, Leafy Veggies, Ginger

		Area Developed (ha) annually (Luwanje & Tambala)	20	17				The new constructions include Lwanje Irrigation Scheme (7 hectares) and Tambala Irrigation Scheme (10 hectares).
		Schemes Rehabilitated/reconstructed	10	10				Bololo irrigation scheme
		Area Developed (ha) all schemes	67	60				Total area under irrigation farming
		Area Utilized (ha) (Annually)	67	48.8				The number is lower than the target due to water shortages in some irrigation schemes.
	Bee Keeping	No of Farmers involved	300	250	57	193	250	
		No of farmers trained	300	250	57	193	250	
		No of Beehives Procured & Distributed	300	250	57	193	250	
		Bee Wax (kgs)	50	21				
		Honey harvested and sold by farmers at Thandizani(kgs)	4,000	2,500				Most farmers were linked direct to other markets.
		Amount Realised by honey sales in MKW by TZ and by community sales	5,000,000.00	2,600,000.00				
	Value Addition	Products Produced-Chili-(Bottles)	1,000.00	600.00				These products are produced at the Thandizani Resource Centre.
		Products Produced-Wax (kgs)	50.00	21.30				
		Products Produced-Candle(No)	1,000	360				
		Product Produced-Cassava Flour (kgs)	2,000.00	1,600.00				Done in village by farmers
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	6				
		No of tree seedlings raised	48,000	32,000				
		No of tree seedlings procured (Trees and Bamboos)	15,000	15,000				
		No of tree seedlings received as donation	10,000	0				
		Area under natural regeneration (ha)	6	3				
		Area Planted to vetiver and Bamboos (ha)	5	2				
		No of agroforestry trainings conducted	15	4				
		No of marker ridges constructed	400	210				Done by community under SL supervision

	Scaling up soil and water conservation practices	Area under water harvesting technologies	3	1.8				Techniques include marker ridging and pit planting.
	Energy Cook Stove Production	No of Community Lead Volunteers Trained	82	82	21	61	82	
		No of Community trained	12,000	8,673	3,534	5139	8673	
		No of stoves constructed	12,000	9,515				

5. Challenges and Way Forward

- Increased demand for services from both beneficiary and non-beneficiary villages. We are training more Lead Farmers and Para-Vets to support community activities.
- Ever-increasing prices of inputs on the market. Farmers are being trained to use locally made fertilizers such as Mbeya and manure. In irrigation schemes, farmers are being linked to input lending institutions like NEEF.
- Climatic factors: The dry spell caused by the El Niño weather pattern affected most demonstration fields. Some irrigation schemes were impacted due to lower water tables in boreholes. Farmers were advised to use Climate Smart Agricultural Practices and practice staggered planting.

6. Planned Activities for April 2025 – March 2026

- Identification of five new Model Villages (Phase 4) – currently underway
- Development of Village Action Plans for the five new Model Villages
- Training of Village Development Committees and other committees in the five new Model Villages
- Interface meetings for reforestation sites
- Tree growth monitoring (continuation)
- Tree planting – approximately 45,000 seedlings in all environmental hotspots
- Beekeeping 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 and trainings in preparation for the upcoming dry season
- Construction of Nakhumwa and extension of Lwanje Irrigation Scheme; drilling of additional boreholes for Mwanamvula, Mwamadi, Wasi, Sikoya, and any other additional schemes (if funds are available)
- Leadership and Resource Mobilization training
- Field days
- Establishment of more tree nurseries
- Exchange visits for farmers and members of staff

Conclusion

The Sustainable Livelihoods Program, during the period under review (April 2024 – March 2025), conducted several activities to achieve its mandate of empowering communities in Mulanje by building sustainable livelihoods and strengthening resilience to climate change while addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. Most of the work was carried out in the 10 Model

Villages in the catchment area, as well as in twenty-six primary and secondary schools. Activities included home gardening, livestock development and management, expansion of environmental conservation and tree planting, economic empowerment, and safeguarding and protection.

Most of the activities were successfully achieved due to adequate funding, while others—such as primary school gardening and demonstrations for communal and irrigation schemes—were not achieved due to lack of funding.

Thanks to our donors for your timely funding of all the activities for the Sustainable Livelihoods Program.

7. Pictorial Report



Sikoya CBNRMC during the 2025 Forestry Season Launch



Changu-Changu Mbaula sensitization meeting



MMH Management field monitoring visit at Luwanje Irrigation Scheme



Proud Beneficiary of Home Gardening at Ngolowera village



Changu-Changu Mbaula beneficiary



CBM Beneficiaries receiving goats



Students from Mulanje and Chikhwaza Secondary Schools who received school support through funding from CBM.



Constructed Marker Ridges and check dams at Sikoya to prevent erosion