

Project reporting form

We hope the implementation of the project has been successful. We kindly request you to answer our below mentioned questions to provide us with the information on the outcomes and finances of the project. Your report is very important to us, because it serves three purposes:

- Our staff will be able to evaluate the achievements with the assistance provided and learn about possible constraints you may have been confronted with.
- Our communication team will be able to inform our donors about the project results and about the difference your project made to the lives of people living in poverty.
- Our financial team can adhere to the rules of accountability and transparency we are committed to as a foundation.

We look forward upon receiving a description of the project results. Please do not forget to attach the financial report, receipts of the three highest expenses and some pictures or film footage of your project.

Project number:	2021.0349
Project title:	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, SELF-HELP GROUPS, VOCATIONAL TRAININGS
Project country:	MALAWI
This form is completed by:	MAPULANGA FRANCISCO VITSITSI

1. Which activities were carried out? Please give us a detailed list:

1. Briefing meetings with Area Development Committee (ADC) members (Traditional Authority Mtwalo Mzimba)

With the proposed project, the organizations planning to establish SHG for women economic empowerment; Vocational Education Training among the youth and winter cropping among others. Therefore, in March, 2022, Community Hope Initiative conducted project orientation to 50 (17f/33m) traditional leaders of Mtwalo ADC project area. The objective of the traditional leaders meeting was for the Traditional Authority Mtwalo introduce project implementers to his subordinates together with the project objectives. That formed part of entry to the community at grass root as the summoned traditional leaders went out with the project real picture to their various areas of service. In the community played a critical role in mobilizing communities around issues of community dialogue, involvement and in challenging damaging beliefs and practices related to violence against women and girls. It was the same group of individuals that make the project successful in areas of gender equity as custodian of culture. They also had a lot of power and influence on community activities.

2. Conduct refresher training Community Volunteers in data and records management

CHI built capacity of 6 volunteers in management of Self-Help Groups so that they provide technical support to SHGs for income generation and management of small businesses. The trained members made their effort in training others in the concept gained. As a result of the training project experienced tremendous improvement through accurate bookkeeping as essential for the strength and long-term stability of SHGs, providing data to resolve disputes and maintain accountability to all group members. There was also a timely reporting that demonstrates the strength of their SHG to

outside observers and other stakeholders. Members were oriented too on important aspects of an SHG that need to be documented like loan and asset quality; efficiency, sustainability and challenges encountered.

3. Conduct training for women on SHG concepts

Training SHGs in business, saving management, and Self-help group approach concept. The project trained 200 vulnerable women from both Traditional Authorities of Mtwalo (Enukweni) and Kalolo (Lilongwe). Training was conducted for a day at each site with joint facilitation by Community Hope Staff and facilitators from Ministry of Gender. Trained members opened their businesses and meet their daily needs on their own. From the trained group members are able to train others following the demand from communities, as a result in the area SHG groups reached to 63 in number. Following this, Vulnerable households increased their income sources through off farm small businesses.

4. Conduct training of SHG women on book writing

The project conducted training SHG targeted 200 beneficiaries in book writing. The trainings were conducted to both sides on one day. Facilitation of the training targeted SHG group members who were trained in business and savings management. Community Hope Initiative conducted training in book writing to vulnerable targeted women in order to record all the transactions of the SHG in a continuous manner for enabling the members to understand them and decisions taken by the group to be known to all the members from time to time and promote them to take always right decisions in their meetings. Trained members with gained skills and experience were able to upgrade their groups and start their own businesses. Some have introduced bakeries amongst others whereby are able to calculate profits and losses. This was a tool made well positioned to economically empower vulnerable households. From the process almost all beneficiaries are able to support their children in school. Their learners in schools have been maintained, improved attendance and performance.

5. Conduct training for goal setting and business management for SHG women

The project conducted a goal setting training to 250 women in the project area. Trained women were helped as a group manage their goals in a well-structured manner. The training served as a roadmap for achieving desired outcomes as a group as well as individuals. With the training women made their objectives in a smart way without being over ambitious leading to failure. Through their goal setting those who planned to raise their money and buy fertilizers made it through, and produce more for the season. Some had been able to own livestock from the skills obtained from trainings business management. The training was an eye opener as women ever never were involved in planning or anticipating future development. With this training women have been upgraded and operate like men.

6. Conduct bi-annual meetings with Self Help Representatives, community leaders and other stakeholders

Community Hope Initiative in September 2022, conducted biannual joint monitoring with 120 (92 females and 28 males) to both project sites, ranging from community leaders, stakeholders, board members, SHG. There were presentation and discussion focused onto project implementation against set objectives. The exercise involved going through the project designed implementation template. Overall changes (results)-achievement of the outcome and goals were documented. To show change and results that have happened (what changed because of your outcomes/outputs). On project visibility members discussed that testimonies show the evidence to prove out outcomes. It was said that women economically changed lives were visible through what they do. These shall be the

testimonies of what they bring out as a result of the project output, like they are able to introduce small business, maintaining their children in schools among others, in the community as a result of the trainings.

7. Quarterly meeting with Board Members and Management

Community Hope Initiative facilitated capacity building of 15 (5 females and 10males) Board members, management and volunteers on governance, resource. Organizational capacity comprised of elements were maintained at optimum levels, enable an organization to deliver against its purpose, mission and promise and achieve its goals efficiently. These elements helped to drive progress exponentially and become an organization's secret weapon for rising to the top of the competitive heap. Following the training Board members and management members brought necessary expertise and networks that benefited Community Hope Initiative. The Board members also came in with new ideas from their experience to suggest for project implementation. In each and every meeting met activities were analysed and how implementation was conducted on the ground. Challenges, problems and lessons learnt were discussed as a group to create an enabling environment for activities goals.

8. Training vocational groups in competency-based skills for 2 days

In establishment of Vocational Training Centres, Community Hope Initiative paid due attention to the performance of the trainees / students by applying both Competency Based Education and Training CBET as well as Competency Assurance Management System CAMS. Following this, Community Hope Initiative conducted a 2 days training at each project site. CHI engaged the Technical Entrepreneurial Training Authority (TEVETA), a national Government entity in further building skills of vocational skills instructors so that graduating youths can be certified by Government thereby improving their employability opportunities. The purpose of the training was to provide guidelines to management to set valid and reliable controls in place with a view to have reasonable assurance of accomplishing their business objectives by assuring that trainees / students are well trained, assessed, verified and proved to be competent at work location and that they can discharge their responsibilities in a safe and effective manner. The strategy was around "Occupational competencies" which was established for each career field and for each job title.

9. Vocational beneficiaries' tracer exercise

In April, 2022, Community Hope Initiative conducted tracer exercises to 124 for 2020/2021 vocational training beneficiaries and strengthen formed youth clubs through linkages with other stakeholders. The project targeted the youth and was intended to equip them with necessary skills that allow them to use their potential to the maximum. As the project graduated some trainees, it has been found desirable to conduct a tracer study in order to establish the employment rate of the graduates and document lesson learnt. The study employed a number of data collection methodologies to collect data, both qualitative and quantitative. Secondary data was reviewed and primary data were collected from a number of respondents mostly the primary beneficiaries. Questionnaires were administered, group discussions conducted with communities, key informants were interviewed and observation methods used in the field. It was established that 78% of graduates were either employed or self-employed. They were able to cope up without challenging economical life of Malawi for living cost. In another way round the tracer team concluded that employment levels for youth was promoted. From the realization of their income some youth members got married and keep their families in a

happy life. Dressing was another indicator from baseline as compared to exercise period youth members dressing completely improved to better.

10. Facilitation and establishment of Tailoring shops (1 in Lilongwe and 1 in Mzimba)

With a small step taken towards making youth members self-sufficient, two tailoring centres were introduced by Community Hope Initiative. The organisation supplied established centres with necessary equipment that include; scissor, pieces of cloths, chalk, measuring Tapes, machine Oils, sewing threads, sewing needles, purchase of Sewing Machines. Following that, 25 (12 Lilongwe & 13 Erukweni) of these women and girls have already completed their three-month intensive course and completed the free training at our tailoring centre. Additionally, young people attached for skills development in tailoring. With this, the women could immediately start their business. For some from the previous intakes, beneficiaries have already after a few months were realizing good fruits of this project: The women become very agile and creative. They enjoy it very much to be able to contribute financially to the family maintenance. But the greatest joy they have is that they get many new social contacts in this way. They make new friendships and, in this way, contribute to the service of their husband. They now feel much more strongly that they are part of the ministry. The tailoring project fulfils its purpose: Create a better and sustainable future for marginalized, vulnerable women and girls and unemployed out of school youths.

11. Facilitation and establishment of 2 Saloon shops (1 in Lilongwe and 1 in Mzimba)

In order to continue addressing unemployment among youths due to lack of job creation, entrenched nepotism, corruption and low status of women and girls on the expense of traditional norms. Community Hope Initiative established 2 hair dressing business shops/training centres for 2021 active beneficiaries. The trainees are aged 17 and above. They are no longer in education having dropped out through poverty or through low attainment. Coming from a culturally conservative community their options for work are limited. Vocational training in hair and beauty offers these girls a source of income for life. These women and girls after completed their three-month intensive free training at our tailoring centre, additionally, were attached for skills development in tailoring. Early marriage, domestic violence, drudgery, poverty, illiteracy, poor health, multiple pregnancies and childbirth that remained the chief risks to girls born into the most deprived and patriarchal communities in project areas have been reduced. Through training girls were empowered economically active, to make decisions about their own lives and to delay marriage.

12. Bricklaying and Tailoring trainings for 60 youths for 3 months

Overall, the Action has to a large extent managed to achieve its intended objectives to provide access to market driven vocational and education training for vulnerable youth, to facilitate their transition into formal and informal labour markets to ensure they secure decent livelihoods. With this in mind Community Hope Initiative established a bricklaying to 12 youth members and 48 who did Tailoring in both Lilongwe and Mzimba. The action therefore used open air structures to for the training of vulnerable youth. The training team was equipped with more tools to enable intake and efficient training of increased number of disadvantaged youths. Tools and consumables purchased and supplied included; Shovels, Wheel barrows, Brick Liners, Trowels, Squares, Harmer, spirit Levels, Bricks, Sand, Plastic Pales, Fees, A4 Hard Covers, Hall hire, and Cement.

sewing machines, wood planes, hacksaws, hammers, trowels, among others. Similarly, the project will procure consumable training materials such as fabric for the Tailoring Workshop, and for construction related skills training, material to be purchased include bricks, pipes, soldiering sticks, timber amongst others. Protective workshop clothing will be required at all stages for the protection of trainees and in compliance with training regulations.

13. Winter cropping farming for 40 families

During the year under reporting, Community Hope implemented Winter farming which targeted 40 farmers but instead the project benefitted 50 farmers. Farmers planted different crops like vegetables, maize, Irish potatoes, tomatoes just to mention a few. Harvesting and selling of these crops helped the farmers develop socially and economically. Farmers have been able to have more food, earned money and provide for their children especially by supporting them with education needs.

One farmer by the Name Mr Yakobe Kumtanga managed to purchase his own water engine pump from the sales of green maize

2. Is there a difference between the performed activities and the planned activities you initially submitted?

Partly yes, for instance, we planned to establish four vocational training centres. Due to cost disparities, we only managed to establish two tailoring centres.

3. How many people benefitted from your intervention?

Many people have benefitted through these interventions both directly and indirectly and the statistics that have been provided below are for both.

Direct beneficiaries are as follows:

1. Youth Vocational Trainings = 60 youths (28 girls and 32 boys)
 - a. Brick Laying = 12
 - b. Tailoring = 48
2. Self Help Groups= 1060 women
3. Winter Farming = 50 families

4. Please give a general description of who they are (e.g. social-economic status, profession, gender, age group, disabilities, disenfranchised).

The project targeted Vulnerable women, mainly female headed, women on separation and widows who have responsibility to look after children. This group of women comprises of the majority of the poorer. Additionally, the project targeted families with low farming income and unable to harvest enough for the season. The project supplied them with water pumps to enable them plant additional crops during winter period.

The project also targeted young people both boys and girls from vulnerable households, teen mothers, unemployed young people within project catchment area. They have been integrated into vocation trainings while supporting their parents in farming and businesses.

5. Do the direct stakeholders have a voice in any consultation-, supervisory- or administrative body? (e.g. parent council, PTA, client council, committee, working group, student/children committee, consultation group, advisory body, etc.)

YES

If YES, is this a formal or an informal entity?

Both formal and Informal

If desired please elaborate:

The project worked with different stakeholders from Government key line Ministries like, Gender, Social Welfare and Community Development for economic empowerment and social services. These stakeholders supported the project with problem prioritization, designing of interventions, implementation and monitoring success. They are also key for sustainability of the interventions being done. At the community level partners such as Village Development Committees, Area Development Committees, Traditional and religious leaders also provided inputs through Area Development Committees. The project has also established its structures with youth groups, SHG groups, Farming committee.

6. How did the activities that were carried out contribute to your organisation's long-term goals?

The activities that were carried out contributed to the organization's long-term goals especially in the areas of governance since it involved local structures at community level where Community participation was enhanced to make sure there is a smooth running of the project. The project has also promoted role transfer allowing community members taking part in all project management decisions with the aim of ensuring sustainability of the projects after Community Hope phase out. Through community participation, communities are able to provide space for Youth Vocational trainings

During project design, the project aimed at enabling beneficiaries to improve food production, income generation and building skills of vulnerable households, make them use their local resources to build their resilience and change of mindset from over dependence on external support. The intervention taken has proven working as most beneficiaries managed to finance purchase of farm inputs, start small scale business and animal production.

The established youth vocational training centres are managed and facilitated by graduates from prior trainings and are expected to train others for many years to come. The involvement of these youths will sustain CHI vision after phasing out.

7. Did your project have any unintended consequences (positive or negative)? If so, please describe the effects that were identified.

In the period under review, the project experienced scarcity of fuel as an impact from Russia-Ukraine due to importation restrictions. This forced traders to increase the prices of farm inputs like fertilizer by almost 75%. The resultant was highly felt by Community Hope beneficiaries due to their economic status. This has delayed positive impact of food production and income levels of the beneficiaries needing additional support.

Secondly, just middle of the year, The government of Malawi devaluated the Malawi Kwacha by 25%, this impacted heavily on the budget that we submitted despite the exchange gain that the project enjoyed.

8. Can the implemented project continue without further financial support of your Dutch partner organisation?

[Yes / No] Generally, some of them yes while others no. For instance, Self-Help groups as well as Youth vocational trainings since these have been fully established and fully owned by community members may continue without additional finances. With farming projects, some beneficiaries have managed to buy their own water pumps due the felt impact of graduating from manual watering to using pumps. But there are still others that need support with farm inputs to stabilize. On vocational trainings, there is need to add training materials and establish more centres for the youth.

If YES please choose how:

- a. [Multiple choice] The direct stakeholders (mainly) voluntarily continue the provision by deploying time, material, and/or expertise
- b. The government (mainly) takes care of the running costs and/or maintenance
- c. The local partner (mainly) takes care of the running costs and/or maintenance through financing from third parties (local, national, international)
- d. The local partner will (mainly) continue the provision by deploying the time and/or expertise of foreign volunteers.
- e. The local partner (mainly) takes care of the running costs and/or maintenance because they have provided this with a reservation
- f. The direct stakeholders (mainly) take care of the running costs and/or maintenance
- g. There are no running costs nor maintenance
- h. Different

9. What lessons did you learn during the implementation of this project?

There are several lessons learnt during the implementations of the project activities. Firstly, project beneficiaries have the capacity to implement projects smoothly once provided with necessary capacity building trainings and enablers.

Secondly, due to price changes, project materials need to be purchased during the first quarter of the project implementation period to avoid any unexpected price escalations.

10. Could you share a story of the best practices that have impressed you? Please indicate if this story can be used for communication purposes.

This story is about one farmer by the name Yakobe Kuntanga who was part of the recipients of the water pumps in July 2022. Yakobe has a huge land where he has been cultivating farm produces but at a small scale due to lack of capacity to manage watering a big land using watering canes.

When Yakobe benefited from water pumps, He made sure he maximizes utilization of the machine within short period and managed to buy his own. He planted green maize which he sold as green maize where he realized an amount of K1, 800, 000 (One Million and Eight Hundred Thousand Malawi Kwacha)

He has used part of the money to buy his 2 inches engine pump, he has bought a dairy cow and extended his farm land to make it a 2 hectares land where he is growing more maize now at a larger scale.

During our second monitoring visits that's where we found Yakobe on his 2 hectares land where he planted maize which he targeted to sell between December and January. He has a testimony to tell us and we have shared some photos of him on his farm yard watering the maize field with his new pump. Community Hope believes that this is a meaningful achievement of the projects under implementation because apart from the farmer having a bumper yield for sale he is also investing for his family and making himself food secure.

See photos attached to the photos document.

11. Do you intend to submit a new application to Wilde Ganzen with your Dutch or Belgian partner within two years?

Not at the moment

You have completed the reporting form. Please add the requested documents and send it to Wilde Ganzen Foundation.

Yes

Please answer the questions starting on page 3, which are relevant when we will cooperate on a programmatic level. When finished add the requested documents and send it to Wilde Ganzen Foundation.

Requested documents

- Financial reporting format; see attached or use the excel from your project application
- [Declaration of Honor](#);
- Receipts of the three highest expenses or receipts of expenses above EUR5000*;
- Pictures of your project or a short video.

**disclaimer: In case that the financial report is deemed insufficient, additional information and financial details will be requested only if reasonable and argued.*

Email your project report with all requested document to servicedesk@wildeganzen.nl

Additional information on stakeholder participation

1. Design and execution of the project:

A. Who has been involved in the design and execution of the project?

Some of the stakeholders involved in CHI project design included;

Government Ministries of Gender, Social Welfare and Community Development on economic empowerment, Education, Youths, Sports and Culture, Education, Agriculture.

At Community level partners included Village Development Committees, Area Development Committees, Traditional and religious leaders.

At project level, all sectors of beneficiaries were involved; women, men, boys and girls

B. Was this according to plan? If not, what were the barriers and what would you do differently next time?

Yes, this was according to plan.

2. How were those main stakeholders involved in the design and execution of the project? Were they directly involved, consulted or informed?

The stakeholders were involved at problem prioritization, designing of interventions, given role in project implementation and monitoring while at designed stage to promote integrated participation. They also provided recommendations Government set priorities among the priorities.

3. What are your insights on the current process regarding stakeholder participation? What are you proud of and what could be improved?

The stakeholders are key for acceptability of the project interventions. Once they are not properly engaged, the project is likely to fail. The interest part for us is that because of stakeholders' involvement from first stage, the project is well structured which is a key enabler into phasing out of the project.

4. How did the primary stakeholders (beneficiaries) contribute? E.g. Did they support financially, provide materials, labour etc.

Vulnerable Women in SHGs- provided saving kits such as metal boxes, record books, pens

Agribusiness groups -They provided land for farming, labour and local seeds

Government agencies and others stakeholders -They will provide policy directions, project supervision, networking and linkages and technical support for sustainability.

Community Hope Initiative - Will provide resources, capacity building and project direction

Information: The primary stakeholders are defined as the ‘users’ of the project. For instance, in schools, they are the children and their parents, in a district hospital they are the people in that district and in a water project they are the inhabitants of the village. We believe that those primary stakeholders are not passive nor invisible – as the term users or beneficiaries implies. Yes, in situations of poverty, exclusion and/or violence they could be vulnerable. But they all are human beings who have a voice, a dream to give meaning to their live, they have talents that they want to develop, and they understand best what will be in their own interest longing for dignity. And we believe that the more they are seen as cocreators in the project that contributes to their own dignified development, the more quality and impact the project will have.

5. How does their contribution contribute to a sustainable intervention and do you see space for improvements?

There is strong sense of ownership of the project, the is key in the sustainability of the interventions. Secondly, the project has been implemented in such a way in which activities are done by beneficiaries. In this way, it encourages sustainability of the project. Lastly, the trained vocational skills graduates are the ones training others now which earning a living when servicing customers. The training will easily be sustainable as they are done at no cost by fellow community members. There is need to establish profit making intervention for CHI so that after funding from abroad. It could still find money to finance monitoring visitations.

About your organisation

6. What are your ambitions for the coming 2 years?

CHI envisage a vibrant organization with increased funding, number of staff. In two years, the organization will have profitable social services interventions that will support its small-small activities.

7. What type(s) of support do you receive from your Dutch or Belgian partner? Please choose at least one:

- Financial support (they provide money to execute your projects)
- Strategic support (they help develop the main features of your organisation’s policy)
- Practical support (they help in developing and executing projects)
- Other, please describe:

8. Do you cooperate with other external organisations as well, next to your Dutch or Belgian partner?

- No
- Yes; who are they and what was their role in the cooperation?

9. Have you formulated concrete actions towards diversifying your organisation's income sources? If so, please elaborate.

The organization have submitted two different proposals to different partners seeking for financial support. In the first place, the organization intend to establish youth centres that will cater for different activities. It will be rented out for wedding and other hired activities for income generating. On the same centres, there will be different vocational training courses for the youths. Secondly, CHI have also submitted another proposal for waste management in Mzuzu city following a heavy cry from residents, claiming failure by the Council to meaningful waste management.

During the final years of this finding, CHI intends to establish two training centres for the youth. These centres will be run by CHI as an income generating tool as well.

10. Did you use the website www.changethegameacademy.org?

Yes; If yes, which toolkits or courses did you use?

No; If no, what were the reasons to not use it?

So far, we haven't used the website. This normally should be communication gap on the way we could have benefited from the website. We thought time will come when training courses will be published for selection. The organization have been looking forward to benefiting from this site and will use it immediately.