

DAPP

DEVELOPMENT AID FROM PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

AGRICULTURE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

HEALTH

FARMERS' DOWA WOMEN, PHASE 2 PROJECT REPORT January — December 2016.



Submitted to:
U-landshjelp fra Folk til Folk,
Norge



PROJECT AT GLANCE

1	Name of the project	Dowa Women Farmers' Club
2	Operation area	Dowa
3	Project Leader	Paulo Chiziwa
4	Physical address and contacts details	P.O. Box 2732 Blantyre, Malawi Tel: +265888397049 Email: pchiziwa@gmail.com
5	The people at the project	1 Project manager, 14 farming instructors, 1 Marketing Officer, 1 Disability Focal Person, 3 Guards, 1 Cashier, 1 Driver and 1 Water Technician, Grants Administrator
6	The project idea and who the project reaches	The project is designed to contribute to reduction of poverty and increased equality between women and men and is reaching about 4250 women farmers in the Dowa. The project continues to work with the 70 clubs (3,500 farmers) from the previous project and the 15 new clubs, targeting 750 women farmers with disabilities. The project ensures that at least 10% of the targeted beneficiaries are females with disabilities. The project will focus much on the business aspect where farmers club are grouped into clubs which will eventually join cooperatives for the marketing of their produces.
7	A brief history	The project is the continuation of DAPP Dowa Women Farmers' Club from 2011 to 2014. The current project runs up to 2017. In 2016 the project has phased out on the old clubs and will concentrate on the other areas and focusing on cooperative development, marketing initiatives and business linkages. These initiatives will be for both old and new farmers clubs.

PLANNING SESSIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The project conducted 4 planning sessions where 425 committee members from Village Saving and Loan groups (VSL), cooperatives and clubs participated in planning for next quarter, the planning sessions are aimed at building the capacity of the committees to develop realistic plans which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART). Through the sessions, committees have been able to constructively criticize their peers' plans and share experience on how to ensure the planned activities are implemented with the active participation of all club members. The sessions also served as a platform for the committees to come up with catch up plans for activities that had not been carried out.

LEAD FARMERS TRAININGS ON IMPROVED SERVICES DELIVERY

The project trained 425 lead farmers on improved extension services delivery where the main objective was to equip the farmers with knowledge and skills. The training was attended by all lead farmers from 85 clubs so that they can be able to deliver the services to their fellow farmers. Some of the topics covered were land resource management, crop and livestock management.

ADVOCACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER TRAINING

The project trained 451 Area Development Committees (ADC) and Village Development Committees (VDC) members on how to develop by laws, rights for people with disability and inclusion of people of disability in various development activities within and project activities, however during the training the officer from Malawi Council for the Handicapped (MACOHA) and Federation of Disability Organization in Malawi (FEDOMA) were part of training the VDC and ADC members.

AWARENESS AND DEBATES

The project conducted 5 awareness campaigns, debate on the importance of having women in leadership position, among other things the meetings ADC/VDC and community leaders were much involved in the awareness meeting so that they also empower women even in the community development works within the community.

MONTHLY FOLLOW UP VISITS BY FARMING INSTRUCTORS

Farming instructors carried out a combined monthly visits totalling to 4,193. These are “one on one” visits with the farmers. The main aim of the visits were to check and track the project progress especially to check if the farmers are following good adoption of new farming technology to enhance increasing harvest at house hold level.

FIELD AND DEMONSTRATION DAYS

The project conducted 6 field days during the winter growing season where farmers had a chance to learn from others by seeing what other farmers were doing in their respective gardens. The field visits also made the farmers to see how other farmers were practicing conservation farming and how they were marketing their products. During the reporting period, 26 cooperative members had exposure visits to potential produce buyers such as Rab Processors Limited, Agriculture Commodity Exchange [ACE] and Sun Seed Oil Company. The visits helped the farmers to share farming experiences and exchange best practices.

POST- HARVEST MANAGEMENT

The project trained 425 lead farmers as Trainer of Trainers on post-harvest management. The trainers thereafter trained their fellow farmers in their respective clubs. In total 85 clubs were trained reaching out to 4,250 farmers.

CROP PROCESSING AND VALUE ADDITION

The project trained all the 4250 participating farmers in crop processing and value addition in crops such as groundnuts by producing peanut butter and oil, and processing soya milk, yoghurt and soya pieces from soya. The trainings on value addition have opened up farmers’ views on the possibility of not only increasing the shelf life of their harvested produce but increasing their earnings through selling a finished product such as peanut butter which is healthy, nutritious and easily consumable by customers instead of selling just the raw material, groundnuts.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

The project has 17 para-veterinary workers. 14 are from phase 1 and 3 from phase 2. The para-vets underwent a 5 days refresher training conducted at Chivala Extension Planning Area (EPA) by an experienced veterinary officer from the district's Agriculture Development Office. The trainings covered topics such as livestock management, recommended feed for livestock, control of pests and diseases and treatment. The para-vets received orientation on the drug boxes they received which contain drugs for treating livestock such as pigs, goats and chicken in their clubs. The para-vets are working together with farmers in securing that no animal should die from poor care or avoidable causes. The para-vets together with the 425 committee members have conducted mobilization campaigns in the clubs for members to construct proper housing for livestock, ensure good feed for the animals and how to prepare livestock for breeding.

VILLAGE SAVING AND LOAN GROUPS

The project conducted refresher training on the establishment and management of village saving and loan groups to 3,875 members including 55 female farmers with disabilities in the 170 VSL groups. The VSLs have assisted farmers with start up loans for establishing small scale business such as grocery shops, agricultural and poultry production as well as selling of locally produced snacks such as banana and maize meal fritters locally known as mandasi and zitumbuwa. Many of the farmers have bought iron sheets to roof their newly constructed brick houses while others have invested in livestock as well as their children's education. The project conducted 2 sensitization meetings with farmers and two financial lending institutions, Fincoop Savings and Credit Cooperative and Vision Fund to enable farmers get first hand information on how financial lending institutions work with small scale farmers.

EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

STRENGTHENED FARMER CLUBS (FCS), VILLAGE AND SAVINGS GROUPS (VSLGS) AND COOPERATIVES CAPABLE TO OPERATE SUSTAINABLY

The trainings in the clubs and cooperative has helped the committee members to raise up the quality of their meeting as a committee as well as when they meet with their clubs. The committee members have become much better also in problem solving and decision making. The communities are inspired by how the ever improved cooperation of the clubs and in the cooperatives

IMPROVED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

The training that para-vets and club committees underwent on livestock management has increased their capacity on how to take care of livestock in terms of housing, feeding, breeding parasite and diseases control and treatment. The farmers are sharing their knowledge on improved livestock management with famers in their communities and thus influencing that more have success with keeping animals. However the project has managed to distribute 190 pigs and Goats , drug boxes and drugs to 15 new clubs

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

The socio-economic status in the clubs has changed. The participating farmers have become able to contribute to their family's income through budgeting, planning and marketing skills the women have been equipped with. This has impacted their lives positively and most farmers' agricultural productivity has increased as they are also engaged in winter cropping.

IMPROVED CAPACITY OF THE TARGET GROUP TO IMPLEMENT INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

The project has established 170 village savings and loan groups with a total of 3,875 which are enabling members to make profit from income generating activities. Most women farmers are now able to buy the basic needs for their children such as school uniforms, books pencils and shoes. Several women farmers have built brick houses which have been roofed with iron sheets.

EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

IMPROVED HEALTH, SANITATION & HYGIENE, NUTRITION, GENDER AWARENESS AND ADULT LITERACY OF THE TARGET GROUP

The project is working with 6 adult literacy centres with enrolment of 35 farmers per centre in total 210 farmers enrolled and these women farmers meet once a week and learn how to read and write. There is an increased number of women who are able to read and write, this has contributed to their success with family budgeting, farm expenditures and various financial transactions. In the third Quarter the project has distributed 40 benches in two centres that is Masinja and Gwireni centres.

PROJECT IN NUMBERS

Dowa Women Farmers' Clubs Project	Planned 2016	Achieved Jan-Dec	Difference
Train lead farmers from in improved extension services delivery to farmers	425	425	0
Facilitate quarterly planning sessions for committee members (club committee members, VSL committee members and cooperative executive committee)	4	4	0
Conduct monthly follow up visits by FI to ensure that each farmer is implementing at least one type of sustainable technologies to enhance adoption	6	6	0
Conduct Field Days annually on sustainable technologies (2 per Cluster)	6	6	0
Train farmers in post-harvest produce management (2 from each club)	425	425	0
Train committee members clubs in livestock management (proper housing)	425	425	0
Train the women farmers in crop processing and value addition (i.e. groundnuts into peanut butter and oil	4250	4250	0
Train Village Savings and Loan Group members in identification	170	170	0
Conduct quarterly awareness	4	4	0
Train women clubs in lobbying and advocacy, Human Rights, Gender and women rights.	4250	4250	0

VARIANCE

As the project we have managed to achieve our intended goals per donor demands, this has been done through collective effort and good collaboration at project level and also with support from the sector office at DAPP national headquarters

PROJECT IN PICTURES



The Farming Instructors and stake holders attending the training on disability mainstreaming with Minja, Mari and Julian Mwase from Federation of Disability Organization in Malawi (FEDOMA)



During cooking demonstration farmers show casing what they prepared so far

PROJECT IN PICTURES



The project strongly promotes crop diversification by also doing irrigation by growing different kinds of vegetables



Here the farming instructor demonstrating how to make manure this was done after Theory and then a practical's

**ATTACHMENT
INVITATION LETTER TO DEC MEETING**



Dowa District Council
Private Bag 2, Dowa.

25th April, 2016

To: All DEC members

Dear Sir /Madam

Invitation to April 2016 DEC meeting

The council would like to invite you to the April 2016 District Executive Committee meeting to be held as below;

Date: 28th April 2016

Venue: Council Chamber

Time: 08:30 A.M

Agenda:

- I. Reading of previous minutes and matters arising
2. Presentation of Dowa district Council 2016-17 Budget
3. Presentation on Dowa District Council Safety Net Plan

The council is looking forward to your attendance.

We also remind CADECOM WVI and PAWOC that they are scheduled to fund the April DEC meeting

PP

Emmanuel Bulukutu

For: District Commissioner

NOTE:

We request that those that have presentations to make, should submit them to the office of the Director of Planning and Development before the date of the meeting