

Malawi Development Programme 2013-16

End of Project Report

Please refer to the guidance notes attached.

Project Information - Summary Sheet			
Project Reference Number	MW/28		
Name of Grant Holder	Oxfam Scotland		
Name of Partner Organisations	Oxfam in Malawi, Circle for Integrated Community Development (CICOD), Malawi Interfaith Aids Association (MIAA), Centre for Alternatives for Victimised Women and Children (CAWVOC)		
Project Title	Social and economic empowerment of smallholder producers in rural Malawi		
Project Objective(s) (max 100 words)	<p>The overall objective of the project is to support 19,200 poor smallholder producers, especially women, to become resilient by earning a decent living from farming and new enterprise activities.</p> <p>The project aimed at addressing four major challenges that smallholder producers in Malawi experience, which are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access to value chains, particularly in the horticultural and livestock sectors. • Limited skills and technology to optimise livestock and crop production. • Lack of regular and available access to financial services. • Weak capacity for advocacy 		
Summary of Headline Achievements (max 100 words) (please incl. key statistics where appropriate)	<p>During the three-year life time of the project, rural households, including those that are affected by HIV and AIDS, have greatly improved their livelihoods through increased productivity and agribusiness. According to the preliminary results of the end of project evaluation, 30.8% of rural households reported to have improved livelihoods in this way. The evaluation further indicates that the project has assisted 67% of households to increase income (above national average at the baseline). The project has also empowered 15,000 households to demand essential services from duty bearers.</p>		
Country/Region	Malawi (Chiradzulu and Kasungu districts)	Indicate (insert x) which thematic priorities the project addressed	
Project Start Date	1 April 2013	Health	
Project End Date	31 March 2016	Education	
Total SG Grant (original)	£400,000	Civic Governance	
Total Actual Expenditure for the full project	£390,235.78	Sustainable Economic Development	x

Supporting Documentation Submitted with Report (insert x)	
Completed Logical Framework (approved by SG) <i>(and any previous Logframes if changes were made, see Section B)</i>	X – Annex 1
End of Project Budget	X – Annex 2
Risk Register (updated version)	X – Annex 3
Case Study	X – Annex 4

SECTION A: OUTLINE OF PROGRAMME AND ACHIEVEMENTS
A1. Outline of Project

Provide a brief summary of the project including its aims and objectives (max 250 words).

Oxfam in Malawi in partnership with the Circle for Integrated Community Development (CICOD), Centre for Alternatives for Victimised Women and Children (CAVWOC) and Malawi Interfaith Aids Association (MIAA) implemented a three-year project from April 2013 to March 2016 in the districts of Kasungu and Chiradzulu. The overall objective of the project was to support 19,200 poor smallholder producers, especially women, to become resilient by earning a decent living from farming and new enterprise activities.

The project aimed to address four challenges that smallholder producers in Malawi experience: limited access to value chains, particularly in the horticultural and livestock sectors, limited skills and technology to optimise livestock and crop production, lack of regular and available access to financial services by smallholder producers and weak capacity for advocacy of smallholder producers.

The project aspired to support these 19,200 poor smallholder producers to participate in profitable value chains by assisting them to access market information through improved communication infrastructure. It also enabled them to access contract farming services, facilitated the formation and strengthening of Producers' Associations and linked the smallholder producers to better markets through their participation in regional and national trade fairs.

In addition, the project aimed to support the 19,200 households to improve their crop and livestock production through 'climate smart agriculture', and integrated agriculture-aquaculture. The project aimed to improve access to finance for 7,500 smallholder producers through Village Savings and Loans schemes (VSLs) and linkages to microfinance institutions. In addition, the project empowered 19,200 producers to have better knowledge of, and access to, HIV and AIDS healthcare services.

A2. Project Achievements

Describe the key achievements of the project including wider impacts and the direct and indirect beneficiaries (max 250 words). 425

The project has directly benefited 17,663 women and 4,464 men and improved the livelihoods of 30.8% of households in the two districts of Chiradzulu and Kasungu. The project has also increased incomes for 67% of targeted households through income diversification such as Village Savings and Loan groups (VSL), horticulture and winter production. This assisted the beneficiary households to meet their basic needs such as food, fertiliser and school fees for children. The project's main vehicle for change was setting up 120 farmer groups (3,794 members, 70% of whom are women). 80 of these groups (2,652 members, 76% of whom are women) have been linked to better private sector markets where they are selling their commodities at a profit. The project also supported 2,625 farmers with improved high quality seed and inputs, this has contributed to increased agriculture production amongst 76% of the targeted farmers. Smallholder Producer Groups (PGs) are now able to access market information and access markets through improved communication infrastructures, contract farming policies and services. Through the markets, 67% of producers recorded an increase in income

and some have managed to buy cattle, goats, fridges, bicycles and other household assets.

Using two 'pass-on' schemes, one for livestock and one for soybean seed, the project was able to increase the number of households reached from 1,250 farmers and 193 livestock owners to 1,925 farmers and 288 livestock owners. Case studies show that after participating in these two schemes, women have been able to support their children with school fees for secondary school and have used additional income to buy food and mitigate hunger.

Farmer skills in modern farming and climate smart technologies have improved tremendously due to extension services provided by the project and local government. This resulted in increased crop and livestock yields for project beneficiaries as compared to non-beneficiaries. 87% of the targeted population has adopted sustainable agricultural practices, which has protected their crops from the ongoing drought, and 805 farmers have reported increased yields.

Producers, including 780 people affected by HIV/AIDS, have managed to access finance through 148 Village Savings and Loans groups (VSLs) with 3,615 members (2,892 women and 723 men) and linkages to microfinance institutions. The project has also increased knowledge and changed attitudes and practices against People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA), through awareness-raising campaigns reaching 19,044 people. This has resulted in better access to health and agribusiness services and other social and economic initiatives for PLWHA. Discrimination and stigma against PLWHA has reduced significantly. PLWHA are now participating fully in economic development activities and have increased incomes and improved health. The marginalised, especially women and PLWHA, are now able to take up leadership roles.

A3. Alignment with Scottish Government's International Development Policy

Please indicate how the project contributed to the [Scottish Government's ID Policy](#) (max 250 words). 253

The project has contributed to achieving the following aims of the Scottish Government's International Development Policy:

1. To enhance Scotland's contribution to the global fight against poverty;
2. To demonstrate Scotland's commitment to address challenges of the developing world

The project has contributed to enterprise development amongst smallholder producers in Kasungu and Chiradzulu districts. The project built the capacity of smallholder producers to develop and grow new viable and profitable enterprises, such as horticulture production, mushroom production, and fish, goat and pig farming. Smallholder producers were supported with inputs and resources (trainings, seeds, fertilisers). In order to increase their collective power, the smallholder producers were organised into 120 PGs, five associations and three cooperatives. Furthermore, the PGs conducted interface meetings with private sector buyers where all marketing malpractices suppressing smallholder producers were discussed thus promoting fairer trade practices. For example, practices such as buying produce at low prices which leads to exploitation of farmers were highlighted.

The smallholder producers were trained in advocacy skills and linked to national networks and this empowered the marginalised, especially women, to have a voice both at home and in the community and many have now taken on leadership roles in the community. Women are now part of decision making committees at community level such as Village and Area Development Committees. At one of the advocacy meetings, a woman from Kasungu

	was selected to be a district coordinator for the Coalition of Women Farmers, an organisation that empowers women on agricultural issues.
A4.	Alignment with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Detail how the project has contributed to the MDGs or SDGs. Please include specific Goal(s) (max 250 words) 275
	<p><u>MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty:</u> Smallholder producers supported to increase their agricultural production, to engage in profitable marketing as a means of increasing their incomes, and also promoted small businesses as a means of income diversification so that producers are able to meet their household food and income needs.</p> <p><u>MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women:</u> Over 60% of all activities focused on women by providing capacity building and economic empowerment. This project has also gone a long way to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. The project worked with 148 VSL groups comprising of 80% women (2,892 women) to develop and build their individual and collective power, through training in leadership and assertiveness and opportunities to engage with various duty bearers as a way of asserting their social and economic rights. Women have also been economically empowered, thereby maximising their contribution to the household, local and national economies.</p> <p><u>MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases:</u> the project supported affected households to access better health services and to participate in economic activities. This was done through empowering HIV/AIDS affected people to demand their rights and to interact with duty bearers on issues affecting them. Awareness-raising campaigns on HIV/AIDS were also conducted in all the targeted communities which has reduced discrimination, and more PLWHA are now able to participate in economic activities.</p> <p><u>MDG 7: To ensure environmental sustainability and <u>SDG goal 13</u> on climate action,</u> the project promoted climate smart agriculture practices amongst rural farmers, as an approach to climate change adaptation and to support restoration of degraded natural resources such as land, water and forests.</p>

SECTION B: RESULTS

Please ensure you submit your Logical Framework with this report. The logframe should reflect the full achievements and results of the project.

The purpose of this section is to provide a SUMMARY of the details in your logical framework.

B1.	Project Impact With reference to your logframe please list each of your project impacts and provide further details of your results at the end of the project. This information should be supported with evidence (as an annex) e.g. case studies. Add/delete rows as required.
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IMPACT: Contribute to the improvement of livelihood security of 19,200 smallholder producers through increased productivity and agribusiness in Malawi, 70 per cent of whom will be women, and particularly those living with, or affected by, HIV and AIDS (including child-headed households)

<u>Impact Indicator</u> (from logframe)	<u>Baseline</u> (from logframe)	<u>End of project target</u> (from logframe)	<u>How has the project contributed to the overall impact target</u>
<p>Percentage of rural households, including those that are affected by HIV and AIDS, that have improved livelihoods through increased productivity and agribusiness in Malawi by 2016.</p>	<p>23%</p>	<p>50%</p>	<p>Target partially achieved: 30.8% households in the targeted districts have improved livelihoods. The project's target was not reached due to extreme climate change events exacerbated by El Nino weather patterns which affected project interventions. For instance in January 2015 the country experienced flooding in 15 districts including Chiradzulu, the project's impact area.</p> <p>This flooding led to loss of crops and farmland for the smallholder producers. Farmer replanted once the floods receded but they harvested less. In addition, after the disaster, households sold some of the assets they had accumulated throughout the project as a mechanism for recovery.</p> <p>The project has also been affected by drought conditions in the growing season. Less rains fell in the impact areas, and this led to low yields and less availability of water for winter production, fish farming and irrigation.</p> <p>In 2015/16 agriculture season, the El Nino weather system resulted in less rains and prolonged dry spells in the Southern and Central region of the country, where the project was implemented. The President has declared a State of Disaster due to the poor outlook on crop production. The latest crop estimate results released by the Ministry of</p>

			<p>Agriculture indicate a 2% reduction from last year's final round estimate; which was already 30% lower than the normal production due to low rainfall in 2014/15. In the project's impact area, El Nino has affected farmers in that they planted late due to late onset of rains, the rains were poorly distributed and the dry spells affected crop development. In some places there was permanent wilting and farmers had to replant. Although the project provided agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertiliser, there was still a need for favourable climatic conditions for the plants to survive and produce enough yield.</p>
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B2. Project Outcome(s)
 In the table below, please list each of your project outcome(s) and provide summary details of your results at the end of the project. This information should be supported with evidence (as an annex) e.g. case studies
 Add/delete rows as required.

OUTCOME: Improved social and economic empowerment of smallholder producers, 70% of whom will be women, through increased productivity and agribusiness in Chiradzulu and Kasungu by 2016

<u>Outcome Indicator</u>	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>End of project target (from logframe)</u>	<u>End of project achievement (insert one of the following Target not achieved/achieved/exceeded Include a very brief explanation)</u>
Outcome indicator 1: Percentage of households recording an increase in income (above national average at the baseline) for targeted smallholder producers including women by 2016	20%	80%	Target partially achieved: 67% of households recorded an increase in income. The country experienced a number of disasters such as floods and dry spells which eroded the production capacity of the targeted producers. Despite that, the endline figure is still

				significantly above the baseline which shows that the project made a contribution to the incomes of targeted households through reducing their dependency on rain-fed crops.
	Outcome indicator 2: Number of targeted households that are empowered to demand for essential services from duty bearers in the targeted areas by 2016	5,184	19,200	Target partially achieved: 15,000 people interacted with duty bearers through 55 community meetings in year three. The project reached 19,044 people through awareness-raising campaigns on human rights and HIV/AIDS including 12,636 community members (of which 8,240 were female). Seven district-level campaigns reached 6,238 people (of which 4,126 were women and girls). One national campaign engaged 170 attendants (of which 102 were female).

B3. Project Outputs
 In the table below, please list each of your project outputs and provide summary details of your results at the end of the project. This information should be supported with evidence (as an annex) e.g. case studies
 Add/delete rows as required.

OUTPUT 1: 19,200 poor smallholder producers, 70 per cent of whom will be women, participate in profitable value chains by 2016 in Chiradzulu and Kasungu districts

<u>Output Indicator</u>	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>End of project target (from logframe)</u>	<u>End of project achievement (insert one of the following Target not achieved/achieved/exceeded Include a very brief explanation)</u>
1.1 Number of producer groups that are formed and are able to participate in profitable value chains by 2016.	63 groups	230 groups	Target partially achieved: 120 PGs were formed (3,794 members; 70% of whom are women). The project supported 120 PGs (54 in Chiradzulu

				<p>and 66 in Kasungu) to participate in profitable value chains such as soybean, livestock (goats and piggery), mushroom and fish farming. The groups were also supported to access market information and 80 PGs were linked with private sector buyers.</p> <p>The target was not reached because when organising the farmers, the team had planned to form PGs for each value chain which would form an association and in turn a cooperative. The project was able to bring together groups from all the value chains that were big enough to be merged into an association and in turn a cooperative, thereby bypassing the initial need for 230 PGs. Therefore the cooperatives have more members because they are formed from many clubs.</p> <p>For instance, in Chiradzulu two cooperatives were formed; one focusing on pig farming with 589 farmers (393 women); the other focusing on horticulture with 422 farmers (260 women). These two cooperatives, combined with the 54 PGs and three associations had a total of 1,899 members (1,264 female).</p> <p>In Kasungu district one cooperative was set up along with five associations and 66 farmers clubs with a total of 1,895 members (1,516 female). The groups are able to access market information from extension workers via mobile phones through a service provided by Airtel and ESOKO.</p>
	1.2 Number of producer groups formed that are able to link up with private sector in order to access better markets for their produce by 2016	28 groups	95 groups	Target partially achieved: 80 PGs were linked to the private sector, 76% of whose members are female.