

Malawian Farmers Learn to Make Better Use of Their Land

Overview

Malawi has some of the worst food shortages and malnutrition problems in sub-Saharan Africa, with 55 percent of rural Malawians suffering chronic food shortages and only 14 percent having adequate food supplies, according to the Malawian government's 2002 Sustainable Livelihoods Program. Drought and other environmental and economic factors are making economically poor farmers even poorer. At the Chiwowa Chisala Agricultural Demonstration Training center about 20 miles east of Mzuzu, Malawi, the Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi (ADNM) implemented this one-year project.



Eliza Ngozo (center, holding her baby) displays her corn crops with her family in Kantbambila village, Nkhata Bay, Malawi.

ADNM taught farmers to use low technology and small-scale, local approaches to improve land management and water systems that boosted their agricultural output. ADNM used the grant to purchase a vehicle and cover the costs of training, including travel, accommodations, food and training materials.

Expected results

Actual results

2,612 family members experience improved food security after 653 farmers are trained	2,616 family members, 654 farmers
96 trained farmers serve as trainers	90 farmers
2,708 unique lives changed	2,706 lives

Successes

ADNM successfully trained 327 new farmers through a five-day program. The organization has been tracking their progress, and each farmer trained another person, sustaining the project's impact.

Concerns

ADNM learned that many factors lead to food shortages, not just improper farming techniques. Crop storage and nutrition are some other issues the organization plans to address in the future.

In brief

Funding agency: [XXX]

Organization: Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi (ADNM)

Location: Malawi

Geneva Global ID: 1-1062C-0906

Grant amount: \$31,448

Disbursed to date: \$31,448

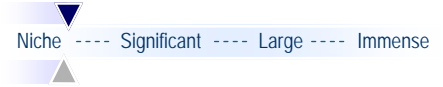
Grant date: August 2007

Evaluation: September 2008

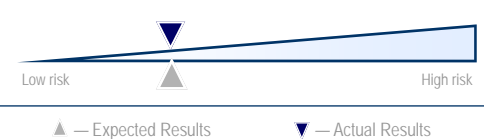
Performance

Magnitude of impact

Depth of impact multiplied by the number of people



Combined risk



Delta Score

Expected*

5.88

Actual

5.87

**All Delta Scores shown in this report are compiled with Geneva Global's latest analytical methods. A Delta Score of 1 represents a successful child sponsorship: One life changed in multiple ways for \$360 in one year. All other scores are directly proportional to that benchmark. If the project was originally rated using an earlier Delta Score computation, the expected results were recalculated for accurate comparison with the actual results.*

Achievement rating

Achieved

ADNM trained hundreds of farmers and students. They returned to their villages, trained others and started farms. These villages had good crop yields and relief from their chronic food shortages.

Read the full assessment and recommendation inside.

Results in Detail

Expected	Actual
<p>2,612 family member experience improved food security after 653 small-scale rural farmers are successfully trained in land and water management that boost their harvest</p> <p>96 previously trained farmers serve as trainers for other farmers in their villages</p>	<p>Achieved. A total of 327 new farmers participated in the five-day training at the Chiwowa Chisale Training Center. Each then trained a neighbor in their home village, so 654 people in total were trained. Through their successful farm, 2,616 family members (four per farmer) had regular meals and experienced improved food security.</p> <p>In addition, ADMN trained 200 primary school students in composting and creating seed beds and nurseries for vegetables. ADMN will provide subsequent training on controlling soil erosion and agro-forestry. Parents can visit the school's demonstration gardens and learn more about farming, opening up the training to more than 9,000 people.</p> <p>Achieved. A total of 139 trained farmers were invited to attend additional training. Of those, 90 attended the training and received materials. The instructors also provided the same materials for those who could not attend. All 139 farmers were able to train others in their respective villages.</p>

Conclusion

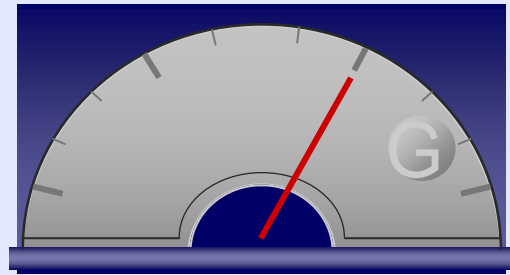
ACHIEVEMENT RATING

Overachieved

▶ **Achieved**

Underachieved

Not achieved



Assessment and recommendation

The Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi communicated regularly with Geneva Global and provided a thorough and detailed final report.

According to the Malawian government's 2002 Sustainable Livelihoods Program, 55 percent of rural Malawians suffer chronic food shortages and only 14 percent have adequate food supplies. It is within this context that ADNМ extended its program at the Chiwowa Chisala Agricultural Demonstration Training Center.

The organization taught local farmers how to use low technology and small-scale approaches to improve land management and water systems that boosts the rural poor's agricultural output. These farmers were then able to share what they learned with their villages, and more than 2,000 people now have a steady food supply.

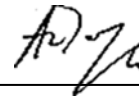
The expected Delta Score for this project, adjusted to match Geneva Global's current analytical methods, was 5.88. The actual Delta Score is 5.87. The organization received an overall "achieved" rating because the actual Delta Score was within plus or minus 20 percent of the expected Delta Score.

Due to this project's success, Geneva Global recommends the Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi for future philanthropic investment.



Faison Banda (center, kneeling) teaches a group of farmers from his village how to prepare a mixture of top soil and compost. Their village, Mfula, has steep hills and poor soil, and ADNМ trained these farmers on how to best use their land.

Prepared by:



Alfred Mwenifembo

Research Analyst

From the Field

In the implementer's own words

Geneva Global is not responsible for this information, which was supplied by the implementer.

Lessons we learned:

- Communication with farmers is always a problem. Often letters arrive late (we have been augmenting with phone calls to clergy where possible) and messages are not passed on at grass roots level.
- Time of arrival at collection points may result in farmers arriving too late. We now find that it is cheaper to collect them from a central point near their homes than pay bus fares.
- Levels of education are low and illiteracy not uncommon among older women especially. However, enthusiasm and appreciation of the course and the fact that the Diocese is taking note of their need and acting upon it is invaluable. It has been interesting watching groups which are now active grow in confidence and determination to continue to practice the techniques and train others with confidence.
- One of the biggest lessons learnt is that poor agricultural techniques are by no means the only cause of food insecurity. The reasons are many. By teaching about storage of crops and management we hope we have at least begun to address one of the issues. However, whatever problems and difficulties we have faced the majority of households have benefited to some degree and feel valued and respected because of our concern.
- Six women training as facilitators would not stop talking when we asked questions about gender related issues when working in the garden. In the past it would have been totally unacceptable for them to speak of this in front of men. The six men were particularly silent. If nothing else our train empowers people.

Our outlook on project or future plans:

We are purchasing another motorbike thanks to another donor which should make follow ups and training in the field easier to carry out. We are hoping to recruit more junior staff to help with the training so that we can maintain contact with learners who have received training as well as extend to new needy areas. We will also discuss how we might intensive activities in areas where we have already done training but with particular problems such as Mfula which is remote has poor soil on sloping land and difficult rainfall pattern.

Testimonies:

Testimony #1: Eliza Ngozo

"... My name is Eliza Ngozo and after attending the training at Chiwowa Chisala, I made compost manure and when the rain season came, I planted 1 acre of maize, 0.5 acre of sweet potatoes and 0.5 acre of millet. I applied manure to my maize crop and as a result I have harvested one full barn of maize (1750 kg) of maize and enough millet and sweet potatoes which are sufficient to see my family of 5 have food throughout all the 12 months of the year. I am very grateful to the Anglican for their help in training us and giving us agro-forest seeds for the improvement of our gardens..." Eliza Ngozo, Kanthambila village, Nkhata bay.

Testimony #2: Faison Banda

"... my training with the program of the Anglican diocese of Northern Malawi has completely transformed my family in that for the first time in all my farming life, I this year was able to harvest 40 bags of maize (2000 kg). I planted maize to 1.25 acres of land, sweet potatoes to 0.5 acres and soya beans to 1 acre. I practiced the conservation farming that we were taught and also planted agro-forest plants such as *Tephrosia*. There is no question that from now on, if the rainfall is good, I will always have sufficient food for my family for all the 12 months of the year as well as having some to sale. Many thanks to the Anglican diocese of Northern Malawi for coming to my aid although I do not belong to their church..." Faison Banda, Mfula village, Mzimba district.

From the Field

In the implementer's own words

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Project budget vs. actual expenses:

Item Description	Budget	Actual
Vehicle	12,000	11,500
Fuel	4,000	5,503
Food for field training (6 days total, 768 people plus coordinators and instructors)	3,400	3,500
Travel and accommodation allowances for instructors as they travel to the field	3,200	2,610
Bus fares for the 96 coordinators @ 25 US\$	1,920	2,100
Seed	1,900	1,900
Food for 96 coordinators for 5 days	1,800	1,800
Learning materials @ 2 US\$/person for 768 field trainees	1,536	1,446
Communication expense (written reports to instructors and schedule coordinating using the telephone)	1,500	1,600
Learning materials @ 2 US\$/person for 96 coordinators	192	198
Total	31,448	32,157



460 East Swedesford Road | Suite 3010
Wayne, PA 19087 | USA
T + 1 866 7 GENEVA | T + 1 610 254 0000
F + 1 610 254 8231
www.GenevaGlobal.com