

CCS UPDATE

By Robert Osborne

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING DECEMBER 2008

1. Poultry income generating activity research and implementation
2. Smallholder dairy farming income generating activity research.
3. Data collection for water and sanitation funding proposal
4. Data collection for maternity ward funding proposal.
5. Christmas activities

1. Poultry IGA

Research

Andrew White and I carried out research into the use of poultry egg production as an income generating activity. Research included informal interviews with veterinary staff at the district government agricultural department, consultation with a technical adviser at the Poultry Industry Association of Malawi and field visits to 3 local chicken coups that are engaged in egg production. Visits to local chicken coups were conducted with the assistance of Francis Phiri.

Implementation

Following our poultry IGA research we began planning implementation of the project. After the initial research phase we agreed upon a further 6 phases for the project. The 7-phase implementation plan is presented in the next column.



Chicken khola, under construction.

Phase 1 - Research into poultry farming

Phase 11 - Conversion of building into chicken khola (Concreting floors, fixing roof, fitting doors, applying wire mesh to windows, applying lime and disinfectant to walls).

Phase 111 - Procurement of chicken farming items (drinkers, feeders, laying boxes, perch).

Phase 1V - Organising and training of volunteers in chicken farming and basic business accounting.

Phase V - Procurement of 120 chickens.

Phase V1 - Continual upkeep of chickens for egg production and general running of business.

Phase V11 - Sale of old laying chickens for meat and procurement of new laying chickens for new round of egg production.



Chicken Khola building, finished.

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Currently we are awaiting to implement phase IV.

Through a contact at the Poultry Industry Association of Malawi we have also confirmed an order for 120 chickens. I have agreed with Mr Chuma from PIAM that we will finalise a date for training of volunteers from PIAM staff. A date for the collection and payment for chickens (from a contact of Mr Chuma's at Central Poultry Ltd Lilongwe) will also be finalised soon. Mr Chuma has confirmed that training and procurement could go ahead as soon as the volunteers, at Chimteka, are ready.

- Andrew has produced a detailed report on the Chimteka poultry IGA project for use by CCS and also Chimteka CBO.

2. Dairy farming IGA

Research

Andrew and I also began conducting research into the benefits and feasibility of dairy farming at Chimteka. We began our research by visiting the District Government Agricultural Department, this time meeting with a veterinary assistant specializing in dairy farming.

Following this, we went on to visit 3 local CBO based smallholder dairy farms to collect data on their experiences. We also visited the offices of the U.S. based NGO Land 'O' Lakes in Lilongwe and a local government farm where mixed breed dairy cows are raised.

We were advised by all the dairy experts we spoke to that if Chimteka intend to enter into Dairy farming then mixed

breed cows should be used. The benefit of mixed breed dairy cows are that they are able to function in the Malawian climate whilst also being able to produce milk.



Tiwaganilze, OVC, field visit.

The following list represents a crude outline of some key areas that require further research and attention before deciding whether to implement dairy farming.

- How many cows should be purchased?
- Should a bull or artificial insemination be used to impregnate the cows? If a bull is used should one be purchased? This will require a different, and more expensive, khola to be constructed.
- Contact Mr Chimbaza – Mr Chimbaza is a Govt. official who may allow CCS to purchase mixed breed dairy cows. The cost of purchasing from the gov. is significantly lower than when purchasing from private sellers. A $\frac{3}{4}$ breed cow was quoted at 55,000 MK
- Decide on which building materials to use for cow khola.

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- Decide where the khola should be constructed on Chimteka CBO land.
- Meet with Chiosya Milk-Bulking Group. The group may not exist, and according to Francis is disorganised. MBG's were initiated by Land 'O' Lakes, they operate in a 'pass it on system', whereby Land O Lakes donate a cow. When the cow has a calf it is passed on within the Milk-Bulking group. If the Chiosya MBG still exists an attempt could be made to get Land O Lakes to donate a cow. However, judging by initial research into Chiosys MBG and Land 'O' Lakes this could prove difficult.
- Decide on how to feed cows. This will probably require some planting of foods like napier grass, soya beans etc. Cows should have a balanced diet with different nutrients. One technique used to feed cows by one CBO was to have volunteers contribute their own crops. Would volunteers be willing to do this at Chimteka?
- Decide on how to provide water to cows. Could the borehole on the Chimteka CBO land be used, or does an additional water access point need to be installed? According a government manual one cow consumes 45 litres of water a day, meaning that demand on the Chimteka CBO borehole would significantly increase.

The above list offers a very brief image about some of the potential problems and useful contacts we

came across when carrying out the research.

- ❖ Along with the poultry report, Andrew has also written a detailed report on dairy farming.
- ❖ If any of the bullet points are confusing then please refer to Andrew's report.

A soft copy of the reports will be emailed to Brian shortly.

3. Data Collection for water and sanitation funding proposal

I have managed to meet with a number of contacts at Unicef in Lilongwe, at the District hospital in Mchinji and at Chiosya clinic in the Chimteka area, who have assisted me with useful information about current water access and pit latrine coverage in Chimteka. The contacts have also provided useful information about reputable borehole companies, improved latrine material costs, government - ministry of water contacts, costs of current sanitation trainings and costs of other government associated monitoring and supervision allowances related to borehole implementation.



Borehole Drilled, awaiting pump

With the assistance of the local Health Surveillance Officer I am hoping to meet with each village water committee and each village sanitation committee to corroborate the information on current water and sanitation coverage provided by the department of Health. I also plan to visit the 4 villages that Chimteka CBO have recently expanded their work in to find out water and sanitation coverage in those areas.

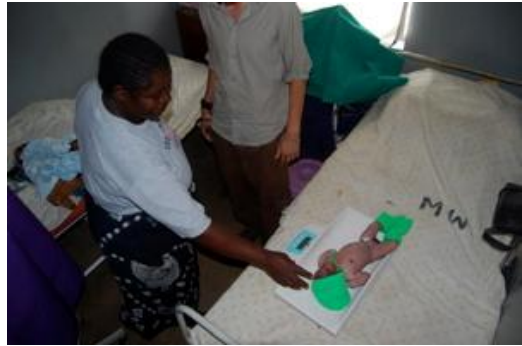
Once I have drawn up a finalized, specific plan of how many boreholes, trainings and pit latrine materials are required to improve water access and sanitation hygiene, I will then contact the recommended borehole drilling and water pump companies to get a quotation on borehole drilling and pump costs. Costs for latrine materials and any other associated water/sanitation training; monitoring and supervision has already been collected.

The funding proposal for water and sanitation, to be submitted to Irish Aid should be finished by the end of January.



Improved Latrine, with 'Dome Slab'

4. Data Collection for maternity ward funding proposal



Midwife, Fortina weighing a new born in Chiosy's delivery room that currently accommodates an average of 60 deliveries a month.

The midwife at Chiosya clinic has provided me with information about the grim reality that faces many pregnant women who deliver their babies at Chiosya. The anecdotal descriptions provided by Fortina and information presented in a report by the consultant Richard Phiri highlight an urgent need for the current maternal health facilities at Chiosya to be improved. This view was also echoed in a conversation with the District Health Officer.

Following meetings with the district hospital's acting administrator, maintenance supervisor and district health officer I am currently waiting a number of different types of information that are required for the maternity ward funding proposal.

The Department of Health have a standard set of building plans for rural clinics. Due to a lack of availability of govt. funds they have been unable to carry out construction plans in most rural clinics.

Included in the standard set of plans are a detached maternity clinic building.

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The DHO and Fortina also expressed the need for a guardian shelter. Guardian shelters are built to house mothers who are at their 'due' date, often having traveled long distances, on foot. I am currently awaiting to receive plans for a recently constructed guardian shelter that was recently built at the district hospital.

Following the experience of the construction of a detached maternity building in a different rural clinic in Mchinji (at Tembwe) the DHO expressed the need to provide 'plumbing' and 'flow of patients' plans for the structure, which he is in the process of accessing.

Alongside these plans I am awaiting government guidelines on the equipment that such a maternity ward should have, the reserve price offered by the department of health to building contractors for such a structure and the cost of equipment from suppliers. I am meeting with representatives from the hospital on the 5th and 12th of January to collect all or most of the above requested information.

Following discussions with Fortina (midwife at Chiosya) and the DHO there was a need expressed for an ambulance to be based at Chiosya. Despite logistical skepticism about the feasibility of supplying the clinic with an ambulance I am awaiting estimates for a 4x4 ambulance and motorcycle ambulance.

The DHO has expressed that the department of health would cover the cost of fuel and maintenance; he also stated that there are currently 'more drivers than ambulances.' Due to this, alongside the prediction given by

Chiosya's medical assistant that there are 2 fatalities a month at the clinic due to the inadequacy of the Mchinji ambulance service I am keen to include an ambulance in the funding proposal for the maternity ward.

However, I am aware that key logistical questions need to be directed toward the DHO again in order to be certain that the donation of an ambulance to the Chiosya clinic would be for the good of Chimteka's residents.

The maternity ward funding proposal should be completed by the end of January/beginning of February.



According to the DHO, the sub-govt. standard Chiosya clinic, serves around 40,000 people. Government regulations state that a rural clinic like Chiosya should serve between 15,000-20,000.

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