



Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Grassroots Development Diary

Vol. 03/2012

Date of Issue : 16/04/12



Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Foreword



To Our Partners & stakeholders,

Greetings from Chikato grassroots communities of Shurugwi district. The month of February and March marked the memorable events that include highest income from tomato produce sales, the second crop selection, sustainable market linkage creation and the unforgettable support visit by the Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy officials on the 15th of March 2012. Many thanks to Caritas Gweru, Tongogara RDC, Department of Social Services, traditional leadership, Agritex, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, DA's office, Ministry of Education, Environmental Management Agency and other stakeholders who continued to support the project. To Mr. Leon Hartwell, you are always remembered for your words of encouraging community contribution when you said, ***"You can either fail as individuals or work together and develop as a community."***

The success of Chikato project is a result of the commitment shown by various stakeholders.

We greatly appreciate your participation and commitment through various efforts.

Yours Sincerely,

Pascal Manyakaidze

Programme Manager

Shurugwi Partners – Community Based Organization

Private Box 2799, Gweru

Phone : +263772 582211, +263733 610880

Email : shurugwipartners@gmail.com; pascal@shurugwipartners.org

Website : www.shurugwipartners.org

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Garden Produce

Tomatoes - grading & sales in progress



An average income of US\$135 was generated per household through tomato sales, strengthening social safety and economic status of households through sustainable income from garden produce. Market linkages played a pivotal role in this agro income generating project.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Small Livestock

Children looking after goats



Picture 2: Ms. Mapfumo's goat that reproduced leading to an increase in her number of goats from the allocated 2 to 3 within the first two months of allocation.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Soil Fertility Management

Bed preparation for second round crops



Picture 1: Women adding clay soil materials to improve light garden soils' moisture retention and organic matter since clay is rich in nutrients.



Picture 2 : Farmers marking planting station as a way of enhancing uniformity in the garden and as an agribusiness approach of yield estimation basing on the number of plants per bed.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Second Crop Selection

Rape crop during transplantation (1) and harvesting period (2)



The project has linked effectively with local markets for leaf vegetables including rape and covo. Farmers now developed a system where by their crop rotation ensures that rape is readily available for neighbouring villages and local boarding schools markets.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Butternut crop during first week (1) and fourth week (2)



The project introduced butternut as a new crop requested by farmers in the community garden. Sales from previous harvest, demand and household food security contribution from the first crop led to the continued production of butternut in the community garden.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Internal Savings & Lending

Pandehuni Village Savings Group and their records



CASH BOOK	LOAN BOOK	Other BOOK	SAVING BOOK	REGISTER BOOK	CONSTITUTION		
Zwira	Zwairika			Mari	Mari	Mamira	
11-02-12	MURANDO			Shapinda	Shapinda	Shamira	
11-02-12	CHIKWERETI			345,00	—	345,00	
				—	345,00	—	

Part of the internal savings and lending groups trained under the project as an exit and sustainability strategy. These women pay a monthly savings subscription to develop group funds which grow through regular savings and interest generated from group loans. The fund covers social as well as capital needs for women led rural income generating activities.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Support Visit by Netherlands

... partnering in local development



Picture 1 - from left to right: Pascal Manyakaidze (Shurugwi Partners), Tendai Manhundu (Sun newspaper), Bro. Blazio Manobo (Caritas Gweru) and Leon Hartwell (Netherlands Embassy). The project is an excellent example of a good partnership between the Government of Zimbabwe, Shurugwi Partners and the Netherlands in empowering the local communities.”

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Community motivation



By public demand - “Mukwasha dance” was rated the best entertainment of the day. Picture 1: Mr. David Giya and Mr. Solomon Mushipe; Picture 2: Pascal and Leon – all following *Chigutiro tambawakaguta* song by the local community.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Entertainment by Beneficiaries & Gare High School pupils



The garden project members and Gare Secondary School pupils performed plays depicting the importance of the project in various aspects of community development including education, employment creation, income and food security. This clearly highlighted how localising the Millennium Development Goals is useful in developing grassroots communities.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Community Appreciation

EKN, a hand that gives receives more...



Picture 1: The ward Councillor of Chikato, Mr. Pfebeni presenting butternuts from Mutsiba village garden project to Mr. Leon Hartwell of the Netherlands Embassy. In picture 2 – Pascal joined to thank the community for the present given to the EKN officials.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Touring Sentinel Households



Small livestock for orphaned and women led households provide a sustainable solution to orphans education support and household social safety nets. Picture 1: Mrs. Pandehuni and picture 2 showing Leon with the grandmother (Mrs. Chinoona) at different goat housing structures. These women are some of the beneficiaries under the small livestock component.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Conclusion



15 March 2012, the Chikato community under one shed for local development programme.

Shurugwi Partners greatly appreciate all efforts towards the empowerment of vulnerable socio – economic groups in grassroots communities. We THANK YOU all.

Responding to grassroots community needs through innovative ideas