

**Integrated Child Labour Elimination Project II  
(ICLEP II)**

**ICLEP II Annual Report**

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Date of Report: **5<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

Name of Organisation: **Total LandCare**

Sector: **Food Security**

Reporting Period: **July 2009 to June 2010**

## **1. Introduction**

ICLEP II has completed its fourth year. The project was extended from ICLEP I which was implemented from 2002 for four years and ICLEP II was extended from ICLEP I as a result of the achievements made during the first four years. ICLEP II started in 2006 and focused on extending the impact area of Katalima and Suza education zones to benefit more people with the objective of reducing child labour.

ICLEP II had four partners implementing various activities and Total LandCare (TLC) was involved in Food Security and Natural Resource Management (FSNRM). The activities in this component focused on four outputs;

- Output 10 Improved nutrition of children
- Output 11 Improved access to labour saving technologies
- Output 12 Increased food security
- Output 13 Increased household income

Other partners included Nkhoma Synod (Relief and Development), Lifeline Malawi, and CRECCOM involved in Water and Sanitation, Health and Education components respectively. It was envisaged in this project that child labour is a complex issue and requires concerted efforts and support in order to address and underlying and basic causes of child labour.

During the final 12 months, implementation progressed very well despite reduction in the targets due to reduced budget and increase in operation costs and some input costs. The FSNRM component achieved most of its targets, and generally communities have been receptive in most activities that the demand was high to be achieved by project resources.

This report highlight activities implemented during the fourth year, July 2009 to June 2010. The report also gives an overview of the progress made, lessons learnt and suggested solution to have a better approach in implementing similar programs.

## **2. Achievements made in 2009 – 2010 Implementation Year**

### **2.1 Overall Program**

Most of the activities are implemented at village level. The activities start with sensitisation meetings and then selection of villagers to participate in various activities. Within the villages, a few people are then selected. However, for tree planting activities, all village members were encouraged to get involved in

tree planting. Table 1 presents total number of villagers who participated in FSNRM activities in 2009 – 2010 implementation year.

**Table 1. Participation over all in FSNRM component**

OVERALL TOTAL	Total
# Villages	325
HH Participation	
Male	5,954
Female	3,832
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,786</b>

## 2.2 Community mobilisation

### 2.2.1 Sensitisation, community mobilisation and training

Community mobilisation involves bringing awareness of program activities to the communities. This is normally

done at the beginning of the year. This is then followed by individual activity sensitisation and trainings.

The general sensitisation activities are done at group village headman level where all the village headmen and other influential community members also attend. The rest of the sensitisation and

mobilisation are done at village level where specific activities are discussed in detail. **Table 2** shows results of community mobilisation activities

**Table 2. Community sensitizations activities achieved in 2009 - 2010**

OVERALL TOTALS	# Meetings	# Villages	Total Participants		
			# Male	# Female	Total
General	17	325	3469	1975	5,444
Forestry Nurseries / Tree Planting	51	230	2141	1262	3,403
Nat Regeneration & Mgt / Village Forest Areas	7	10	179	55	234
Improved Wood Stoves	52	72	254	708	962
Irrigation/Crop Diversification	12	36	602	273	875
Sustainable Land & Water Mgt	19	71	743	314	1,057
Business Skills & Marketing	2	3	39	29	68

After community mobilisation and sensitisation activities, training in individual activities followed. This was aimed at building capacity at community level for proper implementation of various activities.

Most of these trainings were community based and hands on to improve on community skills in handling FSNRM activities. **Table 3** presents results of community trainings conducted.

**Table 3. Community trainings**

OVERALL TOTALS	# Courses	# Villages	# Male	# Female	Total
General	2	1	48	13	61
Forestry Nurseries / Tree Planting	61	186	1207	641	1848
Nat Regeneration & Mgt / Village Forest Areas	7	43	287	136	423
Improved Wood Stoves	41	86	325	1245	1570
Irrigation/Crop Diversification	53	47	1167	585	1752
Sustainable Land & Water Mgt	6	36	263	116	379
Business Skills & Marketing	2	24	27	29	56

## 2.2.2 Field tours and Field Days

Community field tours and field days help to enhance understanding the performance of various technologies. They also allow farmers to share knowledge and skills in group dynamics and technology implementation. Other advantage is to allow community members appreciate the performance of various technologies.

**Table 4. Field Tours and Field Days**

The number and type of field tours and days are presents in **Table 4**. Some of the field tours were between neighbouring villages. During these activities government counterparts also participated.

OVERALL TOTALS	Field Tours		Field Days	
	No.	Total Participants	No	Total Participants
Forestry Nurseries / Tree Planting	1	36	8	260
Nat Regeneration & Mgt / Village Forest Areas	1	36	2	247
Improved Wood Stoves	1	36	3	330
Irrigation/Crop Diversification	2	139	5	468
Sustainable Land & Water Mgt	3	61	11	1075

## 2.3 Natural Resource Management and Afforestation

The Natural Resource Management and Afforestation program focused on tree planting, Natural woodland regeneration and Kitchen mud stoves. Under tree planting, Food Security component provided all the necessary materials for tree seedling rising including polythene pots, tree seedlings watering cans and shovels to all participating communities. This was backed by extension services to make sure that the tree seedlings are properly raised and out-planted.



Figure 1. Natural woodland regeneration

Under Natural woodland management regeneration of natural trees on farms and demarcation and protection of village forest areas. The village forestry areas (VFAs) are normally owned by communities and are under the local leadership. These are normally degraded communal forests and communities are encouraged to protect and allow the forests to regenerate.



Figure 2. Newly planted woodlot - *Senna spp*

The other activity under this program is construction of the mud stoves. These help to reduce wood consumption and consequently

reduce fuel demand for each household. **Table 5** shows activities and achievements under this program.

Fruit trees were procured and distributed to selected community members. After the tree are well established, the communities will be trained through government officers in grafting in order to increase the number of improved fruit trees in the areas.

**Table 5. Natural trees and afforestation results**

Practice	Unit to use for Quantity	Total Quantity (Ha or #)	# of Villages	HH Participation		
				Male	Female	Total
Nurseries	No. Seedlings	211	213	3063	1808	4871
Out-planting - Trees						
Homesteads	No. Trees	158,654	213	3063	1808	4871
Farms	No. Trees	130,659	213	3063	1808	4871
Communal Lands	No. Trees	68,511	213	3063	1808	4871
Out-planting - Fruit Trees						
Mango	No.	202	21	110	78	188
Pawpaw	No.	176	21	110	78	188
Guava	No.	196	21	110	78	188
Citrus spp	No.	132	21	110	78	188
Total Fruit Trees	No.	1456	21	110	78	188
Total Out-planting - All Trees	No.	359,279	211	3065	1810	4875
Village Forest Areas	Ha	22.2	36	306	203	509
Improved Kitchen Stoves	No. Stoves	1744	65	0	1744	1744

## 2.4 Sustainable agricultural practices and water harvesting

Sustainable agricultural practices are aimed at promoting landuse practices that will enhance soil fertility improvement and or maintenance for sustainable production. With increasing population there is need to have landuse practices that will provide communities with increased productivity while maintaining and or improving

the natural resources base. Activities implemented under this program include soil and water conservation, management of conservation agriculture (zero/minimum tillage) demonstration plots and gully control. It was noted that

**Table 6. Sustainable agriculture practices**

Crop Type	Total	# of Villages	HH Participation		
			Male	Female	Total
Conservation Agriculture (ha)	36.9	27	184	111	295
Legume Intercrops/Rotations (ha)	14.7	41	273	429	702
<i>F. albida</i> Inter-planting (#)	4000		97	66	163
AF Perennial Inter-Crop (ha)	5	3	12	7	19
AF Fallow (ha)	6.8	6	35	32	67
S&W Cons – Vetiver hedgerows (ha)	58.5	11	120	64	184
Gulley Reclamation (ha)	4	2	8	6	14
Organic Manure (ha)	19	17	68	23	91

communities were more interested in Conservation agriculture due to increased productivity realised. **Table 6** presents achievements made in the 2009 – 2010. All these achievements surpass the target which is an indication of positive response from the communities and good approach that focused on community implementation of activities.

### 3.0 Improved Nutrition and Food security and Crop Diversification

Nutrition activities aim at improving health of the participating households through good utilisation for the available food. It goes all the way from food preparation, preservation and the value of the food. Trainings were conducted where participants learnt how to prepare various food types. The following are the results achieved in the year;

- 1069 households (including 901 females) were trained in food processing, utilization and preservation. The aim was to make sure that households had adequate foods even in lean months and be able to process it and store it properly.
- 1 food variety show was conducted at Chisazima village, Katalima Zone. The objective was to expose communities on a wide range of nutritious locally made food.
- 1050kg of Soya beans was planted on 12ha.

Under crop diversification, sweet potato and cassava were distributed to selected community members.

Some farmers shared and used the material distributed in the past years. This increased the area under cassava and sweet potato in the impact area. Cassava was planted on 3.5 ha



**Figure 3. Cassava and Sweet Potato fields**

after distributing 210 bundles. However, the total area including the

farmers who benefited from planting materials from previous years distribution was 34 ha.

Sweet potato was planted on 2.2 ha from 85 bags of planting materials distributed this year. Total area achieved including material used from previous distribution was 10 ha.

### 4.0 Irrigation and water management

In the impact areas the main irrigation type was the treadle pump. All the treadle pumps were distributed to communities. Some communities used water from the dam to grow irrigated crops like maize which was sold green.

One dam was constructed in the implementation year which will also provide some water for irrigation activities.

The dashboard below presents the achievement made. It also gives highlights the amount spent as per budget line. It should be noted that the budget presented is for the last two year and the results achieved are for only the 2009 – 2010 implementation year.



**Figure 4. Maize under irrigation**

**Output 10. Improved nutrition of children**

Output 10 (TLC) Objective: Improved nutrition of children OVIs:	Comments on progress towards OVIs:				
Activities:	Comments on activities progress:	Dates		Process targets	
		Start	End	Plan	To date
Facilitate cross-village/site visits to exchange information and experiences	Field tours were done Forestry and tree planting, Natural regeneration, Improved mudstoves, Irrigation and crop diversification and sustainable land management practices. This helped farmers in understanding some practices and improved their implementation performance	July 09	June 10	2	8 field tours
Sensitize & mobilize communities on child labour	Sensitisation meetings were done in order to bring awareness to villagers on various activities. The focus was the causes and child labour and its relationships with pervert and food security programs.	Jul 09	June 10	0	67 meetings
Development of community-based action plans	Action plans were developed for each community. This helps to guide and monitor implementation of activities at community level. All the action plans were then consolidated for each implementation site	Jul 09	Aug 09	2	2 action plans
Sensitize & mobilize communities on nutrition & food security, food processing and utilization techniques	This was done site level and was followed by training of community member were 1,069 community representative were trained in various activities including food preparation and preservation	Jul 09	Dec 09	None	2 meetings
Sensitize and mobilize communities in soil and water conservation practices	Mostly this focused on soil and land degradation, consequences and mitigation measures. Conservation Agriculture also took a central part as one of sustainable land management practices.	Aug 09	Jan 10	None	19 meetings
Provide support in vetiver grass hedgerows planting and nursery establishment	Planting materials were procured and distributed to villagers. Most of the materials were planted on hedgerows. Some communities harvested from the nurseries planted in earlier years and plant on their hedgerows	Dec 09	Mar 10	5 ha	58.4 ha
Provide material & technical support to multiply high yielding cassava varieties	210 bundles of cassava were procured and distributed to communities and over 3.5ha was planted. Other farmers used the pass-on cassava planting materials from the farmers who received the crop last year. Total was 34 ha including those that used seed distributed in previous years	Dec 08	Feb 09	4 ha	3.5 ha



Output 10 (TLC) Objective: Improved nutrition of children OVIs:	Comments on progress towards OVIs:				
Activities:	Comments on activities progress:	Dates		Process targets	
		Start	End	Plan	To date
Provide material & technical support to multiply high yielding sweet potato varieties	85 bags of sweet potato were procured and distributed to villagers. A bit of it came from the pass-on planting material which TLC promotes. Total 10 ha including farmer from previous years	Dec 09	Feb 10	2 ha	2.2 ha
Develop and disseminate IEC materials on nutrition & food security	No new IEC materials were developed, however, during the training the materials developed previous years were used. The materials include nursery and irrigation materials.	Sept 09	Mar 10	None	0
Sensitize & mobilize communities on small-scale irrigation techniques - water harvesting, treadle pump and drip irrigation	These meetings were scheduled to let communities be aware of the opportunities available through implementing irrigation activities. The meetings started at zone level and narrowed down to community level focusing of potential areas.	Jul 09	Jun 10	None	21
Facilitate establishment & management of revolving fund accounts for irrigation clubs/groups	Focus was on the irrigation clubs and to empower them to have a revolving fund that will be financing activities like procuring inputs for its members	Aug 09	Feb 09	None	2
Procure & distribute treadle pump irrigation equipment and input packs	The treadle pumps were distributed and a total of 5 ha was under irrigation	July 09	Sept 10	50	50
Procure & distribute drip irrigation equipment and input packs on loan to households	Not much has been done on irrigation since villagers were busy with rain-fed production.	July 08	Sept 08	20	20

Output 10 (TLC) Objective: Improved nutrition of children OVIs:	Comments on progress towards OVIs:				
Activities:	Comments on activities progress:	Dates		Process targets	
		Start	End	Plan	To date
Procure & distribute Stream diversion input packs	Not much has been done on irrigation since villagers were busy with rain-fed production. The budget is for the 2008 – 2009 season	Aug. 09	Sept. 09	15	15
Construct small scale dams for water harvesting and irrigation	One dam was constructed and completed and the other two for the 2008 – 2009 season bringing to three.	Aug 09	Oct 09	1	1
Sensitize & mobilize communities on establishment of home gardens of fruit trees, vegetables and planting <i>tephrosia vogelli</i> , cassava, soya beans, common beans, sweet potatoes, maize & moringa	Tree planting went on very well and Food Security failed to meet the demand because the target was too low. This also as a result of good response from communities.	Aug 08	Jan 10	None	11
Procure & distribute inputs for establishment of home gardens of fruit trees	All the fruit trees were procured and distributed to villagers. Supervision and training were done and all the seedlings were planted. The number increased, due to reduced cost /seedling	Dec 09	Feb 10	400	1456
Procure & distribute inputs for soya beans	1050 kg of soya beans were procured and distributed. The price of soya beans was much lower than what was budgeted, giving us an opportunity to distribute more soya than what was planned. Some of the soya seed came from the pass-on program which has resulted in achieving a larger community.	Nov 09	Jan 10	3 ha	12 ha
Procure & distribute inputs for <i>Tephrosia</i> planting	120 kg <i>Tephrosia</i> were procured and distributed for legume intercrop. However most of the seedlings were destroyed with the drought experienced just after planting resulting in reduced area achieved	Nov 09	Jan 10	60 ha	12.0 ha
Monitoring and evaluation activities	Monitoring of activities were an on-going activity	July 09	June 10	4	4

**Output 11.** Improved access to labour saving technologies

Output 11- TLC Objective: Improved Labour-Use Efficiency OVIs:	Comments on progress towards OVIs:				
Activities:	Comments on activities progress:	Dates		Process targets	
		Start	End	Plan	To date
Provide support in the establishment of nurseries and tree/ bamboo out-planting and management	Tree planting was done successfully despite the problems with rainfall in the early part of the planting season	Aug 09	Jan 10	300,000	357,824
Conduct on-farm demonstrations on minimum tillage	A lot of demonstrations were achieved because some farmers used their own in-puts. TLC also decided to let farmers contributed towards the demonstrations by providing fertilizers and TLC providing the herbicides. There was overwhelming response from farmers.	Nov 09	June 10	60 demos (6 ha)	36.9 ha
Sensitize & mobilize communities on use of fuel-efficient/labour saving stoves	Communities were exited with the performance of the stove.	July 09	June 10	170	1,744

Output 12 – Increased food security

Output 12 TLC Objective: Income Generation OVIs:	Comments on progress towards OVIs:				
Activities:	Comments on activities progress:	Dates		Process targets	
		Start	End	Plan	To date
Identify households for income generating activities by supporting their access to low cost irrigation and support communities to implement good agricultural practices	The households to participate in this activity are mostly irrigation farmers. Treadle pumps were distributed to farmers. Some farmers got the inputs only	Jul 09	Oct 10	50	15 river diversion packs 4 treadle pumps
Identify viable economic activities in specific areas	Two meetings were conducted on business skills and management. Irrigation farmers were targeted in this activity with the aim that they can promote irrigation activities into viable business activities	July 09	June 10	None	2
Business Counseling Services	One meeting was conducted on business counseling and management.	Nov 09	June 10	None	1
Explore market opportunities	Exploration of markets is an ongoing process.	July 09	June 10	None	0
Provide market information & intelligence	TLC always guides farmers to go into crops that have a high market value. However, this market information normally is oriented to irrigation farmers who grow mostly vegetables and other horticultural crops.	July 09	June 10	None	0

Output 13 – Increased household income

Output 13- TLC Objective: Training OVIs:	Comments on progress towards OVIs:				
Activities:	Comments on activities progress:	Dates		Process targets	
		Start	End	Plan	To date
Orientation on component interventions	Orientation was done, one in each impact area. New village leaders were mainly focused in this orientation.	Jul 09	Aug 09	2	5 trainings
Training on Small-scale Irrigation	Irrigation training focuses on water management, treadle pump assembly and management and irrigated crop husbandry practices	Jul 09	June 10	None	14 trainings
Train group of farmers in nutrition, healthy eating patterns and good diet and food processing and preservation (#)	The training reached 1069 participants who were trained in various nutrition activities, one food variety show was conducted to expose communities in a wide range of food types and their preparation. Most of the trainings were at community level	Nov 09	June 10	30	40 trainings
Train groups of farmers in production of high value horticultural crops – paprika, vegetables & green maize	This training is also done alongside irrigation training to ensure farmers have adequate knowledge in the production of high value crops and this will pick in the next quarter.	Sept 09	Jun 10	20	5 trainings
Training on Planting of <i>Tephrosia</i> , cassava and sweet potato	The trainings were done successfully and farmers implemented the activity and they all focused on sustainable agriculture practices	Nov 09	Jan 10	None	6
Training on Planting of Fruit trees, moringa	The trainings were done successfully and farmers implemented the activity	Dec 09	Feb 09	None	0
Training on Planting of cassava and sweet potato	The trainings were done successfully and farmers implemented the activity	Dec 09	Feb 09	None	0
Training on Marketing of agricultural products	Training on marketing was done at field level hence did not attract any funding	Mar 10	Jun 10	20	2
Training on revolving fund management	The training is done alongside the irrigation activities to allow villagers manage their funds correctly.	Feb 10	Jun 10	None	2

<b>Output 13- TLC Objective: Training OVIs:</b>	<b>Comments on progress towards OVIs:</b>				
<b>Activities:</b>	<b>Comments on activities progress:</b>	<b>Dates</b>		<b>Process targets</b>	
		<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>To date</b>
Training on monitoring, evaluation & impact assessment related to food security and nutrition	This activity is ongoing. Communities are trained on how they can monitor progress of their activities so that they can take corrective measure on time when something goes wrong	Sept 09	Mar 10	None	2
Activities of ICLEP 1 consolidated	Due to insufficient funds, ICLEP I site are not visited frequently	Aug 09	June 10	None	4

## **5.0 Lessons learnt and Challenges**

Food Security and Natural Resource Management program has participated in both ICLEP 1 and ICLEP II. During the implementation period there have been some lessons learnt and some challenges encountered. Some of the notable one includes the following;

- Working with different partners to address community challenges which are normally diverse and complex in nature is a step towards achieving sustainable development. Partners leverage the strength of each other in the implementation process and communities are well supported in terms of addressing their pressing needs.

However, there is a need for partners to understand each other and agree on the common approach to communities to avoid confusion in the implementation process.

- Community programmes normally go beyond provision of infrastructure and other amenities. It also requires good training for the communities that is well structured to facilitate community participation and ownership. This requires time working with communities and allows some activities to become part and parcel of the communities. It was a challenge in ICLEP II programme that each year new communities were being identified and increasing the number of participants without corresponding increases in budget of targets. This resulted in stretching the resources thinly in the impact areas.
- Child labour is a problem in most tobacco growing areas. Targeting a small area within a district may have limited impact on the overall situation of child labour problem. TLC therefore recommends that a similar project should cover a relatively larger area and work with same communities for a longer period.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

ICLEP II formulated a good model for implementing community programs where partners with different expertise work together. Generally, the program has been a success in tackling community challenges.