



TOTAL LANDCARE, MALAWI
INTEGRATED CHILD LABOUR ELIMINATION PROJECT (ICLEP)
FOOD SECURITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 2005 TO JUNE 2006

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July 2006

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Purpose and Objectives

The Integrated Child Labour Elimination Project (ICLEP) has completed its fourth year. It is being implemented by Together Ensuring Children's Security (TECS), Creative Centre for Community Mobilization (CRECCOM), Total LandCare Malawi (TLC) and Nkhoma/Livingstonia Synod under a Memorandum of Agreement with financial assistance from Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco (ECLT). The goal of the project is to eliminate child labour in farm communities by addressing its underlying causes. CRECCOM is implementing the education component. TLC is implementing the food security and agro-forestry component; and Nkhoma/Livingstonia Synod is implementing the water and sanitation component. The Food Security and Natural Resource Management component of ICLEP is aimed at improving food security, income levels and management of natural resources leading to sustainable increases in farm productivity and a better environment for the child.

This objective is being addressed through the following:

- ◇ Increased food security and income levels by introducing dry-season irrigation of food, vegetable and cash crops with the treadle pump and stream diversion through earth canals.
- ◇ Improved soil fertility and crop yields through low-cost agroforestry practices.
- ◇ Improved soil and water conservation for sustainable increases in farm productivity by reducing soil erosion and water runoff.
- ◇ Increased supplies of wood for fuel and building materials by promoting tree and bamboo planting on homesteads, woodlots, farm boundaries and roadsides.

Over the years, TLC has also embarked on two new initiatives which are highly linked to reduction of child labour. The first involves promotion of improved kitchen mud stoves which aim at reducing the time and labour spent by women and girls in collecting wood and cooking. This allows time to be more gainfully deployed to more productive uses, including increased school attendance. The second involves construction and use of eco-sanitation pit latrines. This is a simple low cost technology which if used in combination with potable water supply helps improve hygiene and reduce water borne and other diseases.

1.2 Relevant developments during the year

The Partnership observed that farmers are able to cultivate under irrigation two times a year, this is a drop from three times a year. This mishap is due to the famine that has hit Kasungu and Dowa districts for the past two years. As a solution to this problem, Total LandCare has constructed 4dams in the Project sites, 2 dams in Dwangwa and 2 dams in Ngala, a total of 1,800 house holds will benefit from these dams.

In Dwangwa, the dam will benefit Chilinda Primary and Community Day Secondary School and 4 surrounding villages. The other dam is in Mgaule village, 4 villages that have surrounded this dam will benefit from it.

In Ngala, one dam is located in M'misili village, however, people from Mphalukwa and Chandiuza villages will also benefit from the dam, the pupils from Bwanyundo Primary School pupils will also

benefit from the dam. The second dam is located at Kachala village; people from Kaliyati village will also be able to use the dam. The dams will go a long way in assisting farmers in the following activities:

- Tree nursery establishment: Ngala establishes nurseries late because the rains are usually delayed. The communities will now source water from the dams to water seedlings.
- Tobacco nurseries will be established within the dam site as a result there will be no need to send children to fetch water for the nurseries.
- The water will also be used domestically for laundry and as drinking water for livestock.
- Small plots around the dam will be used for irrigation, an addition of 2 hectares will be irrigated.
- Fish farmers in the area are willing to put fingerlings in the dams, to be able to harvest fish from the dams, in this way enhancing income generation by the household.

2 Achievements against planned activities for the year

2.1 Small-scale irrigation

Total LandCare planned to distribute 100 treadle pumps to qualifying house-holds, however we managed to distribute 178 treadle pumps, out of these pumps 28 were bought by the project, 150 were bought by Phillip Morris. The delegation from Phillip Morris who visited our sites in July 2005 was impressed with TLC's work and level of dedication such that they donated 150 treadle pumps to the project.

From **Table 1**, note that a total of 121.5 and 2.35 hectares were irrigated using treadle pump and stream diversion respectively. The irrigated crops include maize, tomatoes, onions, beans and various types of vegetables. The prevailing hunger situation in the country prompted farmers to irrigate mostly maize. Out of the 123.85 hectares, 117.5 hectares was used to cultivate maize and vegetables were grown on 6ha. With the continued assistance from Total LandCare Field Coordinators, the farmers managed to yield approximately 705,000kg of maize. In previous years, this maize was sold as green maize, however this season farmers have stocked their maize in granaries to be used when the hunger situation worsens. This maize will feed a total number of 490 children,

5 Irrigation farmers multiplied bean seed this season and they yielded 32kg, the selling price for bean seed has been set at MK120 per kg.

Food security entails that food is available and accessible to the masses. Total LandCare ensures that food is made available and accessible to children by providing treadle pumps to the parents of these children-farmers. 490 children are directly benefiting from the 705,000Kg that has been yielded this quarter. Total LandCare has brought food to their houses as a result these children do not have to work in tobacco estates. The household needs firewood to cook this food, the parents will again be tempted to send their children to fetch firewood, thus engaging in child labour but Total LandCare had made firewood available near the homestead.

2.2 Tree Out planting Activities

A total of 792,994 trees out of the 973,023 seedlings raised were planted by the end of the quarter, representing 81.5% survival rate despite the erratic rainfall. The survival rate could have been higher with good rains.

The total number of trees planted represents 78% of the Project target due to the prevailing water shortage problem.

During the year chiefs from Dwangwa visited Manyani Hills in Kasungu to learn from the herbalists who have regenerated the hills with natural trees.

There has been a low response in the outplanting of *Tephrosia vogelii* because of the availability of cheap fertilizer made available by the Government.

2.3 Fruit trees

Farmers managed to plant 4,228 fruit trees from seedlings which were raised by the communities from seeds that the community members themselves collected. These fruit trees have been planted around the homestead. The Project provided 200 mother plants to the farmers.

2.4 Soil and water conservation

TLC managed to construct contour ridges covering 183 hectares protecting the fields from soil run-offs, at the same time conserving rain water which was falling dispersedly. The Field Coordinators worked tirelessly to convince farmers to take up this activity because farmers do not easily adopt activities whose results are long term. 7 vetiver grass nurseries were raised in the quarter while vetiver hedgerows are scheduled to be constructed in January.

2.5 Improved mud stoves

This wood-saving technology was highly demanded by the communities, especially women. A total of 2,601 households in 100 villages were using kitchen mud stoves by the end of the quarter. 3,025 mudstoves have been constructed to date. Improved mud stoves save fuel wood up to 35%, this entails that children do not have to collect firewood. 26% of the members of the household are between the ages of 5-14¹, we can therefore say that we have removed 676.26 children from hazardous work.

2.6 Ecological Sanitation

8 households are involved in ecological sanitation and the number of latrines constructed is 108. This activity has been highly demanded especially because there are no bad smells in the latrines.

Table 1 shows a summary of the achievement made in the year 2005 -2006

¹ NSO 1998 Census

Table 1: July 2005- June 2006 result

	Targets	Results	%
	2005-006	2005-006	Achievement
OVERALL PROGRAM			
No. of Villages/Schools/Estate	220	260	118%
No. Villagers Participating	10,000	9,253	93%
% Female Participating	45%	45	45%
Small-Scale Irrigation			
Treadle pump irrigation			
Villages (#)	10	38	380%
Households (#)	100	178	178%
Treadle Pumps (#)	100	178	178%
Area Irrigated (#)	50	121.05	242%
Stream Diversion			
Villages (#)		4	
Households (#)		359	
Length of canal (km)		4.5	
Area irrigated (ha)		3.7	
Tree Nurseries			
# of Nurseries	300	222	74%
# of Tree Seedlings Raised	990,000	973,023	108%
# Bamboo Seedlings raised		29,589	
Agroforestry/Trees Planting			
Trees Planted all Types	990,000	792,994	78%
Natural Tree Regeneration (ha)	5	27.6	552%
Fruit Trees Planted (# trees)	300	4,428	1339%
Annual Undersowing with Tephrosia (ha)	20	3.25	16%
Improved Fallow with Tephrosia (ha)	2	-	0%
Improved Mud Stoves			
Villages Participating (#)	50	100	200%
Households Involved (#)	500	2,601	520%
Mud Stoves Constructed & in Use	500	3,025	605%
Dam Construction			
Villages involved (#)		6	
Households (#)		123	
Dams (#)		4	
Soil & Water Conservation			
Contour Ridging (ha)	50	183	366%
Gully Control (#)	10	18	180%
Vetiver Grass Nurseries (No.)	10	7	70%
Vetiver Grass Nurseries (ha)	40	111.63	279%
Ecological Sanitation			
# Villages	10	8	70%
# Households Involved	200	108	54%
# Pits & Superstructures Constructed	200	108	54%

Note: Blank or zero means not relevant, not targeted, not yet done, in progress or not completed

Farmer Training

Table 2 shows number of farmers trained per subject matter. Review meetings were conducted on leadership and management of structures as part of exit strategies.

Table 2: Number of Farmers Trained during the year

Subject Matter	Male	Female	Total
Leadership & Management			
Annual program review and planning	100	14	114
Community-based action plan	52	1	53
Coordination of program activities	24	-	24
Community-based monitoring and evaluation	230	93	323
Cross-Cutting			
Child labour elimination sensitization	841	259	1,100
Agroforestry/Tree Planting			
Pitting for timely and proper tree outplanting	438	129	567
Tree outplanting and management	595	215	810
Bamboo propagation and management	595	215	810
Tephrosia undersowing & management	81	17	98
Fruit tree planting and management	394	109	503
Soil & Water Conservation			
Vetiver grass nursery establishment & management	55	61	116
Contour grass hedgerow planting and management	125	122	247
Gully control	112	118	230
Small-Scale Irrigation			
Community sensitization & program review	104	23	127
Loan repayment & management of revolving funds	26	2	28
Compost making and use	64	59	123
Improved Stoves			
Community sensitization	24	61	85
Kitchen mud stoves	7	25	32
Kitchen management	7	25	32
Eco-sanitation			
Community sensitization	69	37	106
Digging pit latrine	18	3	21

3 Problems faced and solutions found - lessons learned

3.1 Treadle pump survey

A treadle pump survey was conducted in the quarter to find out the reasons why some farmers have stopped using the pump. The study revealed that many farmers had started growing crops in their irrigated fields very late because they had a good rainfall harvest. Only 13 farmers out of a total of 677 farmers had not done treadle pump irrigation this year. This represents a percentage of 1.9. Three farmers were identified from Dwangwa site and ten farmers from Ngala site. The club with the highest drop out of members was Dziwazako club, Zozo village in the Ngala site in which eight members out of ten had not participated in treadle pump irrigation.