

our farm in malawi



VISIT TO OUR FARM

Pernille Højmark a danish singer and ambassador for the DanChurchAid “Give a Goat” campaign and has just returned from a trip to Malawi to visit the projects DanChurchAid supports.

One of them was the SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP project.
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THE PROJECT HAS BECOME A HUGE SUCCESS

In cooperation with DanChurchAid SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP has supported setting up egg laying farms in Malawi since 2007 with a commitment to a five year support of the project. Meaning the last donation was given in 2012.

The project has become a huge success to the people in Malawi and also one of the most successfull ones for DanChurchAid.

We in the SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP are very

proud to be part of ensuring better living standards for the communities involved and to see the general improvements in the villages. We have therefore decided to start up a new project together with DanChurchAid in Malawi for 2013.

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HERE COMES THE WOMEN FROM MTOSO

In the village Mtoso in Malawi pride and hope is alive. Women have teamed up running a successful egg business.

By Eva Højrup, DanChurchAid: From the visit of Pernille Højmark to our farm in Malawi.

Tears find their way into the eyes of Pernille Højmark, when she meets 36 singing and dancing women in the village Mtoso.

“We wish you a warm welcome here,” they sing to her while the dance and clap.

They have the same gold-colored dresses, and their eyes sparkle with anticipation and smiles.

Pernille Højmark, a danish singer and ambassador for the DanChurchAid “Give a Goat” campaign,

just returned from a trip to Malawi to visit the projects which DanChurchAid supports. One of them is the SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP project.

“They are amazing” Pernille Højmark burst out at the sight of the women and she begin to dance with them.

She is ready to recieve a tour of the village.



Women in Mtoso have made similar dresses, they want to show that they are together.

MONEY IN THE BANK



In Mtoso, about a half-hour drive from the capital, it all began with 2000 chickens which the women received from DanChurchAid's partner, ELDS and SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP.

With the help of the donation they have built two poultry farms. They were taught to care for the chickens and give them the right food.

Business is good; they sell the eggs on the local market, and buyers also come directly to the village to purchase eggs.

The women is saving for a large number of joint projects and the saved money is in the Opportunity Bank of Malawi. *"In addition to money in the bank, we have a common pot here in the city. We meet and agree on what to invest in, and we also pay salaries to ourselves,"* says Christina Kagona, secretary of the women's committee.

A joint investment can for instance be, the common corn granary, which ensures the corn against rats. Over the next four years the women hope to afford a common corn mill.

In Mtoso one new house after another pops up, and some of the small houses even have real windows and curtains. It is quite distinctly that there is optimism and progress in the village.

On the way back to the car Pernille breaks out: *"So it is these strong women that controls Malawi. They are simply too cool, their great engagement, dedication and pride lights out of them"* she says.

We leave the village with a good feeling. There is plenty of hope for the people of Mtoso in Malawi.



Pernille Højmark is invited into one of chicken farms where brown healthy chickens are strutting around.

They pinch a little out after her white legs, while she puts a lot of questions toward the women.



PROMOTING CHICKEN FARMING IN CHAMPHIRA, MALAWI

New project in 2013 in cooperation with DanChurchAid and the local Christian Service Committee (CSC) of the churches in Malawi.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Small-scale poultry rearing in Malawi are reared in two management systems:

- a) Free range system, in which chickens are left to scavenge for food during the day, and are housed overnight, or
- b) intensive system in which broilers or layers are kept in specially built chicken houses or cages, and provided with feed and water in a controlled way.

This management system is practiced by some in Champhira. Most farming families keep an average of four chickens per household which serve as a source of protein (in the form of meat and eggs), used for ritual rites, paying fines and as gifts to friends. Chicken are kept to provide meet and eggs

but also to provide as insurance for money or food in hard times. Poultry also provide manure to improve soil fertility. However, farmers are denied maximum benefits from this farming practice due to lack of knowledge and skills as most of their game is lost to diseases, predators, and bad weather.

Christian Service Committee with support from SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP and Lactosan-SANOVO Ingredients Group would like to implement a project to improve farmers' skills in poultry farming practices with the aim of not only to compliment household dietary needs, but also to ensure poor small holder farmers are economically empowered to successfully manage small poultry farming enterprise to uplift their livelihood.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To increase intake of protein among resource poor farmers
- ▶ To increase source of organic manure, which in the long run could totally substitute need to apply costly chemical fertilizers.
- ▶ Turn poultry farming into a sustainable income generating activity for the rural poor.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION OF CHICKEN PENS (HOUSING)

The project will train farmers in a semi-intensive system of rearing chickens which combines feeding and watering the chickens under controlled conditions, and allowing them to scavenge within an enclosed area. The semi-intensive system will encompass the following minimum requirements:

- The chickens will be housed overnight, in order to protect them from cold, bad weather and predators.
- The houses will be designed in such a way to provide adequate ventilation for the chickens while at the same time ensuring that the ventilation holes do not allow predators such as vultures, snakes and rats.
- Chicken houses will be raised at least one meter from the ground. Houses will be designed so that they are easy to clean. Chicken droppings will fall through the floor and not build up in the house. For affordability purposes, locally available materials will be used to construct the structure which will have few places where insect pests such as ticks can hide. Plastic sheets will be embedded in the thatched roof of the structure to ensure that it is rain proof.



CHICKEN FEED

The chickens will get most of their food from scavenging within the areas. The Black Austrorop chicken breed, commonly known as the Mikolongwe chicken is bred for this type of feeding regime. However at certain times of year, particularly during the rainy season, food may become scarce. Farmers will therefore be encouraged to save some feeds - such as maize bran to supplement the chickens' diet during these periods.

DISEASE CONTROL

Whilst farmers will be trained on basic hygiene to limit spread of poultry disease. There will be need for the chicken to be vaccinated against the major devastating poultry diseases, Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis, Marek's disease and fowl pox. Other important poultry diseases such as coccidiosis would be protected against using suitable drugs. A drug revolving fund will therefore be established where farmers can use the funds when necessary to procure drugs and timely vaccinate the chickens against diseases.

Good management keeps poultry flocks healthy. In order to prevent outbreaks all chickens in the surrounding project areas will have to be vaccinated together with the project chickens brought. The 'all-in, all-out' system will be utilized to minimize the risk of re-infecting new batches.

TARGET GROUP

The project will target 85 households to directly benefit from the project. The selected households will comprise poor and vulnerable families special consideration will be given to women and child headed households.

It is expected the project will on average benefit about 425 individuals in the Champira area.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The selected farming families will be trained in two cohorts of 45 per session to equip them with knowledge and skills to manage a chicken enterprise to improve poultry (egg and meat) production. The trainings will be coordinated by CSC but facilitated by veterinary department personnel.

A drug revolving fund will be established which will serve as a source of funds for procuring essential veterinary drugs and vaccines for the chickens for preventive treatment and disease control. The project will provide a start-up capital of MK30,000 to establish the fund. Each participating households will be expected to make regular contributions of a fixed amount as agreed among the farming families to sustain the fund.

Participating households will get 10 chicks of the Mikolongwe breed as a starter pack. In addition, each family will also get 2 local chickens for cross breeding. The distribution will be done after the participating households construct standard chicken houses and had been duly inspected and verified by extension staff in the area. Subsequent distribution of chickens to new farmers will be on pass-on basis.

CSC field staff will supervise construction of chicken houses to make sure that specifications are adhered to. To ensure that good practices are followed, field staff will also monitor how farming families are managing the chickens at every stage of growth and provide relevant advice where necessary.

First generation beneficiaries will pass on first five offspring chickens to a second generation beneficiaries.

At the end the project will be conducted to assess the implementation and impact of the project and draw lessons for input in future projects.

The beneficiaries will provide their own labour and locally available materials for the construction of the chicken houses. They will also be responsible for the day to day management of the chickens.

The project will be a component of the Food Security Project, which is promoting agricultural diversification as a means of improving nutrition as well as increasing resilience to adverse weather due to climate change. Project staff will work hand in hand with government extension staff from the veterinary department and other stakeholders in the impact areas to ensure follow-up of project activities after project phases out.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO FOLLOW THE PROJECT



WE CARE

Corporate Social Responsibility play and important role in THORNICO

In Thornico we call CSR for Company Karma.

We strive to combine doing well with doing good aiming at creating value for our 4 most important stakeholders:

- The company
- Our employees
- Our customers and partners
- The projects and courses we believe in

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