

# PROJECT REPORT

*To Fairhandeln*

## SUPPORT TOWARDS THE EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN THE DIOCESE OF MONZE.



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*May 2018.*

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## **Acronyms**

CA	Community Animator
CDO	Capacity Development Officer
EEPO	Economic Empowerment Project Officer
MDDD	Monze Diocese Development Department

## 1. Introduction

The women empowerment report is intended to share, in summary, the activities undertaken to help women develop their capacities to effectively participate in their own growth, the growth of their own families and consequently of the communities in which they are found.

The overall objective of the project is - *To contribute towards the Sustainable Economic and Social Empowerment of Women in Monze Diocese Zambia.*

While the specific project objective was - *To have trained 50 women in crafts, sewing, entrepreneurship, Community banking, and Home management by end of August 2017.*

The Fairhandeln support for women Empowerment in the Diocese of Monze started in 2015 with 3 groups of women. This has extended to 29 groups of women with the 2017 financial support. In total 403 women benefited from the interventions of the 2017 project.

## 2. Project Activities and Results

### 2.1. Training in women empowerment.



***Food and Nutrition Training at Development Office in Monze under the guidance of Sister Edna the Capacity Development Officer.***

Conducted 4x10 days training for Facilitators and women group chairpersons in Home Management, Health education, Laundry, needlework, hygiene, food and nutrition, Savings and Lending, entrepreneurship and livestock production focussing on chicken and goat rearing.

The trainings involved both theory and

practicals. It was hoped that those being trained would share the knowledge with other members of their respective groups. Hence targeting facilitators and chairpersons of groups. A total of 145 women representatives (5 women from each of the 29 groups) participated in the afore mentioned 4 x 10 days training.

During these trainings government officials from the government department of Community Development were invited to share with the women the different programs and opportunities offered by the Zambian Government for women empowerment. The Government officials also shared with the women on the planned 16 days of GBV activism scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> November to 11<sup>th</sup> December of 2017.



### 2.1.1. Results

- **Livestock** - As a consequent to this training 312 goats were given to 6 women groups (52 goats per group) using the POG (Passing On the Gift) concept. Within each of the 6 groups ten women were selected and given five female goats each. For breeding purposes each of the 6 women goats' benefiting groups were given two male goats. The POG concept means that each receipt of the five goats is expected to pass on five goats to the next member of the group from the off springs to be realised. At the time of reporting, 4 of the 6 groups were ready to pass on.



*Blind folded Woman in Siavonga selecting goats while the husband watches during handover ceremony.*

Other women embarked on Chicken rearing on their own having acquired the knowledge from the Training. This was evident in 8 women groups. They took on chicken rearing as a business from which they were able to raise quick money. Such initiative came up as a result of the entrepreneurship training underwent by the women.



*Mrs. Grace Nkandela of Cheeba community explaining to the Namalundu Parish Development Animator how she keeps her chicken and how they have been of benefit to herself and her family.*

- **Sewing-** Training in Sewing was received whole heartedly as the women are now able to sew uniforms for their children, garments for themselves and in some cases for their neighbours who may not have undergone this course. Earlier in 2015 the women were taught how to use sewing machines. The challenge faced was that most of them (if not all of them) cannot afford to buy a sewing machine. With hand sewing all they need is thread and a needle. The results of this training was very impressive – see picture.



*Eleven women displaying their hand sewn garments.*

- **OSAWe (Own Savings for Assets and Wealth)** – Having undergone training in community Savings and credit for investment, 12 women groups started saving and



*A woman in Lusitu sets herself up using money borrowed from her OSAWe group to sell food to traders near a market.*

borrowing from the group. 372 women are participating. Over the past 8 months they managed to save ZMW 16,900. Those who have borrowed from the group they have been able

to invest into various retail businesses while others have invested into food production.



## 2.2. Monitoring of women groups

While the Monze Diocese development Department staff regularly visits the women groups to mentor them, community (women) facilitators were also identified to help their fellow women. This is a voluntary undertaking which in a way is a sacrifice. To motivate as well as support these volunteers, 13 bicycles (see picture right) were purchased and given to them for their work.

*Bicycles purchased for the women groups facilitators to enhance mobility as they get round to visit group members.*



## 2.3. Fencing of gardens – See picture left.

This is an intervention done outside the proposal but partly with the funds received from Fairhandeln. The initiative was undertaken in Cheeba community of Namalundu Parish. The key beneficiaries were women who spend their time growing vegetables while their husbands go fishing.

*Fencing of Mrs. Grace Nkandela's garden with veld-span supported by live poles. A sure way to protect vegetable garden and conserve trees.*

This support was given as a loan to be repaid over a period of 8 months from the time of signing the contract yet to be done.

The fencing loan which was given to ten families of Cheeba community has made it easier for the women not worry about their goats and cattle grazing in their gardens. Once they properly close the gate they are able to go about doing other works. This has also empowered families to undertake both farming activities without stress as they know the vegetables / crops are properly fenced off. The use of industrial fencing is also a step in the right direction of conserving trees and shrubs which were in the past being cut down for fencing off their gardens. These shrubs had to be replaced at least every third year meaning more trees and shrubs or should we say more cutting down of trees affecting the environment.

### 3. Project Effects

- 3.1. **Women Assertiveness** - The visits taken to 13 of the 29 women groups reveal that targeted women have gathered courage to speak out their views in public and they are being recognised at community level, in their respective churches and even at District gatherings for women.
- 3.2. **Economic growth** – Of the 403 women worked with, 187 have established themselves economic either through market oriented approaches to vegetable growing, livestock production, trading and crafts production.
- 3.3. **Improved hygiene and home management** – the majority of the targeted women now live in clean surroundings and developed budget system for managing finances in their homes.
- 3.4. **Unifying forces** – We have noticed a trend of an increase in numbers of men participating in development meetings; joining their spouses. This rarely used to happen.

### 4. Conclusion

We are certain the women empowerment interventions undertaken through this project have had a positive effect not only the targeted women but their families as well as the villages where they come from.

We realise there are some challenges that may have been faced along the way but these are not so significant as to paint a negative picture of the positive influences the project is having on the lives of the participants to the project.

### 5. Acknowledgement

Monze Diocese Development Department will always remain indebted to Fairhandeln for the opportunity given through funding of this project towards the realisation of their dream of having a Diocesan community that is self-sustaining and free from hunger, poverty, ignorance and all kinds of injustices.

Thanks to the Bishop for his ever unwavering encouragement and support for the Diocesan Development executive staff. Which support and encouragement has continued to be a driving force for a self-motivated team of staff.

We also recognise the other partners such as Misereor, JCP and CAFOD that have in a way continued to finance the development department. Without their support the department as an institution would not manage to sustain the executive staff. We also acknowledge Government support through their department of community Development who were key stakeholders in the works undertaken.