



**TOTAL LANDCARE, MALAWI**

**INTEGRATED CHILD LABOUR ELIMINATION PROJECT PHASE II (ICLEP II)**

**FOOD SECURITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 2006 – JUNE 2007**

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## **1 Context and Introduction**

The Integrated Child Labour Elimination Project has completed its fifth year under phase II (ICLEP II) which is being implemented by a partner alliance of Creative Centre for Community Mobilization (CRECCOM), Total LandCare Malawi (TLC), Life-Line 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 by addressing its underlying causes. CRECCOM has taken over the coordinating role of the project and is implementing the education component. TLC is implementing the food security and agro-forestry component; Life-Line is implementing the health component and Nkhoma/Livingstonia Synod is implementing the water and sanitation component. The year has been more challenging in many aspects including the delay in baseline survey which delayed most of the activities. After the baseline survey, we went into implementation and were supposed to meet the targets within the remaining six or so months. This made us to work a little harder to achieve the targets. Despite the delay we also meet another challenge of frequent meetings to set the project activities on the right course. This resulted into further delaying of some activities and reduced monitoring of the progress of activities at communal level.

TLC approach focuses on communities and involves communities on the identification and prioritisation of problems, planning and monitoring of the progress of activities. As such most of the food security and agro-forestry activities were organized communally under the leadership of existing village structures (Group Village Headmen and Village Headmen) to facilitate timely implementation and quality work. TLC provided hands-on farmer trainings, all the necessary materials and equipment, start-up inputs for irrigation activities and regular field supervision to ensure sound establishment and implementation of project interventions. Irrigation equipment like treadle pumps and materials (input packs) were provided to farmers on loan as a package. The input packs were provided to make sure that farmers go into production immediately. Village-based action plans were developed based on community needs and choice of activities. Farmers were encouraged to form clubs which were trained in group dynamics to strengthen the clubs.

The activities as we moved towards the end of the year picked up. However, food security activities being seasonal dependent, we lost a good part of the season and we could not implement some activities due to their periodic nature. TLC managed to achieve the targets for some of the activities and failed to achieve some due to the challenges highlighted above. The achievement was made because TLC put in good preparation and set everything in the right course to move fast once the baseline was done. To our satisfaction it worked very well and we managed to achieve more than

expected within the limited time we had. Generally, we could say the year was successful as far as implementation of activities is concerned. Community participation has been good in most programs.

The activities implemented during the year targeted different beneficiaries/villages more particularly those that had child labour problems. Normally, TLC uses group approach in the implementation of the programs, because it has been observed to be more effective by using peer pressure and it is easy to reach many farmers within a short time. However, in some instances this could not work well due to social problems existing within communities. Where this exist and some individual farmers show interest to implement an activity, TLC also work with such individuals as long as they met the set conditions and are able to show that they can manage to implement the activity. This was common in tree planting program and not possible with irrigation programs, for clubs are used as a form of security to qualify for irrigation loan.

Generally both ICLEP II sites were provided with good weather for most of the activities. In some cases rain exceeded the normal, resulting in affecting the implementation of programs and destruction in some structures. The growing season for the just ended started a little earlier than expected and most farmers were not ready. However, they worked hard and managed to cope up with the situation well.

## **2 Achievements made in 2006 - 2007 implementation year.**

This report covers the activities implemented in the implementation year, 2006-2007 under Food Security and Natural Resource Management (FSNRM) component of the Integrated Child Labor Elimination Project Phase II (ICLEP II). Achievements made, challenges and suggested way forward into the second year has also been explained. During the year, TLC made a lot of efforts to implement all the set activities in the work program. The following explains activities implemented and achievements made;

### **2.1 Program overall**

- Looking at the program as a whole, we managed to reach 223 villages in which 8,904 villagers participated in various activities with a 44% women participation. The high number of villages was achieved due to the recent past developments where villages were broken up into smaller units than before with very few households per village.
- We conducted 55 community sensitisation/awareness meetings where local leaders at different levels participated. A total of 3,715 villagers including 1,480 women attended the meetings. The objective was to let leaders and their communities be aware and understand the objectives of the program and intended

goals. Some of these meetings were specific for various activities being implemented in ICLEP II sites.

- Eight field days were organised on various activities in which 464 men and 367 women participated. The objective was to let communities see and appreciate performance of activities and learn from their counterparts how they are implementing the activities. The field days covered the effect of manure on soil and crops, small earth dam construction, irrigation activities, afforestation and many others.
- Demonstrations and trainings were conducted in various activities. 50 demonstrations were done with a participation of 1,150 people including 440 women. A total of 14,130 student days were covered involving various activities of which 31.8% were women participants.
- Community review meeting were conducted which focused on the progress of activities within communities and charting the way forward. These meeting proved to be useful because communities were able to discuss problems encountered and find solutions.

## **2.2 Improved Nutrition of children**

The activities under improved nutrition were centred on the objective of improving nutritional status of the people in the targeted area. Focus was on:

- providing information on what constitutes a well balanced diet including the food stuffs that can be used to make a balanced diet.
- Supporting household on the production of high nutritious food which include soya beans and common beans
- Training households on food processing, utilisation and storage from various food stuff.
- 11 awareness meetings on nutrition were conducted in which importance of a balanced diet, foods that can be used to make up a balanced diet and other nutrition messages were discussed. 308 women and 56 men attended the awareness meetings.
- 43 villages participated in nutrition training with 168 participants trained in nutrition and food processing, preservation and storage. The approach was to train the first group which will act as trainers to continue training other community members. This is only 15.8% of the target. We hope to meet the target next implementation year together with that year's target. 18 members of staff from government were also trained in nutrition.

- 1000 fruit trees were procured, distributed and planted by communities. The species included mangoes, guava, oranges and tangerines. We are thinking of making these as mother orchards where communities will be getting scions for further multiplication after being trained in budding/top working of fruits.

### 2.3 Improved access to labour saving technologies.

The activities under this subcomponent were centred on;

- **Tree planting:** nursery materials, equipment and seeds were procured and distributed to the communities. We had a total of 521 tree nurseries that received 600,000 polytubes. All the polytubes were filled and all the tree seedlings were out-planted. The high number of nurseries was deliberate to allow farmers to properly manage the seedlings. 642,000 tree seedlings were raised. Some farmers sourced and used their own pots and collected their own seeds that they used.
- **Bamboo planting:** a total of 23,133 were planted. Most of these were planted in old rubbish pits around homesteads.
- **Natural tree regeneration:** communities managed to reclaim and protect 9.4 ha of degraded forests. This will allow regeneration of indigenous tree species and provide the valuable building materials, wood for fuel and other uses.
- **Conservation farming:** 11 On-farm demonstration on conservation agriculture were mounted totaling an area of 1.1ha. However, due to delayed implementation of programs some farmers pulled out due to delayed input delivery, hence we could not achieve the target
- **Improved mudstoves:** 37 villages participated in mudstove construction involving 1592 households. By the end of the year 250 stoves were completed and were being used by the communities.

### 2.4 Improved food security

- 100 treadle pumps were procured and distributed to 100 beneficiaries in 28 villages. An area totaling to 43.5 ha was irrigated and a wide range of crops were grown.
- 26 villages were involved in cassava production. 312 households participated where 5.4 planted with cassava.
- 8 villages received sweet potato planting materials. 196 households benefited and a total area of 5.2 ha was planted.
- Farmers were trained in sustainable land management practices including soil and water conservation, soil fertility improvement/maintenance. Contour ridging

covered 40 ha. 7 gullies were controlled by constructing check dams across the gullies. 9 vetiver nurseries were established covering a total area of 2.6 ha. 5 km of vetiver hedgerows were planted in the field to reduce the flow of water which may result in erosion.

- Tephrosia was mostly used for soil fertility improvement. 33 ha were undersown with tephrosia. No improved fallow established yet since this was first year. 25,000 *Feidhibia albida* seedlings were planted in the cropping fields.
- Two dams were constructed, one in each district. The intension was to use the stored water for irrigation. However, due to heavy rains, we lost both dams. Plans to maintain them are underway.

## **2.5 Increased household incomes**

- So far not much was achieved in this activity. One group involving 7 farmers and one government officer went on a tour to a well established association in order to learn from their counterparts the procedures and management of associations. The objective is to organise the farmers into an association so that they can access good markets for their produce. Farmers were also advised to grow high value crops such as paprika.
- Paprika, beans and new high yielding tomato variety were introduced as high value crops and mostly to be grown under irrigation. 10 clubs were trained in the management of these crops in which 113 members participated. The reason is to let them become effective producer groups.

## **2.6 Other activities**

Food security participated in a number of activities that took place in the course of the year including the launching of Kasese Health centre – in commemoration of World Day Against Child Labour; an event that involved demonstration of various intervention being implemented in the two districts including food security programs being implemented by TLC in order to address child labour issues.

We supplied 50 fruit tree seedlings at Kasese clinic which will act as demonstration on the management and care of fruit trees. This will also act as a source of scions for further multiplication of fruit trees to improve on nutrition. 300 other tree species were also planted around the clinic.

We have also developed monitoring and evaluation tools that will help in the monitoring and evaluating the progress of activities and their impact to the communities over a specified period of time.

For the details of activities, achievement made in the year see the dashboard below.

TLC continues to support some activities in ICLEP I sites with supervisory visits and other technical skills through trainings and inputs where necessary. There is very good progress in most activities like irrigation, soil & water conservation, rain water harvesting and afforestation program.

**Tables 1-4** are summarised activities based on the food security component outputs.



**Table 1. Activities based on Output 10**

<b>Objective: Improved nutrition of children OVIs:</b>	<b>Comments on progress towards OVIs:</b>				
Baseline done	The baseline survey was done and completed. Now we are waiting for the report of the base line which was said will be released in January 2007				
<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>
Assess available resources at the community level	Baseline completed for the report in the first half of the year but official results have not been communicated	Jul 06	Sept 06	None	1
Facilitate cross-village/site visits to exchange information and experiences	Planned to start in May 07. Mostly it was local leaders and club leaders that were involved. 246 people were involved in the visits. The visits were to ICLEP I sites	May 07	June 07	2	2
Review criteria with District Assemblies & select beneficiaries	The criteria with District Assemblies was to ensure proper targeting. TLC worked with 223 villages in the first year.	Jul 06	Oct 06	200	182
Sensitize & mobilize communities on child labour	Sensitization was done from local leaders to their communities. Child labour commemoration also took place in the impact areas to increase awareness of child labour among communities. However, the on-set was delayed due to delayed baseline survey which has shifted most activities.	Jul 06	June 07	15 meetings	55
Development of community-based action plans	This was done to empower communities so that they can track and monitor progress of activities	Jul 06	Aug 06	1	1
Review, research & provide information on nutritional needs/diets of affected households	Assesment of the availability of food stuffs within the community, knowledge of nutrition and information available in the communities was done	Nov 06	Dec 06	None	None
Sensitize & mobilize communities on nutrition & food security	Communities were sensitised and trained in food groups, the value of balanced diet, food processing and storage.	Jul 06	Aug 06	None	11 meetings
Sensitize & mobilize communities in food processing and utilization techniques	Communities were sensitised and trained in food groups, the value of balanced diet, food processing and storage.	Jul 06	Aug 06	None	11 meetings
Sensitize and mobilize communities in soil and water conservation practices	It was done successfully and communities implemented soil and water activities. Communities realised the importance of soil conservation and participation was very good hence high achievement	Nov 06	Jan 07	40	112.5ha
Provide material & technical support to multiply high yielding cassava varieties	Though planned to start in January 07 the activity started earlier in response to early rains received. All the necessary planting materials were sourced, procured and delivered to the farmers. We were able to buy more planting materials because the cost of planting materials went down during the planting season due to the abundance of the material.	Jan 07	April 07	3 Ha	5.4 ha

Provide material & technical support to multiply high yielding sweet potato varieties	Though planned to start in January 07 the activity started earlier in response to the early rains received. All the necessary planting materials were sourced, procured and delivered to the farmers	Jan 07	April 07	2 Ha	5.2 ha
Develop and disseminate IEC materials on nutrition & food security	On-going. Information and materials for the development of IEC materials have been collected and development will commence in the next implementation year to produce relevant messages for the farmers	Sept 06	Jan 07	None	None
Sensitize & mobilize communities on small-scale irrigation techniques - water harvesting, treadle pump and drip irrigation	Due to the preparation we had, delayed baseline had little effect on this and farmers planted some crops. However, these households could not fully utilize and realize the irrigation benefits because they only had one crop grown for irrigation. Sensitisation continued in April – June and farmers have just planted their first irrigated crop	Nov 06	Dec 06	100hh	132 hh
Facilitate establishment & management of revolving fund accounts for irrigation clubs/groups	All farmers who received treadle pumps are required to pay a deposit into the revolving fund which is being managed by TLC. Stable club membership is a prerequisite for irrigation farmers to benefit from TLC. All the repayments are expected to be deposited into this account.	Nov 06	Feb 07	None	30 Clubs
Procure & distribute treadle pump irrigation equipment and input packs on loan to households	Procurement completed, distribution followed immediately after the baseline survey, but utilisation was not adequate due to very short period. Irrigation activities continued from May and some farmers had planted their crops and are almost ready	Oct 06	Dec 06	100	100
Procure & distribute drip irrigation equipment and input packs on loan to households	Procurement completed, distribution was not done due to delayed in baseline survey. We are in the process of distributing the Drip kits and trainings are being conducted	Oct 06	Dec 06	100	8
Procure & distribute stream diversion input packs on loan to households	Procurement completed, distribution was done to 25 households who were ready. However, with the drought experienced last season, most rivers dried up and the activity could not be implemented. Since the irrigation season has just started, this year we will achieve more with the good rains we had.	Oct 06	Dec 06	100 hh	25 hh
Procure & distribute stream diversion PVC pipes	Procurement was done and some were distributed to farmers for use	Nov 06	Dec 06	2 km	None
Construction of dams	Completed in December. However, the two dams were lost due to heavy rains and maintenance is in progress	Nov 06	Dec 06	2	2

Activities:	Comments on activities progress:	Dates		Process targets	
		Start	End	Plan	To date
Sensitize & mobilize communities on establishment of home gardens of fruit trees, vegetables and planting tephrosia, cassava, soya beans, common beans, sweet potatoes, maize & moringa	Communities were sensitised and identified to implement the stated activities.	Nov 06	Jan 07	None	None
Procure & distribute inputs for establishment of home gardens of fruit trees, vegetables, cassava, maize, common beans, sweet potatoes & moringa	Fruit trees, cassava and s/potato were distributed to beneficiaries, some vegetables were grown in irrigated fields and beans has been distributed to irrigation farmers.	Jan 07	April 07	1000	1000
Procure & distribute inputs for soya beans	Soya was distributed to beneficiaries and planted. So far we have realised more than a tonne. 265kg were distributed to communities. We managed to buy more than the target due to low price than anticipated at the market. This enabled us to achieve more than what was targeted.	Jan 07	April 07	6 ha	22 ha
Procure & distribute inputs for tephrosia planting	Though planned to start in January 07, planting has started earlier due to early on set of the rains.. There was good response from farmers. Farmers were convinced and took up the initiative that some managed to get their own seeds. The price also of the seed was lower than usual.	Jan 07	April 07	30 ha	33.2 ha
Monitoring and evaluation activities	Planned to be done quarterly for the entire project life. Progress of activities was good despite late start of the implementation after the base line	Oct 06	June 07	3	1

**Table 2. Activities based on Output 11**

Objective: Improved Labour-Use Efficiency OVIs:	Comments on progress towards OVIs:				
Baseline done	The baseline was done in November and completed. No official results have been released				
Activities:	Comments on activities progress:	Dates		Process targets	
		Start	End	Plan	To date
Review, research & advise on wood use needs of affected households	Fuel wood requirement is very high. Some people do not have access to wood, they use dried maize stalks for wood	Nov 06	Dec 06	None	None
Provide support in the establishment of nurseries and tree/ bamboo outplanting and management	Tree planting though started very late, was successful due to the demand and realisation of problems most communities are meeting in finding building materials and wood energy.	Nov 06	Jan 07	600,000	645,983
Conduct on-farm demonstrations on minimum tillage	Implemented and achieved less than targeted due to a combination of delayed baseline survey and early on set of rains which made preparation very difficult that some farmers withdrew due slight delay in input delivery	Nov 06	Dec 06	2 Ha	1.3 ha
Sensitize & mobilize communities on use of fuel-efficient/labour saving stoves	36 villages were sensitised and trained on this activity. Response has been so good and training continues within the communities resulting in many stoves being constructed. Most communities are taking up this technology and we expect that we will achieve more since may will construct them on their own	Nov 06	Jan 07	250	250

**Table 3 Activities based on Output 12**

<b>Objective: Income Generation OVs:</b>	<b>Comments on progress towards OVIs:</b>				
Baseline done	The baseline was done in November and completed. No official results have been released				
<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>
Identify households for income generating activities by supporting them with access to low cost irrigation and support communities to implement good agricultural practices	Farmers for small scale irrigation were identified. These included both systems of irrigation. However, due to high landing cost of drip kits than expected only 8 (500m <sup>2</sup> ) drip kits were procured. The drip kits will be used this winter. The total area that was under irrigation was 43.5ha	Jul 06	Aug 06	300	108
Establish business working groups	TLC has mobilised farmers to form clubs and will continue to encourage more farmers to work in groups. The idea is organise them to form an association which will give them more power and access better markets for their products. These farmers are trained to become effective producer groups	Jul 06	Aug 06	30 clubs	30
Identify viable economic activities in specific areas	On-going, and high value crops like paprika were introduced and communities were encouraged to grow especially under irrigation. Some farmers grew irrigated paprika which performed very well	Sept 06	Oct 06	None	None
Business Counseling Services	The activity has not been implemented due to time constraints. It is also on-going and will be implemented in the next implementation year	Mar 07	June 07	None	None
Research & identify products with market expansion potential	Visits were made to major producing areas for some crops to check the quality and quantity of products. Some crops like irish potato were tried in some irrigation sites. Irrigated paprika is promising because of its performance under irrigation and cabbage and tomato are also grown as high value crops	Feb 07	June 07	None	None
Explore market opportunities in Malawi	Some super markets were visited and discussion are still under way to accommodate irrigated farmers' products into these supermarkets.	Feb 07	June 07	None	None
Provide market information & intelligence	Farmers were advised on the production variability of various crops, prices changes over the year and gross margins for each crop for all the seasons to allow them make intelligent choices when growing and timing their crops	Mar 07	June 07	None	None
Create buyer-seller linkages & identify intermediaries	Visit to markets were done to check the vendors and the prices they offer.	Mar 07	June 07	None	None

**Table 4. Activities based on Output 13**

<b>Objective: Training</b> <b>OVI:</b> Baseline done, results not convincing	<b>Comments on progress towards OVIs:</b> The baseline was done in November and completed. No official results have been released				
<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>
Orientation on component interventions	Farmer orientation on component activities was done but due to the delay of the baseline survey, it was done at village level where 223 villages were involved and 8904 villagers were reached	Jul 06	Aug 06	1	223
Training on Small-scale Irrigation	The training was done but implementation was low due to late start of activities.	Nov 06	Oct 06	30 clubs	30 clubs
Train group of farmers in nutrition, healthy eating patterns and good diet	The activity was done in the last half of the year. Due to late start and time constraints we could not train as planned. The difference will be trained in second year	Nov 06	Jan 07	1000 h/h	168 hh in 6 sessions
Train groups of farmers in production of high value horticultural crops – paprika, vegetables & green maize.	Only one group was trained in paprika & beans production. The rest of the groups were trained in vegetables, tomato and green maize production	Nov 06	Oct 06	50 sessions	50
Training on planting tephrosia, fruit trees, moringa, bamboo, cassava and sweet potato	Communities were trained in this period in response to the early rains than expected.	Jan 07	April 07	10 sessions	10 sessions
Training on value-added agro-processing	Communities were trained in fruit juice, Jam and production other products from various fruits	Feb 07	April 07	50 sessions	6 sessions
Training on monitoring, evaluation & impact assessment related to food security and nutrition	This training was done and survey conducted on nutrition and its impacts	Sept 06	Jan 07	None	170 households
Association Formation Training	10 clubs were trained on efficient producer organisation and 113 households were involved	Sep 06	Oct 06	25 sessions	10
Activities of ICLEP 1 consolidated	A formal survey has not been done yet, however, activities in ICLEP I sites are going on very well	Aug 06	Sept 06	1	None

### 3 Challenges

Despite the good progress of activities and all the achievements made in the course of the year, implementation of programmes was faced with a number of challenges. Some of the notable challenges were;

- ف **Delayed Baseline survey.** This impacted implementation of activities by shifting forward some of the food security activities and bearing in mind that most of food security activities are season dependent, we had a lot of difficulties to manage, implement and achieve what we have presented. This is because of the preparation we made to implement soon after the baseline was done. Some activities were rescheduled to enable the most pertinent and time dependent activities to be done in time.
- ف **The demand for food security activities.** The demand for activities by the communities is very high than what is in the work plan. TLC is trying hard to reach as many beneficiaries as possible with the limited resources available. This has resulted into some communities finding their own inputs, like tree seeds, raising their own fruit trees etc.
- ف **Early start of Rains.** The rains started a bit earlier this growing season than expected. This affected farmers' reaction and sent most farmers into panic for they were not fully prepared to get the rain at the time it started. TLC copped with the situation and managed to implement most of its programs. TLC properly scheduled and directed the farmers in the implementation of programs in order for the farmers not to loose track.
- ف **Delay in releasing funds.** At one point there was a delay in funding. This had delayed some activities and in making sure that we should not loose out completely we were forced to borrow from other accounts to continue with other activities. However, the borrowing did not go well with the donor therefore TLC may not repeat the same and request for timely funding for smooth implementation of programs.
- ف **Varied community approach among partners within ICLEP II.** Food Security component of the ICLEP II believes in empowering and transferring knowledge and skills to communities to implement various activities with little dependence from external aid for sustainability. In view of this it does not believe in giving cash incentives to participating communities more particularly when the activity is taking place within their community. However, it was noted with concern that some partners were offering cash incentives to woo community participation. This brought a bit of confusion for the communities thought that all the partners will be doing the same. Though this did not really affect implementation of food security programs, TLC would like to encourage all partners to agree on one universal and sustainable approach that should be used in the second year to avoid bringing confusion in the

course of implementation and empowering communities to continue working when the project is over.

- ف **Community conflicts and misunderstanding among communities.** Jealousy among communities especially junior and senior local leaders affected implementation of programs. This becomes worse when free issues are being distributed within the communities. People attend more to these and when other communities have not benefited, they decide to form their own village or not interested to participate in other development activities. However, TLC takes a broad step in such cases to educate the masses to participate in development activities.
- ف **Natural tree regeneration.** Some communities are still not convinced in the management of natural woodland in order to allow regeneration. Some community members still harvest from the protected woodlands. Measures are being taken to empower the communities and make their own by laws to curb the behaviour of such individuals.
- ف **Drought for the season 2005 – 2006.** This affected irrigation in that most of the crops grown were used for food and very little for sale. As a result, loan repayment has been difficult for the last season. Farmers are encouraged to make sure that they manage the loans from the proceedings of this winter production.