



Fondation Eagle : Report on Tanzanian Agriculture grants project
March 2023

Donor Name: Fondation Eagle

Name of Charity and Project: Mondo Foundation, Supporting HIV+ women to support themselves and their families by generating income through small scale farming and animal husbandry

Reference number: FF 0623

Date grant accepted: 05/04/2022

Amount: £ 11,407

Number of beneficiaries : 40 families (approximately 200 beneficiaries)

Location of project: Arusha suburbs of Sambasha and Ilkidinga, Moshi suburbs of Masaranga and Pasua, Tanzania

Period of Project : April to October 2022, with six months continued support and follow up to March 2023

Final report

Activities:

The project aims to provide training and small grants of around £140 to women living with HIV, most of them widows, who have children and other dependents in their care. Groups of women are trained together and given the skills and ongoing mentoring to ensure they can set up a successful agricultural business. The current project works with women in the semi-rural areas surrounding Arusha and Moshi where there is opportunity for small scale farming and for marketing of produce in local markets.

In the first six months, four groups of women were selected and trained. The women were identified by our local community volunteers, through their connections with churches, clinics and women's group. The women selected were HIV+, living in poverty, with two or more dependents and an interest in setting up or expanding a small farming business. As outlined in the 6 monthly report, women in Sambasha and Ilkidinga engaged in vegetable growing projects, while those in Pasua and Masaranga rented land to grow rice.

A two day training was conducted for each group. Mondo facilitators provided advice on business start-up including how to plan the venture, calculate profit and save. Extension workers from the local government office then facilitated training specific to the needs of the group including crop selection and rotation, planting, control of pests, and irrigation. Following the training, the women were supported to use their grants to provide the items needed to start up : seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and in some cases rent of land.

The women have then been visited every month by the extension workers who conducted the training, together with Mondo staff, to reinforce the training and help to solve any ongoing problems. The extension workers also provided contact numbers to the women so they could be consulted between visits if necessary.

In March, Mondo carried out an impact assessment of the project. Anna Brian and trustee Sarah Woolfenden visited the farms and interviewed at least 5 women from each area to understand the impact of their agricultural business and the remaining challenges. We also interviewed the extension workers who had supported the women and read reports of all the recipients prepared by Mondo staff.

Outcomes:

Vegetable Farmers: In Ilkidinga and Sambasha the vegetable farmers had harvested their first crop earlier in the year and were in the process of replanting. All had planted between a quarter and half an acre of potatoes/carrots/onions/ cabbage or maize. All the women we interviewed reported that they had made a good harvest, and the majority had made a profit of between 700,000 – 800,000 Tz shs (£250-£275). The profit was allowing them to make improvements to their living conditions, and to buy inputs to continue the farming business. Most were replanting a new crop (different from the first as instructed) when we visited.

The women reported that the training and support of the extension workers was very valuable. All those interviewed were able to identify specific changes they had made to the way they plant and manage the crops which had led to improved outcomes.

The most common challenge mentioned was the change in climate, with less rainfall in recent years. The rising costs of agricultural inputs, especially fertiliser was also a problem for the women. We were concerned about one recipient whose family was in such need she had not managed to save from the income of her harvest, and did not have the capital to repurchase seed: we are looking how to continue to support her. All other recipients were in a good position to continue their businesses without further input from Mondo.

Case studies:

Mary Joseph

Mary lives in Sambasha, on the foothills of Mount Meru where there is more rainfall than on farms nearer Arusha. She has 5 children and was abandoned by her husband who now lives in Kenya. She owns half an acre of land but before the grant she could not afford the agricultural inputs on her own so had to share the plot with another family. With the grant, she was grateful



that she could now manage the farm herself and did not have to divide the profits. She reported that she had received training in growing four crops cabbages, potatoes, carrots and beans.

'I learnt that I mustn't put the fertiliser directly in the hole with the potato seed. Put fertiliser, then cover before adding the seed. I told my neighbours about this but they didn't believe me, but they saw the difference when the crop grew'.

She grew potatoes and got 9 sacks at harvest. She kept one bag for own use and sold others for 80,000 Tz each. With the profit she bought iron and wood to build a room where her older children can sleep.

Neema with new room she has built for her older children

Elizabeth

Elizabeth is 60 and she looks after 4 grandchildren who are orphans after their parents died with HIV. She grew cabbages and got 750,000 Tz shs at harvest, while on neighbouring farms only 500,000 TZ worth were harvested from the same acreage. She bought a goat and now has milk from the goat which she uses for her own family consumption.

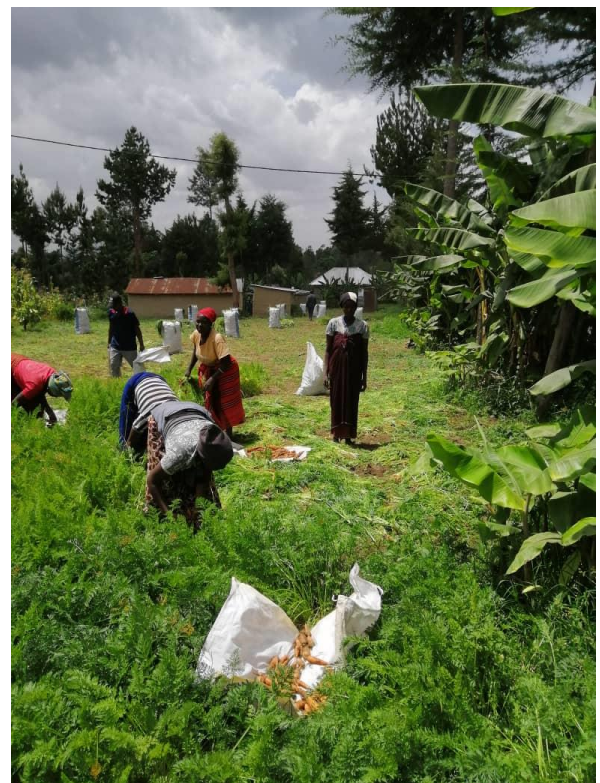
Neema

Neema grew carrots which she harvested in January. She learnt from the extension worker that if she planted and harvested early she would get a better price for the crop. When we visited the carrots had already been harvested and the field covered in cow dung (again taking advice from extension officer). She reported she had done well – getting a profit of 700,000 Tz shs from this quite small plot, and will plant potatoes next.

She mentioned the problem of drought with everyone taking water from same small stream.

'In order to water my crops I often had to get up at midnight but it was worth it in the end.' She bought a cow with the income from the first harvest and is hoping to provide milk for her young son and to sell the excess.

Picture – Neema and neighbours helping with carrot harvest



Rose

Rose is a single mother with two children, one of whom is disabled. She has a quarter acre of land in Ilkidinga. She grew potatoes first, and was waiting to harvest a crop of maize when we visited. Her crop was well-spaced and the cobs looked large and healthy.



'Before the training my maize looked like that' she said pointing to a scrawny, withered patch in a neighbouring field, *'but now it is so much better. I told myself, I will follow the instructions completely and not listen to other people. Now I see that it works.'*

She learnt to dig over the field before taking out the old maize, so it would be ready for potatoes. This method doesn't leave the field bare and exposed to elements and helps to put organic substances back into the soil ready for the new crop.

Rice Farmers



20 women in Masaranga and Pasua grew rice on rented land, irrigated by small streams. The inputs for these farms are usually beyond the means of these women since renting the quarter acre plot costs 150,000 shs and seeds and fertilisers are increasingly expensive. However, with the grant and technical support all the farmers had made a success of their business. They had already completed one harvest and planted out fields for a second harvest expected in June. While neighbouring fields were affected by a fungal infection, the women had use prevention methods on their crops which looked healthy. They reported that last year they had harvested 12 bags of rice (compared to 8 bags on neighbouring farms) at 210,000 Shs each, making an income of 2,520,000 Shs (£880). Some of this was needed to rent and buy inputs for the next planting, but all the women had also used their profits to improve their livelihoods eg by buying goats, chickens and ducks and one had started a second business making liquid soap.

Extension office Sofian reported that he is very satisfied with the project. He feels that the women have turned from using local methods and are now more professional. Other women in

the fields also watch these ladies and copy them so the ideas are spreading. While he is out visiting these women, others call him over for advice. He said because the ladies use prevention methods to avoid diseases it is kinder to soil then applying treatments once fungus arises. The improved methods also mean that less fertiliser is needed.

Next steps

During the year, Mondo supported 4 groups of 30 women to set up village banking groups (Vicoba). These have been successful in allowing women to save and making loans available to them when larger sums are needed (eg at planting time). It is hoped in the next year to replicate this programme so that recipients of the Eagle project can benefit from joining village banks. It is also hoped that we can extend the agricultural grants programme to reach more women in need.

Financial Report

Eagle budget and expenditure end March 23

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Remaining
Agricultural grants	£5,600	£5,537	£63
Initial training	£1,400	£1,727	-£327
Follow up visits extension workers	£1,920	£1,645	£275
Ongoing supervision Mondo staff	£1,050	£1,050	£0
Health insurance for beneficiaries	£400	£414	-£14
10% management	£1,037	£1,037	£0
total	£11,407	£11,410	-£3

Notes: As noted in the last report, there was an overspend on the initial training due to increased costs of transport and venue hire. Some savings were made on the agriculture extension visits as trainers were able to visit two sites in one day in some instances. The exchange rate for transfers in the second six months of the project averaged 2800 Tz shs/£.

Conclusion

We are very grateful to Eagle Foundation in supporting us to implement this project in Tanzania. Climate change and cost inflation have made the lives of small farmers very difficult in the last few years but nearly all the women we supported had made a success of their farms and appeared positive about the future.