

## **Christian Aid: 'Isle of Man Christian Aid Week appeals projects'**

**SG002.17**

### **Summary of End of Year One Report**

#### **Background**

Christian Aid applied for funding for two separate projects, one to stimulate the growth and effectiveness of the honey market in Kenya and the other project aims to transform the education and quality of life for disabled children, by strengthening the capacity of 24 schools in Zimbabwe. As per the application, this grant has been split between two sub-projects; sub-project one 'Kenya Honey Hub' and second sub-project 'Zimbabwe Disabled Children'. The Isle of Man funded phase for the second sub-project commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 and will conclude on the 31<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The End of Year One Report focuses on the 'Kenya Honey Hub' project. The report for the Zimbabwe project will be submitted in July 2019.

The 'Kenya Honey Hub' project aims to support beekeepers to enable them to increase the quality and quantity of their honey, and secure better prices. Through newly-established 'honey hubs', isolated rural producers can now collectively process, store and sell their honey, and access loans and technical support. This technical support will allow the beekeepers to increase their productivity, increase the quality of their honey and increase the amount of honey they are able to produce, as well as expanding their knowledge on technology for the future.

#### **Project Objectives and Aims**

- Improved incomes of 6,500 Small Scale Honey Producers
  - Increase productivity of target honey producers
  - Increase the unit price of a kilo of honey
  - Diversify the hive products traded by farmers
- To create four functional, efficient and profitable Honey Hubs serving at least 6,500 producers
  - Setup four functional and fully operational honey hubs in four counties of Kenya
  - Setup 15 functional and operational production units
  - Enhance the profit share between farmers and the honey hub

#### **Year One Activity Outcomes**

In order to achieve these objectives Christian Aid undertook a number of activities. The activities to achieve objective 1 are as follows:

- Conduct project baseline survey of honey market and the current product rates, average sale price and income levels of small scale honey producers
- Training on apiary management, first aid and health and safety for beekeepers
- Training for hub staff and trainers to enable them to further support beekeepers (hub members)

A review of the average income per farmer was conducted for randomly selected farmers across the four honey hubs for the period 2016-2017. Testimonies from farmers indicated that on average, farmers sold a kilo of honey at approximately Ksh 80 to Ksh 100; the hubs offer Ksh 250 per kilo to farmers. This therefore means that farmers receive more income when selling their produce to the honey hubs. Approximately 50% of beekeepers in the Maasai Mara and Makueni hubs recorded incremental increase in sales. In the Tsavo and Tharaka Nithi hubs; this proportion was 40% and 30% respectively. 37.5% reported no changes in income and this can mainly be attributed to the seasonal fluctuation and the effects of the prolonged drought.

The activities for objective 2 are as follows;

- Stakeholder meetings with beekeepers, hub managers, local buyers and government representatives
- Producer group strengthening and formation of Community Based Organisations and Cooperatives

The four established hubs have currently bought and bulked 14 metric tonnes (MT) of honey from farmers, of which over 8 MT has been packaged and sold. A total of £17,440 has been paid to beekeepers. The Narok hub is now self-sufficient and has reported an increase in yields for beekeepers of 100% - 2kg per hive to 4kg per hive. The second hub in Taita Taveta is close to self-sufficient, and the final two hubs that were established are also on track, but will require continued support for the meantime. Improved access to safety equipment and more accessible hives mean that honey production is now a viable option for women. 1,114 farmers are actively supplying honey to the hubs. Most of these will have collected honey from approximately 20 other households, meaning the hubs have benefitted up to 8,420 beekeepers.

### Successes

- **Mobilization** - Beekeeping has often been viewed as a male activity, however, through the training and uptake of improved technologies, women are now involved in honey production.
- **Technical assistance** - Through partnership with The HIVE, farmers were trained and supported to improve their technologies. Independent experts were also recruited to assess and advice on the viability of commercialising the project.
- **Stakeholder engagement** - Ownership of the project by communities and local stakeholders has resulted from extensive consultation with local authorities, beneficiaries, traders and industry actors.
- **The adaptive programming approach** - enabled this project to adjust their activities and targets in response to lessons, experience and recommendations from technical experts.

### Challenges

Trained and registered beekeepers, once involved with beekeepers associations, found that they were useful for support purposes, but that the cooperative model was political in nature and that those elected as officials were not necessarily entrepreneurial individuals, often keen on hand outs from the project, than getting markets for their honey. Setting up the PLC was a way to keep the

business separate from the producer groups and the project, but sustain the enterprise model of the inclusive markets approach.

Partnering with The HIVE, as a market actor in that space, was meant to create and strengthen relationships between honey/beekeeping equipment private sector traders and beekeepers' groups so that they can trade in honey, equipment and expertise. For the two years of this partnership, not many hives were bought by beekeeper as initially assumed and little trading happened, due to emphasis on buying honey only from CAB hives by The HIVE.

## **Project Budget**

The Isle of Man Government committed funds of £62,000. The first instalment of £31,000 was combined with the £31,000 raised from churches and individuals during their Christian Aid Week fundraising appeal on the Isle of Man in May 2016. Additional funds have then been sought from Christian Aid's internal innovation fund, In Their Lifetime, which is funded by philanthropists and charitable trusts.

The 'Kenya Honey Hub' project had a budget of approximately £129,538.00; with an overall spend of £129,999.00. The project underspent by £10,007.00 on personnel and £1,319 on travel costs. The project overspent on equipment and software by £7,472.00, administrative overheads at £807.00 and operational costs at £3,508.94.

The anticipated budget Christian Aid had for their personnel costs was £34,521.00; the actual expenditure was £24,513.00. Christian Aid made savings on all personnel costs that were anticipated, the main three savings being; Sales and Hub Administrator which had savings of £3,701.00, General Manager which had savings of £3,613.00 and the Production and Processing Officer which had savings of £2,378.00.

Christian Aid had an overspend of £7,472.00 from their 'Equipment and Software's' budget, which had an anticipated budget of £16,333.00 and the actual amount which was spent was £23,805.00. Christian Aid made a huge saving of £11,290.00 from their ERP Software item budget. However, Christian Aid had a huge overspend of £18,438.00 for their Web design and Branding item budget. Christian Aid had another over spend of £323.00 from their Fixed Assets (water dispensers and laptops).

The operational costs budget had an overall overspend of £3,508.94, which had an anticipated budget of £55,851.00 and the actual expenditure was £59,359.45. Christian Aid only had one overspend for this budget which was from the Honey Purchases and Packaging budget which had an overspend of £15,719.00. All other budget item either broke-even or made savings. The main saving was from the Mobile Honey Collection Running Costs budget, which had an underspend of £8,554.00.

For the travel costs, Christian Aid had an underspend of £1,319.00. Christian Aid had one overspend of £1,161.00 for the budget item 'Motor vehicle Running Costs'. The two underspends that Christian Aid for this budget was from their 'Motor vehicle Insurance' budget item which had an underspend of £1,922.00 and 'Motorcycle Costs' budget item which had an underspend of £558.00.

For the overheads-administrative costs, Christian Aid had an overspend of £807.00, which had an anticipated budget of £16,135.00 and the actual expenditure was £16,942.00. The largest underspend Christian Aid had for this budget was £1,372.00, which came from their security item budget. The largest overspend that Christian Aid for this budget was £1,840.00, which came from their Stationery and Other Office Administration item budget.

## **Year Two**

The second sub-project 'Zimbabwe Disabled Children' began its Isle of Man-funded phase on 1st June 2018 and will conclude on 30th May 2019. The report for the Zimbabwe project will be submitted in July 2019.

The second sub-project in Zimbabwe aims to transform the education and quality of life of disabled children and their families, with the following four objectives:

1. To provide practical educational and life skills support to 1,020 (in-school and out-of-school) children living with disabilities by May 2019.
2. To strengthen the capacity of 24 schools, 24 School Development Committees (SDCs) and 24 teachers to support children living with disabilities by May 2019.
3. To establish community-based structures, networks and support groups that enable parents of children living with disabilities and the communities to better provide for their children in 5 wards by March 2019. This includes assisting the development on income generating activities for families with disabled children.
4. To promote networking and engagement initiatives at the local and national level to support policy and practice benefiting children and young people living with disabilities.



