

Report

on the mission to

The Hunger Project Mozambique

by Alexandra Koch

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Introduction

The Hunger Project is committed to the sustainable end of hunger. The Hunger Project Switzerland (THP CH), which is part of the worldwide The Hunger Project network, is certified by ZEWO. THP CH chooses which THP program countries to support. Currently, THP CH has chosen the THP programs in Mozambique, Burkina Faso and India as partners.

In order to be accountable to the Swiss public, a representative of THP CH has to visit the program countries on a regular basis (usually bi-annually). The purposes of these visits are:

- Appraisal of new programs, which may be funded by THP CH,
- Monitoring of ongoing programs and
- Evaluation of finalized programs, which have been funded by THP CH. This work is carried out jointly together with the THP Program Country Director and her/his management team.

THP CH has chosen one program of The Hunger Project Mozambique (THP MZ) as its own program, namely in 2012 and 2013, the "Food Security" program in the amount of CHF 182'339, most of which was funded by the UBS Employee Donations Program. THP MZ prepared a report on the occasion of this program (annex).

Thereupon, THP CH mandated Alexandra Koch, the Country Director of THP CH, to carry out this mission to Mozambique during the period of 10 June 2013 to 13 June 2013 in order to assess the program activities to be financed by THP CH and to discuss control and their future evaluation with the local THP team.

The mission was carried out jointly together with the new Country Director of THP MZ, Mrs. Clara De Oliveira, and her management team. I was accompanied by Tory Watts and Margaux Yost (Africa Program Officer and Associate from the Global Office), who provided training to the THP MZ and also accompanied me to visit the epicenters.

General Summary

The days spent with the THP Mozambique (MZ) staff was very informative, productive and positive. One day was spent in the office and two days at the epicenters, with all three epicenters visited. It was very clear that the THP-Mozambique epicenters are exceptionally strong in income-generating activities and food security/agricultural activities, with both a breadth and depth of innovation that was the hallmark of the epicenter visits. THP-Mozambique's staff were thoughtful participants in each discussion, providing valuable feedback and unique insights on department-wide tools.

Visit of the THP Mozambique office in Maputo

On the first day, Clara de Oliveira gave us an overview of THP MZ and I was able to go through the following topics:

- Receipts and invoices for purchase of materials with THP CH funds
- The possibility of viewing the materials at the epicenters
- Request for bank statements showing THP-Switzerland funds transfer to THP-Mozambique accounts; and request for THP-Mozambique "actuals" showing expenditures and 2013 activity report on Food Security

In the following two days I was able to check if the materials purchased by THP CH were present at the epicenters and was very satisfied with the result. Each epicenter had an active diesel water pump that provided irrigation to nutrient-poor fields, enabling epicenter partners to grow crops in otherwise infertile soil in Manhiça and Zuza, particularly. The epicenters in Zuza and Manhiça have the Swiss funded water tank constructions and solar panel systems working and in Manhiça the multicultivator is in place. Furthermore, women-led committees demonstrated many of the food security/income-generating activities practiced, which was very interesting.

Overview of THP MZ

THP Mozambique is a country program which started in 2000 (in the União Geral das Cooperativas) but its formal recognition was in 2006. Currently, it is being implemented in 2 provinces with 3 established epicenters. It has a total number of 13 staff: Country Director, Program Officer, M&E Officer, Microfinance Officer, Credit Officer, Finance Officer, Finance Assistant, 2 Program Assistants (at the Epicenter), Administrative Assistant and a Cleaner and 2 drivers.

In Gaza Province, THP-Moz has 2 Epicenters in Zuza and Macaretane Villagers (Zuza in phase II and Chókwe in Phase III) and an Epicenter in the Province Maputo (Phase III), located in Munguine Village.

The Country Program covers a total of 27.000 inhabitants, implementing activities on:

- Community mobilization: for their participation as the agents of development programs for sustainable end of hunger
- Gender Equality (particularly for taking women to leadership positions and effective participation on decision making processes through Women empowerment program)

- Food security (based on trainings on agriculture techniques for food security, income generation and Epicenter sustainability)
- Literacy & Education - (adult education for read and write)
- Health & Nutrition – community access to basic care services in the villages where the epicenters are located. This program is having support of community members. They have also trainings in agro processing for better nutrition and value for agriculture products.
- Water & sanitation (access to water and epicenter sustainability)
- Microfinance & Livelihoods (income generation and epicenter sustainability)

In Microfinance, they have currently 312 community partners (184 in Chókwe, 81 in Manhica and 47 in Zuza).

Health & Nutrition Training

After this review, Margaux led Health & Nutrition training for the entire staff in the office. Based on her adaptation of a Red Cross manual that she had previously developed, Margaux covered the essential information areas of the 1,000 Days initiative: general nutrition, maternal nutrition and infant nutrition. The interactive nature of the activities was very successful, and the adaptations for illiterate populations were excellent. Because the government health agents are the current implementers of health & nutrition capacity-building in THP MZ's epicenters, there will need to be an additional layer of knowledge-transfer.

Outstanding Questions:

1. How can the pre- and post-tests be administered to illiterate populations?
2. Is fortification (of rice, for example) a possibility? Should this be covered?
3. Mozambique: remove flaxseed, sesame, teff; Add: red meat

Outcomes:

	Pre-Test	Post-Test
% of Correct Answers	35%	78%

Follow-Up Needed:

Based on her observations and notes from the training, Margaux will be making edits and adjustments to the manual. Some of these include additional images that fit more accurately local resources, covering two more topics in the manual to fit the 7 essential nutrition actions from the 1000 Days Initiative and reorganizing the overall structure of the manual. Additional research will be conducted to see how to best conduct a pre-post test to this training that could be conducted with illiterate populations.

Visits to Epicenters

In order to gain insight into the project activities, understand operations as well as to learn about achievements and further needs, the 3 Epicenters in Mozambique were visited on the next two days. The committee members of each epicenter gave us a report about their situation (see attached).

The visits were made by Mrs. Clara De Oliveira, Mr. Cadir Jamudine Chai Chai, Program Officer and agronomist, Tory Watts, Margaux Yost and me. We were very warmly welcomed by the community members in all the epicenters. They were always singing and dancing for welcome and good-bye. We were very much taken by this happiness.

Our impression

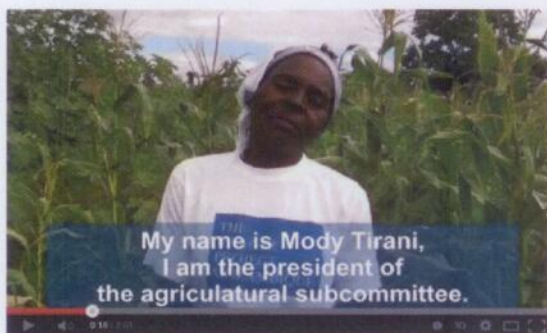
We were generally very satisfied with the situation of the epicenters (see table):

	Water Pump	Inter-cropping	Organic Manure (cow)	Organic Fertilizer (sugar cane husks)	Moisture Retention (mulch)	Fish Farming	Cooking – Baking Classes	Brick-making	Sewing	Sugar Cane Juice	Grafting
Chokwe	Yes	Yes					Yes	Yes	Yes		
Zuza	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes			
Manhiça	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
<i>Food Security?</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes
<i>Income Genearating Activities?</i>						Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Each epicenter demonstrated a remarkable diversity of activities and well-informed, articulate partners. Chokwe Epicenter had experienced severe flooding in February

2013, resulting in mass evacuations, the loss of crops, damage to the epicenter farm's irrigation system, and even deaths. Despite this devastation, the community had returned to their farms and the Food Security Sub-Committee guided us through the epicenter's communal farm and demonstration fields. In particular, the head of the Food Security Sub-Committee, Mody Tirani, accompanied our visit.

Please watch the following interview <http://youtu.be/i1UciQVpM34> , in which Mody explains how the support of the Hunger Project has changed her life and the life of others in her community.



The results of the floods (semi-destroyed homes, salt covering the soil, stagnant floodwaters) were obvious. However, even more striking was the robust state of the crops that had been re-planted by epicenter partners following the flooding. Partners were already harvesting crops and openly discussed their sustainability plans for the epicenter once it has reached self-reliance.

One evident best practice was the cross-cutting nature of many of the epicenter activities. For example, many of the Food Security trainings were simultaneously income-generating activities for both the individual and the epicenter. For example, fish are farmed at Zuza Epicenter, and a portion of the proceeds (typically 70%) is returned to the epicenter, with the remaining 30% distributed among the fish caretakers and re-invested in the fish farm. In some cases, part of the 30% is used for meals during events at the epicenter with remaining funds saved at the bank in the epicenter account. Women epicenter partners demonstrated the multiple income-generating activities in which they participate through THP, such as sewing school uniforms (for their income and also to avoid walking long distances to acquire them in the cities), brick-making, bread-baking and fish farming.

Mariarosa showed us how she makes bricks, an income generating activity she was able to start thanks to the Microfinance program. She mixes the sandy soil with the cement and adds water. Then she fills the mold with the mixture. The content of the mold will be dried in the sun for a few days. The final bricks will be sold for CHF 1.80 each. Please watch the following video: <http://youtu.be/6LyXZtIVH1A>



The primary challenge for the epicenters was access to modern farm equipment and lack of transportation to market.

THP-MZ staff also explained that the presence of two large sugar cane factories in close proximity to Manhica Epicenter has led to decreased participation in epicenter activities as many of the epicenter's opportunities are available through the factory. Microfinance was the only program that solicits regular participation from the community, meaning that the "value-for-investment" was limited.

Appraisal of future needs: It may be helpful for THP-Mozambique's epicenters to develop a savings-scheme to eventually purchase or co-purchase a tractor or car.

Visit to Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) office in Maputo

On 13 June, Mrs. Clara De Oliveira and I met Mr. Daniel Züst, Country Director, at the SDC offices, Avenida Ahmed Sekou Touré 637 in Maputo. Their strategy provides for continuity and capitalization of the Swiss support in economic development, health and local governance. The geographical focus is on the Northern Provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa, as well as on a limited number of municipalities. As a partner in joint activities with other donors, other geographical areas might be covered in programmes supported by Switzerland. The multi-annual budget between 2012 and 2016 amounts to CHF 163 million. Mr. Züst suggested that Mrs. De Oliveira should contact him in January 2014 to find out about the budget in 2014 and the opportunity to submit a THP-MZ proposal about gender activities. Mrs. De Oliveira promised to follow up.

Food Security M&E:

Originally, the targets in Food Security for 3 epicenters presented to the UBS Employment Donations Program were the following:


# Food Security Workshops	18
# Women & men trained in Workshops	550
# Agricultural Trainer of Trainers (TOTs) trained	260

The actual output was the following:

	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	TOTAL
Food Security Workshops	14	2	1	9	26
Women Participants	83	7	6	561	657
Men Participants	24	2	0	275	301
Agriculture Trainer of Trainer Trainings	2	8	0	4	14
Women Participants	4	50	0	97	151
Men Participants	15	18	0	13	46
Kilograms of Seeds Distributed	300	0	0	5275	5'575
Kilograms food produced in Community Fields at Epicenter	702	330	0	538	1'570
Kilograms Added to Food Bank	702	330	0	530	1'562
Food Processing Workshops	1	0	0	3	4
Women Trained in Food Processing	6	0	0	64	70
Men Trained in Food Processing	2	0	0	23	25

Conclusions

It was incredibly exciting to see the vibrancy, innovation and mobilization present at each of THP-MZ's three epicenters. The programs already in place set the stage for incredible potential that we anticipate THP-Mozambique to develop in the coming years. Despite THP-Mozambique's status as the Africa Program Country with the fewest and youngest epicenters, the staff and partners have clearly proven that they are equipped to ensure that each epicenter achieves full self-reliance. I recommend that THP Switzerland continues funding programs of THP MZ.


Alexandra Koch

22.12.2013

Annexes:

- Food Security Report of THP MZ
- Photos (10)