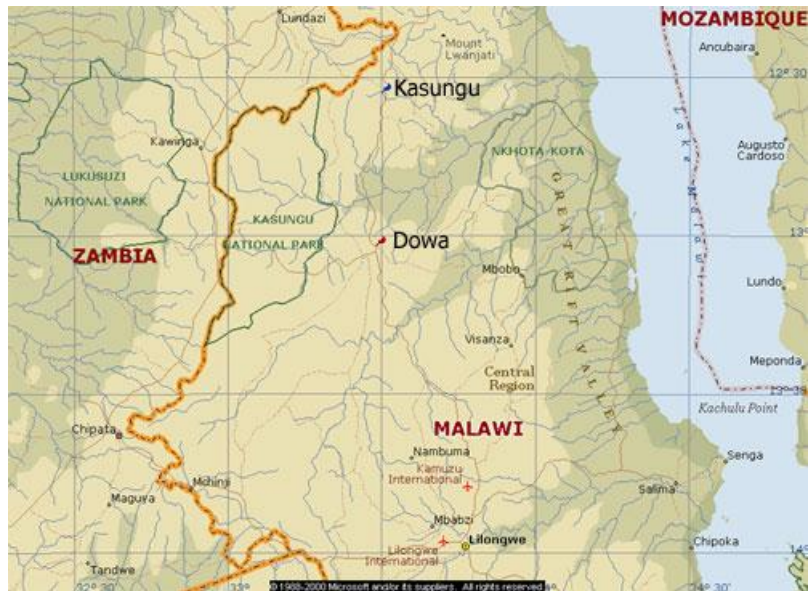




ECLT Foundation Programme in Malawi with “Together Ensuring Children’s Security” (TECS) 2002 - 2006

Description of the Programme

The coordination, monitoring and supervision of the programme is handled locally by TECS, which is a small organisation based in Lilongwe. TECS, which was set up by the Tobacco Exporters’ companies operating in Malawi, organised the identification of the projects through contacts with NGOs, government representatives and the three current implementing partners. It is also actively networking with various actors and partners who are concerned with child labour.



The programme supported and funded by the ECLT Foundation is being implemented in the Ngala and Dwangwa areas of Dowa and Kasungu districts, which are located north-west of Lilongwe.

The programme aims to address the root causes of child labour, mainly poverty, by improving the general living conditions of children and of their communities in 60 villages.

The programme was developed and identified during a six-month period by local communities and locally based organisations. It was preceded by a child labour survey and a participatory needs assessment. It is a four-year programme whose main and long-term objective is to improve the living standards of children and their communities. Capacity building of the local communities is an essential part of the programme so that once completed after four years, the programme is sustainable. For the programme to be successful, it is important that the local communities feel that it responds to their needs and problems. Local ownership of the Programme is the key for success.

The Programme is implemented through four different and complementary projects:

1- School and Education

Improving access to school is essential to combat child labour. Therefore, the focus will be to build and rehabilitate school blocks, teachers' houses, latrines, science laboratories, etc. The objective is also to provide schools with desks, chairs, textbooks, pedagogical material and school material for children. In some cases, and when necessary, scholarships will be provided to students to enable them to attend secondary school. Training teachers is another important element in order to improve the quality of the education provided in rural areas. This should in turn improve the reputation and attractiveness of schools, as well as the teachers’ skills. Training and awareness-raising

on all issues related to child labour will also be organised for community leaders, village committees and estate management personnel.

Creative Centre for Community Mobilisation (CRECCOM) is in charge of implementing the School and Education project. It is a well known Malawian NGO with a broad experience in community development and educational projects.

2- Water and Sanitation

Improving access to clean and safe water influences the lives of children and of their families. It prevents them from infectious diseases and alleviates the burden, often left to children, of fetching water, sometimes far away.

Each village included in the project will be provided with one shallow well topped with a pump, as existing boreholes have proved difficult to be maintained in proper working conditions. Shallow wells are less costly and more easily maintained. A central aspect of the project will be to organise and train water committees. They will be in charge of the well's maintenance and repairs, which will be financed through collective and individual contributions.

Nkhoma Synod is the project partner on Water and Sanitation. This church linked NGO has been working on development issues and has been setting up a pilot water and sanitation programme from which the current project is drawn.

3- Food Security and Agro-Forestry

Improving food quality and security as well as the use and management of natural resources will have a positive influence on the conditions of children and of their families. A better soil conservation will help keep and maintain fertile land which will improve food production both for personal consumption as well as an additional income. Tree planting will slow down the erosion and will certainly alleviate the burden, often left to children, of fetching wood farther and farther away from the village.

The main activities of the project include: seedlings' nurseries, tree planting, inter-planting principles and experimenting with model gardens.

Irrigation pumps (treadle pumps) will be provided through a small loan system controlled by the community. They will allow regular watering. As in the other sectors, training and organising the communities will play an essential role.

The present drought situation in the whole Southern African region demonstrates the urgent need for developing this type of soil management, which should improve the communities' food provision and alleviate the consequences of exceptionally dry seasons. Total Land Care (TLC) is the implementing partner. It is an NGO which has been working for several years in forestation and food security projects in Malawi and Zambia.

4- Health

The Health component of the programme is still being developed. It should be implemented in the second phase of the four-year programme. It should look at organising and training members of the community health committees. It should focus on training drug managers in charge of providing the community with basic medicine, traditional birth attendants, drug revolving fund committees (ensuring financial access to medicine) and school teachers (for preventive programmes). It should also look at setting up maternity units and mobile clinics.

Programme Budget

Budget

The overall Programme Budget is about US\$2.1 million over 4 years. The breakdown is as follows:

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| School and Education: | US\$ | 703,000 |
| Water and Sanitation: | US\$ | 65,000 |

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| Food Security and Agro-Forestry: | US\$ 460,000 |
| Health: | US\$ 346,000 |
| Coordination and Administrative Support: | US\$ 514,000 |

Total over 4 years US\$ 2,088,000

An external and independent audit firm is in charge of the accounting and will issue a financial report every six months. The ECLT Foundation will follow up and supervise the implementation of the Programme through regular visits on the field. A first external evaluation is planned after 15 to 18 months. Its results will condition the support of the ECLT Foundation for the implementation of the Programme in the remaining two years.

The projects' activities have already started at the end of June 2002 in order to take advantage of the agricultural season and to respond as quickly as possible to the urgent needs of the communities faced with the current drought situation.

Geneva, 21 August 2002