



IMPACT EVALUATION: Building sustainable livelihoods in northern Malawi

Each of our large scale projects includes:

- **A baseline survey:** to collect data on the current situation of the families we aim to target.
- **A mid-term evaluation:** to assess the progress of the project against the project objectives.
- **A final evaluation:** to assess the overall impact of the project, the success of the approach in meeting the needs of the community and the long-term sustainability of the project activities.

We would like to share with you a summary of a final evaluation (completed by an independent evaluation team) of one of our projects in northern Malawi.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES: 66,000 men, women and children who suffer from hunger and poverty from 12,000 households.

PROJECT PERIOD: 4 years.

PROJECT BUDGET: £1,160,816, funded by the European Union and the Norwegian Development Fund.

METHODOLOGY: A household survey was conducted with 292 beneficiary households, key informant interviews were conducted and analysis of quantitative data was done using Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS).

FINDINGS: The findings of the final evaluation in relation to the project objectives were as follows (the findings from the baseline survey are also shown for the purpose of comparison):

PROJECT OBJECTIVE	BASELINE DATA	FINAL EVALUATION DATA
1. Increased food security		
% households with energy food reserves in critical months (December to March)	34.1%	70.1%
Average number of meals per person per day from December to March	2.8	2.9
Total annual food production for 12,000 resource poor farming households is increased by 75% by the end of the project	920kg maize per household	2,131kg maize per household
Average number of livestock units owned by households	1.53	2.67
75% increase in crop yields (for staple crops) by the end of the project for 12,000 households	920 kg maize per household	2,131 kg maize per household
2. Increased household income		
Average household income from a diverse range of income sources	MK 36,688	MK 236,572
3. Community ownership and participation		
Community organisations are functioning in a sustainable manner and responding to community needs	Community organisations are ineffective and unsustainable	Some improvement in the functions of local government structures
All management committees have at least one woman participant	41.7% women held positions in clubs	48.1% women held positions in clubs

In addition, at the start of the project, a poverty profile conducted as part of the baseline survey found that 54.5% of households were considered 'very poor'. By the end of the project, this figure had reduced to 29.5% of households, representing a significant achievement for the project.