

## Oxfam GB Project Effectiveness Review Management Response

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**Country Director:** John Makina

**Name of Project reviewed:** Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods for Women & Vulnerable Groups in Chiradzulu District

**Date:** 14.11.2013

**Participants in the Management Response:** John Makina, Hyon Lefu, Carol Kayira-Kulemeka(Oxfam), Fanwell Bokosi and Maxwell Kaliati (CAVWOC implementing partner)

### *Summary of contribution scores below*

	<b><i>Increased savings</i></b>	VSL group members report saving regularly and have much greater accumulated savings than women in comparison communities.
	<b><i>Improved access to credit</i></b>	Large difference between VSL members and women in comparison communities in their ability to access loans, and to the sizes of loans that are available.
	<b><i>Increased agricultural production and sales</i></b>	VSL members applied more fertilizer on average and brought approximately twice the value of crops to market than comparison respondents. Those included in the horticulture component have applied improved techniques, produced a wider range of crops, and made sales much larger than comparison respondents.
	<b><i>Improved household income and food security</i></b>	Indications of slightly improved food security and dietary diversity among VSL members general and horticulture participants specifically – but the evidence is not conclusive. No evidence of an improvement in other indicators of material wellbeing.


**Overall index of women's empowerment**

VSL group members display significantly more positive characteristics of empowerment than do comparison respondents.

Dimension	Characteristic	Proportion of VSL members scoring positively	Evidence of impact
<b>GA</b> <b>Ability to make and influence decisions</b>	Involvement in decisions on productive activities	79%	No
	Involvement in household spending decisions	73%	No
	<b>R</b> Involvement in other household decisions	85%	No
	Influence in community decision-making	79%	No
<b>A</b> <b>Self-perception</b>	Attitude to women's economic roles	52%	Yes
	Attitude to women's domestic roles	29%	Yes
	Opinions on women's rights	52%	No
	Self-efficacy	69%	No
	Psycho-social wellbeing	54%	No
<b>R</b> <b>Personal freedom</b>	Personal autonomy	41%	No
	Attitude to violence against women	54%	No
	Experience of violence	40%	No
<b>G</b> <b>Access to and control over resources</b>	Personal savings	41%	Yes
	Access to credit	66%	Yes
	Independent income	75%	No
	Role in cash management	72%	Yes
	Control over strategic assets	43%	No
<b>G</b> <b>Support from social networks</b>	Role in cash management	46%	No
	Group participation	74%	Yes

**1. What follow-up to the review have you undertaken or planned (if any) e.g. discussion, analysis, workshop?**

- As a team we have reflected on these findings and tend to agree on the analysis and the findings. Agreement at Programme level is to increase levels of impact in areas where the programme has performed poorly.
- Discussions have also taken place with the partner to address areas where the programme has not performed well.
- The findings will be incorporated in the follow up programme activities with the same communities.

**2. Overall, do the findings concur with your own expectations or assessment of the project/programme's effectiveness?**

The findings have been an eye opener as the feeling was that the programme was performing well. As mentioned above the findings have led to re-strategising on the programming.

**3. Did the final results of the Effectiveness Review identify areas that were particularly strong in the project (ie large impact)?**

Large impacts have been realised on the following areas:

- Increased savings
- Improved access to credit
- Increased agricultural productions and sales
- Access to and control over resources
- Support from social networks

**4. Did the final results of the Effectiveness Review identify areas that were weak or very weak (ie no or very little impact)?**

Indeed there have been areas which are weak and the following have been singled out:

- Weak household income and food security
- Ability to make and influence decisions
- Self perceptions
- Personal freedom

**5. a) Is the reviewed project continuing? If yes, what actions are being taken in response to the weak areas identified in question 4?**

The project is continuing for an additional year and during this year the focus will be on impact measurements especially on food security outcomes and women's rights work. A meeting has already been held with the partner, during which it was agreed that:-

- Focus will be put on value addition for improved nutrition outcomes (especially for horticulture products)
- More awareness raising and training on food production and utilization at household level
- Restructuring of committees to allow more women participation in decision making positions
- Utilization of the women empowerment guide as a planning tool
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It has to be noted that the partner emphasized that the effectiveness review indicators for food security should be re examined, and seen to be applicable to the context.

**b) What actions are you planning in response to the Programme Learning Considerations?**

*Programme Learning Considerations:*

- Seek to understand further the reasons that participation in the VSL groups, as well as the horticulture and piggery activities, had not resulted in significant effects on food security or wealth indicators and how this relates to women's position in household decision-making. A discussion with community members showed that the benefits from the VSL groups were first used for the procurement on Iron sheets for their houses, which was a felt need for many VSL members, the suggestion was that the assessment tools should include this felt need as an indicator of economic empowerment. However, the plan is to raise awareness on how the money raised from the project activities can better be used for food security outcomes.
- Carefully monitor the potential for women's economic empowerment activities to increase the incidence of violence against women. This is based on the fact that women are becoming economically empowered and this is seen as a direct challenge and power shift in the patriarchal societies, this will require sustained support for women as well as awareness raising for men to understand and embrace the shift. Specific activities include strengthening the men for women's rights groups.

**6. If the project/humanitarian response is ending or has already ended, what learning from the review will you apply to relevant new projects in the future? How can the Regional Centre and Oxford support these plans?**

The inclusion of the women's empowerment index as a programming and planning tool will help focus our activities to achieve maximum impact on women's rights and economic empowerment.

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None.