



Chipunga Development Committee

c/o Mr. Daniel Mthuti
c/o Mrs Maya Krutzke
P.O. Box 611
Mzuzu
Malawi

April 14, 2011

Feedback to your account of the situation (your letters dated March 6, and April 2)

Dear Mr. Mthuti (Dear Daniel)
Dear CDC members

Thanks so much for taking your time to give us an update on the ongoing at Chipunga. We were happy to receive this information ahead of our annual meeting held in March. At our assembly your greeting note was passed to everybody. All members approved the work done by the managing committee in Germany and the projects initiated, carried out, and supervised by CDC in Malawi. Currently 95 members contribute to GRACE by paying an annual membership fee. Some members and other persons donate extra money to our account. As you know the crucial point to keep the contributors on board is to report constantly about the progress of projects and/or reasons for failure. Today we want to give feedback to your recent reports.

Chicken project:

The better quality and less quantity seems to be the key for success. We are fine with the adaptation of the initial project idea. If the chicken production is running better with groups of two persons only this is still in the sense of funding an income generating activity in the area. Now CDC must pay attention to whom loaning the start-up capital and the existing equipment.

Concerning the development of the youth group: your initial advice was absolutely right – not easy to handle them. Even Jonathan who was so enthusiastic in the beginning realized that already the set-up meeting was difficult to run as many youngsters failed to attend. Thanks for your input and wise assistance Daniel. We hope that you and Vincent can guide them to stand on their own feet.

Water hole:

Got informed by Maya on your great group activity early April. To start the job with a joint meal is an excellent idea to motivate people to come. Maya took some photos (see to the right). You can be proud about the achievement and the finalization (and “you” can be taken very personally Daniel). It took quite long to bring the project to success. Let's hope the community people appreciate to get clean water and got a better feeling behind the idea of help through GRACE (funding of projects proposed on local needs based on the condition a self-contribution from the community is done).



Goat project:

Indeed the initial aim of your project was to give some benefit to the people. If CDC has decided to run the goat scheme different from the initial idea you are free to do so. Anyway it seems to be difficult to meet the expectations of everybody and to give the goats to the “right” people. You from CDC should think about who is in real need (families with many kids, sick parents or kids, and/or low incomes). However w/o having a male goat a reproduction is not possible. So buying a new male goat is absolutely reasonable.

Pre-school:

We are happy to hear that Antonia and Vincent have been integrated into the teams. Great that Vincent won a grant from GIZ to re-build the class rooms. As CDC I would demand some help to Vincent from the community. It is a great pity that if one place runs the other place doesn't. We understand few about the described difficulties such as not paying fees, lack of sugar, teachers not willing to cook tea. On one hand there is a great desire for pre-school education (as you describe repeatedly), and on the other hand the community is not able to stick to their self-given promises. After one successful term at the compound the teachers stopped working because it is difficult to work as a volunteer? Do you need professional teachers in rural Malawi? Trouble is created by the community and should be solved by them. Daniel, the elected pre-school committee should work out their problems themselves (dedicate teachers; fees to pay a) teachers and b) buy sugar). The only thing CDC could do is to mediate and to offer support. Also the community and the teachers should not wait for the German teacher who will come to Chipunga by this September. OK, she will be an additional chance to improve the system – but she will not solve the problem. The community itself should tend in a certain direction ahead.



VORDERE GASSE 10 · D-71254 DITZINGEN · GERMANY

Scholarship:

If the scholarship is promoted continuously the likelihood to get pupils and their parents motivated will increase. You did it right to ask Fatsan (as the first kid who won the scholarship) to report her experience to the learners at Chipunga school. The headmaster Mr. J. Nwira himself probably should communicate the Chipunga scholarship idea to the district office in Nkhatabay to make the headway known. Remember it was the district educational officer who made it possible that both new IMANUEL teachers were assigned or allowed to start teaching at Chipunga Primary School (despite a lack of teachers in the entire district – e.g. the NJIRI F.P. School in Chikwina). For the next scholarship round: did the school discover new candidates or “rising stars” in the current final class?

School Block:

Glad to hear that you got the grant from the German embassy. Presume in the interim a member of the embassy came to Chipunga to see the final result? We are wondering who pays the contractor currently renovating one of the old buildings. Is there still money left from the embassy grant? Would be a success if Mr. Chimojimoji could motivate his community at least once a year to do some maintenance work at the school blocks. A very strong signal to the embassy and to GRACE could be if the community starts to improve the other teachers houses themselves – they are not in a good condition. My discussion with the headmaster at my last visit was the following: GRACE could contribute to future needed school materials but the community should lend a hand and renovate the teachers houses and/or school blocks. Would be a realistic deal in the sense of self-contribution to a GRACE funded project...

Primary School:

The idea behind a ranking of the most important things was understood by you and the CDC very well. Wondering why the people from the school do not collaborate. The reason behind not giving a clear answer to you is serious and as you wrote unfair. To us it looks like they do not suffer and do not immediately need things. The question is: How can pupils and teachers run a normal school term without having the necessary things? And how can new candidates for scholarship be built w/o learning materials? You are doing it right to keep the money intended for buying the materials on hold till a safeguard is installed at the door of the storeroom.

Weltwärts:

It is good that Daniel became a weltwärts supervisor at Chipunga. Hope the participation in the mentioned workshop in Lilongwe was helpful. It is a pity that one female volunteer left in a hurry – but such things may happen at any time. Got feedback from Renata from DED that two new volunteers will continue the present good work of Antonia and Vincent. This will be year 4 of this long-lasting engagement. We hope that the people in the region can somehow benefit from at least the cultural exchange. Please pass on our great thank to Antonia and Vincent – what they do is trying to add value and intercultural understanding to the people at Chipunga.

Other Things:

Thanks for sending the proposals from Chigwere and Njiri. Indeed the activities of GRACE are limited to the Chipunga area for the moment. We will send answers to you as soon as we found an internal consensus. Upon arrival CDC might forward our answer to the applicant representatives Mrs Kamanga and Mr. Zimbiri. To tell you the truth: our concerns are a) the money and b) honestly we don't look behind the proposals. It is obvious that at the moment GRACE is not in the position and not willing to support the whole area. But CDC could help us by evaluating the requests from your own and more domestic view. The application from the school at Chikwina seems to be a very ambitious one – the application from the fishing club looks like a charity activity. There might be many good reasons pro and against to contribute to one of these projects. We have understood that CDC could get a bad name and further could bear the stigma of being not a good leader if we do not find good answers in our replies. So please help us, and sit together, and discuss the two projects proposed and give us advice. Thank you!

Maya Krutzke:

Maya is a stroke of luck. We are happy that she has accepted to help us and you to improve communication. With this in hand it might become easier to handle things. Please never consider to wearing out Maya's responsibilities. She will remain the farm manager with the direct line to GRACE in Germany. She will not be the secretary of CDC and she must not be present at external meetings (but the exemption may prove the rule).

We wish you all the best. Thanks for your time and help.
On behalf of the German GRACE Managing Committee,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jens Diedrich".

Dr. Jens Diedrich
President GRACE charity