



Chipunga Development Committee

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

June 12, 2011

Communication to your reports sent in April and May

Dear Daniel
Dear CDC Members

Thanks for your recent reports composed and forwarded by Maya. In the following lines we try to comment to any of your mentioned concern, question, and well taken input. As you are the local experts, please take into account that our suggestions and thoughts reflect the view and standpoint of the outside observer only.

Chicken project: After a great initial success this income generating activity got questionable now. If no reliable market is around we recommend you to put the thing on hold or to choose a new sales and marketing strategy. We wonder that even the youth group was not able to find a tactic to deliver quality products.

Aim: CDC should think about either to discontinue or to restart the project under new conditions. It might be further of added value to resell tools and equipment and to invest the money into another promising income generating activity (such as the oven / bakery project). Please feel absolutely free to act according to your point of view and keep us informed if you come up for a decision.

Goat project: We appreciate the efforts CDC has undertaken to exactly follow the distribution and passing on of the goats. It will remain tough when people don't show the truth – it's the root cause and thus a pity.

Waterhole lining: After many years of inactivity and lack of motivation it comes to an end. Well done CDC! You are writing the health service assistance living at Chipunga is eager to contribute chloride. Is this a lasting offer from his side and does he get the chloride for free? If yes: great thing – If no: you need a solution.

Aim: CDC could ask the community chief to talk to the health assistant whether he voluntarily would control the water. If the health assistant precautionary warns the users on temporary health issues, many diseases especially for younger children will be prevented. Maybe the community could assign one person – or better than one single person they should determine a group of people – responsible to keep the waterhole clean.

Oven project: You reported a welded drum, wire, and cement has been bought. The 25% self-contribution from your side is fully in line with our principles. Would be good to have apart from Vincent (who is going to leave Chipunga in a couple of weeks from now) some good know-how about the oven building, maintaining, and the entire bakery procedure. Is there a general plan on how this income generating activity will work?

Aim: GRACE is willing to financially help the assigned oven/bakery task force with a loan. But we would like to see a short marketing plan and rough cost calculation of the project first. Consider for example: who will be responsible for what – have you done a market analysis ahead – is there a local need and if yes where and who are your likely customers – who will run the oven and/or bakery? Please think about how you purchase bakery raw materials and how the repayment of the initial investment will be regulated.



Pre-schools: We got photos showing the renovated school buildings with furniture suitable for little kids, decorative wall paintings, and new toys. According to what we've heard Antonia and Vincent did an incredible good job to the utmost of their powers. Indeed we were not aware that an inauguration party was performed at the compound pre-school. Nice idea and a pretty good way to show the progress to the parents and to motivate them to bring their kids to the pre-schools. We assume the community has contributed to the work of the weltwärts volunteers, and VDC and local chiefs are willing to conserve the buildings for a long time? Would be a pity if the huge efforts of the volunteers will not be respected and recognized by the community of Chipunga. With the best of intentions I ask you to pass on my kindest regards to the group village headman Mr. Chimochimochi, the local chief Mr. Thindwa, and other chiefs not mentioned by name.

However, we were concerned about the conflict of powers when relocating the pre-school from the church to the school area. That was really not what we intend and should be avoided. People must be aware that the weltwärts team consists of young volunteers who must be kept out from any conflict of powers.

You got some extra money from the girlfriend of Leander and from Vincent allowing the parents to pay only 50% of the pre-school fee for 9 months which is fine. As paying a self-contribution is a basic rule of GRACE we fully agree to the sponsoring scheme of the 30 children. We deduce that CDC and the pre-school committee have selected the 30 children according to special or socially-minded circumstances?

Aim: We are interested in your proceeding when the 9 month period is over. You've reported that currently 54 learners are at both pre-schools and this number might double by 2012. So, if GRACE shall take-over, we would be happy to receive a sound CDC proposal including the usual monetary estimate in good time.

Primary School: We acknowledge the efforts of the community to pay-off the 25% self-contribution by installing the door and buying a locker. But as the risk to store the material in a not proper closing room is high you have decided right to deposit everything at the house of MD. Even if the people from the school are not happy – this is absolutely OK. Further we really appreciate that Antonia brought in another amount of extra money to buy additional things. With the current weltwärts team the Chipunga community really got added value in terms of making an excellent contribution by putting their hands-on and extra donations.

Concerning a promise given to one of the GRACE teachers at my last stay in Malawi I have no idea about what she/he is talking; but I would be happy if she/he could clue me in by simply writing a personal letter.

The quotation from the water and sanitation sector at Nkhata Bay district council on drilling a borehole with a total of MKW 1.345.975 has been forwarded to the chairperson of the involved society in Vienna, Austria (<http://www.wasser-fuer-die-welt.at>). As soon as we get an answer we'll let you know.

Secondary School Scholarship: We are pleased to hear about the public acceptance and the transparency of our secondary school scholarship idea. If the headmaster of Chipunga Primary School Mr. Ngwira is willing to communicate the promoting idea as a method of kick-back to the district office in Nkhata Bay it would be advantageous to us. The district office should be born out in their assumption to assign the applications of all EMMANUEL teachers to Chipunga Primary School. A voluntarily and positive feedback to the government officials might open doors concerning future projects and supports any kind of collaboration.

You are writing that CDC and the workers are surprised about the payment details of the scholarship. So let us explain the background once more. In our early years GRACE sponsored 75% of the secondary school fees of kids from Chipunga workers. You remember that in the beginning we had about 10-13 suitable pupils. But the number came down to 2-3 in the last year. The reason was: a lack of good pupils qualifying for secondary school level. Therefore we focused to support Chipunga First Primary School with the aim to get higher qualified school leavers. Since beginning the annual GRACE budget included always the amount for the secondary school education. The new thing is a) for the scholarship we pay 100% instead of 75% and b) a scholarship winner might be not the kid of a Chipunga worker. So currently there is no disadvantage to anybody. However if the numbers of scholarship winners are increasing in the future and there is a strong increase of secondary school candidates as well; CDC must come up with a proposal to increase the total annual budget. If CDC disagrees and has distinct reasons why this consistent solution should be changed earlier please feel free to share your point of view with us.



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Other Things: Concerning the proposals from Chigwere and Njiri. Indeed the activities of GRACE are limited to the Chipunga area for the moment. 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. So please help us, and discuss the two projects proposed and give us advice.

Weltwärts: Not sure whether you have been informed that a 4th weltwärts team has been designated to come to Chipunga for one year as of September. We are absolutely confident that this cultural exchange is helpful to the people at Chipunga as well as to the young volunteers. Besides of only doing a job they can create value and understanding of different traditions and ways of life. Further they are going to continue the work of Antonia and Vincent. Please acknowledge their willingness to come and to live at Chipunga.

With best regards to the entire Chipunga Development Committee and the people in the region.
Written on behalf of the German GRACE Managing Committee,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Jens Diedrich'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Jens Diedrich
President GRACE charity