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# COMMUNITY BASED LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SWAZILAND (CBLD)

QUARTERLY REPORT YEAR 3 QUARTER 2

**April 2014**

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# Community Based Livelihood Development for Women and Children in Swaziland (CBLD)

QUARTERLY REPORT YEAR 3 QUARTER 2

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## Acronyms & Abbreviations

CANGO	Coordinating Assembly of NGOs in Swaziland	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CBLD	Community Based Livelihood Development for Women and Children in Swaziland	OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
CPN	Child Protection Network	PEPFAR	U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
CPWA	Child Protection and Welfare Act	PLHA	People Living with HIV and AIDS
DSW	Department of Social Welfare	RFA	Request for Applications
ESKH	Eswatini Swazi Kitchen-Honey	RHM	Rural Health Motivators
EU	European Union	RSP	Royal Swaziland Police
FAAB	Farming as a Business	SACRO	The Swaziland Association for Crime-Prevention and the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders
FLAS	Family Life Association of Swaziland	SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communication
LL	<i>Liblombe Lekukhalela/ A Shoulder to Cry On</i>	SNYC	Swaziland National Youth Council
GBV	Gender Based Violence	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
MEN	Men Engage Network	SWAGAA	Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture	VCD	Value Chain Development
MoET	Ministry of Education and Training	UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
MoH	Ministry of Health	UNISWA	University of Swaziland
MTAD	Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
NAMBoard	National Agricultural Marketing Board		
NCP	Neighborhood Care Point		

## Introduction

USAID awarded the five-year USAID/PEPFAR-funded Community Based Livelihood Development for Women and Children in Swaziland (CBLD) project to FHI 360 and its partner, TechnoServe, on December 1, 2011. The award is effective through November 30, 2016. This Quarterly Report is a requirement under the award and covers Quarter 2 of Year 3 (January 1, 2014 – March 31, 2014).

CBLD has three primary objectives: (1) to improve the livelihood capabilities of vulnerable households, particularly women and caregivers of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) within these households; (2) to protect the rights of women and children; and (3) to strengthen the capacity of organizations and institutions to promote social and economic well-being of women and children. The project's approach includes direct implementation of programs with beneficiaries and technical assistance to government, NGOs, donors, and community-based institutions to improve their coordination and enhance their capacity to deliver effective programs and services at the community level. This technical assistance is intended to create sustainable systems to protect and support vulnerable households and individuals in CBLD communities, while providing a framework by which future community interventions can be implemented across Swaziland. CBLD emphasizes collaboration, effective partnerships, and referral networks to maximize impact and improve the access of vulnerable households to relevant services and public entitlements.

Table 1 below indicates which community-level CBLD programs were active in this reporting period and covered in this report.

**Table 1: CBLD Programs Active in Year 3 Quarter 2**

	Herefords	Ndzingeni	Mpolonjeni	Khuphuka	F	M	<18
Homestead gardens	○	○	○	○			
Savings groups	○	○	○	○			
Enterprise development	●	○	●	○	155	71	4
VC-horticulture	●	●	○	○	29	43	0
VC-honey	○	●	○	○	69	79	1
VC-cotton	○	○	●	●	227	106	0
Rights, legal literacy & aid	●	●	●	●	309	387	469
Child protection & referrals	●	●	●	●	300	274	306
SBCC/Life Skills	●	●	○	○	65	43	16
ECD/E	○	○	○	○			
Other programs	●	●	●	●	189	93	0
Total					1098	830	630

## 1. Accomplishments

During the current reporting period, CBLD implemented programs in four communities.. Specific highlights are as follows.

- Enterprise Development training-of-trainers activities have concluded in Herefords, and step-down training has begun.
- In Herefords and Ndzingeni, CBLD trained 72 horticulture farmers (ranging from subsistence-level and occasional surplus producers to more commercially oriented producers) in Farming As A

Business (FAAB), improving participants' knowledge about land measurement, pricing strategies, supply and demand basics, financial record keeping, and the concept of farming as a business enterprise.

- In Ndzingeni, CBLD has trained 148 beekeepers in trap box and hive building, trapping and transferring bees, and hive management. Donations of timber by Peak Timbers have ensured that all participants are now utilizing proper beehives.
- In Mpolonjeni and Khuphuka, and surrounding areas, CBLD has trained 333 cotton farmers in land measurement, pest and disease identification, sprayer calibration and safe use of chemical sprays, and pest and disease control. A mentorship network has been effectively established through the association-based lead farmer program.
- Through capacity building workshops on human rights, the constitution, child protection and family law, CBLD has strengthened the capacities of community leaders (*bandlancane*), community police, Rural Health Motivators (RHM), *Lihlombe Lekukhalela* (LL), Neighborhood Carte Point (NCP) caregivers, and Home Based Carers (HBC, trained by World Vision, equivalent to RHM) to support the most vulnerable in their communities and has helped to clarify their respective roles in community child protection.
- Child Protection Networks (CPN) in Herefords, Ndzingeni, and Khuphuka have provided 306 children with support, including home visits and referrals to the Department of Social Welfare's (DSW) services, the Master of the High Court, and the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP).
- A total of 1,047 people have been reached through human rights sensitizations and training on the human rights principles, the constitution, and the law. Following the sensitization sessions, there has been an increase in the number of people seeking legal aid services from CBLD.
- Access to justice has improved for 70 men and women who have received legal aid services from the legal aid clinic.
- The number of domestic violence cases reported by the CPNs and individual community members to the RSP has increased in this reporting period.
- In Ndzingeni, the *umphakatsi* has a communal garden where residents grow maize for OVC.
- Leaders in Ndzingeni have also supported OVC who were recently expelled for non-payment of 'top up' fees. The leaders wrote letters to school administrators confirming the children's OVC status and requested that the schools reinstate the students.
- In one reported case, OVC who were dispossessed their land have been allocated another piece of land by leaders.
- Peer educators in Ndzingeni and Herefords report that participation in the program has changed their perceptions on these issues and has also helped them to address peer pressure. It has also helped them to change their own attitudes as they lead by example.
- According to feedback from the peer educators, young women are now rethinking attitudes towards dating, considering all the factors (e.g. time commitment, sex and related risks) before entering into relationships. Attitudes are also changing regarding multiple concurrent partnerships, intergenerational relationships, and alcohol and drug abuse.
- To improve access to legal information, CBLD has simplified and summarized the Child Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA). This draft has been validated by the National Children's Coordination Unit and other stakeholders.
- At the national level, CBLD has provided input into a number of stakeholder forums, including the Gender Consortium (CANGO), which is developing a national gender strategy. CBLD has also facilitated a workshop on women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Swaziland, held by the Southern African Litigation Centre (SALC), supported the development of the Men Engage Network's Code of Conduct, and participated in the planning meetings for the International Women's Day 2014 event, which will be held at Ntfontjeni in the next reporting period.

## **2. Working with Key Populations**

Within each community, CBLD targets OVC and OVC caregivers, youth in and out-of-school, people living with HIV and other diseases or disabilities, and other vulnerable women. This section highlights some of the targeting approaches, programs, and outcomes for each of these groups.

### **2.1 OVC and caregivers**

Through strengthened CPNs, 306 OVC in three communities have received protection and support. These CPN meet on a monthly basis to monitor OVC status and needs, including shelter, food, and education, and report on known cases of child abuse or neglect. Data on OVC and their caregivers has been collected in Herefords, Ndzingeni, Mpolonjeni, and Khuphuka. CBLD will build on this to conduct a more comprehensive survey on each child and their caregivers as well as their status. This is aimed at ensuring the delivery of ongoing and consistent care to each child, as needed, including timely referrals to community and external service providers.

LL and rural health motivators (RHM) assisted CBLD in recruiting OVC caregivers to participate in the project's honey Value Chain Development (VCD) program in Ndzingeni and the enterprise development program in Mpolonjeni. CBLD held orientation sessions at four sites in Ndzingeni and eight sites in Mpolonjeni in an effort to minimize the distance interested participants would need to travel. During the sessions, CBLD used the Field Targeting Verification Tool to confirm that the majority of those attending were OVC caregivers, vulnerable women, and people living with HIV and other diseases or disabilities. There are no financial barriers to participating in either of these programs. In Ndzingeni, hive-building materials were provided free of charge thanks to an in-kind contribution from Peak Timbers. In Khuphuka and Mpolonjeni, results from the Land Preparation Survey, household baseline surveys, and the Cotton Value Chain Baseline Survey confirm that OVC caregivers and other vulnerable individuals are participating in the cotton value chain program. A majority of cotton farmers are low-income women supporting several children. Over 60 percent of farmers received at least half of their annual income from cotton last season, with an average income of SZL 1,348 per farm. Each household has, on average, 3.4 children under the age of 18. In the horticulture program, while no specific outreach was made through the LL and rural health motivators, recruitment messages spread by community leadership indicated that all farmers were invited to attend, not just existing vegetable farmers. Women attending the training were often heads of household, inheriting irrigated land from their late husbands, or homestead gardeners wishing to expand their skills. A sufficient number of the horticulture program attendees have the ability to farm one hectare or more of vegetables, meaning they have a financial incentive to hire community women to manage those crops.

### **2.2 In-School Youth (15-24)**

In this reporting period, in-school youth at Herefords High School were reached with information on the CPWA. The session was empowering for the children who were made to understand children's rights and the responsibilities and obligations of children and adults in protecting these rights. The pupils still report that cases of verbal abuse and severe corporal punishment at the hands of the teachers. CBLD will have follow up sessions with teachers in Q3. To empower in-school youth on behavior change and career development, CBLD will support the roll out of MoET's Life Skills curriculum in seven schools within CBLD communities. In this reporting period, CBLD has participated MoET meetings to prepare for the roll out and has met with the Career Guidance director to identify other areas for support. The Ministry has requested support in building the capacity of the Career Guidance Officers who have been identified as master trainers to train all teachers on the curriculum. CBLD will prioritize the training of teachers from the seven schools in the next reporting period.

### **2.3 Out-of-School Youth (15-24)**

Out-of-school peer educators have continued to reach their peers with SBCC messages in Ndzingeni and Herefords. This has increased understanding and awareness of the key drivers of HIV among participating

youth. It has also helped them to address the prevailing myths and misconceptions around the consequences of unprotected sex, condom use, abstinence, and related behaviors.

## 2.4 People living with HIV, diseases, and disabilities

The Ndzingeni, the sub-community of Lubhijini has established a wellness program to address challenges faced by the sick, bereaved, the elderly, and other vulnerable members of society. The project is promoted by Lubhijini community members in collaboration with the Ndzingeni Nazarene clinic and is aimed at improving the health status of sub-community residents and fighting discrimination against sick and vulnerable community members. In collaboration with the Nazarene clinic, and the Ministry of Agriculture's (MoA) Home Economics and Extension officers, the program provides information, skills and resources to people who are sick and disabled, and those attending to them. The program will focus on: food production and access, with particular attention to the nutritional needs of sick people; promoting adherence to medication; providing information about healthy lifestyles and exercise; providing counselling to the bereaved; establishing a support network to assist sick, disabled, and elderly community members with washing and household maintenance; and linking members to relevant institutions for support in caring for the sick. There are currently 70 members (including 57 women), and there are plans to expand outside the Lubhijini sub-community.

## 3. Livelihoods and Economic Strengthening

CBLD-trained community trainers began the step-down training process in the Herefords Enterprise Development program and conducted recruitment and trainer election in the Mpolonjeni program. The Khuphuka Enterprise Development program is scheduled for Q4. Cotton training activities continued for association farmers in Mpolonjeni and Khuphuka alongside project technical assistance to the Sikhulile Cotton Ginnery. In Ndzingeni, CBLD recruited for its second beekeeping season and executed the first three training modules. Contributions of lumber from Peak Timbers mean that all of the program participants were able to build hives. The Horticulture program refined its strategy and began delivering FAAB training in Ndzingeni and Herefords.

### 3.1 Enterprise Development

#### Objectives

CBLD's Enterprise Development program targets vulnerable households, particularly those caring for OVC and people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA), to increase their income earning potential and improve allocation of scarce financial resources among enterprise and household needs.

#### Activities and results

In Q2, the training-of-trainers component of the Herefords Enterprise Development program was completed as trainers received the following final three modules:

- Accessing finance
- Understanding cash flow
- Developing a business plan

By the end of the quarter, trainers had coordinated their groups and begun to deliver step-down trainings in their areas, with a total of 67 community members being trained at the end of Q2. More training will take place in April as the trainers take their groups through all the training modules. Following this, CBLD staff will link program participants to markets and financial institutions through a Markets & Finance Day, and then provide business plan development training and mentorship to interested participants.

The Enterprise Development program began in Mpolonjeni near the end of Q2, conducting recruitment sessions in eight sub-areas of Mpolonjeni at the end of Q2 and the first weeks of Q3. In Q2, 159 community members attended these recruitment sessions in Q2, with more attending in Q3. Across all these recruitment sessions, 28 community members were elected by their peers to be trained as trainers. The training of trainers will begin in the first week of May.

### **Challenges and lessons**

Completion of the Herefords training-of-trainers program was delayed when Business Advisor Mbongeni Dlamini took unexpected leave due to an injury. His duties were transferred.

## **3.2 Value Chain Development: Horticulture (Herefords and Ndzingeni)**

### **Objectives**

The Horticulture VCD program develops a seasonal income source for women and increases smallholder profitability by introducing farmers to markets for high-value crops and providing them with agricultural training and hands-on mentorship throughout the production and marketing cycle. Data gathered during FAAB training predicts that the program will work with 13 farms that will plant plots of one hectare or more and will employ about 40 women. Additional smaller farmers are expected to plant another five hectares of production.

### **Activities and results**

During the quarter, CBLD baseline data was analyzed to refine the horticulture strategy and guide program implementation. Farmers were segmented into four categories according to their vegetables production capabilities. These categories included:

- Non-producer – Do not produce or farm vegetables
- Subsistence-level producers - Produce vegetables for household consumption only
- Casual producers - Produce for household consumption and sell excess vegetables to the local community
- Commercial producers - Produce for a specific market, especially NAMBoard or retailers

The majority of survey respondents are classified as non-producers and subsistence producers and these respondents cite lack of land, lack of access to irrigation, and lack of interest in growing as reasons they don't engage in more horticulture production. Because the CBLD program is not well positioned to address these problems, the horticulture strategy focuses on overcoming the challenges faced by casual and commercial producers, in the hopes of increasing the number of wage labor jobs for women in the communities. Recent surveys of NAMBoard farmers indicated that two-thirds of those farmers surveyed hired at least one woman on their farms and one-third hired four or more. The strategy focuses primarily on delivering business and technical training and linking farmers to markets and secondarily on improving farmers' access to seeds and credit. The strategy also recognizes that subsistence producers can stand to gain by most aspects of the training, and so they will continue to be recruited into the program to learn the techniques to improve production on their existing small plots, with the hopes that they can become casual producers, and potentially acquire the resources to move into commercial production.

The first stage of the horticulture value chain program focuses on increasing farmers' business skills. In Q2, 72 farmers were trained on Farming As A Business (FAAB) in Ndzingeni and Herefords. 40 percent of the program participants were women. Working with Inkhundla-level leadership including the indvuna and bucopho, training sites were established and the recruitment meetings were held. Additionally, local MoA officers and the local NAMBoard extension officer assisted by submitting lists of local farmers and spreading the message about the upcoming trainings, which were also communicated through mass SMS messaging. Because FAAB training is applicable to all farmers, this training opportunity was advertised to all local farmers, not just horticulture farmers. The FAAB training participants received the following modules over two days:

1. Introduction to Farming As A Business
2. Farm Production
3. Sales, Price and Marketing
4. Farm Profitability
5. Farm Record Keeping
6. Farm Budgeting

Outcomes expected from this training program include increased knowledge of land measurement, pricing strategies, supply and demand basics, basic farm financials, the importance of record-keeping and a mindset change where farmers view farming as a business and not just a tradition.

In Q3 additional trainings will be provided as well as selection and field verification, facilitation of contracts, land preparation, procurement of inputs and field monitoring.

### **3.3 Value Chain Development: Honey (Ndzingeni and surrounding area)**

#### **Objectives**

The Honey VCD program increases seasonal income for beekeepers by: developing their business skills and improving productivity and market linkages, reducing transaction costs through collaboration with Eswatini Swazi Kitchen Honey (ESKH) and MTN Mobile Money, and improving access to inputs in collaboration with Peak Timbers.

#### **Activities and results**

The honey value chain program trained 148 beekeepers from Ndzingeni. 47 percent of program participants were women. Building on last year's program, three additional training sites were selected, bringing the total to four, and additional beekeepers enrolled in the program. These new participants were able to build hives and trap boxes using lumber donated by local forestry company Peak Timbers. Enough lumber was initially donated for the construction of 250 trap boxes and 250 Swazi Topbar hives, and more lumber was requested at the end of the quarter to meet additional demand. In keeping with last year's program, a total of 28 lead beekeepers were elected across the four training sites. In Q2, trainings focused on the following subjects:

- Trap box & Hive Building
- Trapping & Transferring
- Hive Management

At the close of the quarter, trainings focused on transferring swarms from trap boxes into hives and managing those hives properly. In Q3, additional hive management trainings will continue, followed by marketing and harvesting trainings and finally trainings on limiting bee migration during the winter dead season, when bees often abscond.

#### **Challenges and lessons**

While the challenge of lack of hives has been overcome through the Peak Timbers partnership, the beekeepers in the program are now limited by lack of proper beesuits. A loan scheme has been established so that communities can borrow CBLD's beesuits, but long term solutions are being pursued so that participants can find lower cost beesuit options.

### **3.4 Value Chain Development: Cotton (Khuphuka, Mpolonjeni, and surrounding areas)**

#### **Objectives**

The Cotton VCD program increases household income by improving farmer productivity, developing their financial management skills, and improving their access to credit and inputs. Improved productivity also allows farmers more time for other activities like child care, cultivating food crops, or engaging in other enterprises.

CBLD has been providing technical assistance to Sikhulile Cotton Ginners, a parastatal and the country's only formal buyer of cotton, in an effort to reduce farmer and Ginners transaction costs, and enabling the Ginners to provide farmers with access to financial services, extension services, and information.

### **Activities and results**

The cotton value chain program trained 333 cotton farmers (two-thirds women) from Mpolonjeni/Maphatsindvuku and Khuphuka/Hlane. In Q2, trainings focused on technical subjects such as land measurement, pest and disease identification, sprayer calibration, chemical sprays, and pest and disease control. CBLD staff executed small group theoretical and practical trainings and participated at Cotton Board-led large group trainings. The majority of the participants of the small group trainings were the Lead Farmers, who were then expected to disseminate their knowledge to the less experienced farmers nearby and record this on the step-down M&E forms that the CBLD team provided. Surveyed lead farmers report that they are nearly all disseminating the information to other farmers, but not as a formal training session. The most common forms of step-down training consist of the lead farmer visiting the other farmers' fields to assess the crop, or that farmer coming to the lead farmer to ask a specific piece of advice. In this way, a mentorship network is beginning to form, where cotton farmers know where to go for help if they encounter a problem they don't recognize. A survey conducted in Q1 reported that the cotton farmers have an average of 15 years of experience farming cotton, so the basics are already well known. This mentorship network allows lead farmers to solve specific problems. At the close of the quarter, trainings began to focus on proper harvesting techniques in preparation for the harvesting period which will take place in Q3.

### **Challenges and lessons**

Execution of cotton trainings was delayed when Business Advisor Mbongeni Dlamini was injured and took leave. While he was absent, cotton consultant Brian Fitzpatrick executed trainings in Mpolonjeni and Khuphuka until Mbongeni returned. Monitoring of the lead farmer step-down training has proved exceptionally difficult in the cotton program, as few lead farmers seem to be filling out their step-down training forms, meaning that the program is not recording all of the farmer participation that is taking place. Only 333 of the estimated 660 area farmers have been captured through the M&E system, even though an estimated 90 percent of those 660 farmers are receiving the benefits of the lead farmer program.

To encourage attendance at large group trainings, lotteries were held in both communities. A series of prizes were distributed, including two efficient ULVA+ sprayers and MTN-branded items donated through the Mobile Money program. These efforts proved to be a cost-effective way of incentivizing the farmers to participate in large group trainings.

## **4. Protection, Human Rights, and Access to Legal Services**

CBLD's programs in protection, human rights, and access to legal services are designed to develop community-based social protection systems and integrate them with existing government programs and services. The project's approach is to disseminate information about legal rights as broadly as possible, in an effort to increase demand for these rights to be upheld. It is essential that CBLD focuses on those in positions of leadership and those who work most closely with OVC (e.g., LL and NCP caregivers). Constitutional law and customary law are often at odds with each other, and while the Constitution is supreme, most community leaders hold a different interpretation. This is largely due to the fact that the contents of the Constitution and other laws about marriage, estates, and children's welfare are not known to the community leaders, though they often make decisions and intervene in such cases.

CBLD has begun training community police, LL, chief's councils, and NCP caregivers in formalizing their child protection efforts, encouraging their cooperation (i.e., LL follow up with community police cases and vice versa), and introducing them to the individuals in government to whom they should be reporting cases. This effort also brings the government services closer to the community and improves the service providers' understanding of the needs at the community level.

Child protection meetings have been held in Herefords, Ndzingeni, and Khuphuka. These meetings are intended to identify and follow up on individual OVC cases requiring intervention, and CBLD's participation in these meetings is to provide capacity building and training as CBLD continues to assess the program to determine how it could be scaled up across the country. The reporting tool for RHM, LL, HBC, and NCP caregivers has been updated and simplified and piloted in three communities. In addition to collecting information on cases of abuse and tracking referrals, the tools also collect information on each child's details and their basic needs (access to food, health care, education, and shelter) and whether these have been met in the reporting period.

## **4.1 Building Community Awareness of Rights and Laws and Improving Access to Legal Services**

### **Objectives**

CBLD is supporting community institutions to protect the legal, economic, and physical security of vulnerable women and children by increasing awareness of their rights and the laws pertaining to their well-being, promoting the registration of births and wills, and providing access to one-on-one counseling on specific issues.

### **Activities and results**

Community sensitizations have been conducted in Mpolonjeni and Khuphuka communities in this reporting period to increase community awareness of human rights, the constitution and child protection legislation. This information was well received by participants most of whom were getting this information for the first time.

To improve access to legal information CBLD has simplified and summarized the CPWA. The draft has since been validated by the National children's Coordination Unit and other stakeholders including SWAGAA, UNICEF, SACRO, Save the Children, and the Council of Churches. The document is currently being translated into SiSwati. The document will be disseminated in all CBLD communities and schools as reference materials for children, caregivers and teachers on the right of children and obligations of duty bearers. It will also have a directory of child services to assist in linking children with the available services.

CBLD has also improved support to legal services for women and children through the provision of legal aid to fifteen clients. This aid includes legal education and referral to other socio-legal services, including the Master of the High Court, the RSP, and DSW. The legal issues include inheritance, maintenance, death and benefits claims, and domestic violence.

### **Challenges and lessons**

As some University of Swaziland (UNISWA) volunteers graduate and find employment, while others become involved in other extra-curricular activities, CBLD has identified an additional 15 volunteers to be trained in the next quarter. This will increase the pool of available volunteers.

To meet the minimum standards, CBLD will need to spend more hours in the schools. Getting time with the schools in the current reporting period has been a challenge due to competing sports activities at the school level. Schools around the country were engaged in athletics interschool and inter-regional competitions, which are usually held on Fridays, the same day that the UNISWA students volunteer with CBLD.

## **4.2 Child Protection and referrals**

### **Objectives**

To strengthen community systems for protecting vulnerable women and children and improving their access to services and entitlements, CBLD is building the capacity of responsible community institutions through workshops, mentorship, and the establishment of a child protection network and referral mechanism.

## Activities and results

### 4.2.1 Community police training Khuphuka, January 22-24

CBLD trained 41 community police at Khuphuka Gogo centre from January 22-24. CBLD collaborated with the RSP's Domestic Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (DCS) and Crime Prevention units from Manzini, Siteki, and Mliba police stations. The objective of the training was to empower community police with information on child protection and the constitution and to help them understand their roles in the prevention of crime and responding to child abuse. The following topics were introduced by the GCPS and discussed during the workshop: Gender, Human Rights, and the Constitution; child protection initiatives in Swaziland; the CPWA; the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill of 2010; and coordination and reporting.

The RSP provided guidance on the following: the role of community police in preventing crime; the use of force and legitimate powers of community police, including citizens' arrest; a code of conduct for community police; and coordination between community police and the RSP.

#### Observations

##### *Code of Conduct*

Community leaders do not use objective criteria when selecting community members to serve as community police. As a result, some of them may themselves be abusive to their wives and children, or have a criminal record, and this affects the reputation of community police in the community. Although there are chairpersons in each sub-community, they don't have a code of conduct to determine, for example, how to retire or suspend community police.

When this was discussed in the training, participants shared how some of them had not been trained on human rights, child protection and the law. Some had been charged for assaults or had maintenance proceedings brought against them. The police cautioned them against such behaviors in the future, including drunk and disorderly conduct, which was not in keeping with the office of community police.

##### *Communication*

Community police also raised the issue of the lack of an efficient communication channel with the RSP as calling the emergency line (999) was not effective. Some reported having spent over 4 hours waiting for the police after calling the emergency line. At the end of the workshop, all the participants were given mobile numbers of the crime prevention and DCS officers from the nearest police station at Mliba. These officers can be contacted directly in cases of emergency.

Community police also raised the issue of the cost of communication. Police don't often have airtime and they are expected to pay for all calls they might make related to community policing duties. They have requested CBLD to assist them in identifying ways to cover the costs.

##### *Support*

Participants also requested CBLD support with uniforms. The majority of them received a donation of branded white shirts, black pants, and blue overalls for men and white shirts and black skirts for the women from an unnamed sponsor who donated to all community police under Hlane constituency. However, some of them never received them due to the unavailability of their sizes and some have only recently joined the community police.

##### *Capacity Building*

For a lot of the participants, this was their opportunity to learn about the constitution, human rights, and the law. Some of the male officers recommended that their wives should be invited to participate in the training so that they can have the same understanding. Participants have been encouraged to bring their wives and

partners to the community sensitization meetings, which aim to disseminate this important information to a wider audience.

#### *Roles and responsibilities*

Community police also invited their community and sub-community leaders to participate in the workshop so that they were aware of the roles of the community police. Community police have felt that their work is undermined by community leaders who send them to run errands like walking from house to house inviting people to community meetings. This, they claimed, is the responsibility of the area's runner (*umgijimi*), but because *umgijimi* charges money for such errands, community leaders call on the community police, whom they don't have to pay. Therefore they felt that they were being exploited. Community police are also called upon to keep order during funerals and other community events, but are not compensated for their efforts. Since there is no legal instrument defining the scope and terms of reference for community police, the participation of the community leaders in the training has helped to create a forum for the two groups (leaders and CP) to hear and understand each other's views on this issue. Community police were invited by leaders to come forward and report their grievances so that they could be resolved.

#### **4.2.2 Child protection training for Lihlombe Lekukhalela, Rural Health Motivators, and NCP caregivers at Khuphuka, February 4-6**

The training in child protection, held at Khuphuka Gogo center from 4 to 6 February 2014, was attended by 41 participants including LL, RHM, and NCP caregivers.

The workshop objectives were to: empower participants to understand their roles and responsibilities as child protectors; improve their coordination at community level; and improve their capacity to provide support services to OVC, including food and nutrition, shelter and material care, protection, and access to health care.

#### **Observations**

##### *Duplication of Roles*

In this community, the responsibilities of LL, RHM, and NCP caregivers had not been clearly defined and were not understood by the participants. This has been a source of conflict among the same groups as one or another may be seen as 'interfering' in the role of others when they intervene in certain cases (e.g. child abuse). During the training, it was highlighted to all participants that as LL, RHM, and caregivers, they all had a responsibility to ensure the protection of all children within their homes and in the community. Each participant was asked to identify OVC within the proximity of their homes as well as their sub-communities and trained in providing ongoing child monitoring and supervision, reporting to the CPN on a monthly basis and providing referrals for each child as and when necessary. Due to the limited number of community volunteers (LL, NCP caregivers, and RHM) within these communities, it is likely that not all POVC are receiving adequate attention. Once CBLD has collected and analyzed the more complete data on OVC (to be collected in Q3), CBLD can work with these volunteers to improve their coverage and raise the issue of recruiting additional volunteers with the community leaders.

##### *Recruitment and Motivation*

The way community volunteers are recruited has also influenced their commitment to this initiative. LL were recruited from Lutsango women's regiment at a meeting held at Hlane Royal Residence and told that they would work with the community police on matters of domestic violence and child abuse. Even though they have never been trained they have mostly remained committed and continue to intervene in such cases. However, when NCP caregivers were recruited, they were invited for a workshop on child protection and only then were they told that they would now have to 'volunteer' and take care of the children in their communities and cook food at the NCP. Furthermore, they would have to mobilize resources, such as pots and utensils, on their own. It was categorically stated that if they declined this request they would be expelled from the community. For this reason a number of the NCP caregivers are demotivated, especially because they have to use their personal resources to meet certain needs (e.g. pots and salt).

During the training, their various needs of the volunteers were identified. These include training needs to fulfil their roles, as well as their own more individual needs, including financial or psycho-social (some have themselves been victims of domestic violence). The GCPS led a session on ‘Caring for the Carer’, emphasizing why it is important that they do the work they do for their community as often times they form the first and last lines of defense for these vulnerable children. As a group, they need to identify ways to deal with burn out and fatigue. These could include group debrief sessions, reaching out to the RSP for help at the earliest opportunity, and making themselves available when training opportunities are availed.

SWAGAA child specialist counsellor, Nomthandazo Ginindza, also facilitated a session child abuse and on how to help a child disclose. This was well received by the participants, and they shared many examples of cases of child abuse where they struggled to find evidence. She emphasized how important it is to work closely and report to the police without delay.

#### *Decision making for community volunteers*

The lack of clear management structures has really affected the RHM, LL, and caregivers as they do not have a clear mechanism for making decisions. About four year ago, World Vision donated goats for the children and it appears none of the caregivers have used the goats or sold them to meet the needs of the children. This is despite acute resource shortages in the NCPs as well as the glaring needs of some of the children. During the training, participants were encouraged to look into the present leadership structure –or lack thereof– and start to think about what structures need to be in place for them to function more efficiently as a team.

#### *Capacity building*

While there have previously been capacity building opportunities for LL, NCP caregivers, and RHM, not all of them have been trained. For some of the LL, this was the first training or workshop they had attended since they were nominated into their positions, and some have served for over seven years. Among the group of participants, NCP caregivers had been exposed to the highest number of workshops (an average of five), while the others had none. This shows community recognition of the importance of OVC and the NCP structures within the community. However, the roles of the other stakeholders have been neglected.

### **4.2.3 Child Protection Training Mpolonjeni, March 11-13**

CBLD trained 42 LL, RHM, NCP caregivers, and HBC on child protection.

#### **Issues and Observations**

##### *Ownership*

Save the Children’s program aimed at strengthening community child protection systems is phasing out in Mpolonjeni. CBLD met with Save the Children to share plans and learn lessons, if any, and get a better understanding from them on the gaps identified that have or have not been addressed to avoid a duplication of efforts from this PEPFAR supported program. The child protection training in Mpolonjeni follows a meeting with eight LL from Bhumaneni, Hlangothi, Mantjolini and Njingameni on the February 13, held at the Gogo centre with Save the Children child protection officer Jabu Shongwe, where the needs of LL were identified.

In this meeting CBLD observed that Mpolonjeni LL have previously received support from other NGOs, including Save the Children and World Vision. Even though they were nominated by their own community leaders, they have not taken ownership of the child protection initiative as a community initiative and therefore have looked to the external organizations like Save the Children and World Vision to address the community challenges. They even lacked a referral relationship with their own leadership: they did not have a mechanism for reporting to the community leaders on the needs of OVC nor on any issues identified. This has contributed to a high level of burn out and attrition as the only feedback that comes from the leaders and the rest of the community members is negative, that LL, RHM, and NCP caregivers are not effective, are not doing their job, are interfering and this has led to the high turnover as some members have felt that it does not pay.

During the training participants were encouraged and motivated to continue with their responsibility by making them understanding just how important it is for communities to come up with and support their own initiatives for child protection as they often are the first and last lines of defense for these vulnerable children. Community leaders, also present, were encouraged to motivate community volunteers and establish a referral and reporting mechanism for identified OVC. This too will give meaning to the name '*Bantfivana bendlunkbulu*' the SiSwati coinage of the term OVC, which means 'children of the community leadership'.

It was also emphasized in the training that these children should be identified, and known so that their needs can be identified and addressed, with the child protectors' monitoring them on a monthly basis.

#### *Coordination*

One of the weaknesses undermining the work of the participants within the community is that they did not have an understanding of the respective roles of the different community stakeholders, RHM, LL, HBC Caregivers, and NCP caregivers. There were also a lot of missed opportunities where they could have worked together but instead worked against each other. For example, where a child was sick, an intervening LL would find them in the firing line from RHM who felt that LL had no place addressing the needs of the 'sick', which is the RHM's domain. This was addressed during the training and the different stakeholders were able to identify, understand, and appreciate the complementary roles they each play within the same communities.

#### *Women's Rights*

Although previously trained by others on child protection, this was the first opportunity for most of the participants to be trained on their own rights, the constitution and the laws of Swaziland. Participants noted that the rights of children were greatly influenced by and interrelated with the rights of their parents, especially their mothers; hence, it was important for all women to know their rights and appreciate the country's constitution and the new place of customary law. As an example, participants cited that in their families today, often the rights that children enjoy in the home or within the family will depend on the status of the mother e.g. whether married or unmarried, first wife or second wife, etc.. This is in violation to the Constitution as well as provisions of the CPWA.

#### *Support*

Participants have also asked to be incentivized with uniforms, communication costs, and funds to help them meet OVC needs. They also reported that two of the NCP at Bhumaneni and Lusotini are struggling with food. RHM have also identifies that for some of the children when they enroll for ART they have to take their medication from the nearest referral hospital, which is in Siteki, and some of the children cannot afford transport costs.

#### **4.2.4 Mpolonjeni community police training, March 22-24**

At Mpolonjeni inkhundla center from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March, CBLD, with the RSP, trained 57 community police on child protection, human rights, and their roles in child protection, preventing crime, and responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV).

#### **Observations**

##### *Crime Prevention*

Participants noted that the existence of community police within the respective communities has contributed to the decrease in the levels of crime, especially of stock theft and timely closing of beer halls. However, when it came to responding to violence and child abuse, community police did not feel 'empowered to act' on such 'domestic issues'. During the workshop, both CBLD and the RSP emphasized the important role that community police must play to protect the rights of children within the community. Participants were also given case studies to do in groups to help them to reflect upon the different scenarios and identify how they could intervene. At the end of the workshop participants reported they understood the role they could play to support OVC to prevent child abuse.

### *Use of Force*

At the beginning of the training, participants had expressed very strongly that they wanted clarity from this training on why criminals appeared to be protected by the law after committing crime, yet when community police tried to apprehend suspects by applying the necessary ‘force’, they were often times charged for assault, which made suspects lose respect for them and make the community police a laughing stock in their own communities. The RSP explained in detail the limitations in the law on the use of force when making an arrest. They also cautioned them that it was not necessary for them to physically detain suspects to effect an arrest, that it will suffice to just declare that the suspect is ‘under arrest’.

### *Investigation and Liability*

Participants were unclear also on their role in the investigation of crimes and whether and how much they would be covered in the event they met an accident while investigating a crime. The RSP explained that it is their role to investigate crimes, not the role of the community police. As soon as they have reasonable grounds to believe that a crime has been committed, the community police should report the case to the RSP. Many of the participants were shocked to hear this, and some alleged that it goes against their initial teaching and would not work because in practice, even where the police had been called, they did not often respond on time, if at all.

The RSP explained that even their authority to investigate crimes was limited by jurisdiction, and the same applied to community police who were also limited to the jurisdiction of their communities, where they are appointed and known as community police. This was a very important point to get across as participants confessed that they had investigated some crimes and went as far as Manzini and Siteki to investigate or obtain evidence before these matters were reported.

### *Code of Conduct*

Participants were asked to come up with a code of conduct to guide them in the implementation of their responsibilities. This should address issue of recruitment, personal behaviors and the consequences for misconduct.

### *Communication and other incentives*

Participants also highlighted the need to start income generating activities to raise resources for communication and coordination, including money for airtime, a dedicated cellphone with airtime, and uniforms. On the last day participants were asked to meet in small groups and come up with ideas of what they could do to raise those resources. All sub-communities have identified chickens as the business they could start to raise those funds. CBLD has been requested to provide some business advice, and recommend alternative activities. The GCPS will meet with the CBLD team in Q3 to determine how this can be integrated as a self-sustainability strategy for this important initiative.

## **4.3 Capacity Building and Support to Child Protection Networks**

Through the monthly meetings, CPNs have been strengthened in Ndzingeni, Herefords and Khuphuka, resulting in improved services for OVC. Prior to the monthly CPN meetings, the LL, NCP caregivers, community leaders, community police, and RHM meet separately discuss progress over the course of the month and consolidate their own reports to be presented at the main meeting. When they join together at the main meeting, they share with the group how many OVC have been supported in that reporting period, the types of services provided or needs addressed, and identify any areas or cases where the other stakeholders by name (e.g. *bandlanane*) can support them on a case by case basis. The community leaders and community police report and update the meeting on any matters of OVC that have been reported or referred to them in that reporting period and the outcome of each case.

### **4.3.1 CPN Progress in Ndzingeni**

In Ndzingeni, the CPN has continued to meet regularly, however some meetings have had to be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions. The CPN monthly meeting platform has provided a platform for community stakeholders to review their roles on child protection, have a common understanding of their respective roles and also ensure that they are accountable to each other. While normally, the different stakeholders would report to the leadership, this forum creates a responsibility on the community leaders to also report back on their action or inaction on issues of OVC. For example, in this reporting period, LL had reported a case of a family of OVC who were dispossessed of their land which *bandlanecane* had later sold to another resident. This issue was raised in the January CPN meeting and has been followed up in subsequent meetings with the *indvuna* himself (head of *bandlanecane*). The matter has been resolved and the children have been allocated a new piece of land.

Through the CPN, the community stakeholders have identified OVC within the communities and their various needs and have come up with their own solutions to address them. To promote food security a garden for OVC has been identified, and all community members contribute towards growing maize for the most vulnerable. This initiative was begun with the support of NERCHA some years ago and when that support stopped it became challenging to sustain it. CBLD has emphasized the need for communities to explore internal resources to sustain such important initiatives, hence they have revived it. However, given the number of OVC, the crop will not be sufficient to feed all the children, and LL have proposed instead that each child be supported by their caregivers and CPN members to grow their own food in their own garden, and that this would be a more sustainable arrangement as the *umphakatsi* garden is too far out of reach for most LL, RHM, and the older children, especially those from child headed households, who could help with the weeding.

#### **4.3.2 CPN Progress in Herefords**

Unfortunately, due to the leadership disputes in Herefords, formal meetings have been suspended, and the CPN only met once in March 2014. Community leaders did not participate in the last meeting as they have advised that they are barred for meeting with CBLD over development issues at the Gogo centre. The last meeting venue was changed from the Gogo centre to Herefords High School, two days before the meeting. This change of date was communicated to the GCPS by one Shiyumena Dlamini and later confirmed by *bucopho*, Mr Simon Ndwandwe.

The March meeting introduced the objectives of the CPN and the different groups met to discuss progress to date and also piloted use of the new reporting tools. Participants were encouraged to come up with a community child protection policy and code of conduct as it was also reported in the same meeting that some CPN members had been implicated in cases of child abuse and domestic violence. RHM, LL, and NCP caregivers also submitted the list of OVC in their respective sub-communities.

#### *Coordination*

Participants reported that with all the restrictions, it was very difficult for them to work as they were unsure of their security within their communities, whether or not they still had the authority to act as RHM, community police, etc. The *bucopho* advised that while he could not address the issues of meetings being banned, the CPN network meetings were permitted by the community leaders affiliated with the Royal Kraal (as distinct from the community leaders recognized by the community itself). CBLD would only have to consult on the venue for the meeting from time to time.

#### **4.3.3 CPN Progress in Khuphuka**

The first CPN meeting was held in Khuphuka, following the training of all community stakeholders in this reporting period, and was well attended. The objectives of the CPN were introduced to participants. The forum has been well received and said to be the first opportunity for true mentorship on child protection. Participants noted that previous training sessions had lacked this component of mentorship after the training, and they were not brought together as community stakeholders with a common objective to help them

understand how to work together, complement each other and not compete. RHM, LL, and NCP caregivers gave their reports on the number of children that they have supported in the reporting period.

## **Lessons Learnt**

### *Collaboration with RSP*

One of the enabling factors in this reporting period has been the very strong support that CBLD received from the RSP, which has shown a huge commitment for strengthening community systems. For each capacity building forum for community police, RSP made available at least two officers for the duration of the training. This has also improved the confidence of community stakeholders in CBLD as a partner of the government and made it easy for participants to receive the messages on human rights and the constitution. This has also helped increase the number of community police participating in each workshop. After requesting the RSP to mobilize community police for the training, CBLD recorded a higher attendance in Mpolonjeni than in Khuphuka, where only the leadership, Gogo Centre manager, and the chair of the community police were involved in mobilization.

### *Involvement of Community Leaders*

The involvement of community leaders as participants in the Lubombo training forums has been an effective strategy to give them an in depth understanding of the respective roles of each stakeholder and has helped the leaders to identify for themselves and also hear from the participants exactly what role they should be playing in supporting them. Community leaders in Khuphuka have identified, from participating in these meetings, that there is a need to come up with objective criteria to use when recruiting community members into the different roles. Also, they need to have a community code of conduct to guide what will be acceptable and unacceptable conduct on the part of each person and the consequences.

For example, one of the community police who participated in the training has been very abusive to his wife. The matter was reported by his wife to his colleagues (fellow community police) and the community leadership, and they failed to assist. None of them reported this matter to the RSP although *bandlancane* had warned him several times against this conduct. Despite all of this, he was still a serving member of the community police. Only after he severely assaulted his wife once more did the community leaders report it to CBLD, but not to the RSP. This might be due to a large extent the guilt they feel when turning against their own. A code of conduct would address such issues, as there would be a transparent and accepted process for dealing with such conduct in the future.

### *Sustainability of Child Protection Initiatives*

The sustainability of community child protection initiatives is challenged due to the lack of financial incentives and the fact that all too often these volunteers have to dig into their own limited resources to support the bigger objectives. It seems the best way to ensure sustainability is to invest in RHM because as a structure they are more formally recognized and they are paid a stipend. Across all four communities, RHM outnumber other institutions, and the dropout rate is very low. However, a delicate balance must be maintained so as to avoid overburdening RHM with too many responsibilities. CBLD has included them in each child protection meeting as well as the CPN, as they conduct home visits and hence are most likely to see and know the children within their sub-communities and their status. Because RHM are paid, they tend to be more accountable and consistent and systematic in their reporting.

With the renewed appreciation of their child protection role, leaders have come up with services which are exclusive to OVC. Examples include the renewed use of the maize plot in Ndzingeni, and the letters to school for exemption of payment of top-up fees, which was previously restricted to orphans. The SiSwati translation of OVC is '*Bantfwana bendlunkhulu*', literally translated to 'children of the chief's household'. CBLD has promoted community ownership for OVC issues and encouraged the leadership and the CPN to know who the children are and what their basic needs, and to come up with community solutions to address these. This is

one of the ways CBLD is ensuring sustainability of the child protection program as it addresses the gaps in the national social welfare system.

## **Challenges**

### *Documentation and Reporting*

The low literacy levels among CPN members continue to be a hindrance to reporting. The reporting tools have been simplified and customized for CPN members to collect the basic information on each child about their needs including food, shelter, access to health, and education and on child abuse, but still they are not able to use them effectively. Many have to recall their interactions from memory, to be recorded by others. This takes a lot of time to do during the meeting.

This has also undermined CBLD's efforts to establish a comprehensive referral system with proper tools in place. While the referral of children to services within and outside the community is already happening, it is difficult to come up with tools for a predominantly illiterate group of people. In addition to that, even if CBLD were to help come up with appropriate tools and protocols, stakeholders (RSP, Ministry of Health [MoH], and DSW) that work with the CPN would not recognize nor use these tools as they have their own protocols and intake and referral forms that they use and would not change them to accommodate community stakeholders. CBLD will have to rethink its approach on this activity.

### *The leadership dispute in Herefords and sustainability of child protection initiatives*

The prevailing community leadership dispute in Herefords threatens the sustainability of child protection initiatives in this community as CPN members have been banned from meeting at the kaGogo, and not all are willing to attend meetings at the alternate venue (Herefords High School), as this act may be seen as validating the authority of the alternate leadership.

## **4.4 SBCC and Life Skills**

### **Objectives**

CBLD's SBCC program aims to enhance the awareness, acceptance, and demonstration of positive behaviors and practices that protect and promote the well-being of women, youth, and children. Participants will be equipped with skills for decision-making in difficult situations where their health and safety may be at risk.

### **Activities and results**

In this reporting period, peer educators in Ndzingeni and Herefords have also continued to reach their peers with SBCC messages on the following topics: abstinence, basic facts about HIV, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, child abuse, gender based violence, stigma and discrimination, risky behaviors, and Life Skills. These forums have not just provided young people with previously inaccessible information but have also created safe spaces for young people to discuss these topics openly with peers, in a non-judgmental environment and have also forced them to openly confront some myths and misconceptions on issues of sexuality and behaviors.

Monthly mentorship and monitoring meetings are held with both groups together to share information and report on experiences and what has been learnt. In each meeting, peer educators report on progress in meeting their targets and share effective strategies that have been employed to reach young people. They also bring questions for discussion on 'hard' topics for that month. The following topics were unpacked in this reporting period.

- Understanding post-exposure prophylaxis and how it can prevent the transmission of HIV and why people do not have access to the same after they have 'unprotected' sex
- Understanding stigma and discrimination and how young people living with HIV can overcome stigma and discrimination

- Myths and misconceptions about masturbation as an alternative to engaging in early sex
- Understanding the risk for cervical cancer

### **Youth Mobilization and participation**

Since the training, peer educators have continued to reach their peers. However the numbers reached have fallen short of the target, especially the number of young women. To address these issues, in the February mentorship meeting CBLD invited Swaziland National Youth Council's (SNYC) national youth coordinator, Mimi Nkonyeni, who facilitated a discussion on youth development and the importance for young people to mobilize their peers to develop themselves. The discussion focused on the how young people can be reached in the respective communities and encouraged to make the messages more engaging and relevant to their peers within the communities, to lead by example, and also to identify influential people within their communities to open doors for them. Mimi also motivated participants, encouraging them to think out of the box and come up with innovative business ideas for creating employment opportunities, as opposed to seeking employment opportunities. The GCPS will coordinate with the CBLD team on providing some guidance and assistance to the youth.

### **In school youth-Life Skills program**

To reach in school youth, CBLD will support the roll out of the MoET's new Life Skills curriculum in the seven secondary and high schools within CBLD communities. In this reporting period, CBLD has participated in MoET meetings to the rollout of the Life Skills programs and has met with the Career Guidance director to identify other areas for support. The Ministry has requested CBLD support in building the capacity of the Career Guidance Officers who have been identified as master trainers to train all teachers on the curriculum. CBLD will prioritize the training of teachers from the seven schools in the next reporting period.

### **Challenges and lessons**

#### *Team spirit*

The Herefords group is making good progress with weekly planning and working as a team. This has helped in to increase their reach and the number of participants. The Ndzingeni group, however, are working as individuals and have found it difficult to work as a group. During the last meeting, Ndzingeni youth were encouraged to work together as a group. The advantage for the Herefords youth has been the close proximity of all the participants to each other and the one central meeting place. Their commitment has also been noticed by community elders who have since made the kaGogo centre available to them for their weekly meetings.

#### *Code of Conduct*

The Herefords group has shared that they are having challenges with young people who drink because they do not want to risk the reputation of the group by including peer educators who have a reputation for being drunk and acting disorderly. CBLD will work with all the peer educators to develop a code of conduct. Consultation meetings with each group at the community level will be held in the next quarter.

#### *High Turnover*

As they get employment and study opportunities, peer educators exit the program, often at short notice, and new members have to be identified to replace those candidates. New peer educators need training and resource materials. This challenges the sustainability of this program. To counter this challenge, peer educators have identified others who have been trained by Family Life Association of Swaziland (FLAS) and other NGOs and who have a foundational understanding of the discussion topics. Each group now shares the manuals and every member who leaves, temporarily or permanently, also leaves the material to the rest of the team members. CBLD will provide for additional refresher training, but the objective is to build the knowledge base within the community so that the program can be sustained.

#### *Working with the Ministry of Education*

There is considerable delay in the implementation of the Life Skills curriculum. Despite the many planning meetings, it has been frustrating to note that the Ministry is still not ready to roll out the Life Skills curriculum. CBLD has been specifically requested to support the training of career guidance officers on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, which is not directly in line with CBLD objectives, yet it appears that there may be other partners (Lusweti and Save the Children) who have also been talking to the ministry about supporting such training.

The rollout of the MoET Life Skills program to 100 additional schools will begin in September. The Ministry is currently finalizing the pilot results and the draft curriculum will be submitted to the Curriculum Committee for approval in a meeting to be held in June 2014, after which the materials will be ready for print. CBLD is planning to train teachers from the seven schools earlier, using the draft materials. However, this will be determined by the availability of the Ministry to introduce the entire program to all the seven schools at a meeting that CBLD will host, where the logistics of which teachers will be trained when will be decided.

## **5. Capacity Building**

### **5.1 National-Level Capacity Building**

#### **5.1.1 NAMBoard**

Volunteer Consultant Georgia Barrie consulted with NAMBoard on the development of their upcoming farmer loan scheme. Establishing opportunities for farmers to access finance is a priority of this capacity building program, but CBLD's efforts in this arena were temporarily shelved. NAMBoard currently lacks sufficient manpower to focus on the farmer loan scheme, and NAMBoard seems to have deprioritized the initiative for now. CBLD discussions with SwaziBank were more promising, as they indicated their interest in funding horticulture farmers directly, outside of NAMBoard's systems, provided that NAMBoard contracts were in place and that CBLD staff would be engaged in program aftercare. These discussions will continue in Q3, though it is recognized that some of these farmers may not yet be capable of taking a loan and paying it off.

The CBLD team did not engage in any other capacity building activities with NAMBoard in Q2, because the TechnoServe EU1 team was already engaged in specific capacity building efforts, namely the development of crop specification guidance sheets. Additionally, the EU1 team followed the path established by the CBLD team by convincing NAMBoard leadership to adopt a Mobile Money-based payment option for horticulture farmers. The CBLD team will work in collaboration with the EU1 team to see this process to its conclusion in the future.

#### **5.1.2 The Cotton Board and Sikhulile Cotton Ginnery**

The CBLD team completed several capacity building activities with the Cotton Ginnery in Q2 and others will continue into Q3.

##### *Tractor hire credit facility*

Following analyses that confirmed a high demand for tractor services on credit, Volunteer Consultant Joana Sidarov joined the team to develop this financial product and prepare for its rollout in FY15/Q1. Supply-side analysis confirmed that sufficient tractors exist to execute both the pilot and a full-scale rollout, and that potentially the scale of the program would lead to more efficient tractor usage and a lower price point for farmers. Discussions with the Cotton Board confirmed that the pilot tractor hire program would be similar to their existing credit provision and contracting practices and should thus be relatively straightforward.

The challenge lies in capitalizing a revolving fund from which to lend out the credit. In collaboration with the Cotton Board, a concept note was delivered to the MoA, specifically requesting that the fund be capitalized with funds collected through NAMBoard's Edible Oils levy, explaining that these funds would result in the

greater domestic production of edible oils through the crushing of fuzzy cotton seed, a byproduct of cotton production. The Cotton Board will follow up regarding this memo in Q3.

At the end of Q2, CBLD staff were engaged in discussions with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to explore funding opportunities. FAO staff have bought into the concept and at the end of the quarter a concept note was being developed for formal submission to FAO's COMESA-funded Climate Smart Agriculture program.

In Q3, both of these potential funding sources will continue to be pursued. Depending on their likelihood of being approved, CBLD staff will also reach back out to commercial banks as another potential source of financing. Because of higher interest rates and farmers' aversion to banks, this is a less desirable option.

#### *Mobile Money payment platform*

In collaboration with MTN Mobile Money and the Cotton Board, CBLD staff worked to implement a Mobile Money payment program so that cotton farmers could be paid via Mobile Money, instead of receiving large sums of cash when they sell their cotton. Development of this program involved assessing the MTN agent network's ability to disburse funds and working with MTN officers to address technical challenges. Recruitment sessions were held concurrently with the Cotton Board's harvesting trainings in Khuphuka and Mpolonjeni, and a total of 37 people signed up to participate in the payment pilot. Upon participating in the program, these farmers will have the option to save on travel costs by not visiting the Ginnery at harvest time, and will have access to electronic savings options that many farmers do not currently possess because of their aversion to keeping money in banks. While physical access to banks is a challenge for some, others fear that banks might try to collect on past defaulted loans.

### **5.1.3 The Swaziland Honey Council**

The CBLD team assisted the Swaziland Honey Council in Q2. Junior Business Advisor Mandla Langwenya has a long-standing relationship with the Honey Council and he continues to serve them as he joins the CBLD team. In Q2, Mandla helped to organize Honey Council's first annual marketing conference at Esibayeni Lodge, where honey processors, representatives of the Swazi and South African governments, and rural beekeepers discussed relevant topics such as reducing export trade barriers and building a disease surveillance program. Additionally, Mandla worked with officials from the MoA and the MicroFinance Unit (MFU) to advocate for funding so that the Honey Council, a chronically underfunded organization, can achieve the status of a gazetted government company and then receive a government budget to fund a permanent Secretariat.

### **5.1.4 Constituency Development Planning**

CBLD has been collaborating with Mananga Institute, Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration (MTAD), MoA, and Microprojects on an EU-funded project that will develop eight constituency development plans (two per region in Swaziland), thereby developing a template for MTAD to use across the country for constituency development plans. CBLD has been working with a team focused on the Hhohho Region, and Ndzingeni is one of the two constituencies participating in the program. CBLD has been assisting with the constituency training needs analysis (January), designing and developing the training modules for improving community service delivery (February) and pre-testing the training modules (March). The project also involves supporting the constituencies in developing proposals for in-kind grants for development and income generating projects. There are three awards of up to SZL 100,000 available to each constituency. CBLD has been supporting the proposals from Ndzingeni constituency, which will be submitted and awarded in Q3.

### **5.1.5 Gender**

At the national level, CBLD has continued provide input into a number of stakeholder forums including: the CANGO-led Gender Consortium, which is developing a national advocacy strategy, focusing on GBC and the

passage of the Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence Bill. CBLD has also facilitated a workshop on women's SRHR in Swaziland, held by the Southern African Litigation Centre (SALC), supported the development of the Constitution and Code of Conduct of the Men Engage Network (MEN) Swaziland, which is aimed at promoting the engagement of men and boys in achieving gender equality in Swaziland, and participated in the planning meetings for the International Women's Day 2014 event, which will be held at Ntfontjeni in the next reporting period.

### **5.1.6 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

The GCPS gave a presentation on women's rights and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Swaziland at a two day convening of Lawyers and Advocates Working on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Women's Rights in Swaziland from the 14-15 January 2014 at the Royal Swazi Sun, Ezulwini, and led by the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) and Women for Women Development Consultancy.

The workshop brought together lawyers, activists and advocates working on sexual and reproductive rights (SRR), HIV and women's rights in Swaziland. The objectives of the meeting were as follows.

- increase awareness of international, regional and local human rights law on SRR
- identify some of the strengths and weaknesses of SRR advocacy and litigation strategies in Swaziland
- highlight Swazi and regional case law on SRR which can be used as resources in litigation in Swaziland
- discuss the extent to which litigation can be used to protect and promote sexual and reproductive rights of women in Swaziland
- identify the challenges and opportunities for lawyers, activists and advocates to work together to promote SRR

The focus of the presentation was on Women's Rights and Protection of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Swaziland. The presentation highlighted the fact Swaziland does not have a comprehensive legal framework to address SRHR; however, most of the rights enjoyed in Swaziland are found in a number of domestic legislations. The recently passed National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive and Reproductive Health (2013) is aligned to international commitments and recognizes that every citizen is entitled to fundamental human rights and freedoms including the right to health which incorporates the right to sexual and reproductive health irrespective of sex, gender, culture, religion, age, race, disability, and HIV and economic status.

The presentation also highlighted the influence of culture and religion on the respect and the enjoyment of SRHR in Swaziland. Because of this influence, homosexuality is criminalized in legislation, as is abortion. Other common violations of women's rights, which include forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, noted in the presentation include:

- performing procedures without informed consent
- forced sterilizations for HIV positive and persons living with disabilities
- forced and child marriages
- denial of access to life-saving obstetric care
- marital rape, which remains unrecognized as a crime in Swaziland.

The presentation recommends that public interest litigation can be pursued as part of a coordinated advocacy strategy on the basis of the constitution and other domestic legislation that guarantee the right to life.

### **5.1.7 Support to the Men Engage Network (MEN) Swaziland**

CBLD joined the MEN steering committee at a meeting held at NERCHA on January 14 to develop a constitution and code of conduct for the network. The constitution outlines the purpose of the network, and establishes protocols and guidelines for membership, participation, meetings, and termination. The code of

conduct governs both the personal and professional behavior of individuals affiliated with the network to ensure the integrity of its mission. The code outlines a set of institutional and personal principles for membership that include mechanisms to ensure that the individual members of MEN follow the principles in their professional and personal lives and specifies disciplinary procedures in the event of breach. The two documents were presented to members in a meeting held on the March 14. The steering committee is awaiting feedback from members before they can be validated.

## 5.2 Community Level Capacity Building

All CBLD program emphasize building capacity of individuals and institutions at the community level. This section briefly highlights CBLD's support to other community initiatives that lie outside the project's scope. These are initiatives that have begun as a result of the community engagement processes in each community.

Inspired by both the community strategic planning activities and the enterprise development program, community members in the Lubhijini sub-community of Ndzingeni have established a wellness program that seeks to provide support services to the sick and disables, the bereaved, and those caring for them. (See "Working with Key Populations" for more information). The program currently has 70 members (57 women). Though not a CBLD program, this initiative was the outcome of other CBLD activities, and the founding members have been supported by CBLD in developing a constitution and building linkages with the Nazarene clinic, MoA, and MoH.

CBLD has been working with the Hlane constituency (*inkbundla*) council and church leaders in Khuphuka to determine how the community's faith based organizations can support OVC and other vulnerable members of the community. Meanwhile, in Mpolonjeni, CBLD has been working with a group of educated professionals in the community to develop a tutoring and career and skills development program to support OVC and others who have not been able to complete their secondary education. In Herefords, CBLD has helped to revive the community's water committees to promote water projects in two sub-communities (Fontotje and Tincatsavaneni) The committees have identified water sources and have since applied to Micro Projects for funding.

## 6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The report emphasizes the results accomplished from various monitoring activities and data sources. The monitoring and evaluation program is designed to serve as an important link between implementation of the project plan and on the ground accomplishments.

The activities that were conducted in this reporting period include:

- Data collection and database management
- Staff training in Most significant Change Stories Technique (MSC)
- Developing the questionnaire for the OVC survey
- Updating indicators, criteria, and monitoring reports to meet new PEPFAR reporting requirements

### 6.1 Database Management

Field officers complete daily field monitoring reports that are completed on a weekly basis, reviewed by the M&E Officer, and entered into the database by the Program Assistant. A total of 1,928 people (1,098 females and 830 males) were reached by one or more CBLD programs in this quarter. The activities that are included in this number include small and large-group trainings and sensitizations, individual and small group mentorship, small group discussions, one-on-one consultations, and referrals. All work plan programs were active in this reporting period except savings groups, early childhood development and education, and homestead garden training. The output indicator results are attached as Annex 1.

To accommodate the new PEPFAR indicators, their minimum requirements, and the need to capture dependents of beneficiaries in its monitoring data, CBLD has updated field monitoring reports to collect the required information. Additionally, to understand the conditions of OVC in each community, support the work of the CPNs, and to better reach OVC and OVC caregivers, the project has developed an OVC survey tool that has been submitted to FHI 360s IRB for approval and will be deployed in four communities in Q3. The survey will capture information about all OVC, including name, sex, age, school attendance, number of meals per day, birth registration status, access to health care, and caregiver information (age, sex, livelihood, and interest or participation in CBLD programs). OVC are identified according to community and national standards, which state that an OVC is a child living in one or more of the following situations: single or double orphaned; disabled; from child-headed households; from a household where the family or caregiver cannot afford or is otherwise unable to provide the child's basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, school-related expenses, and medical attention; and abused or neglected children, including children staying with relatives or being fostered by an LL, RHM, or other community members, children whose parents are employed and not supporting them, and children whose fathers deny paternity and do not pay maintenance.

This information will help CBLD and the CPNs in each community to better understand, monitor, and respond to the needs of OVC. Additionally, the information will be used to inform the project team in targeting OVC caregivers for project activities, and determine the number and proportion of OVC caregivers reached by the program.

## **6.2 Most Significant Change Stories technique (MSC)**

MSC is a form of participatory monitoring and evaluation involving project stakeholders in determining the type and degree of change to be recorded and in analyzing the change documented. As with ongoing data collection and monitoring, MSC occurs throughout the program cycle and provides information to help assess program outcomes.

Essentially, the process involves the collection of change stories emanating from the field level and the systematic selection of the most significant of these stories by panels of designated CBLD staff. This will help to determine with sufficient objectivity which stories to include in the final report.

Eight CBLD Staff and two additional TechnoServe staff not on CBLD attended a two day workshop in March on the MSC technique in preparation of the story collection. The training introduced the technique, how to solicit for and collect stories, how to request consent, and how to write the stories. The last stage of the training will be done in Q3 and will focus on the story analysis process. A total of 5 stories of significant change have been collected to date.

## **6.3 Challenges and lessons**

In the cotton value chain development program, lead farmers have not been able to record enough information about step-down training and mentoring beneficiaries to satisfy the minimum standards. The team is identifying ways to better capture this information.

Not all beneficiaries could be counted this quarter as they did not meet PEPFAR's new minimum standards for required number of interactions and hours of contact. To increase the number of beneficiaries meeting the minimum standards, CBLD is revising its implementation approach to certain programs (e.g. increasing the interactions with students on issues of child protection and human rights).

# **7. Administrative**

## **7.1 Issuance of Local Grants**

Immediately following the increase in obligation to FHI 360 for CBLD, the project resumed contract discussions with Vusumnotfo, a local partner selected in FY13 through a competitive bidding process to

implement savings groups, early childhood development, and homestead garden activities in Herefords and Ndzingeni. The agreement is expected to be finalized in Q3. Also in Q3, CBLD will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) to local partners to implement the same 3 programs in Khuphuka and Mpolonjeni, as well as two additional communities to be selected in Q3.

## 7.2 Staffing

The following staffing changes occurred in Q2.

- Mandhla Mehlo, CBLD's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, will be resigning in Q3. In Q3, CBLD will begin recruiting for his replacement, bringing in short-term expertise to bridge the gap.
- CBLD began recruiting for a new Chief of Party, who would begin as Deputy Chief of Party in Q3, before becoming Chief of Party in Q4.
- CBLD began recruiting for a Youth Programs Coordinator, primarily to support the SBCC and Life Skills programs for in- and out-of-school youth. CBLD expects to fill this position in Q3.
- JOINED: Robert Mabundza, Business Advisor (TechnoServe)
- JOINED: Mandla Langwenya, Junior Business Advisor (TechnoServe)