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COMMUNITY BASED LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
(CBLD) FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SWAZILAND  
QUARTERLY REPORT YEAR 2 QUARTER 2  
(JANUARY 1, 2013 – MARCH 31, 2013)

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

QUARTERLY REPORT YEAR 2 QUARTER 2  
(JANUARY 1, 2013–MARCH 31, 2013)

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## **Introduction**

USAID awarded FHI 360 the five-year Community Based Livelihoods Development (CBLD) for Women and Children in Swaziland program on December 1, 2011. The award is effective through November 30, 2016. The Quarterly Report is a requirement under this award and covers Quarter 2 of Year 2 (January 1, 2013–March 31, 2013).

CBLD's three objectives are: (1) improve the livelihood capabilities of vulnerable households, including women, youth and caregivers within these households; (2) protect the rights of women and children; and (3) strengthen the capacity and coordination of government institutions, communities and other organizations to protect and promote the social and economic well-being of women, youth, and children. CBLD will implement activities in close collaboration with community organizations and institutions and their government, NGO and private sector partners, providing support to enhance their capacity to deliver effective services to the community and manage community development initiatives. CBLD will emphasize the sustainability of these initiatives by encouraging local ownership and leadership, providing technical assistance, and building linkages among multiple organizations and institutions, horizontally (within the community) and vertically (with structures at the Tinkhundla, regional and national levels). This approach aims to improve access of vulnerable households to social, economic and other services by creating or strengthening referral networks within communities.

## **Accomplishments**

During the current reporting period, CBLD continued to implement and develop activities in Herefords and Ndzingeni, two communities in northern Hhohho Region. This section summarizes the accomplishments from the reporting quarter.

CBLD's approach to livelihoods and economic strengthening has focused on value chain development and enterprise development training, as well as linkages with private sector, government and donor funding opportunities. In Ndzingeni this quarter, CBLD provided technical training 94 beekeepers. In Herefords, with support from CBLD in partnership with a local business, a group of 18 farmers has begun to cultivate baby corn for export to South Africa. Looking to the future, CBLD has selected cotton as a focus value chain, which will be a factor in the selection of the next two communities. Discussions with the management of Swaziland's cotton gin have led to the pre-selection of six potential CBLD communities.

In Ndzingeni, CBLD has met with groups interested in participating in enterprise development training to identify trainers as well as students and is adapting TechnoServe's existing training curricula for this purpose. CBLD has also conducted market and feasibility analyses of common income-generating activities identified during the baseline survey and the cotton value chain.

The community engagement events, which comprise a series of dialogs, focus group discussions, and strategic planning and resource mobilization meetings, have been underway in Herefords and Ndzingeni since February, and will continue through May 2013. These community events have brought together about 1,200 community members representing various institutions and demographic groups, and have helped CBLD and the community to identify community priorities, social and economic constraints and opportunities, and relevant local and outside resources, and to plan activities that address these priorities. The

events have introduced (or re-introduced) community members to a variety of government and non-government services providers, building important relationships and linkages that are needed to fulfill the community's development objectives more sustainably.

Through these events, community members have raised a number of issues related to gender-based violence, lack of access to basic services, neglect of OVCs and people living with disabilities, and property grabbing. These events have also provided community members with the opportunity to discuss a broad range of social and economic issues with officers from other institutions and government ministries, covering topics ranging from child trafficking (with RSP) to funding for community projects (with Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration). The priorities, resources and relationships with other institutions that were highlighted in the meetings will form the basis of the community's strategic plan, which will guide a set of community-led, in some cases CBLD-supported, development initiatives. CBLD's capacity assessment of institutions involved in the plan can help to rationalize the expectations of community members, while also identifying training of capacity strengthening needs and resource constraints.

In January and February, CBLD conducted household baseline surveys in each community, reaching 485 participating households with an in-depth survey to measure various social, economic, and behavioral indicators. These baselines are an invaluable tool not only for measuring project outcomes but also for providing a detailed social and economic context for each community. A draft report analyzing the data is included as an annex with the submission of this report.

Beginning in January, CBLD has conducted research, planning, and preliminary implementation of community-level initiatives aimed at gender equality and child protection, including human rights sensitization, the provision of legal assistance, support for youth groups, and delivery of enterprise development training. The research gave CBLD an understanding of the application of traditional, or customary law at the community-level, where most cases of domestic violence, child abuse, child custody, and property rights are initially heard. Through discussions with community leaders, court members and the other concerned community members, CBLD has learned that there is not only a tremendous need to improve awareness and understanding of human rights—particularly the rights of women and children—but also strong interest in learning more about these rights and how individuals and institutions can help to uphold them. The research, together with conclusions from community meetings and discussions with implementing partners, is being used to design CBLD's community initiatives in human rights, legal assistance and child protection.

Within most Swazi communities, there is unmet demand for youth-oriented programs that build esteem, leadership and professional skills and earning potential. In two communities in Hhohho Region, CBLD this quarter began working with local and community partners, like Sebenta National Institute, to improve access to non-formal education and skills and enterprise training for out-of-school youth, by training community members to become peer educators. CBLD is also helping to build capacity of youth groups by linking them with government support programs, like the Swaziland Agricultural Development Programme, or private, community-based donors.

At the national level, CBLD has remained engaged with leading organizations and institutions in government, non-government and donor sectors, as well as the private sector through the Business Advisory Council. CBLD has been consulting with UNICEF on the roll-out of the Child Protection and Welfare Act, and with UNFPA on the status of the

Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Bill and the development of a legal aid policy for Swaziland. Working alongside senior and regional community development officers within Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration, CBLD has learned that the Ministry lacks a coherent, transparent and effective community development strategy. CBLD's collaboration with the Ministry provides opportunities to improve their exposure to communities and build their capacity. Among its many other partnerships, CBLD is currently working with the Royal Swaziland Police, the UniSwa Law Society, the Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee, US Peace Corps, Sebenta, Enactus (formerly Students in Free Enterprise [SIFE]), Sdemane Farms, the Swaziland National Honey Council and WFP; opportunities to collaborate with other organizations continue to be identified.

## **1. Livelihoods**

### **1.1. Value Chain Development**

#### **1.1.1. Value Chain Selection**

In the reporting quarter, CBLD continued activities in baby corn and honey and selected cotton as its third value chain. Details on the selection rationale are included below in section 1.1.6.

#### **1.1.2. Develop Chain Training Curricula**

Existing beekeeping training curricula from past TechnoServe programs were updated for use in this quarter's beekeeping training, while the baby corn training curriculum was developed in conjunction with Sdemane Farm, and included laminated harvesting guides in SiSwati for distribution to farmers.

#### **1.1.3. Incorporate Community Input into Value Chain Selection**

Opportunities to participate in both the baby corn and honey value chains were advertised to communities through the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives' Regional Development Authority (RDA), existing honey associations, and general word of mouth; briefing sessions were held to explain the proposed programs and solicit feedback. Eighteen farmers signed up for the baby corn program, which, considering the risk and novelty associated with this crop, is a satisfactory starting number. In Ndzingeni, 94 individuals signed up for the bee keeping program.

#### **1.1.4. Confirm Higher Level Participants For Value Chain Development Initiatives**

CBLD built on preliminary discussions with Sdemane Farm (baby corn exporter) and Eswatini Swazi Kitchen (honey manufacturer) and coordinated with these organizations to develop honey and horticulture value chain opportunities in Herefords and Ndzingeni. Additionally, CBLD coordinated with the Swaziland Cotton Board to confirm the cotton value chain opportunity.

#### **1.1.5. Selecting Community Participants for Value Chain Development initiatives**

As mentioned in section 1.1.3, interested community members were offered the opportunity to engage in the program, CBLD's expectations and the buyer's expectations were explained, and members opted to join in based on whether or not they had both the interest and resources to participate. In the case of baby corn, the main constraint was irrigated land; for honey, the main constraint was the hives and equipment gained from past beekeeping training. In this sense, CBLD did not select participants, rather they selected themselves.

### **1.1.6. Implementing Value Chain development Initiatives**

#### **Baby Corn in Herefords**

In Herefords, CBLD has recruited 18 local farmers to become “outgrowers” for Sdemane Farm, a commercial farm that sells high-value horticulture products to lucrative markets in South Africa. Sdemane offers these farmers SZL 19/kg for 1<sup>st</sup> grade baby corn, and SZL 12/kg for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade baby corn, which compare favorably to the market rate of ~SZL 2.4/kg for maize. Provided that they engage in the proper farming and harvesting practices to produce a suitable crop, annual profits are predicted to be ~SZL 15,000 per hectare. Additionally, during harvest time, these farmers rely on women from the community to help harvest the crop—CBLD estimates ten women are hired for every hectare of baby corn production. In total, ~SZL 7,000 in wages are expected to be paid per hectare over the course of two harvests. A total of seven hectares are scheduled to be planted in the first planting, which started in late February, and will conclude in mid-April. Two plantings will take place this season, with the first harvest starting in mid-May and lasting until the beginning of July, and the second harvest starting in late September and lasting until late October. With irrigation, baby corn is a year-round crop.

CBLD has brokered the outgrower program with Sdemane Farm and worked with their staff to design the services that they are providing to farmers, namely planting programs, seed on credit, harvesting trainings, and farm gate collection of the crop. CBLD has advertised this opportunity through the community, recruited the 18 farmers, helped them to measure their fields, trained them in proper planting, and is continuing to monitor the fields as the first farmers approach the start of the harvest in mid-May.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

As the first harvest approaches, CBLD will recruit and mobilize community women into harvest teams to work with farmers to harvest the baby corn. Additionally, CBLD and Sdemane Farm will monitor the farms for evidence of pest and disease and take appropriate action. As harvest time approaches, Sdemane’s extension manager will provide harvesting trainings to the farmers, using simple harvesting guides developed by CBLD and Sdemane. Following the harvest, CBLD will coordinate the farmers for a second planting that will take place in July, once the risk of frost has passed. There is room for expansion of the baby corn program in Herefords, and Sdemane would like to see more outgrowers and more area under cultivation. If the first plantings prove successful, CBLD anticipates that it can expand the training program to additional farmers, and while most participants will self-select, CBLD will try to recruit some women farmers as well.

#### **Beekeeping in Ndzingeni**

In Ndzingeni, CBLD has engaged 94 local beekeepers into a proven “lead beekeeper” program. In Ndzingeni, as well as many parts of Swaziland timber highlands, there are many individuals who have been trained in beekeeping and who have beekeeping equipment, but who are not producing anywhere near their potential yields, if at all. CBLD has identified 94 such individuals in Ndzingeni and invited them to undergo a practical training program that has been teaching them beekeeping skills over the course of the honey season. In January, the group elected 18 “lead beekeepers” to receive trainings from CBLD staff. Once trained, each of these lead beekeepers shares their knowledge with about five of their peers. The first training focused on how to train other beekeepers. Following this, lead beekeepers were trained in how to trap bees in a trapbox and transfer them to a hive. After this training, lead beekeepers were expected to go and share their knowledge with the other beekeepers, as

assigned. To guarantee that the message has been received, CBLD holds a large group training and invites all beekeepers to reinforce their knowledge.

Over one-third of the beekeepers are women. Depending on the local forage conditions and how well these beekeepers manage their hives, each beekeeper can expect to make between SZL 800–1200 per hive during the season, and many beekeepers have five or more hives. Profits can be put toward the construction of new hives or can go to household expenses.

TechnoServe staff met multiple times with Eswatini Swazi Kitchen (ESK) following a change of ownership. These meetings confirmed ESK’s continued focus on outgrower sourcing and that rural beekeepers will continue to be able to sell their honey to ESK.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

Large group trainings on trapping & transferring will take place in early April. This will be followed by additional trainings—first to lead beekeepers, and then later to all the beekeepers—on hive management in late April, followed by marketing in early May, and harvesting in late May. The majority of beekeepers in Ndzingeni should begin harvesting in June, provided they followed the schedule laid out in the program. The marketing training will present beekeepers with their options for selling their honey, with ESK as one option.

#### **Cotton Assistance in Lowveld Communities**

Starting in February 2013, CBLD investigated the cotton value chain as a possible addition to the value chains in the CBLD program. TechnoServe had provided technical assistance in the cotton industry from 2008–2012 by focusing on building the capacity of the Cotton Board and Cotton Ginnery and by improving the yields of the nation’s cotton farmers. TechnoServe used a Lead Farmer “training of trainers” model where cotton associations would elect one lead farmer to receive TechnoServe trainings and share this information for four other farmers (the Lead Beekeeper model is based on this highly successful cotton model). As a result of TechnoServe’s program from 2008–2012, the number of farmers engaged in cotton farming increased from under 500 to more than 2,900 and the volume of cotton produced increased from under 500T to ~2,000T. Additionally, the average revenue earned from cotton per farmer increased by SZL 1,550—from SZL 3,000 up to SZL 4,550. This highly successful program was concluded at the end of TechnoServe’s SWEEP program, and the Cotton Ginnery continued a less-intensive version of the Lead Farmer program. The structures and groups remain in place to reinvigorate the Lead Farmer program in select communities.

To assess cotton’s feasibility as a CBLD value chain, a research team consisting of a volunteer consultant and a translator visited a series of cotton farmers to investigate the economics behind cotton and cotton’s impact on women’s livelihoods. Additionally, a 2011 TechnoServe survey report focusing on cotton farmers was reviewed to determine cotton’s impact on women’s livelihoods. The team met multiple times with the Swaziland Cotton Board and Cotton Ginnery to discuss the possibility of engaging in the cotton industry, and to confirm the private sector’s participation in the program. Brian Fitzpatrick, a seasoned cotton consultant, joined the team and helped to develop CBLD’s research on the matter. The information from all of these sources was analyzed and discussed among the team, who confirmed cotton as the next CBLD value chain for the following reasons:

- *Cotton has a positive impact on the livelihoods of women.* Of the survey respondents, roughly 65 percent of the cotton farmers were women, nearly all have children, and

the majority of them reported that they are better off because of planting cotton. Additionally, 82 percent of the women queried said that they had the final decision on how cotton incomes were spent. The majority of survey respondents indicated that income from cotton was primarily spent on food, school fees, health care, and other household expenses.

- *Cotton is the best dryland cash crop.* On non-irrigated homesteads in the lowveld region where poverty is highest, cotton is the most dependable cash crop option. While maize is cultivated in these regions, it is primarily for household consumption, yields are poor, and the risk of crop failure from drought is significant. Additionally, the Cotton Ginnery will buy all of a producer's cotton at a set price. While smallholder cotton profits are not large, cotton's resistance to drought and guaranteed market make cotton production less risky than growing dryland maize in the lowveld.
- *CBLD will use a high impact cotton model.* The proposed TechnoServe intervention was considered to be cost-effective and impactful, as it was modeled after the Lead Cotton Farmer program used with great success under the SWEEP program.

Following this, CBLD and Cotton Board developed a list of candidate communities to receive CBLD assistance for the cotton harvesting period, which will begin in late April and continue until the end of June. At the end of the quarter, five chiefdoms were identified: Shewula, Langa, Hlane, Mpolongeni, and Lulageni.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD will engage in outreach to the five identified cotton communities, with technical assistance trainings to take place starting in late April. This assistance will be provided to Lead Farmers identified by their cotton associations as appropriate mentors who can transfer their learning to others. Brian Fitzpatrick, the team's qualified cotton consultant, will provide practical technical assistance to these lead farmers on how to harvest cotton according to different grading criteria so they can receive the best prices for all of their cotton and maximize their incomes.

These five communities can be viewed as probationary communities; until selection is made, their involvement in the CBLD program will be limited to cotton technical assistance. CBLD will vet these five communities against CBLD criteria. Cotton farmers in the two selected communities will receive ongoing assistance after the conclusion of the cotton season. If resources allow, CBLD can continue supporting farmers in other communities in a more limited capacity.

## **1.2. Enterprise Development**

During the reporting quarter, CBLD conducted research and planning activities with community members and other organizations to determine how best to disseminate enterprise development training at the community level.

With the aim to provide basic financial literacy and business skills training to people in CBLD communities, CBLD staff explored ways of best disseminating proven curricula to community members. By gathering community members into focus groups, CBLD gained insights into community member's needs, as well as the best way to meet those needs. This resulted in the understanding that providing basic financial literacy skills and some business management skills was the best way to overcome the top challenges facing homestead-level businesses. Among the required skills are bookkeeping, calculating profitability, and separating business and personal expenses. By speaking with the community, it was determined that influential members of established community-based organizations (OVC

caregivers, community police, and community development committee members) could serve as trainers to provide basic enterprise training throughout the community. Specific individuals within organizations have been identified and training will begin in FY 2013 Quarter 3.

To validate this enterprise development strategy, an *indaba* meeting of key stakeholders was held on March 14, 2013, to discuss the challenges and solutions to improving levels of enterprise development knowledge in communities. Attending the meeting were representatives of government, NGOs, and financial institutions, as well as small-scale entrepreneurs. The basic strategy developed through the community focus groups was validated, leading to some slight modifications.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

A pilot program to test this community-based training of trainers strategy is scheduled to begin in early June in Ndzingeni. Lessons learned through this process will guide the full roll-out of the program, which should take place in August or September.

From June – August, CBLD will train the Ndzingeni beekeepers and Herefords baby corn farmers in TechnoServe’s eight-module “Farming As A Business” (FAAB) curriculum, which takes general business management lessons and applies them directly to the business of farming.

### **1.3. Financial Services**

In the reporting quarter, CBLD financial services activities included investigation into savings group activities through the series of community meetings in each community and planning to leverage the Marketing Investment Fund (MIF) to support CBLD communities.

#### **1.3.1. Promoting Savings Groups**

The series of community meetings in Ndzingeni and Herefords confirmed the interest within the communities for strengthening and expanding the number of savings groups. Several groups were formed with support from other NGOs in the past, but they are no longer active due to various reasons ranging from dissatisfaction with the way the group functioned, lack of perceived benefit, or departure of groups’ senior members. The communities identified contact persons for the existing savings groups.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

In the next quarter, CBLD will issue a request for assistance (RFA) for local organizations to support CBLD communities with savings group formation and training, in addition to early childhood development and homestead gardens. In preparation, CBLD will be meeting with the savings group members identified during the community meetings to learn more about their recent experience with savings groups as well as their overall financial service needs. CBLD will also identify individuals who are interested in forming or joining savings groups and in becoming savings group trainers and mentors. CBLD will provide its implementing partner (still to be determined) with this information so the partner can begin work immediately.

#### **1.3.2. Linking Value Chain and Enterprise Development Initiatives with Credit and Other Financial Services**

In the reporting quarter, the FinCorp and the Swaziland Agricultural Development program (an FAO-sponsored program implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture) jointly announced

the Marketing Investment Fund, a SZL 10 million fund grant facility to increase participation of smallholder farmers in agricultural value chains. CBLD gathered information on this program and spoke to partner organizations that might qualify for the MIF grant facility. The first tier of the fund was announced at the end of the quarter, with eight grants of SZL 380,000 available to agro-processors, exporters, and other organizations that source production from rural smallholders. The focus of the grant is on increasing the number of these outgrower farmers as well as increasing their yields.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD will work with value chain partners Sdemane Farm and Eswatini Swazi Kitchen's jam and honey operations to assist them in developing proposals for MIF funding. Both of these organizations have ambitions to expand their production through greater use of smallholders, but both face obstacles to achieving that production, namely to the lack of qualified extension officers that coordinate with these farmers in the field. TechnoServe has been playing this role in the past, and sees this grant as a way of moving the organizations toward sustainability. CBLD will guide these organizations in proposal development, illustrating the utility in using the SZL 380,000 grant to employ extension officers or build productive and/or marketing capacity, so that both organizations can have the human resources needed to continue to work with rural outgrowers sustainably as CBLD reduces its assistance and eventually ceases to assist these groups.

### **1.4. Other Livelihoods Activities**

#### **Income Generating Activity (IGA) Research**

CBLD began a research activity to gain better understanding of the economic viability of popular IGAs in Herefords and Ndzingeni, which include IGAs actively promoted by several NGOs in Swaziland. CBLD intends to share its findings on which IGAs lead to better livelihoods with community members, but it also plans to make the findings available to other organizations to guide their programing decisions. Drawing on data from the baseline surveys of the first two CBLD communities, from one of the leading microfinance providers, and from a past TechnoServe study, CBLD compiled a list of the most popular IGAs, and began an initial study of four IGAs: broiler chicken rearing, dress making, and vaseline and floor polish production. A research team consisting of a volunteer consultant and a translator visited Ndzingeni and Herefords to collect data and interview individuals involved in these IGAs.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

The results of the initial four IGAs were sufficiently insightful to warrant additional research in Quarter 3 to look at grass mat production, dairy, and piggery. In addition to finding out information about specific NGOs, CBLD learned more about how most IGAs operate at the household level. For example, most households mix income flows and expenses from all their IGAs and other sources. For this reason, they cannot tell if an IGA is profitable or not, because poor performing activities will be inadvertently subsidized by better performing one. The research indicated that some households were losing about SZL 100 per month with their current IGAs. Once properly analyzed and packaged, this information will be used for a variety of purposes, including sharing it in a workshop to be delivered to other NGOs and key stakeholders. Ideally the key lessons will be drawn and applied to small community workshops focused on improving specific business types—for example, a one-day chicken workshop highlighting that feed is the key cost driver in chicken production and that profits can be increased by driving down feed costs.

### *Enactus Student Groups*

Enactus, formerly Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), is a global network of university students who conduct business-oriented projects aimed to benefit the poor and disadvantaged. In Swaziland, eight universities have Enactus teams. On February 26, CBLDS's Economic Strengthening Specialist gave a presentation explaining CBLD to 117 Enactus students and suggested ways in which Enactus teams could collaborate with the CBLD program. In the weeks that followed, three Enactus teams suggested projects they would like conduct in CBLD communities. These include:

- University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni campus – proposed to assist a women's group in Herefords to set up a dried fruit business.
- Southern African Nazarene University – proposed to deliver entrepreneurship skills training to women in Ndzingeni.
- Limkokwing University – proposed to use recycled computers to set up a computer lab in Herefords and provide computer literacy training to youth in the community.

At the end of the quarter, CBLD was in discussions with these groups regarding their project designs and funding requirements.

### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD will review final funding applications and select Enactus projects to fund, primarily providing small amounts of money (approximately SZL 4,000 per group) to cover the group's transport costs. Following this, CBLD will hold periodic meetings with these groups to monitor their progress.

### **Business Advisory Council (BAC)**

The BAC did not meet in this reporting quarter. Relevant members, primarily the financial institutions, were invited to participate in the enterprise development *indaba*, and representatives of SwaziBank, NedBank, Standard Bank, Federation of Swazi Employers & Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC), FinCorp, Imbita, and SEDCO all attended.

### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD will reconvene a meeting of the BAC, and the CBLD team will report on progress so far, highlighting the IGA research, enterprise development planning, and baby corn, cotton, and beekeeping programs. In the previous meeting of the BAC (October 24, 2012), one of the main questions posed was "Who pays for the 'up-skilling' and coordination of rural farmers to become value chain participants?" The general consensus was that the private sector could not bear the cost of bringing subsistence or semi-commercial farmers up to the level of commercial farmers, and therefore it needed to be paid for through donor funding. In the upcoming BAC meeting, CBLD intends to revisit this question and illustrate the model being used with Sdemane Farm and the Herefords baby corn outgrowers. CBLD will explain how by working with these farmers for a two-year period, they should reach the productivity levels whereby they can sustainably operate in absence of CBLD's assistance. Following this presentation, a discussion will commence regarding what other value chains could follow this model, and what other components (namely financial services) could be added to this model to strengthen it.

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

In the reporting quarter, CBLD's activities in this area focused on raising awareness of human rights, gender equality, and child protection through the series of community meetings, and obtaining information from community members and institutions that will guide CBLD activities in the next quarter and beyond. The Gender Advisory Council did not meet this quarter, but will reconvene in May 2013, with additional participants invited by CBLD's Gender and Child Protection Specialist.

### **2.1. Research on Traditional Systems and Practices**

CBLD has worked with legal consultant Armand Perry, a lawyer from USA residing in Swaziland, to develop a set of program recommendations to guide CBLD's rights and protection activities at the community level. The objective of these activities is to reduce instances of human rights violations by improving the communities' understanding of rights as well as their ability to detect and respond to violations of these rights. Focusing on CBLD's communities, the consultant was also tasked with identifying which types of cases are handled by community police, which ones are brought to the attention of the Royal Swazi Police (RSP), which cases come before the traditional courts, and so forth. While CBLD awaits the full set of recommendations, to be delivered in April 2013, the project has been meeting with the Law Society of the University of Swaziland (UniSwa) on a program involving human rights sensitization and the provision of legal advice and referrals to community members.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD's legal consultant will present his findings and recommendations to CBLD staff and select partners (UNICEF and UNDP), with whom CBLD will be actively collaborating and sharing information. The recommendations will be incorporated into the community based legal rights and access to justice program to be delivered in this reporting period.

### **2.2. Community Education on Human Rights and the Children's Protection and Welfare Act**

The series of community meetings in Ndzingeni and Herefords featured presentations and discussions with community members on issues of human rights, including gender equality, gender-based violence, and child protection. Presentations were provided by Thando Dlamini, a detective focusing on child abuse and gender-based violence, and Phumlani Cebo, a law student at the University of Swaziland and member of the school's Law Society. It was clear from these events and interviews with key stakeholders that there is a need for additional sensitization on human rights. For example, community leaders, traditional court members, inner councils, rural health motivators (RHMs), and Lihlombe Lekukhalela (LLs) all lack knowledge of the Child Protection and Welfare Act, and are therefore unable to identify or act upon all instances of where children's rights have been violated.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

Informed by the community meetings, baseline data and the recommendations by the legal consultant, CBLD will start delivering community-based interventions aimed at sensitizing community members to gender equality and children's rights and providing basic legal advice and referrals. CBLD will work with the students from the UniSwa Law Society to deliver these activities. The community awareness activities will begin in May 2013 and will feature presentations at the regular community meetings, which are held every two weeks, as well as more targeted training of specific institutions, including the inner council, community police,



Thando Dlamini from the RSP, Buhleni, speaks at the Ndzingeni Dialog.

and LLs. In each community, up to 30 volunteer peer educators will receive training required to provide basic information (including referrals) to their friends, neighbors, and family members. CBLD will also deliver messages through the communities' five high schools, utilizing the weekly slot for guidance counseling.

Working with the members of the Law Society, CBLD will begin operating a legal clinic in each community where law students will be available to provide community members with a variety of legal services, including basic education and counseling, self-representation guidance, drafting official documents and applications, and mediation and negotiation. Sessions will be held at locations known and accessible to

community members (e.g. inkhundla center or Kagogo center), provided that such a facility can accommodate confidential discussions. CBLD will make sure that the students have the relevant information needed to address issues they are likely to encounter, e.g. property rights, inheritance, and birth registry.

### 2.3. Women's Radio Program

During the reporting quarter, CBLD was made aware of staffing changes at the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Service (SBIS), and the need to resubmit its proposal for collaboration on a weekly women's radio program. The proposal was resubmitted, but despite indications that SBIS would again review the proposal and contact CBLD for a follow-up meeting, CBLD had not heard anything from SBIS. This is concerning, as collaboration works best when both partners are equally motivated and enthusiastic.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

While continuing to try to follow up with SBIS, CBLD will also reach out to alternatives, like Voice of the Church (VOC). While they may not have the same sized audience, VOC could prove to be a more willing partner. (Note: SBIS and CBLD will resume discussions May 3.)

## 3. Capacity Building

### 3.1. Community Action Planning

During the reporting quarter, CBLD began a series of community planning activities in Herefords and Ndzingeni that will guide most of the project's current and future activities in these communities. In addition to identifying community priorities and planning what CBLD, community institutions, and external government agencies and NGOs can do to address them, these community meetings were also a capacity building activity for the individuals and various community institutions who participated. For community members, the community meetings were a very unique opportunity to openly discuss community issues and learn about relevant services, as they seldom come together to discuss all of the social and economic issues in their community in well-structured, organized meetings. The community meetings

are a necessary precursor to much of CBLD's community level capacity building, as they identify those individuals and institutions who will receive training in order to implement CBLD activities. As an indication of the relative complexities working in each community, CBLD notes that it took nine separate meetings to confirm the dates, location, and participants for the Herefords meeting, but only four in Ndzingeni.



**CBLD's community engagement in Hhohho**

### **3.1.1. Community mapping**

CBLD has compiled electronic maps of Herefords and Ndzingeni. The maps were developed on Google Earth, using a GPS device to record the location of places of interest (schools, clinics, markets, etc.), which were previously known to CBLD or identified by community members. In addition, CBLD collects and stores basic information about each site, which can be updated. For example, for schools, CBLD has the number of male and female students, contact information for the head teacher, specific programs currently in

place, and information about whether the school has certain amenities such as water, a garden, etc. These maps are useful on a number of levels, in addition to providing team members with a basic understanding of the communities' geographies. For example, CBLD can determine distances from homesteads to water points or service centers. CBLD also developed a common iconography for its maps, now being used by all TechnoServe activities, which makes it easier to integrate multiple maps into one file.

#### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD will print poster-sized versions of the maps and use them during subsequent community meetings and activity planning sessions. Copies will also be given to community leaders (e.g., inner council) for their own reference.

### **3.1.2. Community Dialogs**

The community engagement process formally began with the Community Dialogs, which bring together a broadly representative group from the community to become acquainted with the CBLD program and other relevant social or economic services that are available at community and constituency levels (e.g from the RSP and the ministry representatives with Regional Development Team), and ask questions of presenters as needed. Participants also break into groups, based on age decile and gender, to identify the most pressing issues facing the community, and to identify people that should be present at the focus group discussions covering these issues. The one day dialogs were held in February, and brought together about 1,200 participants. The Herefords dialog, which was presided over by the MP for the constituency, featured dance and theatre performances by students.

### **3.1.3. Community Focus Group Discussions**

The focus group discussions were an opportunity for CBLD and community members to drill down into the social and economic issues that were previously identified during the dialogs. These discussions, held in March in Herefords and Ndzingeni, lasted three days in each community, with about 50-70 participants present each day. Some of the presenters from the dialog returned with follow-up information. With these smaller groups, CBLD was able to

get deep into discussion with community members about the issues concerning them, including child protection and services for OVC, the role of the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and its capacity to engage in the community.

#### **3.1.4. Community Strategic Planning and Resource Mobilization**

##### *Plans for next quarter*

Following on the focus group discussions, strategic planning and resource mobilization meetings will be held in April and May in each community. These meetings will involve the transformation of ideas, concerns, priorities, and local and external resources into specific activities that community members can undertake, with or without support from external organizations (including CBLD). Before going into effect, these strategic plans will be reviewed by the community leadership. The plans will list activities that the community intends to implement over a specific period of time, as well as their start and finish dates and the role of those community members who will be involved. Importantly, these plans will specify what completion of each activity actually entails.

### **3.2. Referral Systems**

The community mapping and community meetings have identified, located, and defined the majority of service providers in or near each community. This includes those extension services that the Regional Development Team is supposed to avail to community members. In meeting with service providers individually and in groups, the need for a referral system linking social, economic, health, and legal services was evident. Perhaps the most pressing need, and where CBLD will first begin training, is for referrals on reporting crimes against women and children, seeking psychosocial support, and seeking legal counsel. For example, in Ndzingeni and Herefords, LLs do not often report suspected cases of abuse to community police or RSP nor do they notify victims of where they should take their cases. Schools only report cases if they interfere with school work (e.g., the child is absent from school).

##### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD's sensitizations and training in human rights, beginning in FY 2013 Quarter 3, will provide participants with the information needed to make referrals regarding cases of abuse, neglect, sexual violence, disinheritance, and other violations of rights. LLs, community police, and traditional courts will be among those institutions receiving the training, and will learn where to go when there are cases that require additional attention they themselves cannot provide. CBLD's initial focus on this type of referral is due to the demand from the community, the opportunity to link community members with CBLD's legal clinic, and the urgency in addressing specific cases brought to CBLD's attention. Meanwhile, mapping information and information about other government service providers will be collected into a directory for each community, and CBLD will provide some basic training in its use. The inclusion of tracking and follow-up systems will be discussed in the following quarter.

### **3.3. Neighborhood Care Point (NCP) Management and Service Delivery**

The community meetings did confirm the communities' interest in improving the quality of service delivery (food, care, shelter, and education) within NCPs. The current confusion as to whether or not WFP will be providing food to NCPs was also raised. In Ndzingeni, NCPs received food from WFP (through the Inkhundla office) in January, but they have not received any additional food since this ran out.

### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD will be meeting directly with NCP staff to determine the number of beneficiaries, the type of services currently provided at each NCP, and the capacity building interests of NCP caregivers. CBLD will also be meeting with the community leadership to determine whether the services provided by NCPs meet the needs of vulnerable children in the community, and whether the current system is sustainable. CBLD will be issuing an RFA that includes early childhood development training as one of the requested support services to CBLD.

### **3.4. Youth Development**

In the reporting quarter, CBLD identified youth groups in Herefords and Ndzingeni that have previously set community development goals. By identifying previously formed youth groups, CBLD has found sustainable groups that share specific community development goals with CBLD. In Herefords, three youth groups have been identified, all of whom have expressed a desire to learn permaculture gardening and positively affect their community, and one of which requested training on how to provide civic education, including information about voting and voter registration, to community members. CBLD has been working closely with one NCP-linked group in Herefords, which is trying to grow produce to supply the NCP and sell some on the side to sustain the project. CBLD was able to link the group with the 4S project and with a local benefactor, who were both able to provide the group with seedlings.

### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD sees youth groups as an important agent for change and development within a community. CBLD will reach out to each active youth group in Herefords and Ndzingeni to learn more about their purpose, objectives, and capacity building needs. Through the strategic planning and resource mobilization meetings, CBLD will work with the groups and other community stakeholders to identify and plan community development initiatives and provide for capacity building needs. Youth groups are also one way in which CBLD can target youth with social and behavioral change communication (SBCC) activities and human rights awareness and publicize economic strengthening and related training opportunities. CBLD will also be selecting peer educators from among the community, who will be trained to be sources of information for their peers on child protection, gender equality, and human rights.

### **3.5. Other Capacity Building Activities:**

#### **Staff Training on Gender Integration**

As the CBLD team is now close to being fully staffed and to ensure gender integration at all levels of CBLD programming, CBLD staff will be trained on gender mainstreaming and oriented on the CBLD Gender Strategy which has been recently reviewed by the Gender and Child Protection Specialist to include a gender analysis.

#### **Partner Organizations**

### *Plans for Next Quarter*

As external partners are identified, CBLD will need to assess their capacity and determine what sort of capacity building support CBLD can provide. For example, the National Sebenta Institution, which promotes adult education, has a very small program in Ndzingeni, with only one community teacher and five enrolled students. However, the interest in Sebenta services is vast, with over a hundred individuals in each community interested in signing up

for primary and high school equivalency, literacy, and vocational training. CBLD will be working with Sebenta to determine how these needs can best be met given Sebenta's current resources and which areas CBLD can support (e.g., identifying community teachers).

The UniSwa Law Society will be supporting CBLD's activities in rights sensitization and providing legal consultations to community members. Reaching this level and delivering high quality services, will require some training for the students from CBLD in the legal issues they are likely to encounter, in documenting and making referrals and also in designing, implementing, and managing a field-based activity. CBLD's Gender and Child Protection Specialist will support the students and supervise their program.

At the national level CBLD has established relationships with organizations working on children and women's issues. One of the gaps that have been identified is the lack of capacity on the integration of gender in development programs and specifically working with men for gender equality at the national and community level. CBLD will be supporting a national stakeholders capacity building workshop on gender issues and engaging men in gender equality; the meeting will also develop a strategic plan for the newly established Swazi chapter of the Men Engage Network, in which CBLD is a participant, and will be facilitated by Sonke Gender Justice Network.

#### **4. Community Selection**

In the reporting quarter, CBLD selected Ndzingeni as its second community. Ndzingeni had previously been short-listed because of its proximity to eucalyptus forests and the potential to expand honey production. Site visits and meetings with community members revealed that the community itself was well organized, motivated, and interested particularly in providing better care for OVC and protecting the rights of women and children. Herefords and Ndzingeni are both located in Hhohho, which means CBLD can work with the same Regional Development Team for both communities. Unlike Herefords, there are no potentially damaging political disputes in Ndzingeni.

##### *Plans for Next Quarter*

CBLD had anticipated selecting the third and fourth communities in this reporting quarter. However, it was decided that the team should focus on conducting the community meetings and getting programs up and running in the first two communities before selecting additional communities. CBLD did prepare a short-list of communities for the next selection round, and in the next quarter CBLD will be conducting field visits and interviews to determine which two communities are the best matches for CBLD. For more information on the selection process, please see section 1.1.6.

#### **5. Monitoring and Evaluation**

During the reporting quarter, CBLD conducted household baseline surveys in Herefords and Ndzingeni, interviewing randomly selected households about household economics, food security and livelihoods, knowledge of and access to services (including health, legal, and education), and attitudes about children's rights and gender relations. In each community, a team of eight enumerators, who were trained in December 2012, spent two weeks collecting the information, under the supervision of CBLD's Community Liaison Officer. The Herefords survey, conducted from January 7-18, reached 242 households, and the Ndzingeni baseline, conducted from February 11-23, reached 243 households. During the reporting

quarter, preliminary data analysis was primarily oriented to immediate project information needs; for example, CBLD identified sewing, poultry rearing, and the manufacture of floor polish and Vaseline as the leading IGAs in which women are involved. A draft report of the final analysis for the Herefords and Ndzingeni baselines is attached as an annex to this report.

## **6. Project Administration**

### **Staffing**

The CBLD team grew during this quarter with the following additions:

#### *FHI 360*

Zodwa Baartjies, FHI 360 Community Dialog Specialist, hired January 2013

Gcina Kumalo, Driver, hired March 2013

Nelisiwe Mtshali, Gender and Child Protection Specialist, hired March 2013

Armand Perry, law consultant, January 2013 – present

#### *TechnoServe*

Annie Shoemaker, Volunteer consultant, January –March 2013

Madeline Penny, Volunteer consultant, January 2013 – current

Ian Redman, Horticulture consultant, October – November 2013, March 2013 – current

Scott Fitzpatrick, Cotton consultant, March 2013 – current

Nokwazi Dlamini, Administrative consultant, March 2013 – current

### **Constraints and Critical Issues**

None this quarter.

**ANNEX:**

**ANNEX 1: DRAFT CBLD Baseline Report: Herefords and Ndzingeni (Not included in this document)**

**ANNEX 2: Gender Strategy (Not included in this document)**