COMMUNITY BASED LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT (C-BLD) FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SWAZILAND

QUARTERLY REPORT YEAR 1 QUARTER 4 (JULY 1, 2012 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2012)

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Community-Based Livelihood Development (C-BLD) for Women and Children in Swaziland

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Contents

I. BACKGROUND AND APPROACH 2

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2

TASK 1 AND TASK 2: PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS REPORT (PILAR) AND PROGRAM STRATEGY DESIGN 3

TASK 3: INDABA AND STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCES 3

TASK 4: ADVISORY COUNCIL 5

TASK 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION 5

TASK 6: ECONOMIC PROVISIONING 6

TASK 7: ECONOMIC PROTECTION 8

TASK 8: ECONOMIC PROMOTION 8

TASK 9: GENDER 9

TASK 10: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 11

III. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION 12

STAFFING 12

CONSTRAINTS AND CRITICAL ISSUES 12

I. BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

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 4 (July 1, 2012 – September 30, 2012). 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.

The goal of CBLD is to enable communities to advance the social and economic empowerment of women and children. To achieve this, CBLD has three program objectives: (1) to improve the livelihood capabilities of vulnerable households, particularly women, youth and caregivers within these households; (2) to protect the rights of women and children; and (3) to strengthen the capacity and coordination of government organizations, communities, and other organizations to protect and promote the social and economic well-being of women, youth and children.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This reporting period includes the start of the transition between the initial planning phase of CBLD and the design and implementation phase. While CBLD continued to reach out to stakeholders and potential partners at the national level, the team was also refining the project's overall approach, based on these meetings as well as input from experts and colleagues in structured forums and the team's experience from field visits to Swazi communities. CBLD began to develop programs that will be implemented at the national level, including supporting SIBS with a radio program, collaborating with Peace Corps on its GLOW initiative, and reviewing potential value chains for inclusion in the CBLD project. CBLD applied this criteria in its selection of Herefords from among the five communities surveyed. The team began mapping activities in Herefords to identify local partners, learn more about community initiatives, and identify potential interventions.

Highlights from this reporting period include:
Support to the NNCU to develop a PMP for the National Plan of Action for Children;
Hosting two indabas covering community development and legal aid and integrating results into the project strategy;
Developing the community selection process, conducting surveys, and selecting Herefords as the first community; and
Conducting community mapping in Herefords.

During this reporting period, CBLD also responded to several ad hoc requests for assistance. These are documented in the corresponding section for that particular subject.

TASK 1 AND TASK 2: PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS REPORT (PILAR) AND PROGRAM STRATEGY DESIGN

CBLD had proposed completing two written deliverables in this quarter, a survey of programs and institutions in Swaziland, and a working strategy document to guide project. Due to changes in the scope of these two reports, delivery has been postponed. The team found that the initial purpose behind the PILAR document had been met by other recent reports completed by other implementing partners. While CBLD could still add value by integrating these reports into a more complete survey, the team decided that a preferable option would be to shift the focus of this report to examine community institutions and how these interact with national and regional entities as this would provide a context for the foundation of CBLD, which was the original intent. Certainly at the national level, this objective has been met. CBLD has reviewed similar reports and met and interviewed representatives whose organizations and programs would have been covered in the PILAR. However, as CBLD began to look more closely into community dynamics, the team found that, in contrast to the national level, research and analysis at the community level was far more limited. During its quarterly work planning in October, the team will set a date for completion of this report in the next quarter.

At the time the draft strategy document was being developed, the CBLD was actively engaged in the community selection and mapping processes, while also maintaining a full schedule of meetings with various stakeholders at national and community levels. In addition, the team was awaiting the October arrival of the Economic Strengthening Specialist, who would be instrumental in designing and managing key components of the project, including value chain development, enterprise development, and the Business Advisory Council. The team decided to continue developing the strategy, incorporating lessons being learned in its first community, as well as input from other stakeholders (particularly during the indabas), while postponing final discussions about integrating various project components until the Economic Strengthening Specialist could be present. The first version of the strategy document is therefor scheduled for delivery in early November 2012.

Plans for next Quarter:
1. Completion of a the PILAR, under the revised scope
2. Completion of CBLD Strategy Document

TASK 3: INDABA AND STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCES

The common purpose of these CBLD's initial indabas is to provide experts and stakeholders with an overview of the project and allow them the opportunity to contribute to the development of the project's strategy. To the extent that participants learn from CBLD's experience in each area, the indabas also fulfill a training objective. Rather than hold one large event covering multiple aspects of the project, the team decided to schedule separate events on specific topics, inviting those considered to be experts of stakeholders in these areas.

CBLD held the first two of its indabas during this quarter, the Community Development indaba and the Legal Aid indaba. Two others had been planned: one on Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management, the other on Economic Strengthening and Livelihoods for Women. The former was to take place in early October 2012, as a separate session during the UNICEF but it was decided at the end of the current quarter that a separate training event would be more appropriate. The indaba on Economic

Strengthening and Livelihoods for Women will be held once the Economic Strengthening Specialist is up to speed with the program.

The Community Development indaba brought together local expertise in the area of community development, including government, NGOs, and USAID. The focus was on community selection and engagement and the potential role for community members and institutions in the selection, design and implementation of project activities in a given community. After a presentation on CBLD, with emphasis on the above, participants broke out into groups to evaluate six proposed activities or strategy points about CBLD's approach to communities. The facilitators used a technique known as De Bono's thinking hats, in which participants weigh in on statements from a variety of different perspectives, each indicated by "wearing" a specific hat for a timed period of a few minutes. As the six hats each cover a common perspectives (pointing out pitfalls, identifying alternatives, identifying information gaps), facilitators were able to solicit feedback in a highly structured, but rapid format. Following this exercise and its plenary, participants raised questions and offered suggestions about various aspects of CBLD's approach to community development.

Among the findings and validations are the following:

- Have a counterpart institution or group in each community
- Involve community members in design and implementation as much as possible
- Define entry and exit criteria
- Be wary of local political machinations, which are a credible threat to project integrity
- Confirm and follow protocol, and include Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration; no one likes to hear second-hand about activities happening in areas under their jurisdiction
- Keep the strategy simple and communicate it effectively

The Legal Aid indaba convened to examine and validate CBLD's approach to improving awareness and acceptance of human and constitutional rights, and to improving access to legal services at the community level. The discussions also allowed CBLD and each participant to learn more about the work being done in this area. Participants included staff from nine NGOs, and a representative of the Registrar of the High Court. The program also included a presentation by Armand Perry, an independent lawyer volunteering his time, on current constraints to improving access to legal services. Briefly, these included: (1) the legitimacy of legal aid organizations in Swaziland; (2) representation by attorneys who are not employed by a registered law firm; and (3) whether practicing attorneys can be persuaded or required to deliver pro-bono services. Participants then began to discuss the implications for CBLD.

Among the general recommendations from participants are the following:

- CBLD should identify a partner currently providing legal aid and bring its representatives to the community on a regular basis.
- Gain a better understanding of how traditional courts function and render decisions at the community level, as most cases – particularly non capital cases involving the poor – never move beyond this stage.
- Support UNDP in drafting a legal aid policy for Swaziland.
- CBLD could formalize a committee around which legal aid issues can be regularly discussed and activities planned and coordinated.
- CBLD can play a role in advocacy, stimulating demand for rights and legal services at the community level.

Plans for the next quarter:

1. Hold training "indaba" on Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management, the other on Economic Strengthening and Livelihoods for Women
2. Hold Economic Strengthening and Livelihoods for Women

TASK 4: ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Gender Advisory Council was formed in the previous quarter. While the council did not formally convene in the current reporting period, the CBLD program utilized the GAC to participate in program sessions in targeted areas. Council members attended each of CBLD's indabas, and were consulted individually on specific issues.

The Business Advisory Council will be launched in the following quarter. In the current period, CBLD identified suitable members as the project scope was developing.

Plans for the next quarter:
1. Hold formal GAC Meeting
2. Hold initial BAC

TASK 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

CBLD activities in Monitoring and Evaluation this quarter included the revision of CBLD's Performance Monitoring Plan; development of a baseline protocol; participation in a training on best practice documentation with SafAIDS; supporting the NCCU's PMP for the Plan of Action; collaborating with UNICEF and NCCU on the Result Based Management Training, schedule for October 2012.

1. Review of the Performance Monitoring Plan for CBLD
The PMP review involved consultations with FHI 360 M&E experts and CBLD staff to build consensus on the indicators. The number of indicators was finally reduced to 36 indicators (8 impact indicators, 8 outcomes and 20 outputs). The drafting of the indicator protocol began and will continue into October 2012. Likewise the review and release of the full document is scheduled for October 2012.

2. Baseline protocol
The baseline protocol was developed and shared with the team in preparation for submission to FHI 360's Institutional Review Board ethics committee and the Swaziland Research Ethics Committee. The development of the protocol also involved developing baseline tools, which are to be translated into SiSwati in the following quarter. CBLD has been discussing with the University of Swaziland about using university students as data collectors. Collecting baseline data will begin in the first community in November 2012.

3. Best Practice Documentation
SafAIDS, in partnership with K4health, invited government departments and NGOs working in Swaziland to participate in an online training on documenting best practices. CBLD's M&E Officer participated in this training, which will be followed by a series of face to face meetings every quarter for practice and mentorships.

4. NCCU National Action Plan of Action on Children Performance Monitoring Plan
The NCCU is currently in the process of developing the Performance Monitoring Plan for the National Plan of Action on Children (NPA). CBLD, in partnership with UNICEF, is supporting the process, which in this reporting period included the following: reviewing the NPA indicators; developing the indicator protocol; and conducting a capacity needs analysis for the NCCU partners in the NPA. Based on the assessment, a series of possible workshops was proposed to build NCCU partner capacity. As part of its overall institutional capacity building objective, next quarter CBLD will be an active participant in planning, designing, presenting at and facilitating these workshops. Possible workshops include: Results Based Management (RBM); M&E training; Knowledge Management; and Program Evaluation.

5. Results Based Management Training
CBLD was involved in the planning process for the five-day RBM training that is scheduled for next quarter. CBLD's participation included development of the training materials and the training program itself. The training will be fully funded by UNICEF. CBLD staff will also serve as presenters and facilitators at this training. Workshop participants include representatives and M&E staff from government departments and NGOs. The workshop will also be used to develop a mentorship plan with partners.

Plans for the next quarter:
1. Finalize and release the PMP
2. Conduct the first baseline
3. Participate in the RBM training and partner mentorship program
4. Train data collectors and finalize field logistics
6. Explore use of Most Significant Change Technique as a project monitoring tool.

TASK 6: ECONOMIC PROVISIONING

During this quarter, CBLD began to explore three activities in Herefords linked with economic provisioning: (1) developing a referral system; and (2) supporting community management of Neighborhood Care Points (NCPs); and (3) supporting community gardens providing food to NCPs.

Each of these activities is directly linked with CBLD objectives and activities planned in the proposal stage, but also stem from the needs and opportunities CBLD identified during its ongoing community mapping of Herefords. It is also likely that identical or similar activities will be implemented in other CBLD communities, as the needs for these services are common to many communities in Swaziland, and CBLD can apply its experience with these activities in Herefords to its other communities.

While mapping the Herefords government institutions, the team consulted with the site manager of WFP's Food by Prescription (FBP) program at the Emkudzweni health center. This program is very effective at treating malnutrition, but it hasn't successfully addressed the underlying issues behind malnutrition. The WFP site manager acknowledged that some patients return months after completing the program. Patients treated by FBP are most often TB and ART patients. However, the reasons why they return to a malnourished state are not addressed. These vary widely, but could be poor sanitation, lack of food, income or land, and neglect or ostracization. The FBP program could be complemented by a referral system whereby patients can be linked to other services while on the program or upon its completion (certain Ministry of Health regulations could restrict the former). CBLD will consult with WFP in the next quarter to discuss the potential role for WFP in this system. Clearly, the system stands to benefit FBP patients, provided there are services to which they can be referred. The FBP site manager is in a good position to play a linking role, provided he can be granted access to certain information about the patients' background (even interviewing patients for this information could be problematic). Additionally, the

information collected about the patients themselves would also provide important insights into the social and economic issues in the community, which could be useful to CBLD as well as other organizations, particularly local ones.

Regardless of whether or not it is clinic-based and built off the FBP program, CBLD anticipates developing referral systems in each community. However, CBLD acknowledges that it would be beneficial to have a common partner, whether WFP or the Ministry of Health, for the whole activity.

The referral system is intended to link vulnerable individuals with services available in or near their communities. CBLD will consider multiple approaches in its design, such as having a central referral mechanism through the health center or clinic, or by dispersing the referral mechanism among multiple service providers, including Rural Health Motivators (RHMs), Shoulder to Cry On (LL), teachers, community police, and clinic staff. Both processes would begin with creating a directory of locally available services, as well as services available in nearby towns and municipalities (i.e. Buhleni and Piggs Peak for Herefords) and national programs, including grants and registries. CBLD will be meeting with potential beneficiaries, participants and other stakeholders, including WFP, early in the next quarter.

Strengthening community management of NCPs is becoming a more important capacity building objective as NCP food supplies become increasingly precarious. Almost all the NCPs that CBLD visited or heard about had reportedly not received food in three or more months, and were essentially no longer operational. With the continued uncertainty around external support for NCPs, local management can play an important role. CBLD will therefor identify and train individuals within the community to better understand the supply chains providing NCPs and identify how community resources can be mobilized to meet needs when the pipeline breaks. Additionally, this would include food items that are not going to be provided by WFP, such as fruit and vegetables.

Related to NCP management is local production of fruits and vegetables to supplement the staples that will eventually be provided by WFP (maize meal, corn-soya blend, oil and pulses). During the mapping in Herefords this quarter, CBLD identified a highly motivated youth group that has been given access to a plot of land adjacent to the NCP for the purpose of providing it with fruits and vegetables. In the next quarter, CBLD will help this group to access inputs from existing government and donor programs, link them with extension officers, and help provide some basic management training, such as staggering production and producing according to specific needs (e.g. the number of beneficiaries at the NCP). Additionally, CBLD will work with the group to determine how its operation can be made sustainable. The goal of this activity is not only to support an existing operation on one specific community, but to see whether a model can be made that can be developed through new or existing youth groups in other communities.

Previous quarterly reports mentioned the possibility of collaborating with the World Bank, Ministry of Health, the NCCU and their partners on the OVC cash transfer pilot. More active collaboration will wait until the NCCU has selected an implementing partner to design and begin implementing the pilot.

Plans for the next quarter

1. Continue to explore possible referral mechanisms through discussions with other stakeholders: at the community level, for example, RHMs, mentor mothers, and expert clients; at the national level, WFP, the Ministry of Health and the DPMs office.
2. Develop a local service directory for Herefords.
3. Participate in national dialog about NCPs and food distribution
4. Discuss NCP management with community groups
5. Support youth group led initiatives in provisioning NCPs

TASK 7: ECONOMIC PROTECTION

CBLD did a comprehensive review of different programming options under the section of Economic Protection. During this time it was raised that to benefit from current resources this section would more benefit from working in more than one community at a time. While the programming will differ from each community looking at the communities as a whole will allow CBLD to develop activities that will benefit more than one community. This has caused the CBLD to look at our original community selection process.

Plans for the next quarter
1. Conduct an audit of savings groups in Herefords to determine potential for increasing the number.
2. Meet with individual groups in Herefords to determine need for additional assistance or potential for integrating additional components, e.g. legal rights awareness, enterprise development.
3. Design financial literacy training component for CBLD interventions in Herefords
4. Note that initiatives in legal aid, also considered economic protection, are covered in Section 9, Gender.

TASK 8: ECONOMIC PROMOTION

CBLD's economic promotion activities focus primarily on value chain development and enterprise development training. These activities, which are designed to increase the income earning potential of beneficiaries, are linked with existing markets with strong demand. During the current quarter, CBLD began planning a value chain development intervention in Herefords in the horticulture sector, linking local producers with commercial markets for baby corn, a horticulture specialty food.

Linking target populations to viable value chains
One of the criteria for selecting Herefords as its first community was the presence of motivated farmers who were interested in exploring commercial opportunities. In the current quarter, CBLD began the process of identifying these farmers while engaging Sdemane, a local produce company that sells to Pick and Pay in Swaziland, as well as other food retailers in South African and the UK. Sdemane is looking to expand by increasing its number of outgrowers for specific crops like baby corn. In the next quarter, CBLD will facilitate meetings between Sdemane and the farmers, identifying "lead" farmers while publicizing the opportunity among women and out of school youth with access to land.

Supporting local organizations
During the mapping exercise in Herefords, CBLD met with the site manager for Youth Education Farms (YEF), which was started by a local primary school agriculture teacher with help from Canadian sponsors. YEF operates as a commercial farm that produces maize, pigs and broilers. YEF profits are used to fund the tuitions of local children, although only a few of them help out on the farm itself. The farm's operation could be enhanced with improved water access, as well as technical assistance and enterprise development training. In the next quarter, CBLD will continue to explore possibilities to support YEF during the coming season and look into its future sustainability. Much depends on the initiative of the local YEF representative and the appetite for participants to expand their commercial ventures.

Train out-of-school youth in entrepreneurship and link OVCs with vocational opportunities

As part of its mapping exercise in Herefords, CBLD is identifying opportunities for linking youth with entrepreneurship and vocational training, while identifying potential partners for training-of-trainers. Entrepreneurship training is likely to feature in CBLDs support to at least two youth groups in Herefords, as well as its support to farmers linked with the horticulture value chain through Sdemane. In the next quarter, CBLD will seek out partners for training-of-trainers in entrepreneurship at national and community levels. Curriculum designed for bee-keeping, as well as business skills training, have already been developed.

Build capacity of GOKS entities to provide livelihood support
CBLD has met with government entities in a position to provide livelihood support, ranging from local agricultural extension officers to government parastatals like SWADE. At the community level, CBLD has been assessing the capacity of these entities to support livelihoods initiatives on the ground, and has met with the inner council, community development committees, and the MP for Herefords to discuss development issues in this community.

CBLD will be consulting with the community development committees, RDAs, and Tinkhundla offices throughout the project. At this stage, CBLD is raising awareness of its program, identifying what capacity and resources exist that could support project initiatives (e.g. rural development grants from Tinkhundla and MicroProjects), and where some form of technical assistance may be required. At the community development indaba, the senior community development officer for Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration expressed a strong interest in CBLD's support to drafting a community development policy.

Plans for the next quarter
1. Design and begin implementing a value chain development initiative with Sdemane and local growers.
2. Design the intervention in the honey value chain; select lead beekeepers in the second community and begin training.
3. Select one or more additional value chains, apply to the community selection process, and contact actors in each value chain.
4. Define project's approach to enterprise development training.

TASK 9: GENDER

Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) and other youth club programs
During the community selection this quarter, conversations with people across Swaziland confirmed the need for youth clubs. Outside of school, there are few opportunities for further training or constructive activities, particularly for girls and young women. CBLD began collaborating with the Peace Corps' Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) initiative, which features an annual two-week training camp for young women to start girls and young women's clubs in their home communities. Topics covered during the training include community leadership, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, careers and livelihoods, volunteerism and conservation. There are currently about ten Peace Corps volunteers supporting the clubs formed by camp attendees.

On July 4, CBLD brought together Peace Corps volunteers and representatives from NGOs that participated in the training camp to discuss opportunities for further developing and expanding the GLOW initiative in Swaziland, while ensuring the sustainability of both the training initiative and the camps themselves. Participating organizations included FAWESWA, Swaziland Young Women's Network, FLAS, SWAAGA and ICAP. During the meeting, CBLD agreed to support the Peace Corps and all NGOs and CBOs involved with youth clubs by developing a basic tool kit for forming clubs.

CBLD and the other NGOs present also agreed to support the next training camp and help to recruit participants. CBLD also agreed to support GLOW camps in any community where the project is active, as part of its overall support to youth clubs. Specifically, this would include helping to identify community development opportunities, inviting motivational and educational guests, and integrate topics from among the sectors where CBLD is active (e.g. legal rights, early child hood development, and community mobilization). CBLD and the Peace Corps also agreed to assist the Regional Meeting of the Young Women's Network, to be held on October 15.

CBLD participated in a community clean up, August 20-24, organized by Peace Corps volunteers, at Malindza Refugee Camp. CBLD's gender advisor gave presentations on community development and how to establish and run clubs. Among the 80 participants were about 50 women, half aged between 18-25.

CBLD's work with youth clubs includes preliminary discussions with two youth groups in Herefords, described in Section 10, Community Engagement.

CBLD continued to plan for the women's radio program with SBIS. This weekly program will include discussions and information relevant to women in Swaziland, creating awareness about health, legal and economic issues, among others. Designing and launching the program is also a capacity building initiative with SBIS.

Human rights, gender equality, and legal aid
Discussions with stakeholders and at the indaba about accessing legal services in Swaziland indicated the need for a clearer government policy on legal aid in Swaziland. Planned CBLD research on the traditional courts will be an important input into this document, but will also provide the team with a better understanding of how certain cases of abuse, violence, neglect, inheritance and custody are handled. CBLD will assess these cases from traditional and gender-based perspectives, as well as cases handled by community police, and develop a messaging plan for inner councils, community police and other authority figures. The message is likely to highlight the implications of different decisions, and link these with objectives of other national programs, such as the Plan of Action for Children.

There is a need for more accessible information about constitutional rights and legal services. In addition using the radio program as a forum for disseminating this information, CBLD will develop print materials, including posters and pamphlets, for display at various locations in the six communities, and for distribution to other organizations.

Plans for next quarter
1. Recruit up to two gender and youth specialists.
2. Engage youth clubs in Herefords and provide support to volunteer or enterprise oriented projects.
3. Engage a consultant to examine decision making within the traditional courts.
4. Review current information and messaging around legal rights and begin to develop a communications strategy for CBLD.
4. Become a member of the Coordinating Association of NGOs (CANGO) Women's Consortium to have closer working relationships and communication with NGOs working in Gender issues.
5. Collaborate with DPM's office, other NGOs and UN Agencies to plan and hold activities in commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child.
6. Participation in planning meetings for the "Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Violence", and plan and hold associated events and activities.
7. Begin production of the radio program.

TASK 10: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Having developed the selection criteria and an initial set of communities to visit in the previous quarter, CBLD designed a selection process that involved site visits to each the five communities: Hhellehhelle; Herefords; Kapunga; St. Philips; and Matsenjwa.

With support from other organizations and government ministries and agencies, CBLD identified contacts to interview in each community. These included head teachers, pre-school teachers, NCP managers, RHMs, community police, clinic and health center staff, extension agents, youth groups, self-help groups, farmer associations, local NGOs and CBOs, and more. In addition to the interviews, CBLD also took note of existing infrastructure, access to water, natural resources, markets and other enterprises.

The analysis concluded that among the five communities, Herefords was the most suitable as CBLD's first community. With the exception of the visit to Matsenjwa, which consisted of only a single meeting with SWADE and with the community development committee and other community leaders, CBLD spent at least one full day in each of four communities. CBLD's initial approach in each community varied depending on contacts CBLD and its individual team members had already established. The first stop would be the Gogo Center, whose manager would have arranged introductions and meetings with the inner council, indvuna, and chief, and would also provide information about her own role in the community and her knowledge of community issues.

Following the selection, CBLD began to meet more extensively with local stakeholders and potential partners and beneficiaries, to discuss particular issues or opportunities, and gauge their own reasons for participating in various project activities. The purpose of this mapping was to identify an initial set of interventions that CBLD could begin to implement in the next quarter, as well as longer term opportunities, though these will be explored in more depth next quarter.

CBLD first met with the inner council of Herefords to discuss their ideas for potential projects and subjects of concern within the community. Additionally, the inner council provided names of organizations and ongoing projects within Herefords. CBLD offered an in depth and coherent explanation of the project's objectives, goals, and capabilities before answering questions for the council.
After this meeting and with the permission and guidance of the Indvuna (community headman) and other council members, CBLD's community mapping team (Andrew Nute, Mbongeni Dlamini, and Pauwel Van Pelt) met and interviewed a number of other community stakeholders in Herefords as well as in Mbabane and Manzini.

The CBLD team found a number of existing projects within the community during the community mapping, including ones with promising potential for CBLD collaboration or assistance, as well as other projects considered to be lost causes or white elephants, which serve as warnings to the CBLD team of previously suffered pitfalls. Among the potential partners are: Youth Education Farms (YEF), a Canadian NGO; the Masakhane Youth Club, a local voluntary club affiliated with an NCP; and the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, based at Herefords High School.

The inner council expressed clearly that the primary concern for the majority of community members is water. Council members consistently attributed the failure of previous projects to a lack of water or access to existing water, despite the presence of small streams of water coming from the mountains that lie to the west of the community. This sentiment was shared by the majority of interviewees, especially within the agricultural sector. Even a few projects that had access to some water, including YEF and other community gardens, listed water as their main limiting factor, especially during the dry winter months between May and September. For some projects, such as community gardening with the Masakhane

Youth group, the solution is a simple fix that involves adding a line to an existing pipe and teaching about water conservation methods in conjunction with sustainable gardening. Other farms would require more substantial infrastructure development. Because CBLD can't provide these services directly (though indirectly could support them through MicroProject or Tinkhundla grants), the project will begin by targeting farmers and groups that have reliable access to water.

Before supporting small projects at the community level, particularly those require more hands-on assistance, CBLD will consider issues of sustainability and weigh the potential outcomes and impacts with the resource requirements from CBLD. However, in the first community, these interventions can be a useful learning opportunity for project team and its work in future communities.

Plans for the next quarter
1. Consult with Herefords community development committee to explain the project in more detail and develop their role.
2. Define end product for community map and complete for Herefords.
3. Conduct a community dialog event in Herefords.
4. Standardize the selection process, taking into account specific value chains and partner initiatives in the initial screen.
5. Identify one additional community.

III. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

STAFFING

During this quarter there was a number of staffing additions and changes.

On August 6 CBLD started working with our third year Peace Corps volunteer, Andrew Nute. Through his work with the program CBLD has a link to a wide number of communities and is able to gain valuable information into what is happening at a community level. Mr. Nute will focus on helping to create community linkages and has taken on a large role of leading our community selection and integration programming

In September CBLD identified Cooper Swift for the position of Economic Strengthening Specialist. He will begin work at the start of October.

Also in September the CBLD Gender Specialist resigned from her position due to personal reasons. Upon her resignation the CBLD team has begun recruitment of a new Gender Specialist, a Key Personnel Position, as well as looking at hiring a community linkages person that can help CBLD work on community referrals and help each community action plan integrate within the community.

CONSTRAINTS AND CRITICAL ISSUES

None this quarter.