

LUHOMERO INTEGRATED PROJECT

Funded By

Love a Village (LAV)

Implemented By

Rural Development Partners (RDP)



LUHOMERO INTEGRATED PROJECT ENDLINE SURVEY REPORT

Submitted By

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Acronyms

ADC	:	Area Development Committee
AIDS	:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSAs:		Health Surveillance Assistants
LAV	:	Love A village
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
RDP	:	Rural Development Partners
SPSS:		Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
VHC	:	Village Health Committees
WASH	:	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive Summary

An integrated project was implemented in Luhomero by Rural Development Partners (RDP) with support from Love A Village Mission of Canada. Upon the end of the project, an endline survey was conducted to assess the impact brought by the project after 6 years of implementation. The endline survey focused on the project's intended results to check if the results were achieved. Six key areas were assessed; awareness and knowledge of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), access, adoption and use of improved WASH facilities, production and consumption of crops and livestock, housing conditions of the community, capacities of the community on production, finance, microfinance and marketing as well as availability and importance of self-help groups.

On awareness and knowledge regarding WASH; It was noted that (96%) of the respondents indicated that WASH information was available in their communities/villages, and the majority of the respondents indicated that (85%) of WASH-related information is obtained from NGOs such as RDP. It was noted that the information shared regarding WASH in Luhomero was related to hand-washing (89%), sanitation (86%), water treatment (81%) and waste management (69%). On access, adoption and usage of improved WASH; (74%) of the people drew water from the boreholes and the most common method for water treatment was filtration (41%). People using unimproved latrines decreased at the end line by almost half the number of the percentage (90%) at baseline. For handwashing, (92%) wash hands before and after eating food, followed by (83%) wash hands after toilet use. On crop and animal production and consumption, (97.5%) of the people grew maize, (78%) grew once per year, (49.1%) practice subsistence farming, (66%) consumed 2 meals per day, (67.5%) practiced traditional farming and (57%) did chicken farming. On housing conditions, (46%) of the people had brick walls with iron roofs. On capacities of the community on production, finance, microfinance and marketing, (25.2%) indicated they were conversant on production. On self-help groups, (55%) indicated the main aim of their self-help groups was saving and loaning money.

In conclusion, the project was impactful to the community. To ensure sustainability of the project gains, it was important to make proper hand-overs to the district council through exit meetings as well as stakeholder meetings at the community level through various structures in the community such as Area Development Committees (ADC).

1.0. Project Overview

1.1. Implementing Partner Information

Rural Development Partners (RDP) was initiated in 2015 as a fully-fledged Local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). Its main focus is ensuring self-reliant communities committed to improved sustainable livelihoods and development. It facilitates development processes aimed at the socio-economic empowerment of the communities in Malawi. The work of RDP is motivated and centered on the following core values: responsiveness, accountability, transparency and Integrity. RDP has 4 priority areas namely: Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Housing/Shelter and Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs. The work of RDP is supported by employed officers who are responsible for project implementation in the communities, volunteers from outside the country in various capacities such as programs advisors and interns. Administratively, RDP has its offices in Ekwendeni.

1.2. Project Location

RDP with support from Love A Village (LAV) implemented a 6 year (May 2017 to December 2023) integrated project in Luhomero. Luhomero is located in Mzimba District (Northern Malawi) under the Traditional Authority Mtwalo. The area constitutes 42 villages plus 17 others from Kapondero and Kasasire which are all served by Luhomero Health Post. Most of the families depend on farming and micro-enterprise as their main source of livelihood. Some of the villages cannot be accessed due to poor road networks or destroyed/lack of bridges across streams. This poor road network not only impedes various types of developmental activities to reach the area but also prevents people from accessing markets for social and economic development. In a nutshell, the effects of all these have been reduced family income, hunger, low production of farm inputs and infrastructure underdevelopment.

1.3. Project Justification

A baseline survey which was conducted in 2016, reviewed a lot of gaps in agricultural practices, food security, water and sanitation and Living conditions, just to mention a few. For example, it was discovered that (72%) of the people had access to only two meals a day, almost half of the population (49%) lived in grass-thatched houses, only (15%) practised hand washing at critical times and the majority of the people accessed water from unimproved sources such as rivers and open wells.

1.4. Project Design

In response to the problems highlighted by the baseline report in 2016, RDP designed and implemented interventions with technical and financial support from LAV. The project holistically dealt with socio-economic issues while taking into account cross-cutting issues such as natural risks and disasters to ensure the community's long-term livelihood sustainability. The project collaborated with different stakeholders, and it built up strategic efforts to increase the skills and knowledge of the targeted beneficiaries in planning income-generation activities, exploiting markets, establishing linkages with possible clients or shops that can buy items people are producing in Luhomero, enhancing incomes and organizing community-based institutions.

1.4.1. Project Goal

The overall goal of the project was to build improved and sustainable livelihoods for the poor and disadvantaged families living in Luhomero.

1.4.2. Project Objectives

The specific objectives of the project were:

- To increase access to improved WASH services.
- To increase food security at the household level.
- To improve housing conditions of the targeted communities.
- To build capacities of the targeted communities in the identification, production, financing and marketing of potential agricultural and non-agricultural products, including micro-enterprises.
- To promote business-oriented community-based self-help groups, undertaking collective production and marketing techniques for long-term sustainability.

1.4.3. Expected Project Results

- Increased awareness and knowledge among the communities on the effectiveness of poor WASH practices.
- Increased adoption and proper use of WASH facilities.
- Increased production and consumption of crops and livestock.

- Improved housing/shelter for the targeted communities.
- Increased capacity of the communities in production, management and marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products, including micro-enterprises.
- Economically viable and sustainable community-based self-help groups that are managed by the communities for successful production and marketing.

2.0. Purpose, Objectives and Indicators of the end-line survey

2.1. Purpose of the end-line survey

To assess the impact of the integrated project on improved and sustainable livelihoods for the poor and disadvantaged families living in Luhomero.

2.2. Specific objectives of the end-line survey

The specific objectives of the end-line survey included

- Examine the level of awareness and knowledge regarding WASH in Luhomero.
- Assess access, adoption and use of improved WASH facilities in Luhomero.
- Analyze the production and consumption of crops and livestock in Luhomero.
- Evaluate the housing conditions of residents in Luhomero.
- Measure the capacity of the communities in production, management and marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products, including micro-enterprises in Luhomero.
- Identify viable and sustainable community-based self-help groups that are managed by the communities for successful production and marketing.

2.3. Outcome Indicators

The end-line survey focused on the following indicators:

- % of people aware and knowledgeable on WASH in Luhomero.
- % of people accessing, adopting and using improved WASH facilities in Luhomero.
- % of people engaged in the production and consumption of crops and livestock in Luhomero.
- % of people with proper housing conditions in Luhomero.
- % of people with the capacity in production, management and marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products, including micro-enterprises in Luhomero.

- % of viable and sustainable community-based self-help groups that are managed by the communities for successful production and marketing in Luhomero.

3.0. Methodology

3.1. Study Design

The survey was a mixed-methods survey.

3.2. Sample Size and Sampling

A total of 165 participants took part in the end-line survey. Stratified random sampling was used to select villages and then households. For key informants, a purposive sampling technique was used to enroll participants.

3.3. Development of Data Collection Tools

A questionnaire for household interviews was developed to guide data collection in the end-line survey. The questionnaire was developed using the mWater app. After developing the questionnaire, it was tested in one of the communities in Ekwendeni, to check if the tool was clear and ready for data collection. The pre-test provided a means of identifying and solving unforeseen problems in the use of the questionnaire. Key Informants Interview guide was used to collect data from key stakeholders.

3.4. Data Collection

The developed questionnaire was used to gather quantitative data from interviews with selected households while the key informants guide was used to gather data from key stakeholders such as government officials and community leaders who were involved in the project. Data collection was done for a week, from 29th January to 2nd February 2024.

3.5 Data Analysis

Data collected through Mwater was downloaded to Excel, where data cleaning was performed and analysis was done through SPSS where simple descriptive statistics were done. Results were presented in tables, graphs and charts. Qualitative data was manually processed, and quotes were used to present qualitative results.

4.0. Results and Discussion

This section presents the findings of the end-line survey and compares the findings with the baseline survey results to check if improvements were registered after the implementation of the project in Luhomero. The results are presented and discussed based on end-line survey objectives.

4.1. Demographic characteristics of the respondents

The results showed that most respondents (64.4%) were females; this was the same with the baseline results where there were more female participants (55.9%), (98.8%) of the respondents were Christians; this was also in line with the baseline results where (97.5%) were Christians, on age; (24.5%) of the respondents were between 31-40 years which was the highest recorded age band from the respondents, this result was different from the baseline information where (22.9%) of the respondents were between 21-30 years, (81.6%) of the respondents were married; this was the same with the baseline survey where the majority (84.7%) were also married, most (69.9%) of the head of the houses attended primary school; this result was the same with a baseline where (55.1%) attended primary school. This entailed that most of the demographic characteristics remained the same compared to the baseline information.

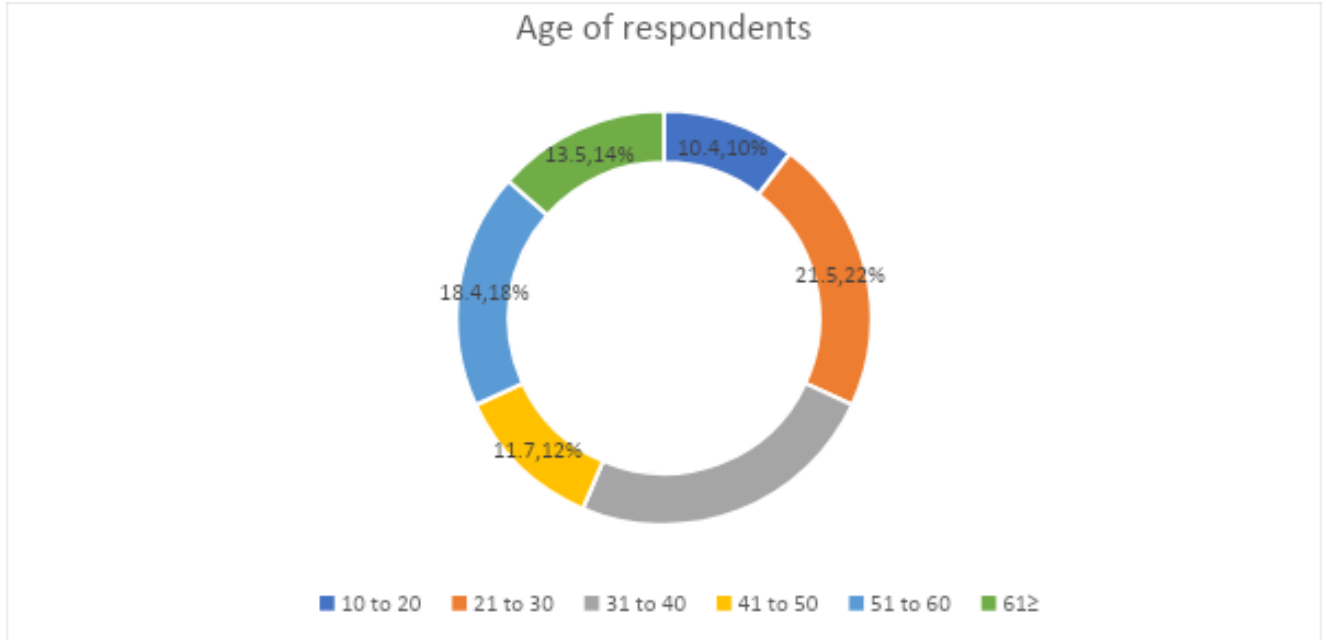


Figure 1: Age of the respondents

Variable	Frequency	Valid Percent
Sex		
Male	58	36.0
Female	105	64.0
Religion		
Christian	161	98.8
Muslim	2	1.2
Marital status		
Married	133	81.6
Single	5	3.1
Widow	10	6.1
Divorced	14	8.6
None	5	3.1
Head of household highest level of education		
Primary	114	69.9
Secondary	42	25.8
Tertiary	1	0.6
None	6	3.7

Table 1: Demographic information of the respondents

4.2. Awareness and knowledge regarding WASH in Luhomero

One of the expected results that the project was supposed to achieve was to ensure there was increased awareness and knowledge regarding WASH in Luhomero. The end-line survey assessed various parameters regarding this expected project result, the parameters were; the availability of WASH information in the community, sources of the information, the kind of information available or shared and people's level of understanding regarding WASH.

4.2.1. Availability of WASH information in the community

It was noted that (96%) of the respondents indicated that WASH information was available in their communities/villages (**Figure 2**). This could be positively attributed to the sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns that RDP implemented in Luhomero.

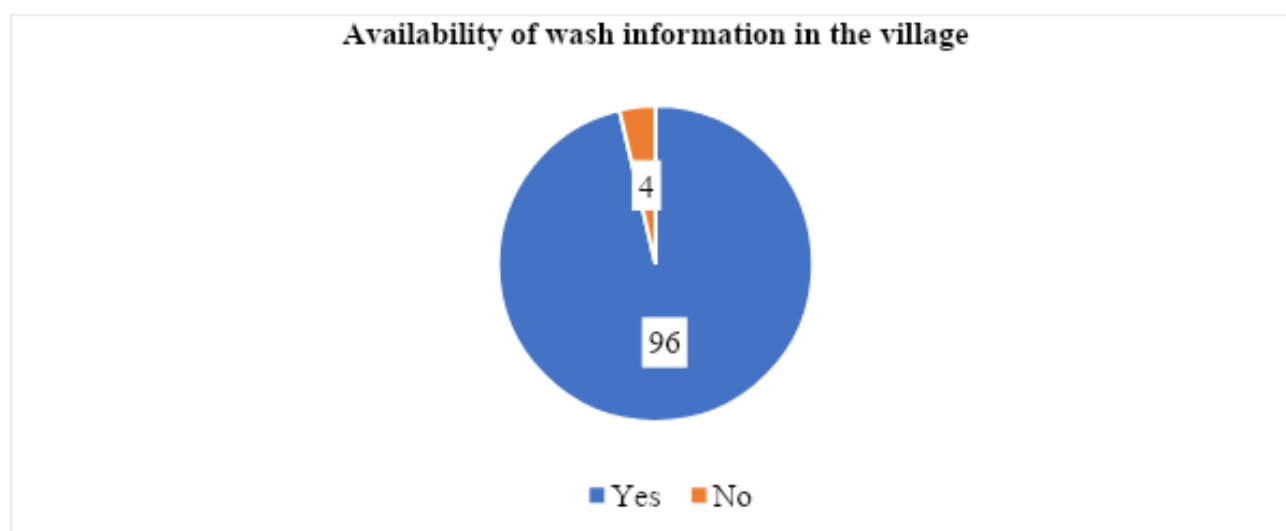


Figure 2: Availability of WASH information in the village

4.2.2. Sources of WASH information in the community

The results of the end-line survey showed that the majority of the respondents indicated that (85%) of WASH-related information is obtained from NGOs and RDP was the only NGO with WASH interventions in the community (**Figure 3**). This showed that RDP sanitation and hygiene awareness campaigns were an important source of information in the community. The results further showed that (61%) of the participants participated in group discussions on hygiene promotion, (88%) of the discussions were facilitated by RDP.

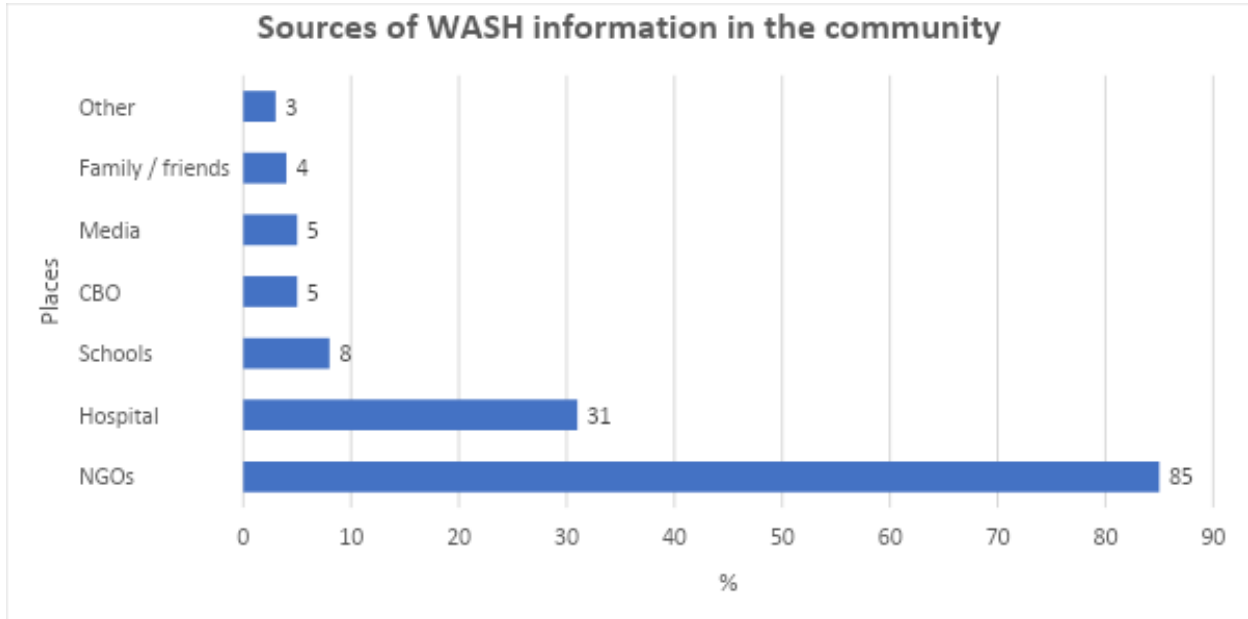


Figure 3: Sources of WASH information in the community

4.2.3. Kind/type of WASH information shared

It was noted that the information shared regarding WASH in Luhomero was related to hand-washing (89%), sanitation (86%), water treatment (81%) and waste management (69%). This showed that information regarding WASH was readily available in the community because almost all domains of WASH were adequately shared in Luhomero. This was attributed to the fact that a lot of sanitation and hygiene campaigns were implemented by RDP during the project period (**Figure 4**).

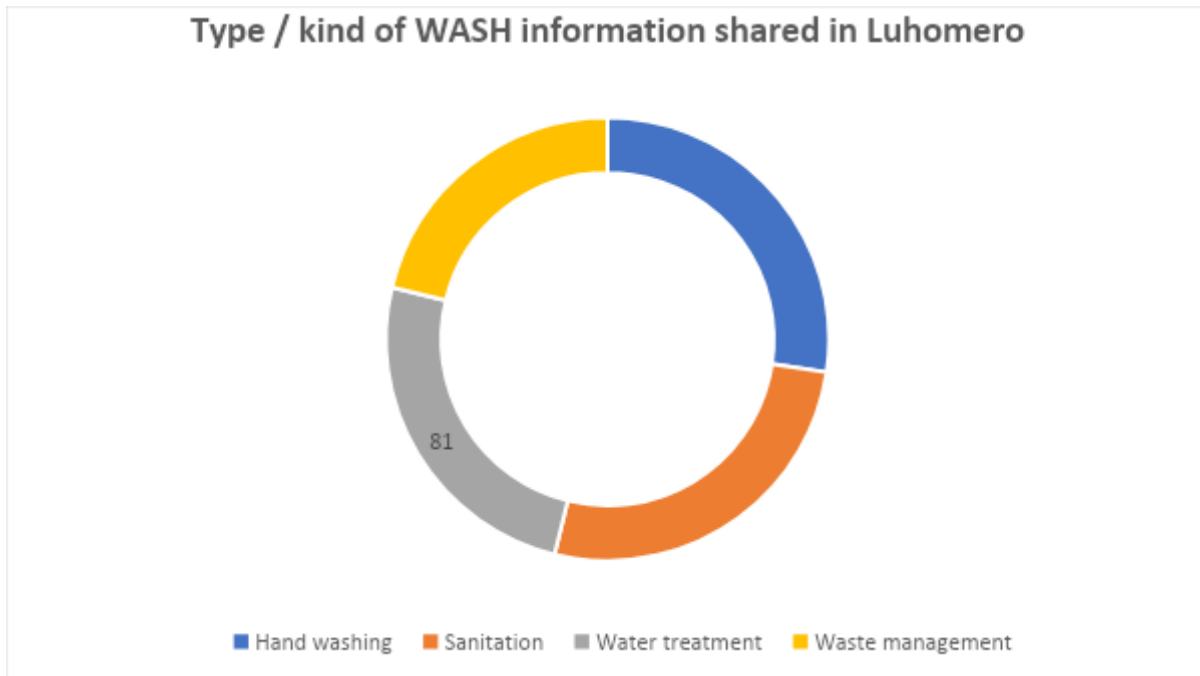


Figure 4: Type/kind of WASH information shared in Luhomero

4.2.4. Understanding WASH issues - Knowledge

The results showed that participants were highly knowledgeable regarding WASH as shown in **Table 2**. Participants were asked if contaminated water can cause diarrhea diseases; the results highlighted that almost everyone (98.8%) knew that contaminated water can cause diarrhea diseases, on hand-washing, it was enquired if handwashing was effective in preventing diarrheal diseases, and the results indicated that (98.8%) of the participants knew that handwashing prevents diarrheal diseases, they were also asked if latrine use safeguards the community from diseases; it was noted that (99.4%) of the participants knew that latrine use safeguards the community from diseases, and (98.8%) of the participants were aware that proper waste disposal in households was crucial for waterborne disease prevention.

This showed that people are aware of and they have vast knowledge regarding WASH. This was attributed to the fact that RDP had made a lot of WASH awareness campaigns over the years through the integrated project in Luhomero.

Variable	Frequency	Valid Percent
Contaminated water can cause diarrheal disease		
Agree	161	98.8
Disagree	2	1.2
Handwashing is effective in preventing diarrheal diseases		
Agree	161	98.8
Disagree	2	1.2
Latrine use safeguards the community from diseases		
Agree	162	99.4
Disagree	1	0.6
Proper waste disposal in households is crucial in water borne disease prevention		
Agree	161	98.8
Disagree	2	1.2

Table 2: Understanding WASH issues

One of the District Coordinating Team (DCT) member highlighted;

*“RDP was on the forefront providing information on how the community can prevent WASH-related diseases through a lot of initiatives such as the WASH campaigns”
- District WASH Officer*

This shows that RDP provided a platform for availability of WASH information in the community and this can be associated with the results that showed people in Luhomero have a lot of WASH related information.

4.3. Access, adoption and use of improved WASH facilities in Luhomero

4.3.1. Water

4.3.1.1. Water Accessibility

The end-line results showed that (74%) of the people drew water from the boreholes and (83.4%), further indicated that the boreholes were installed or repaired between 2017 to 2023. This was the period when RDP was implementing the integrated project in Luhomero, where a total of 24 boreholes and 6 protected shallow wells were drilled and 1 borehole reticulated. The findings further showed that most respondents (56%) indicated that RDP installed the water sources.

Information was also enquired from one of the Water Monitoring Assistants and this is what he said;

“The project was beneficial to the people, especially when it comes to water. At first, these people were using water from the rivers and unprotected wells, so the coming of the project through the drilling of boreholes provided people with safe and clean water”

– Water Monitoring Assistant

One of the government officials involved in the project at district level highlighted that:

“RDP has been a very trusted partner in Luhomero, through them we have seen community change and transformation. We worked with RDP in irrigation, conservation agriculture and WASH. RDP ensured there is quite good water supply system in the area, I was impressed with the project”

– District Irrigation Officer

These statements from key personnel in the project showed how the project implemented by RDP was important to the Luhomero community.

4.3.1.2. Water Treatment

On water treatment, it was indicated that the majority (55%) of the people do treat drinking water. At baseline, only (41%) treated drinking water. This improvement can be linked to the availability of water filters in the community promoted by RDP. On methods for water treatment; filtration (41%), chlorination (34%), boiling (22%) and water guard (14.2%) were the main ways stated. In addition, (100%) of those who filtered water responded that they either received or bought filters from RDP.

4.3.1.3. Water Storage

On water storage, several variables were enquired, such as the availability of drinking containers, type of containers, covering water in storage containers and technique for drawing water from a storage container.

It was highlighted that the majority (96%) had a proper storage container, (63%) stored water in bucket containers, (91.4%) covered their water in the storage containers and (54%) used a two-cup system for drawing water (**Table 3**). This suggested that people are aware of safe water storage practices through sanitation and hygiene campaigns implemented.

Variable	Frequency	Valid Percent
Do you have a drinking water storage container?		
Yes	158	96.3
No	3	1.8
None	2	1.2
Type of container		
Traditional pail (ndowa)	58	35.6
Bucket (chidebe)	100	61.3
Clay pot	4	2.5
Non	1	0.6
Do you use the same cup for drawing and drinking water?		
Yes	72	11.2
No	89	54.6
Non	2	1.2
Do you cover the container		
Yes	149	91.4
No	13	8.0
None	1	0.6

Table 3: Water Storage

4.3.2. Latrines

The findings showed that (82%) had latrines, a slight decrease compared to the baseline (85%) had latrines. The decrease could be attributed to heavy rains that were encountered at the time the country was hit by tropical cyclones. For those with latrines at the end line, (71%) indicated that their latrines were built between 2019 and 2023. This was attributed to the fact that RDP built latrines for vulnerable people such as the elderly, physically challenged, chronically ill persons and at schools. It was also discovered that (47%) still used unimproved pit latrines (**Figure 5**). On this, the percentage of people using unimproved latrines decreased at the end

line by almost half the number of the percentage (90%) at baseline, this could be as a result of sanitation and hygiene campaigns implemented by the project.

For handwashing, it was observed that (23%) of latrines had hand-washing facilities. A very slight increase was noticed compared to the baseline (14%). This slight increase might have been facilitated by hygiene promotion campaigns.

Type of a toilet available

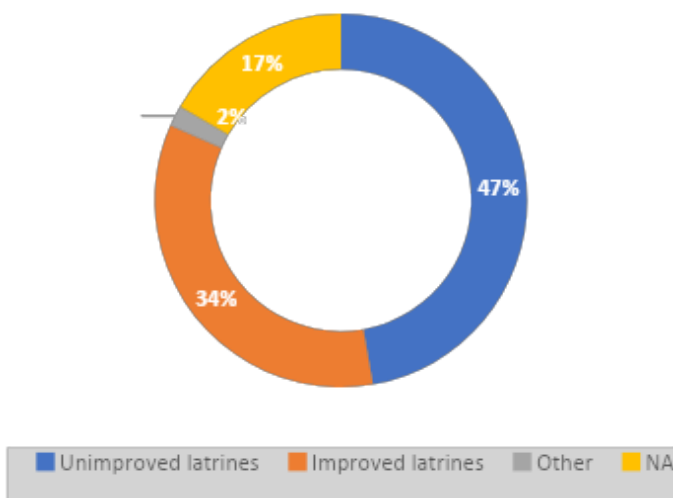


Figure 5: Type of toilets available

4.3.3. Hand-washing

The findings indicated that (92%) wash hands before and after eating food, followed by (83%) wash hands after toilet use. The results further showed that (78%) of the people wash their hands with soap and water, (35%) use water only and (13%) use water and ash (**Figure 6**). This showed that the majority of people are aware of and adopted the recommended practices for hand-washing. The project implemented by RDP emphasized hand washing with soap at critical times, this may have contributed to positive handwashing behaviours.

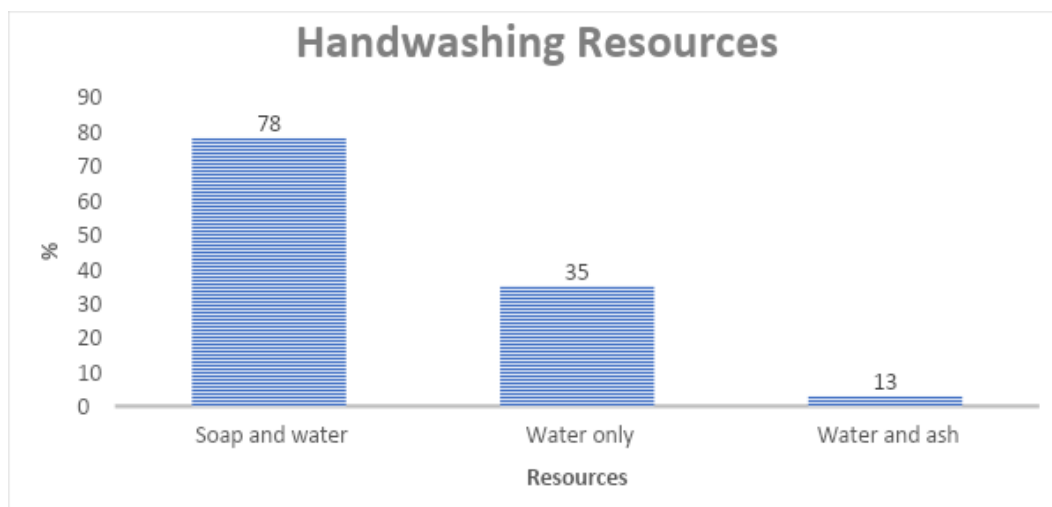


Figure 6: Handwashing Resources

4.4. Crop and Animal Production and Consumption in Luhomero

4.4.1. Crops grown, type of farming and income through farming in Luhomero

The findings highlighted that (97.5%) of the people are growing maize, (53%) are growing groundnuts, (44%) growing soya beans and (20%) tobacco farming. The order of crops grown was just the same as the baseline, the only difference was that soya beans came third and tobacco came forth during the endline which is vice versa during the baseline. This can be attributed to the fact that the integrated project provided loans to farmers to grow soya beans, this may have increased the production of soya in Luhomero. Most farmers (78%) grew once per year while (22%) grew twice per year. Although the baseline report did not indicate information on the number of times people grew crops, the data collected during the survey indicated that only 6.6% of farmers grew crops twice a year. The endline survey shows a 15.4% increase in the number of times people grew crops in a year. This could be attributed to irrigation interventions promoted by RDP and other stakeholders. Furthermore, (49.1%) practice subsistence farming, (39.3%) do both subsistence and commercial farming while (6.1%) do commercial farming (**Figure 7**). The results showed that the majority are still practicing subsistence farming rather than commercial farming.

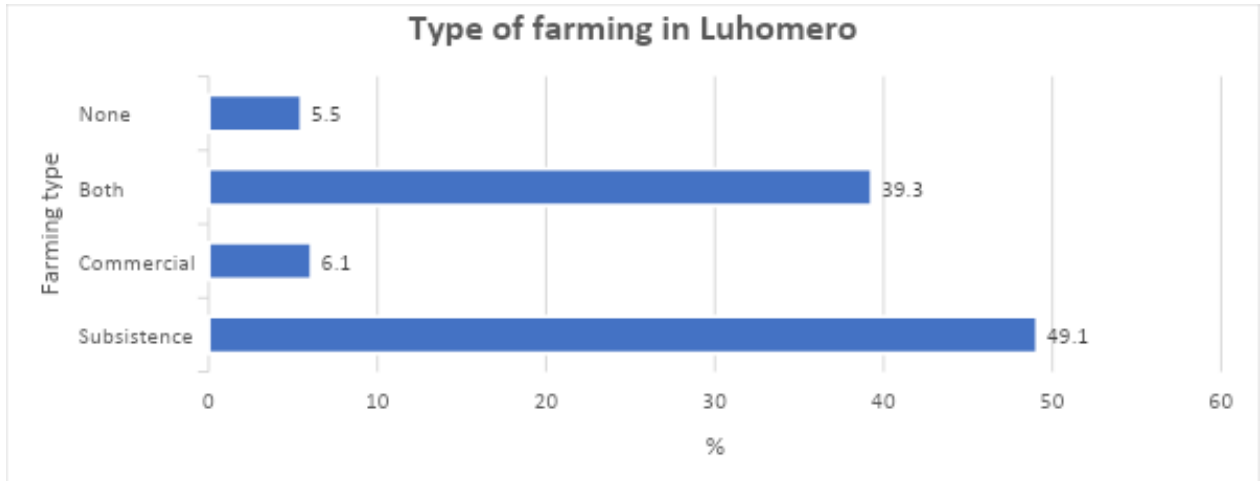


Figure 7: Type of farming

Of those practicing commercial farming, (40%) raise between MWK 65,000 to MWK 254,167 per year and (16%) of them raise more than MWK 1,200,000 annually. Compared to the baseline results, it showed that people's income from selling farm produce increased, (16%) being able to sell up to MK1,200,000 (\$712.81) or more, while at baseline, the maximum sales were MK 87,000 (\$51.7). Although a huge positive difference was noticed, several factors could have contributed to this increase such as the loss of the Malawi Kwacha value over the years, government fertilizer subsidies and as well as the integrated project implemented by RDP in the area. The project helped farmers access markets for their produce, supported farmers with training and provided loans to access farm inputs. All these could be possible factors in generating income for farmers.

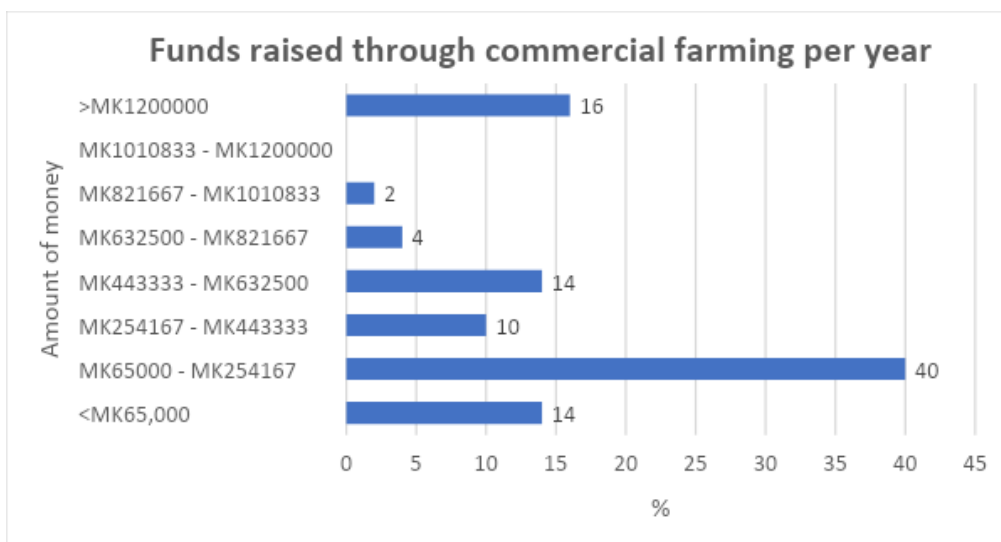


Figure 8: Commercial farming income

4.4.1.1. Farming Practices

On farming practices, most farmers (67.5%) practiced traditional farming, (18.4%) practiced traditional and conservation farming while (12.3%) practiced conservation farming only (**Figure 9**). Farmers are still lagging in adopting conservation farming/farming in God's way that the RDP project was advocating. This has been a concern for most implementing partners who have attributed low adoption of conservation farming to Government policy dilemmas regarding affordable inputs program which distributes subsidized fertilizer thereby discouraging people from using manure which is a bit cumbersome to make.



Figure 9: Farming Practices

One of the members from the district council had this to say;

“The project benefited the people of Luhomero, the structures are still there. They are trying to address soil erosion, if you go now, you will find vetiver grass there which means soils have been protected from erosion. People have also been impacted with knowledge of how to make compost manure, which means people are still benefiting

– District Agriculture Officer

4.4.1.2. Food Consumption Per Day

The findings showed that (66%) consumed 2 meals per day and (29%) consumed at least 3 or more meals per day. These results are not different from the baseline where (72%) of the people

managed to consume only two meals per day and (29%) managed to consume 3 meals a day. The slight decrease could be attributed to the time the survey was conducted. The baseline was conducted at a time when people had just harvested their produce while the endline was conducted at the most critical time of the year when people had just planted their crops and their previous years' harvest was almost depleted.

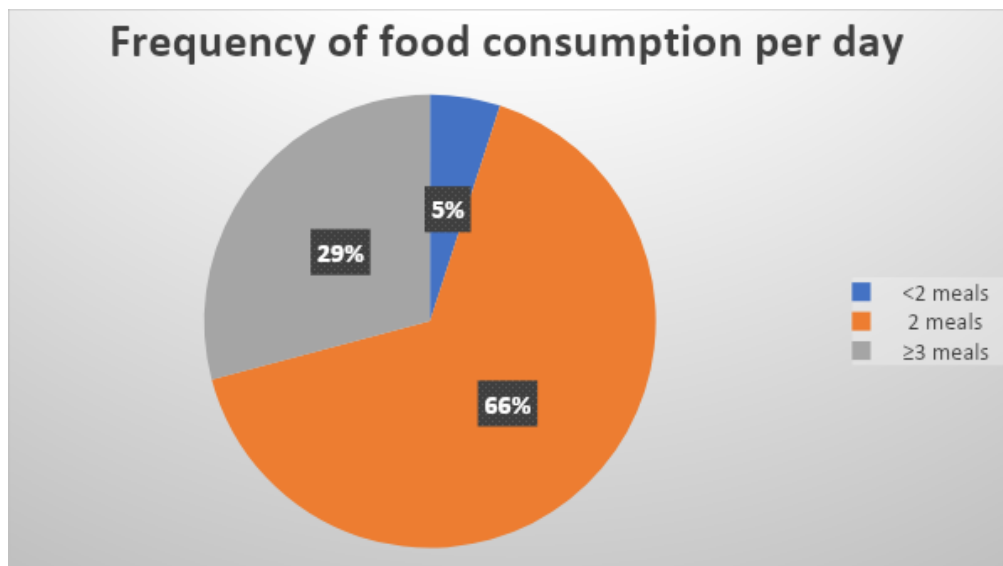


Figure 10: Frequency of food consumption per day

4.4.2. Animal Production and Consumption

The endline results showed that most participants (57%) are doing chicken farming, followed by (47%) in goat farming, and (15%) for both cow and pig farming. The trend was almost the same in the baseline where a lot of people did chicken farming (88%), goat farming (43%), cow farming (17%) and pig farming (23%). However, the endline results showed a huge decrease in chicken farming, a slight increase in goat farming, and a decrease in cow and pig farming. The people in Luhomero are doing livestock farming and this could be linked to the fact that the RDP project introduced a livestock pass-on program where off-springs were passed on to someone else so that at least everyone owns livestock at a household level for proteins in their diet as well as income generation to support their lives. It was also enquired why people rear animals, the reasons given were, for food (78%) and selling (62%). The results were not different from the baseline where it was observed that for food (93%) and selling (81%).

Information was also enquired from one of the stakeholders:

RDP helped us with various animals in our area, they encouraged us to do animal rearing by giving us livestock
– ADC Chair

Animals reared in Luhomero

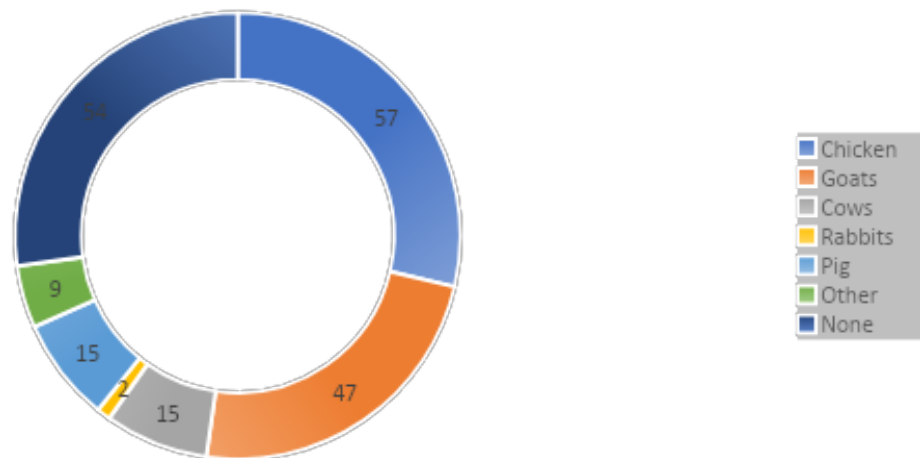


Figure 11: Animals reared in Luhomero

4.5. Housing Conditions in Luhomero

The findings highlighted that (46%) of the people had brick walls with iron roofs, (22.7%) had brick walls with grass roofs, (20.9%) had mad walls with grass roofs, and lastly (9.8%) had mad walls with iron roofs. On the baseline, it was noted that almost half (49.2%) of the houses were built from brick walls with grass-thatched roofs; many improvements have been noticed from the endline survey where close to half (46%) had brick walls with iron roofs and not grass thatched roofs. This was attributed to the fact that people had opportunities to get loans for iron sheets for their houses from the integrated project implemented by RDP.

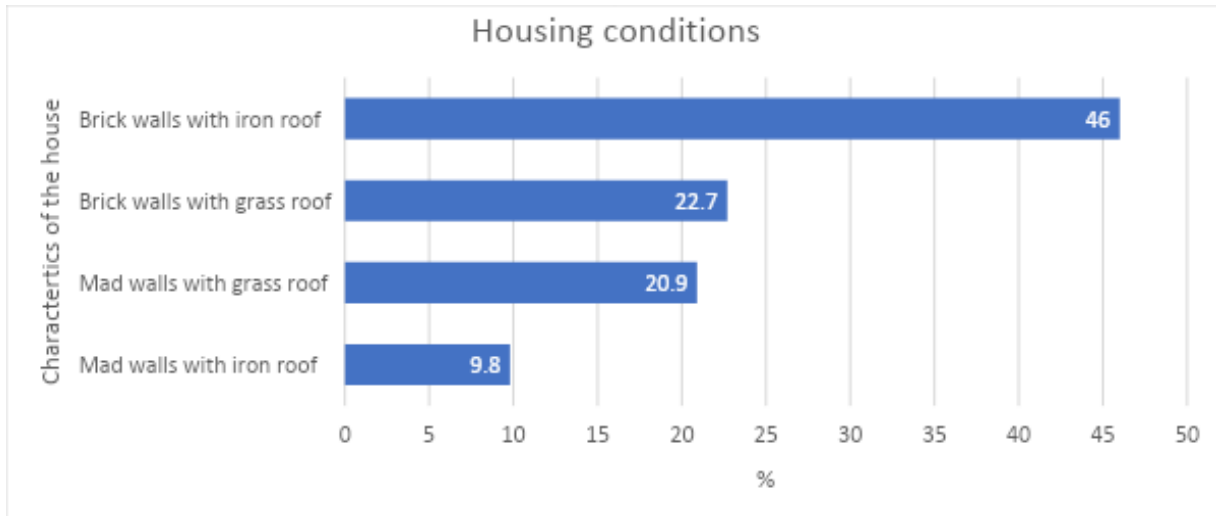


Figure 12: Housing Conditions

4.6. Production, management and marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products, including micro-enterprises

4.6.1. Capacity Building

The results showed that at least (45%) of the participants have done capacity-building on production, management, microfinance, finance and marketing in the past 6 years. The participants (68%) highlighted that they were trained by RDP. In addition, they felt that they were conversant with the materials covered during the capacity-building activities on production (25.2%), management (9%), microfinance (4%), marketing (3%) and finance (1%).

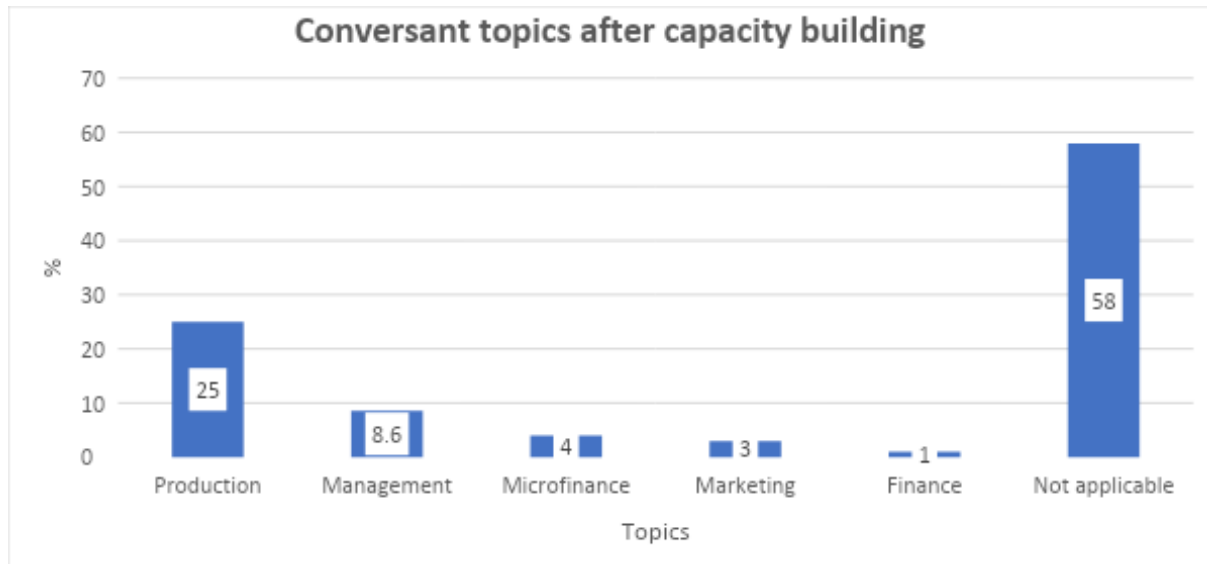


Figure 13: Conversant topics after capacity building

4.7. Economically viable and sustainable community-based self-help groups

The results indicated that (72%) of the people are aware of self-help groups in their community. Only (37%) of these are part of the self-help groups in their communities. The findings showed that the majority (55%) of their self-help groups' aim was saving and loaning money. Some other reasons were linking them to markets and starting a business.

5.0. Conclusion

5.1. Awareness and knowledge regarding WASH in Luhomero

- The hygiene and sanitation campaigns were significant and helpful to the people.
- Sources of WASH information were available in the community and people were very knowledgeable regarding WASH.

5.2. Access, adoption and use of improved WASH facilities in Luhomero

- Access to improved water supply such as boreholes has improved.
- Water treatment practices have increased i.e. use of water filters.
- Huge drop in usage of unimproved latrines.
- Little improvement in the availability of handwashing facilities in latrines.
- Majority of the people are aware that they need to wash their hands at critical times such as after using the toilet and before eating food.
- Majority are using soap and water to wash their hands.

5.3. Crop and animal production and consumption in Luhomero

- Maize was the number one grown crop.
- The majority only afforded two meals a day.
- The majority were practicing subsistence farming.
- A noticeable increase in the amount of money raised through selling agricultural produce.
- Conservation farming had low adoption; a majority of people are still practicing traditional farming.
- The majority are doing animal farming for food.

5.4. Housing conditions in Luhomero

- Housing conditions have improved, the majority staying in brick and iron sheet houses.

5.5. Production, management and marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products, including micro-enterprises

- People's capacities in microfinance, production, finance etc improved little.

5.6. Economically viable and sustainable community-based self-help groups

- Self-help groups were important in financial empowerment.

6.0. Recommendations

6.1. Awareness and knowledge regarding WASH in Luhomero

- Proper project exit meetings are supposed to be conducted to ensure the mantle was properly and carefully passed on to the HSAs so that they continue with community awareness campaigns regarding hand washing at all critical times and all other WASH domains.

6.2. Access, adoption and use of improved WASH facilities in Luhomero

(a) Latrines

- Despite that there was a significant improvement in people using unimproved latrines, some are still using unimproved latrines. It is important to ensure the sustainability of the project gains through various structures in the community i.e. Village Health Committees (VHCs), Area Development Committees (ADC) etc.

(b) Water treatment

- Despite an improvement in people treating their drinking water using filters, it is important that other ways of treating water should be highlighted at the community level to sustain the water treatment practice, otherwise beyond availability of filters provided by the project, the practice is likely to die after the project.

(c) Hand washing

- Availability of hand-washing facilities in latrines is still a challenge, it was important to ensure that the Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) were aware of the issue so that they could take up the issue beyond the project implementation period.

6.3. Crop and animal production and consumption in Luhomero

- People are still practicing subsistence farming in Luhomero as their priority, it is important to provide proper hand-overs to the agriculture extension officer in the area to ensure the sustainability of the gains and to continue promoting commercial agriculture in their programming.

- Conservation agriculture is being adopted at a very slow rate in the area, it is important to ensure the extension officers together with structures at the community level continue championing the initiative.

6.4. Housing conditions in Luhomero

- It is important to provide the necessary expertise and information to the council for them to sustain and scale up the intervention since results showed that people in Luhomero benefitted from the program.

6.5. Production, management and marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products, including micro-enterprises

- It is important to ensure that capacity-building initiatives on marketing, microfinance, financing and management are sustained, this could be done through proper exit meetings with the council and extension officers.
- Capacity-building activities should be sustained through the council and development partners to ensure community members are fully competent in financial management issues.

6.6. Economically viable and sustainable community-based self-help groups

- It is important that the extension officers keep providing technical support on the management of self-help groups as it was a good initiative to ensure the sustainability of the project gains.