



FALL 2015



CPAR report

PROGRAM DELIVERY - BEHIND THE (REMOTE AND RURAL) SCENES WITH CPAR STAFF

"No work is insignificant. All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

When Sifu Akyoo, a project officer in Bunda District, Tanzania, was recently asked by a community member what he personally got out of working on a food security and environmental project, he took his time in replying. After some thought and consideration, Sifu put the following question back to the community, "If you go to the doctor and they give you medicine and you get better, what does the doctor get?" The man posing the original question smiled and Sifu continued, "For me, the benefit is that I get to see you and your community improve and make changes. This is my work." This is the passion and dedication that in-country staff bring to CPAR and its work.

Establishing our offices close to project sites and fully staffed by nationals helps CPAR establish a strong relationship with targeted communities. CPAR staff experience first-hand many of the challenges communities face but also the opportunities and possibilities available. Living alongside communities builds trust in our approaches to community development, facilitating the full and meaningful participation of local residents.

Although it facilitates relationship building and strong programming, it is not always easy living in some of these remote settings. CPAR employees typically move to where the work is, and this can mean moving away from their families for long periods of time. Many rent rooms in local towns, often forgoing amenities we take for granted such as running water and regular electricity. This can mean that the day-to-day domestic activities of CPAR staff are similar to those of other members of their communities.

Yet this creates increased opportunities for understanding the local context. As well, because of the cross-cutting nature of our work, and an all-hands on deck approach, CPAR teams share knowledge, tasks and responsibilities, gaining a broader understanding of the various facets of development beyond their immediate expertise. CPAR's country offices are comprised of a core staff that gets built up depending on how many projects are going on at a given time. These teams are led by Country Managers who are supported by the Programs Department in Canada. The women and men who work for CPAR are hired for their skills, expertise, and educational background which they readily apply from project to project. Working with agriculturalists, nurse-midwives, water and sanitation technicians, and accountants means that there is plenty of opportunity to cross-train, expand skill sets and build capacity.

CPAR creates enormous change on a tight budget. Donors and other visitors who have seen CPAR's programming first hand are often amazed by the accomplishments and level of change that can be achieved by a group of dedicated staff and motivated community members.

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Scola Mwema, Project Officer - Bunda, Tanzania

Delfina Edward, Country Program Manager - Bunda, Tanzania

IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE

HIGHLIGHTING SCOLASTICA MWEMA - PROJECT OFFICER - TANZANIA

Scolastica Mwema, or Scola as she is more commonly known, has worked for CPAR-Tanzania since December 2012 when she joined to work as one of two project officer's on the USAID-funded Fields to Families: Women Transforming Agriculture project. Growing up in Tarime District, not far from Bunda, and equipped with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics from the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Scola was eager to apply her knowledge and skills in a community not far from her home.

Over the past three years Scola has come to know the ins and outs of implementing a food security project in rural Tanzania. Much of Scola's work is centred on facilitating training sessions and capacity building activities for Farmers Field School (FFS) groups. The villages targeted for this project are anywhere from a 30 to 60 minute drive, 25-35 kilometres away, on bumpy dirt roads. For that reason, among others, as Scola says, "planning is essential." Scola uses annual work plans to help guide her work and map out the best approach for conducting trainings, delivering inputs and integrating community awareness campaigns into the project.

"There is a lot of work to be done when I go to the field. Usually I begin making arrangements for the trip one or two days in advance depending on what activity we are doing. I call the FFS group leaders and ask them to invite group members to participate in the planned activity. If a district expert is conducting the training session, I make sure they know when and where the training will take place. I organize all of the materials needed for the training session – food, water, stationery, supplies, etc. – and then travel to the field with my colleague Mona Mapunda, the other USAID project officer."

"Meeting points for a given training may vary – sometimes everyone will meet at in a farmer's field, at a demonstration plot, or under a big tree to ensure there is shade. For the formal training in FFS group settings, training is carried out in line with the seasonal calendar and also respects the schedules of the farmers, and their need to be in their fields to tend their crops. The formal training is done by either me, Mona or by a district expert. Participating farmers then make presentations to the group about what they have learned. They also share success stories and talk about the challenges they have faced. Group members may also bring forward a group issue to discuss, or individuals may have questions or concerns to share. At these sessions, everyone learns together."

"My job focuses on a food security project, but whenever I have the chance, I join other staff in the field to experience other parts of CPAR's work. When joining the team as they worked on a recently completed maternal, newborn and child health project I listened, observed and learned, learned, learned. This has expanded my knowledge of community health issues. We are a small team but we work together to show our strength. It is in the spirit of teamwork that CPAR staff join to learn, share, and grow stronger

together. We work hard to get to know our community partners and those taking part in our projects. I really enjoy this atmosphere of teamwork. Working alongside my male colleagues, I have seen the importance of having female and male staff members working together. The community notices this, they see how we lead by example and this helps women feel comfortable enough to come forward, participate and be heard."

Scola Mwema, Project Officer in Tanzania



Project Officer Mona Mapunda - Tanzania



Field Office in Dibate, Ethiopia

At the close of the training activity, CPAR staff introduce the topic of the next training session and also meet with village leaders to inform them of their plans for any upcoming training. In the case where an FFS member has fallen ill, Scola and Mona will also make time to pay them a visit, to check in on how they are doing as a reminder that they are still considered part of the group.

Training sessions are not the only activity to coordinate. Scola also organizes open air community education campaigns on various topics including preventing mother to child transmission of HIV, gender based violence and nutrition. In order to ensure a successful campaign, Scola and Mona meet with local leaders to discuss the topic and the challenges the community is facing around these issues. To spread the word about the day's information session, CPAR staff go street to street in the village to invite people to join the meetings. During the sessions, community members are actively involved, sharing stories and asking questions. Usually after the public education sessions, people stay around to ask more questions and to express interest in joining Farmer Field School groups.

When asked what she likes most about her job, Scola enthusiastically replied, *"What do I like about the work I do? Everything! I love the gender component – working with women and seeing them come forward. I love working with farmers, seeing their attitudes change and seeing their progress over time. I love to see that even when the project phases out, the farmers can put their new knowledge to use, generating more income and continuing to benefit from their improved skills. I met some very poor women at the beginning of the USAID project and now they have their own small businesses – I can see their shops along the road and check in on how they are doing. Living so close to where I work, I can see the results right here in the community."*



CPAR ON THE GROUND

In Ethiopia, CPAR has three offices. A head office in Addis Ababa, and two field offices, one in Dibate and one in Guba. Working in Dibate and Guba is very difficult. Limited infrastructure including poor quality roads and the absence of banking facilities, gas stations and internet access makes everyday activities time consuming and challenging. CPAR's project staff has to travel between 50 to 200 km to access essential services and to purchase project materials. At times, reports and other official documents are sent by bus between Addis Ababa and Dibate or Guba, at least a two day journey. It is conditions like these that can scare other NGOs away, but in which CPAR thrives.



Bogale talks with farmer Akeye



Program Manager Bogale Walelign at Dibate Basecamp

HIGHLIGHTING BOGALE WALELIGN - PROJECT MANAGER - DIBATE, ETHIOPIA

An Agronomist by training and profession, Bogale joined CPAR in 2012 after working at the Assosa Agricultural Research Organization. First hired as a project officer for CPAR's DFATD-funded Farmers First project in Jarso, Bogale soon proved himself a skilled facilitator and capable leader and was asked to lead the Women-Led Food Security and Nutrition project in Dibate, Benishangul-Gumuz region.

Recently, Bogale was asked to describe a typical day working for CPAR in Dibate. This is what he had to say.

CPAR is working in a remote village called Gesses, in the northwestern part of Ethiopia. Today I met with farmer Akeye in her demonstration field behind her home. As we walked between the rows of vegetables, Akeye and I talked. I was glad to see that her crops are coming along well despite the poor rains this year. I looked at the plants carefully and saw that the vegetables are growing fast and are well managed by Akeye. I dug the up some of the soil in the field with my fingers and saw that the soil quality was good. After this I had two more farm visits to carry out and also meetings with other farmers in the group.

There is always a lot to do here so I keep busy. I use my knowledge and experience as an Agronomist to provide support and advice to farmers. We discuss when the appropriate time for land preparation, planting and harvest is, depending on the crops they are growing. I organize and facilitate training in collaboration with the local government, and coordinate the distribution of inputs, like seeds, in line with the appropriate growing season. Follow-up is key in food security projects. I check crops at certain stages of growth to provide advice and ensure that the farmers are achieving the results they should.

Here in Dibate, because it is so remote, CPAR has housing available at the office site. Living in a remote area such as Dibate is not easy. Basic social services are hard to find and most of us are far away from our families, which can make us homesick. But we support each other in order to make sure we all feel at home. For example, we set dinner time for 7:00 p.m. and everyone eats together. This helps those of us living and working here come together as family. Being here has its advantages for the work. It means we are close to the communities where project activities take place, which helps us connect with the people with whom we are working. It also enables us to reach communities that are often overlooked by other NGOs and even the government.

Recognized for his skills, knowledge and field experience, Bogale Walelign was invited to speak at a stakeholders consultation workshop organized by the Pawe Research Organization and International Livestock Research Institute through the N2Africa project. The N2Africa project, is an initiative to support smallholder farmers in Africa with a range of nitrogen fixing technologies in the production and marketing of leguminous crops.

Bogale spoke of CPAR's experience applying the Farmer Field School approach to on-farm research undertakings and experimentation. As a result of this presentation, 31 farmers from four Farmer Field Schools are now participating in the N2Africa project. This growing season they will plant haricot beans and apply bio fertilizer, demonstrating their application, and testing and reporting on production results.



Dennis Nyasulu conducts training for School Sanitation Club members



Dennis tests a handwashing stand built by primary school students in Malawi

HIGHLIGHTING DENNIS NYASULU - PROJECT OFFICER - KASUNGU DISTRICT, MALAWI

Dennis Nyasulu joined CPAR in 2008 first working as a Community Development Facilitator for an Accelerated Child Survival and Development project, and later on a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project. When the project closed, Dennis left CPAR to work for another organization. When he heard that CPAR was starting a new WASH project in Kasungu District he was happy for the opportunity to return to CPAR in the role of District WASH Project Coordinator.

"As the District WASH Project Coordinator, I am mainly involved in working to bring about behavioural change in the project's targeted communities in relation to water, hygiene and sanitation. CPAR stimulates behavioural change by mobilizing communities through the use of participatory approaches like Community Led Total Sanitation and School Led Total Sanitation. We also conduct capacity building training sessions for government extension workers, teachers and students, as well as the community based committees who manage wells and other water-points."

In our WASH work, CPAR advocates for those who are often overlooked in development initiatives, paying particular attention to gender mainstreaming, those who are affected by HIV and AIDS, and ensuring the inclusion of children, the elderly and those with disabilities.

"I like my job because I see different people with different backgrounds participating in all WASH activities being carried out in their communities. At the beginning of this new project, in coordination with the local government, CPAR offered train-the-trainer training to local extension officers who are working with CPAR on this project. The training, facilitated by District WASH specialists, has vastly increased local knowledge on WASH issues and possible interventions. One of the most important things that participants learned is that it is possible for all households to construct a durable pit latrine using locally available resources. In the first six months of this new project, I have already seen a change. Community members are adopting modern hygiene practices by constructing latrines, making sure there are hand-washing facilities near to the latrine and that people are washing their hands properly. This is already having an enormous impact on the health of community members."

Dennis Nyasulu, Project Officer, Kasungu Distract, Malawi

HIGHLIGHTING SIFUEL AKYOO - PROJECT OFFICER - BUNDA, TANZANIA

When Sifu Akyoo first joined CPAR in 2011 the focus of his work was on working with adult farmers. Working on various food security projects, he put his Bachelor of Social Science, Geography and Environmental Studies to good use. Now, he is heading up the new Unifor-funded Junior Farmer Field and Life School project being carried out in 50 primary schools across Bunda District (See page 8 for additional project details). When asked about the new project, Sifu expressed great excitement to be working with children and youth on the new project. He explained, *"I know how to talk to people. I adjust my language and approach depending on the group. So far, the students have responded well to me and I can tell we will work well together."*

Continued On Page 6



Sifu joins students from Sengerema Primary School



With limited facilities available for rent, CPAR constructed this small office in Guba, which will be used by the Ethiopian Government upon the project's completion.

During inception activities, in addition to conducting meetings with local government representatives and village leaders, Sifu visited all 50 participating primary schools. His role includes talking with community members and being very clear about the project – what its goals are, what the activities will be and who the project is targeting so everyone in the community has an understanding of the project, how it will work and how they can support it. The teachers, in particular, are really excited about the project. Most of these 50 schools have never been supported by an NGO and by participating in this project they feel they are no longer forgotten.

Sifu talked about the unique needs of each school, explaining “Each school has different challenges so during the inception and while activities are being planned, we must listen carefully, and cater our programming content accordingly. Project plans have to be adjusted and adapted according to community needs. Some schools are very interested in dairy goats, some are interested in chicken rearing and others want to prioritize school gardens. At Sengerema primary school where *Bilharzia* and *schistosomiasis* are very common waterborne illnesses among students, special attention will be paid to water, sanitation and hygiene training so that students and teachers know how to protect themselves. As teachers say, this project is *ukombozi* (a life saver) for the schools and the students.”

Like his colleague Scola, Sifu has taken advantage of on-the-job training opportunities, gaining exposure to project activities outside of his area of expertise. “I worked with other CPAR staff on a maternal, newborn and child health project where I learned about neonatal resuscitation and vaccinations. I also now know the symptoms of common childhood diseases, the risks associated with female genital mutilation, pregnancy and early marriage in much more detail than before.

My increased knowledge about these health issues will be very helpful to me in this new project that combines agriculture and life skills,” explained Sifu.

Sifu continued, “What I really like about my work, is talking with people, sharing my knowledge. The key is to never ignore an idea from anyone – listen to them and answer them carefully. Everyone has something to contribute. Sometimes there can be language barriers in a community. The group may not speak Swahili so we ask someone in the community who speaks both the local language and Swahili if they will translate. This helps us build mutual trust because it shows we trust them to translate what they say and when they see this, they trust us and that we are here for a good reason.”

CPAR’s commitment to working in rural, hard to reach areas does not go unnoticed, although it does surprise some. On a recent field visit, Sifu met with an older gentleman who asked, “Is it true that CPAR is coming to our village? I have seen CPAR in Bunda Town, but are you the same? We are nearly 70km away.” Sifu said, “It’s not uncommon to find people in disbelief that CPAR would travel so far to carry out a project, but it is what we do.”

“To be working on this project means a lot to me. You can have a lasting impact when you teach children valuable things - they will carry it with them forever.”

Sifu Akyoo, Project Officer
Bunda, Tanzania

A LETTER FROM CPAR'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Is it true that CPAR is coming to our village?"

Those are the words spoken by a member of a community where CPAR is just starting a new project. This gentleman, who lives in a remote area of Tanzania, already knew of CPAR and the solid programming that we have implemented over the years. On the ground in the rural areas where CPAR works in Ethiopia, Malawi and Tanzania, CPAR is known and respected by community members, local government representatives and other NGOs.



CPAR has field offices and programs in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Tanzania, fully staffed and managed by nationals. Because many of our projects are in remote areas, CPAR staff often live within the communities while the project is being planned and implemented, sometimes being away from their families and friends for years.

CPAR staff in the field works hard to establish a respectful partnership with communities. CPAR's relationship with communities is shaped by mutual respect and well-understood roles and responsibilities. We don't position ourselves to be an independent agent of change, but to facilitate the transition towards strengthened community-led action.

Once we get funding for a new project, our staff runs a participatory baseline exercise, bringing together community leaders, women and men to consider their current situation. Facilitated by the CPAR team and often District government personnel, this is an opportunity for community members to build their capacity to self-analyze, establish priorities, draw up Action Plans and set benchmarks for the implementation of program activities. CPAR's approach to programming stresses community involvement, thereby strengthening the local ownership of results. So that when the project is over, and our staff can leave and go back to their own homes, the results and benefits of the projects continue.

It takes talent, commitment and dedication to deliver results, all attributes that we are proud our team has.

We hope you enjoy this opportunity to get to know just a few of our staff members in Africa.

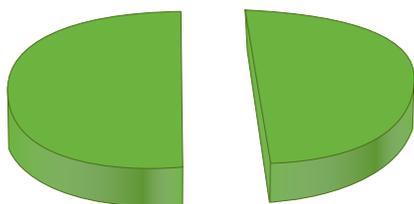
Yours truly,

Dusanka Pavlica
Executive Director

HOW YOUR DONATIONS WORKED IN 2014-2015

REVENUES

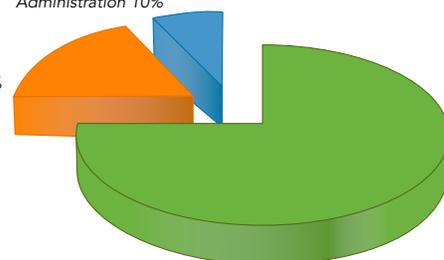
Private Donations
and Other Income 53%



Project Grants 47%

EXPENSES

Administration 10%
Fundraising,
Communication
& Dev Education 19%



Development
Projects 71%



ANNOUNCING NEW PROJECTS

RUBANA RIVER AND WETLAND INTEGRATED RIVERBANK AND LAND REHABILITATION

Through the generous support of the MacArthur Foundation, this three-year project is being carried out in 11 communities in the Rubana River Catchment area in Bunda District, Northern Tanzania. The Rubana River originates in Serengeti National Park, eventually flowing into Lake Victoria. The targeted communities are inhabited by subsistence farming households and agro-pastoralists.

A damaged ecosystem, combined with poor agronomic practices and unproductive local seed varieties, undermines the ability of the local population to produce sufficient food, and to build and sustain reliable livelihoods. This project focuses on increasing awareness of the causes and consequences of environmental degradation. Project activities are designed to carry out a suite of actions to reduce the speed that further ecosystem damage takes place, to rehabilitate the land and the riverbanks, and to introduce Conservation Agriculture so that families can increase their crop yields and varieties, have healthier livestock and increase their household incomes. The goal is to close the gap that exists between concern for biodiversity conservation and effective action by providing the targeted populations with sufficient incentives to change behaviour.

BUILDING THE FUTURE: YOUTH AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Working in partnership with 50 primary schools in Bunda District, Tanzania, the goal of this project is to equip 1,500 female and male youth with strengthened agricultural and life skills. With the support of UNIFOR, over the course of three years, CPAR will establish a Junior Farmer Field and Life School (JFFLS) at each of the 50 schools, working with students to develop life skills, raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health, and build self-esteem and self-confidence.

JFFLS pays particular attention to teaching and building upon existing local agricultural production skills, and equipping students with the skills to manage and grow crops beyond subsistence farming.

The students will participate in hands-on agricultural and life skills training which can be applied in daily life. After participating in JFFLS groups, girls and boys alike will have the tools and information needed to make more informed decisions about their future and to ensure their long-term food security, health and general well-being.

SAVING MOTHERS: IMPROVING MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH IN RURAL TANZANIA

Working in a consortium model, this project brings researchers, a Tanzanian hospital and NGOs together to reduce maternal deaths among women and infant mortality by 30% in Bunda District, Tanzania. CPAR's role in this partnership is to facilitate training for Community Health Workers (CHW) and local health dispensary staff on important maternal health topics, and improved data collection through the use of mobile phones.

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS FOR IMPROVED MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

Once again working in a consortium model, CPAR will be responsible for providing training to build the capacity of CHWs in Rorya District, Tanzania. The overall project goal is to develop high impact community-based maternal and newborn health interventions to decrease maternal and newborn illnesses and deaths. This project is being funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre.

For more information about these projects, please visit the Projects page on our website at www.cpar.ca.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all of you for your recent donations and support.
Together we can build healthy communities in Africa!

CPAR works in partnership with vulnerable communities and diverse organizations to overcome poverty and build healthy communities in Africa.

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