

END OF TRAINING REPORT FOR SET PROJECT



Reporting period: October 2023 to January 2024

The Struggle for Community Support Alliance (SCSA)

Contract No - SCTZ/SET/SCSA/2023/01

January 2024

Table of Contents

1. Summary of main achievements and key challenges	3
2. Location.....	3
3. Skills taught, training material and curricula	4
4. Training venues.....	5
5. Training participants	5
6. Method and length of training.....	6
7. Formal assessments	7
8. Materials or equipment purchased (if any)	8
9. Trainers	8
10. Partners.....	8
11. Monitoring and quality assurance	9
12. Challenges faced and actions taken.....	9
13. Lessons learnt and recommendations for the future	11
14. Pictures	11

1. Summary of main achievements and key challenges

This following report covers the period of July to September 2023, under the sub-contract **SCTZ/SET/SCSA/2023/01** between SET and The Struggle for Community Support Alliance (SCSA). The subsequent section provides an overview of the planned activities versus the activities actually implemented for the reporting period. During implementation of this project, a number of achievements and challenges have both been observed and documented as follows.

Key achievements

- Out of 200 young mothers recruited, 85% of them (188 trainees) were able to attend the trainings and graduate successfully
- The 188 young mothers graduated from the program, can now fully engage in horticulture production and extend the same knowledge to other community members, which includes – business skills imparted to them and the psychological support provided during the training.
- Increased income for young mothers through sale of horticulture produce, but also improved home nutrition
- Young mothers are already earning from this project outcomes, which includes – taking agro dealers’ agency, training other youth for a fee, but also using their equipment/tools from the project e.g. the gears, cans, sprayers for renting other horticulture farmers in their communities.
- Provided business opportunities in respective communities where the project implemented. For example, all service providers – caterers and transporters/boda boda during trainings were all sourced from respective training areas.
- Increased SET project visibility in Kilosa District

Key challenges

- Drop out: Approximately 20% of young mothers recruited didn’t graduate on reasons such as marriage, family activities, access to some other opportunities, and distance to reach the training centers
- Low government support by some LGA officials, needing more DSA/per diem to be able to provide the require project implementation support
- High expectation by young mothers, as some of them joined purposely to collect cash support provided to cover their food and transport during trainings
- Difficulties with getting suitable land for the project, LGA not providing required land, and community members charging hire for services related to the project
- Some trainees used the produce harvest for home consumption, contrary to the project goal of gauging increase in income from participating in such activities
- Excessive rains and flooding, this had huge negative impact to the project. Plants were carried away, and during this time (November/December) 2023, most project activities were partly stopped, which resulted to requesting an extension to compensate the time lost.

2. Location

The project was implemented in Morogoro region, targeting Kilosa District. Initially, the project was to be implemented in Gairo and Msovero Districts, but upon discussion with SET project, it was agreed to change to Kilosa for the purpose of easy access to needy beneficiaries, access to land, closeness to water sources among others that would allow smooth horticulture production throughout the year. Below table provides a brief description of targeted areas

Region	District	Ward	Village/Street
Morogoro	Kilosa	Rudewa	Batini, Gongoni, Buyuni
		Mvumi	Mvumi, Gongwe
		Msowero	Mambegwa, Msowero, Mkobwe

Selection of location: Geographically, the selected wards were proven to have reliable water sources, nearby to potential markets for veggies (Dumila and Kilosa towns) and significant number of young mothers (rural) whose primary economic activity is in agriculture.

Difference to proposal (if any): as explained above, initially the proposal was to target Gairo and Msovero, but for reasons as mentioned, the project had to focus in Kilosa.

3. Skills taught, training material and curricula

The below table provides a summary of key skills within which the young mothers were trained, in accordance to the original proposal,

Course name	Locations where this course will be taught (village or ward and number of people)	Technical skills that will be taught	Employability/Soft skills that will be taught
	Mkobwe 50 Mvumi 25	Nursery preparation Staking Propagation	Know yourself Self-awareness Financial literacy

Horticulture Production (spinach, Chinese & cabbage, cucumber, lady finger)	Msowero 38 Mambegwa 49 Rudewa 20	seed sowing, transplanting, Pesticides applications, smart Organic farming, bio-fertilizer making/manures and value-addition	Communication Entrepreneurship Record keeping Gender awareness & psychosocial support
---	---	--	--

Difference to proposal (if any): The proposal initially proposed cabbage, Chinese and spinach as key horticulture produce, however in response to market demands in those localities, young mothers asked SCSA to include cucumber and lady finger as among produce to target - since they fetch good price in the market and are easy to manage. As a result, cucumber and lady finger were included.

The curricula as well as all training materials that were used during the had previously been submitted.

4. Training venues

SCSA did set up four training centers, namely at Mvumi – Mvumi Ward office, at Msowero - Msowero Ward Office, at Mambegwa - Mambegwa Village Primary School and at Mkobwe Village – Mkobwe CARITAS center for theory and then to the farm for onsite practical training, using established demo farms.

Further, practical training involved visiting other farmers’ farms in Kilosa District, namely two Raha Farms in Msowero and Dumila as an alternative. This was a result of persistent rains in Kilosa which resulted to floods, and thus planned field visits to Shambani Solutions and NovFeed as initially proposed, didn’t happen.

5. Training participants

The below table provides overview of the selected/enrolled young mothers and their characteristics, as captured from the SET MEL dashboard.

Characteristics	Total Enrolled	At least 80% attendance
Total number of young mothers	185	152
15–24-year-old	184	151
Unemployed at enrollment	171	140
Self-employed at enrollment	14	12
Income status at enrolment: 150,000 TSH or below	185	152

Education level at enrolment: Up to O level	181	149
---	-----	-----

Difference to proposal (if any): The target beneficiaries were supposed to be 200 as proposed, however due to drop out on reasons such as marriage, change of interest among trainees, access to new opportunities and distance to the training's venue - the number went down.

Employment or self-employment opportunities of the trainees after the training: There are massive employment and self-employment opportunities to the trainees from trainings they received. For example, during trainings,

- The trainees were able to be linked to potential agro dealers in the nearby markets, of which they were able to be their agents (earning commission through discounts) in their communities (Mvumi and Mkobwe youth are selling fertilizers for some agor dealers from Dumila for a commission, and also buy on credit).
- Young mothers' can now train some other youth on horticulture farming for a small fee in their communities – doing that in Msowero
- Young mothers are partly renting their equipment/tools given during trainings to gain income through rental fees – during trainings, there were four groups established – and each group were given horticulture farming equipment/tools as start-up package/kit, such as gears, boots, cans, rakes, sprayers etc. E.g. at Mambegwa – young mothers are paid to go spray the plants when there are diseases/renting sprayers, gears etc.

6. Method and length of training

The below table provides an overview of the training length, as captured from SET monitoring dashboard for all young mothers in the four training locations selected.

Length of training				
Characteristics	Mambegwa	Mkobwe	Msowero	Mvumi
Total days of theoretical and practical training per trainee	34	34	34	34
Total hours of theoretical and practical training per trainee	188	188	188	188
% Soft skill training in total training	21%	21%	21%	21%
% practical skill training in technical training	85%	85%	85%	85%
Total days of coaching per trainee	26	26	26	26
Total hours of coaching per trainee	156	156	156	156

Interpretation: As seen from the Table above, total training days per trainee were equal per each center, i.e. 34 days for Mkobwe, Mambegwa, Msowero and Mvumi, which

equals to 188 training hours, with 85% of the training being technical and remaining being for soft skills trainings.

Description of type of coaching done: SCSA using its technical training team carried out coaching activities to enable young mothers put into practice what they have learned. Coaching involved practically undertaking horticulture farming activities at both own young mother individual farms/or those owned by the groups., which involved land preparation, nursery development, block establishment, spacing/use of lopes, spraying, harvesting, packaging etc.

Difference to proposal (if any): Coaching was done twice in a week between October and November 2023. However, due to the flooding in November and December of 2023, coaching was reduced to around a day or two per week and was done mainly at the center of Msowero, and thus until closure of training period in January 2024, a total of 26 coaching days were recorded, against a total of 48 days as proposed before.

During coaching, SCSA engaged a number of private sector players e.g., agro input sellers and key buyers of young mothers produce (local hotels/veggie vendors) who conducted visits to young mothers' farms who saw how production was done established some business relationships.

7. Formal assessments

Pre and post assessments were used as proposed in the original proposal. For example, before all theoretical trainings - a checklist of questions was used to assess understanding, and the same checklist was used at the end to probe understanding. For practical trainings, after all demos were done at the farm, the trainers assigned the selected groups per each center to demonstrate the process of horticulture production from nursery preparation, staking, propagation, seed sowing, transplanting, pesticides applications, harvesting, and packaging at own individual farms and those at of the group.



8. Materials or equipment purchased (if any)

A number of tools and equipment and agro inputs were bought for use by the trainees, a list is as follows

- Cans
- Sprayers/solo
- Gears/overalls and boots
- Seeds
- Pesticides
- Masks
- Fertilizes etc

Also, toys and other kids play materials were bought for kids to use as to help their mothers concentrate with the trainings.

Difference to proposal (if any): All tools/equipment as proposed were bough for use by trainees. However, all these were also used to be part of start up kits for young mothers upon graduation.

9. Trainers

Difference to proposal (if any): During theory and practical trainings, SCSA did utilize same trainers as proposed. However, for effective support of young mothers on the ground – (for coaching purposes apart from utilizing our technical trainers) we also did work with Village extension officers in those communities. These were helpful whenever pressing issues arose e.g. crop diseases and what pesticides to be used, they also oversaw spraying activities while working together with the young mothers.

10. Partners

SCSA did work with a number of partners, which has resulted to making the training more successful and impactful. Below are the relevant partners and their respective contribution to the project, as follows

Partner name	Responsible area/support ed	Type of financial or in-kind contribution to the training
Local Government Authority	Identifying suitable young mothers for the project, providing land for the young mothers	In-kind contribution
NovFeed	Supported SCSA to deliver both theory and practical horticulture training and helping beneficiaries and market linkages	Consultancy
		In kind contribution

Raha Farms	<p>Provided space for further practical training/field visits for the young mothers to learn on nursery management, seed sowing and management, market linkages etc.</p> <p>Provide seedlings – Chinese/spinach to young mothers in the project</p>	In kind contribution
------------	---	----------------------

Difference to proposal (if any): It was initially proposed for Shambani Solutions to provide field visits/practical training to their farms in Pwani region. However, due to heavy rainfall in November and December, most of their farms were flooded. Alternatively, Raha farms was chosen since they are doing the same, and are located in Kilosa District (Msowero and Dumila)

11. Monitoring and quality assurance

Apart from utilizing the pre training and post training questionnaires/tools and the SET monitoring systems, SCSA monitoring and quality assurance during trainings included spot check of the training activities by our field project coordinator. Further, to ensure data quality and consistency, all training data for SET monitoring system at the field was largely done/collected by our field officer and not technical trainers as normally required by SET, and to us was very effective as all data were fully managed and easily corrected in case of errors.

12. Challenges faced and actions taken

The following table gives an overview of the main challenges faced and the corresponding actions taken while implementing above activities.

Table 3: Project Implementation Challenges

No.	Challenge	Actions taken
1	Some of selected young mothers could not read and write	Effective use of friendly training tools and adult learning techniques helped them to understand what was been taught.
2	Community backlash, as some targeted communities rejected to meet SCSA staff on fear of being sued (for young mothers who got pregnant while at school)	SCSA provided the clarification on the matter, and because of continued communities reluctance - SCSA shifted to other locations.

3	Some selected young mothers had been in a relationship for over 2 years (regarded as married) whereas their partners have been away for over 2 years with neither support nor communication	Upon discussion with SET team and the fact that these women are the ones feeding their families, the said young mothers were included in the training and treated as separated from their partners
4	Low support from government officials (LGAs), most of who required DSAs/facilitation fee to fully support the project	Where necessary and required, SCSA provided the required DSA to the officials. Also, SCSA continuously explained to LGA officials on the importance of SET project to the communities they work for.
5	Heavy rains and floods from end of October to Mid December 2023, which hugely affected young mothers' attendance during trainings, coaching, and also three centre farms namely Mambegwa, Mkobwe and Mvumi were taken away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requested contract extension from January to February 2024 to compensate the training activities remained. - Utilization of the Msowero farm effectively by all trainees, after other farms cannot be restored back given the effects of floods.
6	Some Young mothers, would use the harvests (vegetables) for home use, as opposed to project goals of selling to improve their income/economic well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closely worked with young mothers to help them understand the project goals, and that the produce was for sale.
7	A significant drop in participation by young mothers after technical trainings, because thereafter (during coaching) no food or fare was provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We used local government authorities to help mobilize the young mothers, as this was their commitment during recruitment, and was helpful.

13. Lessons learnt and recommendations for the future

The following table gives an overview of the main lessons learnt and what recommendations for the future would be to implement what was learnt.

Table 4: Lessons Learnt& recommendations

No.	Lesson learned	Recommendations for the future
1	Low level of understanding among community members on benefits available in engaging with SET project	Awareness about SET project should be given to the community before project implementation
2	High level of expectations to earn cash amount from SET project	To continue emphasizing to participants that the purpose of the training is skills acquisition/women empowerment
3	Horticulture production activities/programs, if properly managed is still very friendly economic activity especially for young mothers. Horticulture serves well two purposes, improved household nutrition and increase in income. With factors like only small land is needed, markets are readily available – many rural women can surely liberate themselves from male dependance.	SET project needs to keep this in mind that, despite all challenges in horticulture farming, this subsector has low cost to implement and impacts are significant, and should continue funding this.

14. Pictures

Please provide 5-10 high quality pictures and specify what date, where (location), and during which activity the picture was taken and list the names and phone numbers of the people in the picture so that they could be contacted for consent taking in case SET would use this picture publicly.

X high quality pictures are attached to the report. Below the description of them as required.

No.	Date	Location	Description of activity	In case consent is needed	
				Names	Phone numbers
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Picture 1



Picture 2:



Picture 3



Picture 4:



Picture 5:



Picture 6:



Picture 7:

