

GEAMOC PROJECT REPORT-MALAWI OFFICE

Sept–Nov 2019



Mahill Holst -an intern from Germany handing computer to Enock Banda

The report covers the period between Sept- Nov 2019, which is a period in which our beneficiaries were in their first term as per our school calendar and others are preparing to sit for MSCE exams.

JALI

The maize mill at Jali is performing exceptionally well apart from usual maintenances like application of grease and changing of belts. Continual blackouts in Malawi are still affecting the operation of the maize in terms of returns. Furthermore since Malawi is experiencing early hunger due to the floods which affected most parts of the country, few people are taking their maize to maize mills for milling as most people have been highly affected hence outputs in terms of income is very low. But as usual they managed to pay school fees and buy materials for all the 10 students available at the centre. The supervisor requested GEAMOC whether it can be possible to help the kids with staple maize for flour as we did in the other year as hunger has roomed onto the area and has hit hard the kids we support. She extended the requested by requesting whether our kids can also be helped with money to buy fertilizer and maize seeds using coupons they received.

I and the chairman noted the problem, and he advised me to write the GEAMOC board about the problem and that if the funds might be available, indeed the people are to be helped as everyone knows how tough the situation is in Malawi. He encouraged the supervisor to be taking care of the maize mill, but also the kids, so that the purpose of the organization has to be fulfilled. Regarding the fertilizer and maize seeds, the chairman inquired from the supervisor whether all our kids received coupons through their guardians from chiefs, in her explanation, she said, all the vulnerable kids in their area were being given priority, considering their plight, as such coupons were distributed to them, what remained was the money to buy fertilizer and maize seeds at a subsidized amount, as follows

A bag of 50Kg Urea	-K4,500.00 with coupon
A bag of 50Kg NPK	- K6,500.00 with coupon
Maize seeds 5Kg “kanyani”	- K2,500.00 with coupon

Since it might be a bit difficult for GEAMOC to help the kids with all the necessary monies, we agreed that if the board can help, then each kid has to receive 20kg of NPK and 5kg of Maize seeds, so that at least half bread is better than none, and the chairman emphasized that the coordinator has to make sure that these materials have been purchased in his presence. As for the hunger, he also suggested at least a 20Kg bag of maize each, of course it can't ease the hunger, but for some days, the kids and their families will be assisted.

We therefore finally gave the kids available the school materials and money for school fees. The supervisor thanked the board for their consideration and assured the chairman plus the coordinator that, she will continue doing her job in an appropriate way. She further said, all the kids in the schools will continue to be monitored, so that Jali should also produce at least one or more graduates through the



maize mill proceeds.

She also promised that she will visit chiefs in the area to be encouraging their subjects to be milling at the Geamoc maize mill as they are aware that the proceeds goes back to the same community through school materials, and that she would report back during our next visit.

Maize mill maintenance

Due to the heavy rains that fell in Jali, part of our maize mill building, have developed some cracks, the cracks are three in total.

As per pictures below, these cracks if will be left without being maintained, then the electricity wire might fall off, which will be dangerous, but also the other part can fall which will be expensive to maintain it.



I consulted one of the bricklayers around the area through the supervisor and he saw the affected parts. As such he has given us a quotation of K75,000.00.

Knowing that the maize mill is not making profits now due to the reasons outlined above, I have discussed with the supervisor that if an amount of such magnitude is given then, it would be a loan, which will be repaid when the business picks up around April 2020. She accepted. Therefore may I request the Board to borrow Jali centre K75,000.00 so that the building is maintained.

As reported earlier the Jali centre is the only centre we have, where the maize mill is doing its intended purpose, hence my support to the requested loan.

LIRANGWE

I visited Lirangwe centre with a Germany intern known as Mahill Host who is based at my workplace and is teaching our students, computer plus sports. He is the one who brought the computer for Enock from Germany.

The students received all the school materials and school fees, plus money for Uniforms. All the students thanked GEAMOC for their continual support as they thought that after the women sold the building then, GEAMOC would stop, I informed them that they just need to work extra hard in their class as without the president consideration after that incidence, indeed Geamoc would have stopped sponsoring them.

Then just like Jali, the students requested GEAMOC, if they could be considered with fertilizer and maize seeds money plus maize flour for eating as the hunger in the village is rooming highly. I didn't promise any positive response but I just told them that the GEAMOC board will discuss and once response has been given then it will be communicated to them in due course.

Upon asking them about coupons, they all responded that they have coupons as their chiefs normally give them since the chiefs are aware about their situations, as they are given a priority. Those in secondary schools appreciated a lot for the school fees but they requested me that, a centre fee would also be required apart from the exam fee. I then promised to visit the secondary school to prove, of course the headmasters of all the schools where our students are, told me frankly that, the students would not be registered for exams unless they pay centre fee. This then enhanced our budget, because this was not requested for, but since they were supposed to be paid together, I paid directly to schools and receipts were issued.



Free styles after receiving the school materials-some students were at schools

ENOCK BANDA

Enock Banda received his laptop from Mahill Host during the Lirangwe visitation. Apart from the Laptop, he also got his stationary money for the first 4 months. Honestly Enock did not expect that, a valuable item like Laptop would be given to him, he was over the moon and he thanked GEAMOC wholeheartedly but also promised to work extra hard at the University. He is currently at the college, and he informed me about his arrival and starting of college life. Mahill Host also gave him some advice on how he would be refraining from bad behaviors so that his goals must be accomplished.



Enock getting his laptop from Mahill and on the other side getting his stationary money

CHIRADZULU.

Chiradzulu was another centre which we visited, to appreciate how the kids were fairing but also to distribute monies for school fees, school materials and exam fees. Upon distributing the materials, the chairman was requested by the supervisor to consider helping the kids with fertilizer and maize seeds plus maize flour in this period in which hunger was rooming highly. She said, most of the families who take care of our kids were oftenly sleeping on empty stomachs, hence if they could be assisted, at least a relief would be on their faces.

The chairman also asked the supervisor whether, our kids got the coupons for fertilizer and maize seeds. In her response she assured the chairman that all the kids that we support got their coupons from the chiefs, that's because the chiefs normally gives them. She also informed me that the schools were looking for centre fees, hence, our secondary school kids are also to be paid this amount otherwise their exams fees will not be processed. I therefore promised to contact the headmasters directly to get the real story, which I

GEAMOC PROJECT REPORT-MALAWI OFFICE- Sept-Nov 2019

later proved to be true. As such the monies were directly sent to schools, and receipts were issued. The beneficiaries were very much happy to get the school materials and they also testified about the rooming hunger in the area and if there might be a consideration from GEAMOC board with fertilizer and maize seeds money plus food for their sustainability.



The chairman distributing school materials and a group photo after distribution



The chairman giving school fees and exam fees to secondary school students while he supervisor looks on!!!!

MULANJE

After some parents heard that I visited the area, and I found few people with the chairman in our previous visit, guardians of the kids called me to inquire when the next visit would be. I therefore told them the truth that only a guardian who would be showing seriousness to call me regarding school fees and school materials, I would be sending to him/her only. This time I was surprised that all the kids guardians called me, to get their kids assistance, of course as per agreement, I was sending money to them upon verification that indeed they were the real guardians of the kids. Still the issue of hunger was also tackled by most of the guardians, but also fertilizer and maize seeds, I didn't promise them, but I told them that, once the GEAMOC board agrees to that then, they would be considered.

No School materials but fertilizer and maize seeds

This is to inform board members that in all the years we have been sponsoring kids, during the month of Nov-Dec, we don't distribute school materials instead we give our beneficiaries, maize seeds and fertilizer, as such on the request table , there is no school materials but only fees.

TIYANJANE MBENDERA

Tiyanjane Mbendera is still doing her attachment at Mwanza Border, getting exposure and experience in Shipping and Clearing. She appreciates GEAMOC board for considering her with pocket money to help her stay well at the border, of course she has just told me that her period is ending in December 2019, as such she might be going to the village if a way out cannot be found. She informed me that she has been trying to apply to other companies but to no avail, therefore she requested if I may talk to her bosses so that while she is waiting for her chances of getting employment elsewhere, she should continue doing her attachment at the same company, rather than going to the village and do nothing.

I therefore take time and talk to her bosses on either employing her, after her attachment period or extending the attachment period till she gets employment elsewhere, in his response, one of the directors gave me the following conditions;

- i. Currently their business is not doing well as such chances of her getting employment at the company after December are very slim.
- ii. Her period of attachment can be extended from January onwards unless we contribute an amount totaling to K50,000.00, he said the amount which we paid was for 6 months but they considered her for another 6 months without letting her go or asking for another amount to be paid. Of course it's true that the period in which we paid for her attachment expired in July 2019, but they allowed her to continue working despite us not paying anything.

Looking at her ability and attainment of experience, I therefore notified him that a message will go to the GERMAN board and once an approval is made, a response would be given to him. Of course Tiyanjane seems to cope up well with the job and she really likes the tasks given to her. Despite what the bosses said, they highly recommended her as a fast learner and that she is able to handle multitasks.

I therefore further request the Board on her behalf, to be considered so that she can extend her attachment period for her own benefit. Normally from January up to April most businesses do suffer, but may be as time goes especially from May onwards, things do begin to improve. So let's still give her a chance so that possibly by next year, an opening will be available

SEARCHING FOR A NEW MAIZE MILL SITE

I had a chance of going along Zomba -Machinga road to search for a site for another maize mill, as per my requests. Honestly the buildings I got especially at Malosa, 1km from the main road, the owners are charging highly within the range of MWK 8,000,000-MWK10,000,000.00 a single phase electrified house, but without water. Having not yet completed my searching, as the coordinator, I will continue searching for a site. This time not only along Zomba-Machinga Road but even Zomba-Phalombe road. Let's wait and see how it will go, as this is vital.

REMARKS

As outlined above, Malawi is experiencing hunger due to the floods that we experienced last year, hence most fields did not get enough maize, as such the issue of maize distribution to our kids should not be taken for granted. Furthermore helping our kids with monies for fertilizer and maize seeds, can also reduce the burden our kids are having in their fields, the good this is, all our kids have been given coupons by their chiefs, knowingly fully that, if they can find money and buy, that will ease their families problems. I also therefore request your office to consider that as a priority.

People are planting maize and other are also applying fertilizer in their fields hence, these if approved will be required as soon as possible, I already informed the chairman that we can as well pay the school fees together these materials immediately once funds are deposited onto our account.

Let me take this opportunity of thanking the Malawi Chairman, that despite his busy schedule, he do find time and escort me in the centres, which is not easy, as he does not get any stipend.

Finally I have to thank the German Board for their help towards education system in Malawi. We have seen kids going to College and others leaving a sustainable life after finishing their education.

I therefore await you comments and advice on the same



Benson Mongiwa (Geamoc-Malawi Coordinator)

GEAMOC MALAWI WISHES ALL BOARD MEMBERS A HAPPY MERRY CHRISTMASS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!