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ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Dear KV-HELP Friends and Supporters,

Capitalizing on a project proposal idea which was submitted but not funded in 2021 and the practical experience in poultry farming gained in 2022, the KV-HELP team decided to strengthen its integrated approach with an emphasis on improved poultry farming. The team obtained grants for a poultry farming course and the development and implementation of the MamaKuku 2.0 pilot project. This would not have been possible without all those of you who offered your generous support. We thank you all and hope you enjoy reading this report.

Iddy Mayumana, Executive Director of KV-HELP

The Organization

Kilombero Valley Health and Livelihood Promotion (KV-HELP) is a local NGO working in Southern Tanzania. Its history reaches back to 2008, when a malaria intervention project started to support women self-help groups in their livelihood activities, in order to improve their access to health care. The NGO was registered in 2012 to continue and expand these activities. Today, KV-HELP works with a vast network of women groups to improve knowledge and skills for sustaining and promoting healthy livelihoods in their families and communities.

Modules



The Approach

The KV-HELP office in Ifakara is a reliable and permanent contact point for women. As an outreach program, staff members offer a Mobile Village Academy and provide hands-on-training and practical support to women self-help groups.

The KV-HELP Mobile Village Academy has developed a unique modular approach integrating three key components of healthy livelihoods: 1) Saving & Lending, 2) Food Security & Microenterprise, and 3) Health Protection & Health Promotion.

MamaKuku 2.0 Pilot Project: Activities and Achievements

Developing and designing the pilot

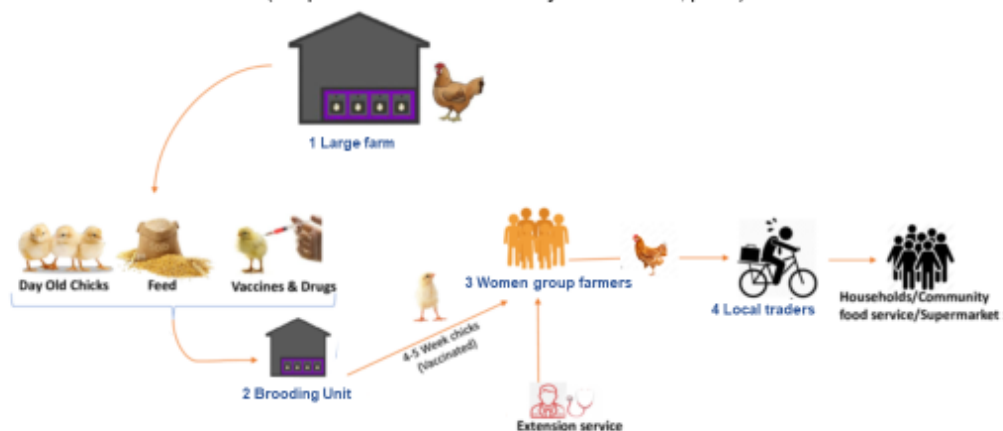
Based on its 2022 family poultry assessment, KV-HELP approached R. Geigy-Stiftung in Switzerland with a project idea and successfully raised funds for project development (January to June 2023). This included a course at the Silverlands Poultry Training Center near Iringa from 16-20 January 2024 (see fotos) and the design of a pilot project in accordance with current best practice worldwide¹ and in Tanzania.²

Starting from the assumption that local chicken (*kuku wa kienyeji*) kept by women grow slowly, produce few eggs and often die from common chicken diseases, the pilot introduces improved breeds to meet the high yet unmet local demand for eggs and meat from village chicken, following a Four Tier Model (see Fig. 2).

- 1) Large commercial farms breed and hatch improved local chicken (improved *kienyeji*) called SASSO, Kuroiler or Tanbro under controlled conditions to make them healthier, mature faster, lay more eggs and grow heavier. Right after hatching, the chicks are vaccinated against the most common chicken diseases.
- 2) Brooder Units (BUs) then buy the improved *kienyeji* as one-day-old chicks from the commercial farms. Since small chicks are highly vulnerable, BUs raise them in environmentally safe conditions for 29 days and provide nutritious food and further vaccinations (on day 7, 14, 21 and 28).
- 3) The BUs sell the 29-day-old chicken to family poultry farmers at low cost, who breed them further, ideally under safe scavenging conditions. Trials with the best SASSO variety for Tanzania showed that male chicken can reach 2 kg after 49 days, females after 56 days.
- 4) Family poultry farmers sell their chicken, once they have reached a marketable weight, to local traders who then sell them to restaurants, catering services, street food sellers and individual customers.

Fig 2 Four Tier Model of MamaKuku 2.0

(adapted from Tanzania Poultry Sector 2020, p. 35)



This model has been tested, validated and successfully up-scaled in India. First projects in Tanzania failed because of missing links between the four layers. KV-HELP creates the missing links. The pilot focuses on meat production as a source of income generation because egg production for the market is more difficult under

¹ Tanzania Poultry Subsector 2020. Market Trends & Consumer Behaviours and Preferences in the Tanzania Poultry Subsector. Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Match Maker Associates, Dar es Salaam. <https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/binaries/agroberichtenbuitenland/documenten/rapporten/2021/06/28/a-report-on-market-trends-and-consumer-behaviour-for-the-poultry-subsector-in-tanzania/Poultry+Study+Tanzania+Report+-+30+Sept+2020.pdf>

² FAO 2004 Small-Scale Poultry Production: Technical Guide. FAO, Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/y5169e/y5169e00.htm>

local conditions.³ Male and female chicken are commonly sold as live birds and consumed on special occasions, increasingly also as street and restaurant food.

The implementation

Implementation started in June 2023 with funding from the development corporation of the Kanton Basel-Stadt (1.6.2023-30.5.2024) and closely followed the 4 Tier Model: Every quarter, KV-HELP bought a flock of day-old-chicken from Silverlands, raised them in the BU for 4 weeks, delivered them to women groups and helped women to further brood and then sell the chicken, once they reached a marketable weight (e.g. at about 7-8 weeks).

Through its Mobile Chicken Academy, KV-HELP gave women not only access to improved *kienyeji* chicken but also to their proper management. In each village, the academy began with a 2-day workshop, officially introducing the project and training all members of the self-help group (about 25 women). Key topics were the provision of shelter, feed and care to raise and market improved chicken breeds, emphasizing both technical and business aspects. Training methods included teaching units with a manual, group discussions and site visits. After the workshop, the team provided online and onsite coaching until the chicken were sold.

The pilot started with women groups in three villages near Ifakara (Igota, Muhola and Kiberege) and expanded to Malinyi (Biro, Sofi Majiji and Kipingu) in the second quarter. In addition to raising first 500 and then 800 chicken for the women groups, the BU kept 200 chicken for commercial customers to generate an income for the pilot project and for KV-HELP. Women group members bought chicken at cost price (about TZS 6,000), commercial customers at market price (depending on age and weight up to TZS 11,000).

Key lessons learnt from the pilot (June to December 2023)

All women who joined in a brooding cycle were able to raise healthy chicken and sell them with a profit ranging from TZS 7,720 to 28,000 (CHF 2.65-9.60) per 10 chicken. Women with lower profits kept chicken longer than recommended, hoping for a higher price but not accounting for higher feeding expenses. The BU successfully raised and sold all chicken to commercial customers, generating a total income of TZS 8,953,000 (CHF 3077).

However, the pilot project encountered two main challenges in chicken production and marketing:

- 1) Semi-intensive family poultry production is too costly for most women: 13 women from 3 groups purchased chicken from the BU and increased their flock from 20 (1st cycle) to 40 and even 60 chicken (2nd cycle). Even though they could sell the chicken for a higher price than what they paid for the chicken and the feed - and were satisfied with this “profit”, they actually faced financial challenges. If, for example, a woman got a savings group loan for 20 chicken and feed for 2 weeks (TZS 160,000, CHF 55), it would take her three cycles to pay back the loan (without interest) before making a real profit. If she needed a higher loan to cover investments in the chicken coop, it would take her even longer to generate a real income.
- 2) Profitable business with SASSO chicken requires a reliable supply-market network: During the festive season from July to December, women were able to sell a chicken here and there at a high price (e.g. TZS 15,000) but relied on KV-HELP to create links with food services like restaurants and street kitchen or business people who trade in chicken. However, if the BU raises and sells only one flock per quarter, there is a high risk of losing women group members as well as commercial customers. The risk is even higher, if the supply of chicken from Silverlands to the BU is delayed, as it happened in November.

KV-HELP and the self-help groups will tackle both challenges in 2024.

³ Eggs are fragile and thus difficult to transport. Without a cold-chain they easily become a health hazard. Layers of dual purpose breeds start to produce eggs at about 18 weeks and are thus more exposed to disease risks. Regular access to vaccination is difficult under village conditions.

KV HELP Profile

Vision

To see a Tanzanian society living a health promoting lifestyle in a context of a rapidly increasing double burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases, with KV-HELP being one of the pioneering Organizations contributing to this achievement.

Mission

To work toward the goal of healthy livelihoods in Tanzania through an innovative approach that integrates development actions across health, education, agriculture/livestock and financial/entrepreneurial sectors.

Goal and objectives

KV-HELP aims to promote and test development methodologies that empower individuals and self-help-groups in the communities to promote healthy livelihoods. Specific objectives are:

1. To enhance organizational and financial capacity of self-help groups through approaches like Accumulated Saving and Credit Associations (ASCAs).
2. To improve livelihoods of self-help groups members through farm and non-farm microenterprises, using methodologies like Selection, Planning and Management (SPM).
3. To strengthen health promotion with regard to infectious and non-communicable diseases using approaches like health literacy.

Governing Board

Dr. Emmy Metta (Acting Chairperson), Mr. Said Mpasuka (Treasurer), Dr. Dominic Mboya, Mr. Christopher Mshana, Mr. Honorathy Urassa, Mr. Alto Mbikiye and Mr. Iddy Mayumana (Board Secretary and Executive Director). Prof. Dr. Brigit Obrist is an invited member of the Board. All of them (except the Board Secretary) work on a voluntary basis.

Location, address, contact

The head office of the organization is in Ifakara town, Kilombero district in Morogoro Region, Mainland Tanzania. Its physical address is:

Along the Compound of former CCM District Headquarters

P. O. Box 43

Ifakara – Kilombero Morogoro, Tanzania

Email: kilomberovalleyhelp@gmail.com

Contact person: Iddy Mayumana, mobile: +255 684 491 866, email: imayumana@yahoo.com.

Partners and funding

KV-HELP operates within a social learning network formed by local, regional, national and international NGOs and collaborates with authorities on the village, ward and district levels. In addition to voluntary work, financial contributions from the Board members and BU income, KV-HELP obtained 4 grants in 2023 from the R. Geigy-Foundation, the Kanton Basel-Stadt and private funders in Switzerland (Total CHF 46,000).

Pilot Project MamaKuku 2.0 – 2023 Fotos

