



Completion Report

SWZ-OPH-ZCP-P01, Swaziland
Reporting Period: 2017

Seed-Funding for Chicken Farming - Swaziland

Budget: \$5,250 – fully funded!

Update:

This report completes a year-long, ongoing project to provide seed funding to allow a disabled person's group in Sitsatsaweni in rural Swaziland to set up a chicken broiler business to earn their own income. The group were very motivated and already had customers guaranteed! They had identified an existing chicken shed which was available for rent in their area and had already done some initial analysis on profitability. There are no disability services or support nets in this part of Swaziland, and the disabled are often invisible, and without a means to earn an income. They approached our implementing partner seeking assistance, with a great deal of the project leg-work already done. This is a committed group, determined not to be defined by their disability. All they needed was a kick start!



Initially several meetings were held with the inner council to establish ownership of the chicken building, which concluded with an official handover of the building to the group. Various planning meetings took place to discuss process and to determine the best way forward. The building needed some repairs and the community gathered to assist with this to ensure it was up to standard. The Ministry of Agriculture assisted by providing training in the rearing of chickens and some business practices.

The group began with the arrival of the first group of 400 chickens. Our partners worked with the group of 32 to ensure that they had access to a helping hand and advice as needed. The Ministry of Agriculture also regularly monitored the project and provided suggestions for improvement. Discussion was ongoing about this first round of chickens to make sure that the ground work was being well set up. This involved cleaning of the chicken house to prevent disease.

The first cycle of sale of the chickens was a success, in that all the chickens that lived were sold. Our partners said, *"The group are learning from previous mistakes and are trying to remedy them for the next cycles. The group worked well and it has highlighted to the community, as well as the group, that they can achieve something significant if they work together."*



The group is now onto their third cycle of chickens. They have learnt to independently organise each cycle from ordering of the chickens and materials, to rearing them, marketing, and finally selling. One of the participants said, *"We have worked out a system together on how we will get paid and we are banking some of the money for the future mishaps and planning. It is providing much-needed income for us."*

This project has also provided dignity and a sense of self-worth and has benefitted 300 people. Thank you for giving this group a start!