

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA (ELCT)

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

A Gender Justice, economic empowerment and human rights approach to sustainable livelihood

INTRODUCTION

Since the establishment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) in 1963, the church has been involved hand-in-hand with the Government of the Republic of Tanzania in fighting against illiteracy, hunger and diseases through initiating programs/projects and establishment of institutions as well. Main areas of collaboration have focused on welfare services (education, health and diakonia), development and advocacy.

The Church initiated Sustainable Livelihood and Environment Program (SLEP) year 2011 as a minimalist approach to sustainable livelihood involving direct linkage with the target group. Sustainable livelihood is important in the gender and environment context as it is related to poverty reduction and environment protection therefore it stresses on the reinforcement of the rights and entitlements of everyone; the issue of inclusiveness.

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION



Since economic growth fails to trickle down, it is important to promote sustainable livelihoods, implying an activity that provides a decent income or sustenance and provides some status along with a meaningful life and which conserves and regenerates the environment. Thus, productive ecosystems are core assets for sustainable livelihoods, since grasslands, forests, fields and rivers can be valuable sources of sustenance.



Furthermore the concept of sustainable livelihood is important in the context of gender and environment as sustainable livelihood concept works for creation of employment, poverty reduction, enhancing well-being and capabilities, implying providing entitlements and what people do with them, in case of women they use forests as natural life system and use them for livelihood generation

FOOD SECURITY





Fish farming is part of the livelihood programme.

Caring for the earth and agro- ecology infuses everything we do because a community's ability to support itself depends on its ability to preserve and protect its land, water and its other natural resources. Therefore SLEP press for the need for a rights – based approach to gender, environment and sustainable development where women's position can be improved by more control over resources, redistribution of roles and tasks, a shift in stereotypes and a healthier and more productive environment.

SLEP is highly accepted by the community as a means to attaining sustainable livelihoods. It's amongst few Church initiatives that reach the individual family unit with outstanding results within a short time. The program strengths depend upon its well established structures, transparency and participatory approach from grassroots through the village/parish supervisory committees in all activities.

Program Goal

Envisioning a gender and economic justice and empowered community on human rights living a sustainable livelihood.

Objectives

1. Train local government leaders, religion leaders, influential people and the communities on Rights Based Approach to build their capacities both the duty bearers and rights holders.
2. Empower both men & women to overcome oppressive cultural practices in all program areas.
3. Ensure women participate effectively in leadership and decision making
4. Households improve nutrition and income through the dairy heifers and dairy goats revolving scheme established to alleviate poverty.
5. Protect environment through awareness creation to the communities on climate change, climate justice and conservation of natural resources targeting
 - ✓ Planting trees
 - ✓ Disseminate renewable energy mainly biogas and solar to the households
 - ✓ Train communities and facilitate construction of simple energy saving stoves
6. Assist farmers to benefit from increased agricultural productivity through simple irrigation schemes and best agricultural practices such as slurry application, contour farming, composite making and organic farming
7. Increase income through provision of gender strategic needs to household to reduce women's and girls' work load

The target group & implementation

The most excluded, marginalized and discriminated groups are given the highest priority as they real need empowerment. In order to ensure non-discrimination, well oriented SLEP community committees are used to identify, motivate, suggests and shortlist applicants. Thus ensures representation and social inclusion.

INCOME GENERATION



Dairy cows and goats.

SLEP is being implemented through a Rights Based Approach (RBA) in ten (10) ELCT Dioceses within government district councils in Tanzania namely: Kahama, Kishapu, Musoma, Makete, Njombe, Mpanda, Manyoni, Nzega, Meru, Chemba, Kondoa and Moshi Municipal and rural, Rombo and Siha.



UPENDO VICOBWA is women group of 23 started year 2016 to engage in transportation business after buying a vehicle.

The rights holders/ beneficiaries of the program therefore are the economical and social vulnerable individuals and communities. These are the poor, female-headed households, people with disabilities, widow/widower, orphans, PLWHA and women. RBA principles are the corner stone for implementation.

Achievements:

- ✓ RBA training conducted to 5,392 people in 10 government districts. Six human rights were prioritized as the commonly violated in most of the areas; these included
 - Right to life,
 - Right to education,
 - Right to freedom from torture(domestic violence),
 - Right to own property,
 - Right to participate in decision-making

Gendered power structures & social norms lock both women and men in positions that limit both their productivity and their ability to make choices to improve their situation. Likewise Gender equality benefits both men & women therefore this intervention focuses on gender justice with women economic empowerment to encounter women economic marginalization that has been an obvious practice in most communities for many years.

The program works with both women and men to confront gender roles stereotypes in expanding men & women's opportunities to provide for themselves. While believing that women taking control and collective action are the most important driver of sustained improvements in women's rights and improve sustainable livelihoods.

Gender and development trainings conducted to men and women capacitate the community to transform gender and power relations, and the structures, norms and values that under pin them within the households and the community at large.

CAPACITY BUILDING





Addressing gender inequalities with women economic empowerment is 'smart economics' because enhances productivity, improves development outcomes for the generation & make institutions more representative.



Therefore ELCT SLEP provides women with heifers, dairy goats, VICOBA facilities and energy for cooking and lighting to challenge social and economic inequalities as a result of the double burden of care giving and unpaid work to start with.

- ✓ The distribution 837 dairy cows and goats have enabled 2,610 household's family members improve nutrition and income through the dairy heifers and dairy goats revolving scheme established to alleviate poverty.
- ✓ Environment protection and climate change has been done through
 - Awareness creation to the communities on climate change, climate justice and conservation of natural resources targeting using media such as TVs, Radio, Newspapers such as Uhuru na Amani. Also printing of materials with environment

themes. A total of 12,000 wall calendars were printed during the five years, Vitenge 3,150pairs and 1000 T-shirts pieces

- The ELCT earmarked a week in March every year for environment where the bible reading talks about care for environment and the congregants are urged to plant trees and participate in creation. ELCT SLEP has used the week to display program activities through mass media
 - 1.7 trees of various types from timber, fruits, medicinal and ornamental trees were planted
 - Disseminate renewable energy mainly biogas and solar to the households. A total of 1450 biogas plants were constructed enabling the households to harness clean energy for cooking, 1400 pieces of solar lamps and 230 solar heaters distributed to the households
 - Train communities and facilitate construction of simple energy saving stoves
- ✓ Assisted 1230 farmers benefit from increased agricultural productivity through simple irrigation schemes and best agricultural practices such as slurry application, contour farming, composite making and organic farming



Composite making .



Small scale farmers use manure from biogas plants to fertilize coffee, banana farms and vegetable gardens.

- ✓ The program trained 105 mason, welders and artisan on biogas, energy saving stoves construction and appliances, solar installation. Therefore the program provided self employment to them, majority are youths.
- ✓ The Program successfully purchased 20 motorcycles and provided them to technicians to facilitate easy movement during follow ups for activities implementation

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Biogas plant under construction.



Men using biogas cookers.



Water heaters to purify water distributed to villagers.