

Beating Covid-19 – Resilience to climate change for 75 extended families in Zambia

Summary

Tikondane Community Centre is helping members of the very traditional community, most of whom depend on growing their own food and some crops to take to the market. Our programme includes our “19 Steps Out of Poverty for Subsistence Farmers”, which teaches how to grow a cost-efficient balanced diet.

Covid-19 threatens to beat us. Tiko Lodge is empty! Our aim is to ensure that the Tiko Community is sustainable so that our work can continue.

Tiko Community Centre depends on the income from overseas guests who stay in our Lodge and on donations. Covid-19 is forcing us to turn our crew of 75 into business people. They have always practiced self-help but now we had to cut the allowances for work at Tiko by half, and have also cut their working time by half. Now we want to demonstrate that however small the amounts they produce, they can become sales people. It won't be easy for the extended families, which include up to 7 children and other dependents, but it will help the change of their mindset.



Figure 1 Flourishing bag gardens protected from grazing animals

THE CHALLENGE

Our goal has always been to make Tiko sustainable. Tiko will have not have enough money to continue without income, so it is vital that the members of the community (the Crew) are able to grow crops that will provide them with a balanced diet and also produce some more food for sale to Tiko for value addition. Working half-time will help.

‘Tiko 19 Steps out of Poverty for the Subsistence Farmer’ fights climate change, especially the increasingly unreliable rainfall, and encourages people to change their mind-sets and accept changes. Now with our lodge and restaurant closed and allowances halved, they cannot even afford the necessary seed for the essential food crops. We especially need help with creating safe water-points for people.



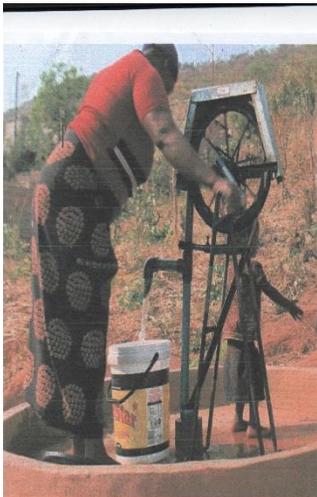
THE SOLUTION

To encourage our crew and people in the surrounding villages and compounds to follow our '19 Steps Out of Poverty for the Subsistence Farmer' programme which promotes permaculture as a way to sustain both people and the environment, more intensively. They have to grow their own food for the year but we want them to sell to us even the smallest extra amounts to get the feel of being successful business people.



Compost heaps

One major obstacle is access to water. Many wells need deepening before the rains and many households don't even have a well, but get their water from their neighbor. We want to try out a new type of borehole which is handmade and works with a rope. It is meant to supply ten neighbors and will help the business scheme considerably, costing only 10 % of an ordinary borehole made by machines.



Handmade borehole with a rope-pump

IMPACT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Despite the impact of Covid-19 on our income we are striving to maintain our social services for 56 villages and compounds in Katete district, including HIV&AIDS counselling by our 37 home based care givers' The crew receive adult education, 140 bursaries for primary schools, 70 early childhood students on the premises, food security and hunger help, shelter help, medical and funeral help etc. If members of our crew get water points and extra seed, they will be able to produce surplus crops to sell and will be better off than most people in this rural area, where the unofficial unemployment rate was 80% even before Covid-19. They will be teaching by example and Tiko offers classes to everyone who is interested to learn.

TARGET FOR 75 EXTENDED FAMILIES \$ 5 400

- \$ 10 Will pay for five compost heaps for one family
- \$ 15 Buys two bag gardens for one family
- \$ 20 Buys vegetable seeds for two bag garden for 6 months
- \$ 30 Buys seeds for 6 different field crops for one family
- \$ 50 Will pay for deepening of one well
- \$ 610 Pays for a borehole for one homestead to share with 10 other households