



# Kamwe and Engucwini Integrated Project Proposal

Submitted to Love a Village Mission

February 2024

## Prepared by

Daniel Nyirenda

Executive Director

Rural Development Partners

[daniel.nyirenda@ruraldp.org](mailto:daniel.nyirenda@ruraldp.org)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
In summary	3
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Catchment Information</b>	<b>5</b>
Needs Assessment	5
Location background	5
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>7</b>
Problem statement	7
Theory of change	7
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>9</b>
Main Objective	9
Specific Objectives	9
<b>Issues and Proposed Activities</b>	<b>10</b>
Limited Access to Potable Water	10
Poor Sanitation and Hygiene	11
Food Insecurity	12
Poor Market Linkages	14
Deforestation	14
Child Labour	15
High School Dropout	16
Gender Based Violence	17
Poor Road Network and Infrastructure at Public Institutions	17
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Implementation Plan</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Evaluation and Monitoring</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Risk and Mitigation</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>26</b>

# Acronyms

DCT:	District Coordinating Team
DH:	Dwelling House
GBV:	Gender Based Violence
HH:	Household
IGA:	Income Generating Activity
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
RDP:	Rural Development Partners
Sanplat:	Sanitation Platform
VSLA:	Village Savings and Loans Associations
VSLs:	Village Savings and Loans

# Project Summary

The proposed project represents a comprehensive and integrated approach to address critical development challenges in target communities. By focusing on water access, hygiene practices, sustainable agriculture, forest conservation, and other social issues, the project aims to create lasting positive impacts and enhance community resilience.

**Water Source Improvements:** **Improving** water access and quality to ensure sustainable and reliable water sources for the communities.

**Sustainable Agriculture:** **Enhancing** agricultural productivity and food security through the implementation of climate-resilient agricultural practices, training, and support

**Reforestation Efforts:** **Promoting** environmental conservation and mitigating climate-related risks through the incorporation of reforestation activities.

**Hygiene Promotion:** **Raising** awareness and promoting improved hygiene practices within the communities.

**Community Engagement and Sustainability:** **Ensuring** long-term sustainability and resilience by prioritizing community involvement, capacity building, and local ownership of interventions.

**Risk Mitigation:** **Ensuring** adaptability and effectiveness in the face of potential challenges by proactively identifying risks and using comprehensive mitigation strategies.

**Impact and Sustainability:** **Creating** a synergistic impact, empowering communities and contributing to broader positive change. By documenting best practices and fostering knowledge sharing, the project aims to have a lasting impact beyond its immediate scope.

## In summary

The proposed project presents a compelling case for addressing critical development needs through a holistic, community-centered, and sustainable approach.

# Introduction

This document is a comprehensive proposal for a community development program that aims to address the needs of the Kamwe and Engucwini communities. Our program seeks to promote economic growth, improve access to education and healthcare, and enhance the overall well-being of the residents in these communities.

We are pleased to have been part of a project that was implemented in Luhomero from 2017 to 2023. This project was successfully implemented in the past 6 years. As it was phasing out, we met with government officials through The District Coordinating Team (DCT) to discuss the possibility of allocating us a new area for our next phase of rural development initiatives. The DCT proposed Kamwe and Engucwini Section in Mzimba North District because most Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have not been there due to poor road network. In addition, it is the area which is hit most by cholera whenever there is an outbreak. This proposal outlines the achievements of our current project, the impact it has had on the community, and the potential for further expansion into new areas. We are eager to continue our partnership with the government and other stakeholders to address the needs of rural communities and contribute to their sustainable development.

# Catchment Information

## Needs Assessment

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and needs in the area where we are planning to initiate new projects, a needs assessment was conducted. The participants of the assessment included a diverse range of stakeholders, from local leaders to government frontline staff, with representation from women and youth as well.

The needs assessment utilized a points-based ranking system to prioritize the issues raised by the participants. Through this process, it became apparent that several key issues were prominent in the area. These included the lack of access to clean water, poor sanitation facilities, food insecurity, and inadequate social services. These issues mirrored the challenges faced in our previous target area. Additionally, a problem tree analysis was used to tease out the causes of the problems identified. This analysis led to the identification of underlying factors contributing to the challenges, which in turn informed the proposed solutions and interventions.

The assessment also revealed new and pressing concerns, including high rates of high school dropouts, instances of child labour, and poor public infrastructure. These emerging issues highlight the complexity of the challenges faced by the communities and the need for a multi-faceted approach to address them effectively. The findings of the needs assessment underscore the urgency and importance of our proposed projects in this area. By addressing these critical needs, we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of the community members and contribute to their overall well-being and development.

## Location background

Kamwe and Engucwini are two rural communities located in the Mzimba North region of Malawi. They have a total of 9,825 households with a population of 23,382 (11,224 males and 12,158 females), and 20,539 (9,902 males and 10,637 females) respectively, and 43,3921 people in total. These communities are characterized by their predominantly agricultural-based economy, with subsistence farming being the primary source of

livelihood for the residents. The area is known for its fertile land, which supports the cultivation of crops such as maize, tobacco, and legumes.

Kamwe and Engucwini are home to a diverse population, with a mix of ethnic groups and a strong sense of community. The residents are mixed because of tobacco farming which brings people from the central and southern region who come to work as casual labourers. These communities are also located along the boundary between Mzimba and Rumphu Districts, leading to intermarriages between the Tumbuka of Rumphu and Ngoni of Mzimba.

Access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation, and healthcare is limited in these rural communities as evidenced by the needs assessment conducted in December 2023. Roads that lead to these communities are bad and during the rainy season leaving them totally inaccessible. Efforts to improve infrastructure, and access to essential resources are not present because stakeholders shun the area, due to accessibility problems.

Overall, Kamwe and Engucwini are vibrant rural communities with a rich cultural heritage and a strong community spirit. Efforts to address the challenges faced by these communities should be promoted, with a focus on sustainable development and improving the quality of life for all residents.

# Project Description

## Problem statement

The communities of Kamwe and Engucwini face significant challenges related to agriculture, water access, and sanitation, leading to food insecurity, waterborne diseases, and poor hygiene practices. Limited knowledge and resources for sustainable agriculture techniques, inadequate access to clean drinking water, and a lack of proper sanitation facilities contribute to these challenges.

Additionally, there is a need for engagement with duty bearers (a person(s) or institution(s) which have obligations and responsibilities in relation to the realization of a right) to address unmet needs and distribute water filters to further improve water quality. These issues have a profound impact on the community's health, well-being, and economic stability. Therefore, there is an urgent need to address these interconnected challenges through a comprehensive project.

## Theory of change

Assuming that the communities are willing and able to participate, and that the project has access to necessary resources and expertise, the project will focus on training new agriculture techniques, drilling boreholes for clean drinking water, constructing toilets to improve sanitation and hygiene, distributing water filters, and engaging duty bearers to address any unmet needs. The project will implement training in sustainable agriculture techniques, drilling and reticulating boreholes to provide access to clean drinking water, and facilitating the construction of toilets for improved sanitation and hygiene.

Additionally, the project will distribute water filters to further improve access to clean drinking water. Furthermore, the project will bring duty bearers to the communities, providing an opportunity for the right holders to ask for additional support or resources that the project may not be able to provide directly. These activities are expected to lead to increased knowledge and skills in sustainable agriculture, access to clean drinking water, and improved sanitation and hygiene practices, and enhanced access to clean



water through the distribution of water filters. This comprehensive approach aims to result in improved crop yields, food security, reduced waterborne diseases, and overall improved health for the communities. Ultimately, the project aims to have a long-term impact on the communities, including increased income and food security, improved health and well-being, the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices, and the engagement of duty bearers to address any additional needs, leading to long-term environmental and economic benefits.

# Objectives

## Main Objective

The main objective of this project is to improve the overall well-being and livelihoods of rural communities through the implementation of integrated solutions for water supply, sustainable agriculture techniques, reforestation, and comprehensive hygiene education. This will be achieved by addressing the interconnected challenges faced by these communities, promoting environmental sustainability, food security, and improved health and sanitation practices, with a specific focus on empowering women, youth, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups within the target communities. Additionally, the project aims to bring duty bearers to the communities to facilitate the demand for services and resources necessary for sustainable development.

## Specific Objectives

- Improve access to clean and sustainable water sources for the target communities.
- Introduce and promote sustainable agriculture techniques to increase food security and improve livelihoods.
- Implement reforestation initiatives to restore and preserve natural ecosystems.
- Provide comprehensive hygiene education to promote better health and sanitation practices within the communities.
- Bring duty bearers to the communities for accountability

# Issues and Proposed Activities

## Limited Access to Potable Water

In Kamwe and Engucwini communities, people face a critical challenge of access to clean and safe drinking water, which leads to various health challenges and also hinders socio-economic progress. From the needs assessment we managed to identify a total number of 117 boreholes (84 functional and 33 non-functional), 31 shallow wells and 1 non-functional reticulated system at a hospital facility (with blocked pipes). There is unavailability of a backup power supply for both Kamwe and Engucwini Health Centres.

## Strategic solutions

To improve the status of reliable water sources, we plan to repair broken boreholes and blocked pipes by replacing worn-out parts with new ones, and installing solar panels for a backup system to the water tanks already in existence at the Health Centers. In addition, we will encourage the planting of trees to reduce surface runoffs. This allows absorption of rainwater into the soils and helps in balancing the groundwater leading to a rise in the water table. Furthermore, the project will provide water filters which will help to mitigate the existing problem of salty water.

Recognizing and ensuring the significance of sustainability, the RDP team will use different interventions that fall in line with the government's project implementation strategies. Improving accessibility of water supply, the project will reticulate already existing boreholes into solar power systems and also drill boreholes in areas that have none, and/or where people travel long distances to access existing boreholes. To achieve the goal, we will work with Water Monitoring Assistants, Community Development Assistants and Health Surveillance Assistants in revamping water point committees that look after water supply points functionality and maintenance, and also targeting youths or individuals in planting trees that will be motivated by rewarding them with different items.

## Poor Sanitation and Hygiene

Issues of poor sanitation and hygiene are of great concern. A thorough examination of the demographic data and environmental sanitation conditions reveals critical areas that require immediate attention. In Kamwe, the environmental sanitation statistics highlight challenges, including 146 villages, 7,385 family households, and 6,897 dwelling houses. Notably, 5,791 pit latrines pose a health risk, and only 16 improved latrines exist. Furthermore, there are 3,972 refuse pits, indicating a significant concern for waste management. In terms of water sources, 71 boreholes are present, with 45 in operation and 26 non-functional. Additionally, there are 31 shallow wells. Engucwini faces its own set of challenges, with 2,440 households and 46 boreholes. Of these, 39 are functional, while 7 are non-functional.

In our efforts to better understand the situation, we used problem and objective trees to identify the root causes and potential solutions. One major problem that was identified is the lack of improved latrines in villages and health centers, along with the absence of proper facilities like placenta pits at health centers. These factors contribute to health risks for the people in these communities.

## Strategic Solutions

To address these issues, we came up with strategic solutions. We propose to construct latrines at health centers, latrines for the vulnerable and elderly, and supporting communities in improving their sanitation infrastructure using the approach we adopted in one of our exposure visits to Nkhotakota. This involves integrating Sanitation Marketing and Village Savings & Loans (VSLs) to bring about sustainable sanitation improvements. Using this approach, we plan to upgrade traditional latrines into improved latrines by using techniques like screed application. To ensure success, we will train local masons to carry out this work. Part of the savings from VSLs will be used to purchase materials such as cement screeding, Sanitation platforms (Sanplat), ventilation pipes, Sato pans, and to support or pay local masons. The goal is to ensure that each VSL member builds or upgrades to an improved latrine. Establishing VSLs at the Group Village Head (GVH) level could significantly increase the adoption of improved latrines. We intend to construct improved latrines for the elderly and vulnerable people and train masons while

constructing these latrines. The latrines will stand as a model or sample for people to adopt. Once these masons have completed their training, they will use their acquired skills and experience to construct improved latrines for the VSL members and other community members. Additionally, we aim to raise awareness and promote behavioural change through sanitation competitions and village sanitation campaigns. Targeting villages with campaigns and competitions serves as a platform to enforce, educate, and facilitate the strategies and approaches, making it a more effective approach than public campaigns.

These interventions not only focus on addressing immediate health risks but also aim to empower the communities through knowledge transfer, capacity building, and active participation. We believe that these measures will lead to a significant improvement in the health and well-being of the residents in Kamwe and Engucwini.

## Food Insecurity

The issue of food insecurity in Kamwe and Engucwini is a pressing concern that needs our attention. Through the use of problem and objective trees, we identified the root causes and potential solutions to this problem. The problem identified, of food insecurity stems from various causes such as the rising prices of farm inputs, natural disasters, poor transportation networks, lack of irrigation systems, poor agricultural practices, poor post-harvest management, and inadequate market linkages.

## Strategic solutions

To address these challenges, we developed some strategic solutions. Our proposed interventions include:

- Introduction of Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLAs) or Self-Help Groups to enhance financial resilience
- Support for climate-resilient approaches to mitigate the impact of natural disasters
- Organizing community meetings for accountability
- Supporting constructing solar irrigation systems to increase production of food
- Introducing modern farming techniques, including teaching communities about storage and value addition

- Linking farmers to cooperatives
- Supporting integrated homestead farming, and promoting livestock pass-on.
- Launching Citizens Action Initiative to foster community engagement

Specifically, we will introduce VSLAs or Self-Help Groups to enhance financial resilience among community members. These groups will serve as a platform for collective savings and financial support during times of need. Additionally, we will support the adoption of climate-resilient approaches to minimize the impact of natural disasters on agricultural productivity. This will involve providing training and resources to enable farmers to adapt to changing climatic conditions.

To ensure accountability and community involvement, we plan to organize meetings where all duty bearers will be held accountable by the communities. This participatory approach will empower community members to actively contribute to the decision-making processes related to food security. We will support the construction of solar irrigation systems. Solar irrigation systems offer several advantages over petrol-powered alternatives. Solar systems provide a sustainable, renewable water source, enabling year-round cultivation without reliance on costly fuel. This mitigates issues arising from fuel scarcity, long travel distances to purchase fuel, and ultimately ensures increased agricultural productivity and profitability.

Furthermore, we will introduce modern farming techniques to communities, emphasizing sustainable and efficient farming practices. Through training and capacity building, we aim to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to improve their agricultural productivity while minimizing environmental impact. In addressing poor post-harvest management and market linkages, we will implement activities to teach communities about storage and value addition. This includes training on proper post-harvest handling techniques, storage facilities, and value addition processes to enhance the shelf life and market value of agricultural produce.

Additionally, we will work towards linking farmers to cooperatives, fostering collaboration and collective marketing efforts. This approach will empower farmers to access larger markets, negotiate better prices, and improve their overall economic well-being. Supporting integrated homestead farming and promoting livestock pass-on projects, are additional measures that will contribute to enhancing food security within the

communities. These interventions will not only address immediate challenges but also focus on building long-term resilience, knowledge transfer, capacity building, and active community participation.

## Poor Market Linkages

The issue of poor market linkages in Kamwe and Engucwini is a critical challenge. With help from government officials, we managed to conduct a needs assessment survey from which we encountered the root causes of poor market linkages. Poor road networks, lack of communication and group marketing are the contributing factors that worry the accessibility of market linkages in these communities.

## Strategic solutions

To address these issues, we came up with solutions and interventions as follows:

- Organize the communities or farmers into farmer groups, this will bring farmers and their resources together so that they can cultivate at large scale, which will result in increased harvest.
- Support Citizens Action Initiatives meetings that aim at bringing development agencies, stakeholders and government representatives to the communities in order to address the challenges contributing to poor market linkages.
- As a way of providing markets to farmer groups or individual farmers, we will link them to cooperatives and help provide necessary information on reliable and available markets or buyers.

## Deforestation

The issue of deforestation in the hills of Kamwe and Engucwini is causing a major change to the landscape and to the climate of the areas. A needs assessment was conducted to identify and analyze the underlying driving factors associated with the proximate factors of bush fires, tobacco curing, and lack of income leading to charcoal burning. This also happens to be the root cause of the problem of water accessibility and low agricultural production.

## Strategic solutions

In addressing these challenges, we will use a different strategy in taking action on the issue of deforestation. We plan to support natural regeneration through targeting the youths by forming groups that will look after the forest in their particular areas. Mitigating the challenge, formulation of by-laws to be enforced, this will be promoted by rewarding the groups that look after the forest if it is well protected in the course of each year. These groups will be equipped with bee keeping facilities such as beehives and other equipment, this will be supported as an Income Generating Activity (IGA) to the communities as an alternative of charcoal burning which is a source of income to date. Strengthening this initiative, we will work hand-in-hand with different stakeholders, local leaders and government forestry officers through Citizens Action Initiatives being one of the ways of enforcing by-laws.

## Child Labour

Child labour is one of the problems that people of Kamwe and Engucwini are facing. The problem is rising from the availability of children as cheap labour, high levels of illiteracy, limited awareness of children's rights, and insufficient family income. Most families facing financial difficulties find themselves compelled to engage their children in work, unaware of long-term consequences. Illiteracy of most parents in Engucwini and Kamwe worsens the issue of child labour, hindering parents from understanding the importance of education for children.

## Strategic Solutions

To address child labour in Engucwini and Kamwe, educational programs, skills development, and economic support will be implemented in order to uplift families from poverty in order to stop child labour. We intend to introduce skills development such as a sewing program for women to empower them with alternative means of income, and reducing reliance on child labour for financial stability. Furthermore, beekeeping and small-scale irrigation farming will provide families with a source income, reducing reliance on children to source money. We plan to implement educational programs that will help raise awareness of children's rights, and emphasize the importance of education for every



child. Construction of a girl's hostel is another means that will make education more accessible, comfortable and will reduce the barriers that prevent children from attending school.

## High School Dropout

The issue of school dropout is a critical concern affecting Kamwe and Engucwini communities resulting in adverse consequences for both individuals and the communities at large. Dropout in adolescence is higher in girls than in boys. According to the need assessment conducted in Engucwini and Kamwe students drop out of school due to long distances, lack of parental care, early pregnancies, lack of civic education and lack of role models.

## Strategic Solutions

To address these issues, we propose to arrange regular speaking events with the students where role models share their personal journey, challenges and achievements, which will be hosted within the school. The program will encourage more interactive sessions where students can ask questions and engage in conversation with role models. Furthermore, we plan to organize exposure visits. These educational field trips will broaden students' perspectives and enhance their interest in learning. The program will support the formulation of by-laws which will advocate for regulations addressing socio-economic challenges hindering access to education. The activities will involve strengthening Mother groups that are already in existence in Kamwe and Engucwini.

We plan to support sports in schools. Sporting activities not only promote physical well-being but also teach essential life skills. Students will be provided with sports uniforms and balls. Initiatives like menstrual hygiene management contribute to creating a more inclusive and supportive atmosphere for female students. We intend to provide hygienic facilities such as change rooms, and train girls how to make handmade pads in order to ensure they can attend school without interruption.

Additionally, building hostels to accommodate girls from remote areas will reduce the barrier of distance to education. This will help the female students to concentrate on their

studies. We propose to introduce a sewing program that will equip students with practical skills, in order to enhance employability and provide alternative career paths for those who may face challenges in traditional academic settings.

## **Gender Based Violence**

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is defined as harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender. This often results from a complex interplay of factors such as poverty, lack of knowledge on children's and human rights, inadequate security measures and drug and substance abuse. According to the needs assessment conducted at Kamwe and Engucwini, GBV issues are a problem in the areas.

## **Strategic Solutions**

To address GBV issues we propose to conduct interface meetings. During these meetings various stakeholders will interact. The meetings will serve as a platform for collaboration among government agencies, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs), law enforcement and community representatives. They will facilitate the exchange of ideas, resources and strategies to create comprehensive intervention and support systems for the victims. Furthermore, interface meetings will help raise awareness about children's and human rights promoting community wide engagement to address GBV.

## **Poor Road Network and Infrastructure at Public Institutions**

In rural communities with poor road networks and inadequate infrastructure at health centers and schools, residents face numerous challenges. Limited access to healthcare is a significant issue, as poor road networks make it difficult for residents to reach healthcare facilities, resulting in delayed or inadequate medical treatment. This can lead to worsened health outcomes and increased mortality rates. Additionally, inadequate infrastructure at schools, such as lack of proper classrooms, equipment, and sanitation facilities, hinders students' learning experiences. Poor road networks also make it challenging for children to travel to and from school, leading to high rates of absenteeism and eventually dropping out.

Economic isolation is another consequence of poor road networks, as it restricts residents' ability to travel to markets, employment opportunities, and essential services. This limitation can hinder economic growth and opportunities for the communities, leading to higher levels of poverty and unemployment. Moreover, poor road networks impede the timely arrival of emergency services and relief efforts in cases of medical emergencies or natural disasters. This can result in increased casualties and damage to property.

## Strategic Solutions

Just like the preceding section, some of these problems will be addressed by interface meetings but should funds allow, some improvements in infrastructure especially, sanitation and water at the hospitals and schools would be desirable.

## Expected Outcomes

- Improved access to clean and sustainable water sources for the target communities.
- Increased food security and improved livelihoods through the adoption of sustainable agriculture techniques.
- Enhanced natural ecosystems and biodiversity through reforestation efforts.
- Reduced child labour and gender based violence
- Improved health and sanitation practices leading to reduced incidences of waterborne diseases and improved overall well-being.
- Improved road network and infrastructure in public institutions through influencing work

## Target Audience

The target audience for this project includes all members of the rural communities of Kamwe and Engucwini in Mzimba North. Specifically, the project will target vulnerable groups in these communities, including women, youth, the elderly, and other marginalized populations. These groups often face unique challenges and are disproportionately affected by issues related to water supply, agriculture, reforestation, and hygiene.

**Women:** Women in rural communities are often responsible for water collection, agricultural work, and household hygiene. They will benefit from improved water access, sustainable agriculture techniques, and hygiene education, which can reduce their workload and improve their overall well-being.

**Youth:** Young people in rural areas are the future of these communities and are often eager to learn new skills. By involving youth in agriculture training and reforestation initiatives, the project aims to empower them with knowledge and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

**The Elderly:** The elderly population in rural communities often have valuable traditional knowledge of agriculture and natural resource management. Engaging them as resource persons to share the challenges they encountered and also supporting them with subsidized incentives, like a free toilet or using their farmland as demonstration sites, can be beneficial.

**Other Vulnerable Groups:** The project will also consider the needs of other vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, ostracized tenants working in tobacco estates, and those living in extreme poverty. Tailored approaches will be developed to ensure their inclusion and participation in project activities.

By specifically targeting these groups, the project aims to address the unique challenges they face and ensure that the benefits of improved water supply, sustainable agriculture, reforestation, and hygiene education are accessible to all members of the communities. This inclusive approach will contribute to the overall success and sustainability of the project.

## Implementation Plan

No	Activity	Activity Description	Remarks
1.	Project Initiation	Establish a team, assign roles and develop a plan	Already in place
2.	Baseline Assessment	Collect necessary data, analyze it and identify priority areas of need	Complete
3.	Stakeholder Engagement	Share proposed activities with chiefs & Malawi Government Officials for input	To be done
4.	Intervention Design	Develop tailored inventions based on feedback from stakeholders	Presented herein, but to be refined
5.	Resource Mobilization	Secure funding, resources and partnerships to support activities	To be done by Love a Village
6.	Implementation of Interventions	Deploy teams to implement planned activities & monitor	To be done
7.	Capacity Building	Train relevant community members and RDP staff to support activities	To be done
8.	Monitoring and Evaluation	Track progress and impact of activities by assessing indicators	Will be done continuously
9.	Knowledge Sharing & Documentation	Document best practices & lessons learned and share reports	Will be done annually
10.	Sustainability Planning	Implement strategies and promote community ownership	Will be imbedded
11.	Project Closure & Handover	Conduct project closure and handover	Will be done at completion

# Evaluation and Monitoring

Evaluation and monitoring are essential components of project implementation, providing crucial insights into the effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of interventions aimed at community development. By systematically assessing and tracking project activities, outputs, and outcomes, evaluation and monitoring contribute to evidence-based decision-making, accountability, and learning within development initiatives. By systematically collecting and analyzing data, project implementers can validate assumptions, assess the relevance of activities, and engage stakeholders in a participatory process of reflection and adaptation.

The baseline plan encompasses a comprehensive survey to evaluate the existing conditions of water sources, agricultural practices, forest cover, and hygiene behaviours within the target communities. This will involve gathering data on key indicators such as the availability of clean water, food security, rates of deforestation, the prevalence of waterborne diseases and level of service delivery from duty bearers. By establishing this baseline data, the project will be able to effectively measure the impact of its interventions and identify the specific areas where interventions are most urgently required. There will be constant monitoring by the project team which will be done jointly with community members. Engaging community members, especially women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, in the monitoring and evaluation process will ensure their perspectives are included. The baseline assessment will serve as a reference point for monitoring and evaluating the project's progress and effectiveness over time.

By implementing this comprehensive evaluation and monitoring plan, the project will be able to track its progress, measure its impact, and ensure that it is effectively addressing the needs of the target communities, while promoting the active involvement of duty bearers in delivering essential services.

# Sustainability

Ensuring the long-term sustainability of project outcomes is a critical aspect of our proposal. To achieve this, the project will implement several strategies aimed at preserving the positive impacts and benefits beyond the project's duration.

**Capacity Building:** The project will prioritize capacity building activities to empower community members with the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain and replicate project interventions. This will include training in sustainable water management, climate-resilient agricultural practices, and forest conservation techniques.

**Community Ownership:** Encouraging community ownership of project initiatives is fundamental to sustainability. By involving community members in decision-making processes, fostering local leadership, and promoting the establishment of community-managed structures, we aim to ensure that interventions are sustained and adapted to local contexts.

**Partnerships and Collaboration:** The project will seek to establish partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders to create a network of support for ongoing maintenance and expansion of project outcomes. This collaborative approach will enhance the project's sustainability and leverage additional resources.

**Monitoring and Evaluation for Sustainability:** A dedicated component of the monitoring and evaluation plan will focus on assessing the long-term sustainability of project outcomes. This will involve developing indicators to track the continued access to clean water, the maintenance of sustainable agricultural practices, and the preservation of reforested areas.

**Knowledge Transfer and Documentation:** Knowledge transfer and documentation of best practices, lessons learned, and successful approaches will be prioritized. This will enable the dissemination of valuable insights to other communities and organizations, contributing to the replication and scaling of successful interventions.



By integrating these sustainability strategies into the project framework, we aim to ensure that the positive impacts on access to clean water, agricultural productivity, forest conservation, and hygiene practices are sustained well beyond the project's lifespan, ultimately contributing to the long-term resilience and well-being of the target communities.

# Risk and Mitigation

The project faces various risks, including:

- Climate-related challenges
- Community resistance
- Funding shortfalls
- Technical issues
- Political and regulatory changes
- Environmental impacts
- Monitoring and evaluation risks.

To mitigate these risks, the project will do the following:

- Implement climate-resilient agricultural practices
- Prioritize community engagement
- Diversify funding sources
- Provide technical support
- Maintain close communication with authorities
- Conduct thorough environmental assessments
- Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation plan.

By identifying these risks and implementing appropriate mitigation strategies, the project aims to proactively address potential challenges and ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of its interventions.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this comprehensive proposal outlines a holistic approach to address water, hygiene, agriculture, forest, and other social challenges in the target communities. By integrating water source improvements, sustainable agricultural practices, reforestation efforts, and hygiene promotion activities, the project aims to enhance community resilience and well-being. The proposed implementation plan, along with identified risks and mitigation strategies, demonstrates a commitment to effective project management and sustainability. Through collaborative partnerships, community engagement, and capacity building, the project seeks to create lasting positive impacts, empower local communities, and contribute to environmental conservation. With a focus on long-term sustainability and resilience, this proposal presents a compelling case for addressing critical development needs while fostering community ownership and participation.