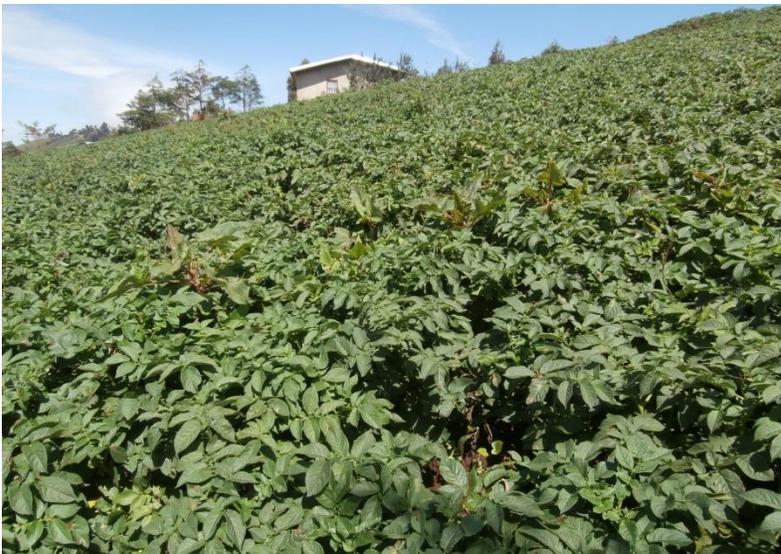


Income Generating Activity (IGA): A Financial Scheme to Improve Quality Healthcare Sustainability

Introduction

The kickoff of the Local Capacity Initiative (LCI) activities was piloted in 5 health districts that experienced low uptake in antenatal care/prevention of mother to child transmission (ANC/PMTCT) of HIV services. As implementation started in 2014 to reverse the tides, it quickly dawned on the LCI team that if nothing is done to improve the financial independence of most health facilities; these facilities



Fotang Irish Potatoes Farm

may not be able to fill in the existing gaps which hindered them from reaching targets. Such existing gaps included: the shortage of basic equipment, understaffing, shortage of basic infrastructural developments like toilet facilities among others. To close these gaps, the LCI introduced the IGA strategy as one of its key cards in ensuring that the facilities have a source of income that permits them to make for the loopholes identified, hence increase in service uptake.

LCI Intervention

To carry out this strategy smoothly, the LCI team went through “the custodians of the health facilities” that is the Dialogue structure members. The LCI team started by:

- ❖ Training the Dialogue Structure Members on business and financial management procedures.
- ❖ Assisting the DS units to identify profitable business venture which they could easily embarked on. As a result, different DS units chose mostly agricultural oriented businesses since it was more appealing to their rural setting context. Some of the businesses included; setting up of cocoa nurseries, plantains, and corn and potatoes farms. Piggery, poultry, goat rearing and the running of a provision store were lucrative business ventures selected by the DS members.
- ❖ Financially supporting DS to startup the selected business.

The team did not end at disbursing money to these DS units, but embarked on an intensive quarterly supervision to ensure that what was planned was actually materialized. To encourage positive competition, the LCI Team came up with the concept of rewarding fast growing businesses while discontinuing funding from the slow DS Teams. This went a long way to galvanize the DS members in ensuring that their business yield profits.

Projects initiated/achievements



Piggery and AgricFrowl Poultry Income Generating Activities in Communities

Several Dialogue structures who invested in short term income generating activities started benefitting from it. One of such schemes is the nursing of cocoa seeds in Afap Health Area in Eyumojock. After receiving a donation of FCFA 20.000, a cocoa nursery was planted and supervised by the health committee members. This was sold at FCFA 150,000 at the end of the first planting season. These proceeds were used for the creation of an orange nursery. The DS committee also used some of the earnings to financially support two staff in two satellite health centers and one student on internship. The DS drafted a plan on how they will spend proceeds from IGA with priority given to the recruitment of a laboratory technician.

Likewise, Fotang in the Wabane health district indulged in the cultivation of Irish Potatoes on the health center land after receiving the donation of FCFA 50.000 from the LCI Team. Barely few months after, they harvested 11 bags of Irish potatoes. They sold their harvest for FCFA 150.000 and used the profits to employ a lab technician and complete a borehole project which started before 2014. To ensure continuity, planting seeds for the next season was kept.

In the same light, Muambong Health Area stood tall among the other income generating projects supported. With a series of financial supports, the center progressed from the cultivation of corn to the rearing of pigs and owning a poultry farm. Proceeds from these projects have been used to purchase some basic health center equipment. Through the IGAs, the Muambong Integrated

Health Center was able to sponsor several outreach activities in its hard to reach communities. Hence, taking health care closer to the people and increasing service uptake.

Health district	Health Area	Projects in Process	Achievements
Konye	Mbakwa - Supe	Cocoa nursery/ Goat rearing	Proceeds from cocoa nursery used to run general assembly meeting and also to complete water project at the health center. Second phase of nursery has been expanded. Two goats are being reared at the health center as an additional project.
	Wone	Cocoa nursery	Proceeds from the first sold out use for health center activities. Second phase of cocoa nursery is ongoing.
	Ibemi	Cocoa nursery	Proceeds use for health center activities.
	Nyandong	Cocoa nursery / maize and plantain farm	Cocoa nursery has been transformed into a cocoa farm with about 600 cocoa stems. Additional 100 suckers of plantains have been added to the cocoa farm as an additional project.
	Matoh-Butu	Cocoa/plantains	Proceeds from cocoa and plantains farm yet to be realized.
	Kurume	Piggery	Piggery farm doing well.
Eyumojoek	Afap	Cocoa/ pepper/ Orange nursery	First phase sold out already with income used to support two of its satellite H/C and nursing students on internship. With the next phase they plan to engage a lab technician at the health center. Additional pepper project and palms is ongoing.
	Kembong	Orange orchard/Egussi farm	Orange orchard doing well. Money realized from the “egusi” farm has been used to motivate 2 community engaged staff at the health center. Extended “egusi” and cocoyam farm doing fine.
	Ekok	Palm trees	Palm trees are doing well mean while health center plans setting up a canteen at the health center.
Bangem	Nkikkoh	Plantains farm	Plantains farm doing well.

	Ekajoh Bajoh	Cocoa nursery/Goat rearing	Part of the nursed cocoa seedlings has been sold with proceeds used to renovate the health facility. Goats rearing are ongoing.
	Muambong	Maize farm/piggery, Poultry	Proceeds from these projects is being used to support community engaged staff and other health center activities.
	Nkack	Plantains farm	Plantains doing well.
	Ebamut (Ndibse)	Plantains	Plantains doing well.
	Eyandong	Cocoa nursery/Goat rearing	Proceeds from Cocoa nursery used to renovate health center while goat rearing is ongoing.
Ekondo-Titi	Bafaka	Cocoa Nursery/piggery	Proceeds from the cocoa nursery have been used to set up a small consultation room at the health center. Piggery in ongoing
	Bamusso	Water Melon Farm / fish smoking	Water Melon Project failed. Fish “smoking” is ongoing.
	Bekora	Cocoa nursery / Goat rearing	Already sold out about 1500 cocoa seedling and money has been used to set up a sign board at the entrance to the health center. They plan to electrify the H/C during the next session. Goat rearing is ongoing.
	Bekumu	Canteen	Canteen has been set up.
	Bisoro	Cassava farm	Cassava farm is ongoing.
	Ekondo IHC	Chairs / Canopy for rent	Income from chairs and canopies is being used to handle health center activities.
	Illor	Plantains farm	Plantains farm doing well.
	Funge	Cassava	Some basic equipment at the health center like tables, and chairs delivery kits have been acquired with income generated from the cassava farm. Cassava farm has equally been extended.
Wabane	Fotang	Irish potatoes farm	Health center has harvested at about 11 bags of Irish potatoes cultivated at the health center. Proceeds realized from the potatoes will be used to

			finalize the digging of a well at the health facility.
	Bamumbu	Plantains farm	About one hundred plantain suckers have been planted by the health center.
	Bechati	Plantains Farm	About one hundred plantains suckers have been planted at the health center.
	Banteng	Cocoyam farm	Proceeds from the cocoyam farm will be used to purchase tables, chairs and small solar lamps for the health center.

Conclusion

Though some health area started at a very slow pace due to the topography of their health area, over 70% of the health area are excelling tremendously in the realization of their income generating activities. Hence they can map the direction of their health area, carryout outreach activities and employ new staff, or purchase new basic equipment conveniently without any external support. Therefore, it is a fact that introducing the income Generating Activity strategy was like giving the health areas wings to fly independently.