

Abstract

This research quest seeks to establish an institutional framework and extension model for continued community support that engages and empowers villagers to design, implement, and manage local infrastructure and development projects. (This is being done in partnership with Malawi government, Malawi universities, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Community development in Malawi rarely starts from grassroots and its predominantly top down.



Photo: Communal gardening championed by this project in Chitete town-Malawi

Methods

Phase 1: Pre-planning - During this phase the HUB support organization work with communities who have requested services via a simple pre-planning proposal.

Phase 2: Planning - During the planning phase, communities begin prioritizing projects ranging from water, sanitation, solid waste management, drainage management, housing, energy supply, etc.

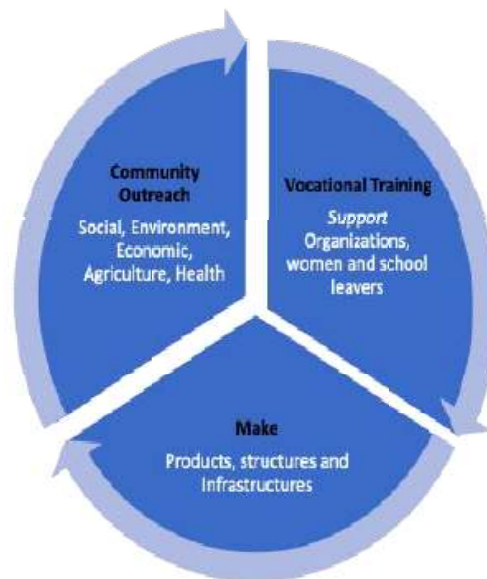
Phase 3: Implementation - Once the proposal from the planning phase is vetted and approved by the Management Unit, a grant fund will provide funds to implement the community project. Local community members will be trained to manage and maintain their system.

Proposed Communal Development Model

Community Hubs

Attached to Primary Schools and Supported by local Universities and NAU

Partners: Communities, local and International NGOs, public and private sectors.



Results

Through NAU's Maxwell Lutz community Impact grant and the Malawi US Embassy Diplomacy grant, Waste to Wealth Malawi Hub was established. It is specialized in recycling, upcycling, community entrepreneurship, and in school Innovation programs. 35 single Moms from M'biya Village have been rescued from early marriages and are back doing small scale businesses and have communal gardens. A team of 30 volunteers are being involved in making quality products from recycled materials, creating a community social enterprise.

Malawi Waste to wealth Hub products



Discussion

As communities begin to develop their action plans, the maker spaces will provide the resources needed to develop a skilled workforce capable of building and maintaining the structures and infrastructure requested by the communities. The maker space will also be available to support innovative product design that may be used to build replacement parts, develop new technologies, and produce marketable goods.

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