Scaling up HIV/AIDS prevention care, support and livelihoods options for OVC

Peer Evaluation Report

2014-2015

Q1
Acknowledgements

The Evaluation Team made up of Peter Kamusiya, Tendai Chakaunya and Morris Charumbira and Dralee Katsaruware would like to express their appreciation to Restless Development and its supporting partners for providing resources for the Peer Evaluation exercise.

Our sincere gratitude goes to Maxwell Changombe APC, who accompanied us to the project sites. We acknowledge your commitment and passion for development work.

Special mention also goes to the community members from the wards and villages where the field data collection was conducted. During the evaluation many interviewees and discussants openly shared their views on the projects and we sincerely hope that we have fairly represented these in our analysis, conclusions and recommendations. We made every effort to ensure the accuracy and validity of the findings. We however, take the responsibility for omissions, inaccuracies and the opinions expressed herein.

Evaluation team

Peter Kamusiya (ACT)
Tendai Chakaunya (ACT)
Morris Charumbira (Restless Development)
Dralee Katsaruware (Restless Development)

Report Compiled by: Peter Kamusiya (ACT)
**Table of Contents**

Acknowledgements ............................................................................................................................................. 1

Table of Contents ............................................................................................................................................... 2

List of Acronyms .............................................................................................................................................. 2

Executive Summary ............................................................................................................................................ 5

Summary of Key Evaluation Findings: .............................................................................................................. 6

Background to Enhancing Livelihoods for Young People Affected by HIV Project...... 6

Project Objectives ............................................................................................................................................ 7

Study Methodology ............................................................................................................................................ 7

Research design and framework ...................................................................................................................... 7

Sample Covered ............................................................................................................................................. 7

Data collection instruments ............................................................................................................................ 7

Ethical Considerations .................................................................................................................................... 8

Peer Evaluation Findings ................................................................................................................................ 9

Achievement of Project Activities and Results .............................................................................................. 9

Objective 1. To support sustainable Livelihoods interventions for youth affected by HIV

Expected Result 1: Increased knowledge and attitudes of young people in managing income generating activities ................................................................................. 9

Expected Measurable Result 2: Increased information and knowledge on business development. .......................................................... 11

Expected Measurable Result 3: Increased access to financial support from civil society, private and public sectors. .............................................. 11

Objective 2: To provide psycho-social support and life skills for youth affected by HIV

Expected Measurable Result 4: Increased access to SRH information by young people. ................................................. 12

Objective 3: To advocate for young people’s participation in decision making processes and access to economic resources

Expected Measurable Result: Improved decision making ability and improved access to economic resources for YP................................................................................................................... 14

Project Relevance ............................................................................................................................................ 15

Project Effectiveness ....................................................................................................................................... 16
Project Efficiency ........................................................................................................................................... 16
Project Impact ............................................................................................................................................... 16
Project Sustainability .................................................................................................................................... 17
Lessons Learnt, Recommendations and Conclusions ................................................................................. 17
Lessons Learnt .............................................................................................................................................. 17
Recommendations ......................................................................................................................................... 18
Areas of Collaboration ................................................................................................................................. 18
Conclusions .................................................................................................................................................. 19
Appendix: Beneficiary Pictures ..................................................................................................................... 20
List of Acronyms

ACT - AIDS Counselling Trust
CPC – Child Protection Committee
IGA – Income Generating Activities
IGP - Income Generation Project
OVC – Orphans and Vulnerable Children
SRHR – Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
YP – Young People
Executive Summary

Restless Development and ACT together with other seven partners have been receiving funding from Egmont Trust to implement programmes in the area of HIV prevention and Livelihoods, support to orphaned and vulnerable children. Through the implementation of the grant that has since ended, partners formed groups to conduct a peer evaluation and review process. While the funding has ended, there has been the need for organisations to fund themselves if they wish to continue. This peer evaluation process was sought to inform planning, implementation and management of future Restless Development and ACT programmes embracing lessons learned and best practices.

The Peer evaluation goal was to assess the achievement of the project objectives and expected results. Specifically the evaluation assessed:

- The degree of improvement in the lives of beneficiaries livelihoods
- The extent to which sufficient Life skills have been enhanced amongst OVC
- Improvements in livelihoods of target beneficiaries
- Knowledge levels with regards to sexual reproductive health and rights
- The extent to which civic participation in children has improved.
- To document lessons learnt, best practices and make recommendations for improved implementation of future projects.

The evaluation was carried from 15 -16 May 2014 in 5 wards in Chimanimani. Six project sites which include, schools and resource centres were randomly selected for the evaluation. A range of stakeholders including the Projects Patrons, School Heads, and community beneficiaries were consulted.

The following stepwise process was used in the evaluation:

- A comprehensive and extensive literature review of the project documentation: baseline report, Egmont Trust Proposal Summary Sheet 2013, quarterly progress and activities reports, peer evaluation report 2013.
- A partner peer evaluation preparation meeting was conducted, outlining the evaluation process including presentation of the evaluation conceptual framework, sampling framework, enumerator training, data collection methods and tools and analysis and ethical considerations.
Summary of Key Evaluation Findings:
Key findings of the evaluation in respect of each evaluation objective showed that project achievement of expected results was overall satisfactory as summarized below:

- Evaluation Objective 1: The extent to which sufficient Life skills have been enhanced amongst OVC
- Evaluation Objective 2: Knowledge levels with regards to sexual reproductive health and rights

Achievement: Interviewed YP showed that they are empowered with correct, updated and age appropriate life skills to adopt and maintain safe, healthy and responsible sexual attitudes and behaviors.

- Evaluation Objective 3: Improvements in livelihoods of target beneficiaries

Achievement: School authorities, parents and OVC acknowledged improved household income after embarking on livelihoods projects which are poultry, goats keeping pass on and low input gardening.

- Evaluation Objective 4: The extent to which civic participation on children have been improved.

Achievement: Children and Young who are active members of Child Protection Committee and Child School Development Committee attributed their nomination and participation to Restless Development’s support towards children’s involvement in community decision making processes.

Background to Enhancing Livelihoods for Young People Affected by HIV Project
The development of the project was informed by evidence gathered from feedback from project beneficiaries and Volunteer Peer Educators (VPEs) who are the core of Restless Development methodology. Some of the notable observations noted in the target area were:

- Increased knowledge among young people on HIV and AIDS, gender and child rights
- Increased uptake of condoms in the project communities
- Reduced unintended pregnancies among in-school girls
- Reduced cases of STI
- Greater need for youth livelihoods as an underpinning response to issues affecting young people in communities.
Project Objectives
The project focuses on young people affected\(^1\) by HIV and AIDS. Central to the project was to address access to economic opportunities for improved livelihoods, improve access to SRHR information that is contextually and socially relevant for young people (YP) and effective participation of YP in decision-making through empowering them to be advocates within their communities. All this was to be achieved through the specific objectives spelt out as follows:
- To support sustainable livelihoods interventions for youth affected by HIV
- To provide psychosocial support and life skills for youth affected by HIV
- To advocate for young people’s participation in decision making processes and economic resources.

Study Methodology
The data collection methods were intended to generate relevant information through answering the evaluation questions. Review of Restless Development quarterly reports, focus group discussions, one on one interviews, observations, questionnaires, testimonies and case studies with staff and beneficiaries were the approaches used by the evaluators in conducting the evaluation. Triangulation of results was done with indirect beneficiaries and other external partners and stakeholders.

Research design and framework
This evaluation uses participatory approaches to examine all the aspects that relate to the projects that were implemented with funding from Egmont Trust. The process was to a larger extent qualitative because most of the issues were more descriptive and only qualitative data could inform the development of the report. However quantitative data were collected with respect to the number of beneficiaries reached by the projects.

Sample Covered
Information was gathered from sampled in-school youth in primary school (Grade 3 to 7) and those in secondary schools (Grade 8 to 13). Secondary data was gathered from school management and community stakeholders. A total of 133 young people participated in the entire evaluation process. The following schools were selected randomly: Kamunda, Bumba, Chayamiti, Chakohwa, Mashonjowa and Nhediwa

Data collection instruments
Field data collection was done using quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques and tools. The study used key informant interview guide to gather information from school patrons, school heads, and parents. An observation checklist

---

\(^1\) Affected means having lost a parent or guardian or having a relative who is suffering from AIDS and terminally ill.
was used for IGPs. Focus group guide was used to gather information from OVCs, youth groups and parents.

**Ethical Considerations**

Research ethical issues were observed and adhered to. These included:

- Seeking permission and appropriate clearance from relevant authorities that enabled the evaluation team to access the informants and the communities with minimal challenges.
- Informing prospective informants of the purpose, objectives and methods of the evaluation.
- Seeking the informants’ consent in participating in the evaluation.
- Ensuring confidentiality and anonymity.
- Assuring the informants of no personal benefits in participating in the evaluation.

**Report card**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Status (increase, decrease or no visible improvement)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The degree of improvement in the lives of beneficiaries</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Household income has improved through selling goats whilst family expenditure on school fees has decreased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which sufficient Life skills have been enhanced amongst OVC</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Children directly participate in projects supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvements in livelihoods of target beneficiaries</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Evidence of existing viable income generating projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge levels with regards to sexual reproductive health and rights</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Confident articulation of SRHR issues by young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which civic participation in children has improved.</td>
<td>No visible improvement</td>
<td>The society is still sceptical about children’s involvement in decision making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased knowledge and attitudes of young people in managing income generating activities</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Record books are managed by young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased information and knowledge on business development</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Young people showed understanding of basic business management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased access to financial support from civil society, private and public sectors</td>
<td>No visible improvement to Non of the participating young have had the opportunity to secure additional support from other institutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved nutritional status of households in targeted wards</td>
<td>No visible improvement to Difficult to ascertain using qualitative methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased ownership of assets such as livestock</td>
<td>Increase to Evidence of livestock at participating household</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased access to SRH information by young people</td>
<td>Increase to Availability of youth friendly resource centres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved decision making ability and improved access to economic resources for YP</td>
<td>No visible improvement to Non of the participating young have had the opportunity to secure additional support from other institutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Peer Evaluation Findings

#### Achievement of Project Activities and Results

According to the project Logical Framework Matrix, the project had three overall objectives, one specific goal/purpose and five expected results. The assessment of the project achievements is therefore done according to each project objective, expected project results and the corresponding planned activities and targets.

#### Objective 1: To support sustainable Livelihoods interventions for youth affected by HIV.

**Expected Result 1: Increased knowledge and attitudes of young people in managing income generating activities**

- A total of 10 IGPs (6 poultry & 4 gardens) were established, reaching to a total of 259 beneficiaries. Data collected through Key Informant Interviews (KII) and FDG, review of project documents and observation, showed that young people’s knowledge in managing projects has been enhanced. Training was provided on low input gardening, poultry and goat rearing. Both the poultry and chicken rearing projects are being supervised by Agricultural Teachers who have hands on knowledge on how to manage them. The organisation works closely with Agricultural Extensions Officers who are under the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture. The AREX Officers are qualified agronomists and it was evident among YP who are participating in gardening, poultry and goat project that their knowledge in the
respective aspects has been enhanced. The children are also knowledgeable of various diseases that affect poultry, vegetables and goats and how to manage them.

- At Chakohwa the poultry project has supported 20 OVC with school fees support. Though some said it fall short from the US$15 required but it cushioned their families as the money saved has enabled some to have uniforms, stationery and school shoes.

- Children interviewed at Nhedziwa Secondary School also hailed Restless Development for providing them with support for their sewing project. It was encouraging to note that 5 of the 18 project beneficiaries were boys. Considering that the school is in a rural set up where such activities are naturally considered feminine Restless Development has tried to dispel some myth about gender ascribed roles which characterise the society.

![Figure1: Broiler IGP at Bumba Primary School](image)

- All the beneficiaries interviewed, appreciated the high standard of training as well as the high quality of inputs for example high quality goats, chicks and seeds. It was also observed that the new techniques learnt, were and are still being applied by the beneficiaries. The quantity of inputs, specifically in poultry and garden projects seem adequate to generate a sustained income within the
context. The level of income generated is still low as compared with the cost of school fees, stationery and uniform.

- Through the projects, the beneficiaries seem to have benefited in different ways such as increase in income, improvement in nutritional levels, enhanced skills and knowledge or improved productivity. Below are some of the quotes from beneficiaries:

  “I have two children who are benefitting from the poultry project and since the second term of 2012 their fees is being catered for by the project. This has enabled me to provide them with other school materials like books and uniforms” said one widow at Chakohwa Primary School.

  “The inputs and training we got from Restless Development has resulted in improved yield as well as enhanced the vegetable varieties we are now growing” said the School Head at Bumba Secondary School

- However, there is need to improve children’s involvement in the overall management of the projects as in some cases they could not clearly state how much money was obtained from the projects i.e. (gardening and poultry) how the money was used and how many had their fees paid from the proceeds.

**Expected Measurable Result 2: Increased information and knowledge on business development**

- Training was provided on basic business management skills. The use of hands on approach as alluded to by Mr. Nyakapeni the School Head at Bumba primary school has also inculcated a sense of responsibility among the children. The children also market the produce from their respective projects within the neighbourhood. Some community members interviewed reiterated that the projects have resulted in a rub off to other school children who have also requested goats from their parents to start their own projects especially among those who are not beneficiaries.

- Bumba project can be cited as good example of youth involvement in business management and development. All records are entered by the young people with the Project patron assuming a supervisory role.

**Expected Measurable Result 3: Increased access to financial support from civil society, private and public sectors.**

- About 80% of the interviewed beneficiaries were not aware of other sources of financial support which are accessible within Chimanimani. This has resulted in none
of them seeking external support from other institutions. School Heads and Project Patrons also cited the bureaucratic channels within the Ministry of Youth and Gender and the long distance to reach nearby government offices as other contributing factors hindering the sourcing of resources to support IGA by young people.

- External support for the area is mainly on school fees assistance where three organisations were reported to be assisting OVC. However, the support towards school fees has not been enough as the area has many children who come from very poor families. “This area continues to witness an increase in the number of OVC due to fact that most young girls were impregnated at the height of Chiadzwa diamond rush by the panners who had hard currency by then. Now these children are reaching the school going age and most of their mothers cannot afford to pay their fees” said one parent during a FGD at Bumba.

- The evaluators also noted that the project perhaps overstated its measurable indicator. The accessibility of financial resources from private and public sectors depends on a number of variables which are beyond the scope of the project.

Objective 2: To provide psycho-social support and life skills for youth affected by HIV.

Expected Measurable Result 4: Increased access to SRH information by young people

- Respondents through FGD and one on one interviews showed that Restless Development has done a lot in equipping young people with appropriate SRHR information. To maintain interest of the YP Restless Development uses different captivating participatory methodologies. The OVC indicated that they have participated in the Young People We Care (YPWC) training, dance4life, life skills training and SRHR education. The participants showed that they have knowledge on the critical components of SRHR. They know all HIV prevention methods, forms of sexual abuse and the effects of early and forced marriages. A total of 1150 young people were reached with SRHR and life skills sessions.

- Asked to state the physical changes that come with puberty stage all boys (100%) and girls (100%) were able to correctly mention the physical changes that they currently experience. The boys were able to mention changes like pimples, deep voice, development of pubic hair, neatness, and increased muscle development. However girls mentioned increased breast development, menstruation and development of hips. Others mentioned that at puberty stage some boys and girls
develop bad odour. This response shows that both boys and girls clearly related what they learned during body mapping and the physical changes they are experiencing. peer pressure was mentioned as a major psychological issues that pushes them to acquire multiple concurrent sexual partners

- On the other hand all respondents mentioned that they do not get SRH and HIV prevention information from their parents since their parents always think that they are young. One female adolescent aged 14 said, “My mother is very cruel and I cannot imagine discussing SRH and HIV prevention information with her. She can ask me how I started thinking about such things when I am still very young. When I started menstruating I never informed my mother. However, I shared the information with my closest friend who advised me what to do”. This personal testimony is an indication that there is a serious communication breakdown between parents and their adolescent children. However, girl’s participation during the FGD was low despite them having been exposed to the same activities as boys. The majority of girls seem to lack self-esteem and confidence, factors which can render them vulnerable to abuse and peer pressure. This can also be attributed to unequal gender relations that seem to still exist in the community.

- Restless Development has also increased IEC material (with SRH information) at its youth resource centre, which improved accessibility by young people. The centre has a number of activities and it was busy with young people coming for different services. Among the more popular activities are computer lessons and SRHR discussions. Some of the discussants openly admitted that had it not been for Restless Development interventions some would have fallen prey to the vices that most young people are succumbing to such as drugs and alcohol abuse. Some girls indicated that the life skills training they have received has enhanced their self-esteem and assertiveness which was evident during one on one interviews as they openly shared their plans for the future. Popular life skills topics which emerge from the discussions include goal setting, self-awareness, negotiating skills, peer pressure and conflict management.

- A senior teacher at Bumba secondary school said that teenage pregnancy dropped from 70 percent to below 10% (between 2009 and 2013). School records from the School head’s office also confirmed the reduction in teenage pregnancy at the school. The teacher attributed the reduction to Restless Development programmes she said “Restless Development’s approach of capacitating young people with knowledge and skills on sex and sexuality has produced a class of well informed and responsible young people who have become role models in our communities.”
The evaluators also noted with concern challenges being faced by female pupils during their monthly menstrual cycle. One female student mentioned that, “I live with my grandmother who cannot afford to buy me sanitary towels. I use rugs every month when I’m experiencing my menstrual cycle. However because I don’t want my brothers to see the rags I hide them in the house under the bed every time I wash them. At times they don’t dry up properly but I have to put them on when going to school. When they don’t dry up they cause itching on my private parts. They are also heavy and can fall off if you start playing. I then pretend to be sick when the teacher wants me to run or play net ball”.

This response is not surprising since there are no specific interventions in the country either by the government or by NGOs which target adolescent girls’ sexual and reproductive health rights and in particular menstrual cycle management. What is also worrying is that, parents play no role at all in providing SRH, HIV prevention information to their children. As a result young people rely on their teachers, peers and organisation like Restless Development for information related to SRH and HIV prevention.

Objective 3: To advocate for young people’s participation in decision making processes and access to economic resources

Expected Measurable Result: Improved decision making ability and improved access to economic resources for YP.

Restless Development has managed to reach young people with skills to be able to participate meaningfully in decision making within the community. Children and youth trained by Restless Development constitute the majority of those leading Child School Development Committee CSDC and CPC. However, the role of children in influencing decision within the community has been minimal mainly due to socio-cultural persuasion within rural areas. The majority of the adult populations do not recognise the importance of listening to young people’s views and seem not to regard them as responsible citizens whose voices should be heard. One pupil from Nhedziwa Secondary school who is a member of the CSDC said “Most of the proposals we put forward to both the school and community authorities are brushed aside”. He added on by citing an example when some of them were victimized for raising concerns on certain teachers who were having relationships with other school pupils. The YP said that their participation in decision making can be enhanced by engaging school authorities and community leaders through capacity development so that their contributions are appreciated.

A pupil who learns at Nhedziwa Secondary School was selected to be in Youth Cabinet as Resident Minister for Manicaland a feat he attributed to his participation in Restless Development’s leadership training activities.
Children, parents and other community members all concurred that Restless Development’s approach of providing inputs to children to start IGA has improved their access to economic resources. The approach has also influenced some parents to also give their children livestock to start their own breeding. One elderly woman from Chakohwa said that before Restless Development’s intervention it was unheard of for a child to own livestock unless obtained through inheritance when both parents would have passed away. She further said even though her grandchildren have not directly benefited from Restless Development project she decided to give all her 8 grandchildren 1 goat each. She concluded by saying that the approach has inculcated a sense of responsibility within her grandchildren as she no longer has to worry about who has the duty to look after the livestock at home; they do so without constant supervision.

**Project Relevance**

The Restless Development’s project is relevant in Zimbabwe in that:

- Zimbabwe once had one of the highest HIV&AIDS prevalence rates in the world. One of the outcomes of the epidemic was an increase in the number of orphans and vulnerable children whose social and economic vulnerability continue to worsen.

- The country continues to experience serious economic and social challenges which are eroding institutional, community and household capacity to sustain themselves, thus seriously compromising normal survival and livelihoods.

- The project targets the rural areas which are poorly serviced and also populated with vulnerable people

- It focused on empowering local structures and systems. These structures are key in ensuring sustainability of the projects.

- It utilized permanent local community level coordination and management structures and did not seek to form new or parallel structures. This includes the use and working of Agritex Officers, Child Protection Committees, Village Heads, and Agricultural School Teachers.

- The projects were extremely relevant in the context in which they were implemented and targeted the right communities in line with their objectives. In majority of the cases, the training plus input approach adopted by the projects proved effective in reorienting the beneficiaries towards alternate income generating activities. The projects showed concrete results both at the household and community levels. At the household level, there was an improvement of income by a modest amount and improvement of nutritional status as well as savings. In addition, the productive capacities of beneficiaries and their families were also enhanced.
The direct target group of the goat rearing projects has been children. Targeting children however, seems to raise numerous questions if no account is taken of the obvious general perception that exist between parents/guardian and children. It needs to be noted that whether children beneficiaries and their families do in fact benefit from an increase in income depends to a large extent, on the household head and how he/she prioritises children’s education. It is hard to suppose conclusively that targeting children necessarily result in the empowerment of the children or in the enhancement of the socio-economic conditions of a household. In the projects reviewed no negative impact could be observed or established as this requires a closer examination of household circumstances. Nevertheless, this is a fact that needs to be considered in future interventions. Therefore, it must be emphasized that future projects that target children must be designed following the conduct of a comprehensive socio-cultural assessment to identify specific circumstances within a household for better results.

**Project Effectiveness**

The Restless Development project was to a larger extent effective in meeting the set goal and purpose.

- The project design as elaborated in the log frame was effective as it targeted the orphans and other vulnerable children, the very poor and those affected and infected by HIV&AIDS who in most cases are excluded or side-lined from development programmes. Selection of the beneficiaries was done at community level through local structures that include school heads, home based care structures, local and traditional leadership; child protection committees.

**Project Efficiency**

- It is the evaluators’ considered opinion that within the context of the project operating socio-economic environment, project management made strides to ensure efficient use of human, financial and other resources. Project use of staff from existing and permanent government structures such as Agritex Officers and teachers ensured that the impact of the capacity development efforts go beyond projects as the knowledge and skills gained has generic application.

- Project achievement of planned targets within the set budgets is also a proxy overall indicator of efficient use of project resources.

**Project Impact**

- Availability of sustainable IGA
- Youth mobilisation and coordination structures within the community have been established.
The project has enabled communities and other support systems like schools, clinics, and other stakeholders to establish mutual relationships, thus synergies of collaboration has been enhanced.

Community perception of young people as responsible citizens who have a role to play in the general development of their community has been enhanced.

Project Sustainability

All the beneficiaries interviewed expressed their interest and commitment to continue with project activities. Programme sustainability was evaluated from two angles: a) sustainability of the model (SOM), and b) sustainability of the Result (SOR). SOM is indicated because of Restless Development’s emphasis on empowering vulnerable young people, building the capacity of local structures, establishing coordinating committees. SOR considers how long lasting are the benefits that accrue to the beneficiaries and wider society. Restless Development’s results are indeed sustainable because of the focus on empowering YP with knowledge and information on SRHR, IGA, and Civic Participation that will serve them throughout their lives.

Lessons Learnt, Recommendations and Conclusions

Lessons learnt, recommendations and conclusions were arrived in line with the evaluation purpose, which was to inform future planning, implementation and management of Restless Development programmes.

Lessons Learnt

Some of the key lessons learnt from Restless Development project implementation are that:

- Empowering communities and other project stakeholders with the appropriate training, information and resources enables the communities to be self-reliant.
- If empowered with correct information on the associated benefits from development programmes, vulnerable groups can make effective contribution in addressing their vulnerability status.
- Collaboration with different stakeholders, particularly, local organizations and relevant government departments at all stages of implementation (needs assessment, beneficiary selection, implementation, monitoring and follow up) is vital for the overall success of a project;
- A training plus input approach is effective in re-orienting beneficiaries towards alternative income generating activities; training itself, without further support by way of either start-up capital or inputs to commence productive activities may not result in sustainable income generating interventions or minimizing dependency, in most cases;
Strengthening and building on existing skills, capacities and livelihoods of beneficiaries proves an effective strategy at ensuring sustainability;

**Recommendations**

- The evaluators also noted that though the livelihoods projects can be sustained in the long run the initial output is low. Both school children and parents concurred that there is need to increase support such as the number of goats and poultry donated.
- There should be a gradual weaning off process of project support. A goat needs about two years to start reproducing. There is need to have contingent plans to support families in between donation and the time they are mature enough to reproduce, sell and pass on.
- Livelihoods interventions should be complementary in nature that those participating in goat rearing should also benefit from gardening and poultry. The poultry project requires a lot of inputs both materially and technically thus it can be used as a phase in strategy whilst building the beneficiaries capacity in Low Input Gardening LIG and goat keeping project which are more sustainable projects.
- The institution need to factor in other sustainable livelihoods projects like free range chickens and rabbits as they are less likely to be affected by diseases.
- The organisation should also try to reduce the number of districts it operates in Chimanimani considering the number of households with OVC living in extreme poverty so that support can be extended to more children within certain households. One notable example came out during the FDG at Chayamiti Secondary School when one elderly grandmother said she is looking after six orphans and Restless Development is only assisting one through their projects and she does not know what to do with the other 5.
- There is need to put more effort to reduce school based gender based violence by providing more education to school boys and girls. This can be achieved through community based dialogues, advocacy. Parents, school authorities and communities should be educated on the implications and negative consequences of GBV.

**Areas of Collaboration**

- ACT can collaborate with Restless Development especially on SRHR activities through the sporting league tournament and Livelihoods programmes.
Conclusions

- In the context of the evaluation findings, the project was to a large extent successful in achieving the project expected results which in turn positively contributed towards the overall objectives and project purpose.
Appendix: Beneficiary Pictures

OVC going through team building exercise during a PSS camp meeting
In-school youth taking care of broilers at one of the income generating project

One of the beneficiaries of the goat pass-on scheme
OVC go through games during a PSS camp meeting