

Introduction

Compassion for Communities (C4C) entered the financial year April 2023 – March 2024 with a renewed focus on regeneration, restructuring and fundraising. We sought to forge new partnerships with organisations and individuals (in the UK and in Zimbabwe), to support our efforts in facilitating sustainable development, economic empowerment of our beneficiary communities as well as advancing the Christian faith.

Relaunch Event Sunday 23 April 2023- £540.50 Raised



Charity Relaunch &
Fundraiser
Sun 23 April 4-5:30pm.



Reg: 1169275

Stalls, Tombola, Auction, Food, Music and
Inspirational talk.



Charity Focus

To improve life conditions and promote sustainable economic empowerment of disadvantaged communities in Nottingham and Zimbabwe.



*Mkhombo village community garden in Zimbabwe
has been supported by Compassion for
Communities since 2017.*



Help us increase the economic empowerment and food security of this community by providing a Greenhouse. Families will send more children to school as the garden becomes more profitable. To donate, please Scan the QR code above.



The relaunch of the organisation was accompanied by the recruitment of Trustees to strengthen the organisation governance alongside accessing training programmes offered by the charities commission, namely:

- Safeguarding in an International Context
- Understanding charity structures
- Faith Charity Trustees: Taking Care of your Funds.



Other fundraising events were organised throughout the year to supplement the donations coming through the Stewardship Services online platform. Altogether, over £3000 has been raised towards the Greenhouse project. It is hoped that the greenhouse will be a reality within the 2024-2025 financial year.

Three local churches have, between them made cash donations to the charity, promoted coffee mornings on their premises and offered their community centre as the registered address for the charity as well a free venue for meetings and events.

Zimbabwe Focus

In May 2023, C4C undertook a Monitoring and Evaluation mission to assess the progress on the two gardens the organisation had supported pre-Covid 19.

The garden in Dibutibu, near Victoria Falls was assessed to have deteriorated and lost it's community focus. There was no evidence of community participation in the running of the garden. It was decided that C4C would terminate their support for the garden until it had reverted back to the original community focus of the pre-Covid 19 era. C4C recommended that Intuba, the US-based charity who had supported the garden together with C4C, would oversee the refocusing of

the garden as they had more resources and manpower to do so.

Ekukhanyeni Nutrition Garden in Lower Gweru was found to be thriving with evidence of good management by a dynamic committee who had managed to keep the community focused on the project throughout the Covid-19 era.

Ekukhanyeni Nutrition Garden - 19th May,



2023.

The Transition: Subsistence to Commercial Horticulture

Following consultations with the gardeners on the next development steps, the aspiration for increased

profitability was expressed. A proposal to further explore the idea of Greenhouse horticulture which had been suggested previously, was received with renewed enthusiasm. However, as this was a novel idea it was necessary to arrange tours to centres where Greenhouse horticulture had been established.

Through the support of the local Agriculture Extension Officer, the garden was referred to a training centre which specialises in Greenhouse Farming.

Representatives from the garden attended a workshop and tour of a functioning greenhouse at the centre. The workshop and the tour were an eye opener for the gardeners who were seeing a greenhouse for the first time.

Gardeners at MASO training centre in Gweru - 9 June, 2023



Ekukhanyeni Nutrition Garden in the Press - 26 June, 2023

Through the efforts of one prominent journalist who went to primary school with the founder of C4C, the progress of the garden and the aspiration for stepping up to commercial horticulture featured prominently in a

national newspaper in the period 26th June – 02nd of July, 2023. The publication brought great pride to the gardeners, the wider community and the international supporters of C4C.

The publicity generated by the article put the garden on the map and was instrumental in forging new relationships with statutory institutions and government officials who saw the potential community development impact that could accrue from the increased yields and profitability from the Greenhouse initiative.

The Times Our View

Lower Gweru community garden deserve support

THE story of the 51 subsistence farmers in Lower Gweru, is one of hope and determination which should inspire other communities.

These farmers have realised the potential that their Ekukhanyeni community gardening project can become even bigger and operate as a commercial farm. This is commendable and is what the Second Republic has been talking about all along. It is time that we all - those who benefitted from the land reform programme - take farming as a business and not be content with producing at household levels.

Their efforts deserve everyone's support and should inspire other farmers who are struggling to make ends meet to take note and think big like the Ekukhanyeni community. The transition from subsistence farming to commercial farming is not easy. It requires a significant investment of time, resources, and effort.

In the case of the Lower Gweru farmers, they have already taken the first step by undergoing greenhouse management training.

The greenhouse will allow for year-round production of crops, and the farmers now know the potential profits that could be generated from selling their produce.

However, they face a number of challenges, including a lack of inputs and farming equipment. The government's assistance in this regard would be crucial to the success of their project.

The potential benefits of the Lower Gweru farmers' project are significant. By transforming their community garden into a commercial farm, they will not only provide a sustainable income for their families but also contribute to the local economy by creating jobs and providing fresh produce for the surrounding communities.

This project is a shining example of how agriculture can be used as a tool for economic development and poverty reduction.

It is important to note that the success of the Lower Gweru farmers' project is not guaranteed. The transition from subsistence farming to commercial farming is a complex process that requires careful planning and execution. This is where extension services from the government is crucial.

The farmers will need continuous support and guidance to ensure that their project remains sustainable and profitable in the long run.

This is a clear reminder of the resilience and resourcefulness of farmers in the face of adversity. Their determination to transform their community garden into a commercial farm is a testament to the potential of agriculture to drive economic development and poverty reduction.

While the government's support in providing inputs and farming equipment is crucial to the success of their project, members must learn to stand on their own in the long run. For now we hope that the authorities will heed their appeal and provide the necessary assistance to get the project off the ground.

Hats off to Intuba based in America for supporting Ekukhanyeni with a wide range of farming techniques, building of toilets as well as drilling a borehole and setting up of solar powered irrigation system at the garden.

We hope that other stakeholders will chip in and assist with technical and financial support.

The Times
MIDLANDS & NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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Tel: 054-226951 | Email: thetimes1897@gmail.com

Gweru farmers to transform community garden into commercial farm

By Praise Chinyedza
LOWER GWERU - In a bid to generate income for themselves, 51 subsistence farmers are planning to transform their Ekukhanyeni community gardening project into a commercial farm at Mkombo Village in Lower Gweru.

Plans are already at an advanced stage to build a greenhouse, and some members of the Compassion for Communities garden have undergone greenhouse management training to ensure the success of the project. Compassion for Communities was founded by Pastor Joseph Zulu, to support sustainable economic development initiatives in rural communities across Zimbabwe and promoting the Christianity.

With the community garden already providing much-needed food for the farmers and their families, the decision to transition from subsistence farming to commercial farming was made to provide sustainable income for the community.

The project can potentially provide sustainable income for the farmers and boost the local economy by creating jobs and providing fresh produce for the surrounding communities.

Speaking at a villagers meeting held at the community garden last week, Pastor Zulu said the idea of shifting from subsistence to commercial farming was mooted after the farmers managed to use their community garden to produce high quality vegetables earning them good returns.

"This garden was established in 1993 with only two members and it grew over the years due to the passion and hard work from the people in Mkombo Village and up to date it has 51 gardeners and beneficiary households. I believe that it is time we turn it into a market garden so that the families benefit from the project," he said.

Pastor Zulu said as part of efforts to turn Ekukhanyeni into a market garden, they partnered with another non governmental organisation, Intuba which is based in America which is also into market garden-

ing and supports over 20 community gardens across Matebeleland North, Matebeleland South and the Midlands.

Ekukhanyeni community garden benefitted from Intuba through a wide range of farming techniques, building of toilets as well as drilling a borehole and setting up of solar powered irrigation system at the garden.

He stated that the borehole which was established in October 2020 has since helped the farmers to perform drip irrigation, all-year round and use it conservatively for continuous production.

"The borehole is also assisting villagers to get clean safe water to drink reducing cases of water-borne diseases in the village leading to a health community," said Dr Zulu.

They also plan to build a Greenhouse at the community garden to grow and harvest high quality tomatoes which are needed on the market.

The greenhouse will allow for all-year-round production of crops, and the farmers are enthusiastic at the potential profits that could be generated from selling their produce.

"We have also managed to send eight members from this village to MASO for green house management training so that when we establish a greenhouse we will have farmers to manage it as well as train others for the benefit of everyone," said the Compassion for Communities group chairperson.

The local Agricultural Extension Worker and the District Manager and his team are also offering technical support and advice to the gardeners.

Founding member of Ekukhanyeni community garden Elitha Mudzingwa (83) said the idea of turning to commercial farming will see the villagers improving their livelihoods through income from the project.

She said they have since come up with a committee that will manage their garden.

"Our committee has eight members who work together to make sure that the garden

functions well on a day-to-day basis and this has largely helped us over the years to scoop awards for best community garden in our zone which has got seven community gardens," said Gogo Mudzingwa.

Another farmer Julia Jochoma, said villagers full supported of the idea to go commercial.

"Over the years, we have been using crop rotation routine which has helped to maintain the level of nutrients in the soil, but we also need the government to assist us with fertilisers which help to have good yields in our garden," she said.

The group coordinator Mcebisi Bhebe commended the villagers for their work on the garden over the years. He urged the youths to embrace the community gardening project for their future benefit.

In as much as we have been seeing progress on our garden, we also need a higher percentage of youth participation, because the majority of our members are now senior citizens and soon they will not be able to perform their duties well. So if we have more youths who are still energetic we can work together to ensure that the legacy lives on," said the 39-year-old Bhebe.

Village head Abednigo Moyo Mangwe applauded Compassion for Communities for bringing in development initiatives that are benefiting the Mkombo Village community.

Village head Mangwe appealed to the government for inputs saying with the necessary support, they can transform their community garden into a thriving commercial farm that will not only benefit their families but also the wider community.

He pleaded with the government to provide to link them to wider markets.

"We also need our government to assist us with inputs as well as farming materials such as wheelbarrows, hoes, shovels and buckets so that we improve our farming techniques and provide larger harvests," said the village head.



Ekukhanyeni community gardening project into a commercial farm at Mkombo Village in Lower Gweru

Local University Visits the Garden- 5th October, 2023



Midlands State University (MSU), has a stated aspiration to engage rural communities to support them towards

sustainable economic development, promoting climate change resilience and grassroots food security. Following a presentation of the garden project to the department of Agronomy and Horticulture, the university sent a team to tour the garden. The tour resulted in the university advising the garden to form themselves into a legal entity to facilitate official recognition which could attract more technical support from the university. That could be in the form of student attachments and research programs.

Cooperative Formation Consultations - 21 February, 2024



Following enquiries to the relevant government departments, it was decided that a Cooperative was the ideal legal entity for the garden. A Cooperative Formation Committee was established to facilitate the consultations with the gardeners.

Membership of the committee was drawn from C4C Zimbabwe board members, Garden Management Committee members and independent individuals not associated with the board nor the garden. Given the volume of material to be taken in towards cooperative formation, several training sessions and workshops were to be organised subsequently.

Advancing the Christian Faith - Sundays 15 May - 25 June 2023.



Rural Church near Kwekwe 15th May, 2023



City Church- Harare 28th May,



House Church in Gweru – 18th May 2023
25th June, 2023



Urban Church- Masvingo

Advancing the Christian faith in the 2023-2024 reporting year was more pronounced in Zimbabwe than in the UK. Relationships fostered by our Chair of Trustees and UK church leaders resulted in requests to visit their mission outposts to carry out evaluation and monitoring exercises while ministering the gospel to the communities. Relationships of trust and respect have been established with the respective organisations.

On the same trip our Chair of Trustees represented Churches in Communities International, (the organisation that C4C is a member), holding preliminary meetings with church leaders ahead of a planned conference to launch a Zimbabwe chapter of Churches

in Communities International. As a result of the meetings a network of mutual support and cooperation between the church leaders has been established. There's no doubt that, indirectly the Christian faith is enhanced by such cooperation between church leaders.

Summary of Key Successes

- Recruitment of Trustees in the UK and in Zimbabwe.
- Monitoring and Evaluation mission to Zimbabwe.
- Relationship building with supporting organisations in the UK.
- Raised profile for the garden in Zimbabwe.
- Attraction of interest from statutory institutions which has the potential to translate into significant support for the garden.
- Raising more than £3000 for the Greenhouse project.
- Developing relationships with other organisations in the UK and in Zimbabwe.

COMPASSION FOR COMMUNITIES

(Registered charity, number 1169275)

Financial statements for the year ended 31 MARCH 2024

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COMPASSION FOR COMMUNITIES

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 MARCH 2024

Full name: COMPASSION FOR COMMUNITIES

Registered charity number: 1169275

Official address

*22 Pine Hill Close
Rise Park
Nottingham
NG5 9DA*

Management Committee members

*DR JOSEPH ZULU FROM 16 September 2016.....TILL
PRESENT*

*REV TAPIWAMUNASHE NDUNA FROM 16 September 2016.....TILL May
2023*

MR JOHN THOMAS FAHY

MR JULLIAN BOND

MRS PEARL PUGH

MRS SILMARA GALE

MR GIBSON BHUNU

Bankers

NATWEST BANK

Governance and management

Our organisation is managed by the Board of Trustees in accordance to our constitution which was adopted on the 21 November 2015 and amended for compliance with charity commission registration standards on 16 September 2016.

Aims and objectives

1. To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
 - a. The relief of poverty and the improvement of conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged communities.
 - b. The promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

- c. To advance the education of the public in subjects relating to sustainable development and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large. This will include links between schools and other educational establishments around the world.
- 2. To advance the Christian faith through the establishment of places of worship that will both promote religion and the sustainable development aims of the charity.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

In the period 01 April 2023- 31 March 2024, Compassion for Communities (C4C) emerged from a period of dormancy to relaunch, restructure its leadership and focus on fundraising towards the installation a 10x50m Greenhouse at Ekukhanyeni Nutrition Garden in Zimbabwe.

A Monitoring and Evaluation visit to the projects in Zimbabwe was carried in May 2023, by our Chair of Trustees. That mission informed the decision to discontinue support to Dibutibu Garden near Victoria Falls and focus solely on the aspiration of transitioning Ekukhanyeni Nutrition Garden from subsistence to commercial horticulture through the installation of a Greenhouse and turning part of the garden membership into a Cooperative to manage the project as a commercial enterprise and legal entity.

Within the 2023-2024 reporting period, Compassion for Communities recruited 5 new Trustees with wide experience in business leadership, religious charity and community organisation governance, academic research and church leadership.

A total of more than £3000 was raised through fundraising events in partnership with local churches.

In Zimbabwe, C4C also recruited a team of trustees and engaged stakeholders such as the local university in the Midlands, a local newspaper, government departments and local Agriculture Extension Workers and Agricultural training organisations.

Initiatives towards the registration of C4C Zimbabwe were also initiated.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____ Date

Name, Chair

COMPASSION FOR COMMUNITIES
 Receipts & payments account
 For the year ended 31 MARCH 2024

Receipts - £3908

Receipts

	2023-24	2022-23
<i>Restricted Income</i>	3870	0
<i>Other receipts(Fundraising)</i>	<u>38</u>	<u>582</u>
Total receipts	<u>3908</u>	<u>582</u>

Payments - £1205

As at 01 April 2023

<i>Bank; Current a/c</i>	979
<i>Petty cash</i>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>979</u>

As at 31 March 2024

<i>Bank; Current acc</i>	4326
<i>Petty Cash</i>	0

Bank and cash at the end of the period **4326**

COMPASSION FOR COMMUNITIES

Statement of assets and liabilities

As at 31/03/24

	£
Cash assets	4326

Other assets

2022-2023	Current Value	
<i>1x Chest Freezer (Asset Transfer)</i>	65	82
<i>1 x Set of Chafing Dishes</i>	<u>83</u>	
<i>104</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<u>148</u>	

Total Cash Assets + Other Assets = £4474

Liabilities -None

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____
Name, Treasurer

Dated _____