



**Changu Changu Moto Project
Dining for Women Interim Report
September 2016**

Information

Organization Name	RIPPLE Africa Inc
Program Title	Changu Changu Moto Project
Grant Amount	\$45,000
Contact Person	Kay Yoder
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What was the Program designed to achieve?

The funding received by Dining for Women was to enable RIPPLE Africa to build 3,000 Changu Changu Moto fuel-efficient cookstoves in Malawi, directly benefitting 3,000 women and an estimated 4,500 girls. There have been no changes to the funding or organization of the program.

Challenges Faced

Since our last report to you in February, the area in which we are working has experienced severe flooding. The rainy season was late arriving in northern Malawi this year and when it did arrive, the Mzuzu area was badly flooded.

Unfortunately, many of the householders who had built Changu Changu Motos lost their kitchens (usually a mud-built outhouse). However, it has been heart-warming to see that many have rebuilt the Changu Changu Moto themselves without waiting for help.



Extreme flooding devastating Mzuzu during the rainy season.



A rebuilt Changu Changu Moto in a kitchen damaged by the flooding.

What progress have you made towards achieving your objectives?

We divided the project into two areas and recruited a coordinator to supervise the progress of the Community Lead Volunteers (the women who are responsible for training householders in how to construct, use and maintain their Changu Changu Moto).

Unfortunately, because of the severe flooding experienced earlier this year, progress has somewhat been delayed due to this setback. We now have 2,019 cookstoves in use and the remainder of our planned 3,000 cookstoves will be constructed by the end of October 2016. There is a huge desire for these cookstoves and the delays caused by the need to rebuild kitchens following the floods have been frustrating for us and for the women who are anxiously awaiting a stove. Even our staff had difficulty accessing the area during this year's rainy season.

We have worked closely with Forestry Department staff, leaders in each community, and councillors to ensure that there is full understanding of the numerous benefits of the new cookstove. These benefits include reduced risk of burns and smoke inhalation because of the stove's design, and the positive impact on the natural environment due to the reduction of wood and charcoal needed for cooking.

We recently conducted a survey of women who are using the Changu Changu Moto. Our findings include the following:

- One of the ladies told us that she used to spend around 5,000MK (\$7) per month on wood and charcoal when using the less efficient three-stone-fire cooking method. She now spends only 2,000MK (\$3) per month. The money she saves on wood can now be used to improve other aspects of her family's life. Now she is now able to afford 'better medicine and more food'.
- Another woman told us that she saves 5,000MK (\$7) per month on wood and is now able to 'afford school fees, soap, electric and water bills, and new clothes'. Malawi is considered one of the poorest countries in the world so this \$7/month savings is significant.
- Another said she is 'able to spend more hours working on her tomato business.' The savings have enabled her to 'buy more tomatoes to sell and earn a greater income' which she puts towards her new doormat-making business.
- One man explained to us that his family feels safer with the Changu Changu Moto in their house. In the past, a pot of hot water fell off the unstable three-stone-fire and landed on one of his children causing burn injuries. Furthermore, his asthmatic daughter has suffered fewer asthma attacks because the Changu Changu Moto produces less smoke. He thinks the Changu Changu Moto is safer and sturdier than the three-stone-fire and he is thankful for this.

Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?

We do not anticipate any problems with completing the project. Our goal is to have the remaining cookstoves built within the next two months, which will still allow us ample time to spend with householders reinforcing the message about how to use and maintain their Changu Changu Moto. Ensuring that the women continue to use the new cookstove until it becomes a way of life is a key element of this project and fundamental to its overall long-term success.

We would like to pass on grateful thanks from the ladies of Mzuzu to Dining for Women for this support. They LOVE their new cookstoves...

**TAWONGA UKONGWA!
(Thank you very much!)**



One of our recent visitors, a member of Dining for Women, learning with a householder how to build a Changu Changu Moto