



Division of Resettlement (DoR) under
the Office of the Vice President (OVP).



SCHWEIZER AGRICULTURE AND RESETTLEMENT DIVISION (RD) UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (OVP) TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS TO FINANCE (TWG-A2F)

JANUARY 2025, MONTHLY REPORT



Report made by:

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Chairperson - Technical Working
Group on Access to Finance
(TWG - A2F)

Resettlement Scheme
Resettlement Division of the
Office of the Vice President (OVP)

Chongwe District,
Zambia

Ms. Violet Mtika

Technical Working Group on
Access to Finance
(TWG - A2F)

Ministry of Community Development
and Social Services

Chongwe District,
Zambia

Ms. Cholwe Kagoli

Technical Working Group on
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(TWG - A2F)

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1. ATTENDANCE



The Access to Finance Technical Working Group met on Wednesday 30th/01/2025 at the Kanakatapa Resettlement scheme in Chongwe District. In attendance were 07 members representing their respective cooperatives and two officers from the Resettlement Division (RD) also joined the meeting. The following cooperatives were represented:

1. Evergreen Women Cooperative-Christine Ngoma Phiri
2. Kanakantapa women Association-Lydia Mudenda
3. Kanakantapa young Women-Elizabeth Chembe
4. Kanakantapa Health Foods-Stella Kango
5. Tuzenje multi-purpose-Robson Chipangula
6. Antioch Multi-purpose-Veronica Banda
7. Kwacha Multi-purpose-Louisa Sakala Shawa
8. Resettlement Division (RD) - Mwanchanika Msiska
9. Resettlement Division (RD) - Dick Malinda

2. DELIBERATIONS



The meeting was called to order by **Ms Violet Mtika**, the Co-Chairperson of the Technical Working Group on Access to Finance and officer from the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, at 11:00 hours. Mr. Robson Chipangula offered the opening prayer, after which the chairperson invited all participants to introduce themselves.



Ms Violet Mtika

Co-Chairperson for the TWG-A2F and officer of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services



Mr. Robinson Chipangula

Member of the Technical Working Group on Access to Finance (TWG - A2F)



In her opening remarks, Madam Mtika welcomed all attendees, acknowledging their determination to attend the meeting despite the heavy rain. She noted that their presence demonstrated their passion and commitment to fulfilling their duties and achieving the tasks ahead.



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3. ACCESS TO FINANCE REPORT

Schweizer Agriculture was represented by its Access to Finance Unit Chief Executive Officer **Ms Cholwe Kagoli** of Kachi Agriculture Micro Finance. Madam Cholwe emphasized the significant task assigned to the committee, highlighting that access to finance is a major challenge for most smallholder farmers. This issue has historically hindered farmers' development and their ability to lift themselves out of poverty, impacting sustainable economic growth.

Often, commercial banks, NGOs, and government initiatives, such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and the Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC), announce the availability of funds for various groups across different sectors, including agriculture. However, experience has shown that many of our cooperatives and individual farmers find it difficult to access these funds because they do not meet the eligibility requirements set by these funding sources.



Ms Cholwe Kagoli
CEO

Kachi Agri Micro Finance speaking to TWG-A2F in Chongwe at Kanakantapa Resettlement Scheme administration offices.

The primary task of the Technical Working Group (TWG) is to enable cooperatives and farmers to become eligible for financing, making them attractive candidates for potential funders by ensuring they meet all requirements. This will require close collaboration with various partners and stakeholders across different sectors, ultimately creating commercial relationships and systems that benefit all parties involved and foster sustainable long-term partnerships.

So, the critical question is: where do we start?



Each of the 10 cooperatives needs to begin organizing their affairs even before funding opportunities become available. They must demonstrate good record-keeping, financial management, and discipline by ensuring that the following tasks are completed at the cooperative level:



Each cooperative must open a bank account and ensure that all funds pass through this account before being used. This practice facilitates easy tracking and creates a robust transaction history. Funders, such as banks, will typically require account creation with them for seamless transactions and monitoring of resource utilization. Kachi has established relationships with banks and quasi banks such as ZANACO, ABSA, NATSAVE, ZICB, CEEC, and CDF.



Common pre-financing documents for loans including asset financing and working capital, must include:

- Financial Statements
- Audited Financial Statements
- Management Accounts
- Cash Flow Projections
- Business Plans
- Cooperative Profiles



It is the responsibility of the *TWG-A2F* to ensure that each cooperative possesses these essential documents. Many cooperatives currently lack such documents, which significantly hampers their operations. Kachi Agriculture Micro Finance will bridge this gap by developing these documents for the cooperatives, ensuring they are credible and appealing to funders. Kachi will offer these services while also considering funding requirements.



Additional important documents include:

- Cooperative Registration Certificate
- Articles of Association
- Title Deeds in the farmer's name
- Right Certificates from regulatory agencies, such as WARMA (Water Permit) for irrigation projects
- Cooperative Logo, Vision, and Mission Statement
- Asset Register



Capacity Building and Training

Given that our cooperatives lack financial literacy, one of the key roles of the TWG-A2F is to facilitate capacity-building and training programs for the cooperatives.



These programs will help them understand the importance of financial documents and record-keeping.



The training will include hands-on practical experience and introduce tools that can enhance financial discipline and record-keeping practices

Flashback December, 2024: The Co-Chairperson for the Technical Working Group on Access to finance, **Ms. Violet Mtika** an officer from the Ministry of Community



Development and Social Services projected a consolidated approach in finding solutions for the Kanakantapa Resettlement Scheme of Chongwe District.



The Co Chairperson, **Ms. Violet Mtika** mentoring farmers in the implementation of their projects when **funding is secured** to ensure appropriate use and payback.



July 2024: Launch of 5000ha agricultural project in Kanakantapa Resettlement Scheme, Chongwe district. Representatives from youth horticultural farmers, Schweizer Agriculture, Office of the Vice President, Ministry of Community Development and Social Service, Absa, Seedco Zambia, Amiran, and Munkotachi joined forces to promote sustainable agriculture and empower small-scale farmers.

Other products and services to be facilitated through the TWG-A2F

COMPACTS LOANS



CROP INSURANCE



WALKING TRACTORS



SEEDS



INPUTS



LIVESTOCK



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



BEEES HONEY



AQUACULTURE



HORTICULTURE



POULTRY



CAPITAL EQUIPMENT POLICY



4. GENERAL COMMENTS



Mr Robinson Chipangula requested Kachi and the Department of Resettlement to develop an App or any Resource to enhance record keeping both at the Cooperative and Farmer level.



Evergreen Women cooperative representative acknowledged the lack of knowledge in managing cooperative resources. One common practice was the issue of not depositing cooperative money into the Bank accounts to have easy access to the resources when they are needed.



Kwacha Multi-purpose also acknowledged that the training was an eye opener to them as a cooperative in terms of being accountable as well as record keeping not been practiced.



Department of resettlement through the two participants, came up with an idea of creating an app which can help farmers.



Cooperatives and farmers' lands are not on the title and if titled the title is not in their names. The value of their lands are also not known. No land evaluation has ever been done as such land cannot be used as collateral.



The scheme manager, encouraged the TWG members to not only learn but also ensure that what they have learned reaches their respective cooperatives and action is taken as soon as possible.

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BRINGING IDEAS & INNOVATION
TO LIFE THROUGH AID FOR TRADE

NEXT STEPS



Introduction of cooperative representatives to potential funders to clarify funding requirements and develop a check list of requirements



Establish gaps in financial documents for each of the 10 cooperatives and Kachi to start building a financial database for the 10 cooperatives



Prepare and plan for the initial financial literacy activity.



THANK YOU.



AGRICULTURE, AGRI BUSINESS,
HORTICULTURE & FORESTRY

SECTORS



Inputs



Agricultural Mechanization



Financial Inclusion



Access To Markets



Capacity Building Through Technical Assistance and Support.