

This report summarises achievements at the end of the 3-year funding period from QPSW.

The QPSW grant has had a much wider impact than simply providing training for 10 young farmers as originally envisaged. For a start 15 farmers have participated in the programme. The whole community has pulled together on the project. The subsistence farmer who allowed a part of his field to be used for the greenhouses has kept an eye on security day and night, he manages the newly installed water pump and solar panel and his wife provides lunch for the farmers each day. The couple benefit from a supply of tomatoes and through taking an interest in the project they have found a new lease of life. They, and some elderly neighbours, also benefit from the water supply from the borehole. Two trustees from the UK visited in March 2023 and met two of the farmers and the agronomist who is frequently on-site to provide advice. One farmer told us she has been able to pay school fees for her children, the other has been enabled to support his elderly parents.

Our original application in 2020 included the aspiration that by the end of year 3 there would be several groups of farmers spread across the district learning and practising greenhouse technology. However, Green Olive Foundation discerned that this was too ambitious and it would be better to concentrate on one successful project from which the local team and the wider community could benefit. This was reflected in the year 3 grant application, most of which was to cover expansion of the existing project, including provision of an onsite borehole.



Borehole drilling with greenhouse in background

Year 3 expenditure does not closely match the budget submitted at the outset. Nothing has been spent on travel, as training was given on-site. However, it was necessary to pay for transport, in the early months before the borehole was in use, to fetch water from the river, and also for moving hired equipment for digging the borehole.

Costs of materials and transport have risen considerably during the project and have eaten into the available funds. However, we are pleased to note that the team locally has made the project work by covering the increase in costs through use of income from sales of tomatoes and with the support of the wider community.

When items of equipment have cost more than originally budgeted the team has rallied around. Individual Green Olive Foundation members have found a way to personally fund some of the additional costs. There has been less expenditure on formal training and more reliance on on-site learning provided by the agronomist. A deposit has been paid for the solar panel and related equipment, which are now in use, and the team has been allowed several months to pay off the balance as they receive income from the sale of tomatoes. Despite higher costs all round it has still been possible to share the benefits of the income from tomatoes.

When the costs of essential equipment and supplies have gone over budget, or there have been unexpected setbacks (e.g. storm damage to greenhouses, or the additional cost of locating a good spot for the borehole) there has been a can-do attitude. This has often meant spending all the money available at a given moment and delaying less urgent aspects of the budget (paying for training, storage etc.) until the funds could be raised locally. This has felt risky to UK-based trustees but has worked well locally where there is a strong community sense of ubuntu<sup>1</sup>. The solar panel has cost more than double the estimated amount, but an arrangement has been negotiated with the supplier to pay an initial deposit and pay off the balance in monthly instalments using income from the sale of tomatoes.

We are assured that funds from sales of tomatoes and financial support provided by Green Olive Foundation members in Kenya have covered project overspend and additional costs and that the project is now in a sustainable position to continue without further funding from UK sources.

GOT Trustees who have visited have been inspired by the way the community pulls together and are aware of the strong leadership role played by members of the community who have in the past been recipients of Green Olive student bursaries to enable their university education. Top-up funds have also been provided by these Green Olive alumni.

Appendix 1 GOTGOF Project Monitoring Form. Detailed report from Green Olive Foundation

Appendix 2 Financial Report

Appendix 3 Tomato Revenues

Appendix 4 Examples of Daily Finance Records.

Appendix 5 Photos

Bronwyn Harwood, Green Olive Trust UK, GOTGOF project Quaker link  
Oscar Shamalla, Green Olive Foundation Kenya  
Fiona Roberts, Green Olive Trust UK

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<sup>1</sup> <https://fwcc.world/living-the-spirit-of-ubuntu-in-2023/>