

# PROGRESS REPORT MATIBI NOOK HUB

OCTOBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022



Report Written by : Gilbert T. Rupere

For Leopold Bachmann Foundation

Date: 24 March 2022

## **Table of Content**

<b>Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
OUTREACH	4
IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY	6
INDUCTION	9
ONSET OF EARLY PROJECTS	10
Learner Stories	11
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	13
CHALLENGES	14
LEARNINGS	15
RECOMMENDATIONS	15
Financial Report	16
Future Plans	16

# Summary

This report gives an outline of the development of Matibi Nook Hub journey from the period covering October 2021 to March 2022. The report precisely shows the flow of activities that have taken place, the process, challenges, impacts to the learners, facilitators and Marawi community. This report also showcases our plans and hopes for the future. To date, 50 learners registered and are part of the Nook exploring different projects across various areas of skills and knowledge – which is one of the greatest achievements of Matibi Nook Hub. As mentioned above, the nook opened its doors in October 2021. However, the nook had to close for one week in March 2022 because one of the learners tested positive for COVID-19.

## OUTREACH

The most exciting experience for our team was going around the villages and talking to different families and learning about their expectations, desires and dreams as we were doing outreach for our new batch of learners. Outreach meetings were conducted in June 2021 with the Mwenezi District Administrator where courtesy calls were done to introduce the nook staff and appeal for assistance in coordinating with TelOne (internet service provider) and Rural Electrification Agency (REA) an agent which is responsible for the rural electrification process. The outcome of the meetings were successful as the DA promised to assist on the issues tabled and to continue supporting the organization as it is working on uplifting the marginalized community of Matibi.

Another courtesy call to Mwenezi Rural District was made and the team met up with the Chief Executive Officer of the Council who was pleased with the progress of

completing the Nook structure. He vowed that the council would continue to support the FFM Trust in implementing all its projects.

During these meetings, the local community management, the chief, councilor and the village heads were given clarifications on how the nook will be operating as there was a misconception of how and what the nook was all about and how the community would benefit from it. However, there were some concerns raised by the community disability committee on having more disabled learners to be enrolled as they are left out in some of the community projects hence they need special attention, provisions for toilets for the disabled was made and construction of door ramps and pathways which will be used for wheelchairs has been tabled for this financial year.

In October 2021 we conducted home visits to 3 selected villages namely Kure, Chirongo and Chamaona Village which are surrounding the nook to sensitize the community members on how the nook will be enrolling and operating, 21 homesteads were reached out too. During our visits we met up with grandmothers who are also guardians taking care of their grandchildren. They were unable to come and participate in the enrolling process because their responsibilities were too demanding.

The major concern from the outreach was the community expectations of an incentive (monetary, food etc) to be given out when they come to the nook which showed how the community has become depended on getting handouts rather than acquiring skills to empower themselves. The Nook is challenging this notion by creating opportunities for the community members to explore their passions, increase their knowledge and skills to become independent and not dependent on handouts.





## **EDISON CHALLENGE**

To inspire the spirit of invention and to stir learners to learn new things they have never tried before or even thought possible. Matibi Nook Hub took part in the Edison Challenge from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of December where learners were tasked to make electricity that can light an LED bulb to a minimum of 30 seconds using unconventional means.

The idea behind the Edison challenge was to design, execute and present the most innovative, unique and sustainable ways to generate electricity. The project was pursued at the Nook center using tools readily available at the center or request for additional materials only if no alternative could be found on the ground. Learners for this particular challenge were divided into six groups. Critical thinking skills and creativity were identified amongst learners which they demonstrated through

submission and presentation of different ideas which included the use of potatoes, spark plugs, alcohol, bicycle dynamo to generate electricity.

Project outcomes were innovative, challenging and exciting. Out of the six (6) groups two (2) successfully met the criteria and the **most innovative award** was scooped by the team which managed to create electricity using the **bicycle dynamo** and the **best team effort** by the team which created electricity using potatoes. While the challenge was successful, one challenge faced was absenteeism from learners worsened by the rainy season and some learners who lacked commitment.



Pictures of learners participating in the Edison Challenge.

## **IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY**

At the beginning of the Project, the general assumptions by the community were that the nook was going to be a general community hall, holding meetings, events and the like which was totally different from the goal of the Nook. The general feeling in the community was that of exploitation for something that did not have a direct impact on them and their community. However, after a successful outreach by the team on the ground the community's mindsets have transformed.

There is an understanding of the functions of the Nook and how they should utilize it and this has been demonstrated by the number of learners coming across from far away villages walking a distance of more than 12kms and beyond our ward. This has hindered a lot more learners from utilizing the space and unavailability of accommodation at the Nook to give access to most.

The Nook has created a space for students from surrounding schools to come to the Nook to learn how to use computers and the internet for research and learning purposes. This creates an inclusive space that facilitates relationship building between the learners and students from different backgrounds. The Nook hub has proved its ability to extend its impact beyond the learners.

The growing number of young people who finish school or drop out and are idle at home is leading to many social problems in the community ranging from teenage pregnancies, early marriages, drug abuse and other destructive actions amongst youth. The Nook hub has started bridging that gap by empowering young people to discover their talents, providing them with resources to learn skills that will improve standards of living within their communities. The Nook's age agnostic concept has given everyone a fair chance from young people aged 15years to seniors aged



68years becoming learners. This has aided their development as well harnessing the global goals agenda of leaving no one behind.

Connecting and networking with different stakeholders working in the community ie Non-Governmental Organizations in the ward has created beneficial relationships within the community. Mobilization has been made easy through collaborations with local stakeholders which also provides pathways for future collaborations for shared goals, which will help our learners make the connections they need for their growth in any field of their interest.



## **INDUCTION**

The Nook opened its doors to the community with a total of 50 learners enrolled. The challenge we faced immediately was the decrease in numbers due to the starting of the farming season. In order to engage learners and not strain the existing budget line it was agreed that learners would help with making beds bases that will be used at the nook by nook fellows, DEFY team and visitors. The team manufactured the beds

themselves, in the process acquiring useful carpentry skills that will be shared with the Nook learners. The whole bed making process showed positive results as the community was slowly understanding the concept of collaboration and how it will be implemented and used in the Nook.



## **ONSET OF EARLY PROJECTS**

Early projects were conducted from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of February with the aim being to familiarize and inspire new learners as they start a new journey. The new set of goals set for the early projects was to identify learners' strength and give room for



exploring different future activities. In the period under review a total of 7 projects were done focusing on the following:

1. Chandelier
2. Folding Table and Handy Stool
3. Automatic Hand Sanitizer
4. Outdoor Multipurpose Stove
5. Outdoor Water Treatment Plant
6. Reusable Sanitary Pads
7. Washing Machine

We started the early projects with a total average of 22 learners, with the kind of projects which were being done the news spread like wildfire as people started flocking into the center to have first hand experience of what the learners were making.



## Learner Stories



My name is Agness Mafefe and I am 23 years old. I come from Chamaona village in Mwenezi district in Zimbabwe. I am a married mother of one boy, Asheny Muguti who is my best friend. We are always together even at the Nook since I don't have anyone to babysit him. The facilitators always babysit him while I work on my projects, he has become everyone's friend at the nook. Due to the tough economic conditions in Zimbabwe my husband was forced to cross the border to look for greener pastures in the neighboring country South Africa. When I joined the nook I wanted to do hairdressing and other technical skills that have always been dominated by men. But now I have changed my mind, I want to make weaves, braids and hair sprays. I hope that in the year 2023 I will be able to make hair food, hair spray, with my own shop supplying people who want my product in Mwenezi district. I have learnt that a woman's place is not only in the kitchen as it has always been said since time immemorial. So far I have done many projects for example making beds, making a water treatment plant and also screen printing. I have gotten exposed to so many new things and I have seen I am capable of anything I put my mind to. I see myself having a hard time purchasing some things because I have seen how easy it is to make them on my own. Since I really want to have my own salon, I will work on it this cycle, and then next cycle I want to do something related to electronics. I really enjoyed the time we did a bit of

electronics. In my group we manage to make a handbag with LEDS inside which turn on when you open the zipper.

My name is Eunice Phiri. I come from Mafirenyika village which is about 10km away. I finished my A Levels in 2020. In 2021 that's when I heard about the nook. When I came, I wanted to learn about baking, but to my surprise there were many other things going on. I partook in the Edison challenge and at some point, I felt like quitting the nook all together because I didn't think I was smart enough to do some of the



things. But through time and encouragement from the friends I made here and our facilitators I carried on. To my surprise, my team got the best effort prize. When we opened this year, I got introduced to many other things through the projects we were doing like carpentry, electronics, screen printing. During our early projects our team was making a hand sanitizer dispenser with facial recognition. This dispenser can serve as an attendance register and log book. Even though early projects are over, our project is still going on. We even registered for the global demo day which took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of march 2022. When we start our 3 months projects, I doubt I'm still going to do baking. I got really interested in screen printing so I think that's what I will do.





My name is Hardlife Chipwanya. I am 28 years old and I come from Chamaona village. I am a father of one boy aged 1 year 8 months. During my free time I like to relax with my friends and drink local brewed beer while talking about life and the challenges we face as a marginalized community.

Currently I'm unemployed. I joined the nook because I had nothing to do and I wanted to check out the place. To my surprise when I got there, I was fascinated by the environment there and the kind of projects which were being done. That is when I joined matibi nook hub. While I was at the nook, I was part of the batch that did Edison challenge. The Edison challenge was fun but challenging. Sometimes I would feel like just leaving it all because I didn't see the point. But as time went on, I got more and more involved until the day we did our presentation. Having done the Edison challenge my mind has been constantly changing. My view toward life and the way we live is completely changing day by day. Now even when I'm not at the nook, I'm able to make a few items at home which can help me and my family get by.

By continuing to come to the nook, my hope is that I will be at a better position in my life. I wish that one day people in my community can see things and say "That was made by Mr Hardlife Chipwanya."

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

There is a strong link between United Nations global goals or SDGs and the idea of self-learning which is the center stage of the nook concept. Good quality education is an essential tool for achieving a more sustainable world. The nook concept will achieve and be able to cover SDGs.



**4 - Quality Education**

**8 - Decent work and Economic growth**

**10 - Reduce Inequalities**

The goal for Nook concept is to focus on educational and new learning dimensions on sustainable development whilst creating solutions to common problems and making a differences in marginalized communities and having the potential for replication in a way that will be sustainable to the livelihoods of the communities



## CHALLENGES

This past year has been unpredictable with so many challenges that made it difficult to start the Nook on the planned time and made us also look at problem solving and critical thinking in different situations thrown at us either by the pandemic, economy crushing, farming season and even construction. The Nook came and showed us that challenges are just a way for us to learn new ways of solving problems. Below are some of the challenges we faced:

1. Lockdown restrictions which were imposed during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic (2020-2021) affected the timeline of events from late completion on construction of the structure, relocation of nook fellows from Nkulumane Nook to Mabiti Nook, enrolling and opening the nook to the public.
2. Some contractors who were awarded tenders to work on the completion of the nook hub provided substandard material and services which then delayed in opening the nook.
3. The budgets which was there from the onset had no provision to accommodate nook fellows who were going to be staying such as (Kitchen appliances, Bedroom furniture) at the nook hence there were changes made to the budget to accommodate them but there were delays in approving of the budgets due to price hikes which were happening at the time.
4. Funds allocated to purchase nook tools as per Project Defy requirements proved to be insufficient as prices of tools in Zimbabwe were too high which led to the decision to have the tools bought in neighboring country South Africa.
5. The nook is now operational. We still have challenges for learners to continue learning each day when they leave the nook for their homes as there are limited resources for them to use due to the nature of the community. This has seen

more time being used to induct learners as to have better understanding of the whole concept we are implementing

## **LEARNINGS**

1. Price changes - Due to the unstable pricing system and high inflation in Zimbabwe we have learnt that our budget should be reviewed every half year.
2. Monitoring - To have constant monitoring of contractors who would have been awarded tenders to work at the center this will reduce mistakes, misuse of the raw material and improve the quality of work to be done.
3. Mindset Change - Through the community outreach meetings conducted and also projects which have been done at the nook we are now witnessing a change in the community on how people understand the nook concept and all its benefits.
4. Team Efficiency - Nook fellows and swiss team working hand in hand with the Project Defy team have shown great teamwork and this has made it easy for the team on the ground to work smoothly and in a coordinated manner.
5. Motivation - Community members are now being motivated to join the nook by the projects which they see being done by other learners.
6. Children's Corner - Children's corner came about when we realized that young mothers who come to the nook do not have someone to attend to their children while they are doing their projects and this would disturb their attention. Nook fellows take turns in engaging with the children doing things like nappy change, feeding and playing with them.
7. Gender disparity - Over the period of time since the nook opened its doors to the community we have seen high number of girls and young mother's participating compared to the young boys and men

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to the numbers of learners we are enrolling who are coming from beyond our ward and far villages hence the need to have hostels built within the nook premises arise as this will not strain learners to walk longer distances to access the nook.
- Reviewing of budgets should be done on a half yearly basis so as not to allow room for inflation to disturb the allocated budget line and the work that should be done.
- Recruitment of volunteers who will be working hand in hand with nook fellows and be able to get an incentive as an appreciation for their contribution
- With the Nook Concept being implemented there is also need to have activities that that will cover the elements of psychosocial support as to have a holistic approach in helping each and every learner and overcome their challenges

## Financial Report

ACTIVITIES	BUDGET FOR 2021-2022	ACTUAL COST 2021-2022	surplus	overdraft
<b>Subdivision 1:infrastructure</b>				
Understructure	\$ 15,887	\$ 15,887	\$ -	\$ -
Superstructure	\$ 11,900	\$ 11,900	\$ -	\$ -
Priority fixtures	\$ 25,092	\$ 25,092	\$ -	\$ -
Solar power	\$ 10,406	\$ 10,514		\$ (108.00)
internet	\$ 7,465	\$ 1,828	\$ 5,637.00	\$ -
plumbing	\$ 3,128	\$ 3,128	\$ -	\$ -
flooring	\$ 7,773	\$ 7,773	\$ -	\$ -
partitioning	\$ 2,365	\$ 2,365	\$ -	\$ -
Power sockets and fitting	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -
painting	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
<b>Subtotal infrastructure</b>	<b>\$ 87,516.00</b>	<b>\$ 80,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,029.00</b>	
<b>Subdivision 2: Equipage</b>				
Workshop requirements	\$ 4,375	\$ 4,980.00		\$ (605.00)
Office requirements	\$ 1,740	\$ 909.00	\$ 831.00	
Kitchen requirements	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,874.36		\$ (274.36)
<b>Subtotal equipage</b>	<b>\$ 7,715</b>	<b>\$ 7,763.36</b>		<b>\$ (48.36)</b>
<b>Subdivision 3: Operating costs</b>				
Running costs	\$ 9,550	\$ 7,039.00	\$ 2,511.00	
Human resources	\$ 10,120.00	\$ 10,040.00	\$ 80.00	
<b>Subtotal operating costs</b>	<b>\$ 19,670</b>	<b>\$ 17,079.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,591.00</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 114,901</b>	<b>\$ 105,329.36</b>	<b>\$ 9,571.64</b>	

In the financial period under review 2021-2022 there were adjustments of budget lines for the nook to run smoothly, there was reallocation of funds for the procurement of the Solar System which had a shortfall of \$108 because the available solar panels were 5.2KVA from the quoted 5KVA, then there was procurement of workshop tools & materials, kitchen appliances, bedroom furniture, and backup generator a total of \$8,862 was spent.

The reallocated funds were taken from the following budget lines:

- Kitchen Requirements - \$1 600.00
- Solar power maintenance - \$ 900.00
- Internet in Nook Hall - \$ 5 637.00
- Appliances and electricals - \$ 725.00

With the high cost of workshop tools and materials in Zimbabwe there was a need for us to procure workshop tools and materials from South Africa.

## **Global Demo Day**

On the 17th of March 2022 DEFY hosted the first ever Global Demo Day (GDD). GDD is basically an exciting presentation of innovative projects by learners. The purpose of this event was to help learners talk about their projects, improve their skills, take constructive criticism and learn about business professionalism. Apart from the above mentioned, the event was also there to help in purchasing or funding the learners' projects. In total there were 15 teams from different countries (India, Zimbabwe, Rwanda). Out of the 15, 2 teams were from matibi nook hub.

The first team from matibi was showcasing a Chandelier made out of pvc pipe. This chandelier was meant to aid people living with disabilities since it had lights which turn on and off automatically depending on the time of the day. The second team was showcasing a hand sanitiser dispenser with facial recognition. This dispenser also takes attendance of learners as soon as they sanitize. The aim of this project was to get rid of log books/hard copy attendance registers.

Hand Sanitiser Dispenser Pitch:  
<https://youtu.be/eE9RyLRL8CA>

Hand Sanitiser Dispenser Demo:  
<https://youtu.be/w00HfoKBc2Q>

Chandelier Pitch:  
[https://youtu.be/LdZS\\_nOKOGs](https://youtu.be/LdZS_nOKOGs)

Chandelier Demo:  
<https://youtu.be/Twq8ezmLAzk>



## Future Plans

- Matibi Nook Hub is expected to commence its 1st goal cycle in April 2022 to June 2022 and we are looking forward to seeing what the learners come up with.
- The DEFY team will be traveling to Zimbabwe to help us launch our first cycle and also learn the processes of running a Nook.
- We will hold Monthly Nook Health Monitor conversations to help us check on the Nook's status and growth trajectory.
- Matibi Nook Hub is expected to host an exhibition week that will mark the end of the 1st goal cycle.
- Outreach event to mobilise for the 2nd goal cycle expected to commence in August 2022 we will conduct an outreach program.

The nook faced major setbacks on timelines which were set due to lockdown restrictions, hence the timeline was shifted from 2021 to 2022 this has made the nook to perform well as the country adjusted level 1 lockdown which allows learners to be able to at least complete 2 learning cycles without interference. In conclusion the nook concept has made positive impact within the community, to the nook fellows and the entire FFM Trust team, lessons are being drawn and there are improvements and impact on how the concept is being implemented at Matibi Nook Hub which has seen more stakeholders being interested in copying some of the mechanisms used. The budget for 2022-2023 has been drafted with a proposed budget range of \$ 71,762 to \$ 86 114 (see Excel sheet "Nook Budget 2022", compared to the previous year budget of \$ 62 022 there are adjustments of budget lines which have been made).

Those changes were lessons learnt in the previous financial year on how we have implemented our programs and also a high inflation rate in the country.

In conclusion we would like to thank the L.B Foundation support which is making the Matibi Nook Hub implementation of projects a success.



Join us for this educational revolution the Matibi Nook Hub is about to show the community.

Facebook: Matibi Nook Hub

Instagram: @matibinookhub

Email: [sheldon.siziba@matibi.ch](mailto:sheldon.siziba@matibi.ch) (Nook Hub Manager)

[gilbert.rupere@matibi.ch](mailto:gilbert.rupere@matibi.ch) (Innovations Lead)

[adnos.chikomo@matibi.ch](mailto:adnos.chikomo@matibi.ch) (FFM Projects Coordinator)