



## **BUSINESS UPDATES FOR JANUARY 2024**



**Introduction**: We started off the year at Lifesong Businesses with excitement and anticipation as to the new year. In spite of the schools not being open yet, our operations continued and are expecting great results.

Lifesong



**Twalima Farm & Nursery**: At the Nursery, the clearing of trees and land were underway. This allowed for more growth for the products that were there and growing. At Twalima Farm, the tunnels were under construction. The onions and cabbage were growing well. All previous products were sold, including the onions from the previous harvest. In addition, the transplant of Banana baby plants from Baluba Farm, were growing well and being prepared to be transplanted in the ground on the farm. Overall the team on the ground is doing well with the support of Peter from back-office, guiding and advising as to the activities on the farm. With the rainy season at hand, the timing of activities has to be carefully managed. After a heavy rain, it is difficult to move around and conduct business.



**Berry Farms**: At the Berry Farm, we are continuing with the current Strawberry harvest. Overall the current harvest, is better than expected for this time of the year. Not only are our customers grateful for that (we can not keep up with the demand), but we far exceeded our projections for revenue for the month. In addition, we are preparing for our next import of plants from South Africa which should come in March. We are also starting to harvest our blueberries and raspberries. Though the harvest is small at this time, the fruit looks great and there is demand from our customers.





Lifesong Farms Business Office: With regards to the overall Lifesong Farms operations, we've added a Sales Assistant, John Mweebe, to support me in the managing of sales orders, customers communications, and growing our opportunity to sell others products within Lifesong Farms. We have had success with procuring products from our local Zambian suppliers and selling to our DRC customers. These other products, like tomatoes,

cucumbers, and different kind of peppers, are added to our current Lifesong product line in delivery and further support our customers requirements.

**Discipleship**: Unfortunately, since the schools have not been opened in Zambia due to the Cholera outbreak, we have not been able to have any student discipleship groups come out to the Farms. We hope and pray the student discipleship groups will start again sometime in February, once schools are opened up again.

Lifesong Lodge & Roast Café: Business has been a little slow due to holidays and school closures. Business has continued though. In order to generate more revenue, the Café is also now open on Mondays. At the Lodge, regular maintenance and repairs are being conducted in anticipation of the busier season we expect in the coming months.

Overall, we are looking forward to this new year, and the opportunity to growing and develop the Lifesong Businesses and support the greater missions of Lifesong for Orphans Zambia.

Thank you for your prayers, Joe Marton



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