

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

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Reference for Sylvia Anderson of Manna Consulting

During the months of August to November 2019, Sylvia Anderson was contracted to do monthly PME trainings with me, the Co-Representative of Mennonite Central Committee EswaLeSA (Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa).

I oversee the planning, monitoring and development of our partners' projects in these three countries. The partners vary widely in terms of size and capacity and their projects cover a number of different sectors. This necessitated me having a broader framework for best practices in PME as well as a good mix of PME tools that I understood and could draw on.

Sylvia and I met over four sessions to learn about and discuss such topics as: Community Engagement & Participation, Appreciative Inquiry, Analysis Tools (PESTEL, SWOT, BEEM, PRA), Asset-Based Community Development, and MERL. Each session was a helpful mix of the bigger picture, theoretical framework, and examples from Sylvia's experiences. As Sylvia came to understand MCC's partners and their work better she would readily relate the topics and tools to our context.

Throughout these months Sylvia welcomed feedback, suggestions for alterations to our planned topics, and opportunities to assist me in applying what I was learning to specific situations with specific partners, outside of the session times.

I would recommend Sylvia as an experienced development practitioner and a clear, relatable teacher of development tools and practices who listens, respects, and adapts to her audience.

Yours Sincerely,



Sarah E. Gould

MCC Co-Representative for Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa