



MALAWI LIVESTOCK FOR RESILIENCE (L4R)

Quarterly Report

October-December, 2014

Agreement AID-OFDA-G-14-00158

USAID/MALAWI

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Submitted to:

USAID/OFDA

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January 30, 2015

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	Area Development Committee
DEC	District Executive Committee
EPA	Extension Planning Area
GVH	Group Village Headman
L4R	Livestock for Resilience
LLF	Livestock Lead Farmer
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
TA	Traditional Authority
VDC	Village Development Committee
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Land O' lakes International Development is implementing the Malawi Livestock for Resilience project with a goal of building the resilience of disaster prone communities in Central Malawi to withstand climatic and economic shocks. During the reporting period, implementation of project activities was commissioned. The project accomplished key start up activities during the period, including recruitment of project personnel, stakeholder consultations, community mobilization and work planning among others. Key achievements during the quarter (October – December, 2014):

- ✓ Identified 10 communities for the implementation of the project
- ✓ Conducted orientation of project staff
- ✓ Developed project annual work plan
- ✓ Conducted a project stakeholders inception workshop
- ✓ Sensitized stakeholders at different levels: District Executive Committee (DEC); Area Development Committees (ADC), Village Development Committees (VDC) and; Stakeholder inception workshop where a Project Advisory Committee was instituted.
- ✓ Mobilized communities to form producer groups: so far, 75 production and marketing groups have been formed. More than half of the groups are producers of goats (39) while 36 groups are producers of chickens.
- ✓ Started the process of election of Village Agents as volunteers to support the VSLA operations.
- ✓ Prepared 8 fields for AnswerPlot™
- ✓ Procured project resources (laptops for project staff, two motor vehicles)
- ✓ Set-up project field offices in the operational districts - at Mponela and sub-offices in Dowa and Ntchisi

In the next quarter, the project will focus on continuing to identify or establish producer groups and training them on improved animal husbandry techniques, establishing VSLA groups and training them on saving, and conduction farmer demonstration at the Answer Plots.

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Malawi Livestock for Resilience (L4R) is a 23-month project funded by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The project is being implemented in two districts of Dowa and Ntchisi, covering 10 Group Village Headmen (GVHs) drawn from four (4) Extension Planning Areas (EPAs) of Nachisaka and Bowe, Dowa district and Malomo and Chipuka, Ntchisi district. The objective of the project is to build the resilience of disaster-prone communities in Central Malawi to withstand climatic and economic shocks. Overall, the L4R project is directly targeting 6,000 vulnerable households across the two districts, thereby reaching out to approximately 30,000 people who are highly exposed to disaster risks. The L4R project will work towards building and maintaining livestock asset base, improving technical capacity of smallholder farmers to enhance livestock production techniques, scale-up provision of animal health services and, increase savings and financial literacy.

1.2 ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

L4R is being implemented by Land O'Lakes Malawi through the national office with the Chief of Party based in Lilongwe. Land O'Lakes has established a field operations office at Mponela in Dowa district and sub-field offices in Ntchisi and Dowa district centers. The field team staff is comprised of a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Business and Marketing Specialists, Livestock specialists and supported by Chief of Party, Project Accountant and Administrative Assistant who are all based in the Lilongwe Office. The project team is backstopped by Land O'Lakes Global and Regional offices.

SECTION II: PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS BASED ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES

This section highlights the several program activities Land O'Lakes accomplished during the reporting period- October-December, 2014

2.1 LIVESTOCK ASSET BASE EXPANDED

Identification of livestock beneficiaries: Communities were sensitized about the voucher scheme to purchase goats or chickens and selection of beneficiaries will start in the next quarter

2.2 VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS' CAPACITY to MAINTAIN ASSET BASE INCREASED

Identification of producer groups and beneficiaries: During the reporting period, the project team conducted Area Development Committee (ADC) and Village Development Committee (VDC) meetings with an aim of mobilizing and sensitizing targeted communities about the project activities. The team engaged the community members to help identify producer groups and project beneficiaries. A total of four (4) ADC meetings were conducted with participation of 205 people (167 males & 38 female) that included Traditional Authorities (TA), GVH, Ward Counselors, ADC members, and Government officials. In addition, a total of 10 VDC meetings were held in all the targeted communities with a total participation of 704 people (446 males & 258 females). During the ADC and VDC meetings, participants were briefed about the project including objectives, lifespan, targeted beneficiaries, beneficiary selection criteria and project delivery mode. During the meetings, communities were sensitized on the project including the need for people to work in groups. After the meetings, participants were expected to members of their communities about the project to form self-selecting producer and marketing groups. During the reporting period, a training curriculum and materials on group dynamics, leadership and governance was developed. Selected groups will be trained in group dynamics, leadership and governance during the next quarter.

Establishments of AnswerPlot™: During the reporting period, a total of 8 AnswerPlot™ sites were identified. The size for each is 0.2 hectares. The project team worked with local leaders to prepare and demarcate the land for each best practice to be showcased to smallholder farmers. Planting of the plots is expected to be conducted at the beginning of the next quarter. Community members mobilized by local leaders provided labor to prepare the land. The AnswerPlot™ will be planted with a variety of recommended fodder crops and agroforestry trees to demonstrate best practices to smallholder farmers.

Conduct direct training of producer groups in business management: During the period, the team began development of training materials on business management. The project team is working on standardization and integration of business and market and livestock curriculums. The purpose of integrating business into livestock production is to change the mindsets of the farmers from being production oriented to a business led approach where the farmer views livestock as a business investment. Training of farmers has been scheduled to take place during the next quarter.

2.3 CAPACITY OF AND ACCESS TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES IMPROVED

Development of Paravet (Livestock Lead Farmer) model: This quarter, field staff developed a model which explains how Livestock Lead Farmers will be identified, trained and conduct their duties. During stakeholder's workshop, the Ministry of Agriculture recommended that Land O' lakes should not use the term paravet to refer to farmers selected to work on animal health as this term refers to trained and certified professionals. Instead, these will be referred to as Livestock Lead Farmers. Land O' Lakes started the process of selecting Livestock Lead Farmers (LLF) through a participatory selection process at community level. Final selection and training of these individuals is expected to be completed at the beginning of the next quarter.

Train community animal health worker in animal health and husbandry: During the period, a review of existing training materials was conducted and a curriculum developed. The training manual is undergoing review, editing and integration process with business manual.

Provision of animal health services to farmer groups and other livestock keepers by Community Livestock Workers (Agro-Vets): Field staff started the process of identifying service providers and the processes will be continued in the next quarter. The agro vet service providers are expected to contribute towards improved access to animal health among project participants and others in the targeted communities.

2.4 CAPACITY OF VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS TO PLAN, SAVE AND MITIGATE RISK IMPROVED

Develop Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model: During community entry meetings, participants were mobilized to form VSL groups or consolidate existing groups in their communities. Through a self-selection process, communities were asked to identify Village Agents (VAs) who will be overseeing operations of VSL as well as training VSL group members in savings and lending. During the reporting period, a total of 55 VAs (29 Males and 26 Females) were recruited after a participatory and competitive process which involved local leadership, Government officials and the Land O' Lakes project team. Communities selected the candidates and Land O' Lakes in liaison with the previously mentioned stakeholder interviewed and made the final selection. Selected individuals will be trained in VSL methodology next quarter. After the training, VAs are expected to organize producer groups to start savings as well as forming new VSL groups. Each VA will manage not more than three groups (two producer groups and one non producer group). It is expected that 150 Village Agents will be recruited. The process of recruiting VAs will continue in the coming quarter (Jan-Mar, 2015).

OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

There were several other achievements which were registered this quarter as follows:

Finalized baseline report: The baseline survey conducted by Imani consultants was finalized and approved by Land O' Lakes and submitted to USAID/OFDA

Conducted District Executive Committee (DEC) meetings: Two DEC meetings were conducted where 60 people (49 males and 11 females) were in attendance. During this meeting participants were oriented on the project objectives among other things.

Developed Annual work plan: During the reporting period, L4R staff developed an annual work plan and budgets for year 1 of the project.

Conduct a stakeholder inception workshop: a stakeholder's project inception workshop was conducted with a participation of 40 individuals representing public and private institutions. At the end of the workshop, a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) comprising of people from public and private institutions was constituted. The PAC is expected to meet on a quarterly basis and guide the project team in implementation of the project to improve performance.

Training workshops: Chief of Party and Project Accountant attended trainings in Zimbabwe and Zambia respectively. The CoP participated in a USAID Rules and Regulations training while the Project Accountant participated in Land O'Lakes training on Financial Management.

Procurement of motor vehicles: Purchase of two motor vehicles was done this quarter. However, procurement of motorcycles was delayed due to unavailability of required stock among suppliers in the country.

Procurement of Laptops: Laptop computers for project use were purchased during this quarter.

Branding and marking materials: USAID and Land O' lakes office, equipment and supplies signage was produced during the period and installed on supplies and equipment.

Orientation of project staff: Orientation of project staff was conducted during the period.

Recruitment of staff: Land O' Lakes has also hired two Assistant Business and Marketing Specialists Interviews for project drivers were also conducted in this quarter and the hiring process will be finalized in the coming quarter.

Office set up: Land O' Lakes have also secured office spaces in Dowa and Ntchisi districts. Two field offices are housed at Ministry of Agriculture premises in Dowa and Ntchisi while an operation office has been established at Mponela.

SECTION III: ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The activities implemented during this quarter have contributed towards realization of project indicators as follows¹:

GOAL LEVEL INDICATORS: Reduce risk through enhanced institutional and community capacities to respond to and mitigate the effects of disasters, strengthen the resiliency of vulnerable communities and reduce exposure to hazards.

Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities: The project team conducted registration of animals owned by members that joined producer groups. A total of 3,713 goats, 6,752 chickens, and 252 cattle were recorded from members who registered to join producer groups and these are expected to benefit from the project.

Number of people benefiting from livestock activities: There were no beneficiaries from livestock activities during the quarter. However, the project team registered 6,687 people who have expressed interest to participate in livestock activities.

Percent of households with viable herd/flock size: Among the people who indicated that they own goats upon registration, only 5.5% of the people have viable herd/ flock size, while for those who indicated that they own chickens, 55.3% have a viable herd/ flock size. Households with 8 or more goats; or five or more chickens were considered to have a viable herd or flock size. This indicator will be updated during an annual survey to be conducted in fall 2015.

Percent of female headed households with viable herd/flock size: Among the female headed households who indicated that they own goats upon registration, only 10.4% of the people have viable herd/ flock size, while for those who indicated that they own chickens, 57.1% have a viable herd/ flock size. This indicator will be updated during an annual survey to be conducted in fall 2015.

Number of people newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support: No beneficiaries have received financial services yet, but a total of 1,590 people who registered in the producer groups are also registered to participate in VSLA activities. Meetings and savings will start immediately after training Village Agents.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.1 LIVESTOCK ASSET BASE EXPANDED

Land O' Lakes has started forming groups and registering beneficiaries. Screening of eligible people to receive vouchers to purchase goats or chickens is in progress. Land O' Lakes is planning to have the first group purchase livestock in the next quarter.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.2: VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS' CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN ASSET BASE INCREASED

Number of producer groups formed and/or strengthened: No groups have been strengthened yet, but a total of 75 producer groups (36 for poultry and 39 for Goats) were formed this quarter.

Percentage of female members in assisted producer groups: Thirty seven (583/1,590) of the registered producer groups members are females. In the coming quarter, the project team will try to engage more women participants in the additional producer groups to meet the target of 50% female members.

Number of AnswerPlot™ established: Eight (8) fields have been provided and land preparation and clearing is in progress in readiness for planting.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 1.3: CAPACITY OF AND ACCESS TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES IMPROVED

Land O' Lakes has sensitized communities on the need to strengthen animal health services and community level. Producer group formation as well as identification of Livestock Lead Farmers (para-

¹ Data verification exercise will be conducted during the next quarter for some reported indicators.

vets) have started and will continue in the next quarter. Training of LLF and the actual provision of animal health services will be done in the next quarter.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 1.4: CAPACITY OF VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS TO PLAN, SAVE AND MITIGATE RISK IMPROVED

Land O' Lakes is forming producer groups which will also be doing savings. Identification of Village Agents who will facilitate savings, trainings and formation of other VSL groups at group level is in progress. Training of Village Agents and commencement of savings is scheduled to take place in the next quarter.

SECTION IV: CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNED

Delayed procurement of project resources, especially motorbikes and motor vehicles has affected execution of field activities. However, the project was able to use hired transport to implement project activities in this quarter.

Involvement of stakeholders (government staff, local leaders, communities and other partners) from the beginning of project signifies ownership and prepares fresh ground for project sustainability. During the project period, several key stakeholder consultation activities were conducted. Annex 2 illustrates a success story regarding a Stakeholders Project Inception workshop that engaged stakeholders from public and private institutions.

SECTION V: CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Land O'Lakes is on track with formation of producer groups, identification and training of Livestock Lead Farmers, establishment of VSLAs as well as establishments of AnswerPlot™. Despite having challenges identified, the project team has managed to form 75 producer groups, identify 8 sites for AnswerPlot™, conducted several meetings with communities and stakeholders. Land O' Lakes plans to train Livestock Lead Farmers, Village Agents, provide animal health services, finalize establishment of AnswerPlot™, as well as commencing VSL group savings this next quarter.

PLAN FOR NEXT QUARTER

The plan for the next quarter, January – March 2015, shall continue with the establishments of producer groups, Village Agents identification, AnswerPlot™ establishments among others. Details of key activities to be implemented this coming quarter shall include;

Intermediate result	Activity
Livestock asset base expanded	Identification of livestock beneficiaries
	Identification and screening of livestock suppliers
	Voucher creation and distribution
	Procurement of rings for poultry
	Procurement of tags and ear applicators for goats
	Facilitation of livestock trading (people)
Vulnerable Households' Capacity to Maintain Asset Base Increased	Identification of producer groups and beneficiaries
	Train producer/Marketing groups in Leadership and governance
	Training of farmers in animal husbandry and management by trained Livestock Lead Farmer
	Facilitate establishment of animal health fund among farmer groups
	Establishments of AnswerPlot™
	Trained Livestock Lead Farmers to train farmers in improved feed
	Conduct market assessment for goat and chicken value chains
	Conduct goat and poultry value chain analysis
	Facilitate linkages between farmer groups and markets
	Conduct direct training of producer groups in business management
Capacity of and Access to Animal Health and Livestock Extension Services Improved	Identification of Livestock Lead Farmer (Para-vets)
	Train Livestock Lead Farmers in animal health and housing
	Train Livestock Lead Farmer (Para-vets) in animal health services as business
	Procure and distribute animal health kit to Livestock Lead Farmers
	Provision of animal health services to farmer groups and other livestock keepers by Livestock Lead Farmers
Capacity of Vulnerable Households to Plan, Save and Mitigate Risk Improved	Facilitate establishment of VSLA groups with beneficiaries
	Train VSLA members on Savings and Loan

ANNEX 1: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE DATA TABLE

Quarterly Performance Data Table for L4R project

Project	Malawi Livestock for Resilience
Start Date	15-Jul-14
End Date	15-Jun-16

#	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Baseline		Q2	
			Year	Value	Target	Actual
USAID Goal						
1	Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	Total	2014	0	6,000	10177
		Goats	2014	0	2200	3173
		Chicken	2014	0	3600	6752
		Cattle	2014	0	200	252
2	Number of people benefiting from livestock activities	Total	2014	0	5,000	6687
		Male	2014	0	2450	3277
		Female	2014	0	2550	3410
3	Number of veterinary interventions, treatments or vaccinations administered	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Deworming	2014	0	0	0
		Vaccination	2014	0	0	0
		Dip	2014	0	0	0
		Treatment	2014	0	0	0
4	Number of animals treated or vaccinated	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Goats	2014	0	0	0
		Chickens	2014	0	0	0
		Cattle	2014	0	0	0
5	Number of people newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Male	2014	0	0	0
		Female	2014	0	0	0
6	Percentage of financial service groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	None	2014	0	0	
7	Total USD amount channelled into the program area through sub-sector activities	None	2014	0	0	
Program Objective						
8	Percent of households that have an increase in their livestock asset base	Total	2014	0		
		Male-head	2014	0		
		Fem – head	2014	0		
9	Percent of female headed households that have an increase in their livestock asset base	None	2014			
10	Percent of households with viable herd/flock size (participants that receive vouchers and other project activities)	Both sexes-Overall	2014	59%	0	
		Goats-BS	2014	15%	0	
		Chickens-BS	2014	69%	0	
		Overall-MHH	2014	62%	0	
		Goats-MHH	2014	16%	0	
		Poultry-MHH	2014	73%	0	

		Goats-FHH	2014	14%	0	
		Poultry -FHH	2014	61%	0	
11	Percent of female-headed households with viable herd/flock size (participants that receive vouchers and other project activities)	Overall-FHH	2014	54%	0	
		Goats	2014	14%	0	
		Chickens	2014	61%	0	
IR1						
12	Number of households that utilize their vouchers to purchase animals	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Goats	2014	0	0	0
		Chickens	2014	0	0	0
13	Number of households that receive vouchers to purchase animals through the project	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Goats	2014	0	0	0
		Chickens	2014	0	0	0
IR2						
14	Percent of households that are applying improved animal husbandry and feed techniques	Overall	2014	55%	0%	
		Male-head	2014		0%	
		Fem-head	2014		0%	
15	Number of individuals trained in animal husbandry and management	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Male	2014	0	0	0
		Female	2014	0	0	0
16	Number of producer groups formed and/or strengthened	Total	2014	0	50	75
		Goats	2014	0	25	39
		Chickens	2014	0	25	36
17	Percent of female members in assisted producer groups	None	2014	0	50%	45%
18	Number of AnswerPlot™ established	None	2014	0	4	8
19	Percent of final sale price captured by producers	None	2014	0	0	
20	Number of producer groups linked to markets	Total	2014	0	0	
		Goats	2014	0	0	
		Chickens	2014	0	0	
IR3						
21	Goat and chicken mortality rate amongst target producer groups' households	Goat	2014	23%	0	
		Chicken	2014	57%	0	
22	Net monthly income of para-vets from providing animal health services	Overall	2014	0	\$0	NA
		Male	2014	0	\$0	
		Female	2014	0	\$0	
23	Percentage of households served by para-vets that give favorable reviews of their experience	Total	2014	0%	0%	0%
		Male	2014	0	0%	
		Female	2014	0	0%	
24	Number of households served by the para-vets	None	2014	0	0	0
25	Number of trained para-vets providing animal health services to households	None	2014	0	0	0
26	Number of para-vets equipped and trained in animal health services and animal husbandry and management	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Male	2014	0	0	0
		Female	2014	0	0	0
IR4						
27	Amount (\$) saved and loaned in the VSLAs	None	2014	\$0	\$0	\$0

28	Percentage of households that are applying improved business techniques	Total	2014	0%	0	0
		Male-head	2014	0%	0	0
		Fem –head	2014	0%	0	0
29	Number of individuals trained on savings and loans	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Male	2014	0	0	0
		Female	2014	0	0	0
30	Number of individuals receiving household enterprise training	Total	2014	0	0	0
		Male	2014	0	0	0
		Female	2014	0	0	0

ANNEX 2: SUCCESS STORY

LAND O' LAKES HOLDS FIRST STAKEHOLDERS INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR THE LIVESTOCK FOR RESILIENCE PROJECT

L4R conducted a stakeholder's inception workshop on 11th December 2014 which was highly welcomed and commended by the participants. The workshop was attended by 40 participants drawn from different government departments, private sector companies and non-governmental organizations. Participants at the workshop spoke highly of the holistic approach of integrating the building livestock assets base and strengthening of animal health systems with improving financial literacy and savings among targeted communities. The L4R project team shared the objectives of the project with the participants and detailed implementation approaches such as voucher scheme, village savings and loan associations, collective marketing, paravet (Livestock Lead Farmers) model and AnswerPlot™ among others. These approaches were highly recommended by workshop participants for their potential to ensure sustainability of activities beyond the end of donor funding for the project.

During the workshop participants made several recommendations to Land O' lakes for successful implementation of the project. Among key recommendations was that the project should ensure that lead farmers (Livestock Lead Farmers and Village Agents for VSLAs) are properly linked to local structures such as Area Development Committee (ADC) and Village Development Committee (VDC). Furthermore, participants recommended that the implementation of marketing and production activities should be highly integrated and start together with greater push on marketing to be different to many projects that only focus on markets towards phase out stage.

During the workshop, a Project Advisory Committee drawn from representatives of various government, private sector and non-governmental organizations such as Department of Animal health and Livestock Development, Umodzi Consulting, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources among others, was constituted. The committee is expected to meet on a quarterly basis and their key role will be to contribute towards provision of strategic direction to the project team to improve performance of the project.



Figure 1: Stakeholders at the L4R Project Inception Workshop, Linde Motel, Mponela, December 11, 2014.