



**QUARTERLY REPORT**

**April 2015 – June 2015**

**USAID/MALAWI  
OFFICE OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE  
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**Submitted to**

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**Submitted by**

**Land O'Lakes International Development**

1080 W. County Road F., MS 5120  
Shoreview, MN 55126 USA

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## Administrative Data

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ATC	Agricultural Trading Company
CoP	Chief of Party
CVL	Central Veterinary Laboratory
EPA	Extension Planning Area
FFP	Food for Progress
GVH	Group Village Headman
IDD	International Development Division
L4R	Livestock for Resilience
LLF	Livestock Lead Farmer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
VA	Village Agent
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Land O'Lakes, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), is implementing the Malawi Livestock for Resilience (L4R) project in ten communities of Dowa and Ntchisi districts in Central Malawi. During the reporting period, the project achieved the following milestones:

- Trained 4,907 (4,561 were trained in the previous quarter. Additional 346 were trained in this quarter) producer group members in improved animal husbandry techniques including feed & feeding techniques, improved animal housing, selection of breeding stock, and animal health. The project has therefore trained a cumulative total of 4,907 farmers against a target of 6,000.
- Project beneficiaries have constructed 1,348 improved animal housing structures for goats and local chickens. There are 564 structures for goats and 784 for chickens constructed of which 681 kraals (Goats: 269, Chickens: 412) have been completed and are in use
- Trained 74 LLFs (47 male; 27 female) out of 150 in practical principles of livestock farming as a business
- Trained 918 producer group members (500 Male; 418 Female) in consolidated group dynamics modules
- Supervised LLFs to provide animal health treatment to a total of 28,268 animals; 56% of these were animals treated for the first time.
- Conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) training to 57 Village Agents (34 Male; 23 Female) in household enterprise development and management
- Facilitated accumulated savings of **\$85,166.59**, 68% of which was loaned out to group members. Total savings recorded since project start have reached **\$102,296.89** against a project life target of **\$30,000**. Savings were conducted by a total of 4,837 individuals against a project target of 6,000.

In the next quarter, the project will begin placement of livestock to selected small holder farmers, strengthen producer groups, improve access to market information, train producer group members in household enterprises, continue with capacity building of LLF to provide animal health services, conduct learning visits and facilitate continued savings and loan among targeted beneficiaries.

## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Land O' Lakes, through its International Development Division (IDD), is implementing the 23-month Livestock for Resilience (L4R) project in the districts of Dowa and Ntchisi, Central Malawi. The project is being implemented in ten communities) of Mwangala, Kamungwe, Lichere, Nyundo, Chiponda and Zolire, Kadundwe, Mpofo, Malenga and Chikhungwa from four Extension Planning Area (EPAs) of Bowe, Nachisaka, Malomo and Chipuka. The project is targeting 6,000 households with a goal of building the resilience of disaster prone communities by expanding and maintaining livestock assets, increasing access to animal health services and increasing their capacity to save and mitigate risks.

### 1.2 ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

Land O' Lakes Malawi is implementing the L4R project through its national office in Lilongwe where the Chief of Party (CoP) is based, a field operations office at Mponela, Dowa district and sub-field offices in Ntchisi and Dowa district centers. The L4R team is comprised of a CoP, Business and Marketing Specialists, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist, Livestock Specialists, Project Accountant, Administrative Assistant and Drivers. The team receives technical support from Land O'Lakes Global and Regional teams.

## SECTION II: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 LIVESTOCK ASSET BASE EXPANDED

**Identification of livestock beneficiaries:** The project began identifying beneficiaries that will receive livestock in the next quarter. Farmers are expected to meet set selection criteria prior to receiving animals. Criteria includes; construction and use of raised kraal, producer group membership, application of improved feeding practices, ownership of at least 3-4 does or 3-5 hens, participation in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) with active savings, participation in animal health services, regular attendance in training meetings organized by LLF, level of dependency, income earned per day and willingness to sell or castrate all inferior bucks or sell all inferior cockerels. In Land O'Lakes experience, using set and diverse criteria leads to a transparent process that allows farmers improving their own situation to self-select. At the end of the reporting period, the project team had identified a total of 1,348 households who had completed construction of their animal housing structures and are expected to benefit from placement of livestock within the next quarter.

### 2.2 VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS' CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN ASSET BASE INCREASED

**Training of Livestock farmers in animal husbandry:** During this quarter, the project, through LLFs, trained 4,907 farmers (2,371 male; 2,536 female); in improved animal husbandry practices. A total of 4561 individuals that were trained in the previous quarter, also received additional training during the reporting period. Furthermore, an additional 346 new members were trained in this quarter. The trainings covered the following modules: feed and feeding practices; selection of breeding stock; heat detection; improved animal housing structures; and animal health.

**Construction of improved animal housing structures:** Project participants the constructed 1,348 animal housing structures (564 for goats and 784 for chickens) during the reporting period. It was estimated that on average, farmers are investing up to MK23,000 (\$53) to put up a goat housing structure, while chicken farmers are investing up to MK5,000 (\$11) to complete their structures. Farmers are using their VSLAs to access funds for construction of these structures.

**Training of LLFs in livestock farming as a business:** During the reporting period, 74 LLFs (47 male; 27 female) were equipped with practical knowledge in business management to effectively take their operations as a business. Key business concepts such as: business profitability; record keeping and use; budgeting; cash book and cash flow projections were covered in detail.

**Training in group dynamics:** During the reporting period, 918 producer group members (500 male; 418 female) were trained in the principles of leadership and group dynamics. The training is expected to contribute towards capacity building of group leaders to build cohesive local institutions and contribute to sustainability of project activities. All participating producer groups were represented by three leaders from their group. 2.3 access to animal health and livestock extension services improved

**Procurement and distribution of animal health kits to LLFs:** During the reporting period, the procurement committee contracted a vendor to supply veterinary kits that will include vaccine carriers, tag applicators, weigh bands and thermometers among others. It is anticipated that these kits will be placed with the LLFs at the beginning of the next quarter before animals are distributed. As part of their cost-share, LLFs are expected to purchase their own veterinary drugs (dewormers, vaccines, etc.). Land O'Lakes is facilitating this initial purchase of inputs to reduce transaction costs experienced by the LLF.

**Provision of animal health services to farmer groups and other livestock keepers by LLFs:** During the reporting period, L4R LLFs continued with the provision of animal health services to both producer and non-producer group members. A total of 113 out of 150 L4R LLFs visited 5,630 households and provided animal health treatment to 28,268 animals (15,711 animals being treated for the first time). It was recorded that the LLFs earned a cumulative total profit of MK 867,117 (\$1,970.72) during the process, which is an average of \$17 per LLF. During the reporting period, there were 29,278 animal health treatments provided to various animals. A total of 23,275 chickens received vaccination against Newcastle disease. Other treatments included de-worming of 5,538 goats, supervised castration of 147 male goats as part of breeding control and, treatment and dipping of 318 animals against minor infections and ticks and tick-borne diseases. Fewer LLFs provided services during the period due to inadequate access to vaccines and other medicines. The project has continued to directly link the LLFs with veterinary services providers to maintain a constant supply of materials that the LLFs require to perform their activities.

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

**Training of village agents (VAs) in household enterprise:** The project provided Training of Trainers (TOT) training in household enterprise to 34 VAs (3 Male; 23 Female). The training covered topics such as viable household enterprise selection, financial literacy, enterprise record keeping and enterprise financial management (cash book and cash flows and, financial reporting). In the next quarter, the VAs will train members of the producer groups and other household members in the household enterprise approaches.

**Facilitation of village savings and loan activities:** The project continued with the facilitation of savings and loans in all the VSLAs. During the reporting period, 4,837 VSLA group members saved a total of \$ 85,166.59<sup>1</sup> and loaned out \$ 58,026.14 to group members. Most of the group members used these loans to purchase materials for construction of animal housing structures.

## **OTHER NOTABLE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Several other achievements were registered this quarter, as follows:

**Learning visit for Livestock Lead Farmers:** During the quarter, Land O' Lakes supported 30 LLFs (20 Males; 10 Females) to visit several Agro-Vet shops in Lilongwe city such as Agriculture Trading Company (ATC) and Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) where they were directly linked to source drugs as well as vaccines for their business. They also visited Agro-forestry Centre in Salima where LLFs learned a number of technologies being showcased including improved animal housing structures for both goats and chickens, integrated farming such maize, ground

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<sup>1</sup> It is expected that the figure will increase as savings from some groups in Ntchisi were under verification during the reporting period.

nuts, soya, and fodder crops. The L4R LLFs also visited a Lead Farmer named Mr. Johanas Banda, who has adopted and is practicing at his homestead all the technologies they saw at the Agro-forestry centre.

**Conducting the monthly review meeting:** During the reporting period, the project staff conducted monthly review and planning meetings with LLFs and VAs to review activities and plan for the next month. The meetings also drew plans for securing contribution of the LLFs towards purchase of materials and supplies required for their operations.

**Supervision of project activities:** During the quarter, the project staff conducted various supervisory visits to project sites where VSLAs, Producer group members, VAs and LLFs were supervised and supported. The staff provided technical support in the following areas; record keeping, ideal animal housing, animal health, feeding techniques and chick management.

**Review of work plan and development of Project Implementation Plan (PIP):** The project management team conducted a session aimed at reviewing the annual work plan, completing PIP and revision of budget forecast. During the process, targets were set based on the achievements of the third quarter.

### SECTION III: ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

**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:** During the reporting period a total of 28,268 animals benefited from the project through accessing animal health services. Through LLFs, the project provided treatment to 22,932 chickens, 3,815 goats, 47 cattle, 69 sheep, 1,369 pigs and 36 ducks. A total of 15,711 (56%) received treatment for the first time during this period.

**Number of people benefiting from livestock activities:** This indicator requires counting number of individuals in a households receiving livestock related trainings, vouchers, or animal health services through the project. During the reporting period, a total of 14,140 individuals (6,929 male; 7,211 female) were trained resulting in a total of 42,730 people reached through training and animal treatments trained since the project start.

**Number of veterinary interventions treatment or vaccinations administered:** During the period, a total of 29,278 animal health treatments were provided to various livestock. A total of 23,275 chickens were vaccinated against Newcastle disease, 5,538 animals were dewormed, 97 animals were treated against ticks and tick-borne diseases, 147 animals castrated and 221 animals treated against simple conditions. Land O'Lakes Livestock Specialists worked together with government extension officers to support LLFs to deliver these services.

**Number of animals treated or vaccinated:** This indicator requires counting once each animal that receive health treatment from project through LLFs. During the reporting period, a total of 15,711 animals received animal health services for the first time. This includes; 12,304 chickens, 2,136 goats, 35 cattle, 1,143 pigs and 36 ducks. As reported above, there were 28268 animals that were treated this quarter with 12557 animals receiving treatment for the second time having been treated during the previous quarter.

#### INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.1 LIVESTOCK ASSET BASE EXPANDED

Land O'Lakes has commenced the selection of beneficiaries and finalized the identification of livestock suppliers. Livestock placements are expected to be conducted within the next reporting period. A total of 1,348 households have completed construction of animal housing structures, some of these will be selected as beneficiaries of livestock placements.

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

During the reporting period, LLFs continued with the training of livestock beneficiaries in animal husbandry techniques. The total number of individuals receiving training was 4,907 members (2,372 male; 2,536 female) during the period. Training provided covered topics such as: improved animal housing; feeds and feeding techniques; animal breeding and breed selection and; chick management among others. During this period, there were 346 more participants compared to the previous reporting period resulting in a cumulative total of 4,907.

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

**Number of trained Livestock Lead Farmers (para-vets) providing animal health services to households:** During the reporting period, a total of 113 of the 150 trained LLFs provided animal health care (vaccination, deworming, castration, and treatment). The provision of animal health care services was affected by scarcity of I2 vaccine and other drugs. There is only one supplier of Newcastle disease vaccine, which experienced production challenges during the period.

**Number of households served by the Livestock Lead Farmers (para-vets):** During this period, LLFs visited 5,630 households and treated their animals. A total of 3,478 (62%) households were visited with animal health services for the first time.

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

**Amount (\$) saved and loaned in the VSLAs:** During the reporting period, 4,837 VSLA group members (2,021 male; and 2,816 females) saved \$85,166.59 and loaned out over 68% of these savings to group members. The total cumulative savings since project inception have reached **\$102296.89**. The reported figure is expected to increase as data from some groups in Ntchisi district was undergoing verification at the time of reporting.

## **SECTION IV: CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNED**

**Supply of vaccine for Newcastle disease:** The central veterinary laboratory which produces and supplies I2 vaccine used in controlling Newcastle disease has been experiencing production challenges resulting in LLFs failing to consistently provide animal health service to smallholder farmers. The project is exploring alternative suppliers and vaccine to link these farmers to ensure consistent delivery of these services.

**Number of LLFs:** There is increasing demand for services provided by LLFs in targeted and adjunct communities. The project had initially identified and trained 150 LLFs, however, 10 of them have either been inactive or dropped out. The project is therefore planning to train additional LLFs to ensure that over 150 are able to consistently serve the targeted communities.

**Cost of animal housing construction materials:** It was learned that materials for constructing animal housing structures were more expensive than anticipated. Goat producers are spending an average of \$53 while chicken farmers are investing \$11 to construct quality animal housing structures as recommended by the project. Project participants are using their VSLA groups to borrow money to finalize their animal housing structures. So as not to overburden farmers and potentially harm them financially, L4R will accept farmer costs of housing contribution as cost-share towards the livestock they will receive through the project. The project is therefore expected to provide livestock vouchers with 100% of the costs covered.

**Identification of LLFs:** It was discovered that some communities are demanding identification of LLFs to prove that they are well trained to provide animal health services. The project is therefore working on producing identification cards for LLFs and certificates shall be issued at the end of the capacity building programme during project close out phase.

## PLAN FOR NEXT QUARTER

In the next quarter, July-Sept 2015, the plan is to continue training VAs in household enterprise development and distribute livestock to selected producer group members among other activities. Below are some of the key activities to be implemented in the first quarter of year two of the project.

Intermediate result	Activity
Livestock asset base expanded	Identification of livestock beneficiaries
	Voucher creation and distribution of vouchers to livestock beneficiaries
	Pre-screening, inspection and approval of livestock as fit and healthy for distribution
Vulnerable Households' Capacity to Maintain Asset Base Increased	Form and build capacity of livestock producer groups
	Deliver Training in Animal Husbandry and Management
	Support Livelihoods Diversification
Capacity of and Access to Animal Health and Livestock Extension Services Improved	Training and Equipping Livestock Lead Farmers
	Refresher Training to Livestock Specialist & Government AVOs in Animal Health
Capacity of Vulnerable Households to Plan, Save and Mitigate Risk	Train groups in household economics, risk mitigation, and planning
	Build Capacity of Groups to Engage in Village Savings and Loan Associations

**ANNEX 1: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE DATA TABLE**

<b>Project</b>	Malawi Livestock for Resilience
<b>Start Date</b>	15-Jul-14
<b>End Date</b>	15-Jun-16

#	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Baseline		Q4		Life of Project		Comments
			Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
<b>OFDA Goal</b>									
1	Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	<b>Total</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000</b>	28,268	<b>26,000</b>	<b>80591</b>	Figures high due to chicken vaccination campaigns conducted, which were not expected during target setting.
		Goats	<b>2014</b>	0	1200	3,815	8640		
		Chicken	<b>2014</b>	0	3600	22,932	16800		
		Cattle	<b>2014</b>	0	200	47	610		
2	Number of people benefiting from livestock activities	<b>Total</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>0</b>	10,000	14140	<b>30,000</b>	<b>42730</b>	More households have benefited from livestock activities than expected because of the mass chicken vaccinations
		Male	<b>2014</b>	0	50000	6929	14700		
		Female	<b>2014</b>	0	50000	7211	15300		
3	Number of veterinary interventions, treatments or vaccinations administered	<b>Total</b>	<b>2014</b>	0	6000	29278	25,000	64566	Chicken vaccinations against Newcastle disease conducted during the last two quarters made this indicator higher than expected
		Deworming	<b>2014</b>	0	1980	5538	3900		
		Vaccination	<b>2014</b>	0	3720	23275	18300		
		Dip	<b>2014</b>	0	300	97	1800		
		Treatment	<b>2014</b>	0	0	221	0		
4	Number of animals treated or vaccinated	<b>Total</b>	<b>2014</b>	0	3000	28268	<b>18,000</b>	<b>49,394</b>	Most of the treatments were chicken vaccinations. The project also treated sheep (69), Pigs (1369), Others (36)
		Goats	<b>2014</b>	0	500	3815	3000	<b>3117</b>	
		Chickens	<b>2014</b>	0	2400	22932	14400	<b>45005</b>	

		Cattle	<b>2014</b>	0	100	47	600	36	
5	Number of people newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	<b>Total</b>	<b>2014</b>	0	0	4837	2000	4837	These people are participating in village savings and loan groups
		Male	<b>2014</b>	0	0	2021	1000		
		Female	<b>2014</b>	0	0	2816	1000		
6	Percentage of financial service groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	None	<b>2014</b>	0	30%	0	50%	30%	All groups have governance structures and constitutions. Strengthening of groups to continue
7	Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	None	<b>2014</b>	0	0	0	0		
<b>Program Objective</b>									
8	Percent of households that have an increase in their livestock asset base	<b>Total</b>	<b>2014</b>	0	0	0	75%		To be measured at Mid-term and final evaluation
		Male-head	<b>2014</b>	0	0	0	75%		
		Fem – head	<b>2014</b>	0	0	0	75%		
9	Percent of female headed households that have an increase in their livestock asset base	None	<b>2014</b>		0	0	75%		To be measured at Mid-term and final evaluation
10	Percent of households with viable herd/flock size (participants that receive	<b>Total</b>	2014	<b>59%</b>	0	0	65%		To be measured at Mid-Term and final evaluation
11	Percent of female-headed households with viable herd/flock size (participants that receive vouchers and other project activities)	<b>Total</b>	2014	<b>54%</b>	0	0	<b>65%</b>		To be measured at Mid-term and final evaluation
<b>IR10</b>									
12	Number of households that	<b>Total</b>	2014	0	0	0	2000		Livestock placement planned

	utilize their vouchers to purchase animals	Goats	2014	0	0	0	500		for next quarter
		Chickens	2014	0	0	0	1500	0	
13	Number of households that receive vouchers to purchase animals through the project	<b>Total</b>	2014	0	0	0	2000	0	Livestock placement planned for next quarter
		Goats	2014	0	0	0	500		
		Chickens	2014	0	0	0	1500		
IR2									
14	Percent of households that are applying improved animal husbandry and feed techniques	<b>Overall</b>	2014	55%	0	0	75%		To be measured at Mid-term and final evaluation
		Male-head	2014		0	0	75%		
		Fem-head	2014		0	0	75%		
15	Number of individuals trained in animal husbandry and management	<b>Total</b>	2014	0	0	341	6000	4907	
		Male	2014	0	0	113	3000		
		Female	2014	0	0	233	3000		
16	Number of producer groups formed and/or strengthened	Total	2014	0	0	0	300	300	All project target groups formed and in operation
		Goats	2014	0	0	0	100		
		Chickens	2014	0	0	0	200		
17	Percent of female members in assisted producer groups	None	2014	0	50%	56%	50%	56%	High women participation due to VSLA
18	Number of Answer Plots established	None	2014	0	0	0	8		All plots were established
19	Percent of final sale price captured by producers	None	2014	0	0	0	50%		To be measured at Mid-term and final evaluation
20	Number of producer groups linked to markets	Total	2014	0	50	0	300		Market linkage activities planned for next quarter
		Goats	2014	0	25	0	100		
		Chickens	2014	0	25	0	200		
IR3									
21	Goat and chicken mortality rate	Goat	2014	23%	0	0	14%		To be measured at Mid-term

	amongst target producer groups' households	Chicken	2014	57%	0	0	32%		and final evaluation
22	Net monthly income of para-vets from providing animal health services	Overall	2014	0	\$0	\$17	\$50	\$17	A total of 113 LLFs reported to have earned money during the period
		Male	2014	0	\$0	\$17	\$50		
		Female	2014	0	\$0	\$17	\$50		
23	Percentage of households served by para-vets that give favorable reviews of their experience	<b>Total</b>	2014	0%	0	0	80%		To be measured during Mid-term and final Evaluation
		Male	2014	0	0	0	80%		
		Female	2014	0	0	0	80%		
24	Number of households served by the para-vets	None	2014	0	0	3478	4500	6718	More households have benefited from chicken vaccination
25	Number of trained para-vets providing animal health services to households	None	2014	0	0	113	150		Fewer LLFs provided services due to inadequate access to vaccines and drugs
26	Number of para-vets equipped and trained in animal health services and animal husbandry and management	Total	2014	0	0	0	150		150 LLFs were trained, 10 are poor performers or dropped out and will be replaced
		Male	2014	0	0	0	96		
		Female	2014	0	0	0	54		
IR4									
27	Amount (\$) saved and loaned in the VSLAs	None	2014	\$0	\$3,000	\$85,166.59	\$30,000	<b>\$102,296.89</b>	There has been overwhelming response to VSLA
28	Percentage of households that are applying improved business techniques	Total	2014	0%	0	0	75%		To be measured at Mid-term and final evaluation
		Male-head	2014	0%	0	0	75%		
		Fem –head	2014	0%	0	0	75%		
29	Number of individuals trained on	Total	2014	0	3000	344	6000	5037	Training to continue in next

	savings and loans	Male	2014	0	1500	106	3000		quarter
		Female	2014	0	1500	238	3000		
30	Number of individuals receiving household enterprise training	Total	2014	0	0	57	18000	57	57 Village Agents trained during the period. More will be trained in the next quarter to train participants in their communities.
		Male	2014	0	0	34	9000		
		Female	2014	0	0	23	9000		

## **ANNEX 2: SUCCESS STORY**

## IMPROVED GOAT FARMING MAKES ROSE MORE RESILIENT

**A middle aged divorced woman is now enjoying life as an advisor of improved goat production techniques.**



Rose Liwinga, newly co-ordinator

Photo and Story by Austin Bondo

*Having invested few dollars in animal housing, Rose now leads the adoption of improved livestock production practices in her Kawaye village, Malawi.*

### Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-1000  
<http://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories>

Rose Liwinga, a divorced woman of Kawaye Village, TA Chakhaza, Dowa district, has discovered a new lease of life thanks to improved goat farming husbandry practices imparted to her by Land O' Lakes through the USAID/OFDA funded Malawi Livestock for Resilience project. The 46 years old woman is a member of one of the 300 livestock producer groups & Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) facilitated by Land O' Lakes. When she was joining the groups, she owned 5 goats. Rose initially did not know that her goats were a business, thanks to training in improved livestock production techniques, animal health services, savings and financial literacy, she is on a path to build and maintain a head of local goats that she can sale and support her family without depending on anyone.

In 2000, Rose bought a doe but straggled to multiply it due to conventional farming practices she followed. Through the program, Rose learned the importance of raised kraals, effective feed and feeding practices and animal health care. She became the first person to adopt the concept and invested MWK43000 (\$98) in raised kraal ideal for housing over 20 goats with money borrowed from VSLA [MWK36000 (\$82)] and profits from her small Tomato business (MWK7000 (\$16)). Thanks to the project, her growing flock of 15 goats (10 does and 5 bucks) is now properly taken care and she looks forward to selling some of the goats to invest in her children's education and meet her daily needs.

"As soon I started practicing improved animal husbandry practices, my situation has completely changed for the better. The welfare of my livestock also changed. Different people from our village and beyond are always at my house learning how raised kraals can improve livestock productivity. All this is because I followed what Land O Lakes taught us" she narrated. Rose plans to sell two goats in December 2015 to pay her children's' school fees. She will make compost manure to apply in her field thereby saving money on organic fertilizers.