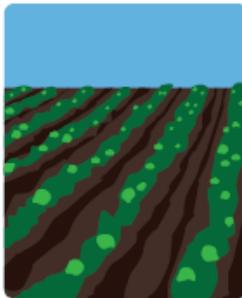


# Mawa Project

Cooperative Agreement No. AID-611-A-13-00001



building  
farms



building  
futures



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## FY2014 Annual Report

October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014

## Acronyms

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AA	Area Association
CA	conservation agriculture
CEO	Camp Extension Officer
CCFLS	community-led complementary feeding and learning sessions
CG	Care Group
CHW	Community Health Worker
CIP	International Potato Center
CoP	Chief of Party
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSH	Communications Support for Health
CU2	children under two
DiNER	Diversity for Nutrition and Enhanced Resilience (seed fair)
DQA	data quality assessment
FA	field agent
FISP	Fertilizer and Input Supply Program
FTF	Feed the Future
FTFMS	Feed the Future Monitoring System
GART	Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
ha	hectare
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MEAL	monitoring & evaluation, accountability and learning
MIS	management information system
MOH	Ministry of Health
MUAC	mid-upper arm circumference
NCD	New Castle Disease
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission
OFSP	orange-fleshed sweet potato
OR	operations research
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PDT	performance data table
PHHS	post-harvest handling and storage
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PLW	pregnant and lactating woman
PMP	performance monitoring plan
PSP	Private Service Provider
R&D	research and development
SAIOMA	Strengthening Agricultural Input and Output Markets project
SCCI	Seed Control and Certification Institute
SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Community
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TQC	Technical Quality Coordinator
URC	University Research Company, LLC
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars
WFC	Women for Change
ZMW	Zambian Kwacha

## Overview

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Mawa Project, led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in partnership with Caritas Chipata, Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART), University Research Company, LLC (URC) and Women for Change (WFC), has achieved significant progress in FY2014 towards realizing targets for improved food and economic security. Building on the strong foundation of project structures, systems and strategies, Mawa focused on consistent and quality service delivery for clients participating in agricultural production, health and nutrition, financial education and gender activities within 19 agricultural camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Mawa invested significant resources in strengthening the monitoring and evaluation system, while also defining processes to document learning to adapt project activities for greater impact. By the close of the reporting period, Mawa had noted the following accomplishments (see Annex A, Performance Data Table):

- 19,256 rural households in Chipata and Lundazi districts benefited directly from project interventions, with 23.5% of the households having more than one member benefiting from activities. More than 4,795 beneficiaries participate in more than one project activity.
- Over 14,000 individuals – more than 7% of the annual target – received short-term agriculture sector productivity training. Mawa's 517 lead farmers provided extension services to 9,390 beneficiary farmers in conservation agriculture (CA), small livestock production and post-harvest handling and storage practices, while 5,443 individuals participated in savings groups.
- Mawa trained 10,417 individuals, including 9,441 mothers and caregivers, 958 nutrition volunteers and 18 health promoters, exceeding the annual target by 6%. In addition, Mawa nutrition volunteers reached 11,612 children under five through household visits.
- Savings and internal lending communities (SILCs) grew to 255 groups, which held \$85,836 in collective savings and \$67,705 in outstanding loans. Mawa exceeded the value of savings and loans through community-based savings groups by 23%.
- Community animators formed 19 area associations and facilitated 67 community engagements and 1,516 household dialogues designed to affect positive changes in gender roles and norms within households and communities.

## Strategic Objective I

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### **SO1: Targeted households increase and diversify agricultural production for nutrition and markets.**

Throughout FY2014, Mawa focused on increasing the use of appropriate agricultural inputs and production practices and techniques amongst 9,907 farmers, inclusive lead farmers. Mawa's network of 517 lead farmers, with support from field agents and field supervisors, proved an effective network for delivering high-quality extension and advisory services to farmers through demonstration plots, field days and farm visits. With technical assistance from GART, the Agriculture Production Technical Quality Coordinator (TQC) supported mentorship to lead farmers, while also monitoring demonstration plots and farmers' initial steps in practicing conservation agriculture. While continuing to emphasize consistent practice of conservation agriculture (CA) principles, Mawa also introduced trainings in small livestock production and post-harvest handling and storage (PHHS). Mawa benefited from coordination and collaboration with resource partners, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Zasaka, PROFIT+ and the USAID-funded WALA project in Malawi.

Learning from the Diversity for Nutrition and Enhanced Resilience (DiNER) fairs conducted in September 2013, Mawa staff hosted 11 DiNERs in Chipata and Lundazi districts, providing 4,223 households with access to high-quality, diverse seeds, including maize, sunflower, soybeans, beans and vegetables. Diverse seed suppliers – companies, agro-dealers and individuals – provided 66,298 kilograms (kg) of seed through the DiNERs. Mawa anticipates that these fairs will contribute to improved usage of appropriate planting materials for greater agricultural productivity, improved household nutrition and, ultimately, increased resilience. For

this reason, Mawa will make a concerted effort in FY2015 to ensure that DiNER voucher recipients are actively engaged in other services offered under the project.

### **IRI.1: Targeted households increase use of appropriate agricultural inputs.**

Through the DiNERS, Mawa has made diverse, high-quality or improved seed available to rural smallholder households and demonstrated the high demand for seed in rural communities to formal and informal seed actors. Throughout FY2014, Mawa monitored the 1,782 DiNER beneficiaries that received improved agriculture inputs at the fairs held in September 2013. Families without access to improved varieties of seed were supported to grow diverse, nutritious food crops through application of appropriate agricultural production practices. As a result of the DiNER fairs and complementary trainings, Mawa field staff observed that households planted the improved or high-quality seed for the benefit of the household, with several individuals reporting higher and more diverse crop yields, which have supported their household food and nutrition security. For example, Mr. Julius Khosa of Luambwa camp in Lundazi used seed from the DiNER to plant one lima with Pan 413 maize, a half-lima with beans and nearly one acre of groundnuts in basins. Mr. Khosa's family of 11 adults usually runs out of harvested crops by July. However, in this season, the crops have lasted beyond September due to the use of high-quality seed and complementary agricultural production practices.

Planning for DiNERS began in June 2014, involving orientation with seed suppliers (formal and informal) and communities on the purpose of the DiNERS and consultation with MAL, ZARI and SCCI and other stakeholders, including International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Strengthening Agricultural Input and Output Markets (SAIOMA) project. Mawa identified households according to the criteria established in FY2013, but engaged in a more intensive beneficiary verification process in consultation with community members and leaders. In addition, Mawa staff made efforts to ensure that voucher recipients were not also recipients of subsidized inputs under the government's Fertilizer and Input Supply Program (FISP), and also excluded last year's voucher recipients from repeat-participation.



With 16 vouchers, valued from ZMW5 to ZMW50, smallholder farmers participating in DiNERS were able to purchase greater varieties of diverse seeds. Ms. Mindah Banda in Ngongwe camp, purchased five varieties of legumes, vegetable seeds and maize, explaining that her family required diverse, nutritious foods.

For a two-week period at the end of September, Mawa conducted DiNERS in five locations in Lundazi district, then six locations in Chipata district. Of the 4,000 beneficiaries identified to participate in the FY2014 DiNERS, Mawa reached 4,223<sup>1</sup> beneficiaries, each of whom received vouchers valued at ZMW 240<sup>2</sup>. Annex B shows participation by each of the 19 camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Unlike last year, when Mawa gave beneficiaries only four vouchers, prescribing the type of seed to be purchased with each voucher (e.g., grain, legume, horticulture), Mawa gave this year's smallholder farmers greater flexibility in selecting seeds by providing a total of 16 vouchers ranging in value from ZMW 5 to ZMW 50. This allowed farmers to purchase from a greater variety of seed suppliers and also to purchase more types of seed. For example, some farmers, particularly women, walked away from

<sup>1</sup> Mawa has reached the life of activity (LOA) target of 6,000 DiNER recipients, exceeding the target by five beneficiaries. The total number of individuals receiving productive safety nets in FY2013 and FY2014 was 6,005.

<sup>2</sup> DiNERS allowed for cash sales, but cash purchases were limited, valued at USD 21,642. Yet, suppliers expressed surprise at the ability of smallholders to purchase inputs, which further demonstrated to suppliers that smallholder farmers can be informed buyers of agricultural inputs.

DiNERS with hybrid maize, vegetable packets, groundnuts and four to five types of beans, citing the need to produce diverse food for household consumption. Mawa also promoted purchase of chaka hoes with vouchers to support farmers' initial trials with conservation agriculture.

Community and beneficiary response to DiNERS was overwhelmingly positive and showed promising trends in farmer demand for diverse seed. Though 50% of sales focused on maize seed, Mawa was pleased with the interest in legume and vegetable seed.

Table 1: Types and values of seed sold at DiNERS in FY2014

Seed Type	Quantity sold (kg)	Percentage of total amount sold	Value of sales (USD)	Percentage of total sales
Beans	14,017.1	21.1%	34,370	18.1%
Cowpeas	371	0.6%	606	0.3%
Groundnuts	5,378.3	8.1%	12,427	6.5%
Maize	34,083.0	51.4%	95,574	50.2%
Soyabeans	8,207.0	12.4%	19,158	10.1%
Sunflower	3,905.2	5.9%	7,573	4.0%
Vegetables	336.0	0.5%	20,615	10.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,297.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>190,322</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Seed sellers provided certified and quality declared seed (QDS), particularly bambara and soyabeans, the latter which was stocked primarily by seed suppliers supported by USAID implementing partner IITA. Seed suppliers from the formal sector included SeedCo, Pioneer/Dupont, MRI/Syngenta, which were represented by their stockists. To the disapproval of their stockists, Zamseed and Pannar participated in each of the DiNERS. A new company on the market included Klein Karoo, which provided new maize varieties accompanied by agricultural extension messages. DK seed varieties, marketed by Monsanto, did not participate in DiNERS despite requests from Mawa and demands from several voucher recipients. Several individual seed suppliers, including some of Mawa's lead farmers and field agents, also participated. SCCI participated in each of the II fairs to ensure that seed, as well as management of the DiNERS, met conditions prescribed by Zambia seed laws and standards.

Dr. Louise Sperling (Senior Technical Advisor, CRS) led an after-action review of the DiNERS to document staff observations on the process. The following are some of lessons learned or observations from the implementation of DiNERS, some of which were addressed during the DiNERS through coordination with SCCI and other stakeholders. The final DiNERS report will include greater details on these and other lessons learned during the implementation of the fairs:

- Consistent participation of SCCI allowed for implementation according to Zambian standards and laws:** Henry Malua of SCCI and his colleagues participated in each DiNER to inspect the quality of the seed, according to SCCI standards. SCCI identified seed that did not meet acceptable standards for planting material and, in one case, rejected counterfeit seed. SCCI also observed uncertified seed marked with labels similar to certified seed. Agro-dealers who arrived with uncertified groundnut seed, which was packaged to look like certified seed, were claiming higher prices than local seed sellers who arrived with the same groundnut seed in simple plastic bags. This practice of false advertising mislead buyers into believing they were purchasing a higher-quality product. SCCI allowed the agro-dealers to sell the uncertified seed, but required that the labels be hidden, and instructed that uncertified seed – regardless of packaging – be sold at a uniform price. SCCI also frequently took to the public announcement system to explain the differences in certified and uncertified seed.
- Distinct purchasing patterns between men and women:** Mawa staff observed that young men often used vouchers to purchase hybrid maize seed and sunflower, with the intention to market the produce as cash crops. Most women and older men used their vouchers to select greater varieties of

seed, particularly beans and groundnuts, citing household nutrition and consumption needs as the reasons for the diversity of seed. While some spouses arrived at the DiNERS together to select seeds, most arrived without their husbands or wives and explained that they had not consulted on their planned purchases. The final DiNER report will allow for greater analysis related to these purchasing patterns. Mawa plans to work through area associations to address the issues of joint-decision making, while using household dialogues and community engagements to address equity in access to, and control over, household resources.

- **Demand for smaller seed packages:** Small seed packages, particularly for legumes, are attractive to buyers and potentially profitable for suppliers. To test the theory that smallholder farmers want smaller seed packages, Mawa staff, with permission from SCCI, asked several seed sellers to repackage 3-kg packages of legumes into 500-gram and 1-kg packages. After repackaging and offering at a price as low as ZMW 5 per package, fair participants quickly purchased the smaller bags. Seed sellers expressed surprised by the demand, as well as the potential profitability, of the smaller packages. Smaller packages also allowed participants to purchase greater varieties of legume seed, in particular, with some individuals walking away with up to six different varieties.

Mawa will conduct follow-up surveys with voucher recipients in FY2015. Immediately following planting, Mawa will ask select beneficiaries about the crops and varieties planted with seed received through DiNERS. Possible questions will include:

- Did farmers plant the seeds purchased at DiNERS?
- What proportion of seed sown was provide by DiNERS?
- Did DiNERS change the diversity of crops planted?

Following harvest, Mawa would like to ask additional questions of the same individuals to determine the yield of crops, the proportion of crops used to meet household consumption needs and the proportion of crops sold, including the use of income. Additional follow-up with seed suppliers will be required to leverage their participation in DiNERS to provide sustained and consistent access to seed for rural smallholder farmers.

### **A Smart Seed Seller**

Mr. Smart Paitana is an agriculture field agent for Mawa project who made a strong showing at five of the seed fairs in Chipata district, selling groundnut and legume seed valued at USD 1,908.

During the DiNERS, he applied his entrepreneurial skills to connect with, and learn from, agro-dealers and seed companies. From his participation in the fairs, he not only walked away with more money in his pocket, but an agreement with DuPont/Pioneer to serve as a registered stockist and a connection with SAIOMA to support his seed business.

## **IRI.2: Targeted households increase the use of appropriate agricultural production practices and technologies.**

Promotion of appropriate, sustainable and high-yielding agriculture production practices is a major component of Mawa agriculture production strategy. Throughout FY2014, Mawa continued to use its network of five field supervisors and 26 field agents and 517 lead farmers to provide extension and advisory services to 9,390 households in conservation agriculture, small livestock production and post-harvest handling and storage. Mawa also established and managed 100 demonstration plots with significant oversight by GART. These demonstration plots served as learning centers for lead farmers and their groups of 20 beneficiary farmers, in addition to monthly farm visits between lead farmers and farmer group members.

From the second quarter of FY2014, Mawa agriculture field agents and lead farmers held at least one field day per month at demonstration plots to share improved agricultural production practices beyond the organized farmers groups. Field days held at demonstration plots offered a chance to observe performance of crops under conservation agriculture, in contrast to crops planted with conventional farming practices. During field days, smallholder farmers sought clarifications on different aspects of CA, beginning with land preparation, fertilizer, manure and lime application, planting and weed control. During field days, farmers expressed satisfaction with results of conservation agriculture, particularly higher yield, moisture retention

and reduce labor requirements. Though not part of established Mawa farmer groups, several field day participants committed to practicing elements of CA in the 2014/2015 farming season.

During the year, GART also organized conservation agriculture refresher courses for the five agriculture field supervisors and the 26 field agents. The four-day course, following extensive field visits by GART, built on observations from the field and addressed specific issues observed by GART. GART conducted a rapid analysis of crop yields at demonstration plots in four agricultural camps in Lundazi (Malandula, Munyukwa, Luambwa, Kamzoole) and four agricultural camps in Chipata (Ngongwe, Samuel, Kwenje, Shamombo) comparing the two farming systems. Analysis showed that CA practices produced stronger yields, on average, than conventional farming systems. The trends in productivity for maize and legumes planted in demonstration plots within these agricultural camps are described below:

- **Maize productivity:** Demonstration plots planted under traditional farming practices produced, on average, 2.6 tons per hectare (ha), whereas CA practices yielded, on average, 5.8 tons per ha. Flexible Mbale and Simon Manda, lead farmers in Munyukwa camp, planted maize in rotation with groundnuts, realizing an increase in maize yields between conventional and CA demonstration plots of 150% and 252%, respectively. Mr. Mbale's average maize yields under the conventionally-farmed plot were 1.9 tons per ha, as compared to 6.7 tons per ha with CA practices. In Luambwa, the difference in yield between conventional and CA plots was not as impressive. Based on observations and discussions with lead farmers, GART suspects that the sandy soils with low organic matter contribute to the lower performance. GART plans to analyze soil samples from different agricultural camps in FY2015 to better understand the effects of soil quality on maize productivity.
- **Legumes:** Productivity of legumes, including cowpeas, soyabeans and groundnuts, varied by crop. Average yields for these legumes, intercropped with maize, were 2.8 tons per ha for cowpeas, 2.2 tons per hectare for soyabeans, 1.5 tons per ha for groundnuts. The yields are particularly strong compared to average legume yields for smallholder farmers, which rest around 1.0 tons per ha. With high legume productivity (and complementary messages on the benefits of diverse diets), Mawa anticipates improved soil fertility, increased incomes through sales, diversified diets, as well as improved livestock feed.

Critical to diversified and resilient agricultural production systems is small livestock production. Therefore, Mawa introduced small livestock training lessons in collaboration with the Ministry of Agricultural veterinary department. Small livestock, specifically chickens, goats, pigs and rabbits, was introduced as a possible strategy for diversifying household consumption, but also increasing household incomes. The trainings promoted good housing, feeding and breeding practices in order to increase overall health of animals and decrease the prevalence of diseases.

During field trainings, trainers observed high prevalence of disease, including New Castle Disease (NCD) and coccidiosis in chickens, which can be easily treated with inexpensive, regular vaccination administered through drinking water at a cost of only ZMW10 per 100 birds. However, community members cited the challenge of maintaining drug efficacy due to the need to keep the vaccine at low temperatures. Trainers also observed poor animal housing, including keeping chickens in houses, that does not support high production. Several households indicated that they use cotton pesticides to control pests. Field practicals allowed staff providing the training to correct ineffective and even potentially dangerous practices related to small livestock production. Following trainings, Mawa observed several positive changes in livestock production. For example, a village in Mkomba camp pooled resources and conducted community vaccination of chickens prior to the period in which NCD is prevalent, while in Nthitimila households established 13 improved chicken housing demonstrations to keep chickens previously housed in the families' dwellings.

### **IRI.3: Targeted households adopt post-harvest handling and storage practices.**

Post-harvest handling and storage losses account for up to 40% of post-production losses in Zambia. Such losses impact nutrition, income and food security. Mawa introduced post-harvest handling and storage monthly lessons in FY2014. Mawa conducted a four-day PHHS training in collaboration with MAL, ZARI and

Zasaka<sup>3</sup>, for agriculture field supervisors and field agents. The lessons designed by Mawa staff based on available materials from GART and MAL, introduced principles of good PHHS practices for each stage – harvesting, transport, drying, sorting, processing, and storing. Because most Mawa beneficiaries are cash-poor, smallholder farmers, Mawa introduced low-cost options, like hermetically-sealed bags, and promoted improvements to traditional storage structures, citing the advantages and disadvantages of the methodologies.

In Eastern Province, it is common for farmers to use cotton pesticides in the storage of food grain. During the PHHS training, this unhealthy practice was highly discouraged while emphasizing safe utilization and handling of Zambia Environmental Management Authority (ZEMA)-approved storage pesticides. Both maize and groundnuts are major components of the cropping system and diet in Eastern Province. As such, the training served to raise awareness of the presence and dangers of aflatoxin and other mycotoxins in these crops, while also suggesting mitigation practices farmers can adopt at different stages of the cropping cycle in order to reduce or eliminate contamination. Some of the practices promoted include the following:

### Land Preparation and Production Practices

- Avoid mono-cropping of groundnuts, which can lead to build-up of spergillus in the soil. This may increase the probability of aflatoxin contamination.
- Use land preparation practices that conserve soil moisture. Adequate soil moisture minimizes pod cracking, thus reducing the chance of fungus reaching kernels.
- Apply fertilizer and/or other soil amendments to ensure adequate plant nutrition. Minimizing nutrient stress, especially during seed development, can reduce susceptibility to fungal infestation.

### Post-Harvest Practices

- Harvest groundnuts at full physiological maturity and avoid delays in harvesting once groundnuts have reached maturity.
- Dry harvested groundnuts adequately prior to storage and avoid soaking pods prior to shelling.
- Store groundnuts in shells, allowing for adequate ventilation in storage, to reduce infestation of insects and/or fungus

Of all the available storage methods, the Purdue Improves Crop Storage (PICS) hermetically-sealed bags gained considerable traction with communities. At a cost of ZMW12-15 per bag, they are affordable and long-lasting – up to five years. Mawa consolidated its collaboration with a social entrepreneurship in Zambia called Zasaka which has partnered with Purdue University to demonstrate, test and distribute the use of PICS bags for reducing storage losses. The PICS triple-bagging technology was developed as a non-chemical, low-cost and effective way of enabling low-resource farmers to preserve dry grains after harvest.

Mawa expects the bags to reduce storage losses significantly thereby improving food availability in Mawa communities, and has already witnessed demand in communities, with more than 550 bags purchased through Mawa's agriculture and SILC field agents.



PICS bags have attracted interest amongst smallholders farmers in Chipata and Lundazi districts as a low-cost method of preserving grain to reduce post-harvest losses.

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<sup>3</sup> Zasaka is a local social enterprise with the goal of building sustainable input and output markets for smallholder farmers in Eastern Province.

Table 2: Agriculture Production Observations and Proposed Solutions

Observations	Solutions
<p>Smallholder farmers require reliable access to diverse high-quality seeds, which relies on greater coordination between private and public sectors, including government.</p>	<p>Initial DiNER results point to farmers’ desire and ability to pay for high-quality seed. Share results of DiNERs with MAL, seed companies and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to increase access to diverse seed in rural communities through agro-dealers and/or private sector. Link Mawa’s field agents or private service providers to SAIOMA to strengthen network of community-based agro-dealers who can market diverse seed and, potentially, sell seed in smaller packages.</p>
<p>Farmers groups will graduate in June 2015 and are demanding marketing and business skills to support their agricultural livelihoods.</p>	<p>Mawa will facilitate the gradual transition of farmers from farmer groups, in which they receive agricultural extension services, to commodity-specific marketing clubs. While continuing to participate in agricultural production lessons with lead farmers, farmers who elect to participate in marketing clubs will also receive business and marketing skills, in addition to natural resource management and innovation skills. The field agents who provide these skills to marketing clubs will eventually be certified as private service providers, who can continue to provide agricultural production services on demand from groups of farmers for a negotiated fee.</p>

## Strategic Objective 2

### SO2: Targeted households improve health and nutritional status.

Throughout FY2014, Mawa’s health and nutrition team built a strong foundation of care groups, through which nutrition volunteers delivered monthly health, hygiene and nutrition messages and provided support for positive behavior change to the most vulnerable households – those with pregnant or lactating women and children under two years. With support from University Research Company (URC), Mawa developed action cards, which volunteers will use during regular household visits to encourage new practices and lasting change. These activities were complemented by kitchen garden trainings and demonstrations to promote household production and consumption of diverse, nutritious foods. In addition, Mawa completed initial trainings and began implementation of community-led complementary feeding and learning sessions (CCFLS), which aim to prevent progression to moderate and severe malnutrition among growth faltering and mildly malnourished children under two and pregnant or lactating women. Although Mawa faced challenges with high turnover of nutrition field supervisors during the year, the fiscal year ended with six committed and motivated field supervisors in place.

Collaboration with other USAID implementing partners and stakeholders has supported Mawa’s work, particularly to strengthen referrals between health facility and community-based nutrition services and to promote diverse, nutrient-dense foods such as orange sweet potato. Strong relationships with local health facilities have contributed to successful implementation of CCFLS, although in some project areas health facility staff are still reluctant to work with Mawa, despite an existing letter of support from the Provincial Health Office. Strengthening relationships with these facilities will be a priority in the next year.

By the end of FY2014, 958 nutrition volunteers were regularly trained in health and nutrition messages through their participation in 95 established care groups. Volunteers conducted monthly household visits and hosted kitchen garden demonstrations, during which they shared messages with 9,441 mothers, fathers and

caregivers. As a result of these trainings, 11,612 children under five were reached with health and nutrition messages.

Nutrition volunteers continued to refer moderately and severely malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children under two to the local health facility for nutrition assessment, counseling and support services, and also began referring growth faltering and mildly malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children under two to CCFLS. Throughout the year, 1,224 pregnant or lactating women and 3,181 children under two (1,501 males and 1,680 females) were referred for additional assessment, counseling and support. Of these children, 791 were referred to CCFLS, while 2,390 were referred to health facilities, according to the established criteria (see Table 3). By the end of the fourth quarter, health promoters and nutrition volunteers had initiated eight sessions for CCFLS participants, and additional sessions are planned for early FY2015. Specific details on referrals to CCFLS are not currently available from the Mawa MIS; use of the CCFLS mobile application will ensure readily available data for CCFLS reporting.

### **IR2.1: Targeted households with pregnant and lactating women and children under two adopt improved nutrition and health practices.**

Regular monthly household visits continued with neighbor group members throughout the fourth quarter, with lessons continuing to focus on kitchen garden promotion (see Annex C). Positive health and nutrition practices that were shared initially as a monthly lesson earlier in the fiscal year were reinforced through community health events and during CCFLS. Nutrition volunteers regularly use songs and role plays during these events to emphasize messages in a meaningful way. Throughout the fourth quarter, nutrition volunteers remained highly motivated after receiving bicycles, which encouraged more frequent contact with their neighbor households and provided greater reach when adding new households to groups.

Nutrition volunteers, with support from field supervisors and health promoters, have begun to graduate households whose children are now over two years of age from their neighbor groups. These households are invited to continue observing group activities, participate in community health events, or join a neighbor for a lesson with the nutrition volunteer, but they are no longer visited individually for monthly lessons or referred for additional support from the health facility or CCFLS. This group phasing process will continue throughout the next fiscal year, with particular attention to documenting changes in group registration to ensure complete and accurate reporting from the Mawa MIS.

Mawa consortium partner URC supported the finalization of behavior change communication materials that will be rolled out for use with neighbor group members in the next fiscal year. By the end of FY2014, initial sets of the action cards had been printed and the child health reminder card, developed by Communications Support for Health (CSH), was translated into *chinyanja* and finalized for printing. Nutrition volunteers will use these materials during regular household visits to facilitate discussion and support action toward optimal health and nutrition practices.

During the fourth quarter, Mawa and Thrive continued to strengthen the two-way referral system between health facility and community-based nutrition services. In July, Thrive held a training for about 70 Mawa nutrition volunteers, health promoters and field supervisors from Kwenje and Shamombo camps in Chipata and Munyukwa camp in Lundazi. The training highlighted the importance of good nutrition particularly for people living with HIV and expanded nutrition volunteers' knowledge to more confidently make referrals to health facilities for nutrition assessment, counseling and support services.

### **IR2.2: Targeted households consume high-quality, diverse foods.**

Building on the CCFLS training with field supervisors and health promoters that was completed at the end of the third quarter, fourth quarter health and nutrition activities focused on orienting nutrition volunteers on the CCFLS methodology and beginning to implement the sessions. Because CCFLS requires substantial support from health promoters, especially as the activity is just starting, each health promoter focused on orienting two or three care groups to ensure they can provide the necessary support. The remaining care groups will be oriented and begin CCFLS referrals early in FY15.

Prior to starting the sessions, health promoters and nutrition volunteers, with support from field supervisors, held community meetings to introduce the activity to community leaders, local health facility staff, neighborhood health committee members, Mawa agriculture and SILC field agents and project beneficiaries. Men, in particular, were encouraged to attend these meetings so that they were aware of the activity and would be willing to provide support, either through money or food contributions, if their wives or children were referred.

During regular home visits, nutrition volunteers referred growth faltering or mildly malnourished children aged 6-23 months to CCFLS, based on growth measurements documented in their under-five cards or, if the child did not have an under-five card or there was no recent measurement recorded, MUAC measurements (Table 3). Mildly malnourished pregnant and lactating women were also referred, as necessary, based on MUAC measurements. Once referred, participants met together to determine the details of the session, such as the start date, where it would be held, what time it would start each day, to agree on the recipes that would be prepared during the session and to understand what ingredients they would need to provide.

**Table 3: CCFLS Referral Guidelines**

<b>Children under two</b>			
<b>Child has U5 card?</b>	<b>U5 card growth</b>	<b>MUAC measurement</b>	<b>Referral</b>
Yes	Above 0 SD, increasing trend		No referral needed
	Above 0 SD, stagnant or decreasing trend		CCFLS
	Between 0 and -2 SD		CCFLS
	Below -2 SD		Health facility
Yes, but no recent measurement		Above 12.5 cm (green)	No referral needed
		Between 11.5 cm and 12.5 cm (yellow)	CCFLS
No		Below 11.5 cm (red)	Health facility
<b>Pregnant and lactating women</b>			
		Above 23.5 cm (green)	No referral needed
		Between 22 cm and 23.5 cm (yellow)	CCFLS
		Below 22 cm (red)	Health facility

By the end of FY2014, eight sessions were held for pregnant or lactating women and children under two who were referred to CCFLS. Each day of the 12-day sessions consisted of a hands-on cooking session that used locally and seasonally available foods, a nutrition education lesson, and reinforcement of positive health, hygiene and nutrition practices. During some sessions, nutrition volunteers also used role plays and song to reiterate the day's nutrition lesson in an interactive and memorable way. Although, in general, households were excited to participate in the initial sessions, some households were reluctant to provide ingredients for the cooking session. These households said they have no food and asked Mawa to provide the food for them. Participants providing the ingredients for their children is a critical aspect of CCFLS because it ensures the recipe is realistic for households to prepare again on their own at home. Participants agree on the recipe in advance of the start of the session and substitutions may be made based on what is feasible for households to provide. This must be strongly emphasized to participants as well as to the broader community during the initial mobilization meeting.

CCFLS activities were complemented by cooking demonstrations hosted for neighbor group members and the broader community. In addition to holding these events within their communities, field supervisors and health promoters also organized cooking demonstrations during the DiNERs to promote purchase of diverse seeds and to demonstrate how to prepare foods that may not have been very familiar to DiNER beneficiaries.



Cooking demonstrations during CCFLS include recipes with nutritious foods readily available to households. Mawa has worked with CIP to promote the inclusion of orange sweet potato in the diet for young children.

Recipes promoted include orange sweet potato porridge with groundnut and pounded green vegetable (rape, pumpkin leaves) and cowpea porridge with groundnut, tomato and onion. The DiNER cooking demonstrations also included nutrition talks, which focused on considering nutrition when planning and preparing for the growing season and reinforced previous messages such as food groups and the importance of a diverse diet.

Field supervisors and health promoters continued to monitor kitchen gardens. Nutrition volunteers shared lessons (Annex C) and held demonstrations on water conservation techniques and pest prevention and control, including how to prepare a natural insecticide using locally available ingredients. Volunteers who face water challenges will wait until the rainy season to plant gardens and hold demonstrations with their neighbor groups.

Mawa continued to build collaborations with the Integrating Orange project. Specifically, the International Potato Center (CIP) conducted a training with Mawa’s agriculture and nutrition field supervisors in their Triple S system for orange sweet potato multiplication, which will trickle down to health promoters and nutrition volunteers early in FY15. CIP will also provide the materials required to implement the Triple S system (basin, small OFSP tubers) to 550 of Mawa’s nutrition volunteers – all of those who did not receive OFSP vines earlier in the fiscal year – who will plant the tubers to multiply the vines with the onset of the rains. The volunteers will then share the vines with their neighbor group members.

By the end of the fiscal year, data entry from the Nutrition Operations Research (OR) project baseline survey was completed. Data analysis and completion of the baseline survey report will be completed early next year. Preparations for the qualitative component of the OR project, which will be supported by URC, began in the fourth quarter. The qualitative component will take place in November 2014 and will aim to identify underlying factors that may be contributing to sex-based inequalities in child nutrition. Findings will be used to adapt CCFLS to more effectively address those inequalities.

Table 4: Health and Nutrition Observations and Proposed Solutions

Observations	Solutions
<p>Although many households are trying new practices, some neighbor group members do not see the benefit of participating in Mawa’s health and nutrition activities given that benefits are not immediately evident.</p>	<p>In the coming year, Mawa will roll-out the use of several behavior change communication materials, including the URC action cards and CSH child health reminder card and feeding bowls, to support new practices and facilitate lasting change with households. Mawa will also apply the barrier analysis methodology to nutrition behaviors to better understanding the barriers that may be preventing households from trying optimal child feeding, care and hygiene practices. Changing behavior to improve health and nutrition practices – and seeing the results of those changes – takes time, but Mawa nutrition volunteers are dedicated to providing consistent support to their neighbor households and to continue encouraging positive change.</p>
<p>Some health facilities are still reluctant to collaborate with Mawa project.</p>	<p>Mawa will continue to update the Provincial Health Office of nutrition strategies and activities and to seek support for new activities that are implemented.</p>

	In addition to these initial meetings, Mawa will make regular follow-up visits to district health offices and some local facilities to ensure the information reaches all key stakeholders.
Neighbor group registrations – and therefore health and nutrition activities – are still not accurately reflected in the Mawa MIS.	The nutrition and MEAL teams will work together to identify a solution, using lessons from the reverse registration and verification process, to ensure the Mawa MIS reflects actual health and nutrition activities. As group membership changes in the coming year, a clear process will be defined and implemented for documenting those changes and keeping the Mawa MIS up-to-date.

### Strategic Objective 3

#### SO3: Targeted households increase incomes and assets.

In FY2014, Mawa focused on the improvement of service delivery to SILC groups by conducting monitoring visits aimed at evaluating the performance of SILC field agents in mentoring and training SILCs. To enhance quality of SILC field agent performance, Mawa conducted two SILC refresher trainings during the first and second quarters of the year and decided to allow FAs to focus on quality of service delivery to SILCs, rather than forming new groups, after FAs met their individual target of eight groups. Field agents significantly improved work performance from the beginning of FY2014, with the average case load increasing from 2.6 groups per field agent in October 2013 to 8.6 by the end of the reporting period. The emphasis on quality service provision over quantity of groups and members prohibited Mawa from reaching its goal of 6,000 SILC members. However, the number of groups with savings and loan portfolios increased from 120 in the first quarter to 255 by the last quarter, with a total membership of 5,443 (91% of target). Notably, the groups were still able to achieve USD 153,541 in combined savings and loans, exceeding the target of USD 124,000. Groups had collective savings of USD 85,836, with an outstanding loan value of USD 67,705.

During the third and fourth quarters, field agents concentrated much of their efforts in rolling out the first and second phases of financial education trainings, as well as delivery of module 9 from the SILC manual, which prepares SILC groups for their share-out meetings and ceremonies. By the end of FY2014, about 10% of the groups had conducted both their share-out meetings and ceremonies. Share-outs will continue through the first quarter of FY2015. Some groups had begun forming for their second cycle of savings by the close of September.

Research conducted by Murdoch University (with private resources) confirmed apprehension amongst some SILC group members. While all groups expressed awareness of the shift to PSPs, along with the requirement that groups pay for PSP services, some group members were unsure of their ability to pay, as well as the process to negotiate fees. Similarly, some field agents expressed skepticism concerning groups' ability to pay, along with concerns about the crowded market for financial services. Despite these concerns, communities have indicated high demand and genuine interest in engaging PSPs to support SILC group formation and management. Mawa will continue to review the findings of this research to determine how to address group, field agent and community questions about this transition from field agent to PSP.

#### IR3.1: SILCs manage and provide financial services to members.

Throughout FY2014, the Market Engagement TQC and SILC field supervisors responded to observed and requested needs for support from SILC field agents and their groups. Support focused on guidance to SILCs in group management and basic financial skills, in preparation for the roll-out of the financial education package. The need for business and marketing skills to ensure the growth of business start-ups and the responsible use and pay back of loans was continually cited as a critical need by most SILC group members. The introduction of financial education trainings in the third quarter of FY2014 addressed this need by

helping group members establish savings goals, understand incomes and expenses, and develop household budgets. With goals to work toward, SILC field agents and supervisors noted an increase in savings and lending practices. Continued lessons from the financial education module, along with the introduction of the marketing basics module will further support these requests for additional skills.

Savings meetings in most SILC groups were put on hold during the fourth quarter to allow groups to collect loan balances from group members for the purpose of sharing out the accumulated group earnings. Most group members who have collected their share-out earnings have indicated that they will use the money to pay for agricultural inputs through their local farmer cooperatives in preparation for the 2014/2015 agricultural season. With the arrival of agricultural inputs in districts through the government’s input supply program, several groups are rescheduling their share-out dates to ensure availability of funds for the subsidized inputs.

Share-out ceremonies have created confidence in the methodology amongst groups, while also generating interest from the wider community. Many SILC group members have already committed to a second cycle of savings, while non-SILC members are now jostling to either join an existing group or form their own group, having seen the immediate benefits of savings and lending activities. Field agents have reported receiving a number of requests from other members of the community to help them form SILCs. To meet the growing demand, Mawa will identify an additional 25 field agents in the coming year and conduct detailed outreach mapping in order to avoid competition amongst field agents and private service providers.

**SILC Group Profile:** At the end of the first quarter, 120 SILC groups, representing 2,504 members (1,926 women and 578 men), began orientation, followed by savings and lending practices. The number of groups progressively grew to 255 by the fourth quarter in 2014. Women represent 75% of total membership, but Mawa expects the number of men to increase, particularly given the interest generated during the share-out ceremonies. These ceremonies have demonstrated the tangible financial benefits that accrue to SILC members. As Mawa increases the number of field agents in FY2015 and also transitions FAs to PSPs, field supervisors will encourage FAs and PSPs to target farmers groups, which tend to attract a large proportion of men. That said, Mawa is pleased with the level of women’s participation in SILCs, as women, in particular, are often excluded from financial services.

**Financial performance:** Mawa recorded its first cumulative value of savings of USD 2,300 at the close of FY2013, and the savings grew steadily throughout FY2014. Table 5 illustrates the growth in the number of groups, cumulative savings and value of loans over each quarter of FY2014. By the fourth quarter the cumulative value of savings across the 255 SILCs had risen to USD 85,836, with the average loan size per group member at USD 17. The value of savings and loans does not accurately reflect the real increase given the devaluation of the Zambian Kwacha, from ZMW 5 to ZMW 6, over the course of the fiscal year.

Table 5: SILC Group Performance in FY2014

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of groups	120	210	255	255
Cumulative savings	16,170	28,244	50,739	85,836
Average member savings (USD)	6	6	9	13
Number of loans	1,016	1,458	2,338	2,418
Value of loans outstanding (USD)	17,368	30,365	53,952	67,705
Average loan size (USD)	17	21	23	31

### IR3.2: Vulnerable but viable households invest in agriculture value chains

Mawa began to roll-out SMART skills, formerly five skills sets, which include: group management, financial education, natural resource management, marketing and innovation. When combined, these skills will support smallholder farmers to transition from subsistence farming to more sustainable production for markets.

Mawa's roll-out of the SMART skills over the coming year, starting with basic marketing and business skills, will be greatly informed by the results of two independent studies.

In June 2014, two research teams visited Mawa to conduct research on the SILC-PSP approach, with an emphasis on delivery of SMART skills through PSPs. Consultants from Murdoch University explored how the SMART skills and PSP approach can be designed to facilitate smallholder connection with markets, focusing on the emerging roles for PSPs. Rafael Merchan (CRS Malawi) conducted an inventory of programs employing the SMART skills and provided several recommendations to strengthen the roll-out and understanding of SMART skills amongst beneficiaries, field agents, PSPs and communities. Findings from the inventory are included in the FY2014 Quarter 3 Report, while Murdoch's findings based on discussions with different stakeholders are summarized below:

**Table 6: Feedback on Field Agent-to-PSP Transition, Murdoch University**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Feedback on Field Agent-to-PSP Transition</b>
SILC Group Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness that PSPs will operate on fee-for-service model, but unsure of how prices will be established, whether they are affordable and who will ensure fair practices amongst PSPs.</li> <li>• Able to identify the skills or services that Mawa field agents can offer to support their farm businesses, including savings, budgeting, group management and development of seasonal calendars.</li> <li>• Willing to pay PSPs for support with business plan preparation, budgeting, identification of new markets, brokering access to farm and non-farm inputs, organization of transport.</li> </ul>
Field Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that they will graduate to become PSPs if they successfully pass the certification exams.</li> <li>• Expressed both enthusiasm and confidence about their roles as PSPs and wariness about the transition, particularly about group's willingness to pay for services.</li> <li>• Concerned about crowding of the market through the recruitment of new field agents, as well as other NGOs providing similar services in their areas of operation.</li> <li>• Understand the role of PSP networks and view them as mechanism for standardizing fees, coordinating outreach to communities and working with other NGOs, even if uncertain about how the networks will work.</li> <li>• Identified the need to market and promote the PSP strategy widely in communities and with government for recognition of, and support for, the role of PSPs in communities</li> </ul>

As Mawa certifies and deploys SMART PSPs, these two studies will inform the transition process from field agents to PSPs, as well as communication within communities and amongst beneficiaries to create awareness of, and prepare them for, the transition. With the results of these studies, Mawa has begun to map out two different approaches for the delivery of the SMART skills - one building on the foundation of farmer groups and another on the foundation of SILCs.

**Table 7: Incomes and Assets Observations and Proposed Solutions**

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
Prior to financial education trainings, groups expressed uncertainty about the reasons to save. The financial education training helped group members establish savings goals and develop budgets. The trainings had a positive effect on group savings and loan activities.	Mawa will integrate lessons on establishing goals, understanding incomes and expenses and creating budgets earlier in the SILC cycle to meet the desire of group members to save and lend towards specific plans. Mawa believes this will build strong savings and lending practices earlier in the SILC cycle.

Some field agents struggle with delivery of trainings due to inadequate facilitation skills.	Mawa may engage the Gender TQC or community animators to support specific field agents who need individual support in group facilitation and learning. However, Mawa will also place increased emphasis on the recruitment criteria for SILC field agents to ensure the “right” fit. Where needed, Mawa will replace under-performing field agents with new field agents, looking to existing SILC group members to take on these roles.
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## Gender

During the year under review, Mawa continued to address gender inequities through area associations, community engagements and household dialogues to increase women and men’s participation in household decisions while increasing women’s access to, and control over, household resources. To support positive changes in gender roles and social norms, Mawa focused on forming and training area associations (AAs) in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Mawa exceeded the target of 16 AAs, forming 19 AAs in each of the agricultural camps under Mawa project and training 13 of those area associations. Mawa community animators, along with members of area associations, conducted 67 community engagements, reaching 6,641 individuals, and also supported more intensive discussions between couples through 1,516 household dialogues. Mawa acknowledges the importance of creating an enabling environment for such engagements and dialogues, which can often challenge deeply held social norms. Therefore, Mawa conducted one gender training for traditional leaders, while also conducting trainings for Mawa field, technical and management staff.

**Gender Trainings for Mawa Staff:** WFC’s Senior Training Animator, Ms. Patricia Chambisha, and the Mawa Gender TQC co-facilitated gender training for Mawa staff in Chipata in October 2013. Mawa trained and facilitated discussions with 26 staff (14 women, 12 men) on several topics, including gender and culture, defining gender concepts, gender analysis tools and gender in Mawa (see Annex C). The training was well received, and Mawa staff appreciates the need to prioritize integration of gender messages across activities. The Gender TQC noted that some staff will need additional support to understand the relationships between gender norms and those project activities that field supervisors promote, practice and teach. The Gender TQC and animators ensured that field supervisors who needed mentorship received it through shared visits in the field. As AAs become more familiar with their roles in communities, members of area associations will become the “eyes and ears” within Mawa’s farmer groups, care groups and SILCs, facilitating discussions on gender roles and social norms, when opportunities arise.

**Formation and Training of Area Associations:** Mawa closed FY2014 having formed 19 area associations, an increase of 17 from the two formed in Chiteu and Mkomba camps in Lundazi in FY2013. Mawa exceeded the target of 16 area associations to ensure that each camp under Mawa project has one area association moving into FY2015.

Table 8 : Summary of Area Associations by Animator and District

Name of Animator	District	# of existing AA in FY13	# of AAs created in FY14	Total
John Tchaya	Chipata	0	4	4
Trust Malabanyika	Chipata	0	4	4
Malizyani Singogo	Lundazi	2	5	7
Nsama Mutale	Lundazi	0	4	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>

Following the formation of 19 AAs, Mawa’s community animators trained and oriented each association in leadership skills to enable them to identify effective leadership prior to beginning more intensive gender trainings. Leadership training constitutes the topics shared below:

**Table 9: Leadership Training Lessons for Area Associations**

Topic	Description
Defining leadership	Deepens AA members’ understanding of the definition of leadership and identification of leaders in their communities. Under Mawa, AAs define a leader as someone who inspires or influences others to act and someone who supports those seeking to change things for the betterment of the community. The lessons facilitates reflection about who might be well-poised to serve as leaders in the AA.
Types of leadership	Helps AA members deepen understanding of the effects of poor and effective leadership styles. Facilitates reflection on strategies to support good leadership in their associations. The topic brings out contrasting leadership styles and facilitates discussion on how these leadership styles may affect AA functions.
Qualities of a good leader	Explores personal qualities and skills required for good leadership. Participants are able to identify qualities of a good leader. Within AAs, leaders are often described as positively persuasive, with the ability to consult, communicate, delegate and facilitate participation.
Roles and responsibilities	Examines the roles and responsibilities of each person selected to serve on the leadership committee of the AA. Leadership positions include the chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, vice-secretary, publicity secretary, committee members and trustees.

Following the leadership trainings for AAs, the Gender TQC and community animators trained 13 AAs<sup>4</sup> comprised of 548 members (237 women, 311 men), on issues related to gender in the context of Mawa project and, more broadly, their communities.

**Table 10: Area Association Trainings by District and Participation**

District	Number of trainings	Female	Male	Total
Chipata	6	107	143	250
Lundazi	7	130	168	298
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>548</b>

The area associations participated in a three-day training on gender roles and norms (see Annex C), while also learning how to conduct effective household dialogues and community engagements. With this knowledge, AA members continue to be useful and effective in rolling out gender messages, especially at the household level. AA members contributed to the increase in the number of individual households reached through gender dialogues. For example, in Mkomba during the month of March, the community animator engaged three households in dialogues, but after undergoing the training, AA members reached out to 38 families. Animators and the Gender TQC provide mentorship through monitoring visits and monthly meetings in an effort to ensure and maintain high-quality household dialogues. Because community members accept messages more effectively from people they know and respect, AA members focus on communities in their respective camps. They continue to use events such as traditional ceremonies, church services and marriage ceremonies as platforms to increase outreach of gender messages while specifically organizing and

<sup>4</sup> The remaining six AAs will be trained in the first quarter of FY2015. Trainings were delayed in the last quarter of FY2014 due to commitments related to DiNERS.

conducting gender community engagement meetings. Through AAs, animators have also observed an increase in active participation of community members in community events.

Area association trainings were well received by participants. In order to encourage and support new AAs, members from already-trained AAs were invited to share their experiences implementing gender messaging in their communities. The new members felt motivated by the stories shared by their colleagues and eager to begin work. As trainings for newly formed AAs continue, Mawa will continue to promote sharing and learning among area associations.

**Gender Trainings for Traditional Leaders:** Traditional leaders command respect among their subjects and are seen as custodians of culture and traditions that may promote gender inequality in communities. Mawa leverages the influence of traditional leaders as agents of positive change to address negative social norms. Mawa conducted gender training in the same topics as area associations for 65 traditional leaders in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Due to the traditional patriarchal nature that influences selection of leaders, all traditional leaders that participated in the gender trainings were men. Mawa continues to work with, and receive support from, traditional leaders in addressing social norms in communities. For example, in some communities, women are not permitted to own land. This cultural practice affects women serving as lead farmers, as they are required to negotiate for pieces of land with their husbands. Traditional leaders have supported Mawa in sensitizing their subjects on the value of women's increased access to, and ownership of, land. Gender training is important for traditional leaders if social norms, cultures, and traditions that promote gender inequality in communities are to be addressed. The traditional leaders were trained for four days to provide support in rolling out positive change in gender roles and social norms in their respective communities. Following trainings, some traditional leaders have been effective in mobilizing their respective communities to fully participate in gender community engagements.



Mawa's Gender TQC, Lameck Simwanza, facilitates a community engagement to provoke discussion on the roles of men and women in households.

tool, community dialogues addressed the importance of planning and budgeting together. This tool specifically helps communities analyze the different levels of access and control exhibited by men and women over resources and the benefits of productive activities, while highlighting how joint planning and budgeting can address inequities in these areas. Community dialogues also focused on social norms as they relate to agriculture practices, health and nutrition behaviors, and savings and lending practices, as well as the triple roles of reproductive, productive and community work within households.

Through community engagements, animators observed social and cultural norms that need to be addressed in order to support Mawa's efforts of encouraging joint household decision-making between spouses. For example, during community discussions, men indicated that they rarely participate in reproductive roles, like

**Community engagements:** During FY2014, animators conducted 67 community engagements out of the 96 planned, reaching out to 6,641 (3,056 men, 3,588 women) community members, including traditional and other community leaders. Each community animator planned to conduct two engagements each month. However, staff transitions affected implementation of the community engagements. Community engagements exposed individuals outside of Mawa's groups to issues such as equitable access to, and control over, productive resources for women and enhancing joint

household-decision making to maximize household potential for stronger families and communities. Using the access and control

household chores and child care, citing the belief that women belong at home in service to their families. While some men expressed a willingness to assist with chores around the house, most men – and women – remain uncomfortable with men taking on such roles. Despite apprehension about men’s engagement in reproductive roles, community animators have observed a willingness by households to participate in shared decision-making, particularly as related to use of productive resources. Men have often remarked that dominance in decision-making by men undermines improved household livelihoods.

Participation in community engagement was higher in Lundazi than in Chipata, possibly due to Lundazi’s animators’ decision to hold community engagements in conjunction with AA trainings. In Chipata, women showed greater interest than men in participating in the community engagements. Whereas, in Lundazi, Mawa noted equal participation amongst men and women, which may be due to more entrenched social norms, which encourage women to remain close to home. Mawa will take advantage of these observations to help households understand how more equitable distribution of productive and reproductive roles can benefit them. Attendance at community events will continue to grow as AAs take on increasing responsibilities with communities.

**Table 11: Number of community engagements and participants by gender and district**

District	# of community engagements	# of female participants	# of male participants	total # of participants
Lundazi	43	2,343	2,210	4,553
Chipata	24	1,242	846	2,088
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>6,641</b>

**Household dialogues:** While community engagements focus on the larger community, household dialogues ensure that gender roles and social norms are discussed and addressed within households. Mawa increased the number of household dialogues, especially in Lundazi district, identifying households for participation through community engagements and/or personal interactions. Community animators in conjunction with AA members conducted a total of 1,516 household dialogues, 171 in Chipata and 1,345 in Lundazi, with animators mentoring behaviors for AA members who are new to these activities. In Lundazi, which has had one consistent community animator since the beginning of the project, Mawa has engaged in more household dialogues. Greater numbers of AAs in Lundazi, as compared to Chipata, and associated numbers of AA members has allowed for greater outreach to households.

Household decision-making proved the most popular topic during household dialogues. Animators observed that men make the majority of household decisions regarding use of productive resources, particularly agricultural inputs, land use and access to, and control over, money. In Chipata and Lundazi districts, such beliefs are common and reinforced by communities which firmly believe the husband is responsible for making decisions about productive activities. Men complain that women are careless in spending and accrue debt, when left to make decisions about money, while women often lodge the same complaint, pointing to men’s waste of money on beer.

Household dialogues also opened discussion gender roles within the household. Men tend to claim productive roles related to decisions over resources, but women still assume productive responsibilities related to farming. In addition to taking on the reproductive roles within the household, including cooking, cleaning and childcare. Household dialogues reaffirmed the extent of women’s workload, especially during the farming season. Importantly, however, men have begun to acknowledge that women carry an unequal portion of the household’s total workload, even if they feel constrained by social pressure that discourages their involvement in household chores. Mawa will exploit this growing sentiment by men that women bear unequal burdens, as well as small changes in behaviors within households, to open greater discussions about shared household responsibilities.

Other observations and anecdotes observed by community animators and AA members include the following:

- Older community members tend to grasp more tightly to tradition and are therefore more resistant to discussing social norms and gender roles. Mawa is trying to engage older community members in AAs to target this population within communities and will also conduct focus group discussions to understand their concerns.
- Joint-decision making can prove more challenging in polygamous marriages than in monogamous marriages. A Kapichila man explained that coming to consensus on budgeting with multiple wives is difficult. Mawa must consider how to adapt materials or discussions to accommodate the needs of different types of households and families.
- “Positive deviants” – men who take on reproductive roles in the household or husbands and wives who notice benefits of shared decision-making – are the most influential agents of changes in their communities. For example, one family in testified that making decisions together has strengthened their relations. Mawa leverages these experiences to engage and teach other community members.

**Support to Field Supervisors:** Mawa’s community animators often accompany field supervisors to observe gender dynamics and other gender issues arising within Mawa’s groups and assist the field supervisors to address them. At times, community animators conducted community engagements or household dialogues to address specific challenges faced by field supervisors and their networks of community volunteers. For example, community animators conducted meetings in Kanyoza village in Ntimitila camp to understand why care group mothers were not participating in health and nutrition lessons. Mothers and caregivers resisted participation because of their expectation that Mawa would provide food for the lessons. To address this challenge, community animators drew upon their strong community facilitation skills to conduct the river code exercise, demonstrating that Mawa works collaboratively with communities. Typically, however, animators participate in the day-to-day work of field supervisors. In FY2014, accompaniment visits between animators and field supervisors can be summarized as follows:

Table 12: Support between Community Animators and Field Supervisors

Project Role	Support Provided by Animators
Agriculture Field Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In preparation for DiNERS, facilitated discussions on shared decisions in selection of seed, land use and agriculture practices, while also encouraging strong participation in Mawa’s agriculture production activities.</li> <li>• Supported kitchen garden and small livestock trainings, to address women’s need, in particular, for greater access to land to support these activities and supply diverse foods for the households.</li> <li>• Participated in field days to promote household cooperation in farming and encourage support for female lead farmers by their spouses and community members, particularly on the need for land to establish demonstration plots and the practice of CA.</li> </ul>
Nutrition Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For women not permitted by husbands or other family members to participate in nutrition lessons, held individual meetings with husbands to understand concerns and promote participation, which can lead to stronger, healthier, more productive children and families.</li> <li>• Encouraged men’s participation during the monthly household nutrition lessons in order for husband and wife to make informed choices about optimal health and nutrition practices to support young children and PLW.</li> <li>• During cooking demonstrations, encouraged men’s participating in child feeding in order to reinforce positive nutrition</li> </ul>

	practices. Male health promoters model this behavior within their own households.
SILC Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressed husbands' concerns about wives' participation in SILC by facilitating solution to invite husbands to participate in SILC group meetings as observers. Men who participated in the meetings acknowledged the benefit to the family in their wives' participation and thus were more supportive of helping wives with small amounts of cash for savings.</li> </ul>

**Collaboration with FTF partners:** During the year, Mawa shared a presentation with COMACO and other FTF partners on how to mainstream gender issues in different activities during a meeting organized by COMACO designed to help COMACO reconsider their gender strategy and activities. This provides an avenue for information-sharing and future collaboration with COMACO. While Mawa continues to rely on existing training materials developed by Women for Change for many of the gender-related activities, the Gender TQC and animators in close consultation with PROFIT+ counterparts adapted and developed specific gender training modules for Area Associations to promote sharing between organizations. CASH also asked Mawa to conduct gender trainings for farmer groups in the last quarter of FY2014. Although this could not happen due to other Mawa commitments, the request is a positive indication that other partners are appreciating Mawa's model in mainstreaming gender in its activities.

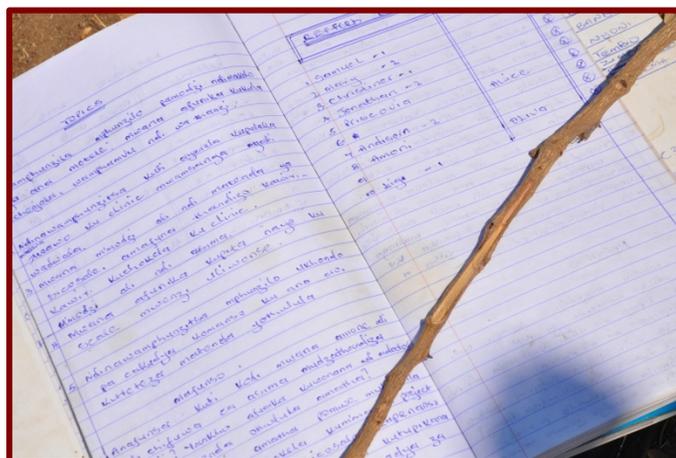
**Table 13: Gender Observations and Proposed Solutions**

Observations	Solutions
Behaviour change, especially by men, is slower than anticipated. Some men continue to point to culture as reasons for maintaining inequitable relationships within households. Others worry that other men will chide them for taking on reproductive roles within the household.	While Mawa anticipates that this challenge will persist, given the entrenched social and cultural norms, household dialogues and community engagements allow household and community members to discuss concerns openly. Mawa also encourages those adopting practices to speak to others resistant to change through home visits accompanied by AA members and/or animators.
Communities have shown an understanding of the breadth of Mawa's activities, but require greater explanation of how Mawa's activities – agriculture, nutrition, savings and gender – work together to contribute to healthy, productive and resilient families and communities.	Mawa's community animators, with support from the TQC, begin each area association meeting with a reminder about the different activities under Mawa. Animators explain, for example, how diversified and intensified production can support household nutrition and increase incomes, just as financial education can help households create shared plans for resource allocation. Animators also facilitate discussion on how changes in social norms can influence household's agricultural productive, nutrition practices and opportunities to increase incomes. Mawa will try to ensure similar messages are consistently shared across the project's groups.

## M&E, Accountability and Learning

In November 2013, Mawa contracted Dr. Susan Hahn to return and assist in the finalization of data flow maps, data-gathering forms, report formats, instruction sheets and communication maps for each strategic objective. The final forms were presented to field staff and rolled out immediately following Dr. Hahn's visit. Over the year, Mawa gathered feedback and made minor changes to the forms, but overall, the forms have been effective in gathering quality data for quarterly reporting on Feed the Future, PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) and internal project monitoring indicators and for supporting programmatic decision-making.

Progress on the finalization of Mawa MIS customized reports and roll-out of CommCare applications was slowed due to delays in the recruitment of a MEAL Manager. However, CRS recruited a MEAL Manager in April 2014, allowing the Data Management Specialist and M&E Officer to focus on their core job responsibilities. In quarter two, Mawa hired two Data Quality Clerks (DQCs) to assist data entry and monitoring of report forms for data quality. The DQCs also provide mentorship to field staff on the correct usage and flow of report forms, in addition to conducting data quality assessments (DQAs).



Mawa's report forms allow for simple, clear data collection by nutrition volunteers that facilitates their support to mothers and caregivers and also provides data required to report to USAID. Mawa project staff review hardcovers during field visits to ensure that community-based volunteers understand how to use the tools.

In FY2014, Mawa focused on integrating Information and Communications Technology for Development (ICT4D) solutions into the data collection process. Mawa used iPads equipped with iFormBuilder to collect data for the annual survey and the DiNER fairs. In FY2015, Mawa will continue to expand its usage of ICT4D through other small monitoring surveys and roll-out of innovative mobile applications, including CommCare and Farmbook Suite.

**Mawa MIS:** After the finalization of reporting forms in November 2014, the data entry masks for the Mawa MIS were completed, and data entry began at the beginning of quarter two FY2014. The data entry process revealed that 10-15% of Mawa group members were not registered in the database resulting in under-reporting of some indicators. In order to correct this problem, Mawa designed a verification and reverse registration process to capture unregistered group members. Currently, over 95% of farmer groups and care groups are represented in the database. However, SILC and neighbor group members are still under-represented at 60% and 50%, respectively. Overall, the absolute number of beneficiaries served is under-represented by approximately 30% in the Mawa MIS.

In order to reflect Mawa's actual accomplishments in FY2014 in DevResults, Mawa has relied on the SILC MIS and handcounts of neighbor and farmer group members using field supervisor report forms. Using existing data in Mawa MIS, project staff have estimated the extent to which beneficiaries and/or household members receive project services to eliminate double-counting for aggregated indicators (i.e., individuals trained in short-term agricultural sector productivity training, number of rural households served). Going forward, Mawa will improve the household registration process, as described below, and also consider the possibility of bringing in a short-term consultant to address the remaining gaps in the Mawa MIS.

Mawa is exploring options to improve the group registration process, especially with anticipated group turnover in the coming year. The principal impediment to accurate registration is the lack of identification cards for all beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries. If households were issued with their Mawa household ID cards, then they could present the ID card when registering for groups and easily be located in the Mawa MIS. Mawa will follow-up on this option in the first quarter of FY2015.

Drafts of the Mawa MIS customized reports were completed in quarter four of FY2014. The reports will allow management and technical staff to view data for all indicators in the Performance Data Table (PDT) by strategic objective. The reports provide disaggregated data by district, sex, quarter and month and are meticulously designed in order to supply the level of detail required by the USAID Zambia. However, the reports remain to be tested and finalized. After verifying that the reports are producing accurate numbers,

they will be opened up to management and TQCs for feedback. Mawa anticipates rolling out the final versions of customized reports in the second quarter of FY2015.

**Mobile Applications:** Mawa prioritized the design and roll-out of nutrition applications in CommCare for FY2014. In May, the Data Management Specialist in consultation with the Nutrition TQC finalized specifications for the development of the CCFLS and nutrition volunteer applications. Mawa reengaged Dimagi for planning and development of these applications and decided to focus on rolling-out the CCFLS application after the beginning of CCFLS sessions in August. Remote development and refinement of the CCFLS application took place in September, and a Dimagi field manager, Ms. Nynke Brunner, proposed a schedule for the field testing, finalization and roll-out of the CCFLS application in October 2014. Phones will be distributed to the 13 of 18 health promoters currently running CCFLS programs in their camps.

Plans will be made for the development and roll-out of the nutrition volunteer application immediately following the CommCare training for health promoters in October. Mawa intends to finalize the nutrition volunteer application in the first quarter of FY2015. Currently, the emphasis is on ensuring that the nutrition applications are successfully collecting data and helping Mawa volunteers and field staff to deliver quality service to mothers and caregivers, after which Mawa will revisit the lead farmer application in CommCare.

Mawa intended to complete trainings in the mobile applications for the lead farmers, nutrition volunteers and health promoters in the first quarter of FY2014. However, work was delayed due the lack of a MEAL Manager and finalization and refinement of the Mawa MIS. Mawa is committed to completing the roll-out of all CommCare applications by the end of the second quarter of FY2015.

**Annual Survey:** Mawa designed, tested and conducted the annual survey in the targeted camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts from April to August 2014. The annual survey was composed of qualitative and quantitative portions. The quantitative section of the annual survey required extra preparation time because the baseline instrument was deemed inadequate to collect the information required for reporting on all necessary PDT indicators. For the first time, Mawa field staff and enumerators used iPads equipped with iFormBuilder for data collection. With input from the technical and management staff, consultants from CRS Malawi, Dr. Jaychandran Vasudevan and Mr. Owen Sopo, redesigned the baseline survey into a more comprehensive questionnaire for the annual survey, which was then incorporated into iFormBuilder.

In mid-May, Mr. Sopo facilitated the field testing of the annual survey instrument with the iPads and submitted recommendations for improving the questionnaire design, as well as the flow of the forms in iFormBuilder. Mawa revised and finalized the annual survey and verified the baseline sampling frame for data collection in June. The M&E officer, with assistance from the DQCs supervised data collection in Chipata and Lundazi from July 9 to August 14, 2014. Data collection took longer than anticipated because after training and testing; only 11 out of 23 enumerators qualified to use the iPads for data collection.

Mawa formulated a data analysis plan for the annual survey, and preliminary data analysis was completed in September. To complement the annual survey, Mawa hired a consultant, Ms. Amara Robinson, to reanalyze the baseline data in order to determine the possibility of establishing baseline values given the poor quality of the data and the poor design of the baseline instrument. Unfortunately, with guidance from the consultant and CRS technical advisors, Mawa has determined that the quality of the baseline data will not allow the project to establish reliable baseline values. At the end of FY2014, Mawa entered into discussions with USAID Zambia to identify a workable solution to address the lack of baseline data.

**Table 14: MEAL Observations and Proposed Solutions**

Observations	Solutions
The group registration process was difficult, because households were not provided with a unique Mawa household identification card during the household registration process. Without the household ID on	Mawa proposes to address this issue by utilizing newly learned ICT4D solutions. Mawa will design and print household ID cards for all households in the Mawa MIS. The ID cards will be distributed to

group registration forms, many beneficiaries could not be located in the Mawa MIS.	households through Mawa's network of field agents and volunteers. The distribution of IDs will serve the dual purpose of identifying and removing duplicates from the MIS and improving the group registration process.
Currently, data requests are only able to be handled by the Data Management Specialist, who is tasked with other time-consuming job responsibilities. This puts extra pressure on the Data Management Specialist and causes delays in the flow of project information.	Mawa proposes to expand capacity among MEAL staff members. The DQCs will be instructed on more in-depth database management, specifically simple database queries and the extraction of data in different formats. Equalizing the capacity of MEAL team members will help free time for the development of other crucial project activities such as CommCare applications.

## Project Management

Project management includes activities that guide and support project activities, regardless of technical area, including staff recruitment and retention, technical strategies, and organizational development for local partners.

**Technical strategies:** Mawa continues to review project strategies and approaches in reaction to observations and feedback from beneficiaries and field staff and recommendations by consultants and technical advisors. In December 2014, Dr. Geoff Heinrich (Senior Technical Advisor, CRS) reviewed Mawa's market engagement strategy in order to support alignment with the agency's agricultural livelihoods strategy. CRS' pathway to prosperity presents a graduated approach to helping smallholder farmers cope with stress and strengthen resilience, by recovering assets, building skills and innovations and building assets for market engagement. Mawa staff will continue to work with Dr. Heinrich as opportunities arise to study components of the Mawa approach to building resilience and increasing food security.

**Stakeholder meetings/Collaboration:** Throughout the year, Mawa project staff participated in meetings, and sought partnerships, with diverse government, private and public stakeholders to enhance service delivery to smallholder households served by the project. Participation in quarterly FTF implementing partner meetings under the direction of the District Agriculture Coordinator's Office (DACO) served to improve understanding of FTF implementing partner activities within Chipata and Lundazi districts, while also strengthening coordination with district agricultural officers, specifically block and camp extension officers. Mawa staff continue to share quarterly work plans to avoid duplication of activities, harmonize complementary activities and improve cost efficiencies. While these coordination meetings are welcome, Mawa staff feel that greater participation from non-USAID funded organizations and projects, including private sector, is required to create greater efficiencies and to improve service delivery to smallholder farmers. Cooperation with other stakeholders is characterized as follows:

Table 15: Coordination between Mawa Project and Other Stakeholders

Organization	Description
Zasaka	Zasaka is a social enterprise designed to improve input and output markets for smallholder farmers in Eastern Province. Zasaka has trained Mawa's field agents in use of PICS bags and will work through Mawa's field agents and private service providers to develop a sustainable supply chain for the hermetic storage bags. To date, Mawa's field agents have successfully marketed and sold 553 bags amongst farmers. These bags have a storage capacity of more than 55 MT, preserving sufficient maize for 415 people to eat through the year. Zasaka is also exploring opportunities to purchase maize from communities and store in refurbished communities sheds.

Cargill	Cargill is a farm service company dedicated to increasing yields and profitability for smallholder farmers in Eastern Province. Cargill has agreed to provide maize and soyabean seed to 200 farmers organized into market clubs. Mawa field staff will continue to provide extension and advisory services to the farmers, in addition to market and business, natural resource management and innovation skills. Farmers will repay Cargill for the seed following harvest either through direct sale of crops to Cargill or cash payment, should farmers identify stronger markets with better prices. Mawa's support to farmers in market and business skills will help farmers make informed decisions about crop sales. Success in the 2014/2015 agricultural season could lead to stronger connections with Cargill.
Pioneer Seed Company	Pioneer committed to provide 520 small seed packs to Mawa lead farmers to establish demonstration plots in November 2014.
International Potato Center (CIP)	Mawa is working with CIP to expand OFSP outreach to more households with pregnant or lactating women and children under two to increase access to nutrient-dense foods and ultimately improve household nutrition. CIP provided OFSP vouchers to 406 of Mawa's nutrition volunteers in seven different agricultural camps and has plans to provide training and materials (basins, small OFSP tubers) to the remaining 563 nutrition volunteers to implement their Triple S system. By the close of FY2014, CIP had trained Mawa's agriculture and nutrition field supervisors in Triple S, who will roll the training out to nutrition volunteers in October 2014. Through both approaches, nutrition volunteers multiply the vines to share among their neighbor group members, expanding access to vitamin A-rich sweet potatoes even further among the most vulnerable households.
Thrive	Recognizing the potential for strengthening the referral system between health facility and community-based nutrition services, Thrive and Mawa projects developed a memorandum of understanding to outline specific areas of collaboration and support. The projects jointly identified three health facilities that fall within the Thrive catchment area and that serve Mawa beneficiaries to begin collaborative activities; Thrive trained about 70 of Mawa's nutrition volunteers who serve these areas, as well as health facility staff, in appropriate nutrition assessment, counseling and support services.
Communications Support for Health (CSH)	CSH develops health and nutrition behavior change communication materials, which will support monthly nutrition lessons and adoption of optimal infant and young child feeding, care and hygiene practices under Mawa. CSH has provided Mawa with a sampling of their materials, including a menu game, child health reminder cards, and feeding bowls, which Mawa health promoters and nutrition volunteers will use to help negotiate behavior change during regular household visits and to encourage consistent participation in CCFLS.

**Project review and learning meetings:** During the year, Mawa has tried to find the right balance of review and learning meetings to ensure that field staff, with support from technical and management staff, reviews progress, reflects upon field observations and documents learning to adapt project activities for greater impact – while also leaving sufficient time to deliver services to Mawa communities.

To review semi-annual progress, Mawa held a three-day project review meeting for partners and field staff with the objectives of providing an opportunity for all staff to analyze project achievements and challenges; recognize the team's contribution toward project milestones; and enhance learning to mitigate challenges and strengthen service delivery. Mawa used the evaluative thinking approach to uncover and check assumptions project staff makes in regard to the relative success of different project activities and to come up with alternative explanations to complement or counter assumptions. For each approach or activity that was cited as working well (or not), staff were guided through the following process: discovering the assumptions that

guide decisions, actions and choices of staff; checking the accuracy of these assumptions by exploring as many different perspectives, viewpoints, and sources as possible; and making informed decisions based on researched assumptions. Mawa's thematic groups identified specific actions to bolster successful activities and to moderate challenges. This process was applied to both technical and management decisions.

In August 2014, Mawa technical staff, including select field staff, participated in an evaluative thinking workshop designed by CRS' Senior Learning Advisor (Guy Sharrock) and Tom Archibald of Virginia Tech to consolidate the team's understanding of evaluative thinking as a tool for learning and adaptation. Funded with private resources, the training facilitated greater understanding of how to promote discussion of observations and emerging patterns from project implementation, then how to question and check assumptions before providing possible solutions. Following this event, Mawa revised the schedule for review and learning meetings and identified opportunities for incorporating evaluative thinking into the meetings for enhanced learning and adaptation (see Annex D). Learning from the May and August meetings informs the achievements, challenges and opportunities discussed in this report.

**Staff:** In the first quarter of FY2014, Mawa identified a MEAL Manager, approved by USAID as key personnel, but he declined the position after accepting the offer from CRS. To support this extended gap in the MEAL position, Mawa contracted Ms. Susan Hahn to act as the MEAL Manager for a four-week period in advance of the annual report submission. In hiring for the position, Mawa leadership decided to focus on identifying a strong manager with an understanding of M&E, accountability and learning and willingness to receive mentorship from technical experts with CRS. CRS hired Ms. Jenny Haddle as the MEAL Manager in the second quarter of FY2014 and to further bolster the MEAL team also hired two data quality clerks who are responsible for data quality and associated processes.

The decision to promote Mr. Noah Simpasa to the position of Market Engagement TQC split responsibilities for the agriculture production and income and assets strategic objectives. This change allows for greater focus on SMART skills roll-out and field agent-to-PSP transition by the Market Engagement TQC, while also creating space for the Agriculture Production TQC to focus on agricultural production activities, including coordination with stakeholders, sourcing technical assistance from GART, monitoring of demonstration plots and adoption of project-promoted production practices.

To ensure adequate monitoring of field activities and mentorship to field staff, Mawa added the position of Senior Technical Quality Coordinator. The STQC, Ms. Jessica Bateman, supervises and mentors the Agriculture, Market Engagement and Gender TQCs as related to the technical quality of project strategies. She also supports development of comprehensive work plans, resource materials and trainings. The STQC continues to serve as the point of contact for health and nutrition, but has taken on additional supervisory responsibilities to allow the Senior Program Manager to focus on support to local partners in the implementation and management of field activities. In addition, after a six-month benchmarking and review process, Margaret Mwenya and Michael Moyo were promoted to the position of Deputy Chief of Party for Program Quality and Operational Excellence, respectively, in recognition of their responsibilities towards the successful implementation and management of Mawa.

Caritas Chipata continued to face challenges in retention of qualified field supervisors. During FY2014, 10 of the 17 field supervisors resigned, citing personal and professional reasons. Mawa's Finance and Grant Manager continues to identify opportunities to help Caritas Chipata strengthen human resource policies and procedures to retain the qualified staff. For example, Caritas Chipata recently entered into an agreement with Airtel Money for mobile money payments of staff salaries, per diem and fuel allowances to ensure more timely payment. Despite these challenges, Mawa has continued to offer consistent services to beneficiaries. For example, Mawa project commends Mr. John Nyirenda for his commitment to managing and mentoring SILC field agents and groups in Chipata District for an extended period upon the resignation of the two field supervisors. During this period, Mr. Nyirenda continued to provide excellent mentorship to SILC groups, which led to significant savings and lending amongst the groups in Chipata district. Ms. Rebecca Tembo and Mr. Mwangala Mundia have also shown their dedication to ensuring program quality amid nutrition field

supervisor staffing changes by providing extensive support to their new colleagues as they learn the Mawa nutrition strategy, reporting systems, and supervisory roles and responsibilities.

Women for Change faced similar challenges with staff retention, with three of the four community animators departing the project to pursue other opportunities. WFC quickly engaged in recruitment and training of three qualified individuals, including Ms. Nsama Mutale (Lundazi) and Mr. Trust Malabanyika and Mr. John Tchaya (Chipata). Even with these changes, the Gender TQC and remaining animator, Mr. Malizyani Singogo, continued to provide outreach in communities, reaching Lundazi targets for area association formation.

## Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Update

The following table describes Mawa’s actions to monitor and mitigate negative impacts of project activities on the environment.

Table 16: IEE Mitigation and Monitoring Updates

IEE Condition	Mitigation and Monitoring
<p>Activities related to the promotion of conservation farming and other production-enhancing technologies will have direct effect on the environment.</p>	<p><b>Seed Promotion:</b> Mawa collaborated with ZARI/SCCI to ensure that the highest quality seed from both formal and informal seed systems was made available at the DiNERS. ZARI/SCCI ensured that seed varieties offered at DiNERS was suitable to the agro-ecological zone within which Mawa communities fall. ZARI and MAL extension staff enforced Mawa’s efforts in identifying seed suppliers of GRZ-accepted seed standards, while also enforcing Zambia seed laws. During seed fairs, Mawa field staff and seed suppliers were available to provide agriculture extension messages on conservation agriculture and other climate smart agriculture practices, as well as the safe use of agro-chemicals and fertilizers.</p>
	<p><b>Availability of agro-chemicals and pesticides:</b> Part of the inputs in the establishment of CA demo plots are agro-chemicals (herbicides and pesticides) and chemical fertilizers (D compound and urea). Given the potential adverse effects on the environment, Mawa sought USAID Zambia approval to purchase these inputs for demonstration plots. Project agriculture staff and beneficiaries received adequate training from GART on the safe and appropriate use of pest control and fertilizer application – chemical and organic – as part of conservation agriculture practice. During field days, farmers sought clarification on the safe use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. farmers sought clarifications on various issues that included the safe use of these chemicals.</p>
	<p><b>Production practices and technologies:</b> Conservation agriculture remains at the center of Mawa’s efforts to promote climate smart agriculture. The CA refresher course helped to sharpen the agriculture field supervisors and field agents skills in CA as an efficient farming practice that helps to conserve natural resources, particularly land. Mawa continued to promote the four principles of CA: 1) minimum soil disturbance, 2) optimum soil cover through cover crops, 3) crop rotation, and 4) zero burning of crop residues. The two options of minimum soil disturbances – basins and ripping – were displayed through on-farm demonstration plots, as was crop rotation of maize and legumes. Mawa continued to monitor closely the development and maintenance of demonstration plots to support appropriate application of CA practices, that have potential for reducing soil erosion and degradation while maintaining and improving soil nutrients.</p>

	<p><b>Post-harvest handling and storage practices:</b> During the PHHS training, MAL staff and other trainers emphasized the safe use of ZEMA-approved storage pesticides. The lessons gave details of safe and effective application of these chemical at the same time as advocating for use of non-chemical grain storage technologies, such as PICS bags. Use of traditional storage structures, which rely on wood and bamboo, was discouraged as it contributes to deforestation.</p> <p><b>Small livestock production:</b> Mawa encouraged good animal husbandry practices which have minimal environmental effects, including grazing or browsing of land vegetation for regeneration. Overgrazing – especially in goat production - was discouraged as it contributes to soil erosion and land degradation.</p>
Health and Nutrition Practices	<p><b>Food preparation, processing and preservation:</b> During cooking demonstrations and CCFLS, Mawa asked participants to collect dead wood for cooking meals for young children.</p> <p><b>Hygiene and sanitation:</b> Mawa promotes hand-washing with soap prior to food preparation. During cooking demonstrations and CCFLS, mothers and caregivers practice handwashing with soap prior to preparing foods and feeding their children, receiving messages on the importance of proper hygiene. As one the essential nutrition actions, messages on optimal hygiene and sanitation practices are regularly reinforced during household visits, CCFLS, cooking demonstrations and other community health events.</p> <p><b>Kitchen gardens:</b> Kitchen garden lessons and demonstrations focus on water saving practices and natural methods for improving soil fertility and pest prevention and control. Kitchen garden demonstrations included how to make compost, how to make a natural insecticide using locally available ingredients (e.g. tobacco or hot chillies), and mulching as a water conservation technique.</p>

## Financial and Grant Management

CRS signed the third modifications to sub-recipient agreements in July 2014 with Caritas Chipata, URC and GART, and a fourth modification for WFC in September 2014. These modifications obligated additional funds to the sub-recipients according to the FY2014 budget submitted with the work plan on October 30, 2013. Sub-recipients brought significant carryover of funds into FY2014, but have collectively spent 84.6% of obligated funds from inception through September 30, 2014.

Table 17: LOA expenditure against obligation by sub-recipient (USD)

Sub-recipient	Total Estimated Amount	Obligated funds as at September 30, 2014	Expenses as at September 30, 2014	Balance of obligated funds (pipeline)	Unobligated funds
Caritas Chipata	1,222,043	364,883	362,052	2,830	857,160
GART	392,978	161,033	150,912	10,122	231,945
URC LLC	735,140	426,930	274,890	152,040	308,210
WFC	910,971	361,106	323,693	37,413	549,865
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,261,132</b>	<b>1,313,952</b>	<b>1,111,547</b>	<b>202,405</b>	<b>1,947,180</b>

As of the close of FY2014, Mawa's local sub-recipients, Caritas Chipata, GART and WFC, had spent close to, or more than, 90% of their obligated funds, indicating the need for an additional obligation of resources.

Collectively, the four sub-recipients have spent 34% of the sub-recipient obligations with 6% of obligated funds remaining.

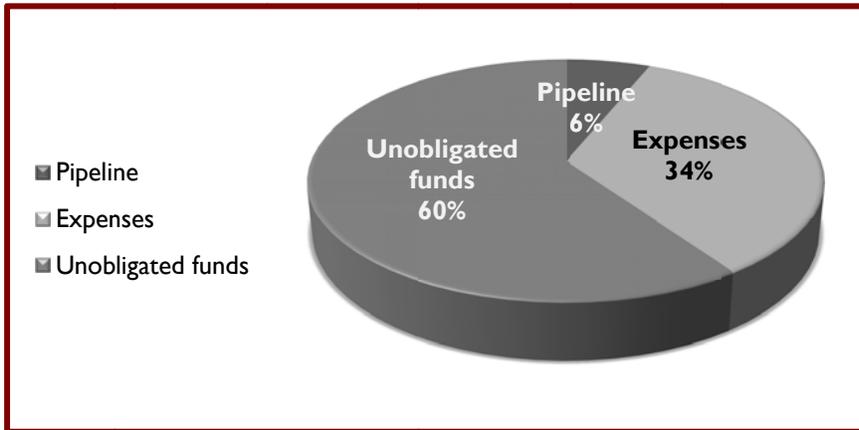


Figure 1: Mawa sub-recipient pipeline as of close of FY2014

Table 18: Mawa sub-recipient disbursements and expenditures against obligation as of FY2014 (USD)

Sub-recipient	Obligation	Disbursement	Liquidation/ Expenditure
Caritas Chipata	364,883	364,008	362,052
GART	161,033	156,450	150,912
URC	426,930	248,292	274,890
WFC	361,106	355,849	323,693
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,313,952</b>	<b>1,124,599</b>	<b>1,111,547</b>

URC's expenditure exceeds disbursements because CRS and URC have negotiated a cost-reimbursable sub-recipient agreement. URC receives reimbursement for expenditures based on monthly invoices.

CRS submitted the SF425, covering expenditures through the reporting period, directly to USAID Zambia financial analysts. Federal share of expenditures as of September 30, 2014 was USD 4,385,158 against an obligation of USD 5,858,602. Based on average burnrates of USD 199,325 per month over the 22 months of program activity, the project expects that the remaining obligation of USD 1,473,444 will last through the second quarter of FY2015. Mawa projects expenditure of USD 3,512,587 in FY2015.