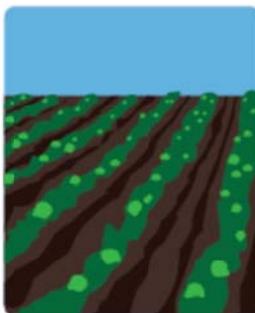


Mawa Project

Cooperative Agreement No. AID-611-A-13-0001



building
farms



building
futures



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FY2013 Annual Report

November 19, 2012 to September 30, 2013

Acronyms

AA	Area Association
ASNAPP	Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products
CA	conservation agriculture
CEO	Camp Extension Officer
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CCFLS	community-led complementary feeding and learning sessions
CG	Care Group
CFU	Conservation Farming Unit
CHW	Community Health Worker
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CNA	Child No Adult
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)
FA	field agent
FGM	Finance and Grants Manager
FNM	Female No Male
FTF	Feed the Future
FTFMS	Feed the Future Monitoring System
GART	Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
HP	health promoter
HOCA	Holistic Organizational Capacity Assessment
LOA	life of activity
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MCDMCH	Ministry of Community Development and Mother Child Health
MEAL	monitoring & evaluation, accountability and learning
MIS	management information system
MOH	Ministry of Health
MUAC	mid-upper arm circumference
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
OFSP	orange-fleshed sweet potato
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PDT	performance data table
PLW	pregnant and lactating woman
PMP	performance monitoring plan
PSP	Private Service Provider
R&D	research and development
SCCI	Seed Control and Certification Institute
SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Community
SPM	Senior Program Manager
SSSA	Seed System Security Assessment
TQC	Technical Quality Coordinator
URC	University Research Company, LLC
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFC	Women for Change

Overview

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 FY2013 toward meeting targets given dedicated attention to developing project structures, systems and strategies. The design of Mawa included an initial six-month period to establish a strong foundation for activity implementation. From December 2012 through May 2013, Mawa focused on staff recruitment, design of technical strategies, M&E system development, and identification and mobilization of communities. The project launch on June 5, hosted by Mawa and Thrive projects and attended by the USAID Zambia Mission Director, marked the beginning of activity implementation. Since June, Mawa technical staff have dedicated significant time to developing training materials to allow for consistent behavior change messages related to agricultural production and health and nutrition. Activities have steadily increased, focusing on orientation and trainings for community-based field supervisors, community animators, health promoters (HPs), agriculture field agents (FAs) and Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) FAs in technical strategies and specific project activities: conservation agriculture (CA), the Care Group (CG) model, Community-led Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions (CCFLS), and SILCs. Achievements in FY2013 are detailed in this report, and broadly include the following:

- Practical M&E system, inclusive database, developed to collect, analyze and report on data in the USAID-approved performance monitoring plan (PMP). The M&E system includes mechanisms, including discussion guides and working groups, for turning data into useful knowledge that supports project decision-making.
- Community mobilization conducted in each of the 19 camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts to introduce the project objectives and gain support of traditional leaders and community members for engagement in Mawa activities. Over 5,750 people participated in the community mobilization activities.
- Household census conducted in the 19 camps to facilitate beneficiary participation in project activities. The household census registered over 18,300 households. The household census also established the sampling frame for the baseline survey.
- Baseline survey implemented in Chipata and Lundazi districts by an independent consultant to determine baseline values for Feed the Future indicators. Mawa will compare progress and impact against these baseline values using data from annual surveys to be conducted in June and July of each project year.

Mawa reached 11,363¹ rural households through Mawa interventions (FTF 4.5.2-13), as follows:

- 5,500 individuals – 520 lead farmers and 4,980 farmers group members – received agriculture extension services and training during the establishment of demonstration plots.
- 7,995 individuals received short-term agriculture productivity or food security training (FTF 4.5.2-7).
- 1,782 households participated in DiNERs (Diversity for Nutrition and Enhanced Resilience), exchanging vouchers for diverse cereal, legume and vegetable seeds (FTF 3.3.3-15).
- 446 nutrition volunteers (NVs), representing 44 CGs, received orientation and training on the Care Group approach and training on the first lesson, *Smart, Healthy and Strong*. An additional 28 CGs, comprised of 288 NVs, were also formed, but had not yet received orientation and training. NVs then formed 114 neighbor groups and trained 1,140 neighbor group members - mothers and caregivers of children under two - through home visits using the CG approach (FTF 3.1.9-1).
- SILC FAs formed 112 SILCs (FTF 4.5.2-11) with a total membership of 2,495, which has begun receiving trainings related to group management and financial management. Of the total number of groups, an estimated 25 SILCs, representing 375 members, have begun savings and lending practices.

At present, the total number of rural households supported through Mawa interventions (FTF 4.5.2-13) and individuals receiving agriculture sector productivity and food security training (FTF 4.5.2-7) may include some double-counting. While Mawa completed the design of the database in FY2013, the Mawa management information system (MIS) is in the final stage of installation to prepare for data entry. Numbers presented in this report are determined through a hand-count of numbers reported in the project report forms submitted by community-based staff and volunteers. Given the possibility that individuals from the same household may be

¹ Figure includes the 5,500 (agriculture production and extension support), 1,782 (DiNERs), 1,546 (nutrition orientation and support) and 2,495 (SILCs).

registered in multiple groups (e.g., farmer group, CG, SILC), Mawa anticipates that the total will decrease once entered in the database and checked against household identification numbers. Mawa will correct the numbers in FY2014 first quarterly report and performance data table, as well as in the Feed the Future Monitoring System (FTFMS)². Annex A, Performance Data Table, shows progress against FY2013 targets as input in FTFMS.

Strategic Objective I

SOI: Targeted households increase and diversify agricultural production for nutrition and markets.

Mawa's strategy for strategic objective (SO) I focuses on increasing the use of appropriate agricultural inputs and production practices and techniques, including improved post-harvest storage practices. Mawa agriculture field supervisors and FAs teach monthly training lessons to lead farmers and their farmer groups. Lead farmers reinforce these messages through extension visits to farmer fields and host field days at demonstration plots or other sites to demonstrate new or difficult-to-adopt technologies or innovations. Under SOI, farmer group members receive simple lessons related to conservation agriculture, small livestock management and post-harvest storage and handling, which have been adapted from existing materials and guidance. To support this approach, Mawa trained the five agriculture field supervisors and 26 field agents in the principles of CA. In turn, these community-based staff and volunteers identified 520 lead farmers who have begun organizing membership in 520 farmer groups. In September 2013, lead farmers and farmer groups established 100 demonstration plots, where the lead farmers received an introduction to CA, along with practical experience in land preparation, with technical assistance from GART.

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

In June 2013, Dr. Louise Sperling of CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture) and Dr. Geoff Heinrich of CRS co-led a seed system security assessment (SSSA) in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Funded under a USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) award to Dr. Sperling, the SSSA was carried out in three sites: Katondo (Chipata) and Munyukwa and Mwase (Lundazi). The SSSA reviewed the functioning of seed systems – both formal and informal – looking at access, availability and quality of seed. Field research comprised surveys, focus group discussions and interviews with farmers, agro-dealers, traders, agro-processors, seed producers, local authorities and staff working on Feed the Future-funded and other agriculture projects in Eastern Province. Teams comprised of Mawa staff and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), specifically the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI), supported the field research, gaining experience in analyzing seed systems.

In September 2013, Mawa conducted seven DiNERS (seed fairs), providing vouchers to 1,782 beneficiary households for the purchase of diverse seeds. Mawa designed the DiNERS to respond to some of the short-term recommendations from the draft SSSA report³, while also adhering to the original intent of the DiNERS – to make seed accessible to the most vulnerable smallholder households in rural Chipata and Lundazi districts and to demonstrate the high demand for diverse seed in rural communities to the formal and informal seed sectors. In FY2014, Mawa will work with ZARI, Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) and FTF implementing partners to translate the recommendations into actions to bolster formal and informal seed systems for the benefit of smallholder farmers.



Mawa implemented seven DiNERS in Chipata and Lundazi districts, providing vouchers to 1,782 beneficiaries for the purchase of diverse cereal, legume and horticulture seeds.

² Mawa will present revised targets for FY2014 and FY2015 in the FTFMS, as required. FY2013 achievements against targets are included in Annex A, Performance Data Table, FY2013, and will be included in FTFMS with required explanations for deviations.

³ Dr. Louise Sperling is currently finalizing the SSSA report in consultation with participants.

Table 1: DiNERS respond to recommendations from the Seed System Security Assessment

SSSA Result	DiNER Response
Food production is dominated by maize and groundnut with low levels of crop diversification and associated income and nutritional diversity.	Mawa provided vouchers to participants to support the exchange of diverse seed. Each recipient received one voucher of cereals (K80), two for pulses (K25) and one for vegetables (K20). Mawa identified seed suppliers from the informal sector to participate in DiNERS to expand availability of legumes, including pigeon peas, soyabeans, cowpeas, sunflower and other mixed beans. Mawa also identified local suppliers of vegetable seed, including rape, pumpkin, cabbage, and fruit tree seedlings. Research and Development (R&D) implementing partners were invited to the DiNERS to introduce Vitamin A maize and orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP).
Very few new seed varieties are accessible to rural smallholder farmers as due to limited seed source channels.	Mawa requested seed suppliers – formal and informal – to include multiple seed varieties for each seed type in order to provide choices to beneficiaries. For new varieties of seed, seed suppliers were instructed to provide land preparation and planting advice. Mawa also consulted SCCI and ZARI for recommended seed varieties to ensure that seed available at DiNERS was appropriate for the agro-ecological zones in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Between five to seven seed companies and seed stockists participated in each of the DiNERS, and up to 20 local seed multipliers and suppliers participated in each fair, making diverse seed varieties available in rural communities.
Women, in general, confront greater obstacles to agricultural production, processing and marketing. Decision-making authority related to agricultural production is dominated by men.	Prior to seed fairs, Mawa field supervisors and animators facilitated discussions with beneficiary households on planning and budgeting for the agricultural season. Mawa staff discussed household decision-making in preparation for the seed fairs, asking beneficiaries to discuss how planning – when dominated by one individual in the household – may not support the needs of all family members. Consistent with Mawa messaging, beneficiaries were encouraged to discuss and prioritize food needs, then plan for market sales, working together to make the best decision for the family to build strong families, farms and futures. Mawa will continue these discussions through the year through household engagement and community dialogues related to gender and social norms, beliefs and practices, while also supporting participation of women and men in agricultural production, nutrition and SILCs.

Planning for seed fairs began in the last quarter of FY2013, involving orientation with seed suppliers (formal and informal) and communities on the purpose of the DiNERS, consultation with MAL, ZARI and SCCI and other stakeholders, beneficiary identification and verification, and beneficiary preparation for participation in DiNERS.

Mawa identified households based on the following criteria, for which the data was collected during the household census:

1. Number of household members
2. Number of people in the household living with HIV
3. Number of children under two (CU2) in the household
4. Number of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in the household

Based on these criteria, each household received a vulnerability score, which Mawa compared against the household's "poverty score." This score, determined using the Progress Out of Poverty Index (PPI)⁴ applied during the household census, is a predictor for a household's likelihood of poverty. Mawa then engaged an intensive beneficiary verification process, engaging village head persons, community health workers (CHWs), camp extension officers (CEOs) and selected community-based project volunteers to verify household eligibility. See Annex B for a description of the beneficiary verification process.

⁴ The PPI, developed by Grameen Foundation, is a simple tool with 10 questions about a household's characteristics and asset ownership, which are scored to determine the likelihood that the household is below the poverty line. Mawa will use the PPI in the annual surveys to chart progress out of poverty for households, as well as specific target groups (e.g., pregnant and lactating women, SILC group members).

For a period of two weeks in September 2013, Mawa conducted DiNERS in four locations in Chipata district and three locations in Lundazi district, assigning beneficiaries to specific seed fairs based on geographic area. Of the 2,094 beneficiaries verified as eligible to participate, 1,782 beneficiaries (1,418 male and 364 female) representing 89% of the FY2013 target participated in the seed fairs. Table 2 shows participation by each of the 19 camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Seed suppliers from the formal sector included Zamseed, SeedCo, Pannar, MRI, and different stockists. In Chipata, World Fish Center, representing the International Potato Center (CIP), took advantage of the DiNERS in Pwata and Shamombo camps to present information on the benefits of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP).

Table 2: Participation in DiNERS by District and Camp

District	Camp	DiNER Location	No. of Registered Beneficiaries	Actual			% Participation
				M	F	Total	
Chipata	Chiteu	Shamombo	161	106	39	143	90%
	Shamombo		135	98	38	135	101%
	Pwata	Pwata	149	114	36	150	101%
	Katondo		94	53	41	94	100%
	Mzapawi		149	121	23	144	97%
	Samuel	Samuel	172	97	21	118	69%
	Kwenje		172	64	26	90	52%
	Ng'ongwe	Ng'ongwe	139	89	37	126	91%
Sub-total Chipata			1 171	742	261	1,003	86%
Lundazi	Nthitimila	Nthitimila	127	104	16	120	94%
	Mkomba		70	62	3	65	93%
	Malandula	Emusa	90	68	5	73	81%
	Munyukwa		91	48	12	60	66%
	Kamzoole		55	35	5	40	73%
	Luambwa		146	106	13	119	82%
	Chiwe	Mwase	43	38	5	43	100%
	Mwase II		70	37	4	41	59%
	Mankhaka		89	65	15	80	90%
	Chimwala		56	46	4	50	89%
	Kapichila		86	67	21	88	102%
Sub-total Lundazi			923	676	103	779	84%
Total Mawa			2094	1418	364	1782	85%⁵

The community and beneficiary response to the seed fairs was positive, with the voucher recipients purchasing 8,910 kilograms (kg) of cereal seed, 1,564 kg and 2182 kg of certified and uncertified pulse seed, respectively, and approximately 18 kg of vegetable seed. Community members appreciated the opportunity to also make and receive cash sales from individuals who did not receive vouchers – and this encouraged seed suppliers to bring other inputs and tools, such as rippers, chaka hoes and agro-chemicals, to the DiNERS. Beneficiaries were pleased with the wide varieties of seed available. However, while indicating that the total value of the vouchers (K150 or USD30) was sufficient, beneficiaries requested increased number of vouchers of smaller value to allow them to purchase more types and varieties of seed. Some beneficiaries also indicated that they did not receive adequate preparation to participate in the DiNERS, and feel that greater knowledge of the different seed varieties available and associated farming practices would have led them to make different decisions about seed purchases. Finally, some beneficiaries explained that the distances to the DiNERS was great, citing this as the primary reason why some identified beneficiaries did not participate in the seed fairs.

⁵ The FY2013 target for social assistance beneficiaries was 2,000 (FTF 3.3.3-15), while Mawa identified and verified 2,094 beneficiaries. Mawa reached 89% of the PMP-approved target of 2,000, and 85% against the identified number of beneficiaries.

Vailet Lungu: Nutritionist, Farmer and Business Woman

Vailet Lungu, Health Promoter, characterizes Mawa's intention – through DiNERS – to find the intersection between agriculture, nutrition, incomes and gender. She arrived at the DiNER in Pwata camp, Chipata district to assume a double role as a volunteer for Mawa and as a local seed supplier. Ms. Lungu brought 25 kilograms of groundnut seed that she sold in less than 30 minutes. Leaving the DiNER, with money in pocket, she exclaimed, "I wish you could bring this next year!" As a woman, a nutritionist, a farmer and a business person, she represents the resilience and innovation that Mawa aims to instill amongst beneficiaries.

Seed suppliers also appreciated the DiNERS, stating that the voucher exchanges and cash sales allowed them to make sales that exceeded their usual daily profits. Seed suppliers, particularly the formal sector, expressed surprise at the high demand for seed in rural communities – and the ability of some households to pay for seed and other inputs.

Concerns from the seed suppliers were related to perceived unfair competition from local seed suppliers, who multiply and sell uncertified legume seeds at lower prices – even though quality (as established by SCCI) met the conditions for locally-produced seed. Suppliers of seed through informal seed systems indicated that they were not adequately prepared for participation in the DiNERS, arriving unprepared to measure and package the seed.

Though Mawa began planning for DiNERS at the beginning of the fourth quarter of FY2013, feedback indicates that greater effort and planning are required to ensure

understanding of the approach amongst both seed suppliers (formal and informal) and beneficiaries. Mawa will draw upon beneficiary and seed seller feedback from the DiNERS to shape and refine the seed fairs in FY2014. The report on the DiNERS is being finalized, and will include lessons learned with concrete actions to strengthen these seed fairs in FY2014. The report will be available to USAID..

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

In FY2013, Mawa focused on the development of training materials and subsequent trainings related to conservation agriculture and the establishment of demonstration plots to showcase appropriate agricultural production practices. Prior to trainings in July 2013, GART developed materials to train agriculture supervisors, FAs and lead farmers in CA. The materials include instructions for agriculture field supervisors and FAs on how to create demonstration plots in communities. Mawa sourced CA training materials from the Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) for field supervisors and FAs to use as reference materials. The CA training is broken down into 10 easy-to-follow sessions, ranging from the principles and benefits of CA to land preparation and fertilizer or manure application, that Mawa is currently revising and expanding upon for the monthly lesson plans for lead farmers and farmer groups (see page 9).

With the technical assistance of GART, Mawa trained five agriculture field supervisors and 26 agriculture FAs in CA, using the materials mentioned, in July 2013. The one-week training was designed to introduce CA as an alternative and effective farming system for smallholder farmers that intensifies crop production while also fostering natural resource management. GART taught the principles of CA, then followed up with practical application through demonstration of land preparation – ripping and basins – while also providing education on planting and fertilizer and manure application. During farm visits, GART agronomists made the following observations:

- Most farmers used traditional land preparation practices, namely ridging, which requires more labor and time, inefficient use of water, and loss of nutrients.
- Few farmers demonstrated appropriate use and application of fertilizer, which can lead to low crop productivity. For example, basal dressing was applied at growth stage, as opposed to planting, which leads to poor root development.

The training provided the foundation for field supervisors and FAs to support lead farmers in the development of demonstration plots and – in turn – beneficiaries in the application and adoption of CA principles. Mawa will also continue to monitor lessons provided by GART to ensure that they respond to the situation of smallholder farmers in Chipta and Lundazi districts. For example, GART will need to ensure that methods and practices promoted allow for the participation of the most vulnerable farmers – even those who cannot afford fertilizer or rent oxen for ripping. As alternatives, GART will continue to demonstrate manure application and basins with chaka hoes.

GART returned to Chipata and Lundazi in September 2013 to support with the establishment of 100 demonstration plots, according to the following plan:

Table 3: Number of demonstration plots by type established in Chipata and Lundazi districts.

Demonstration Plot	Lundazi	Chipata	Total
Maize with cowpea rotation	15	10	25
Maize with groundnut rotation	18	12	30
Maize with soyabean rotation	12	8	20
Sunflower with soyabean rotation	3	2	5
Sunflower with groundnut rotation	6	4	10
Sunflower with cowpea rotation	6	4	10
Total	60	40	100

Of note, each lead farmer – over the life of activity – will plant and manage only one of the six types of demonstration plots. Major crops, maize and sunflower, promoted under Feed the Future are rotated with common food legumes to promote intensified and diversified production. Maize demonstration plots account for 75% of the plots given the importance of this crop to farmers in Eastern Province.

Mawa's 520 lead farmers and 4,980 of the farmer group members participated in the development of the demonstration plots. GART emphasized and demonstrated plot marking, land preparation, lime and fertilizer application, planting dates, spacing and weeding during the establishment of the plots. After initial practice for lead farmers and FAs, GART charged them with the responsibility of establishing the demonstration plots, returning to supervise and make corrections, as necessary. For example, one common mistake was incorrect spacing between permanent planting basin rows. Mawa provided the inputs – seed, tools, and fertilizer – for the 100 demonstration plots and established the expectation that lead farmers will be responsible for establishing demonstration plots in subsequent years without project support. See Annex C for list of inputs as well as layout of demonstration plots.

GART also used the September 2013 visit to Chipata and Lundazi to check on how field supervisors and field agents had applied some of the skills learned in July 2013. GART found that Friday Ngoma, FA in Kapichila camp in Lundazi district, had used the materials provided during the training to begin raising *Faidherbia albida* seedlings, which he can share with his farmer group members. The FA showed great interest in the starting a nursery of moringa, sunhemp and velvet bean seeds, which complement the CA farming system. GART noted that the FAs – particularly motivated and committed FAs – will require greater supervision from field supervisors. Some of the FAs noted that the field supervisors had not visited them between the initial CA training and establishment of the demonstration plots. Supervision has been difficult in FY2013 given delayed delivery of motorcycles for field supervisors⁶ – as well as their intense participation in preparation for DiNERs. Motorcycles were delivered in August 2013, and Mawa expects regular supervision and support to field agents to begin in FY2014.

As mentioned in the FY2013 Quarter 2 report, the agricultural production lessons shared with lead farmers and their farmer groups were developed in March 2013 to begin building the application for the lead farmer mobile application. These lessons are now being elaborated in order to provide more detailed individual lessons to lead farmers and farmer groups. Combined, these lessons will comprise the training package for field agents and lead farmers to promote appropriate agricultural production practices and techniques. By close of FY2013, Mawa technical staff had developed two lesson plans for agriculture FAs and lead farmers and will continue to develop lessons in FY2014 related to CA, small livestock production and management and post-harvest storage and handling practices. All lessons will be timed to support different phases in the agricultural season.

⁶ See FY2013 Quarter 3 report for explanation of delayed motorbike delivery, which affected all staff, inclusive field supervisors and animators.

Table 4: Agricultural production lessons developed in FY2013

Lesson	Description
Planning for the Growing Season and Crop Diversification	Reviews the importance of planning for the agricultural season – crops to plant and inputs required – and how diversity in food production helps support the food, nutrition and income needs of the household. Facilitates discussion on how poor planning may affect households' food and economic security.
Land Preparation, Fertilizer Application and Planting	Describes the importance of land preparation and the benefits of preparing land early. Demonstrates conservation tillage and reviews the differences between conservation tillage and conservation farming, while also demonstrating proper use and application of fertilizer for food crops. Also, includes planting guidelines for specific crops.

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

Mawa had intended to begin monthly lessons in post-harvest handling and storage practices in FY2013. However, the need for these lessons coincided with community mobilization, household census and baseline survey, which required participation of community-based field supervisors and animators. Mawa will introduce lessons related to post-harvest handling and storage practices in FY2014.

Strategic Objective 2

The health and nutrition strategy uses the Care Group model to promote adoption of positive health, hygiene and nutrition practices and consumption of nutrient-dense foods, focusing on prevention of malnutrition for pregnant and lactating women and children under two. Mawa has slightly modified the CG approach to include male NVs. While the CG approach prescribes the use of female volunteers, Mawa feels that male volunteers may be able to encourage wider household participation in the home visits and encouraging men's participation in childcare and other reproductive responsibilities, typically reserved for women.

Mawa's efforts in FY2013 focused on development of training lessons and behavior change messages to support adoption of positive health and nutrition practices. Mawa also conducted a Positive Deviance Inquiry (PDI) in Chipata and Lundazi districts to understand existing young child feeding practices in order to tailor behavior change negotiation approaches to meet the needs of families and children. Collaboration with other USAID implementing partners and stakeholders has supported Mawa's work through shared planning and learning. Government also supported the PDI by allowing district Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Community Development and Mother Child Health (MCDMCH) to participate actively in the PDI.

Care Group Model: Promoting Adoption of Positive Health and Nutrition Behaviors

The Care Group model is an internationally-recognized behavior change and community health systems strengthening strategy for maternal and child health and nutrition interventions that uses peer education. Applying this approach in Malawi, CRS has reduced the rate of underweight children under five and increased exclusive breastfeeding. Mawa has adopted this model to achieve significant impact at scale, without unnecessary burden on volunteers and - importantly - caregivers of young children.

By close of FY2013, Mawa had recruited five nutrition field supervisors who supported identification of 734 nutrition volunteers, representing 72 CGs, and orientation and training of 446 of those nutrition volunteers. In addition, HPs and NVs organized 1,140 mothers, fathers and caregivers into 114 neighbor groups. Mawa therefore provided training in child health and nutrition to 1,586 individuals (446 NVs, 1140 caregivers) using the CG approach – exceeding the target of 1,500. These achievements come in spite of lack of motorcycles and bicycles for field supervisors and health promoters, respectively, to facilitate support to NVs, and few incentives for NVs, who have demonstrated remarkable commitment to the objectives of the project.

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

Throughout FY2013, the Nutrition Technical Quality Coordinator (TQC) and Nutrition Project Officer dedicated significant time to adapting and developing training materials. Mawa adapted the Care Group Training Manual

developed by Food for the Hungry to train Mawa nutrition supervisors in this behavior change strategy for addressing the health and nutrition needs of pregnant and lactating women and children under two. Mawa adapted the manual to include an overview of Mawa and the project's health and nutrition strategy, as well as sessions on negotiating behavior change and CCFLS⁷.

In June 2013, the Nutrition TQC and Nutrition Project Officer co-facilitated a CG and CCFLS training for the four nutrition supervisors⁸, using the adapted care group manual (referenced above). On the first day of the training, the facilitators provided an overview of Mawa and the health and nutrition technical strategy and introduced care group model, focusing on the characteristics of care groups which lead to successful implementation. Topics included identification of households and organization of communities into neighbor groups; reporting forms and discussion guides; behavior change negotiation as the foundation of Mawa's health and nutrition activities; facilitation and learning methods; and introduction of CCFLS and how PDI supports CCFLS⁹.

In August 2013, the Nutrition Project Officer with nutrition field supervisors, co-facilitated similar trainings and introductions to the CG and CCFLS approaches for health promoters. Ten health promoters (3 male, 7 female) in Chipata and eight health promoters (1 male, 7 females) in Lundazi learned the basics of organizing and managing CGs. The training emphasized the CG approach in the context of Mawa project, introducing the report forms and discussion guides to be used by health promoters and nutrition volunteers during CG meetings and home visits. As with the trainings for field supervisors, trainers focused on mentorship, facilitation and feedback skills as means of supporting and motivating community-based volunteers. Health promoters also practiced presentations of nutrition lessons, receiving feedback on their facilitation skills. Role plays proved an effective tool for learning new information.

Nutrition field supervisors supported health promoters as they began cascading the training to their nutrition volunteers in September 2013. Mawa tailored the training materials adapted for nutrition field supervisors to meet the different needs of the nutrition volunteers, including simplifying to an appropriate level of detail and translating materials into *chinyanja*. The training oriented nutrition volunteers to the CG approach, their role and responsibilities as a volunteer in improving household health and nutrition through regular household visits, and behavior change negotiation steps, including probing for concerns related to changing current practices and identifying solutions to those concerns, which will facilitate improvements in care and feeding practices.

Mawa also developed training messages to be delivered by NVs during household visits. Mawa staff adapted these materials for the specific needs of nutrition supervisors and health promoters, thereby creating and making available appropriate learning and training materials for each group of individuals supporting the care group approach. The first household visit session was incorporated into the orientation for nutrition volunteers, ensuring they were ready to begin visiting neighbor households upon completing the orientation. Health promoters and NVs will also receive the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling cards from National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) to complement these lessons. Mawa successfully negotiated to receive 1,000 sets of counseling cards for community-based health promoters and NVs.

Table 5: Health and nutrition lessons developed in FY2013

Lesson	Description
Smart, Healthy, and Strong	Introduces the style of the household visits – shared discussions and behavior change negotiation, rather than lectures instructing mothers and caregivers on what to do. Provides consistent messages on importance of all household members, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under two, being smart, healthy and strong.

⁷ See FY2013 Quarter 2 report for description of training content.

⁸ Caritas had recruited only four of the intended six nutrition field supervisors at the time of the training. Mawa's Nutrition TQC and Nutrition Project Officer have ensured/will ensure that remaining field supervisors will receive one-on-one orientation and training upon recruitment.

⁹ See FY2013 Quarter 3 report for more detail on the training topics.

Best Start to Life: Why good nutrition matters	Highlights the importance of the 1,000 most critical days for children’s healthy brain and body development and demonstrates that malnutrition, particularly stunting, is not always easy to see.
Best Start to Life: Child growth and development	Nutrition volunteers reiterate the importance of monitoring children’s growth and development through regular visits to under five clinic and identify alternative ways to measure healthy growth, such as the age at which a child starts to sit up, smile or walk. Highlights simple ways to foster healthy development in the child, aside from nutrition, such as talking to and playing with the child.
Food Groups	Using the IYCF counseling card for eating diverse foods, the session describes the importance of different food groups to good nutrition and healthy growth and identifies local foods that fall within these groups.
How Nutrition Works	Briefly explains different aspects mothers and caregivers should consider when feeding their children: frequency, amount, diversity, density, active feeding, utilization and hygiene.
Healthy Diet for Pregnant and Lactating Women	Building on the previous session, this training describes why the feeding concepts listed above are also important for pregnant and lactating women.

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

In July and August 2013, URC led a Positive Deviance Inquiry in Kamutemeni village, Shamombo camp in Chipata and Dunda village, Munyukwa camp in Lundazi, including representatives from the MOH and MCDMCH. PDI attempts to identify “a person whose special practices or behaviors enable him or her to overcome a problem more successfully than his or her neighbors who have access to the same resources and share the same risk factors¹⁰.” Prior to the PDI, URC (Ms. Waverly Rennie) trained the PDI team, consisting of eight Mawa staff and government representatives, in weighing protocols, weighing children, plotting weights, taking mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) and recording weights and MUACs, while also training the PDI team in carrying out wealth ranking to identify positive deviants and malnourished. The draft PDI report is attached as Annex E. In summary, primary distinctions between PD and non-PD children included frequency of feeding, breastfeeding practices, latrine ownership, care-seeking behaviors, active feeding and maternal depression or social isolation. For other behaviors, attributes or possessions, including – to name a few – quantity, diversity and density of food, family savings, food purchases, small livestock ownership, the PDI did not recognize a pattern of differences between PD and non-PD households.

As a result of the PDI, Mawa identified practices that can be successfully promoted through community-based nutrition and health promotion activities, including home visits by NVs and CCFLS. Specifically, the findings suggest the need for increased focus on improved daily feeding, hygiene and caring practices. Mawa will also promote these practices through action cards, associated with each of the lessons in the IYCF training package. Action cards, represent small, doable actions that households can test and practice to address health and nutrition needs based on their economic and social situation.

During the URC visit in August 2013, Mawa also conducted trials of CCFLS. CCFLS is an approach designed to prevent progression to moderate malnutrition, specifically among children who are growth faltering (0 to -1 SD) and mildly malnourished (-1 to -2 SD). Based on the PDI, Mawa invited six caregivers and their children to participate in the trial CCFLS. One caregiver included the headman of Kamutemeni village, along with his well-nourished daughter. Over the two-day period, participants inventoried food items brought to the sessions, devised menus based on the nutritional value of the foods, learned about the importance of (and practiced) hand-washing, and participated in active feeding of their children. Feedback from participants indicated overall appreciation for CCFLS. Participants were able to bring the required food to create the menus, and the menus were seen as accessible, acceptable and affordable.

¹⁰ Nutrition Working Group, CORE Group, *Positive Deviance/Hearth Essential Elements: A resource guide for sustainably rehabilitating malnourished children (Addendum)*, Washington, DC: June 2005.



Hellen Libingi, Community Animator for Chipata district, demonstrates a lesson on food preparation during the Mawa project launch. Mawa will conduct similar lessons through home visits and CCFLS over the life of the project.

Throughout the reporting period, Mawa has made efforts to collaborate with USAID implementing partners and other stakeholders to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to preventing malnutrition in the 19 communities. Mawa has reached out to Communications Support for Health (CSH), as the program adapts and develops new behavior change materials related to child health and nutrition. Mawa and CIP also identified several areas for collaboration. For example, CIP is providing OFSP vines, focusing on providing vouchers for vines to households with PLW and young children. Given Mawa's substantial reach in communities to this specific target group, CIP has agreed to provide OFSP vouchers to Mawa NVs. NVs can then support CIP by serving as demonstration sites, distribution points or vine multipliers for the neighbor groups or communities. Finally, Mawa has consulted with CARE as the manager of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Fund and the SUN CSO Alliance to learn about the potential for collaboration and the broader country goals related to prevention of malnutrition.

Strategic Objective 3

SO3: Targeted households increase incomes and productive assets.

Mawa's strategy for SO3 changed from the project design to include all of the five essential skills that smallholder farmers need to transition from subsistence farming to production for markets. Mawa initially proposed to split these skills across SO1 (sustainable production and innovation) and SO3 (group management, financial management and marketing), with agriculture FAs responsible for teaching skills focused on agricultural production and SILC FAs responsible for the remaining skills sets. This change was driven by two factors. First, the agriculture FAs and lead farmers have incredible responsibility to teach and demonstrate practical application of appropriate agricultural production practices. These community-based staff and volunteers deliver agriculture lessons, conduct household visits to promote application and adoption of appropriate agricultural production practices, and showcase these practices through field days and establishment of demonstration plots (see *Agricultural Production* section). Second, Mawa has posited that these skills sets – when combined – will help risk-averse smallholder farmers ease into effective engagement with markets. SILCs – intended to reach 20,000 beneficiaries over the life of activity – will therefore serve as the locus for the delivery of lessons in each of the essential skills. SILC FAs who become Private Service Providers (PSPs), will continue providing these skills – sustainable production, group management, financial management, innovation and marketing – to community groups after the project ends.

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

In FY2013, Mawa focused on mobilizing communities to form SILCs in the 19 camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts, with SILC Field Agents forming 112 groups with a total membership of 2,495 (1,717 female, 778 male) of which 69% represents women. Mawa successfully identified qualified SILC FAs, who have committed themselves to forming groups despite delays in procurement of bicycles, which were distributed in September 2013. As of close of FY2013, 25 SILCs, representing 375 members began providing loans valued at K12,026 or USD2,300. While the loans are lower than anticipated, savings and lending practices will gain pace as SILCs proceed. This is strong progress given that SILC orientation and trainings began in June with mobilization taking place in July and August. The number of groups jumped from 25 in August to 112 in September, which represents 93% of the FY2013 target. Again, as with other activities, progress was slower than anticipated due to delays in delivery of bicycles for SILC FAs.

Mawa's SILC Officer trained SILC supervisors and FAs during three-day training in June 2013. Six SILC field supervisors received an overview of the SILC and PSP methodologies, including review of outreach planning. The

orientation addressed roles and responsibilities of SILC field supervisors and FAs, record-keeping guidelines, implementation phases, data collection tools and supervision of SILCs. Beyond ensuring that the field supervisors have the required knowledge and understanding of the SILC-PSP methodology, the facilitator worked with Mawa staff and supervisors to develop plans for field agent productivity and outreach mapping. The three-day training prepared field supervisors to identify qualified and committed individuals from the Mawa communities to serve as field agents, while also ensuring that these communities receive appropriate support and coverage from the field agents and supervisors. SILC supervisors with support from the SILC Officer provided step-down trainings in the same topics to the 30 SILC FAs in July 2013, ensuring adequate understanding of their roles mobilizing, forming, training and supporting SILC members as they learn to save and lend within their groups.



The Treasurer of Tikhondani SILC group in Chipata district counts savings of her fellow members prior to placing it in the cash box.

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

Mawa planned for activities focused on agriculture value chains to begin in Year 3 (FY2015) of the project, as SILC groups need a strong foundation in group management and financial management – afforded through SILC and financial education trainings – prior to proceeding with the three remaining skills sets: market basics, natural resource management, and innovation. However, as mentioned, Mawa made the decision to introduce the five skills sets under this component of the project. Mawa has categorized the lessons in each of the skills sets modules, and created a sequence for introducing the skills sets to SILC groups over two SILC cycles. By the end of FY2013, Mawa will have completed trainings in the group and financial management skills sets and begun introducing the first lessons in the marketing basics module. See Annex D for a summary of the skills sets lessons and sequencing across the SILC life cycle.

Gender

Mawa's gender strategy evolved throughout FY2013, drawing upon WFC's proven strategies for transforming gender roles in households and communities and also replying to changes in the technical strategies related to the three objectives. Mawa continues to adopt a foundation household approach to address gender inequities within households and communities and increase women's access to, and control over, limited household resources for improved agricultural, nutrition and economic outcomes. Beyond trainings to project staff, particularly Field Supervisors, Mawa has adopted the following three activities to support positive changes in gender roles and norms:

1. Area Associations (AAs), comprised of respected and influential community members, and representatives from groups under Mawa (e.g., lead farmers, CGs, SILCs), will discuss how assumptions and perceptions related to gender undermine achievement in agricultural production, nutrition and health outcomes and income growth. The discussions also focus on establishing strategies and approaches to overcome assumptions and perceptions about gender roles. AA members, in turn, reinforce these messages in their respected groups and communities.
2. Community-based Animators will facilitate broader community dialogues, inclusive community members and traditional leaders, and household engagements to discuss gender roles and norms within communities and households.
3. Accompaniment visits with Field Supervisors as they train lead farmers, NVs, and SILC groups will also allow Mawa Animators to ensure integration of appropriate gender messages within monthly lessons and visits to beneficiaries. Animators will work with Supervisors to coach and mentor on effective messaging.

In FY2013, the Gender TQC and animators led the community mobilization activities, drawing upon previous knowledge of and relationships with traditional authorities (see *Project Management* section). The Gender TQC

used information learned during community focus group discussions and key informant interviews to inform technical trainings for agriculture, nutrition and SILC supervisors. The Gender TQC and animators have participated in the trainings to ensure appropriate gender perspective and understanding of how social norms and practices – including gender roles and responsibilities – may influence decisions related to agriculture production, health and nutrition and savings and lending.

Due to competing priorities, the training for Mawa staff on gender did not take place in FY2013. However, Mawa animators conducted gender trainings for agriculture FAs, health promoters and SILC FAs. In August 2013, the four animators conducted separate trainings for Chipata- and Lundazi-based community workers. In Chipata, Mawa trained 12 women and 20 men, while training 21 women and 20 men in Lundazi. Adapting standard WFC curriculum, animators focused on myths, beliefs and attitudes about sex and gender, gender and power relations, household decision-making, gender-based violence and gender in the context of Mawa. For the session on gender-based violence, Mawa animators in Chipata invited the participation of Ms. Susan Kantumoya of the Victim Support Unit, while the team in Lundazi invited the Director of the Victim Support Unit, Mr. Mwanza. The trainings were well received, but animators noted that many of the health promoters and FAs perceive gender to be synonymous with women's issues. Mawa believes that continuous mentorship to these community-based workers and their supervisors through support visits, community dialogues and household engagements will begin to ease misconceptions about gender. The gender training for Mawa staff will take place in October 2013.

In the last quarter of FY2013, animators conducted eight community dialogues. Approximately 1,200 community members, including traditional leaders, participated in the eight dialogues, which focused on the relevance of gender in Mawa project, social norms as related to agriculture, nutrition and incomes, as well as the importance of joint decision-making in households. These messages are designed to reinforce messages introduced to farmer groups and CGs by field agents and health promoters. Community dialogues in the month of October focused on access to, and control over, productive resources. Animators also sensitized communities on the purpose of area associations in the project. Following these activities, animators formed two AAs in Lundazi's Mkomba and Chiwe camps. The formation of AAs will increase in FY2014 as farmer groups, CGs and SILCs also become more established and comfortable in their roles. As mentioned, AAs draw membership from these groups and the wider community, thus AA formation depends upon formation of these groups.

M&E, Accountability and Learning

In February 2013, CRS senior technical advisors for M&E (Dr. Susan Hahn and Mr. Guy Sharrock) led Mawa staff in the development of the M&E system for the project, which supports data collection and analysis of Feed the Future, PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) and internal project monitoring indicators. Mawa followed CRS guidance for creating a SMILER (Simple Measurement of Indicators for Learning and Evidence-based Reporting) M&E system. Mawa's indicators (required and optional) are linked to a system to collect, analyze and report on data, and the resulting M&E system includes mechanisms for turning data into useful knowledge to support decision-making¹¹.

Mawa has developed – and will continue to review and revise, as necessary – data flow maps, data-gathering forms, report formats, instruction sheets and communication maps for each person – from lead farmer to FA to field supervisor – responsible for gathering information related to each of the project activities. An integral part of the M&E system is the Mawa MIS. While the design of the database was completed during FY2013, finalization of the data entry masks and customized reports remain to be completed in first quarter of FY2014. The household census and baseline survey required greater staff time than anticipated, diverting attention away from the database development. Also, revisions to the project strategies and M&E report forms called for changes in the design of the database that slowed down finalization.

Initial delays in recruitment of the MEAL Manager followed by the need to recruit for a new MEAL Manager also slowed down some progress on the M&E system. The ICT4D and M&E Officers were required to take on unexpected responsibilities related to the household census and baseline survey. At the close of FY2013, Mawa was recruiting for the position of MEAL Manager and had contracted the services of Dr. Susan Hahn – who led

¹¹ Refer to the FY2013 Quarter 2 report submitted on April 30, 2013, for additional information.

the design of the project M&E system – to provide interim assistance to the project through the beginning of November 2013.

The MEAL activities described below, including household census, baseline survey, and mobile applications, were designed in alignment with the M&E system, and represent notable achievement given the staffing challenge faced during the reporting period.

Mobile applications: In January 2013, CRS contracted Dimagi to integrate mobile solutions into the Mawa M&E system. Dimagi's first work order allowed for Dimagi participation in the M&E system design workshop, which led to the decision to create three mobile applications to: 1) support 60 lead farmers in delivering agriculture extension messages to smallholder farmers; 2) facilitate delivery of health and nutrition messages by 50 NVs during home visits; and 3) manage referrals to CCFLS and implement the 10-day nutrition sessions. The mobile applications replicate the monthly training lessons taught by lead farmers and NVs during visits to farm and home. (See *Agricultural Production* and *Health and Nutrition* sections of the report for additional detail on these lessons.)

Dimagi (Ms. Rosa Akbari) returned to Zambia from May to June 2013 to support the customized development and roll-out of the mobile applications. During this period, Dimagi worked with Mawa's ICT4D Officer to translate the application content into *chinyanja*, refine the mobile applications based on user experience, develop training materials, and mentor Mawa's ICT4D Officer in training lead farmers and supervisors in use of the application.

Mawa had intended to complete trainings in the mobile applications for the lead farmers, NVs and health promoters by close of FY2013. However, work was delayed due to staff engagement in the household census, baseline survey and development of Mawa MIS. Mawa will complete the roll-out of these three mobile applications in the first quarter of FY2014, while also finalizing the relationship with MTN whose services will support data collection.

Household census: Mawa is explicitly designed to reach as many vulnerable households in the communities as possible – up to 85% of the population in the 19 camps – in order to reach the life of activity target of 21,500 households. To facilitate registration of households in these communities, Mawa conducted a household census¹², building on a practice introduced under a similar food security project in Malawi. Though an unplanned activity, the census led to the successful registration of over 18,300 households. While the household census revealed fewer households than anticipated based on population figures provided by village head persons, Mawa will continue to register households missed during the census throughout the first quarters of FY2014.

Following the census, Mawa provided unique household and beneficiary numbers to households and individuals registered. Identification numbers have eased the group registration process, allowing Mawa to easily register and track group registration – farmers groups, CGs, neighbor groups and SILCs – by beneficiary identification number. These unique identifiers will simplify beneficiary verification while minimizing the chances of double-counting. The census data was also useful in identifying CU2 as part of the PDI.

The census has not only facilitated registration of beneficiaries in specific project groups, but the data collected also established the sampling frame for the baseline survey. Mawa will include information and analysis from the household census as part of the baseline report, forthcoming in October 2013. However, initial results from the census indicate that a significant percentage of the Mawa population meets the Feed the Future definition of vulnerable household: 1) female no male (FNM), 2) child no adult (CNA), and 3) affected by HIV and AIDS. Numbers of households categorized as CNA and affected by HIV and AIDS were small, according to initial analysis – each vulnerability group falling under 2% of the total registered households. However, approximately 17.5% of households are characterized as FNM: 20.8% in Chipata and 14.5% in Lundazi.

Given Mawa's emphasis on improving the health and nutrition of PLW and CU2, Mawa will expand its definition of vulnerable HHs to include these women and children. Initial analysis of census data indicates significant numbers of HHs with PLW and CU2, with an average of 32.5% of households in the project-targeted camps: 35.7% in Chipata and 29.5% in Lundazi.

¹² For additional details on the household census, see FY2013 Quarter2 and Quarter 3 reports submitted to USAID on April 30 and August 2, respectively.

Baseline survey: Mawa designed, tested, and conducted the baseline survey in the targeted camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts in April and July 2013. Baseline consultant Dr. Alice Willard joined Mawa from mid-April to mid-May to support development and implementation of the baseline survey. Working closely with Mawa technical and management staff, the consultant drafted the baseline survey, developed the sampling frame and training materials for enumerators, and developed data definitions and the data analysis plan. Entry and exit meetings with USAID Zambia served to ensure that the baseline survey will meet Feed the Future and project needs, in light of the required indicators.

Following the consultant's departure in mid-May, Mawa MEAL staff tested and revised the questionnaire based on enumerator and respondent feedback. Using data from the household census, Mawa created a sampling frame to guide baseline data collection. Data collection in Chipata concluded at the end of June, then began in Lundazi. WFC animators acted as supervisors for data collection, under the guidance of the Mawa MEAL staff.

Mawa had intended to submit the final baseline survey report to USAID in August 2013. However, this date has been revised to October 2013 given the need to identify an independent consultant to clean, run and analyze the baseline data. A full description of the baseline methodology and results will be available in the baseline report, which will be finalized by Ms. Willard in collaboration with Mawa management and technical staff. Mawa will seek feedback from USAID prior to finalization, while also sharing the results with government and other stakeholders.

Project Management

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

District Selection: With approval from USAID, Mawa switched districts from Nyimba and Petauke to Chipata and Lundazi in the first quarter of FY2013, then turned to selection of 19 camps within these districts. Mawa consulted with Cartias Chipata, MAL, MOH, and other FTF implementing partners, based on several criteria, include poverty rates, potential for crop diversification and access to markets. Mawa consulted with COMACO, in particular, and other FTF implementing partners on geographic outreach to avoid overlap of similar activities (e.g., conservation agriculture, savings and lending groups), while ensuring complementarity between project interventions.

Despite these measures, Mawa has found a significant amount of overlap between FTF implementing partners and other stakeholders, particularly as related to agriculture production practices. In September 2013, when establishing demonstration plots, Mawa staff met ASNAPP, PROFIT+ and Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) in Chiwe and Shamombo camps conducting similar activities. While this degree of overlap can be beneficial when activities are complementary, it can place unnecessary burden on communities. Mawa therefore will commit itself to participate in existing district government coordination meetings, but also recommends that USAID support coordination amongst implementing partners related to geographic coverage.

Technical Strategies: Mawa held a strategy design workshop in February 2013 to review and refine the strategies for each technical area: agriculture production, health and nutrition, income and assets and gender. The strategies describe activities supporting each technical approach, while also defining project terms, describing targeting approaches, outlining roles and responsibilities of project, partner and volunteer staff, and describing linkages between different project elements. The technical strategies reflect discussion amongst consortium members and with other stakeholders, including USAID implementing partners and government ministries. The technical strategies account for existing materials and resources available to support activity implementation in Chipata and Lundazi districts. These strategies will be updated based on project performance and learning and will serve to ensure that project staff and other stakeholders, as necessary, understand Mawa's integrated approach for increasing food and economic security. The four strategies are summarized in the relevant sections of this report and will be reviewed and revised throughout the life of activity to reflect learning from routine monitoring and annual surveys. These strategies are available to USAID upon request.

Community Mobilization: An estimated 5,750 people, including village head persons, participated in community mobilization activities in the 19 camps targeted under the project. Led by WFC animators with

participation from other Mawa staff, community mobilization used participatory approaches to engage communities in understanding the objectives of the project. Mawa staff conducted key informant interviews and focus group discussions to understand the social norms, beliefs and practices that affect – positively and negatively – community and household ability to increase agricultural production, improve health and nutrition status and broaden income and asset base. Mawa has used information gathered in the community mobilization activities in the development of training materials to ensure that the lessons and messages respond to community and household needs. As needed, Mawa has gone back to communities to discuss again the purpose of the project, particularly in communities where households or individuals demonstrate skepticism about the project. Specifically, in Chingombe village in Munyukwa camp, Lundazi, community members indicated concern about Mawa given past experience with an organization whose objectives were unclear. In August 2013, Mawa staff, led by the Gender TQC, returned to this community to explain again the objectives of the project and emphasize that community participation is voluntary. Mawa also discussed these concerns expressed by the community with MOH and other district government representatives.

Staffing: Mawa completed recruitment of all staff during FY2013, but faced challenges in filling the positions of Nutrition Technical Quality Coordinator (TQC) and the M&E, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Manager. While recruiting for the position of Nutrition TQC, Mawa was supported by Ms. Jenny Haddle, Peace Corps Volunteer/Nutrition Project Officer, and Ms. Jessica Bateman, CRS Fellow, who later accepted the position of Nutrition TQC in August 2013. At close of FY2013, CRS continues to recruit for the position of MEAL Manager, following the departure of Mr. Bob Muzyamba in August 2013. CRS continues to pursue qualified professionals for this position and, in the interim, will receive dedicated M&E support from the CRS regional office based in Lusaka and, as necessary, qualified consultants.

Staff recruitment for the positions of agriculture, nutrition and SILC field supervisors proved challenging given the remuneration offered by Caritas Chipata. Caritas Chipata's salary structure has not been updated in over 10 years, and therefore the remuneration package offered as compared to similar organizations is neither competitive nor attractive for experienced professionals. CRS has supported Caritas Chipata to create a more competitive salary structure that aligns with the organizational principles, and Caritas Chipata has since proposed a revised salary structure for review and approval by the Diocese of Chipata. With approval of this salary structure, CRS feels that the project will be able to retain the existing field supervisors, who receive up to 75% less than other professionals in similar positions.

During the reporting period, CRS recognized the need for a dedicated SILC Officer to ensure the quality roll-out and implementation of SILC, as the foundation for introducing the five skills sets for market engagement. SILC provides two of the five skills to members – group management and financial skills – and therefore Mawa determined this position to be critical to meet the objectives of the project. The addition of the SILC Officer who provides dedicated support to experienced SILC field supervisors has allowed Mawa to exceed its targets for group membership.

Given the coverage area in Chipata and Lundazi districts, Mawa also decided to hire additional nutrition field supervisors, increasing the number from four to six, to ensure quality support to CGs. Though recruitment for this position has proven difficult due to lack of qualified applicants, Caritas Chipata has hired five of the six nutrition field supervisors who have been trained in the required skills to support Health Promoters and NVs. Caritas Chipata, at close of the reporting period, was in the process of hiring the remaining field supervisors

Mawa orientation and monthly review meetings: In June 2013, CRS led an orientation on Mawa technical strategies for the five agriculture supervisors, six SILC supervisors, one nutrition supervisor and four community animators. Supervisors and animators received an overview of the Mawa MEAL system, reviewing data flows and report forms and practicing use and completion of discussion guides and reporting forms. Supervisors dedicated the final day of the orientation to developing detailed action plans and target-setting. Since the initial orientation, community-based project staff, including Caritas Chipata field supervisors and WFC community animators, has participated in monthly review meetings to review progress and challenges during the previous month and develop coordinated activity plans by technical area and district. Mawa project staff, including the Chief of Party (CoP), Senior Program Manager (SPM), TQCs and MEAL staff, participates in these meetings to provide guidance and assistance while also – for agriculture and nutrition field supervisors – teaching the next agriculture production or health and nutrition lessons in the training calendar.

Based on feedback from the first three meetings held in July, August and September, Mawa will facilitate monthly reviews by district for the first two months of each quarter in FY2014, bringing together staff from both districts for the last month of the quarter only. This change will reduce community-based field supervisors' and community animators' time away from community activities and responsibilities, while continuing to allow for shared discussion, learning and planning.

Institutional strengthening and capacity development: In December 2012, CRS conducted a sub-recipient financial management assessment, as required by the agency, with the Diocese of Chipata to identify institutional strengthening needs related to financial management systems and structures. The rating assigned to the Diocese of Chipata as a result of the assessment determined the financial forecasting, funding and reporting requirements under the sub-recipient agreement. CRS conducted similar assessments in January and February 2013, with GART and Women for Change, respectively, and plans to conduct the assessment with Caritas Chipata, specifically, in November 2014. While Caritas Chipata falls under the Diocese of Chipata, it currently has separate financial and administrative policies and procedures which warrant review.

CRS' headquarters- and country program-based institutional strengthening advisors co-facilitated a Holistic Organizational Capacity Assessment (HOCA) with Caritas Chipata in April 2013. Twelve Caritas Chipata staff from different departments participated in the five-day HOCA, reviewing organizational health across nine core capacity areas. Chipata selected four capacity areas to address in a two-year action plan: 1) general management, 2) financial and physical resource management, 3) organizational learning, and 4) human resource management.

During CRS' internal audit (July 2013), the audit team reviewed Caritas Chipata's financial systems, processes and documentation and personnel and payroll, finding control deficiencies, which Mawa's Finance and Grants Manager (FGM) has begun to address with Caritas Chipata.

Given the relative amount of funding, compared to other sub-recipients, which Caritas Chipata receives through their sub-recipient agreement, CRS will prioritize institutional strengthening support to Caritas Chipata. CRS will also provide assistance to other partners as determined and/or requested by CRS and the local partner. Mawa's FGM with support from the country program's institutional strengthening advisor began to support Caritas Chipata to close the audit findings, which will also support Caritas Chipata action plans resulting from the sub-recipient financial management assessment and HOCA. For example, Caritas Chipata now has asset inventories, requires timesheets and uses a financial accounting package – all items noted as deficiencies in the audit and the two assessments. On-site mentorship from the Mawa FGM will help Caritas Chipata build the structures and systems needed to operate effectively and deliver quality services.

Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Update

Mawa has conducted initial trainings for project staff and will begin implementation of project activities next quarter. Mawa will report on environmental compliance in subsequent reports, as appropriate. Mawa took mitigation and monitoring measures to ensure appropriate implementation of the USAID-approved EMMP, as follows:

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>Seed Promotion: Mawa worked closely with ZARI/SCCI to identify seed suppliers in both formal and informal systems to participate DiNERS. Seed companies invited to participate in DiNERS provided certified seed varieties, primarily maize and groundnuts, suitable to the agro-ecological zone. MAL, ZARI and SCCI supported Mawa's identification of seed suppliers in the informal seed system, ensuring that these suppliers offered the standard of seed required according to government specifications. Mawa is currently developing the report on the types and varieties of seed sold and exchanged through DiNERS, and this report will be made available to both formal and informal seed suppliers, as well as government stakeholders, in November 2013.</p> <p>Availability of agro-chemicals and pesticides: Mawa sought and received approval from USAID Zambia to use D compound, urea, lime,</p>

	<p>glyphosate and primumthos-methyl in the establishment of demonstration plots. GART's CA trainings included appropriate messages on pest control and fertilizer application – chemical and organic – as part of the CA system. On-site trainings during establishment of demonstration plots included instructions on the safe use and application of pesticides and fertilizers. Lead farmers received sprayers to be shared with farmer groups in the application of agro-chemicals and pesticides. Mawa will continue to monitor development and maintenance of demonstration plots to ensure safe use and application of agro-chemicals and pesticides, while demonstrating corrective actions, as necessary.</p> <p>Production practices and technologies: Mawa trained agriculture field supervisors and field agents in the principles and application of CA as an efficient farming system for conserving and improving soil structure and nutrient status. Mawa has adopted and promotes the three tenets of CA: 1) minimum soil disturbance, 2) optimum soil cover through mulching, and 3) crop rotation. Through establishment of demonstration plots, GART showed two options for minimizing soil disturbance: basins and ripped lines. The 100 demonstration plots showcase crop rotation of maize and legumes. Mawa will continue to monitor closely the development and maintenance of demonstration plots to support appropriate application of CA practices, which will reduce soil erosion and degradation while maintaining and improving soil nutrients. See <i>Agricultural Production</i> section for additional information.</p>
Health and Nutrition Practices	<p>Food preparation, processing and preservation: During the trial of CCFLS conducted in Quarter 4, Mawa asked participants to collect dead wood for cooking meals for young children. No other cooking demonstration were conducted either through home visits or CCFLS in FY2013.</p> <p>Hygiene and sanitation: Mawa promotes hand-washing prior to food preparation. During the trial of CCFLS, mothers and caregivers practice handwashing prior to preparing foods, receiving messages on the importance of proper hygiene. As cooking demonstrations begin through home visits and/or CCFLS, Mawa will include relevant information on hygiene and sanitation as one of the essential nutrition actions.</p>

Grant Management

CRS received an award of \$9,692,007 and an initial obligation of \$6,868,628, which was later reduced to an obligation of \$3,368,628 in modification 3, signed in August 2013. Based on analysis of expenditure, the federal share of expenditures as of September 30, 2013, is estimated at \$1,604,570, representing 52% of the revised obligation. This amount does not reflect interagency expenses which CRS will receive from CRS headquarters in the months of October and November 2013.

CRS submitted the SF425 for the first three quarters of FY2013 directly to USAID Zambia financial analysts. The SF425 for FY2013 will be submitted to USAID Zambia by CRS headquarters simultaneously with this report. Mawa's Finance and Grants Manager will ensure that expenditures presented in this report reconcile with those presented in the SF425.

During FY2013, CRS signed sub-recipient agreements (SRAs) with Caritas Chipata, GART, URC and WFC for the period of November 19, 2012, to September 30, 2017. The approved life of activity budgets, FY2013 obligations, and FY2013 expenditure for the four Mawa sub- recipients are shown in Table 6, below:

Table 6: Mawa expenditure against approved LOA budget, FY2013

Sub-Recipient	Approved LOA Budget	FY2013 Obligation	FY2013 Expenditure	FY2013 Balance	Percentage of budget utilized in FY13
Caritas Chipata	\$1,222,043	\$199,761	\$64,885	\$134,876	32.5%
GART	\$392,978	\$93,406	\$39,223	\$54,183	42.0%
URC	\$735,140	\$283,070	\$143,953	\$139,117	50.9%
Women for Change	\$910,972	\$147,281	\$128,593	\$18,688	87.3%

As of September 2013, Mawa sub-recipient disbursements and expenditures were as follows:

Table 7: Mawa expenditure against disbursements, FY2013

Sub-recipient	Disbursement	Liquidation/Expenditure
Caritas Chipata	\$125,122	\$64,885
GART	\$58,574	\$39,223
URC	\$91,639	\$143,953 ¹³
WFC	\$150,247	\$128,593

Given the focus on establishing structures, systems and strategies for Mawa, many of the sub-recipients did not reach anticipated levels of expenditure. Caritas Chipata, for example, provides trainings to community-based volunteers through field supervisors, who only began trainings in August and September 2013, as planned. Costs associated with these field-based activities were largely not incurred or transferred to CRS to support activity implementation given the delayed delivery of motorbikes and other resources for community-based field supervisors. GART's activities under Mawa were revised slightly to align with specific project needs. GART now provides technical assistance to the project based on time-bound scopes of work. For example, GART may undertake a two-week technical assistance visit to support establishment of demonstration plots. This change in the manner in which CRS engages GART has reduced significantly the amount of staff time required, while maintaining the quality and quantity of support required by this subrecipient. GART will divert savings from salaries to support trainings in CA and establishment and monitoring of demonstration plots in FY2014. URC's under-expenditure can be largely attributed to the decision not to conduct formative research, given the solid base of research existing in Zambia through other USAID implementing partners, namely CSH. URC will increase technical visits to Zambia in FY2014 to support quality assurance and improvement practices amongst HPs and NVs. Finally, Women for Change's budget is primarily comprised of fixed costs for staff salaries and operational expenses, therefore expenditure was largely on target in FY2013. Table 8 provides a breakdown of expenditure by budget category for each subrecipient.

Table 8: Subrecipient expenditure in USD by budget category, FY2013

Sub-recipient	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Contractual	Other Direct Costs	Indirect Costs	Total FY2013 Expenditure	Total FY13 Budget
Caritas	22,891	7,275	10,310	-	24,409	-	64,885	199,561
GART	10,050	3,518	11,673	-	13,982	-	39,223	93,406
URC	71,251	14,966	21,927	-	827	34,982	143,953	283,070
WFC	68,558	27,731	6,757	2,858	22,689	-	128,593	147,281
Total	172,750	53,490	50,667	2,858	61,907	34,982	376,654	723,318

CRS will track expenditure against disbursements and obligations carefully in FY2014 to ensure that partners are achieving project objectives. Expenditure will be compared against organizational and collective accomplishments. At the end of FY2014, CRS will review expenditure to determine the need to de-obligate funds from specific subrecipients who may not demonstrate an ability to reach desired expenditure levels and/or perform activities as

¹³ URC has a cost-reimbursable subrecipient agreement with CRS. Expenditure in excess of disbursements indicates outstanding payments on invoices submitted to CRS.

outline in their respective subrecipient agreements. All decisions will be made in consultation with subrecipients and USAID.

Upcoming Activities

During the three-month period of October to December 2013, Mawa will continue trainings for community-based field agents, lead farmers, health promoters and nutrition volunteers while delivering services to beneficiaries through participation in SILCs, agriculture extension messages, and household nutrition counseling. Mawa will also emphasize effective monitoring of service provision through monitoring checklists, inclusive beneficiary verification, and community-based monitoring and evaluation (CbM&E). Finally, Mawa will finalize the report forms in the Mawa MIS to ensure that technical and community-based supervisors and animators have the information required to inform project implementation approaches. These forms will also allow the project to report accurately to USAID Zambia in all subsequent quarterly and annual reports.

October 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize instruction guides for M&E report forms • Complete Mawa database with customized reports • Design beneficiary verification process • Provide follow-up training to DiNER voucher recipients • Monitor development of demonstration plots • Complete orientation of nutrition volunteers • Complete formation of neighbor groups • Conduct SILC MIS training for field supervisors
November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize and submit baseline survey report • Define community-based M&E process • Finalize training manuals for CommCare mobile applications • Conduct trainings on CommCare mobile applications • Share results of DiNERs with seed suppliers • Coordinate distribute of OFSP vine vouchers • Implement performance-based stipend for SILC FAs • Develop gender training lessons • Develop guidance for radio programs focused on gender roles and norms • Complete sub-recipient financial management assessment for Caritas Chipata
December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin roll-out of CommCare mobile applications • Adapt URC's complementary feeding monitoring tool • Complete group management and financial management trainings for SILCs • Design IEC materials for gender

Throughout FY2014, Mawa technical staff will continue development of training lessons, conduct trainings and farm and household visits, and support community events – not only those held by Mawa, but also government events, such as growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) in Mawa communities. Mawa will also undertake continuous monitoring focused on quality of service delivery and use of M&E report forms.