



QUARTERLY REPORT

October 2015 – December 2015

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

**Submitted to
USAID/OFDA**

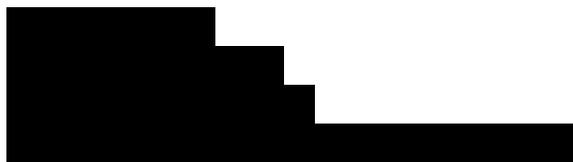
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

In the October – December 2015 quarter, 25,160 people (direct and indirect beneficiaries) benefited from livestock activities implemented by the project. Livestock activities included training in improved livestock production, farm business management and financial literacy, livestock distribution, and access to animal health services. Focusing on direct beneficiaries:

- 368 farmers received and utilized livestock vouchers (229 receiving goats; 139 receiving chickens) to expand their herd and flock size respectively.
- 4,571 farmers accessed improved animal health services provided by L4R trained Livestock Lead Farmers (LLFs) across project districts, where 937 were reached for the first time. Farmers accessing services include members of L4R supported producer groups as well as farmers who reside within the community being served by the LLF.
- 4,489 new and continuing farmers (2,187 men and 2,302 women) participated in training in improved animal husbandry practices led by project-trained Livestock Lead Farmers (LLFs).

Through the livestock distribution eligibility exercise, the project confirmed the construction of 426 animal housing structures under the goat value chain in the project districts (287 Ntchisi, 139 Dowa). Under the poultry value chain, the project confirmed construction of 592 animal housing structures (372 Ntchisi, 220 Dowa).

L4R-supported LLFs provided animal health treatment to 25,429 animals of which 7,181 or 28% were receiving animal health service for the first time since project inception.

L4R facilitated savings of MWK 1,888,480 (\$3,776.96)¹ for Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) members. The cumulative savings since project inception have reached \$178,169 against a project life target of \$30,000.

In the next quarter (January-March 2016), the program will shift focus to implementation of project exit strategies that will ensure continuity after project phase out. These activities will include: refresher animal health trainings to Government Assistant Veterinary Officers (AVOs); linking VSLAs to financial lending and management institutions; refresher trainings to livestock producer group members in improved livestock production techniques, livestock feed conservation, chicken care and record keeping; and refresher Training of Trainers (TOT) training to both LLFs and VAs in practical techniques in animal feeding, animal husbandry practices and VSL scheme. In addition, L4R will conduct additional trainings on any new emerging animal husbandry techniques and management practices, as promoted by the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture under the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development.

¹ Exchange rate: 1 USD = 500MWK

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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

1.2 ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

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

SECTION II: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

2.1 LIVESTOCK ASSET BASE EXPANDED

Livestock distribution: During the past three months, the program distributed 475 local goats (458 does, 17 bucks) to 229 farmers (122 men, 107 women) and 695 chickens (139 cocks, 556 hens) to 139 farmer beneficiaries (26 men, 113 women). Cumulatively a total of 853 goats (828 does, 25 bucks) have been distributed to 418 individual farmers (225 men, 193 women) and 950 chickens (190 cocks, 760 hens) to 190 households (53 men, 137 women). L4R project continues to use pre-established selection criteria for livestock recipients. The selection criteria include the following data points: farmers must construct and use a raised kraal, be active producer group members, apply improved feeding practices, own at least 3-4 does or 3-5 hens, participate in VSLAs with active savings, participate in animal health services and regularly attend training meetings organized by LLFs. Use of these diverse selection criteria as well as full engagement of local traditional leaders and Government staff continue to ensure smooth and transparent distribution process of livestock. In addition, the involvement of local leaders in the distribution of livestock increases sense of ownership of the project hence promoting sustainability.

2.2 VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS' CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN ASSET BASE INCREASED

Training of livestock farmers in animal husbandry: L4R-supported LLFs to continue to train farmers in improved animal husbandry practices that are promoted by the Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Agriculture under the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development. Training sessions are conducted weekly using an established curriculum. Topics are prioritized based on farmer needs and the agriculture season. Topics are repeated if farmers have not grasped the information.

To date, LLFs have trained a cumulative total of 7,277 farmers (3,553 men, 3,724 women) in improved animal husbandry practices against the life of the project target of 6,000. During the reporting period, LLFs trained 4,489 new and continuing farmers in improved animal husbandry techniques and practices since project inception. In addition, L4R livestock department continue to conduct TOT to LLFs to bridge capacity gaps that are identified in the course of project implementation and in the midterm in collaboration with AVOs. These trainings are of paramount importance as they have improved farmers' capacity to manage their livestock effectively. Improved livestock husbandry increases overall animal health; decreasing loss from mortality. Farmer households are more resilient to economic and environmental shocks as increased livestock productivity can be converted to income as needs arise.

Participation in training activities dropped during the quarter under review as both LLFs and ordinary farmers were busy with their household farming activities. Attendance is expected to increase in the next reporting period as most farmers will be relieved from farming activities.

Construction of improved animal housing structures: During the period under review, project beneficiaries constructed 1,018 improved housing structures; 426 goat housing structures (139 Dowa, 287 Ntchisi) and 592 chicken housing structures (220 Dowa, 372 Ntchisi). L4R verified the construction of these improved housing structures during an assessment of households selected to benefit from livestock distribution. To date, a total of 3,317 animal housing structures have been constructed.

Farmers are now appreciating the tangible benefits of constructing improved animal housing structures over a traditional housing practice as the health of their livestock improves. This added appreciation has resulted in greater investment in animal housing. The majority of L4R beneficiaries continued using funds generated from VSLAs' activities to purchase locally available materials for improved animal housing construction. Improved goat and poultry housing prevented animal loss to predators and illness thus contributing to a reduction in livestock offspring mortality in the implementation area.

Distribution of veterinary kits and bicycles to LLFs: Push bicycles have eased the mobility of LLFs thus enabling them to respond to calls for support from the farmers outside their vicinity. As a result, LLFs have also reported improved efficiency in organizing and managing group activities and training. During the period under review, the program distributed bicycles and veterinary kits to an additional 23 (18 men, 5 women) LLFs who passed the selection criteria (i.e. demonstrated use of improved production techniques on their own farms and actively providing animal services). The vet kits and bicycles were issued to LLFs at a ceremony presided by a Tradition Authority with the help of the AVOs where L4R staff took a facilitating role. The veterinary kits included vaccine carriers, tag applicators, weight bands and thermometers among other tools. The project will finalize this activity in the upcoming reporting period.

Provision of animal health services to farmer groups and other livestock keepers by LLFs: LLFs continued to provide animal health services to both producer and non-producer group members in their respective communities. During the quarter, LLF made 4,571 animal health household visits, where 937 households were reached for the first time. The number of farmers accessing animal health services decreased this quarter compared to the previous quarter due to the reduced demand of animal health services by farmers in both project districts. Probing more on why that was the case, it was revealed during the October-December 2015 monthly

review meetings with LLFs that the majority of farmers channeled their resources (acquired through VSLAs and other sources) to purchase farm inputs i.e. fertilizer, seeds and pesticides hence a reduced demand for animal health services. This situation was temporary as demand has already started to pick up in the month of January 2016, however the project needs to put in place strategies going forward that will ensure proper planning in preparation for the lean seasons.

LLFs registered the following are achievements in animal health service delivery:

- Delivered 26,085 livestock treatment services to farmer-owned animals, comprising of:
 - 18,007 vaccinations
 - 7,268 dewormings
 - 25 treatments for external parasites (sprays, dips, etc.)
 - 784 general treatments
- LLFs delivered animal health treatments to 25,429 animals (2,742 goats, 21,431 chickens, and 493 cattle, 763 others). Of these, 7,181 animals for the first time during the quarter under review.

Through the delivery of these animal health services, LLFs earned an average of \$9.82 per month (\$9.77 for male LLFs and \$9.91 for female LLFs).

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

Facilitation of village savings and loan activities: L4R project recognize the importance of integrating VSLA activities into livestock value chains as far as resilience to climatic and economic shocks are concerned. As such, the project continues to provide support to VAs in the management of VSLA groups in their respective communities of the impact area. In the past three months, VSLA group members saved a total of MWK 1,888,480 (\$3,776.96). The VSLA groups have realized a cumulative total savings of \$178,169 since project inception to December.

Most savings for the reporting quarter were captured in October. November and December registered savings decreased because 90% of the clubs were approaching their share-out dates and were therefore focusing on loan recovery. Savings groups whose cycles had started late in 2015 (June or later) chose not to share out in December and will continue saving as a group into 2016, striving to complete one full year of saving.

At the end of the reporting period, there were many VSLA graduations in L4R areas of implementation. VAs and L4R field staff facilitated these ceremonies while collecting share-out data. Owing to the successful amounts that some clubs are sharing out, the general interest in VSLA had grown immensely among the communities that we work in, and we anticipate an increased number of VSLA groups in 2016.

VSLA members continue to use funds generated from the initiative to support their household animal husbandry enterprise. During the share-out meetings, the majority of VSLA members cited to have used the funds for improved khola construction, purchasing of animal health services from L4R supported LLFS, purchasing farm input and investment in petty trading at household level.

During the reporting period, the L4R business and marketing team continued to conduct TOT refresher trainings to VAs to strengthen their capacity and to prepare them for share out. The business and marketing team also

conducted a refresher TOT training on collective marketing and record keeping to producer/market group office bearers.

The 2016 saving-cycle is scheduled to start in the first week of February, right after the VAs participate in refresher training in VSLA methodology. This training will draw on lessons learned in 2015 to build more sustainable VSLAs that will last beyond L4R's exit in June 2016.

SECTION III MIDTERM FINDINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

At the beginning of the reporting period, L4R completed the midterm assessment report for the project. The L4R team met to discuss the findings and developed a work plan for the remainder of the project to ensure that identified weaknesses are addressed and successes are replicated. Key findings included:

- **Household application of improved animal husbandry techniques has improved greatly, but more focus is needed on record-keeping, chick care and feeding:** Nearly all households interviewed (98.3%) have applied at least one project promoted technique, while 59.6% have applied three out of the four. The most common practices adopted were providing supplementary feed to livestock (91%), constructing raised animal housing (74%), and using animal health services (88.4%), with only 8.6% of respondents practicing record keeping.
- **Access to animal health services has nearly doubled, but Livestock Lead Farmers are not yet sustainable:** Most midterm respondents (91.6%) reported having access to animal health services through LLFs, as compared to only 61.4% at baseline. The monitoring data indicates that LLFs have reached nearly 10,000 households and provided services to nearly 80,000 animals. However, the current monthly rate for LLFs providing animal services is only \$13 a month as compared to a target of \$50 a month.
- **Village Savings and Loans are more popular than expected:** According to the monitoring data, many more producer group members (4,837) than expected have started saving in VSLAs with a total of \$73,476 against a life of project target of \$30,000. Additionally, there is great demand for VSLAs from non-project community members, and village agents (VAs) have started setting up additional VSLA groups.
- **Livestock asset base of participants is smaller than Baseline:** The size of goat herd and chicken flock size of the actual participants is smaller than the size of individuals sampled in the baseline, which occurred before participant selection. This affects the potential for growth of the herds/flocks in the project period. The delay in the livestock distribution due to problems with the vendors has compounded the issue of small herd/flock size.
- **Household Economics Training:** The project is not as far along in their training of household members in household economics. This will be a large feat in the coming year and needs to be a major focus. This will also help to promote record keeping that is lagging so far behind in the animal husbandry practices.

One action item coming out of the midterm findings and subsequent meeting was that two of the L4R performance indicator definitions needed to be changed slightly to reflect the situation on the ground.

- % of households with viable herd/flock size (participants that receive vouchers and other project activities)

- % of female headed households with viable herd/flock size (participants that receive vouchers and other project activities)

In the initial definition of these two indicators, Land O'Lakes defined "viable goat herd" as at least eight (8) does. During a post-midterm evaluation field visit, Land O'Lakes Practice Area Manager for Dairy, Livestock and Environment assessed mid-term results and compared this to observations and discussions held with L4R farmers. Based upon this information, it was decided to revise viable goat herd calculations and targets, Land O'Lakes is adjusting the definition of viable goat herd size to 4 does for a household to be resilient from one year to the next. Viable herd size is the number of reproductive females needed to allow farmers to sell enough animals to meet both their urgent needs and additional commercial sales. The table below demonstrates the impact of need-based and commercially oriented sales on a household's breeding stock.

# of breeding females	Offspring produced/year ²	Offspring Survival (20% mortality)	# of breeding females (adult + offspring) ³	# of males available for sale ⁴	Avg # Need based goat sales / year ⁵	Ideal # of commercial goat sales / year ⁶	Total # of goats sold/year (avg)	End of year herd size, Need-based sales	End of year herd size, Commercial & Need-based sales
1	2	1	2	0	2	1	3	0	-1
2	3	2	3	1	2	1	3	2	1
3	5	4	5	2	2	1	3	5 ⁷	4
4	6	5	6	3	2	1	3	7	6
5	8	6	8	3	2	1	3	9	8
6	9	7	10	3	2	1	3	11	10

During project negotiations USAID/OFDA had asked Land O'Lakes to remove most of the marketing activities that were initially proposed for the project, but these indicators were erroneously left in. At the onset of the project, the team felt they may still be able to achieve the indicators with the marketing training activity and facilitated linkages. However, the ongoing beneficiary registration and the midterm assessment revealed that the initial number of goats and chickens owned by the households was less than expected and as result, more time has to be spent growing the herds before group-based sales can be made. Therefore, Land O'Lakes will not report against and will remove reference to the following indicators in future quarterly performance data tables:

- Number of producer groups linked to markets
- % of final sale price captured by producers

² Reproductive rate of 1.5 meaning some females will produce 1 offspring and others will produce 2 (twins)

³ Offspring will not reach reproductive maturity until 18-20 months of age but have reproductive potential and are considered part of the breeding herd.

⁴ Assumes 50% of all offspring born will be males

⁵ Farmers report selling 2 goats/year to meet household needs

⁶ Assumes that vulnerable HH will continue with need-based sales.

⁷ Assumes farmers will sell male animals first and protect their breeding females. Thus, the number of breeding females does not decrease from year to year. The herd is 'viable' and not decreasing in number.

SECTION IV: CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Slow delivery of livestock: L4R continues to experience challenges with livestock procurement, which has significantly delayed distribution activities. In November and early December, new vendors were identified and contracted with revised purchase order agreements for both goats and chickens. Three goat vendors (one repeat, two new), as well as four chicken vendors were selected and awarded contracts, with the intent of reducing the numbers of animals required per vendor and increasing the likelihood of timely delivery. Additionally, project staff met with each vendor, reviewed the purchase order and animal specifications to attempt to ensure each vendor understood document and the quality of livestock that Land O'Lakes expects. At this time, while delayed, goat distribution is anticipated to conclude by mid-February, given the rate of current delivery.

Frustratingly, chicken distribution remains an issue, despite contracting new vendors. A large part of the delay is the choice of local chickens for the project; there are no commercial breeding facilities for local chickens in Malawi. Thus, vendors must purchase local chickens at various markets or farm gate and aggregate them at their respective farms (or kholas across our project area) until they have a sizable lot (~250-500 birds) for the L4R team to inspect. This process is slow, fraught with potential issues including infectious disease, lack of humane and appropriate facilities for the number of birds to live, and cost for vendor for feeding and caring for the birds. Discussions with the team have repeatedly arrived at the conclusion that changing to a hybrid type bird (where commercial facilities exist) is not appropriate for the project, based on their previous experience with other breeds of chickens and their hardiness in village conditions. An effective solution to the issue of chicken procurement is yet to be identified, but discussions regarding creating a local market place for beneficiaries to purchase chickens with vouchers at the village level, as well as distributing some hybrid breeds have begun. Any solution will likely be multipronged using a combination of the current procurement process, local trading and hybrid birds. Unfortunately, this challenge, while initially identified over six months ago, has likely reached the point where it is too late to reach a satisfactory solution. In all likelihood, the team will not meet the target of distributing 7500 local chickens; if lucky we will reach 75% of the target (based on approximately 20 weeks of the project remaining, and distributing 250 chickens/week, which is about how many we have been called for inspections for since new vendors were identified).

Government restriction on the use of injectable antibiotics: Government policy does not allow LLFs to administer injectable medications. Performance of this procedure is limited to AVOS or government veterinarians who have completed a minimum of a two year training course. L4R LLFs continually express frustration at this limitation. They have also asked repeatedly for some type of certificate to indicate their skillset to the community and the government. This policy challenge is a microcosm of a larger challenge within Malawi; there is no regulated system or organization of similarly trained individuals with the various titles of "paraveterinarians, community livestock health workers, or lead livestock farmers". There is also no established country wide certificate program for such trained workers, creating issues for both the trainee being respected within their communities as well as for the government for keeping track and regulating activities. A personal belief is that the government has elected to restrict injectable medication administration as it is their only way to control such activities, since there is no formal oversight in place and various levels of training and expertise exist. Land O'Lakes, in collaboration with other NGO's working in the livestock health space and providing similar training in community livestock health workers, would be well served to facilitate policy level discussions to push to create a formal paraveterinary system that works in tandem with AVOs and respective programs. Good examples of formal paraveterinary

systems exist across southern and eastern Africa. Realistically, this will not happen prior to project completion, but should be considered for other similar projects.

LESSONS LEARNED

The following lessons have been drawn in the implementation of project activities during the quarter under review:

- Chicken mortality rate has drastically decreased in our target areas which is likely due in part to LLF model. This ensures easy access to animal health services, including vaccination, at affordable prices by our project beneficiaries and others in the community. This has reduced the prevalence of New Castle Disease which is a major cause of death in poultry.
- A consolidated, integrated monthly work plan is essential to the team delivering activities, remaining accountable and achieving targets in a cohesive and timely way. Regularly revisiting the work plan to make sure activities are on task and within the budget is also essential. For the last quarter there has been no integrated work plan with the teams working separately from one another. This has implications at all levels of project success, from transportation coordination to achieving major project milestones.
- When challenges regarding livestock procurement exist, a more rapid and diversified approach to securing livestock must be engaged. Delays occurred at all levels - local, regional, and headquarters, in addressing the fact that this project will likely miss the chicken distribution target. While the team has attempted to mitigate the risk of missing this target and has expanded and diversified vendors, hindsight indicates a more creative approach to addressing this problem should have been considered.
- Collaboration with stakeholders, such as Government staff is essential for effective delivery of program activities and for project sustainability. L4R did not hold a combined induction training for project staff and stakeholders at the beginning of the project. This has created frustration on behalf of the AVOs and project staff as well as mixed messaging delivered by the project team. For example, improved khola (animal housing) construction was a primary project activity. There was no overall training on what specifications Land O'Lakes kholas should have given to AVOs or Livestock Advisors at the beginning. Thus, various AVOs and our livestock advisors all advised project beneficiaries somewhat differently (influenced by their prior training). Then when our livestock advisors inspected kholas, which were built to the AVO's standard, but not to Land O' Lakes standard, and they were told so, frustration and insult resulted. This can have lasting impacts on the ability of our project staff to work with the AVOs.
- An approved, locally appropriate training manual must be available for the team prior to commencement of training activities. Additionally, training materials must be printed and available for all targeted trainees, including government staff. The L4R team, both Livestock Advisors and Business advisors have been using a variety of training manuals for the entire project; this has resulted in a somewhat disjointed curriculum for the target audience. Additionally, farmers are eager to learn more "livestock as a business" concepts, and the lack of a common training manual as well as the business and livestock teams working independently of each other have resulted in farmers not receiving livestock as a business training.
- From project conception, the livestock and business advisors must be encouraged and shown how to work as a cohesive team. There has been little to no overlap in their training activities and engagements with

LLFs and VAs. The project cannot expect our farmers to work together as a collaborative team if there is not a leadership example shown by our teams working together.

SECTION V: PLAN FOR NEXT QUARTER

Table 1 below highlights activities that will be implemented in the January –March 2016 quarter.

Intermediate result	Activity
Livestock asset base expanded	Assessment of proposed beneficiary household in preparedness to receive livestock
	Continue distribution of vouchers to beneficiary household
	Facilitate livestock purchase and distribution following realistic procurement procedures
Vulnerable Households' Capacity to Maintain Asset Base Increased	Facilitate training to livestock producer group members in improved livestock production technique, feed conservation, chicken care and record keeping
	Perform assessment of producer and marketing group in livestock production
Capacity of and Access to Animal Health and Livestock Extension Services Improved	Conduct refresher training to LLFs in practical techniques in animal feeding and animal husbandry practices
	Conduct Performance assessment of LLFs
	Refresher Training to Livestock Specialists & Government AVOs in Animal Health
	Conduct monthly review and planning meetings with LLFs
Capacity of Vulnerable Households to Plan, Save and Mitigate Risk Improved	Training household members in household enterprise
	Facilitate formation of VSLA groups' Business plans
	Conduct monthly assessment of market prices for chickens and goats
	Link VSLA Groups to financial institutions

ANNEX 1: SUCCESS STORY



SNAPSHOT

Village savings bring hope to Mary

Village savings and loans group brings resilience to a family in need



By taking out a VSLA loan, Mary was able to pay for construction of livestock housing for her goats.

“VSLA trainings has helped me improve my household economic status by cultivating the spirit of savings, which I never knew before. As such, my household is now in a better position to withstand and mitigate shocks,” Mary says.

Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

Mary [REDACTED] became a widow and single mother in 2009 when her husband died suddenly from a short illness leaving her with three children and a baby on the way. Missing the sole breadwinner of the family, Mary and her children went through a vicious cycle of poverty – going to sleep on empty stomachs and lacking nutritional benefits that come from dietary diversity.

Living in the Ntchisi District of Malawi, Mary’s family is susceptible to cyclical drought, inconsistent precipitation patterns and floods. Without resources, these realities made it difficult for Mary to have a reliable income. Despite these conditions, Mary never lost hope for a better life. She had a few chickens and goats on her small farm, a willingness to learn and the determination to provide for her family. With support from Malawi Livestock for Resilience (L4R), a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented by Land O’Lakes International Development, Mary’s life took a turn for the better in 2015.

L4R is helping vulnerable communities to diversify their livelihoods and maintain productive assets. Part of this is development of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), which are groups of people who save together and take small loans to help mitigate risk and allow people to plan for household expenses. Mary and others in her community began participating in their local VSLA in 2015, shortly after L4R’s arrival. “They say the universe conspires to meet a burning need of a soul, well am a believer of that since Land O’Lakes came in our area,” says Mary.

Prior to joining the VSLA, Mary participated in L4R trainings on the village savings and loan concept, business management, enterprise development and livestock husbandry practices. “VSLA trainings has helped me improve my household economic status by cultivating the spirit of savings, which I never knew before. As such, my household is now in a better position to withstand and mitigate shocks,” says Mary. She attributes her changed mindset and newfound vision to these concepts that Land O’Lakes staff have taught to her through the L4R trainings.

Mary is able to count a number of achievements since joining her group. She used her first VSLA loan for two small

investments: constructing an improved animal house for her goats and starting up a petty trading business (selling basic household items i.e. matches, soap, cooking oil, etc.).

“Through my trading profits, I am able to feed my family three times a day, pay school fees for my son who is now finishing his secondary school, and am also able to save a little something for future use repay my load,” says Mary.

After repaying the loan to her group, she managed to secure a second loan to set up a back yard garden, which is now producing enough vegetables to feed her family a more diverse diet. She then sells the surplus produce for additional income. Mary misses her husband every day, but she is proud that she has found a way to diversify her earnings and provide for her family. She continues to participate in the VSLA and saves her extra earnings for future business investments.

By helping people like Mary diversify their livelihoods in this harsh region of Malawi, L4R is strengthening communities’ resilience against external shocks and enabling them to enhance their productive potential.

ANNEX 2: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE DATA TABLE

#	Indicator Name	Indicator or Type	Unit	Disaggregation	Baseline		YR2 Target				Life of Project		Comments	
					Year	Value	YR2 Target	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	YR2 Actual	Target	Actual		
USAID/OFDA Goal														
1	Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	Output	Number	Total	2014	0	3,500	47,938	25,429	53,746	26,000	79,664	This quarter, 25,429 animal visits were completed, with 7,181 animals treated for the first time (5808 chickens, 698 goats, 98 cattle).	
				Animal	Goats	2014	0	840	3,757	2,742	4,455	8,640		6,578
					Chicken	2014	0	2,550	42,449	21,431	48,257	16,750		69,162
					Cattle	2014	0	110	215	493	313	610		348
2	Number of people benefiting from livestock activities	Output	Number	Total	2014	0	10,000	32,410	25,160	44,415	30,000	64,250	5,032 individuals were reached this quarter through training or animal health treatments times the average household size of 5 (2.5 males; 2.5 females)	
				Sex	Male	2014	0	4,900	16,205	12,580	22,208	14,700		32,125
					Female	2014	0	5,100	16,205	12,580	22,208	15,300		32,125
3	Number of veterinary interventions, treatments or vaccinations administered	Outcome	Number	Total	2014	0	15,000	50,683	26,085	76,768	25,000	127,279	Over 25,000 treatments completed this quarter, most of which were chicken vaccinations	
				Intervention	Deworming	2014	0	1,600	7,367	7,268	14,635	3,900		22,372
					Vaccination	2014	0	12,000	42,402	18,007	60,409	19,300		102,828
					Dip	2014	0	1,400	39	25	64	1,800		129
					Treatment	2014	0	-	875	784	1,659	-		1,950
4	Number of animals treated or vaccinated	Outcome	Number	Total	2014	0	12,000	47,938	25,429	53,746	18,000	79,664	This quarter, 25,429 animal visits were completed, with 7,181 animals treated for the first time (5808 chickens, 698 goats, 98 cattle).	
				Animal	Goats	2014	0	2,000	3,757	2,742	4,455	3,000		6,578
					Chickens	2014	0	9,600	42,449	21,431	48,257	14,400		69,162
					Cattle	2014	0	400	215	493	313	600		348
5	Number of people newly receiving financial services	Outcome	Number	Total	2014	0	2,000	3,723	575	3,723	4,000	4,837	In this quarter, fewer people saved money because most	
				Sex	Male	2014	0	1,000	1,499	263	1,499	2,000		2,021

#	Indicator Name	Indicator Type	Unit	Disaggregation	Baseline		YR2 Target				Life of Project		Comments		
					Year	Value	YR2 Target	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	YR2 Actual	Target	Actual			
	or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support			Female	2014	0	1,000	2096	309	2096	2,000	2,816	groups paid-out in December		
6	Percentage of financial service groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	Outcome	Percentage	None	2014	0%	50%	98%	N/A	98%	50%	98%	Viability of VSLAs were checked in the last quarter		
7	Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	Outcome	Dollar (\$)	None	2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Program Objective															
8	Percent of households that have an increase in their livestock asset base	Outcome	Percent	Total	2014	0	75%	46%	N/A	46%	75%	46%	This was calculated in the midterm conducted in October 2015. And will be calculated again at the endline		
					Sex	Male-head	2014	0	75%	48%	N/A	48%		75%	48%
						Female-head	2014	0	75%	38%	N/A	38%		75%	38%
9	Percent of female headed households that have an increase in their livestock asset base	Outcome	Percent	None	2014	0	75%	38%	N/A	38%	75%	38%			
10	Percent of households with viable herd/flock size (participants that receive vouchers and other project activities)	Outcome	Percent	Both (Sex)	Total	2014		65%	43.9%	N/A	43.9%	65%	43.9%	This was calculated in the midterm conducted in October 2015. The viable goat herd size was 4 does, a change requested in this report.	
					Goats	2014	16.7%	40%	26.2%	N/A	26.2%	40%	26.2%		
					Chickens	2014	39.4%	90%	36.3%	N/A	36.3%	90%	36.3%		
				MHH	Total-MHH	2014		65%	44.9%	N/A	44.9%	65%	44.9%		
					Goats	2014	17.5%	35%	27.8%	N/A	27.8%	35%	27.8%		
					Chickens	2014	41.1%	95%	35.6%	N/A	35.6%	95%	35.6%		
				FHH	Goats	2014	13.0%	40%	14.3%	N/A	14.3%	40%	14.3%		
Chickens	2014	32.3%	90%		38.9%	N/A	38.9%	90%	38.9%						
11	Percent of female-headed households with viable herd/flock size (participants that receive vouchers and other project activities)	Outcome	Percent	Total-FHH	2014	54.0%	65%	39.1%	N/A	39.1%	65%	39.1%			
				Goats	2014	14.0%	40%	14.3%	N/A	14.3%	40%	14.3%			
				Chickens	2014	61.0%	90%	38.9%	N/A	38.9%	90%	38.9%			

#	Indicator Name	Indicator Type	Unit	Disaggregation	Baseline		YR2 Target				Life of Project		Comments	
					Year	Value	YR2 Target	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	YR2 Actual	Target	Actual		
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.1: Livestock Asset Base Expanded														
12	Number of households that utilize their vouchers to purchase animals	Output	Number	Total	2014	0	1,000	240	368	608	2,000	608		
				Type	Goats	2014	0	250	189	229	418	500		418
					Chickens	2014	0	750	51	139	190	1,500		190
13	Number of households that receive vouchers to purchase animals through the project	Output	Number	Total	2014	0	1,000	240	368	608	2,000	608		
				Type	Goats	2014	0	250	189	229	418	500		418
					Chickens	2014	0	750	51	139	190	1,500		190
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.2: Vulnerable Households' Capacity to Maintain Asset Base Increased														
14	Percent of households that are applying improved animal husbandry and feed techniques	Outcome	Percent	Total	2014	0	75%	59.6%	N/A	59.6%	75%	59.6%	This was measured at the midterm conducted in October, and will be measured again during the final evaluation	
				Sex	Male-head	2014	0	75%	58.4%	N/A	58.4%	75%		58.4%
					Fem-head	2014	0	75%	65.3%	N/A	65.3%	75%		65.3%
15	Number of individuals trained in animal husbandry and management	Output	Number	Total	2014	0	3000	3,996	4,489	5,976	6,000	7,277	Livestock lead farmers trained at least 4,489 new and continuing farmers this quarter	
				Sex	Male	2014	0	1500	1,899	2187	2,847	3,000		3,553
					Female	2014	0	1500	2,097	2302	3,129	3,000		3,724
16	Number of producer groups formed and/or strengthened	Output	Number	Total	2014	0	300	300	0	300	300	300	All producer groups were formed in year one	
				Type	Goats	2014	0	75	170	0	170	75		170
					Chickens	2014	0	225	130	0	130	225		130
17	Percent of female members in assisted producer groups	Outcome	Percent	None	2014	0	50%	52%	52%	52%	50%	52%		
18	Number of Answer Plots established	Output	Number	None	2014	0	4	0	0	0	8	10	All answer plots were constructed in year one	
19	Percent of final sale price captured by producers	Outcome	Percent	Type of Livestock	2014	0	50%	TBD	TBD	TBD	50%	TBD	We are eliminating this indicator	
20	Number of producer groups	Outcome	Number	Total	2014	0	200	0	0	0	300	0		

#	Indicator Name	Indicat or Type	Unit	Disaggregation		Baseline		YR2 Target				Life of Project		Comments
						Year	Value	YR2 Target	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	YR2 Actual	Target	Actual	
	linked to markets			Type	Goats	2014	0	50	0	0	0	75	0	We are removing this indicator
					Chicken	2014	0	150	0	0	0	225	0	
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.3: Capacity of and Access to Animal Health and Livestock Extension Services Improved														
21	Goat and chicken mortality rate amongst target producer groups' households		Percent	Sex	Goat	2014	23%	14%	4%	N/A	4%	14%	4%	This value was measured in the midterm in October 2015, it will be measured again in the final evaluation
					Chicken	2014	57%	32%	19%	N/A	19%	32%	19%	
22	Net monthly income of Livestock Lead Farmers (para-vets) from providing animal health services	Outcome	Amount	Sex	Total	2014	0	\$ 50	\$ 10.22	\$9.82	\$9.82	\$ 50	\$9.82	500 MWK/\$1 was used to maintain consistency across time
					Male	2014	0	\$ 50	\$ 10.38	\$9.77	\$9.77	\$ 50	\$9.77	
					Female	2014	0	\$ 50	\$ 8.58	\$9.91	\$9.91	\$ 50	\$9.91	
23	Percentage of households served by Livestock Lead Farmers (para-vets) that give favorable reviews of their experience	Outcome	Percent	Sex	Total	2014	0	75%	89%	N/A	89%	75%	89%	This value was measured in the midterm in October 2015, it will be measured again in the final evaluation
					Male	2014	0	75%	86%	N/A	86%	75%	86%	
					Female	2014	0	75%	92%	N/A	92%	75%	92%	
24	Number of households served by the Livestock Lead Farmers (para-vets)	Outcome	Number	None		2014	0	2,000	8,954	4,571	9,891	4,500	11,202	4,571 household-visits were conducted, where 937 of households reached were new households
25	Number of trained Livestock Lead Farmers (para-vets) providing animal health services to households	Outcome	Number	None		2014	0	150	115	132	132	150	132	
26	Number of Livestock Lead Farmers (para-vets) equipped and trained in animal health services and animal husbandry and management	Output	Number	Sex	Total	2014	0	50	115	23	138	150	138	23 more LLF met the criteria to receive equipment this quarter
					Male	2014	0	32	54	18	72	96	72	
					Female	2014	0	18	61	5	66	54	66	
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1.4: Capacity of Vulnerable Households to Plan, Save and Mitigate Risk Improved														

#	Indicator Name	Indicat or Type	Unit	Disaggregation	Baseline		YR2 Target				Life of Project		Comments	
					Year	Value	YR2 Target	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	YR2 Actual	Target	Actual		
27	Amount (\$) saved and loaned in the VSLAs	Outcome	Amount (\$)	None	2014	\$ 0	\$ 10,000	\$ 72,096	\$ 3,777	\$ 75,873	\$ 30,000	\$ 178,169		
28	Percentage of households that are applying improved business techniques	Outcome	Percent	Total	2014	0	75%	8.6%	N/A	8.6%	75%	8.6%	This was calculated at the midterm in October 2015, and will be updated again in the final evaluation	
				Sex	Male-head	2014	0	75%	8.1%	N/A	8.1%	75%		8.1%
					Female-head	2014	0	75%	10.9%	N/A	10.9%	75%		10.9%
29	Number of individuals trained on savings and loans	Output	Number	Total	2014	0	-	0	0	0	6,000	5,817	The VSLAs were created early in 2015 and most paid out in December	
				Sex	Male	2014	0	-	0	0	0	3,000		2,640
					Female	2014	0	-	0	0	0	3,000		3,177
30	Number of individuals receiving household enterprise training	Output	Number	Total	2014	0	10,000	2,616	0	2,616	18,000	2,673		
				Sex	Male	2014	0	5,000	1,226	0	1,226	9,000		1,260
					Female	2014	0	5,000	1,390	0	1,390	9,000		1,413