

**Feed the Future Malawi- Integrating Nutrition with Value Chains Project**

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**Annual Work Plan  
FY-16**

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## ACRONYMS

ACE	Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa
ADC	Area Development Committee
ADMARC	Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
AEDC	Agriculture Extension Development Coordinator
AEDO	Agriculture Extension Development Officer
AFO	Association Field Officer
ALF	Assistant Lead Farmer (also an extra-terrestrial being on a hit 1980's TV show)
AGRA	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa
AHCX	Auction Holdings Commodity Exchange
AI	Artificial Insemination
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMC	Association Management Center
ANC	Ante-Natal Care
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BDS	Business Development Services
BSP	Business Service Provider
BVO	Bid Volume Only
CADECOM	Catholic Development Commission of Malawi
CBCC	Community Based Child Care Center
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCAP	Church of Central Africa – Presbyterian
CCFLS	Community Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy (USAID)
CIP	The International Potato Center
CISANET	Civil Society Agriculture Network
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
DADO	District Agriculture Development Officer
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DARS	Department of Agriculture Research Services
DfID	Department for International Development (UK)
DID	Differences-in-differences
DNC	District Nutrition Coordinator
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
ENA	Essential Nutrition Actions
EPA	Extension Planning Area
ESCOM	Electricity Supply Company of Malawi
FAS	Field Accounting System
FBO	Farmer Based Organization
FISP	Fertilizer Input Subsidy Program
FMB	First Bank of Malawi
FtF (FtF)	Feed the Future
FTFMS	Feed the Future Monitoring System
FUM	Farmers Union of Malawi
FY	Fiscal Year

GAC	Group Action Committee
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GBC	Grain Bulking Center
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GMP	Monthly Growth Monitoring
GoM	Government of Malawi
GP	Groundnut platform
GVH	Group Village Head
Ha	Hectare
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HSA	Health Surveillance Agent
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
INVC	Integrating Nutrition with Value Chains
IFRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IIF	Investing in Innovation Fund
IP	Implementing Partner
IPC	Innovation and Productivity Centre
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR	Intermediate Results
ISF	Implementation Support Fund
IT	Information Technology
IYCF	Infant and Young Children Feeding
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
LPO	Local Purchase Order
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAC	Marketing Action Center
MAPAC	Malawi Program on Aflatoxin Control
MBC	Malawi Broadcasting Company
MBG	Milk Bulking Group
MDI	Malawi Dairy Industries
MISST	Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies Program
MIM	Malawi Institute of Management
MIP	Market Information Point
MIS	Market Information System
MKW	Malawi Kwacha (symbol for)
MMPA	Malawi Milk Producers Association
MoA&FS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSU	Michigan State University
Mt	Metric ton
MZ	Malawi Zebu (cows)
NA	Nutrition Assistant
NASFAM	National Association of Smallholder Farmers of Malawi
NFRA	National Food Reserve Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OBM	Opportunity Bank of Malawi (Also referred to as OIBM)
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
OFSP	Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato

OPC	Office of President and Cabinet
OPI	Organizational Performance Index
OVO	Offer Volume Only
PCI	Project concern International
PDI	Positive Deviance Inquiry
PSA	Public Service Announcement
QR	Quick Response
RLEEP	Rural Livelihoods Enhancement program
SAIOMA	Strengthening Rural Input and Output Markets in Africa
SCU	University of South Carolina
SOYAMA	Soy Bean Association of Malawi
SSDI	Support for Service Delivery Integration
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
Sub-IR	Sub Intermediate Results
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TA [T/A]	Traditional Authority
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNC	University of North Carolina
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
VAC	Village Aggregation Center
VC	Value Chain
VCC	Value Chain Competitiveness
VFP	Village Financial Platform
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WRS	Warehouse Receipt System
ZBS	Zodiac Broadcasting Station
ZOI	Zone of Influence

## Activity and Work Plan Executive Summary

The Feed the Future Malawi Integrating Nutrition with Value Chains (FtF-INVC) Project has two fundamental goals:

- (1) Sustainably decrease rural poverty, and;
- (2) Improve nutrition outcomes for our beneficiaries

This activity is expected to:

1. Invest in the competitiveness of groundnuts and soybean value chains in which large numbers of smallholders participate;
2. Link increased market-oriented production of nutrient-rich crops to improved nutritional status of women and children through integrated value chain and nutrition behavior change interventions; and
3. Strengthen Malawian agriculture- and nutrition-related organizations so that indigenous institutions (both government and non-governmental) have the capacity to implement all components of INVC.

The Program was financed in April 2012 and has a completion date of 31 Oct 2016.

FY 16 is thus the final project year and, as such, it is designed to consolidate results achieved in the early phases of the program while focusing on deepening impact for beneficiaries throughout the project Zone of Influence (ZOI) . This year will focus on consolidation, partnership and integration, as well as transitioning and disengagement, thus the sustainability of our interventions and impacts. Empowerment of our beneficiaries and local implementing partners, enhancing their ability to contribute to and drive the development process, will be highlighted. In this fiscal year relationships at the District level will be strengthened- working with communities and the district executives and technical services to define, prioritize, plan, coordinate and execute actions in our technical area of interest to the populations of those districts. This year we will continue to assist women in improving their leadership skills, economic well- being and decision making capacity both at the household and the community level. We will consolidate our experience with Village Financial Platform rehabilitation and integration in Mchinji while sharing our approach with other partners by training their staff so that scale up may occur in other districts through leveraging of existing resources and interest. We will share our 1TOP video productions with other partners In this year INVC will continue to collaborate with others in our zone of influence both intra and inter-sectorally.

This year, Component 1 “Advancing value chain competitiveness” will continue focusing on increasing farmer’s income by at least 15 percent and assuring access to remunerative markets. Core activities planned for FY2016 include: intensify market development opportunities for farmers, processors and traders, develop market linkages at the village and district level, increase and improve smallholder farmer market access, improve value addition of groundnuts and soybeans to meet local and international quality and food safety standards, improve access to financial services and small and medium enterprises (SME) and integrate nutrition care groups to markets.

Component 2 “Improving Agricultural Productivity” will build on achievements from previous years with focus on rolling out technologies for an additional 58,000 farmers in FY2016. Core activities to accomplish this goal will include: increased access to improved seeds and inputs, technology transfer, improved advisory services and extension delivery systems, and environmental mitigation.

Component 3 of the FtF-INVC promotes household practices and individual behaviors that contribute to improved nutrition among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under 5. In FY 16 FtF-INVC will continue to deepen our impact through the Care Group model to deliver SUN key behaviors messages use the 3Cs approach to increase benefits to households and transferring skills to community stakeholders to create sustainability. These interventions will take a localized approach to increase behavior and ownership in the community. In FY16 FtF-INVC will facilitate CCFLS, Community Growth Monitoring, promotion and technical trainings which will be cascaded down to the household level. All interventions and trainings have been planned using the INVC nutrition calendar which prioritizes activities based on the season and relative prevalence of disease.

Currently we are working with other USAID funded projects to deepen the impact of our activities in all districts. These integrated activities leverage resources by increasing health messages to beneficiaries, increasing dietary diversity and improving health systems at district level. Through continued partnership and trainings, the nutrition component will focus on building capacity of community stakeholders to ensure ownership of all nutrition interventions.

Component 4 of INVC focuses on local institutional capacity building. In previous years we have focused primarily on capacity development of our local implementing partners who, for the most part, are APEX institutions or cooperating country non-governmental organizations. This year we are ceding space at this level to STEPS and are pushing back to the district. We will focus on building the capacity of associations, cooperatives and cooperative unions to provide services prioritized by and of interest to their members. We will continue consolidation of our relationship with the District level technical services, particularly agriculture, community development and health, as well as reinforcing our ties with the District Executive Councils.

In FY 16 Monitoring and Evaluation will continue to systematize data collection and reporting through an improved M&E system with a continued focus on data quality that incorporates a unique beneficiary ID and spatial mapping of project activities. Spot and Outcome surveys for nutrition and agriculture will be undertaken and we will progressively integrate GIS and M&E to incorporate more fully graphical presentations of indicator and outcome data.

Per USAID guidance and our recently submitted budget realignment request, DAI has prioritized the procurement of agricultural inputs- seed and inoculum. This prioritization has come at a cost however as we have reduced activities under gender, village financial platforms and local institutional capacity building. We have reduced the number of technology demonstration plots this year and are cost sharing local IP extension agent time with MISST. We will not be introducing new technology packages and will go deeper with current beneficiaries rather than wider in terms of outreach. Certain initiatives previously financed with grantees have been eliminated, notably support to the development of a Marketing Information Platform by ACE, support to market information points, and the outsourcing of service provision to local consulting firm/technical service providers. Our value chain competitiveness initiative will focus principally on domestic markets rather than regional or international ones. In certain instances we have capitalized upon 3-C partnerships to leverage funds and extend our outreach. This is the case with VFP as noted above. Capacitation will be more local, more in proximity and less robust than in previous project years. In some instances we are replacing ex-patriate technical assistance with home grown Malawian technicians. Less short term technical assistance will be contracted and we have reduced our overall activities and travel budgets. In a constrained economic environment INVC will necessarily be smarter with its funds and more conservative in our spending. In this final year we will focus on outcomes and impact, documenting of lessons learned, successes and case studies. This workplan thus focuses on the essentials, the key priorities as conveyed to us by USAID, and focuses on

transferal of knowledge, skills and competencies to our local staff, partners and beneficiaries as we transition to closeout.

Throughout the present document USAID will find examples of partnership initiatives, intersectoral as well as intrasectoral collaboration and a focus on local solutions to local challenges. Further the project remains open to collaborating with newly funded initiatives like the Feed the Future Malawi Strengthening Agricultural Nutrition and Extension services activity. During the proposal stage we discussed a number of areas for joint collaboration and messaging from the reinforcement of extension personnel knowledge in good agronomic practices to integration of improved post-harvest storage mechanisms like the PIC bag to reduce insect infestation and prolong the agronomic vigor of grain legumes between growing seasons.

As INVC moves to closeout our team will dedicate a portion of its time to documenting and disseminating lessons learned and case studies from our time on the ground implementing so that other partners do not have to reinvent the wheel and can get a jump start on their activities without necessarily re-living the steep learning curve of INVC.

## Cross Cutting Activities

### Gender

#### SUMMARY

Improving gender parity in FtF-INVC programming cannot be overstated as a goal for FtF-INVC. With limited access to credit, inputs and price information, both men and women face significant constraints to improving agricultural productivity, but women face these constraints more acutely. They have less access to credit and are less able to secure labor, relying more on their own labor and that of their children. In addition, fewer women than men use productivity-enhancing technologies such as plough and certified seeds, this low adoption may be the result of the additional labor, time and resources needed. For example, though the cost benefit of new high yield seeds increase production, women may lack the time, resources or access to knowledge to adopt these technologies. These differences lead to a gap in productivity between men and women.

Furthermore, levels of under-nutrition, particularly among pregnant mothers remain unacceptably high with long-term consequences for the country. The high rates of malnutrition are estimated to be the result of poor nutritional behaviors, low diversity of nutritious foods in the diet and impacts of a high disease burden.

Agricultural productivity and improved nutrition depend upon the contributions and additional gains to be made by Malawian women. Some of these advances include increased decision making in use of household income, health and nutrition, increased education, access to credit, and admission to leadership positions in the public sphere.

With these factors in mind, FtF is sharpening its focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Gender Assessment conducted in June 2014 has been a pivotal guide for stimulating a series of new strategies to ensure that both men and women will have equal access to FtF resources and opportunities.

Of special note are tasks that include activities to combat illiteracy among women. The Gender Assessment shed more light on this constraint for women and FtF is elevating literacy skills training, both reading and numerical, as crucial element to addressing gender equality among women. High illiteracy is an underlying barrier for women to engage in productive activities, leadership position and it marginalizes them from marketing opportunities.

#### *Task 1: Promote Male Participation in nutrition activities/Care Groups*

##### Subtask 1.1: Positive deviance role modeling (see nutrition)

FtF with Pakachere will undertake a positive deviance inquiry to identify key men who are fathers who affirm positive behaviors integral to better nutrition for children and the well-being of pregnant and lactating mothers. This approach to behavioral and social change takes advantage of the community's existing assets and strengths.

Following the inquiry FtF will conduct pilot Father-to-Father group discussions in Lilongwe South where through PDIs most men were noted to be non-participative in maternal and child health for their families. Apart from mere knowledge gaps, traditional norms were also found to be a contributing factors hence need to address them by projecting fellow fathers as role models. Lessons learnt in this initiative will be documented and shared with partners and communities members. By

using the positive deviant men as leaders and agents of change, FtF with Pakachere will increase the participation of men in nutrition and encourage men to champion women's empowerment. A thorough review will be conducted to assess the merit of rolling out to other districts. (See Nutrition)

Pakachere and FtF M&E will develop PDI tools to ensure that dissemination of key messages at district and field levels covers all components such as nutrition, VFP, Gender and value chains. FtF with Pakachere will conduct positive deviance inquiry to identify men to participate in care group activities.

### *Task 2: Improving Gender Parity in Leadership Positions, and Decision Making in Household Income*

#### Subtask 2.1 Train members in Gender Action and Learning System (GALS) to increase equitable access and utilization of household assets and power.

The 2014 Gender Assessment revealed that women's membership is high in the FtF INVC project activities; however there are fewer women in leadership positions in the farmer associations. In addition, women indicated that though time was a constraint for them, they "make it work" to remain as lead farmers or executive members. Furthermore women with children indicated that they would find childcare if they assumed leadership position. This showed the significant interest and willingness to assume important leadership roles in associations and clubs. Capitalizing on this enthusiasm, FtF-INVC through care group sessions will mobilize women to participate in marketing and commercial food processing so that they sell what they produce during the cooking demonstration sessions. Efforts will also be taken to mobilize women to be in various community based committees such as village health committees, area development committees etc as one way of effective positioning in their societies to build their leadership skills.

In as far as household decision making is concerned, the 2014 Gender Assessment also revealed that women have access to fewer resources and bargaining power in the household to overcome constraints. Most men and women agreed that men made all the decisions on spending money earned from growing groundnuts. And for soya, most men indicated that they were the primary decision makers and decided what to grow on family land.

The dual objectives of increasing agricultural productivity and improving nutrition require that the project consider the intra-household dynamics of how decisions are made surrounding income, consumption and sale of produce.

As such GALS training has been introduced through identification of champions to improve women's positions in committees. This activity will mainly involve cascading GALS trainings to other community members by the GALS champions. FtF and partners will conduct supervision and monitoring of GALS champions' field level trainings in the districts.

FtF and partners will conduct frequent follow-up visits of the champions and members trained in GALS to ensure that beneficiaries are accomplishing their life visions within the specified period. Frequent visit will also help in capturing indicators either monthly or quarterly.

### *Task 3 Improve Women's Ability to Participate in Marketing & Value Chain Activities*

#### Subtask 3.1 Identification and Training of women in collective marketing and commercial food processing technologies

The 2014 Gender Assessment revealed that women indicate a defined and segregated division of labor, with their participation concentrated in production and processing activities and men's concentrated mostly in marketing. FtF activities to improve marketing (e.g., establishing warehouses, aggregation points, and commodity exchanges) are meant to offer opportunities for all

farmers to participate in a more transparent and equitable marketplace. However, there is evidence that women are being pushed out of the marketing activities because men are taking over marketing of previously a women's subsistence crop such as groundnuts since the fall in tobacco (a cash crop) prices. As soya and groundnuts strengthen as cash crops, more men are entering the space and taking over women's production, taking the harvest to the market and not divulging the amount received from its sale. FtF will ensure that there are specific activities that improve women's access and participation in marketing activities. For example, FtF will identify potential women's groups or associations to engage in collective marketing (see Value Chain Competitiveness). In addition, FtF will identify and strengthen existing community based organizations and women's community organizations that can be a resources to FtF beneficiaries. The executive committees of these organizations will receive leadership training simultaneous to care group members and women in farm clubs. This will enable networking between groups. The strengthened CBOs will also become an alternative and formal pathway to disseminate market price information to FtF beneficiaries, particularly women. In addition, these groups will be encouraged to register their mobile phones with ACE mobile market pricing tool.

FtF will identify women who are able to form a coalition to facilitate dialog with mobile phone service providers to urge their design of packages that make phone ownership achievable. Mobile phones ownership is a key opportunity to advance social and commercial opportunity. This is with the end goal of encouraging ownership of mobile phones among women. There is precedence for this initiative. In 2013, Airtel Africa partnered with UN Women to package and deliver mobile phone solutions that support the livelihoods of women.

Furthermore women will be identified and trained for commercial food processing technologies. The upgrading plans state that FtF would support "mini" factories including small oil extraction plants or "mini" mills for processing groundnuts and soybeans. This is an opportunity for men and women to be provided with processing equipment. FtF will place special emphasis on identifying women's' groups or clubs who are currently successfully processing at a micro level who would benefit from skills and knowledge transfer in commercial processing as well as mentorship for future ownership of commercial assets. (Please see Value Chain Competitiveness).

### **Sub task 3.2 Identify and Reduce Barriers to Entry:**

The 2014 Gender Assessment findings revealed that women are not participating as actively in the marketing positions in the chains as much as they are in the production aspects. There are some indications that this lack of participation is reducing their access to benefits (e.g. income). Spouses who are transporting and marketing women's produce are not always including women in the decisions around the income gained from the sale of the produce.

To assess women's participation in aggregation points the Gender team will obtain data from M&E team, using data collected during the GIS Pilot in LL South. If the pilot reveals that the number of women is lower than men (at aggregation points), the Gender team will use Participatory Gender Analysis tools (e.g. the CARE access to public spaces and economic and financial services tool) to identify barriers, particularly for women to utilize aggregation centers.

To address these barriers that women face, FtF will also identify both community and commercial transport operators and facilitate dialog and the design of agreements with transport operators with farm clubs that consist primarily of women in order enable the carrying of crops to aggregation centers. Lack of reliable transport as well as the high cost of sole individuals hiring transport is likely to prevent women from using aggregation centers. FtF will work towards reducing this constraint.

FtF also will facilitate marketing training as a module of women's adult literacy courses. Women with low literacy will still capture the gains of marketing skills and knowledge when they attend literacy courses that will be designed to meet them at their level of understanding. This collective marketing module will be held as a part of the literacy training and in addition to the larger collective marketing training, which is discussed in Value Chain Competitiveness Component.

#### *Task 4 Improve INVC and Partner's Ability to Deliver Gender Equitable Programming*

##### **Subtask 4.1 Increase network of technical assistance:**

FtF recognizes that effective institutional reform must build on local practices and is best designed by domestic actors. Thus, FtF will review the landscape of local institutions and individuals in Malawi to identify those with specialized gender and agriculture skills to provide in-country technical assistance to implementing partners.

FtF will participate in gender technical working group in the districts to ensure coordination and collaboration with stakeholders implementing similar interventions in the district. At these meetings, FtF will present progress reports on INVC gender interventions in terms of achievements, challenges and lesson learnt for proper integration. In addition, FtF will also engage the District Executive Committee (DEC) members and stakeholder panels for joint field visits.

The gender team will conduct quarterly project review meetings on gender relevant indicator performance to track and share progress on gender interventions with beneficiaries and partners. The meetings will strengthen the relationship among beneficiaries and technical staff which will result in improving project delivery. The FtF will collaborate with the Ministry of Gender, Agriculture and other local institutions best equipped with knowledge and skills to provide technical assistance on gender. The FtF field staff will work closely with Community Development Assistants and Agriculture Extension Development offices (extension workers) to harness synergies on interventions.

##### **Subtask 4.2 Maximize learning from gender disaggregated data:**

FtF seeks to take corrective action when needed to improve equal access to resources and opportunity. FtF will apply advice from the Gender Assessment to produce annual project reviews of gender relevant indicator performance. FtF will also assess gender parity aspirational goals. Many of the implementing partners vocalized a target of 50 percent men and 50 percent women in activities. FtF will track and share partner progress toward these aspirations as well as gender parity in leadership positions within partner organizations and among beneficiaries. FtF will conduct quarterly project review meetings on gender relevant performance indicators and progress with beneficiaries and partners.

##### **Subtask 4.3 Increase information sharing on gender**

Both the FtF-INVC project and its implementing partners recognize that there are gender constraints and issues on a rhetorical level. However, there is need for a deeper understanding of what it means to be gender-sensitive, the importance of considering the constraints of men and women and how beneficiaries may be affected by programming decisions. There also needs to be awareness of the difference between gender equality and women's empowerment. With this in mind, a gender sensitivity training was organized for all implementing staff and a manual was produced by a consultant. The FtF will revise the gender training manual with partners and disseminate to INVC staff and partners. This will allow partners to provide additional information to the manual and

hence a rich product with various insights from experience. It will also help INVC staff and partners to own the manual through the review process and encourage usage.

Ftf will share information on gender obtained from the Gender technical working group and DEC with all partners and other relevant institutions virtually and through the quarterly meetings stated above.

After an initial data inquiry of leadership positions taken after the Gender Assessment, FtF-INVC has found that the number of women selected for leadership positions and volunteer level is skewed in favor of men. In addition, the gender assessment also revealed that fewer men are engaged in nutrition activities at household level. To address this gap, , the INV team will develop and share gender messages based on the Gender Assessment results as well the on-going formative research to be done that will encourage staff, field officers and beneficiaries to consider women in leadership positions and men in nutrition activities. The messages will be pretested to the sample audiences to assess their clarity, content and relevance. The gender team will integrate messages into trainings and before employment selections occur that urge staff, field officers and others to encourage the selection of women during hiring and association elections. In addition, FtF will develop messages in conjunction with Pakachere and disseminate through radio, print media, t-shirts and women's cloth (chitenje). This response will ensure both beneficiaries and technical staff meet Ftf gender equality goals.

#### *Task 5 Promote Time & Labor Saving Technologies*

##### Subtask 5.1 Review and Identify labor constraints:

With little or no mechanization, access to and efficient use of labor is critical to improving agricultural productivity. INVC will continue to promote improved land preparation and crop management technologies. However, the improved management techniques promoted by the FtF-INVC program implementers require some additional labor, skills or supervision.

Both men and women farmers indicated that the planting process was challenging because of the precision and extra time required for measurement and proper spacing. The demands will increase if men or women farmers expand production by increasing acreage under soybean or groundnut product. Expanding production of either crops will likely increase women's need for hired labor or labor-saving technologies that can improve their productivity.

The Gender team will review the MSU study on barriers to technology adoption and assess the use of herbicides in legumes as a time/labor saver for weeding, especially for women. And with M&E resources the Gender team will determine gender related labor constraints.

#### *Task 6: Monitoring and Evaluation*

FtF with partners will conduct end line GALS survey evaluation on the champions. The data will be compared to the baseline data to assess any improvement in terms of women empowerment, decision making, control and access to resources. The results will then be shared to INVC project wide and USAID.

#### **ADULT LITERACY**

The Feed the Future Gender Assessment that was conducted in 2014 by Cultural Practice LLC highlight the lack of literacy among beneficiaries, particularly women, as a challenge for fully participating in the resources and activities that FtF has to offer. Facilitating adult literacy courses is

one strategy the FtF Gender team is implementing with expertise from the Government. So far, community mobilization and training of instructors has been done.

*Task 1: Conduct adult literacy classes among project beneficiaries*

**Subtask 1.1: Build Capacity of Adult Literacy Instructors and Project Beneficiaries**

For sustainability of adult literacy classes there is need to establish committees that will help in supervision of the classes. The supervision can best be done by the community members who are literate and are in touch with the learners. FtF will therefore establish committees that will consist of 5 to 10 members of which 2 will be learners. The committees will receive an orientation together with Promoters, Nutrition Assistants and District Nutrition Coordinators on their roles and responsibilities on adult literacy classes in the community.

FtF will train the adult literacy instructors in other areas such as Food Processing and Preservation technologies, Family Planning and Hygiene and Sanitation because these are some of the topics covered in the Malawi adult literacy curriculum.

**Subtask 1.2: Procure Teaching and Learning Materials**

For smooth running of adult literacy classes, there is need to provide the learners with teaching and learning materials. These materials include books, writing boards, chalk and register books. FtF will procure the teaching and learning materials to facilitate learning.

**Subtask 1.3: Provide Incentives to Adult Literacy Instructors**

To motivate the adult literacy instructors who are doing a very commendable voluntary work, it is important to incentivize them through provision of honorarium and other benefits. These incentives might also help in controlling the dropout rate. FtF-INVC will therefore follow the Government set guidelines which allow instructors to get an honorarium of K1000 per month. FtF -INVC will also provide T-shirts and instruction materials (e.g. (stationary) to enable instructors to their job properly.

**Subtask 1.4: Monitoring and Dissemination**

FtF-INVC takes project reviews as very important stages of project programming. Therefore FtF-INVC will periodically review the progress of the classes at quarterly basis. Joint supervision will be done with Government officials since INVC is following the Government curriculum. The supervision shall be conducted weekly /monthly by staff from INVC and government.

FtF-INVC will periodically update the District Executive Committee and other stakeholders at DEC meetings on how adult literacy activities are progressing in the district. This shall be done through a presentation which shall highlight the achievements and the challenges faced. This platform will provide an opportunity to find solutions that can address some of the challenges through exchange of information and experiences.

Gender Action and Learning System( GALS)			Key partner(s)	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16
<b>Task 1: Promote male participation in nutrition activities</b>															
Subtask 1.1:	<b>Positive Deviance Role Modeling (see Nutrition)</b>														
Activities:	Develop PDI tools with Pakachere and M&E team to ensure dissemination of key messages at district and field level	Pakachere													
Activities:	Conduct positive deviance inquiry to identify men to participate in Care Group Activities	Ministry of Local and Rural Gov't, Nkhoma Hospital													
Activities:	With M&E team ensure dissemination at district and field level	INVC													
Activities:	Conduct pilot father to father group discussions using positive deviant fathers(participatory gender tools e.g norms and expectations ideal father)	INVC,FUM,Nasfam													
Activities:	Capture learning from father to father pilot and roll-out in the districts.														
<b>Task 2: Improving Gender Parity in Leadership Positions and Decision Making in Household Income</b>															
Subtask 2.1:	<b>Field level GALS trainings and continous supervision</b>														
Activities:	Conduct supervision and monitoring of champions field level trainings in community to increase access and utilisation of household assets and power.	INVC,FUM,Nasfam													
Activities:	Conduct frequent follow-up visits of the champions and members trained in gals.														
<b>Task 3: Improve Women's Ability to Participate in Marketing &amp; Value Chain Activities</b>															
Subtask 3.1	<b>Identification and Training of women</b>														
Activities:	Identify potential women's groups or associations to learn technologies for commercial food processing (see Value Chain Competitiveness)	District Agriculture Office, Distrit Gender Office, Nkhoma, FUM, Nasfam,													
Activities:	Conduct training in collective marketing using adapted materials ( se value chain competitiveness)														
Subtask 3.2	<b>Identify barriers to entry</b>														
Activities:	Obtain data from M&E team regarding GIS pilot in the targeted districts	INVC													
Activities:	Conduct focus group to identify barriers( using gender analysis frameworks eg HAF)														
<b>Task 4: Improve INVC and Partner's Ability to Deliver Gender Equitable Programming</b>															
Subtask 4.1:	<b>Increase networking for technical assistance</b>														
Activities:	Participate in gender technical working group and DEC meetings in the districts														
Activities:	Engage the District Executive committee members for joint field visit and conduct presentation on INVC gender interventions	Ministry of gender Nkhoma Hospital,FUM,Nasfam													
Activities:	Engage Ministry of gender,Agriculture and other local institutions best equipped with knowledge and skills to provide technical assistance on gender.	Ministry of gender , Min of Agriculture													
Subtask 4.2	<b>Maximise learning from gender disaggregated data</b>														
Activities:	Consult with M&E to track and share gender disaggregated data to monitor progress towards achieving aspirational goals.														
Activities:	conduct quarterly project reviews meetings on gender relevant performance indicators and progress with beneficiaries and partners	INVC, FUM,Nkhoma Nasfam,community													
Subtask 4.3	<b>Increase information sharing on gender</b>														
Activities:	Disseminate the gender training manual to all INVC staff and partners	INVC													
Activities:	Develop and share gender messages that encourage staff, field officers and beneficiaries to consider women in leadership positions and men in nutrition activities.	INVC,FUM,Nasfam													

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Gender Action and Learning System( GALS)		Key partner(s)	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16
Activities:	Review MSU study on barriers to technology adoption	Ministry of gender,Agriculture,N												
Activities:	Using focus group discussion to identify other constraints for use of time saving technologies and present findings to M&E evaluation and survey	INVC, FUM,NASFAM												
<b>Task 6</b>		<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>												
Activities:	Conduct a midterm assessment of achievement of life vision to GALS beneficiaries in relation to the gals baseline tool ( leadership, decision making, access to public services-financial and economic resources.	INVC, NASFAM,FUM, Nkhoma and CADECOM												
Activities:	Conduct end line evaluation of gals champions in the districts( those who were interviewed at baseline survey)	INVC, NASFAM,FUM, Nkhoma and CADECOM												
Activities:	Consult with M&E to conduct spot survey and monitor changes in control of income,decision making, access to and control of resources.	INVC, NASFAM,FUM, Nkhoma and CADECOM												
Activities:	Share survey results with INVC and USAID( could be in form of a presentation)													
<b>Adult literacy</b>														
Task 7.1:	<b>Capacity building</b>	FUM, Nasfam, FtF												
Activities:	Establish adult literacy committees													
Activities:	Orient adult literacy committees													
Activities:	Orient promoters, field staff on adult literacy													
Activities:	Learning or cross visits													
Activities:	Refresher for adult literacy instructors training													
Activities:	Train instructors in Hygiene and sanitation													
Activities:	Train instructors in family planning													
Activities:	Train instructors in food processing and preservation methods													
Task 7.2	<b>Procure teaching and learning materials</b>	FtF, FUM, Nasfam,												
Activities:	Procure and provide incentives													
Activities:	Buy and provide stationary to the instructors													
Activities:	Honoraria for Instructors													
Activities:	Buy and distribute t-shirts and bags													
Task 7.3	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>													
Activities:	Attend DEC meetings and provide progress report on activities													
Activities:	Quarterly project reviews on adult literacy													
Activities:	Conduct Adult literacy days after final exams													
Activities:	Supervision and monitoring of adult literacy classes in the community by INVC staff													
Activities:	Supervision and monitoring of adult literacy classes in the community by Gender specialist													
Activities:	Joint supervision with the Government													

## **VILLAGE FINANCIAL PLATFORM**

INVC's Village Financial Platform activities are designed to assist beneficiaries in their communities with the mobilization of capital resources for investment in their self-defined development priorities.

Participation in the savings groups promotes community mobilization of funds, fights against dependency and is an added vector for integration of program activities.

With limited access to credit, inputs and price information, both men and women face significant constraints to improving agricultural productivity, but women face these constraints more acutely. They have less access to credit and are less able to secure labor, relying more on their own labor and that of their children. In addition, fewer women than men use productivity-enhancing technologies; this low adoption may be the result of the additional labor, time and resources needed. For example, though the cost benefit of new high yield seeds increase production, women may lack the time, resources or access to knowledge to adopt these technologies. These differences lead to a gap in productivity between men and women.

Furthermore, levels of under-nutrition, particularly stunting among children remain unacceptably high with long-term consequences for the country. The high rates of malnutrition are estimated to be the result of poor nutritional behaviors, low diversity of nutritious foods in their diet and impacts of a high disease burden.

Agricultural productivity and improved nutrition depend upon the contributions and additional gains to be made by Malawian women. Some of these advances include increased decision making in use of household income, increased education, access to credit and admission to leadership positions in the public sphere.

The Village Financial Platforms, while not exclusively targeting women, have proven, much like the care groups, to be attractive and secure place for women to meet and share. Using the newly renovated groups as platforms for development messaging on value chains, nutrition and gender has also proven highly successful. Given the impressive amounts mobilized in their six-eight months of existence, the VFP model is garnering interest from other development partners which will assist us in bringing the activity to scale without the necessity of doing it ourselves. Our activities in this area will focus on consolidating gains in Mchinji District while outselling the technique to others through facilitation of training of trainer sessions and offering joint monitoring. INVC will continue to develop and disseminate its 1TOP video productions and will share the same as requested.

### *Task 1: Improve Women's Access to Credit*

#### Subtask 1.1 Financial Literacy:

According to the Third Integrated Household Survey (2010/2011), only about 14 percent of households attempted to get a loan and interact with the credit market (NSO 2012). With so few households active in the credit market, there are likely constraints that both men and women face in using credit to invest or expand agricultural enterprises.

Rural Malawian women are more likely to be credit constrained than men due to their poor access to information and marketing structures and lack of viable collateral (Fleischner and Kenney 2011). Women's relative lack of access to credit compared to men reduces opportunities for improving

household-level outcomes, especially those associated with nutrition: studies from Malawi and elsewhere demonstrate that women's access to credit, more so than men's, improves girls' nutrition (Fletschner and Kenney 2011).

FtF-INVC will continue to coordinate with FHI360 and Opportunity International Bank of Malawi to develop/modify financial literacy programs. FtF Value Chain Competitiveness team will include the Gender team in this activity to ensure the needs of both women and men will be identified and addressed. FtF will conduct a financial literacy training program among smallholders and Association leaders, with attention to challenges of illiteracy, particularly for women. (see Value Chain Competitiveness)

FtF will also facilitate the strengthening of village savings groups via Village Finance Platform activities, which is discussed at length in its own section. The VFP serves as a mechanism to improve access to small amounts of credit and strengthen the knowledge of saving group members, as well as their resiliency. The VFP also is a pathway for integrating the nutrition and agriculture component.

FtF will also be meeting partners like: SSDI in Lilongwe, PCI in Balaka and CADECOM in Mchinji. The reason for the meetings will be to introduce VFP concept and discuss possible partnership in the areas they are working with in the said districts.

### *Task 2: 1 TOP (1 Trainer One Phone)*

INVC borrowed a leaf from the Zambia lesson on use of short video clips to enhance comprehension and speed adoption by VFP members. In FY 15 INVC identified important thematic areas to communicate in videos to the Village Financial Platforms. A Video Committee was elected. They met and discussed the video themes that are: Agriculture, gender, nutrition and health.

Image Works was contracted to develop the script and shoot the videos based on the themes. Currently one video is out and two more are in the pipeline with three others planned during FY16. The Partner that FtF INVC is working with as pilot is CADECOM in Mchinji district. So far 105 Android Phones were procured for Village Financial Platform Village Agents. 47 have been distributed. The Videos will be uploaded in the Android Phones so that the VFP Members as well as nonmembers will watch

The Phones will also be able to capture GPS Coordinates that will assist in locating the exact place where the groups are found.

We plan to buy an additional 105 Android Phones for Village Financial Platform Village Agents in FY16 for the three Partners that have been proposed.

Training has been proposed in the plan for Implementing Partners' Field Officers and Village Financial Platform Agents on 1 TOP.

### *Task 3: Monitoring of Village Financial Platform Groups*

The Field Officers collect data on Diagnosis and Recommendation, Video dissemination, Inventory and other relevant reports from groups. There is need to monitor this and outreach as well.

There is also need to integrate Adult literacy in VFP to improve the way women handle money and reduce illiteracy level among the members.

Nutrition, gender and Agriculture messages including food processing also need to reach the Village Financial Platform Groups.

*Task 4: Attending Savings Groups 2015 (SG2015) in Lusaka – Zambia.*

SG2015 represents a community of stakeholders committed to accelerating innovations through knowledge sharing and collaboration. With support from a number of the leading organizations that have championed Savings Groups, this community has come together twice before (in 2011 and 2013) to collaborate, share best practices, and increase the impact of Savings Groups worldwide. The community convenes again for **SG2015: The Power of Savings Groups**, taking place in Lusaka, Zambia.

During FY 16 all of the platforms will experience their second or third payout with project mentoring, monitoring and oversight. Sustainability occurs when activities once undertaken with assistance continue organically once that assistance has been retracted. In order to assist in the securing of assets INVC, this year, will explore linkages with Pafuti, Get Bucks, and other micro-finance windows, including mobile money to see what options may be offered beyond conserving unsecured liquidity within the community. Further, for those VFP members with a more entrepreneurial mindset, we will attempt to explore introductions to FINCA, OIMB, or even more commercial lending windows at NBS or elsewhere.

Village Financial Platforms			Key partner(s)	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	
<b>Task 1:</b>	<b>Improve Women's Access to Credit</b>															
	Subtask 1.1:	<b>Financial Literacy</b>	Opportunity Bank, Feed the Future, FHI360													
	Activities:	Conduct training in business development strategy & financial literacy (see value chain component)														
		Leverage other USAID project implementers for financial literacy including Nasfam and FUM and FHI360														
	Subtask 1.2:	<b>Meeting with Partners, CADECOM</b>														
<b>Task 2</b>	<b>1 Trainer One Phone (1 TOP)</b>															
	Activities:	Discussing and approving Video scripts														
		Distribution of Android Phones and T Shirts														
		Training the FOs in 1 TOP														
		Training the FOs and VFP VAs in GPS coordinates capturing														
	Sub task 2.1	<b>Capacity Building of FOs and VFP VAs</b>														
	Activities:	Conduct VFP VA capacity building training for FOs														
		Conduct Village Financial Platform-Village Agent trainings														
<b>Task 3</b>	<b>Monitoring VFP Groups</b>															
	Activities:	Monitoring Diagnosis and Recommendation of VFP Groups - data collection														
		Intergrating nutrition, gender, agriculture and Adult literacy in VFP														
		Gender Specialist Monitoring														
		Monitoring VFP Inventory - data collection														
	Sub task 3.1	<b>Attending Savings Groups (SG) 2015 in Lusaka - Zambia</b>														

## **Component I- Value Chain Competitiveness**

The FY2016 work plan will build on the achievements from the previous year. INVC succeeded in utilizing the value chain approach to increase gross margins by 15 percent through broadening and deepening smallholder access to more remunerative domestic markets. The project plans to intensify market development through buyers' and farmers' tours, strengthen the market linkages through aggregation and collective marketing. INVC will continue to support and improve the infrastructure and performance of the new market information system (MIS), while continuing support to the warehouse receipt system (WRS), making both systems reach out to our smallholder beneficiaries who have not fully benefited from these important platforms. During this season, the project will pilot a value chain financing with selected associations to improve smallholder farmers' access to financial services.

Component 1's vision of success is centered on farm households earning higher total incomes from improved and higher agricultural production with stronger margins from legume sales, allowing them to retain more plant protein from this production or to purchase more nutritious foods. This will result from facilitation of smallholder farmers' access to markets and services, and meeting quality and safety requirements for household consumption and trade. INVC will coordinate with implementing partners, technical support partners and districts council assemblies. In addition, INVC understands the importance of gender as a cross cutting issue and as such, different mitigation measures are integrated in all value chain interventions to make sure women's participation continues to increase in FY2016.

### ***Task 1: Intensify Market Development Opportunities for Farmers, Processors, and Traders***

In FY2016, INVC will intensify market pull activities with partners FUM, and CADECOM. With NASFAM we will collaborate and share information for market development.<sup>1</sup> INVC will also partner with the District Agriculture Development Officer (DADO) and Agriculture Extension Development Officer (AEDO) to reach out to areas within our zone of influence (ZOI) that have not been included in previous years.

In FY2015, INVC successfully introduced a concept that involved inviting 30 different processors, traders and industry leaders from the groundnut and soybean value chain and took them to villages in our ZOI to meet with partners associations (Buyers' Tour). This activity resulted in business deals for over 150,000 USD and the establishment of long term business relationships between farmers and processors. In FY2016, we will promote this activity again, but instead of connecting farmers to buyers during harvest time (March to July), we will initiate this activity during planting season (November to December), giving farmers the chance to make informed decisions about their future market demand.

In addition to buyer's tours, INVC will also promote among successful associations member's visits to processing and trading facilities (Farmer's tours). INVC will start with orientation and refresher training of field staff at district level on marketing and markets. The field staff will, in turn, identify and recommend associations and then members of the selected associations will select representatives to visit with processors and traders in Blantyre and Lilongwe. The objectives of this activity are to: i) expose farmers to factory operation so they appreciate where and what happens to their produce, ii) expose farmer leaders to formal business environments so they understand the structures, challenges and opportunities of doing business with local processors, and iii) develop association leaders negotiation skills.

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<sup>1</sup> INVC does not support NASFAM commercial branch also known as NASCOMEX under this grant agreement

### *Task 2: Increase Market Linkages at the Village and District Level*

INVC will intensify business building activities at the Village Aggregation Centers (VACs) and Grain Bulking Centers (GBCs) to strengthen their market linkages to processors and traders. VACs are generally warehouses or stores located in the village where the first level of commercial sale and aggregation takes place. They represent smallholders' entry point in the soya and groundnut value chains. Grain Bulking Centers (GBCs) are medium to large sized grain storage and trading facilities, usually with better access to transportation and markets. In the past, VAC's and GBC's have not effectively worked together. However, in FY2016, INVC plans to connect VACs to the GBCs so they both can have access to WRS and financing ultimately improving association's profitability. In addition, INVC will, in collaboration with implementing partners, train more than 750 lead farmers on aggregation and collective marketing; and strengthen VACs set up activity with strong market linkages to GBCs, structured markets, processors and traders.

### *Task 3. Integrate Care Groups and Village Financial Platforms to Markets*

Component 1 in collaboration with the Nutrition Component will link care group members interested in selling excess produce from the kitchen gardens to the World Food Programme (WFP) Home-Grown School and Community Feeding Programme. The Nutrition Component will select the Care Groups and Component 1 will train them in marketing and markets. Component 1 will collaborate with WFP and, further link the trained Care groups to schools. Component 1 in collaboration with Village Financial Platform (VFP) section will train VFPs in marketing. The VFPs will be selected by VFP Officer, and Component 1 will train the VFPs in marketing processes and techniques. The trained VFPs will be linked to markets.

### *Task 4: Improve value addition of groundnuts and soybeans to meet local and international quality and food safety standards*

The market mantra is high quality product at competitive prices. In the groundnut value chain, aflatoxin contamination is the main barrier to achieving high quality products. INVC in collaboration with Southern Africa Trade Hub (SATH) will continue training farmers, processors and traders on aflatoxin control and management in groundnuts. Some of the technologies that will be introduced are techniques for removing contaminated nuts, including appropriate treatment and disposal of contaminated material. A new collaboration with the Peanut and Mycotoxin Innovation Lab will also build a strong relationship with LUANAR and take advantage of the new research available on this area. Although aflatoxin cannot be entirely eliminated, it is possible to reduce the incidence which will greatly improve the value of groundnuts and processed products.

INVC will also continue its collaboration with Michigan State University (MSU) on food safety training, good manufacturing, and good hygienic practices and hazards control in legume processing industry in Malawi. The GFSI Global Markets Programme sets out how small and less developed food companies (SMEs) can meet the challenge of food safety, while simultaneously reducing hazards in global food supply chains and working towards market access through certification to one of the 10 GFSI-recognized schemes. It provides entry point for SMEs with its step-by-step programme designed to build capacity within production and manufacturing operations, and implement a course of continuous improvement. In FY2015, INVC and MSU successfully conducted a basic training on food safety for legume processors. This activity will continue to intermediate and advanced levels with participants from the basic training. INVC and MSU will also develop and train a core group of 10 trainers drawn from 7 district agriculture development offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in ZOI on Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and Food Safety Knowledge Network (FSKN).

*Task 5: Improve access to financial services for farmers and small and medium enterprises (SME)*

Access to finance is critical to increasing smallholder farmer inclusion into high value chains. In FY2015, INVC engaged in discussions with OBM Bank and FMB Bank to explore agricultural loans for farmer groups. In general, banks are risk adverse and unwilling to lend smallholder farmers, primarily they lack collaterals and risk of not pay back of their loans as main factors. To address this issue, INVC will pilot with selected associations different revolving funds mechanisms to help them during harvest season with bridging finance. By engaging associations, INVC aims at increasing farmers' access to formal financing, which in turn will help them build their reputation and access more opportunities for market expansion. Three different mechanisms will be explored: i) linking associations with commercial banks; ii) linking and developing Village Financial Platforms within association's communities, and iii) funding bringing finance through short term loans through implementing partners. INVC will follow up USAID/DCA guarantee loan facility with desk officer in Washington. INVC will also continue to explore the possibilities of using ACE as a finance platform for smallholders.

**TABLE I: Component I Advancing Value Chain Competitiveness – Activities Matrix**

Activities	Key Partners	FY 2016											
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>Task I: Intensify Market Development Opportunities for Farmers, Processors, and Traders</b>													
<u>Sub Task 1: Train field extension staff on marketing and markets</u>													
• Identify training facilitator (s)	INVC, DADO, IPs												
• Prepare training materials	DADOs												
• Identify participants	INVC, DADOs, IPs												
• Conduct 1 day training session in 7 districts	INVC, DADOs, IPs												
<u>Sub Task 2: Conduct farmers' tour of selected legume factories in Lilongwe</u>													
• Identify farmers in EPAs to attend farmers' tour	INVC, DADO, IPs												
• Organize 1 day farmers' tour by district	INVC, DADO, IPs												
• Prepare and submit a tour report	VCCS, VCC												
<u>Sub-Task 3: Conduct buyers' tour of buyers, processors, and transporters</u>													
• Invite processors/buyers to attend buyers' tour	DADO, IPs												
• Conduct the buyers/sellers meeting	INVC, DADO, IPs												
<u>Sub-Task 4: Link care groups to World Food Programme Home-Grown School and Community Feeding</u>													
• Collaborate with WFP in selection of schools and farmer groups in the Home-Grown School and Community Feeding Programme	INVC, WFP												
• Train nutrition coordinator in the Home-Grown School and Community Feeding Programme	INVC, WFP												

Activities	Key Partners	FY 2016											
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>Task 2: Increase Market Linkages at the Village and District Level</b>													
<u>Sub-Task 1: Conduct participatory refresher training for field staff on aggregation and collective marketing</u>													
• Invite field staff for refresher training	DADO, IPs												
• Prepare training material and program	DADO, IPs												
• Train the field staff on aggregation and collective marketing	INVC, DADOs, IPs												
<u>Sub-Task 2: Build capacity of VACs and GBCs on collective marketing</u>													
• Hold democratic elections for officer bearers of VACs and GBCs	DADOs,IPs												
• Train democratically elected leadership on governance and management of VACs and GBCs	DADOs,IPs												
• Train the leadership on basic book keeping record	DADOs,IPs												
• Monitor and supervise the operations of VACs and GBCs	DADOs,IPs												
<u>Sub-Task 3: Link VACs and GBCs to end markets and transporters</u>													
• Identify processors, traders and exporters to be linked to VACs and GBCs	INVC												
• Facilitate business relationships between farmers, processors, traders and exporters	INVC,DADOs,IPs												

Activities	Key Partners	FY 2016											
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>Task 3: Integrate care groups and village financial platforms to markets</b>													
<u>Sub-Task 1: Collaborate with Nutrition Component in accessing WFP Home-Grown School and Community Feeding Programme</u>													
• Identify care groups	NC,DNC,NA												
• Train care groups	NC,VCC												
• Link trained care groups to schools	NC, VCC,VCCS,WFP												
<u>Sub-Task 2: Collaborate with VFP section in marketing and markets</u>													
• Identify VFP to participate in marketing and markets	VFPO												
• Train the VFP in marketing and markets	VFPO,VCC												
• Link the trained VFPs to markets	VFPO,VCC,VCCS												
<b>Task 4: Improve value addition of groundnuts and soybeans to meet local and international quality and food safety standards</b>	INVC,NSO, MRA												
<u>Sub-Task 2: Cascade training on aflatoxin control and management in groundnuts</u>													
• Follow up training of farmers by lead farmers on removal of aflatoxin contaminated nuts	INVC,SATH												
• Conduct public awareness of aflatoxin effects on agriculture, health and trade at district level	INVC,DADOIPs												
<u>Sub-Task 3: Conduct intermediate and advanced level food safety training</u>													
• Train participants on intermediate and advanced food safety levels	INVC,MSU												
<u>Sub-Task 4: Build capacity and sustainability of GFSI and FSKN in Malawi</u>													
• Select 10 participants from district council assemblies	INVC,DADO												

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Activities	Key Partners	FY 2016											
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train the select 10 participants basic, intermediate and advanced food safety</li> </ul>	INVC,MSU												
<b>Task 5. Improve access to financial services for farmers and SME's</b>													
<u>Sub-Task 1: Link association with commercial banks</u>													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare concept note and seek necessary approvals</li> </ul>	VCCS												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select the best organized and performing 3 farmers' groups</li> </ul>	VCCS,VCC												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train farmers' groups basic business skills and credit management</li> </ul>	INVC,DADOIPs												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Execute and implement the activity and its budget</li> </ul>	FOs												
<u>Sub-Task 2: Link and develop Village Financial Platforms within association's communities</u>	INVC,IPs, VFP												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with VFP officer in linking and developing VFPS</li> </ul>	VCC,VFPO												
<u>Sub-Task 2: Fund bridging finance through short term loans through implementing partners</u>													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up with USAID/DCA guarantee loan facility with desk officer in Washington</li> </ul>	USAID, INVC												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to explore the possibilities of using ACE as a finance platform for smallholders.</li> </ul>	INVC, IPs, ACE												

## Component 2: Improving Agricultural Productivity

Component 2 will build on the achievements of the previous fiscal year. INVC will roll out improved technologies to an additional 58,000 farmer beneficiaries, including 270 extension staff from implementing partners CADECOM, FUM and NASFAM and government extension workers (AEDO/AEDC). The emphasis for improving agricultural productivity in FY2016 remains promoting increase plant population by doubling the plant density. Furthermore, crop management practices will be advanced including integrated pest and disease management, soil improvement, water conservation and postharvest handling in the production of improved groundnuts and soybeans. Promotion of use of inoculum to facilitate nitrogen fixing in soybeans will continue.

During FY2016, INVC will intensify demonstrations and field days. Another area of promotion will include the environmentally sound use of pesticides, by following principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and guided by the USAID Malawi 2013 Mission-wide Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP). Cross-cutting themes throughout implementation of Component 2 activities include risk mitigation to build resilience to environmental shocks such as flooding and drought (that are predicted to occur with greater frequency with continuing climate change), and incorporating gender-sensitive approaches to ensure that women benefit equally from technology transfer.

### *Task 1: Increased Access to Improved Seeds and Inputs.*

FY 2016 will see an improvement in the seed supply strategy through a revamped seed distribution system, in which loyal beneficiary farmers with unique ID's will redeem certified seed from agro-dealers.

#### Sub-Task 1.1: Procure Quality Certified Seed (Soybeans + inoculum, Groundnuts)

INVC will introduce a form of vouchering in close collaboration with MISST and STAM for registered "loyal INVC farmers" assisted by NASFAM and CADECOM to procure seed from agro-dealers. INVC will be facilitating the availability to a subset of our farmer beneficiaries enough certified legume seed to plant 0.125 ha in double rows (about 16kg of groundnut seed or 12kg of soybean seed with applied inoculant). Benefitting farmers should have sufficient inputs to apply them using proven agronomic best practices for legumes on a land area of sufficient size to produce an economic rather than a subsistence crop of legumes. Farmers wishing to participate will have to pay the agro-dealers 1,000 kwacha for their inputs which should serve as the dealer's commission in order to motivate the dealers to provide the requisite volumes of the highest quality seed. The dealer will use a triple receipt system with one copy remitted to the farmer, one copy serving as a voucher, and one copy remaining as the agro-dealer's record.

This activity will be treated as a pilot as farmers will essentially be purchasing the seed (albeit at a subsidized rate with assistance from INVC) which has not occurred before at INVC with partners NASFAM and CADECOM. INVC will obtain a list of recommended (reliable) agro-dealers from STAM and MISST. We will do everything we can to insure that they make available the best quality seed possible to our farmers. Farmers selected for this pilot must meet the following criteria:

1. They must be willing to travel to obtain their 16 kg bag of groundnut seed or 12 kg of soybean seed, and to transport it back to their farms
2. They must pay the agro-dealer 1,000 kwacha out their own funds for their bag of seed
3. They must have a coupon with an INVC unique ID and proof of either CADECOM or NASFAM loyalty
4. They must have their names listed on the agro-dealer list. If their names are not on the list they

will not get seed (INVC will provide this list to agro dealers based on the number of farmers registered with us)

5. They cannot transfer their Unique IDs to other people. Only the person inventoried for the unique ID is eligible to receive inputs from the agro-dealer.
6. They must present their proof of unique ID and CADECOM/NASFAM receipt of membership at the agro-dealer to receive their input packets.
7. They must sign a receipt for their inputs. Agro-dealers will be expected to establish a receipt detailing the payment of funds and contents of the input package remitted.
8. They must be ready to plant seed in double rows at the recommended densities and row spacing.
9. An identified farmer could choose not to receive the seed and continue with the association membership
10. Farmers will purchase seed; thus, they will not be required to repay a "seed loan"
11. Farmers will own all the harvest because they have contributed time and money.

INVC recommendations to our Implementing partners are to select beneficiaries in EPA with good historical high productivity (comparative advantage); EPA selected for the pilot should have a large concentration of loyal INVC beneficiaries and Associations that are well structured and well governed.

Since there will not be a large quantity of seed to distribute the offering of seed will be limited to Dedza, Balaka and Mchinji. CADECOM chose Chafumbwa EPA for groundnut distribution. Preliminary meetings with NASFAM point to Mchinji where farmers can obtain good yields and Balaka where there is likely to be a great need. We have also added two EPA in Lilongwe: Nyanja and Mpenu. Sufficient seed should be available to serve 5,423 farmers with groundnuts and 8,300 farmers with soybeans. INVC will ensure inoculant sufficient for treatment of 102.4 mT of soybeans, which is to support Sunseed Oil contract farming with FUM. We will work closely with the partners on appropriate messaging that will go along with this program.

### *Task 2: Technology Transfer*

Improved land preparation and crop management will continue in FY2016 with a lot more emphasis on the experiential: practical demonstrations and field days, rather than theoretical training days conducted by professional consultants. In addition, this year INVC will emphasize more IPM field days. INVC will also work with MISST in providing information on best-bet technologies for the demonstration plots. In FY 15 INVC, through its local implementing partner network supported the establishment of over 2000 demonstration plots. In the end data was forthcoming from only 200 or 10%. There were numerous reasons for this- first, demonstration protocols were discussed verbally but not put forth in writing; second – reporting responsibilities on demonstration plots were undefined; third-a bad environmental year led many plots to be abandoned; and fourth – only a limited number of field days were organized. This year, in collaboration with MISST, INVC developed both a technical and reporting protocol for demonstration plots, wrote this down and disseminated it. Further, we are using existing plots more frequently and more thoroughly than in the past. Third we have clarified with partners that reporting on the demonstration plots- their establishment, compartment, densities and production by treatment is part and parcel of the AFO/lead farmer's work and documentation is part of the partner's deliverable matrix. Therefore, learning from the lessons of the past and using each plot more fully than was previously the case and transitioning from a classical extension approach to one which is more inspired by the farmer field school approach- where farmers pass regularly through the same demonstration plots and lessons are field based, tied to the cropping calendar and experiential, INVC believes that even though the absolute number of demonstration plots may be reduced the quality of outreach and thus the frequency of uptake by participating farmer beneficiaries will be greater.

**Sub-Task 2.1: Training of extension staff Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and environmental risk mitigation:**

During FY2016, the Agricultural Productivity Specialist will lead development of training modules for IPM and climate smart agriculture. Using the already available technical capacity from IPs, INVC expects to train 75 agricultural staff and 200 government extension staff in IPM and climate smart agricultural practices. INVC will further ensure that the IP agriculture staff will train Lead Farmers and Assistant Lead Farmers in applying these technologies.

**Sub-Task 2.2: Cascade down training in Improved Land Preparation, Crop Management, Harvest and Post-harvest techniques tied to Crop Calendar:**

In several areas, lead and assistant lead farmers have already started land preparations and it is expected that planting and early season crop management training will continue in October and late season crop management and harvest/post-harvest training no later than March. Radio messages to help promote behavior change (BCC) will need to be developed and vetted with IPs on time so that they can be aired according to the crop calendar activities. Key topics include timely land preparation, proper ridging, crop rotation, timely planting, pesticide safety, soybean rust prevention with fungicides, proper time to harvest using maturity index, and drying, threshing, cleaning, drying, and for postharvest storage. Drama performances on best agricultural practices will also be developed, e.g., on pesticide safety. INVC will ensure that visual aids on soybean (e.g., pod color and moisture content) and groundnut (e.g., mesocarp color scrape test) maturity indices are developed and widely disseminated. We will use maturity indices to schedule harvest and standardized moisture content comparison of harvested amounts.

Another very important topic is Aflatoxin management for farmers. In 2015/2016 season, in collaboration with the Micotoxin Innovation lab and LUANAR, INVC will explore other groundnut drying methods that have been scientifically tested in Malawi. In collaboration with MISST, INVC and implementing partners will conduct specialized training that would enable the export of groundnut to international markets, which requires stringent adherence to aflatoxin standards as well as creating awareness among farmers on the nutritional implications of consuming aflatoxin contaminated nuts. INVC will continue to participate in the Malawi Programme for Aflatoxin Control (MAPAC) to help advance technologies to reduce aflatoxin contamination. Training modules will be refined in coordination with key stakeholder and will be developed into a booklet for use in the 2015/16 season.

**Sub-Task 2.3: Promote Aflasafe Use:** In collaboration with IITA, we will begin to address the reduction of toxin producing molds by pursuing cooperative links to the USDA or PACA programs to implement tests of Aflasafe or similar non-toxigenic race crowding out biotoxins of toxigenic *Aspergillus* mold in field settings. While INVC is not sure about when the Malawian government will approve this process, INVC began discussions with MISST in March 2015 to collaborate on conducting field testing and demos in shared areas.

**Sub-Task 2.4: Monitoring of Adoption of Improved Management Practices:** Preliminary analysis of project field surveys have shown that double rows are widely adopted but the narrower 75 cm ridge spacing is less common, which could be related to gender-related labor constraints or crop rotation choices such as tobacco that require ridges at 90 cm. This will be further investigated and addressed during this season. The INVC productivity and M&E teams will also conduct field monitoring at regular intervals and linked with the land preparation and crop management training to measure the success of training and adoption of technologies. All these intermittent “spot” assessments will be reported to USAID in the Quarterly Reports.

**Sub-Task 2.5: Promote Crop Protection compliant with USAID Malawi PERSUAP:** Soybean and groundnut productivity is suppressed because of what INVC staff believe to be the combined

effect of late planting and weeding of legumes relative to maize, tobacco, and, in some areas, cotton. Early season disease (seed mold and rots) and insect attacks also reduce legume crop establishment. Late season rust on soybeans is a constant source of concern. To demonstrate these dynamics and the ability of crop protection products to control them, INVC will set up demonstration fields in collaboration with NASFAM, FUM and CADECOM and Farmer Organization Limited (FOL) or another private company with expertise in this matter. INVC will seek collaboration from other USAID partners to enable a broader roll out of pesticide and IPM training for legume growers. Noting that our care group members grow various indigenous vegetables for home consumption and sale sometimes, INVC will work with AEDOs and AEDCs in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and develop training materials for kitchen gardens development and management. Some education materials will also be sourced from the ministry that will be disseminated to care group members for education on the recommended agriculture practices.

**Sub-Task 2.6: Agronomic evaluation of nutrition-enhancing OFSP and vegetables for kitchen gardens:** INVC will assist the International Potato Center (CIP) in the distribution of several OFSP varieties to INVC farmer beneficiaries for production and inclusion in household diet. This will be an integrated effort with INVC's nutrition team. Under Component 2, INVC will participate in evaluating agronomic performance including yield and quality assessments in different Districts. For kitchen gardens, which are promoted through the Nutrition component, INVC will develop training materials for Care Groups which will focus on improved management of kitchen gardens and the most appropriate vegetables (a range of leafy indigenous varieties) to grow from an agronomic and nutritional view point. This training material will be developed and piloted during FY2016. In addition, INVC will collaborate with Care Groups to emphasize year-round cultivation of kitchen garden vegetables and OFSP in low-lying areas with enough access to water.

**Sub-Task 2.7: Financial Analysis (Cost-Benefit, Gross Margin, Opportunity Cost) of Improved Technologies by Value Chain:** To evaluate the profitability of key intervention packages, INVC will work with IPs to maintain detailed records of demonstration plots. Critical data will be collected for land preparation, planting, crop protection, harvesting, post-harvest handling, and postharvest storage technologies and management practices. INVC also collaborates with the Economist at USAID to conduct CBA by value chains and by aflatoxin control cost.

### *Task 3: Improved Advisory Services and Extension Delivery Systems*

Intensification of the Lead Farmer system will continue to incorporate Assistant Lead Farmers to build a denser core of technology and management qualified trainers, demonstrators, and mentors for other farmers. INVC will continue to work with CADECOM, FUM and NASFAM to improve the Trainer of Trainers system. Training material will be adapted to be better accessible to female farmers who make up the majority of our farmer beneficiaries and who tend to have lower educational levels than their male counterparts.

**Sub-Task 3.1: Increasing the number of women in training roles.** INVC will work with IPs to ensure that the ratio among male and female Lead Farmers and Assistant Lead farmers reflects the male-female ratios among constituent farmers. Since there are significant numbers of female farmers and INVC beneficiaries, this means that there will be emphasis on increasing the number of qualified female Lead Farmers and Assistant Lead Farmers. We will continue to track these numbers with our IPs and include them on quarterly reports.

**Sub-Task 3.2: Strengthen knowledge and skills of Extension Staff, Lead Farmers and Assistant Lead Farmers.** Training of Lead Farmers and Assistant Lead Farmers will focus on technical areas but also on skills in transferring information to fellow farmers (adult education/facilitation). Knowledge and skills of extension staff (AFOs etc.) will be assessed before

the start of the 2015/16 season so that they can be prepared (through refresher training by INVC staff) to independently train Lead farmers and Assistant Lead Farmers during the 2015/16 season (rather than hiring local consulting firms to do the training).

**Sub-Task 3.3: Increase quality and access to demonstration plots for improved technology:**

Too few demonstration plots are used for farmer visits to discuss the pros and cons of demonstrated practices. INVC will assist with deepening the demonstration density to one per assistant/associate lead farmer with adjustment of IP programs and budgets. INVC will also assist IP to properly collect important data from demonstration plots to help them understand the value of record keeping for production and marketing purposes.

**Sub-Task 3.4: Improving quality of training material.** For the 2015/16 season, INVC will develop a booklet of training material based on the hand-outs developed for the 2014/15 season. Input from extension staff and stakeholder such as MISST will be collected and reviewed in order to address any possible errors, inconsistencies, and matters that require clarifications, or topics that could be deleted or need to be added. High quality images of pests and diseases will also be added to help in identification of the most critical pest and disease problems and their control. In coordination with IP's gender specialists and other USAID funded projects specializing on gender issues, INVC will develop training booklets which will be adapted to farmers to make agronomic information better understandable to women farmers, which according to INVC Gender Evaluation struggle with low literacy level.

***Task 4. Environmental mitigation***

**Sub-Task 4.1 Strengthen climate smart agriculture messages in training modules crop management.** INVC will, in coordination and collaboration with other development partners like PERFORM, disseminate practical messages regarding climate smart agriculture practices such as box ridging and application of manure, as demonstrated in demonstrations.

**Sub- Task 4.2 Developing an Environmental management and monitoring plan.** INVC will work with partners to incorporate envisioned environmental impact and mitigation issues and monitoring plans in the project's work plan for 2016. INVC agricultural productivity team leader will develop with IPs their plans

**Table 1: Component 2: Improving Agricultural Productivity - Activities Matrix**

Activities	Key Partners	FY 2016											
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>Task 1: Increased Access to Improved Seeds and Inputs</b>													
Sub-Task 1.1: Procure Quality Certified Seed (Soybeans + inoculum, Groundnuts)	IPs/INVC, STAM												
<b>Task 2: Technology Transfer</b>													
Sub-Task 2.1: Training of extension staff Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and environmental risk mitigation	INVC/MISST/IP												
Sub-Task 2.2: Cascade down training in Improved Land Preparation, Crop Management, Harvest and Post-harvest techniques tied to Crop Calendar													
Sub-Task 2.3: Promote Aflasafe Use	INVC/IITA												
Sub-Task 2.4: Monitoring of Adoption of Improved Management Practices	INVC/IP												
Sub-Task 2.5: Promote integrated crop Protection technologies compliant with USAID Malawi PERSUAP	INVC/IP												
Sub-Task 2.6: Agronomic evaluation of nutrition-enhancing OFSP and vegetables for kitchen gardens	INVC/Care groups/IP												
Sub-Task 2.7: Financial Analysis (Cost-Benefit, Gross Margin, Opportunity Cost) of Improved Technologies by Value Chain	INVC/IP/USAID												
<b>Task 3: Improved Advisory Services and Extension Delivery Systems</b>													
Sub-Task 3.1: Increasing the number of women in training roles	INVC/IP												
Sub-Task 3.2: Strengthen knowledge and skills of Lead Farmers and Assistant Lead Farmers	INVC/IP												
Sub-Task 3.3: <u>Increase quality and access to demonstration plots for improved technology</u>	INVC/IP/MISST												
Sub-Task 3.4: Increase quality and access to demonstration plots for improved technology	INVC/IP												
Sub-Task 3.5: Improving quality of training material	INVC/IP												
<b>Task 4. Environmental mitigation</b>	INVC/IP												
Sub-Task 4.1. Strengthen climate smart agriculture messages in training modules crop management	INVC, PERFORM												

Feed the Future Malawi, Integrating Nutrition with Value Chains Annual Work Plan [FY16]

Activities	Key Partners	FY 2016											
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Sub- Task 4.2. Develop an environmental management and monitoring plan (EMMP)	INVC/IP												

## **Component 3: Improving Community Capacity to Prevent Under-nutrition**

### ***Introduction and Context***

Component 3 of the FtF-INVC project is mainly a behavior focused component promoting modified household practices and individual behaviors in order to improve nutrition status among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under 5. As per its conceptualization, in FY16 the project will continue to complement Components 1 and 2 of the project. It will roll out nutrition interventions using Care Groups throughout the project zone and collaborate with partner Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication on behavior change communications. Nutrition interventions in Lilongwe, Balaka and Machinga which are CDCS 3-C focus districts will highlight collaboration with other USAID partners. The project will continue to work with government structures like the Department of Nutrition HIV and AIDS (DNHA) in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and at national level; District Nutrition Coordination Committees; Area Development Committees and Village Health Committees at lower levels. Under a Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) the project will continue to prioritize the 15 nutrition-related behaviors by linking them to the individual counselling cards as presented in Malawi's National Counselling Card document being championed by DNHA.

As concerns SBCC, in FY16 FtF-INVC project will intensify on community-based theatre performances, folk and popular media (songs and dance on nutrition), 1 Trainer One Phone (1 TOP) technology through VFP, and production and airing of radio jingles and public service announcements (PSAs). All these will be done through integrated messaging where nutrition specific messages will be promoted and disseminated along with other key messages on agriculture value chains, gender, and economic empowerment through village financial platforms. FtF-INVC strongly believes that SBCC interventions as they have done in the previous years will increase general awareness and improved knowledge as well adoption of relevant skills on nutrition, agriculture value chains, gender and VFP. These efforts will address some significant knowledge gaps which some care group members still have on six food groups. INVC will make deliberate efforts to educate care group members on nutritional content for each recipe they make e.g. soy porridge and other foods which were not promoted before but locally available e.g. mushroom, etc.). We will also continue to promote health related interventions e.g. WASH so that households have clean and well roofed toilets, bathrooms that are well drained and heightened dish racks and rubbish dumps that away from kitchens to prevent transmission of waterborne diseases among beneficiaries especially the under five children.

### ***Task 1: IMPROVE KEY NUTRITION-RELATED BEHAVIORS WITHIN COMMUNITIES AND HOUSEHOLDS***

#### **Sub-Task 1.1: Investigate and select behavior determinants to improve implementation of SBCC: Priority activities for nutrition behavior change**

The main purpose of the SBCC is to change the 15 focus behaviors (See box) throughout communities served by FtF--INVC. The following key behaviors breastfeeding, complementary feeding, hygiene, and maternal care and diet were chosen as those having the greatest effect on stunting, and are not already being addressed vigorously by others in the INVC ZOI. INVC limited nutrition behaviors to address to 15

only (*grouped into 4*) in order to enhance the Care Groups' ability to achieve change, i.e., avoiding dilution of messages. These behaviors are among those promoted by the DHNA, and hence the project will continue to use its supporting materials (e.g., counseling cards).

The project will carry out periodic nutrition outcomes surveys and Positive Deviance Inquiries (PDIs) so that its SBCC interventions are evidenced based.

**Sub-Task 1.2: Implement mass media and community theatre approaches to nutrition SBCC: Monitoring for enhanced behavior change:**

During Fy16, radio jingles and Public Service Announcements (PSA) will be developed, and aired through national and community-based radio stations. In addition, community-based theatre performances, folk and popular media (*songs and dance on nutrition*) and 1TOP *video clips* will be produced and relayed/shown using cellular phones which have already been distributed to VFP village agents. These various SBCC initiatives will promote integrated messaging for example on agriculture value chains and nutrition, nutrition and gender, gender and VFP etc. Overall, these will promote the 15 key SUN/ENA behaviors which the project grouped into four (4) categories. This effort will be championed by Pakachere. A total of 85 members of theatre groups/dramatists will be oriented in three (3) different sessions so that they requisite skills and knowledge on theatre for development, nutrition, agriculture, value chains and gender. In addition to these channels, INVC will continue to source some relevant print materials e.g. booklets, leaflets and posters from government and partners and distribute them to its beneficiaries as it has already done; whereby health and nutrition booklets were sourced from SSDI-Communication (*under Moyo ndi Mpamba Campaign*) and were distributed to all its 300 promoters for use during care group sessions. Any relevant print material will be translated for use in the communities.

**Sub-task 1.3: Strengthen Care Group Activities to support improved nutrition behaviors**

In early FY16, FtF-INVC will train nutrition staff in Community Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions (CCFLS) and Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP). The training will enable project staff to

**15 Key Behaviors**

1. Women seek ANC as soon they suspect that they may be pregnant (preferably during the first trimester)
2. Pregnant women attend ANC at least 4 times during duration of pregnancy
3. Pregnant women eat more nutritious food (animal foods, legumes, fruits and vegetables especially those rich in Vitamin A and iron) throughout pregnancy
4. Lactating women eat more nutritious food (animal foods, legumes, fruits and vegetables especially those rich in Vitamin A and iron) while breastfeeding
5. Mothers give only breast milk for the first 6 months (Exclusive Breast Feeding)
6. Mothers breastfeed for longer duration, fully emptying one breast before changing to the other
7. Mothers hold the baby in a correct/comfortable position baby during breastfeeding
8. Mothers attach young babies properly to the breast to stimulate milk production and assure they get enough without causing pain to the breast or nipple
9. Mothers breastfeed as much or more during illness and recuperation from illness (and give children over 6 months more liquids)
10. Caregivers will encourage children to eat extra food during recovery after illness
11. Caregivers prepare and feed their children 6 – 9 months old soft and thick meals (as opposed to watery and thin)
12. Caregivers feed their children 6 – 24 months fruits, vegetables, legumes, animal foods and fats for adequate nutrient diversity
13. Caregivers prepare and feed their children the recommended amount of food for their age
14. Caregivers will wash their hands with soap or ash at the 4 critical times
15. Children's hands will get washed with soap or ash before they feed themselves and after they pass stools

monitor, manage and/or refer malnourished children in the community to appropriate services at health facilities. The staff will also be trained on WASH and energy saving stoves technologies. All the training sessions will be cascaded down to community health workers, promoters, lead parents and households. FtF-INVC nutrition has created an annual calendar linked to key messages according to seasons and disease occurrence. Supervision of care groups will occur regularly throughout the year to ensure that these messages are delivered according to these seasons. For example, WASH interventions will be intensified during the rainy season, a period when diarrheal diseases are most common. A pictorial checklist will be developed for lead parents to track household adoption of the 15 key behaviors. In additions, INVC will procure various care group materials (e.g. stationery, manuals, t-shirts and branded cloth) for lead parents who were recently recruited under impact evaluation areas.

### *Task 2: Increase Access to Diverse and Quality Foods among Target Populations*

#### **Sub-Task 2.1: Facilitate and promote cultivation of high nutritive value crops (Backyard Gardens):**

FtF-INVC will procure three different varieties of vegetable seed to distribute to promoters and lead parents in order to increase adoption of backyard gardens. Promotion of backyard gardens will increase dietary diversity during the lean period and improve micro nutrient intake of target populations. Keyhole gardens and permaculture techniques will be incorporated into INVC's training methodology as one way of increasing production of nutritious indigenous vegetables. Promoters and lead parents will also learn techniques of preservation and replication of seed to guarantee seed availability for future gardens and to share with other households.

#### **Sub-Task 2.2: Facilitate Household Food Processing and Storage:**

In FY2015 FtF-INVC held a food preservation, processing and utilization training which resulted in cascading these skills to the household level. This year, newly recruited promoters in the impact evaluation areas will undergo training in the community setting on food preparation, preservation and utilization of soy bean, groundnuts, OFSP and other nutrient rich foods. Working with agricultural extension workers, FtF-INVC will conduct sessions on food budgeting with promoters and lead farmers to improve household food security cascading down to the household level as well. Food budgeting sessions will entail educating beneficiaries on the amounts of value chains needed to have household food security. INVC will also train promoters and lead parents how to construct energy saving stoves to reduce the amount of firewood used for cooking and food preservation techniques. Now as a gender related issue, this will help reduce the time women spend looking for fire wood and also save the amount of time spent cooking as energy saving stoves are supposed to cook faster and once heated conserve heat. Energy saving stoves are also important for climate change reduction, lessening carbon emissions and decreasing the incidence respiratory disease such as pneumonia among women.

### *Task 3: Improve Coordination of Nutrition-Agriculture integration in FtF-INVC Programming*

This year INVC will focus on showcasing to stakeholders all nutrition, SBCC and agriculture interventions through INVC Fairs, exchange visits and providing mentorship to project staff, promoters and lead mothers. These activities will enhance partnerships with government stakeholders to ensure sustainability and impart to the community.

**Sub-Task 3.1: Strengthen coordination with demonstrations in the community setting**

In FY 16, INVC will hold fairs and supervision activities in all five districts where we have on-going nutrition activities. The fairs will include joint cooking demonstrations, backyard gardening, optimal health practices, and best agronomic practices. We will provide positive reinforcement by hosting the fairs in communities to facilitate behavior change. INVC will conduct the fairs in collaboration with government and other USAID funded partners such as Njira, SSDI and CIP etc.

**Sub-Task 3.2: Conduct field visits to provide mentorship and share best practices**

To share best practices and create an environment of learning, FtF-INVC will facilitate exchange visits for nutrition assistants, promoters and lead parents to visit other high performing care groups. Exchange visits will provide forum for hands-on learning and mentorship. INVC will also host joint supervision with government counterparts to visit Care Groups to receive their technical advice and recommendations. The visits will take place in all districts bi-annually at a district level. At the community level, joint quarterly meetings will host agriculture, health officers and other extension workers to share best practices while providing an enabling environment for integrated planning.

***Task 4: Increase Access to and Utilization of Key Nutrition-Related Health Services***

**Sub-Task 4.1: Conduct community-based Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP):**

In the first quarter of FY2016, INVC will hold a training that will be cascaded to promoters and Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA)s to mobilize communities for growth monitoring and promotion. This promotion will reinforce and augment already existing growth monitoring activities occurring at conventional health facilities. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare, INVC will establish specific community-based GMP sites in all 5 districts. These sites will provide a visual display of the community's child growth status on a chart. This practice creates awareness within communities, including fathers, of the importance of children's nutrition. Community based growth monitoring and promotion sessions will be conducted bi-monthly in some selected sites in all the five districts to monitor children' growth at community level, and compare with other communities as a way of motivating community members especially males to take an active role in dealing with malnutrition in children. The sessions will be on nutrition and health education and all mothers or guardians whose children participate in nutrition assessment will be presented with age specific nutrition and health counseling for them to take action on the status of their children. As MoH introduced routine monitoring of stunting among under 2 children, INVC will during the year strengthen this system by supporting training of HSAs in GMP and CCFLS as well provide uni-scales and salter scales to health facilities for use not only to INVC beneficiaries but also all children in the communities. INVC through its staff and HSAs will collect and consolidate GMP data in its ZOI and share such data for further programming.

In addition, INVC will contribute to the overall cost of providing Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) training for HSAs for all five districts to support government's effort in having all HSAs trained in CMAM in the ZOI.

**Sub-Task 4.2: Promote vitamin A supplementation and de-worming through Child Health Days:**

Vitamin A supplementation and deworming are vital interventions in the Ministry of Health (MoH). FtF-INVC will collaborate with MoH to support Child Health Days in all the five districts twice in this fiscal year. This support will be provided by giving technical guidance in planning meetings and financial contributions. As each district has a variety of technical and budgetary needs, INVC will support these

activities accordingly. At a community level NAs, promoters and lead parents will continue to work with HSAs to mobilize communities to attend Child Health Days. In addition, NAs and promoters will source education materials such as family health booklets, posters, leaflets etc and distribute them to clients accessing the services at any given site. INVC will also deploy its community-based theatre groups and perform to clients during the period. All these initiatives will carry relevant messages such as on WASH, nutrition, family planning, HIV and AIDS, agronomic practices, marketing etc. Hand washing stations with soap will be mounted at each site to demonstrate WASH to parents and children as part of on-going campaign.

#### **Sub-Task 4.3: Promote WASH activities**

As part of WASH, INVC will continue to mobilize communities to construct and maintain their pit latrines, put up tippy taps so that they wash their hands after visiting the toilet or changing nappies. It will ensure that these toilets are roofed and kept clean always. Communities will be mobilized to have clean and well-drained bathrooms, rubbish dumps, dish racks and drying line around their households. WASH activities will deliberately be intensified during the rainy season as incidences for waterborne and other communicable diseases are very high.

#### **Sub-Task 4.4: Support and strengthen community system for referring sick and malnourished children to health facilities:**

FtF-INVC will ensure that a referral system consistent with MOH procedures is functioning well so that Care Group Volunteers (CGV) can identify and refer sick and malnourished children to health facilities. Referral forms will be adapted in line with government recommendations and distributed to intended users.

#### ***Task 5: Enhance the Enabling Environment for Execution of Nutrition Activities***

All of the nutrition efforts undertaken by FtF-INVC are consistent with GoM draft National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (2013-2018). FtF-INVC will continue to work with MoH, DNHA, and MoA to support nutrition activities in all five districts and promote especially those that are in line with the Global SUN Initiative.

#### **Sub-Task 5.1: Conduct and/or participate in meetings with key stakeholders:**

In FY2015, we participated in national and district level stakeholder meetings. This year FtF-INVC will continue to participate in all targeted nutrition program meetings (e.g. DNCC) at district level so that we afford ourselves an opportunity to share INVC project and also discuss various nutrition issues e.g. CMAM programming on regular basis. INVC will also continue to support DNCC meetings by providing technical and financial support. These meetings include District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC), District Implementation Plan (DIP), District Executive Committee (DEC), National (TWG) Technical Working Groups and other networking committees.

#### **Sub-Task 5.2: Conduct Supportive Supervision, Mentoring and Coaching of Partners:**

FtF-INVC will continue to conduct participatory supportive supervision to care groups, VDCs, and ADCs where sustainability mechanisms for the interventions will be discussed and action points. Additionally, mentorship and joint supportive supervision with field staff and partners will be done to optimize and monitor implementation. A mentoring checklist will be developed to provide guidance and positive feedback mechanisms to implementing partners and field staff.





Component 3 Activities	Key partner(s)	Staff responsibility	Targets	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	
				→ <b>Activity 1:</b> Conduct supportive supervision, mentoring and coaching visits NS to District Nutrition coordinators to Nutrition Assistants to Promoters to Care Groups	Nutrition Specialist and District Nutrition Specialist	Nutrition Assistants, District Nutrition Coordinators, Promoters	12 Quarterly visits done									
→ <b>Activity 2:</b> Develop monitoring checklist for Nutrition Specialist to monitor District Nutrition coordinators, Nutrition Assistants, Promoters and CG activities.	Nutrition Specialist	4 Forms														
<b>Task 6: Improve Key Nutrition-Related Behaviors Within Households (Social and Behavior Change Communication, SBCC)</b>																
<b>Sub-task 6.1 Implement mass media and community theatre approaches to nutrition SBCC (Disseminate SBCC messages)</b>			=													
→ <b>Activity 1:</b> Develop, produce and air radio jingles that focus on 15 key messages, dietary diversity and best agriculture practices, marketing and gender	Pakachere, any SBCC partner	BCC Specialist, Nutrition Specialist	6 radio jingles, 3 times a day on 3 radio station for 6 months													
→ <b>Activity 2:</b> Develop, produce and air PSAs that focus on 15 key messages, dietary diversity and best agriculture practices, marketing and gender	Pakachere, any SBCC partner	BCC Specialist, Nutrition Specialist	6 radio jingles, 3 times a day on 3 radio station for 6 months													
→ <b>Activity 3:</b> Conduct refresher training for theatre group members	Pakachere and SBCC partner	SBCC Specialist	85 Theatre members trained													
→ <b>Activity 4:</b> Conduct community-based drama performances (Community-based theatre groups & Pakachere Travelling Theatre Group)	Pakachere and SBCC partner	BCC Specialist, Nutrition Specialist	374 Theatre performances done (272 by Community-based theatre groups & 102 by Pakachere Travelling Theatre)													
→ <b>Activity 5:</b> Conduct positive deviance inquiries (PDI) in the ZOI	Pakachere and SBCC partner	SBCC	2 PDIs done													
→ <b>Activity 6:</b> Conduct consultative Meetings with District Nutrition Coordinators (DNC)	Pakachere and SBCC partner	SBCC	2 PDIs done													
→ <b>Activity 7:</b> Conduct field monitoring of SBCC interventions (e.g. theatre performances)	Pakachere and SBCC partner	SBCC	4 Visits done													

## **Component 4: Developing Local institutional Capacity**

The fourth technical component of FtF-INVC focuses on developing local institutional capacity of partners in administrative and programmatic areas. In order to achieve this, FtF-INVC offers various training addressing capacity gaps identified during the organizational capacity assessments (OCA) as well as through INVC continued interaction with its partners. Some of the specific capacity building initiatives include program management, financial management, procurement, workplan development, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

In FY16, FtF-INVC will continue with its various efforts at the district and community levels to build capacity of implementing agencies for the creation of solid solutions to address challenges faced within agriculture value chains and nutrition including the new thematic areas the project is addressing namely: gender and VFP for economic empowerment. Based on lessons learned in the past three (3) years, in FY16 INVC will increase and strengthen INVC staff engagement, oversight, and monitoring in order to attain sustainable organizational capacity development. It is hoped that these efforts will contribute to building concrete progress for partners' governance, financial and management capabilities for effective program delivery in Malawi.

### **Vision & Strategic Approach**

The FtF-INVC vision and strategy under this component is to build capacity of local partners so that they are able to plan, coordinate and implement project interventions to improve the quality of life of target beneficiaries in the zone of influence (ZOI). The project will continue to reinforce and ensure that the implementing partners firmly establish relevant systems (financial, M&E, data management, reporting); and create sustainable delivery mechanisms (lead farmers, assistant lead farmers, model farmers, care groups and VFPs). In order to gauge capacity gaps, INVC will in FY16 conduct some final OCA to assess the effectiveness of previous actions, evaluate progress in capacity improvement and identify new areas that may require strengthening in future efforts. Following the partnerships with STEPS, INVC will complement the OCA with the Organizational Performance Index (OPI) methodology to capture both the output as well as outcome partner capacity development indicators. In addition, FY 16 will see our capacity building efforts decentralized to the districts. In the past we have focused our efforts on the APEX organizational level. This year we will build from the community level back toward the more centralized structures focusing on building membership fidelity and institutional capacity at the association or cooperative level so they are better able to provide quality services demanded by their membership and to do so in the most transparent manner possible.

As a direct result of the resources, activities, and outputs programmed into this work plan, households and farmers will have developed more effective production, marketing and business skills and be exhibiting the promoted nutritional behaviors. To encourage collaboration, the INVC capacity building, nutrition, VFP, adult literacy, gender, agriculture value chain competitiveness and productivity teams will assist care group promoters and farmers as entry point into the communities to integrate healthy behavior and better child nutrition messages in agricultural training, such as "sell some, save some and invest some" messages. Overall, households in the ZOI will be assisted in making decisions concerning agriculture production, marketing, nutrition, and women's empowerment thereby assisting the project to achieve its goals.

In FY16, the project envisions further collaboration with government structures like the DADOs, AEDCs, AEDOs, DHOs, DEHOs, HSAs, ADCs, VHCs and other USAID funded partners in capacity initiatives. In this vein, the project train these structures as well as, in turn, allowing agents from these structures to train INVC field staff, promoters, farmer's village VFP agents etc. We hope this will continue to enhance collaboration, coordination as well as ownership and sustainability of INVC efforts in the country.

Like in the previous year, INVC will carry out four major tasks in achieving its capacity building outcomes during FY16. These tasks address all four categories of players, all critical for development of the value chain: IPs, local government, farmer associations, private sector technical/business service providers, and the beneficiary households themselves. These tasks and sub-tasks will go a long way in consolidating achievements made in the previous three (3) years (April 2012-March 2015).

### *Task 1 Developing Malawi's Capacity Going Forward*

#### **Sub-Task 1.1: Build organizational capacity of INVC Grantees:**

This task will continue in a phased-out approach to strengthen the overall capacity and structures of the FtF-INVC implementing partners in project management, governance, strategic and operational systems. This will be achieved by carrying out 4<sup>th</sup> OCA for local partners to determine improvements in capacity through percentage scores and in fixing milestones for achievement. Where possible, INVC will transition the central (APEX) level institutional capacity development activities to STEPS, leveraging STEPS competence in organizational governance building, including ethics, for the benefit of our local IPs

Based on recommendations from USAID derived from the OPI piloting report, OPI may also have to be administered together with OCA. The project, therefore, plans to jointly conduct this activity with STEPS. The OCA tool assesses the organization across eight organizational and programmatic areas: Governance, Administration, Human Resource Management, Financial Management, Organizational Management, Program Management, Project Performance Management, Leadership and Team Dynamics, while OPI will beef up assessment of internal systems. In addition, an organization like Farmer's Union that assisted in development of its Strategic Plan will have to be supported in the execution of such plans. FtF-INVC will continue to offer technical support to ensure that such partners have their strategic plans reviewed to reflect the organizations' overall direction and attain organization's efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. In working with STEPS on OCA and OPI. INVC's will produce a final report that shall include OCA and OPI indicators, and summary progress in each for each partner over the life of the activity. INVC will document lessons learnt on the usefulness of OPI and share with the Mission and partners.

### *Task 2 Advance Organizational Capacity Development within Value Chains*

#### **Sub-Task 2.1: Build governance of farmer associations and cooperatives:**

This sub-task will target lower level stakeholders for example, farmer associations, cooperatives, district level traders, and agro-dealers. The approach will still be to enhance technical (agriculture and nutrition), organizational and business skills development in support of their efforts to become better providers of priority member-services in their communities. This will entail facilitating the holding of general assemblies to initiate discussion concerning services members require and how best to structure the association/cooperative to offer these services. The General Assembly will assess the performance of their institution and identify areas for reinforcement, setting tangible milestones and establishing a calendar for the realization of these milestones.

**Sub-Task 2.2: Build the business management capacity of targeted farmer associations and cooperatives**

FtF-INVC will work towards assisting farmers associations who have business plans to begin implementing these plans. INVC will assist in linking structures with business plans to financial institutions for financing the implementation of the business plans. This sub-task focuses more on the district level players to help them build their organization or business in order to better serve their membership base and/or clients. INVC will further collaborate with Business Development Services Providers in delivering training to these target groups and monitor progress on any impact made. Efforts will be on ensuring that the associations that are ready to register as businesses with Ministry of Trade; entering into sales contacts with high-level buyers and securing financing from the financial institutions are mobilized and assisted.

***Task 3 Strengthen Institutional Capacity Development within District Councils***

The development of the FY16 workplan to a certain extent involved consultations with some DADOs e.g. Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi districts. This provided a better understating on the part of INVC to appreciate key areas the project work with district council officials (agriculture, nutrition and gender). In the year, FtF-INVC will continue to explore areas for collaboration and capacity strengthening for these councils.

**Sub-Task 3.1: Deliver new technologies and management practices to District Councils**

In FY16, the focus will be on strengthening the capacity of district councils to oversee implementation of agriculture and nutrition interventions. FtF-INVC will be engaging district council representatives and other implementing partners to participate in various training sessions, field work, technical working groups (TWGs) and M&E sessions. In turn, FtF-INVC will also participate in the district council's DEC meetings to share updates on agriculture, nutrition gender activities within the districts as well as VFP initiatives in Mchinji where such interventions are piloted. Some exchange visits for district technical staff and officials to INVC impact sites within the districts will be done to orient them on integration of agriculture and nutrition in practice including gender, VFP and adult literacy where applicable. Periodic consultative review meetings involving local government, civil society organizations and all important actors from ZOI will be done. Messaging as part of SBCC, will be done and disseminated through radio jingles, PSAs, drama and one-on-one through care group and farmer-to-farmer sessions.

### Component 4: Tasks, Sub-Tasks, and Activities Matrix

Component 4 Activities	Key partner(s)	FtF-INVC staff Responsible	TIMELINE											
			15-Oct	15-Nov	15-Dec	16-Jan	16-Feb	16-Mar	16-Apr	16-May	16-Jun	16-Jul	16-Aug	16-Sep
<b>Task 1: Develop Malawi's Capacity Going Forward</b>														
<b>Sub-Task 1: Build organizational capacity of INVC Grantees</b>														
→ Activity 1.1: Follow-up implementation of capacity building action plans from the OCA	All grantees	LCDS												
→ Activity 1.2: Conduct 4 <sup>th</sup> Organizational Capacity Assessment using OCAT : (NASFAM, FUM, Pakachere, CADECOM, Nkhoma & ACE)	All grantees	LCDS												
→ Activity 1.3: Follow through with NASFAM on finalization of Business plans for IPs.	NASFAM													
→ Activity 1.4: Continue sharing with STEPS project OCA action plans for INVC IPs and collaborate in implementation	STEPS	LCDS												
<b>Sub-Task 2: Build governance and business management capacity of associations and cooperatives</b>														
→ Activity 2.1: Build governance of farmer associations and cooperatives	IPs	LCD												
→ Activity 2.1a: Deliver training to farmer associations in collective marketing/structured marketing (with component 1)	IPs	VCCS												
→ Activity 2.2: Build the business management capacity of targeted farmer associations and cooperatives	IPs	LCDS, GM												

Component 4 Activities	Key partner(s)	FtF-INVC staff Responsible	TIMELINE											
			15-Oct	15-Nov	15-Dec	16-Jan	16-Feb	16-Mar	16-Apr	16-May	16-Jun	16-Jul	16-Aug	16-Sep
<b>Task 3: Strengthen Institutional Capacity Development within District Councils (local government )</b>														
<b>Sub-task 3.1: Deliver new technologies and management practices to district councils</b>														
→ Activity 3.1.1: Invite district councils to some TWG meetings	all ZOI districts	M&E; VCCs, APS												
→ Activity 3.1.2: Participate in DEC meetings to share INVC interventions	all ZOI districts	NS,APS,LC DS												
→ Activity 3.1.3: Deliver training to district agriculture and health staff in agriculture and nutrition integration technologies.	all ZOI districts	NS,APS												
→ Activity 3.1.4: Organize exchange/study visits for district technical staff as part of capacity building	all ZOI districts	NS,APS, LCDS												
→ Activity 3.1.5: Organize bi-annual consultative review workshop with partners and stakeholders from districts	All ZOI districts	LCDS												

# ***Monitoring & Evaluation***

## **Introduction**

The INVC project falls under the Feed the Future Initiative with Malawi being one of Feed the Future's (FtF) 19 priority countries. This ambitious, interagency global initiative's goal is to accelerate inclusive economic growth and improve nutritional status for its beneficiaries. One dynamic of FtF is its increased focus on consistent Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), through which FtF hopes to deliver sustained and accountable commitments for achieving results. This level of accountability and measuring of results requires a robust M&E system and a focus at all levels of project implementation. All the required indicators identified for INVC come from the Feed the Future Handbook of Indicators. In FY16, INVC's M&E team will continue to systematize data collection and reporting through an improved M&E system with a continued focus on data quality that incorporates a unique beneficiary ID and spacial mapping of project activities. We also plan to install robust feedback loops to program activities so that these activities may be strengthened to guide the project toward its intended results. The plan for 2016 starts with the following tasks:

## **Interventions to be undertaken during FY16**

### *Task 1: Review and Update the Project M&E Plan*

Previously referred to as the PMEP, the project intends to revisit its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan shortly after this work plan is submitted to USAID for approval. This plan was revised in March of 2015 and with the new contract modification and extension to October 31, 2016, the INVC project management and M&E teams intend to revisit the project's causal model for all project components. New indicators will be added and many will be redefined with a new level of specificity. New indicators and their targets will be documented in the indicator tracking table. The M&E plan will utilize a "learning approach" to facilitate adaptive management as the M&E team disseminates information to various project components. This learning approach to implementation means that the INVC team will mentor whenever possible while implementing M&E activities. It also means that we will ensure that project learnings (lessons learned, success stories and best practices) are disseminated internally within INVC and its partners and externally with USAID partners both in and outside our zone of influence. This plan will be submitted to USAID in December 2015.

### *Task 2: Improve Data Quality*

#### **Sub-Task 2.1: Improve Data Quality beginning at Field Level:**

Following the October 2013 USAID DQA's the project M&E team in 2014 implemented several initiatives to improve data quality in the field; starting with the filing system in the EPA/PCs, templates for electronic data entry, and written guidance utilizing the data gathering and data reporting protocols. In 2015, INVC revisited these protocols and added simplified versions of every PIR. This year we will continue with field visits to strengthen M&E knowledge in the field and assist staff with tools and resources. We will also be assisting Implementing Partners with their ordering of farmer form booklets so that there are no gaps in data reporting. QC in the field offices will be a critical component of this effort and will be a springboard from which much of the staff learning will take place as we check on data quality and familiarize staff with data requirements.

### Sub-Task 2.2: Internal Data Quality Assessments (DQAs):

The INVC M&E team began conducting quarterly internal DQAs in 2014. In 2015 the process was intensified with a major capacity building component and in 2016 this will continue. The team will continue to mentor partner staff on the DQA process and this will take place during the quarterly DQAs that will occur for each partner. This will be especially important for NASFAM since they have a new M&E Officer.

Last fiscal year we began to do cross team DQA work and this year we will continue with the agriculture value chain team performing DQAs on nutrition and vice versa. This process has helped facilitate disciplined data gathering and has introduced an element of competitiveness between the teams which is healthy.

### Sub-task 2.3: Unique ID Roll Out:

The unique ID roll out to partners has been hampered by lack of quality beneficiary lists. Upon receiving beneficiary lists from all of the partners it was discovered that many of these were incomplete and required additional data entry. After all data was entered in Q3 of FY15, we assigned IDs to all beneficiaries and this process identified duplicates and incorrect names. The roll out process has turned out to be very labor intensive, insuring that farmers are paired with the correct lead farmer and mothers are paired with the correct care group volunteer then taking the list to the field and vetting it in the villages and taking it back with additions deletions and corrections. In Q4 of FY15 the INVC M&E team began the roll out process in Lilongwe along with other regions in our zone of influence. The roll out process has already helped to winnow out incorrect entries in our beneficiary database and it is anticipated that there will be more of this as we get further into this process. We have made the roll out process a priority and plan to finish it for agriculture in Q1 of FY16. An important task on the INVC beneficiary ID is to share this ID with partners in the surge districts to harmonize and identify overlap between partners.

### Sub-task 2.4: Seed Distribution and Traceability:

The unique ID roll out will be a critical prerequisite to the seed distribution activity. The team after rolling out unique IDs will sensitize communities to USAID's seed distribution strategy. Once the seed is out into the communities the team will be heavily involved in monitoring this activity to be sure that forms are filled out correctly and completely so that INVC has 100% traceability on both the inoculum and the distributed seed.

## *Task 3: Beneficiary Surveys*

### Sub-task 3.1: Conduct Outcome Surveys:

In 2015 INVC completed a nutrition outcome survey along with an agricultural outcome survey for the entire project zone of influence. Results from these surveys are in the process of being tabulated and the data is being cleaned. The results will be published in the project FY15 annual report and entered in to the FTFMS data base. In fiscal year 2016 the project intends to work directly with partner field staff to help them to gather data on farmer gross margins right out in the field as a part of an on-going monitoring process. There are no plans for outcome surveys for FY16.

### Sub-task 3.2: Conduct Spot Surveys on Outcome indicators:

INVC will be conducting fewer spot surveys in FY16. We will be conducting a spot survey in December for farmers to determine how much of the intended set aside crops were actually consumed. This will

help us determine the accuracy of the farmer predictions made during the harvest when they informed enumerators during the outcome survey of the quantity of nutritious foods set aside for consumption. As we work with partner field staff to monitor gross margins of crops out in the field we may decide to conduct a gross margin spot survey but this is unlikely.

On the nutrition side we intend to conduct a survey on several components of this activity. We hope to learn the connection between back yard gardens and dietary diversity. We also intend to look at some key nutrition behaviors such as exclusive breastfeeding and dietary diversity. The primary goal here will be to determine what the barriers might be to the adoption of these behaviors.

#### *Task 4: External Evaluations*

INVC will continue to comply with all requests from the Impact Evaluation team led by UNC. Currently we are working with them to develop a costing protocol in order to flush out an approach for cost benefit analysis. This approach will determine an approximate cost per beneficiary for value chain beneficiaries and also value chain plus nutrition beneficiaries.

Any third party working with the USAID Mission in Malawi will be fully cooperated with by the INVC M&E team. The INVC team will continue to collaborate with the CDCS evaluation team throughout the design and execution of the evaluation and will provide them with information on cost, activity implementation and integration efforts as needed. INVC will continue to collaborate with the SPRING team to look at measurement and survey approaches for the new indicator “Quantity of nutritious crops set aside for home consumption.”

#### *Task 5: Geographical Information System – Spatial Data*

INVC began gathering spatial data in the last quarter of 2015. The process of mapping Lilongwe District is complete and the team has begun to move out to the other districts. Mapping will be complete for all of the USAID surge districts by next quarter with the remaining of the INVC zone of influence in Q2.

In addition to the surge districts, we are in the process of gathering GIS data in Mchinji to support efforts of an out grower scheme we are piloting with Sunseed Oil. The entire M&E team has been fully trained and progress is moving along very well. We are currently finalizing the Lilongwe data and will be submitting this data to USAID in Q1 of FY16.

#### *Task 6: The Learning Plan*

Team efforts to implement a full project wide Learning Plan has been hampered by several challenges. The INVC Capacity Building Specialist left the project this past quarter which has left a gap in the projects staffing. We also just recently hired a project communications specialist who is just now getting up to speed with success stories and the dissemination of project learnings.

The team has continued to coordinate with USAID Malawi’s outreach activities, such as the USAID Facebook page and disseminating updates of success stories and learnings. We have not been distributing monthly updates on project activities to district staff. This activity will begin in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016.

The team has met with M&E staff from the MISST project and this next quarter we plan to meet with the Njira M&E staff to compare notes. These efforts are critical to USAID 3C efforts INVC will also explore alternative communication channels for the dissemination of newsletters, leaflets, Facebook

status updates, ICT, wall charts and maps. One way to communicate may be through a new vehicle such as an INVC Quarterly Digest/Update.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Activities			Key partner(s)	FY 2016 timing by month														
				October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September			
<b>Task 1: Develop the Project M&amp;E Plan</b>																		
	Subtask 1.1:	Review the Project M&E Plan	FtF-INVC Staff with guidance from USAID															
		Develop and implement strong M&E Learning plans																
		Revise PIRS (and add/delete indicators)																
		Update PMEP with relevant gender indicators																
		Send Revised PMEP to USAID for approval																
		Revise data gathering and reporting protocols																
		Update Electronic Reporting Templates According to the new M&E Plan																
		Update FTFMS database	FtF-INVC M&E															
<b>Task 2: Improve Data Quality</b>																		
	Subtask 2.1:	Improve Data Quality (beginning at field level)	FtF-INVC M&E															
		Conduct Frequent (twice a month) field visits (see subtask 3.2)																
		Update partner excel database monthly (by the 10th of the month) to ensure partners disaggregate targets and indicators by sex																
		Update Field Filing Systems																
		Implement the Q/C Process (that was disseminated last year)																
	Activities:	Provide mentorship to partner staff to implement the INVC Q/C process (one-on-one partner M&E with INVC M&E coordinator)																
		Complete data entry of all partner data into INVC spreadsheet database		FtF-INVC M&E														
		Modify excel database (adding data point fields for new indicators and making modifications based upon field input)																
		Ensure partners order and distribute form booklets (Ag and Nutrition)																
		Update and simplify the data collection process/protocols based upon input from the field (with guidance from USAID)	FtF-INVC M&E															
	Subtask 2.2:	Conduct Internal Data Quality Assessments (DQAs)	FtF-INVC M&E															
		Conduct Quarterly DQAs with Partners																
	Activities:	Provide mentorship to partner staff to conduct DQAs (and cross-partner DQAs)																
		Partner M&E Staff conduct DQAs with INVC M&E Staff																
		Partner M&E Staff conduct cross-partner DQA with INVC M&E Staff																
	Subtask 2.3	Unique ID Rollout	FtF-INVC M&E															
		Update Beneficiary list with additions, subtractions and changes from Lead Farmers, Promoters, Nutrition Assistants & AFOs																
	Activities:	Continue with ID roll out with both existing and new beneficiaries																
		Cross check IDs between value chain and nutrition beneficiaries																
		Coordinate Unique IDs with other Ips in Lilongwe, Balaka and Machinga	Njira and other USAID projects															
<b>Task 3:</b>																		
	Subtask 2.4	Seed Distribution																
		Sensitization for communities receiving seed DADOs, GAC chairs, IPCs																
	Activities:	Meet with lead farmers to check on forms for seed and inoculum	FtF-INVC M&E															
		Cross check lists and make and finalized changes																
		Ongoing monitoring of seed and inoculum distribution and utilization																

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Activities			Key partner(s)	FY 2016 timing by month														
				October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September			
Subtask 3.2:	Activities:	Conduct Field Monitoring/Spot Surveys on Outcome Indicators and Project Activities	FtF-INVC M&E															
		Field monitoring on crop management																
		Conduct periodic monitoring of both agriculture and nutrition trainings and field activities																
		Groundnut and Soy Field Monitoring on harvest, post-harvest handling, and yield																
		Conduct other field monitoring/spot surveys as needed																
		Conduct field monitoring/spot survey to assess the value of backyard gardens in relation to dietary diversity. Also look at barriers to behavior change for dietary diversity and exclusive breastfeeding																
	Subtask 3.3	Activities:		Gather field level data on technology usage and gross margin														
				Train selected field staff on monitoring for technology, land area and gross margin														
				Conduct on going field monitoring with farmers														
				Follow up training of field staff on gathering and measurement of gross margin data														
				Conduct on going field monitoring with farmers for farm size, production and gross margin														
				Gather data on consumption (actual) of nutritious foods														
<b>Task 4: External Evaluations</b>																		
Subtask 4.1:	Activities:	Collaborate with the external evaluation teams	FtF-INVC M&E with UNC, Social Impact, USAID, and others															
		Cooperate with INVC Impact Evaluation (conducted by UNC)																
		Collaborate with SPRING on the new FtF indicator field test																
<b>Task 5: Geographic Information System</b>																		
Subtask 5.1:	Activities:	GIS data gathering and Unique ID roll out	FtF-INVC M&E															
		Finalize GIS data for Lilongwe																
		Begin GIS data gathering for Balaka and Machinga																
		Finalize data for Balaka and Machinga																
		Begin GIS data gathering for Mangochi, Dedza and Ntcheu																
		Finalize data for Mangochi, Dedza and Ntcheu																
<b>Task 6: Learning Plan</b>																		
Subtask 6.1:	Activities:	Develop and Implement Robust Learning Plan Internal to INVC and Partners	FtF-INVC M&E															
		Enhance the strategy for internal knowledge management and learning																
		Set and agree on targets and operational goals for knowledge management and Learning																
		Report learnings in weekly management meetings																
		Disseminate results of field monitoring/spot surveys rapidly and widely																
		Facilitate or participate in relevant component TWGs (other than M&E)																
		Contribute materials to the "INVC Quarterly Newsletter																
		Ensure that best practices and innovative techniques are identified in the field, and accurately recorded/documentated																
		Intensify Lead Farmer and Promoter training on data collection tools																
Ongoing mentorship and coaching (also refer to subtask 2.2)																		



## Integration

This chapter of INVC's FY16 workplan presents initiatives proposed for FY16 which impact the three CDCS focus districts of Balaka, Lilongwe and Machinga. We have focused herein on initiatives to be undertaken with other USAID implementing partners and district level technical services, notably those of Agriculture, Health and Nutrition. To date INVC, its staff members or one of its proxy organizations participate in District nutrition, district agriculture and district level NGO stakeholder platforms. We will continue and intensify our participation and visibility in these district level stakeholder platforms during FY 16.

Under Integration, **Component 1, Value Chain Competitiveness**, will partner with Njira project to advance value chain competitiveness in Balaka and Machinga. In FY2016, INVC will collaborate with Njira offering farmers several market options and will take farmers to the end markets in Lilongwe and Blantyre in order to be informed of requirements including prices. Both the buyers' and farmers' tours will result in development of new markets, and strengthened long-term business relationships. The activity will take place from November to May. It is estimated to cost USD\$20,000, but results in agreements for over USD100,000.

In addition, INVC will collaborate with Njira to integrate smallholder farmers into domestic and regional markets through improved market linkages. Both projects will build capacity of Village Aggregation Centers (VACs) and Grain Bulking Centers (GBCs) to strengthen their market linkages between them, and between processors and traders. The expected outputs are developed and strengthened VACs and GBCs, trained farmers in aggregation and collective marketing, strong market linkages.

As mentioned earlier, INVC will collaborate with WFP's Home grown school feeding program in Dedza and Mangochi. We will also reach out to the FAO funded initiative on School Health and Nutrition in districts where this is being implemented. School gardens provide a wealth of learning opportunities to students and learning to prepare nutritiously what you have grown ties in nicely with INVC's emphasis on back yard gardens, particularly for the production and home consumption of green leafy vegetables.

In Balaka and Machinga **Component 2: Improving Agricultural Productivity** will collaborate to set up information centers, which will be established at farmer level (section), extension planning area level and district level. This initiative will be sustained through the existing structures of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development to improve market information access for smallholder farmers. Information to be provided can include price data, price trend analysis, product call information, information on agronomic best practices, noted pest infestations and farmer queries seeking responses from extension personnel. Capacity building at different levels will be built into the initiative by including different stakeholders at various stages. The output will be an information infrastructure set up activity, and farmers accessing market information in their villages.

INVC will include Njira farmers in trainings related to aflatoxin control and management. The expected outcomes are trained farmers, public awareness campaigns on dangers of aflatoxin, and increased household consumption and sale of aflatoxin free food including groundnuts.

Finally, INVC will partner with Njira to increase productivity among farmers. Both projects will collaborate making sure areas in which we share beneficiaries receive access to new technologies and management practices, as well as integrated crop protection technologies.

INTEGRATION ACTION with Njira Project															KEY OUTPUTS Expected Results	Target Beneficiaries	Action in Balaka (B), Machinga (M), or Lilongwe Rural (L)
KEY ACTIONS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S					
1	Intensify development of markets														New markets developed	Poor farmer with assets	B & M
2	Improve aggregation and collective marketing.														Increased collective marketing in the Village Aggregation Centers (VACs )	Poor farmer with assets	B, M
3	Market Access														Increased market information sharing	Poor farmer with assets	B,M
4	Food Safety														Increased aflatoxin awareness	Poor farmer with assets	B,M
5	Increase Access to new technology & management practices														Farmers acquire knowledge of improved groundnuts, soybean and OFSP production technologies from demonstrations and farmer training	10,000	B,M
6	Promote integrated crop Protection technologies														Farmers acquire knowledge of integrated pest Management in groundnuts, soybean and OFSP production from demonstrations and farmer training	10,000	B,M

INVC will partner with Fhi360, and MISST in the implementation of the project in Balaka, Machinga and Lilongwe. FHI360 has experience in use of e-vouchers for humanitarian assistance. INVC is interested in using mobile money for the payment of nutrition promoters and partnership with Fhi360, will mean we do not have to reinvent the wheel but can capitalize on their experiences, contacts, and financial literacy training materials

INTEGRATION ACTION with Fhi360														KEY OUTPUTS/ Expected Results	Target Beneficiaries	Action in Balaka (B), Machinga (M), or Lilongwe Rural (L)
KEY ACTIONS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S				
<p>I</p> <p>Contracts are negotiated and signed with mobile money operators</p> <p>e-payments for services rendered occur regularly.</p> <p>Promoters are trained in a culture of savings and money management</p>														Secure payment of nutrition promoters occurs in a timely fashion.	1000	B, M, L

INVC will also work with MISST in promotion of improved production technologies for groundnuts and soybeans in Balaka, Machinga and Lilongwe Rural. MISST will work with INVC and its implementing partners in production of training materials, provision of seed for the demonstration plots and the technologies to be demonstrated. ICRISAT, IITA, and CIP, will each take a leading role in setting up demonstrations of best bet technologies for farmers, which will include varieties, planting density and planting patterns, agronomic practices, integrated pest management, and postharvest management to minimize aflatoxin build-up, through mother and baby demonstrations.

INTEGRATION ACTION with MISST														KEY OUTPUTS/ Expected Results	Target Beneficiaries	Action in Balaka (B), Machinga (M), or Lilongwe Rural (L)
KEY ACTIONS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S				
1	Strengthen seed distribution system for orange fleshed potatoes (OFSP) and indigenous vegetables													Farmer beneficiaries access quality improved seed of OFSP and indigenous vegetables	5,000	B, M,
2	Increase Access to new technology & management practices													Farmers acquire knowledge of improved groundnuts, soybean and OFSP production technologies from demonstrations and farmer training	10,000	B,M,L
3	Promote integrated crop Protection technologies													Farmers acquire knowledge of integrated pest Management in groundnuts, soybean and OFSP production from demonstrations and farmer training	10,000	B,M,L

Under **Component 3- Improving Community Capacity to prevent Under- Nutrition**, FtF-INVC, in FY15, sought to strengthen integration between FtF-INVC partners. To this end, we organized an integration meeting with partners to give updates on key activities and to develop integrated implementation plans between Nkhoma, FUM, NASFAM and Pakachere. In all five nutrition districts FtF-INVC held orientation sessions with government frontline stakeholders including HSAs (Health Surveillance Assistants), AEDOs ( Agriculture Extension Development Officers) and their supervisors in order to create partnership and sustainability of Care Group activities in the community setting. These frontline workers were trained in concepts of SUN/ENA, the Care Group Model and Food Preparation, Preservation and Utilization. FtF-INVC Nutrition has undertaken partnerships with funded organizations to strengthen activities and interventions to ZOI.

This year the nutrition component will be working with SSDI (SSDI-Communications, System Strengthening, and Services) to increase health messaging and services to target populations.

In the month of October **SSDI-Communications** will provide over 9,000 Health Family Booklets to distribute at a household level to INVC beneficiaries. These booklets contain messaging about child and

maternal health and hygiene- breast feeding, maternal nutrition, complementary feeding and growth monitoring as well as information on sanitation and hygiene and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS. In addition these booklets contain information on birth spacing, family planning, immunizations and the prevention of childhood illnesses. This activity will assist in intensifying and diversifying messaging that is related to INVC’s 15 key messages and other crucial health messages that are not traditionally covered in INVC. SSDI-Communications has worked with support staff to provide information about proper use of the booklets to be disseminated with distribution takes place. We will work with SSDI-Systems and other partners to implement and strengthen Ministry of Health (MoH) procedures so that children are correctly identified for referral, treatment, and that the Care Group Volunteers (CGV) follow-up with the referred child’s household to prevent remission.

INVC will also work with SSDI-Services on the integration of VFP initiative in their care group activities in Lilongwe rural. INVC will conduct four (4) orientation sessions to train SSDI care group members in VFP (i.e. financial education, group dynamics, share our exercises, business management etc).It is planned that eight (8) VFP groups will be established in Lilongwe rural under SSDI-Services with our facilitation as part of the on-going integration with other USAID funded partners.

**SSDI-Services** will also participate with FtF-INVC Fairs which will promote all nutrition and agriculture practices promoted through INVC and SSDI promote optimal behaviors and services. As SSDI has similar target populations to FtF-INVC, these ‘INVC Fairs’ will be used as a platform to disseminate messages of optimal nutrition behaviors, WASH and provide access to HIV Testing and Counseling(HTC) and Family Planning services.

INTEGRATION ACTION with SSDI Project (Communications and Systems)														KEY OUTPUTS Expected Results	Target Beneficiaries	Action in Balaka (B), Machinga (M), or Lilongwe Rural (L)
KEY ACTIONS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S				
1	Source and Distribute at a household level take home materials from SSDI-Communications													Increased knowledge on a variety of health topics	9,000 HH	B,M,L
2	Hold INVC fair that showcases all INVC interventions and provides education and services in Family Planning and HTC by SSDI-Systems													Increased knowledge of SUN, Food Processing and WASH interventions while increasing access to Family Planning and HTC services	7,050 HH	B,M,L
3	Provide technical and financial support towards revamping of DNCC to enable it effectively coordinate nutrition activities in the districts.													Improved coordination between government structures and stakeholders	DNCC Members	L

FtF-INVC will also continue to partner with the International Potato Center (CIP) through the MISST Activity to promote production of OFSP which are rich in vitamin A by providing of mother baby mother trials to Care Groups in Nkhoma’s ZOI Lilongwe, Mchinji and the Scale Up Districts of Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi. OFSP will also be promoted in the INVC Fairs which will promote techniques for decentralized vine multiplication, nutrition messaging, OFSP recipes and root storage demonstrations.

INTEGRATION ACTION with MISST and the International Potato Center														KEY OUTPUTS Expected Results	Target Beneficiaries	Action in Balaka (B), Machinga (M), or Lilongwe Rural (L)
KEY ACTIONS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S				
I Promote growing of OFSP at household level and promote OFSP at field days														Improved diet diversity and Vitamin A intake	26,450 members of Care Groups	B,L,M

Since FtF-INVC does not implement Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), we will work with Njira project to refer malnourished children to Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) sites under Njira project in Machinga and Balaka districts.

INTEGRATION ACTION with PCI Njira (Nutrition)														KEY OUTPUTS Expected Results	Target Beneficiaries	Action in Balaka (B), Machinga (M), or Lilongwe Rural (L)
KEY ACTIONS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S				
I Identify CMAM beneficiaries to refer malnourished children to Supplementary Feeding Program														Improved CMAM referral system	1,006	B,M

The dietary needs for (PLWHAs) People Living with HIV/AIDS is crucial to ensure positive living. Therefore INVC and Baylor Tingathe’s program collaborated in Y15 to deliver messages in HIV/AIDS, Nutrition and HTC demand to care groups. This year in Lilongwe district Baylor’s Tingathe Community Health Workers will continue to educate INVC’s Care Groups in the Traditional Authority of Kabudula on HIV/AIDS. Tingathe clients will be referred to CCFLS after they are discharged from the (NRU) Nutritional Recovery Unit. Community drama groups active in this area will also deliver messages about HIV/AIDS and nutrition.

INTEGRATION ACTION with Tingathe (Nutrition)														KEY OUTPUTS Expected Results	Target Beneficiaries	Action in Balaka (B), Machingwa (M), or Lilongwe Rural (L)
KEY ACTIONS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S				
1	Refer Tingathe clients to INVC CCFLS sessions													Improved nutritional status for PLHIV and decreased malnutrition of under 5 children from these vulnerable households	510 reached with messages and 75 children under 5 referred for CCFLS	L
2	Community drama groups will disseminate messages about HIV/AIDS and nutrition													Improved knowledge for HIV prevention (testing and counseling) and Improved HIV + living through better nutrition	510	L

### Summary of Actions in Balaka, Machinga, or Lilongwe Rural

	KEY Actions	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	KEY OUTPUTS	Partner Responsible	Action Amount (USD)	Identify link to CDCS Cross Cutting SIRs	Integrated Action?	Action in Balaka (B), Machinga (M), or Lilongwe Rural (L)
<b>Component I. Advancing Value Chain Competitiveness</b>																			
<b>1</b>	<b>Market Development</b>																		
i	Buyers Tour													320 farmers from the 32 EPAs participate	INVC NJIRA	██████	Cap. Inst. Impr.	Yes	B, M
ii	Farmers Tour													10 farmers from each of 32 EPAs	INVC NJIRA	██████	Pos beh.	Yes	B, M
	<b>Sub total</b>															██████			
<b>2</b>	<b>Market Linkages</b>																		
i	Training in aggregation and collective marketing													10 farmers from each of the 32 EPAs	INVC NJIRA	██████	Pos beh.	Yes	B, M
	<b>Sub total</b>															██████			
<b>3</b>	<b>Market Access</b>																		
i	Training and linking them to MICs, SICs, VICs, and DICs													10 farmers from each of the 32 EPAs	INVC NJIRA	██████	Tech and innov. increased	Yes	B, M
	<b>Sub total</b>															██████			
<b>4</b>	<b>Food Safety</b>																		
i	Aflatoxin control and management													10 farmers from each of the 32 EPAs	INVC NJIRA SATH	██████	Pos beh.	Yes	B, M
	<b>Sub total</b>															██████			
	<b>TOTAL Estimated Amounts in Three Districts</b>															██████			

Component 2 Improving Agricultural Productivity																		
i	Strengthen seed distribution system for soybeans, groundnuts, orange fleshed potatoes (OFSP) and indigenous vegetables												INVC, Fhi360 MISST			Yes	B,M, ,L	
i	Identify, register, verify and train input beneficiaries using e-vouchers												Farmers accessing certified seed Bonafide registered beneficiaries appear on inputs beneficiary list	INVC MISST Fhi360		Tech and innov.	Yes	B,M, ,L
ii	Identify and train seed/inoculum suppliers/ Agro-dealers to participate in input distribution												Input distributors trained on how to handle inputs for marketing, including seed and chemicals using e-vouchers	INVC MISST Fhi360		Tech and innov.	Yes	B,M, ,L
iii	Monitor seed distribution to beneficiaries using e-vouchers												Bonafide registered beneficiaries receive inputs	INVC MISST NJIRA		Pos beh.	Yes	B,M, ,L
<b>Subtotal</b>																		

2		Increase Access to new technology & management practices																		
i	Improve access to new technology and management practices for soybeans, groundnuts and OFSP														Farmers with access to information on production and management practices for new varieties of soybean groundnuts and OFSP	INVC MISST		Tech and Innov.	Yes	B,M, L
ii	Set up demonstration plots for improved varieties of soybeans, groundnuts, orange fleshed potato														Farmers are trained on benefits of new technology	INVC MISST NJIRA		Tech and innov.	Yes	B,M, L
iii	Promote integration of climate change risk mitigation –soil and water conservation														Beneficiaries integrate soil and water conservation in the farming system	INVC MISST		Pos beh.	Yes	B,M, L
iv	Conduct field days for farmer groups														Farmers learn modern agronomic practices for increasing crop yield	NVC MISST		Pos beh.	Yes	B,M, L
<b>Subtotal</b>																				

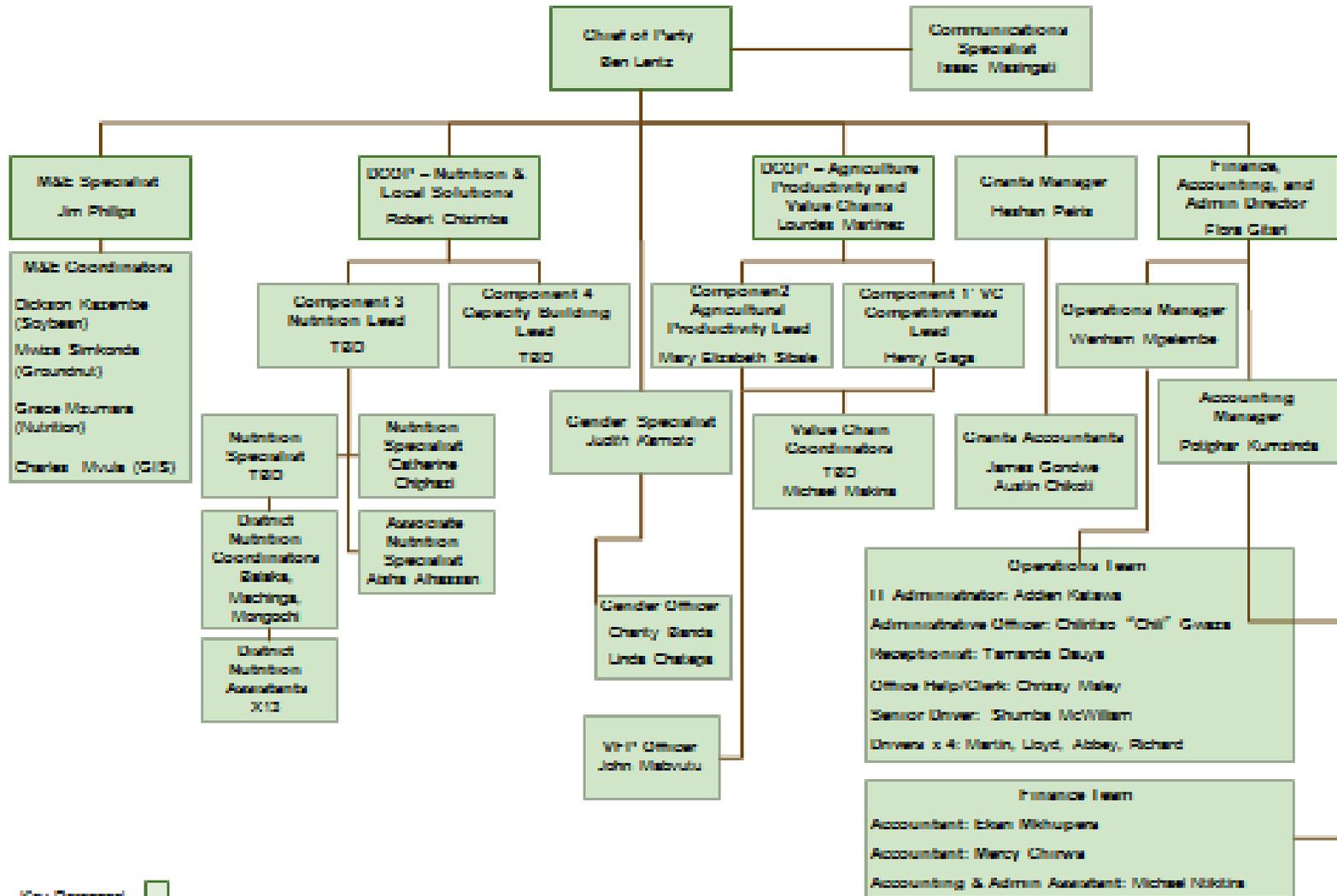
<b>3</b>	<b>Promote integrated crop protection technologies</b>															
<b>i</b>	Promote integrated pest management practices										Beneficiaries are aware of various ways to contain pest/disease build-up in soybeans, groundnuts, and OFSP.	INVC/IITA/ICRISAT	█	Tech and innov.	Yes	B,M, L
<b>ii</b>	Aflatoxin control and management technology in groundnuts										660 farmers trained.	INVC MISST Njira	█	Tech and innov	Yes	B,M, L
	Subtotal												█			
<b>Component 3- Improving Community Capacity to prevent Under- Nutrition</b>																
<b>i</b>	Source and Distribute at a household level take home health materials										9,000 HH will increase knowledge on a variety of health topics	INVC SSDI-Comm	█	Pos beh.	Yes	B, M, L
<b>ii</b>	Hold INVC fair that showcases all INVC interventions and provides education and services in Family Planning and HTC										7,050 HH Increase knowledge of SUN, Food Processing and WASH interventions while increasing access to Family Planning and HTC services	INVC SSDI-Systems.	█	Pos beh.	Yes	B, M, L

iii	Provide technical and financial support towards revamping of DNCC to enable it effectively coordinate nutrition activities in the districts.														Improved coordination between government structures and stakeholders	INVC SSDI-Systems.		Cap Inst. Impr.	Yes	L
iv	Promote growing of OFSP at household level and promote OFSP at field days														26,450 members of Care Groups Improve diet diversity and Vitamin A intake	INVC CIP		Tech & Innov.	Yes	B,M,L
v	Identify CMAM beneficiaries to refer malnourished children to Supplementary Feeding Program														1006 HH benefit from Improved CMAM referral system	INVC Njora		System Strength	Yes	B, M
vi	Refer Tingathe clients to INVC CCFLS sessions														510 HH reached with messages and 75 children under 5 referred for CCFLS to Improve nutritional status for PLHIV and decreased malnutrition of under 5 children from these vulnerable households	INVC Tingathe		Pos beh	Yes	L

vii	Community drama groups will disseminate messages about HIV/AIDS and nutrition		510 HH Improve knowledge for HIV prevention (testing and counseling) and Improved HIV + living through better nutrition	INVC Tingathe		Pos beh	Yes	L
<b>Subtotal</b>								
4	<b>Activity Management &amp; supervision/Coordination</b>							
i	Technical Meetings		Quarterly meetings conducted			Cap Inst. Impr.	Yes	B,M, L
ii	Monitor and verify beneficiary registration and input distribution by INVC interns		Registered Bonafide beneficiaries verified to receive inputs			Yes	Yes	B,M, L
<b>Subtotal</b>								
<b>TOTAL Estimated Amounts in Three Districts</b>								

## APPENDIX B- Current Organizational Chart

Malawi INVC Organizational Structure



### APPENDIX C- Sub-partners

#	Sub-Partner	Local/International	Appx. Funding Level	Geographic Area	Activity-related role
1	ACE	Local	\$265,015	Lilongwe, Mchinji, Dedza, Ntcheu, Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi	Warehouse Receipts, Market Linkages, Market Information
2	CADECOM-Dedza	Local	\$131,000	Dedza	Agricultural production and extension
3	CADECOM-Lilongwe	Local	\$120,000	Mchinji	Village Financial Platforms
4	NASFAM	Local	\$451,612	Lilongwe, Mchinji, Ntcheu, Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi	Agricultural production and extension, Market linkages
5	FUM	Local	\$200,000	Lilongwe, Mchinji, Dedza	Agricultural production and extension
6	Michigan State University	International	\$215,000		M&E, Food Safety Training
7	Nkhoma Hospital	Local	\$154,000	Lilongwe, Mchinji	Nutrition
8	Pakachere	Local	\$72,000	Lilongwe, Mchinji, Dedza, Ntcheu, Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi	Behavior Change Communications
TOTAL			\$1,608,627		

## APPENDIX D- Geographic Coverage

**INVC Zone of Influence, by District, EPA and Partner (July 2015)**

<b>District</b>	<b>EPA</b>	<b>Partner</b>
Balaka	Bazale	NASFAM,INVC Nutrition
Balaka	Mpilisi	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Balaka	Phalula	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Balaka	Rivirivi	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Balaka	Ulongwe	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Balaka	Utale	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Dedza	Lobi	FUM
Dedza	Bembeke	CADECOM
Dedza	Chafumbwa	CADECOM
Dedza	Golomoti	CADECOM
Dedza	Kabwazi	FUM
Dedza	Kanyama	CADECOM
Dedza	Linthipe	FUM
Dedza	Mayani	FUM
Dedza	Mtakataka	CADECOM
Lilongwe	Chigonthi	NASFAM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Chileka	FUM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Chitekwele(r)e	NASFAM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Chitsime	FUM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Chiwamba	NASFAM,Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Demera	NASFAM
Lilongwe	Malingunde	NASFAM,Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Ming'ongo	NASFAM
Lilongwe	Mitundu	NASFAM
Lilongwe	Mkwinda	NASFAM
Lilongwe	Mlomba	NASFAM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Mngwanga	FUM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Mpenu	NASFAM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Mpingu	NASFAM,Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Nyanja	NASFAM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Thawale	FUM, Nkhoma
Lilongwe	Ukwe	NASFAM, Nkhoma
Machinga	Chikweo	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Machinga	Domasi	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Machinga	Mbonechera	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Machinga	Nampeya	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Machinga	Nanyumbu	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Machinga	Nsanama	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Machinga	(M)Ntubwi	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Machinga	Nyambi	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Machinga	Mgomba	INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	Chilipa	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	Katuli	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	Lungwena	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	Maiwa	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	Masuku	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	Mbwadzulu	NASFAM
Mangochi	Mthilamanja	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	M(N)tiya	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	Nankumba	NASFAM, INVC Nutrition
Mangochi	Nansenga	NASFAM
Mchinji	Chioshya	NASFAM, Nkhoma
Mchinji	Kalulu	FUM, Nkhoma
Mchinji	Mikundi	NASFAM,Nkhoma
Mchinji	Mkanda	FUM, Nkhoma
Mchinji	Mlonyeni	NASFAM,Nkhoma
Mchinji	Msitu	NASFAM,Nkhoma
Ntcheu	Bilira	NASFAM
Ntcheu	Kandeu	NASFAM
Ntcheu	Manjawira	NASFAM
Ntcheu	Njolomole	NASFAM
Ntcheu	Nsipe	NASFAM
Ntcheu	Ntsangano	NASFAM
Ntcheu	Sharpevalle	NASFAM

EPA = Extension program area

NASFAM = National Small Farmers Association of Malawi

FUM = Farmers Union of Malawi

CADECOM = Catholic Development Commission in Malawi

Nkhoma- Nkhoma Hospital Public Health Care (nutrition)