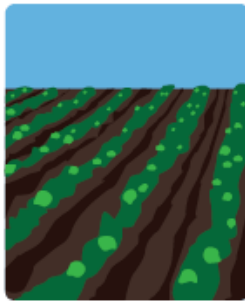


Mawa Project

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



building
farms



building
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FY2015 Annual Report

October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

Acronyms

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

Overview

Mawa Project, led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in partnership with Caritas Chipata, Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART), University Research Company, LLC (URC) and Women for Change (WFC), has achieved significant progress in FY2015 towards realizing targets for improved food and economic security. Building on the strong foundation of project structures, systems and strategies, Mawa focused on consistent and quality service delivery for clients participating in agricultural production, health and nutrition, financial education and gender activities within 19 agricultural camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Mawa invested significant resources in strengthening the monitoring and evaluation system, while also defining processes to document learning to adapt project activities for greater impact. By the close of the reporting period, Mawa had noted the following accomplishments (see Annex A, Performance Data Table):

- 26,976 rural households in Chipata and Lundazi districts benefited directly from project interventions; of these households, 25,088 are considered vulnerable households.
- 10,597 individuals finalized the training package related to sustainable production practices, and 8,075 new smallholder farmers have been registered in Mawa's agriculture program. Nearly 95% of the first group of farmers have applied at least one improved agricultural production practice.
- Mawa trained 14,371 individuals in child health and nutrition practices, and 1,007 trained nutrition volunteers reached 25,489 children under five through household visits.
- 20 field agents and 26 certified private service providers (PSPs) have formed 424 savings and internal lending communities (SILCs); 381 of these groups – those continuing to receive support from field agents and PSPs – held \$194,113 in collective savings and loans.
- Community animators worked through 19 area associations to facilitate 119 community engagements and 17,864 household dialogues designed to affect positive changes in gender roles and norms within households and communities.

Strategic Objective I

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

In FY2015, Mawa continued to promote adoption of improved agricultural production practices and technologies for intensification and diversification of farms, with emphasis on linkages to gender, nutrition and incomes. Mawa refined social and behavior change (SBC) tools related to agricultural livelihoods to better support smallholder farmers at farm and on demonstration plots across the 19 agricultural camps in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Specifically, Mawa promoted application and adoption of appropriate practices and technologies for crops and livestock production and post harvest handling and storage (PHHS). In FY2015, field agents and lead farmers supported 10,597 farmers with monthly training lessons and extension advice during farm visits. Of these farmers, approximately 95% report applying at least one new technology or management practice (FTF 4.5.2-5) in FY2015.

Mawa's first group of farmers transitioned out of farmer groups, having participated in the full complement of agricultural lessons, and will be linked to Mawa's newly certified agriculture private service providers (PSPs), who will offer training in natural resource management, marketing basics and innovation through negotiated feeds to these farmers. Mawa began the process of forming farmer groups, identifying 8,075 new farmers for participation in the project. Lead farmers have had to expand their geographic reach to identify farmers for participation in project activities, which has affected the project's goal of registering the full complement of the second group of farmers.

To promote sustainability, Mawa is exploring options to link farmers to other organizations, such as Cargill and Zasaka, which provide extension and advisory services in addition to input and output markets. In FY2015, 40 farmers supported by Mawa became Zasaka's inaugural group of farmers. Zasaka intends to

expand its linkage to Mawa by working with 400 additional farmers in the 2015/2016 season. Mawa had also conducted joint outreach with Cargill to introduce the company's services to Mawa's lead farmers and transitioning farmer groups. Approximately, 7,000 eligible farmers indicated an interest in joining Cargill's outgrower market. However, with recent decisions by Cargill to suspend farmer enrollment, planned transition to Cargill may not happen. To expand services to "old" farmers, in particular, Mawa identified 23 entrepreneurial field agents and lead farmers who will be trained and certified as PSPs able to provide three SMART skills including natural resource management, innovation and marketing basics, to farmer groups.

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

Mawa emphasized the importance of using high-quality and diverse seed varieties, offering options to farmers on integration of legume crops into production systems. DiNERS were a prominent feature of Mawa's efforts to strengthen access to seed in rural communities. Following the FY2015 DiNERS, Mawa conducted a follow-up survey following planting to understand seed use. More than 80% of respondents report that seed accessed through DiNERS allowed farmers to diversify production.

Mawa held a dissemination of results from the DiNERS in June 2015, engaging stakeholders like agro-dealers, district farmers associations, research and development, Zambia Agricultural Research Institute, Seed Control and Certification Institute and SAIOMA. In delivering results, Mawa's intention was to spark interest in sustaining the benefit of the DiNERS – access to high-quality and diverse varieties of improved seed – in rural communities. As a result of these discussions, Mawa and SAIOMA agreed to host three DiNERS (without vouchers) in November 2015 at Samuel, Pwata and Chiteu in Chipata. Under these DiNERS, Chipata Agro-dealers Association, a forum supported by SAIOMA, will mobilize its members to stock diverse planting materials, including horticulture, cereals and legumes, fertilizers and chemicals. Mawa staff will participate in these adapted DiNERS to provide agricultural extension messages and also offer support for seed choices.

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

Agricultural production: In FY2015, Mawa continued to use monthly training lessons and on-farm demonstrations to promote increased agricultural productivity through adoption of appropriate crop and livestock production practices and technologies. Against the background of poor rains in the 2014/2015 farming season, field days held at the selected conservation agriculture demonstration plots allowed farmers to validate the water conservation benefits of CA. The evidence reinforced Mawa's core message that farmers can increase productivity by shifting from traditional farming methods to adoption of more sustainable production practices.

Medick Phiri, field agent for Shamombo Camp in Chipata, practiced conservation agriculture, ripping four hectares in the 2014/2015 farming season. His family harvest 300 50-kg bags of maize. "I am one of the few people that had a good harvest even if the season was bad," said Medick, adding that he wants to be an example to both members and non-members of his farmer groups. He pledged to continue using conservation agriculture, while encouraging others to adopt the practice.

During quarter four, GART facilitated a CA refresher course for agriculture field supervisors and field agents. The objectives of the refresher course were to improve the capacity of field agents to deliver quality extension and advisory services and to enable the participants to share experiences on the performance of CA demonstration plots and the level of uptake by the farmers. Generally, field agents indicated that farmers who practiced CA in the last farming season retained enough food to last until next harvest. Over 75% of the field agents reported demonstration plot maize yields of 10 metric tons (MT) per hectare (ha), compared to two MT/ha in the control plots¹. The two plots were treated with the same amount of inorganic fertilizer.

¹ Lead farmers are assisted by field agents to weigh their harvest from each plot. Field agents compile reports of yields and submit them to Mawa project staff.

According to the Central Statistical Office Crop Forecast Survey of 2015 (CSO-CFS 2015), the average maize yield for Eastern Province was 1.7 MT/ha in the 2014/2015 season. Mawa farmers practicing conservation agriculture also collected impressive yields for legumes used in rotation at demonstration plots. The highest yield recorded was 2 MT/ha for soybean, 1.0 MT/ha for groundnut and 1.5 MT/ha for cowpea. This also was much higher than the small scale farmers' provincial average at 0.68 MT/ha for soybean, 0.36 MT/ha for groundnut and cowpea (CSO-CFS 2014).

Field supervisors and field agents expect farmers to either begin or expand their use of conservation agriculture to a larger scale in the upcoming farming season due to the positive results witnessed in fields during the prolonged period of drought in the 2014/2015 season. However, all field agents indicate that farmers report challenges with keeping residues in fields. Community members allow their animals to graze freely in the fields after harvest, and they still utilize burning of residues to control weeds and trap mice. In FY2016, Mawa's agriculture field supervisors and community animators will work closely with community and traditional leaders to devise plans to manage animal grazing, while URC will support Mawa to develop tailored social behavior change messages to address continued burning of residues.

Green manure cover crops: In FY2015, with support from CRS' regional office and informed by the work of Grassroots Trust, Mawa promoted the use of green manure cover crops (GMCC) such as cowpea, dolichos lab lab and gliricidia, in agriculture production systems. GMCC intercropped or in rotation with maize can improve soil quality, increase water absorption and increase crop productivity, while offering households nutritious legumes to complement maize-based diets. Unfortunately, poor rains and delayed delivery of seeds (due to limited availability) hindered the production of GMCC. Some lead farmers conserved lab lab seed to replant in the upcoming growing season.

Using evaluative thinking, which encourages critical thinking to understand barriers to success, Mawa identified farmers were hesitant to apply conservation agriculture on large land areas. The Agriculture TQC and field supervisors devised a learning plan and held discussions with farmers, learning that the weed burden often deters them from applying conservation agriculture at scale. To address this challenge, but also to support Mawa's commitment to greater farmer resilience, Mawa will promote the GMCC integration in production systems through trainings and demonstrations in FY2016. The technology will be showcased at 48 already-established CA demonstration plots in the 19 camps in Chipata and Lundazi. GART proposes that the demos will include a gliricidia establishment plot intercropped with groundnut and four maize production plots of 10 by 30 meters planted as follow:

- Maize-pigeon pea
- Maize-pigeon pea with 60 days cowpea
- Maize-dilichos lablab
- Maize alone as a control plot

Small livestock production: In FY2015, Mawa stepped up efforts to promote the use of improved animal housing, a critical component to increasing productivity of livestock. In Gomani village, Chiteu camp, field supervisors worked with Mawa lead farmer Benard Ngoma to establish an improved goat house with the capacity to hold ten animals (Figure 1). Before construction, Benard kept seven goats in a small, roofless structure which did not easily facilitate normal husbandry practices like cleaning, feeding or animal handling during vaccination and disease treatment. Without a roof, the goats were exposed to rain and excessive heat from the sun, creating an environment that promoted disease proliferation. The improved housing structure is raised 1.5 meters (m) off the ground



Figure 1: Benard Ngoma displays the goat housing established with field supervisors and lead farmers under Mawa Project. The previous open-air structure did not support animal husbandry practices nor promote livestock health.

and constructed of approximately 90% local materials. In FY2016, the initiative will be rolled out to all 19 camps and include housing for rabbits, pigs and poultry.

In FY2015, Mawa supported efforts to prevent New Castle Disease (NCD) in order to encourage poultry farming. Results from the barrier analysis survey conducted in Lundazi with Ms. Serena Stepanovic were used to create behavior change messages. The messages urge Mawa farmers, who are trained in small livestock and poultry production to vaccinate their chickens against NCD twice per year after the rainy season and just before the dry season. The messages will be delivered to beneficiaries using action cards to be developed by URC, through monthly training lessons and at village chicken housing demos (see Annex B for matrix of barriers, motivators and SBC messages designed to minimize and prevent NCD).

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

Ineffective PHHS practices lead to qualitative and quantitative food losses, impacting food and economic security. In quarter three, the Agriculture Production TQC and the DCoP co-facilitated a PHHS refresher course for field supervisors and field agents to support appropriate step-down trainings to farmers. With Zasaka, Mawa held field days in selected camps to demonstrate the effectiveness of Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags in minimizing crop loss. Farmers appreciated that PICS bags are an effective, affordable, chemical-free crop storage method. The popularity of the bags was demonstrated in the purchase of 3,611 bags through Mawa's farmer network and the rename of the bags in the local language: *saka nkhokwe*.

Mawa also educated farmers on the ill effects of aflatoxins on household health and profitability from groundnut sales. During their September visit to Mawa, Ms. Stepanovic and Ms. Ingrid Weiss (URC) co-facilitated a discussion with Mawa technical staff regarding the possibility of an integrated agriculture-nutrition SBC approach to addressing aflatoxin. Recognizing the need to reduce aflatoxin exposure among Mawa beneficiaries, the team resolved to draft key messages to inform trainings for the Mawa agriculture and nutrition teams focusing on the following practices:

- Regularly planting groundnuts early or on time instead of after planting other crops
- Applying specific CA practices that conserve water like ripping and intercropping with cover crops
- Not drying groundnuts on the ground
- Not soaking nuts before shelling or before consuming post-storage
- Storing groundnuts in shells
- Conserving quality groundnuts for home consumption

Strategic Objective 2

SO2: Targeted households improve health and nutritional status.

Throughout FY2015, Mawa's health and nutrition team continued to implement the care group model, through which nutrition volunteers delivered monthly health, hygiene and nutrition messages and provided support for positive behavior change to households with pregnant or lactating women and children under two years. In FY2015, 1,007 nutrition volunteers (206 males, 801 females), comprising 99 Care Groups, shared health and nutrition messages with 13,345 neighbor group members during household visits and reached 25,489 children under five. Nutrition volunteers continued to refer moderately and severely malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children under two to local health facilities for nutrition assessment, counseling and support services, and growth faltering and mildly malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children under two to CCFLS. In FY2015, 1,078 pregnant and lactating women and 3,589 (1,763 males, 1,826 females) children under 2 were referred to the health facility, while 237 pregnant and lactating women and 1,922 (806 males, 1,116 females) children under two were referred to CCFLS. Health promoters conducted 53 CCFLS sessions.

With support URC, Mawa investigated strategies to address barriers faced by households in adopting new practices and factors contributing to sex-based differences in child nutrition. To complement URC's research, Mawa completed the Nutrition Operations Research (OR) Project final evaluation in order to appraise the effectiveness of CCFLS in addressing sex-based differences in child nutrition. URC also led a lean season positive deviance inquiry (PDI), which provided a foundation for recipes and practices to promote during the community-led complementary feeding and learning sessions (CCFLS). After roll-out of SBC material, URC returned to conduct a rapid assessment of the use of action cards and to recommend an approach to monitor the use of action cards and their role in household nutrition behavior change. CRS and URC have taken advantage of learning to present Mawa's collective work in prevention of malnutrition, presenting results of OR qualitative component at the CRS Integrated Nutrition Conference (August 2015) and several papers and articles for submission to development journals.

Mawa continued to engage national and district-level government stakeholders to support Zambia's Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative. Specifically, Mawa has engaged leadership at the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) to discuss opportunities to collaborate in the adaptation of agriculture and nutrition extension materials and to adopt or adapt three CommCare applications. Mawa also engaged representatives at the district health office (DHO) to ensure that referrals of malnourished children made by nutrition volunteers are accepted and treated by health facility staff. The DHO committed to work with Mawa to design and implement a referral system specifically for use in beneficiary communities.

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

During the reporting period, nutrition volunteers delivered a variety of monthly training lessons during household visits. Neighbor groups showed particular interest in food processing and preservation, trying the simple technique of drying vegetables in the shade. Beyond food processing and preservation, nutrition volunteers introduced lessons on hygiene, food diversity and kitchen gardens, orange fleshed sweet potatoes and vitamin A and feeding a sick child during and after illness. Health promoters and nutrition volunteers continued to support growth monitoring and promotion days hosted by government health facilities.

The roll-out of SBC materials, including action cards designed by URC and the menu planning game developed by Communication Support for Health (CSH), was integrated into a Care Group refresher training for Mawa field staff and volunteers. The training served to enhance the capacity of new field supervisors and remind health promoters and nutrition volunteers of their role in the Care Group approach. Participants discussed and practiced using different methods to incorporate the action cards into monthly lessons and CCFLS, including using the cards to complement the IYCF community counseling cards and the Child Health Reminder Card.

In Q4, URC led a rapid assessment of the action cards to monitor their use and effectiveness in enhancing household behavior change, while making recommendations for use not only by nutrition volunteers, but also lead farmers, savings groups and area associations. URC conducted key informant interviews and focus group discussions in communities and households focusing on the process of introducing the cards, use of the cards for SBC and monitoring use of the cards. Preliminary findings from the assessment show that health promoters and nutrition volunteers understand the process of using the action cards to illustrate small commitments toward behavior change. Some caregivers report referring to the cards between lessons for reminders about commitments, which is positively contributing to their understanding of their practice of promoted behaviors particularly, gender-related behaviors. Mawa will build on the success with gender-related behaviors by collaborating more effectively between nutrition field supervisors and community animators. Initial observations also indicate that nutrition volunteers perceive the action cards as fostering immediate, point-in-time behavior change. URC recommends that nutrition volunteers be trained in the "5 Stages of Change," and that action cards should not be used as *the* lesson, but rather as a tool within the lesson used to counsel and negotiate behavior change.

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

Health promoters and nutrition volunteers continued to hold CCFLS for growth faltering children under two and mildly malnourished pregnant or lactating women. Monitoring visits by the Nutrition TQC revealed that some nutrition volunteers still struggle with discerning the difference between mild and severe malnutrition resulting in incorrect referrals to CCFLS, when children may need to be referred to health facilities for nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS). However, feedback from caregivers of children with moderate and severe acute malnutrition indicate fears of going to health facilities due to possibility of inadequate care and admission to hospital, which is costly for caregivers. In FY2016, Mawa will offer nutrition volunteers more intensive support on recognizing the signs of mild and severe acute malnutrition, while also including a z-score calculator in the CCFLS CommCare application for improved accuracy in calculating z-scores. Mawa will strengthen efforts to coordinate with health facilities to request staff assistance on the first day of CCFLS to speak to caregivers of children with moderate and severe malnutrition about services offered at health facilities.

Mawa hosted a CCFLS training of trainers in September 2015, with participants from CRS projects in Malawi, Madagascar and Zambia. Participants observed a CCFLS conducted in Pwata and made recommendations to improve Mawa's CCFLS training materials for health promoters and nutrition volunteers. Recommendations included addition of a description of a single-day work flow for the sessions, more active participation of caregivers in meal planning and preparation and activities geared toward child stimulation. Although recipes developed based on the PDI results were balanced and nutritious, nutrition volunteers need guidance and support to help caregivers replicate the recipes with attention to the appropriate ratio of ingredients for a single child. Mawa will adapt the CCFLS guidance in FY2016 to address these observations and recommendations. Mawa continued to promote the use of feedings bowls during CCFLS sessions to help caregivers understand the correct portion size for children of different ages.

In FY2015, Mawa released the nutrition OR baseline report and conducted the final evaluation survey. The findings for the final evaluation will be released following data analysis in the first quarter of FY2016. Based on qualitative research, the Nutrition TQC developed preliminary recommendations for giving equal attention to improving the nutritional status of boys and girls (Table 1). To date, Mawa has adopted two recommendations from the research, including (1) the meaningful inclusion of fathers and grandmothers – key decision-makers and influencers with regard to childcare and feeding – into CCFLS activities, and (2) inclusion of health care providers in CCFLS to promote learning between Mawa and health care providers and to increase the validity of CCFLS to community members. Mawa has also resolved to expand (and insist upon) coordination with health facilities to promote understanding of, and sustainability of, this approach to prevent progression to moderate malnutrition.

Table 1: Recommendations from Qualitative Study of the Determinants of Sex-based Differences in Child Nutrition

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct biometric assessments of children in Mawa communities to document the prevalence and severity of undernutrition in these communities and the impacts of CCFLS. • Review and strengthen the gender mainstreaming approach within the CCFLS to address pre-existing beliefs about sex-based differences in childcare and child feeding proposed by male and female caretakers during interviews and focus groups. • Measure the amount of time boy children are away from their mothers through further family observations. • Use the results of this formative research to design follow up observation sessions to better understand infant and young child food consumption behaviors and patterns. • Incorporate fathers and grandmothers into aspects of CCFLS program, especially those that highlight the importance of improved nutrition for children under the age of two; • Include health care providers working at under-five clinics into the CCFLS education, as these individuals often provide child-feeding advice to caretakers. • Include methods for measuring various foods, for example measuring bowls, so that mothers can track the intake of their children and distinguish intake of daughters separately from that of sons. • Include comprehensive small group learning sessions on how moderate malnutrition in the first two years of life can lead to childhood stunting because this condition does not seem to be well understood.

Mawa continued to promote the use of kitchen gardens, inclusive orange fleshed sweet potatoes, for access to nutrient-dense complementary foods. Building on the Triple S training conducted by the International Potato Center (CIP) last fiscal year, Mawa’s agriculture team supported the nutrition team to roll-out the Triple S training to 550 Mawa nutrition volunteers. CIP provided inputs (tubers and basins) for Mawa nutrition volunteers to implement Triple S. The volunteers multiplied and shared orange fleshed sweet potato vines with each of their neighbor group members. In general, access to water, particularly in Chipata, has deterred the successful establishment of kitchen gardens. In Chipata, nutrition volunteers reported that inadequate access to water prohibited the establishment of kitchen gardens. In FY2016, CRS will establish a training module focused on maintaining dietary diversity throughout the year using locally available foods, particularly African indigenous vegetables. The module will include a menu of options specifying which locally available vegetables provide necessary nutrients and micronutrients for a balanced diet. With financial support from CRS’ regional office, Mawa may be able to access the expertise of The World Vegetable Center (AVRDC). Mawa will also introduce solar dryers – an approach successfully used in the USAID/Food for Peace UBALE Program in Malawi – to preserve the quality and increase the quantity of vegetables available for consumption throughout the year. Solar dryers may also ensure that vegetables grown in kitchen gardens or purchased in markets or gathered in the wild do not go to waste prior to consumption.

Table 2. Health and Nutrition Observations and Proposed Solutions

Observations	Solutions
Nutrition volunteer referrals are not accepted at some health facilities.	Mawa will work with government partners (NHCs, health facilities) to use or adapt the Ministry of Health referral system to standardize referrals made by nutrition volunteers. Mawa will also consider making referrals only through Health Promoters, many of whom are also Community Health Workers, recognized by Ministry of Health.
Kitchen gardens are difficult to establish in some areas of Chipata due to poor access to water.	Mawa will conduct dialogues with village leaders to find solutions to water issues. Nutrition and agriculture field supervisors will work together to promote the use of conservation agriculture techniques, including planting in clay pots, drip irrigation and irrigating with used water. The Nutrition TQC will add a menu of options to the kitchen garden module to promote locally-available foods that meet nutritional requirements.

<p>Nutrition volunteers do not have adequate understanding of how to use the growth monitoring and promotion tools and approaches for tracking poor health and nutrition.</p>	<p>Mawa will develop additional content for the growth monitoring and promotion lesson to support identification of bilateral pitting oedema and other danger signs, which require immediate referral to health facilities. Mawa will also print and laminate z-score guides for use by nutrition volunteers, while – upon day one of CCFLS – also using a z-score calculator integrated into the CommCare CCFLS application to accurately calculate z-score and identify children who must be referred to health facilities. For nutrition volunteers who inaccurately referred the child to CCFLS, health promoters or field supervisors can provide on-the-spot advice to nutrition volunteers in how to improve accuracy of referrals.</p>
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Strategic Objective 3

SO3: Targeted households increase incomes and assets.

Throughout FY2015, Mawa focused on providing transitional support to 26 certified SILC PSPs, and facilitating the recruitment process and training of a second cohort of 20 SILC field agents with the objective to ensure sustainability of SILC and financial education services in the target communities. With the combined efforts of the PSPs and the new field agents, Mawa has established 424 SILCs with a membership of 8,967 (2,375 male, 6,592 female). Of the 424 groups formed under Mawa project, 43 groups entered their second cycle with the decision to not engage the services of a PSP. Throughout this section, the total savings and loan values reflect only those groups (381) who are either supported by a field agent or working with a PSP. PSPs began receiving services from interested individuals and groups; Mawa is currently engaged in an effort to track the level of payment to PSPs for provision of SILC, financial education and marketing basics skills. By August 2015, some of the first-cycle groups formed by PSPs began to conduct their first share-out ceremonies in order make down payment toward the Farmer Input Supply Program (FISP).

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

Upon completion of PSP graduations and engagement of a new cohort of field agents, Mawa focused its support on positioning the PSPs in their market. Mawa technical staff trained PSPs in operational guidelines, including how to market services and calculate fees for services, then organized the PSPs into four peer-support groups called PSP networks. Networks serve as a venue for building capacity of PSPs, offering support in marketing skills, and ensuring similar approaches to group engagement across the Mawa project areas. At the same time, Mawa selected and trained the second cohort of 20 field agents, focusing on careful selection of individuals with relevant skills, motivation and respect within communities. Mawa engaged local communities and leadership in the recruitment process to ensure acceptance and local support – not only for the new field agents, but also their eventual transition to PSPs.

SILC group profile: Mawa has now formed 424 SILCs with 8,967 members. PSPs have formed new groups while continuing to provide (for a fee) services to second-cycle groups. PSPs have “sold” SILC, financial education and marketing basics skills to savings groups. Additional analysis is required to determine the number of groups – Mawa or otherwise – who have paid for these services and the rates of payment to PSPs.

Table 3. Cumulative number of SILC groups formed by PSPs

Name of Network	No. of PSPs	Camps (Districts) Represented	No. of groups formed	Membership		
				M	F	Total
Mboza	6	Pwata, Chiteu, Mzapawi, Katondo, Shamombo (Chipata)	78	514	1,248	1,762
Chikungu	4	Kwenje, Samuel, Ngongwe (Chipata)	60	425	906	1,331
Mwaka	10	Mwasell, Chiwe, Kapichila, Mkomba, Chimwala, Mankhaka, Nthitimila (Lundazi)	135	602	2,254	2,856
Magodi	6	Malandula, Munyukwa, Kamzoole, Luambwa (Lundazi)	95	455	1,323	1,778
	26	Total	368	1,996	5,731	7,727

Beginning in Q4, SILC PSPs began group share-outs and re-establishment of second and third cycle groups. One PSP in Chiwe camp recorded an impressive number of 22 share-outs with total earnings of USD 33,110. By close of FY2015, PSPs had completed share-outs for the 20% of their groups; the remainder will complete their share-outs in early FY2016. The group share-outs presented a great opportunity for group members to access larger amounts of money to meet their planned financial goals, which included the purchase of agricultural inputs and small livestock, the management of small businesses and the payment of school fees.

By close of FY2015, the 20 field agents trained in the SILC-PSP methodology had formed 56 SILCs, representing about two to three groups per field agent. This strategy of starting slowly with group formation is in line with the SILC PSP methodology and allows field supervisors to monitor, assess and correct field agent performance before increasing the number of groups. In Q4, the new FAs participated in the first refresher training and modules one to three of the financial education trainings.

Table 4. Cumulative number of SILC groups by FAs

No. of FAs	Camps (Districts) Represented	No. of groups formed	No. of Members		
			M	F	Total
5	Kwenje, Samuel, Ngongwe (Chipata)	15	119	164	283
6	Pwata, Chiteu, Mzapawi, Katondo, Shamombo (Chipata)	13	102	229	331
5	Malandula, Kamzoole, Munyukwa, Luambwa (Lundazi)	12	68	206	274
4	Chiwe, Chimwala, Mwase II, Nthitimila, Mkomba, Mankhaka (Lundazi)	16	90	262	352
20	Total	56	379	861	1,240

Financial performance: At the close of FY2015, the cumulative value of savings for SILC groups was USD 121,348, and the total value of outstanding loans was USD 72,765². The table below illustrates the trends in group numbers, value of savings and value of loans over FY2015. In the fourth quarter, Mawa migrated SILC group data to the web-based SAVIX database. Mawa captures savings and loan data for the 381 groups supported by field agents or PSPs only. Mawa will consider strategies to capture the value of savings and loans for these groups in order to accurately reflect the contributions of Mawa toward the FTF objectives.

² The system generates values of savings and loans in Zambian Kwacha (ZMW). Therefore, the value of savings and loans does not accurately reflect the real increase given the devaluation of the local currency from ZMW 5 to ZMW 13 since inception of the project.

Table 5. Cumulative saving and value of outstanding loans for SILC groups by quarter

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of groups	276	340	383	381
Cumulative savings (USD)	18,831	34,622	99,758	121,348
Average member savings (USD)	10	20	47	46
Number of loans	520	772	1,237	4,958
Value of loans outstanding (USD)	13,629	22,409	74,862	72,765
Average loan size (USD)	26	31	26	16

Staff trainings: During the reporting period, Mawa conducted the first technical assistance (TA1) training in SILC methodology and part one of the TOT training in financial education to impart SILC supervisors with technical skills to roll out the first SILC refresher training and financial education skills for field agents. The SILC manager supported these trainings after his participation in the regional master training in financial education, which was organized by CRS technical advisors.

With technical support from the CRS regional office, Mawa facilitated a refresher training for SILC and agriculture field supervisors in marketing basics skills during the fourth quarter. Field supervisors, with support from the Market Engagement and Agricultural TQCs, are expected to conduct similar refresher trainings for SILC and agriculture PSPs in the first quarter of FY2016.

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

Over the last two quarters of FY2015, Mawa engaged Cargill, Zasaka, COMACO and PROFIT+ in discussions regarding options for linking farmers to input and output markets, as well as other agricultural services. However, Mawa also sees these entities' farmer or producer groups as possible markets for agriculture and SILC PSPs. Discussions with Cargill and COMACO³ indicate that these organizations recognize savings and financial education skills as "missing pieces" in their extension and advisory services. Within these communities, PSPs will be able to market their services to new farmer groups, SILCs and individual farmers linked to private sector services.

In March 2015, Murdoch University consultants returned to Mawa to explore the value of the SMART skills trainings that were being offered to SILC groups by the PSPs. The research focused on the groups' willingness to pay for PSP services and obtained feedback from the newly certified PSPs on the sustainability of their changing role and any perceived challenges. The research made recommendations for improvements and additional trainings that could be offered to SILC groups. Findings from the research are summarized below:

Table 6. Positive feedback from and challenges revealed by Murdoch University study on value and delivery of SMART skills trainings

Respondents	Positive Feedback
SILC Group Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understood that PSPs were currently providing three of the skill-sets to the SILC groups-SILC methodology, financial education/management and marketing basics. Marketing was just introduced. Most members understood the lessons and put them into practice, while others needed refreshers to ensure that they were fully understood. Financial management/education was the most relevant to the members' income generating activities as this has given them new ideas and changed the way they generate income.

³ COMACO has subsequently begun providing savings and lending services to farmers, based on the SILC methodology. COMACO's expansion of services into community-based savings, along with similar efforts by other organizations, PSPs are facing challenges finding interested groups to pay for services that can be received for free through other organizations.

Private Service Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSPs outlined their role as to form groups, provide lessons, monitor groups and report progress to Mawa. Some PSPs indicated that they also provided “conflict resolution” monitoring and checking group records. • PSPs were very confident in effectively delivering the SILC methodology and financial education/training module. • Overall the PSPs felt happy about their new role because members of their groups are developing an “awareness of village banks,” and “men and women are working together in their households to bring in income and budget together.” Others were happy because they have graduated “and met the expectations of Mawa.”
Respondents	Challenges
SILC Group Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group members called for a number of additional lessons/services to assist them with their income generating activities, some of which are not in the current modules. • Some members appeared negative to the fee for service concept. • Some groups appear to have more confidence in Mawa in certain areas than in their PSP, signifying that there is a need for Mawa to continue supporting the PSPs and developing their capacity in areas where they lack expertise.
Private Service Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some PSPs indicated a need for a refresher course in marketing basics, because they felt the first training, at three days, was too short. • Other PSPs were grappling with the challenge of negotiating payment and meeting the costs of doing business.

In addition, CRS (with private resources) hired a consultant to conduct a program quality assessment in June 2015 for three CRS projects, including Mawa. The study reviewed five SILC groups and five PSPs under Mawa. Overall, the results indicated good adherence to SILC quality standards for groups and PSPs. Two PSPs scored exceptionally high at 97% and 95% adherence. The five SILC groups ranged from 60% to 91% adherence in terms of the quality of groups records, meeting procedures and other performance standards. Some groups require improvements in record keeping. Observations indicated that maintenance of good records depends on the capacity of the PSP and group secretaries, which can be challenging given low literacy and numeracy skills. The study recommended increasing the capacity of PSPs and group secretaries through on-going mentorship and refresher trainings. Despite these concerns, the researcher commended the PSPs and groups for their high levels of effort and interest in their work. Mawa continues to use the ongoing Murdoch research, in addition to the program quality assessment, to inform approaches to strengthening service delivery of field agents and PSPs to SILC.

In FY2016, Mawa plans to offer structured and sustained support for the development of the PSP networks through quarterly review meetings and focused on-site support visits. Mawa plans to enact a peer review system within PSP networks, as the networks are responsible for quality control and consumer protection. During PSP network meetings, the Market Engagement TQC will guide discussions and debates on the future role of agriculture and SILC PSPs and the potential for developing other services and expanding into other business opportunities. For example, some groups indicate an interest in services related to input provision, transportation of commodities and market facilitation. Mawa will engage in discussions with PROFIT+ to link PSPs to this project’s community agro-dealer approach. By transitioning selected individuals from PSPs to CADs, Mawa will not only offer groups some of the agricultural services, such as input supply or market opportunity identification, through the PSPs, but help PSPs build the skills required to successfully market their range of services in communities. Such an approach will also expand PROFIT+’s network of CADs.

Gender

During FY2015, Mawa continued to address gender inequities through community animators and area associations (AAs) by conducting community engagements and household dialogues to encourage joint household decision-making and women’s increased access to, and control over, household resources. Mawa

completed orientation training for six area associations bringing the total number of fully-trained area associations to 19, one per camp. Mawa community animators, along with members of area associations, conducted 119 community engagements, reaching out to 14,047 individuals comprised of 7,319 women and 6,728 men. Community animators with support from area associations reached 17,864 individual households through household dialogues.

Trainings for Mawa staff: Mawa emphasizes the importance of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce for quality service delivery to beneficiaries, especially in understanding the interrelationships of the project components: agriculture, nutrition, savings and gender. In July 2015, WFC’s Senior Animator, Mr. Chris Singelengele, and the Mawa Gender TQC co-facilitated a gender and popular education methodology training for Mawa staff in Chipata. Mawa trained and facilitated discussions with 19 field supervisors and two program managers on several topics, including gender and culture, the triple-role framework, gender concepts, gender analysis, and gender integration within Mawa’s core project activities (see Annex D for more information on the training topics). Mawa staff appreciated the need to prioritize the integration of gender messages across their routine activities. Community animators supported this resolution through continued field supervisor accompaniments.

Formation and training of area associations: Nineteen area associations were fully trained and supporting communities and households by the end of the first quarter of FY2015. Six AAs, comprised of 276 members of which 129 are women and 147 are men, completed the orientation training. Area associations also received monthly training lessons and refreshers reaching out to 2,047 participants comprised of 1,132 men and 915 women (Table 7). Joint decision making and triple role framework modules were rolled out to communities through engagements and household dialogues, popular education methodology tools were introduced to AAs in order to equip them with facilitation skills and confidence in their ability to deliver lessons. Community animators will continue to support AA members in facilitating gender-focused discussions with household members and in communities. With the knowledge, skills and practice received in AAs, members will be able to confidently engage communities and households, while acting as extension of the community animators and amplifying their efforts to reach wider audiences.

Table 7: Area Association Trainings by District and Participation

District	Orientation	Continuing education	Female	Male	Total
Chipata	2	24	455	602	1,057
Lundazi	4	28	589	677	1,266
Total	6	52	1,044	1,279	2,323



Figure 2. Mkotamo AA member of Ngongwe Camp Lameck Mwanza, facilitates a community engagement to provoke discussion on how joint decision-making at household level can benefit household livelihoods.

Community engagements: During FY2015, animators conducted 119 community engagements out of the 192 planned, reaching out to 14,047 (6,728 male, 7,319 female) community members, including traditional and other community leaders. Each community animator planned four engagements per month. However, support to field supervisors in delivering trainings or assisting in implementation of field activities, combined with household obligations during the farming season, prevented the team from reaching the target. Mawa developed the FY2016 work plan to address challenges met in the past year, while also recruiting two additional community animators to support community outreach.

Community engagements provide a forum for open, honest discussions on issues affecting men and women in communities, related to agriculture production, nutrition and health and savings and income. This platform allows many men and women to share their experiences with others and explore issues faced by other families. In FY2015, the themes at community engagements were joint-decision making and the triple roles of reproductive, productive and community work within households. Joint household decision-making focused on joint planning and budgeting between spouses to address inequities in access and control over household resources. The triple role framework module seeks to deepen men’s and women’s understanding of their traditional gender roles and challenges them to question and push the boundaries of these roles. Men are especially encouraged to experiment with helping their wives with reproductive activities, such as cooking, fetching water and firewood and sweeping. Although some households are reluctant to change their practices, many men are willing to take on extra responsibilities, especially in terms of childcare. More equitable distribution of tasks is especially important during farming season as women are often burdened with shared duties in the fields but sole responsibility for housework. This leaves little time for them to ensure adequate care and nutrition for their children. Community animators and AA members will use positive deviants as role models to encourage others to try new practices.

In FY2015, community animators actively engaged Chief Madzimawe in encouraging and mobilizing his headpersons and communities to engage in community events related to gender given low participation within his chiefdom in events organized by community animators and AAs. With his active involvement in community mobilization, Mawa observed improved participation in gender activities in his chiefdom. Community animators conducted focus group discussions to identify and address reasons for lower-than-anticipated participation of men in community engagements, learning that men perceive gender as a “woman’s issue.” Community animators have developed messages with area associations to address this misconception of gender.

Table 8: Number of community engagements and participants by gender and district

District	No. of community engagements	No. of female participants	No. of male participants	Total participants
Lundazi	64	3,001	2,540	5,541
Chipata	55	4,318	4,188	8,506
Total	119	7,319	6,728	14,047

Household dialogues: Household dialogues allow Mawa staff to discuss gender issues with household members who are not as comfortable with opening up during community engagements and ensure that the entire household is allowed the chance to participate in exploring traditional gender roles and social norms. In many households, multiple family members are participating in different facets of Mawa. During household dialogues, household members were encouraged to support each other as they experiment with and adopt new practices. Community animators in conjunction with AA members conducted a total of 17,864 household dialogues, 7,647 in Chipata and 10,217 in Lundazi. With the increase of AAs trained in gender during FY2015, the number of household dialogues increased exponentially, demonstrating the necessity of area associations in guaranteeing wider coverage of gender messaging.

During household dialogues, spouses were able to safely discuss hindrances to joint household decision-making. Many women felt that men neglected to include them in discussions involving budgets and productive resources, but some men revealed that even when given an opportunity to contribute to a decision, women decline. Through deeper discussions, community animators found that women declined because they felt their contribution was not taken seriously and, ultimately, not considered during the final decision made by their husbands. In terms of gender roles and shared responsibilities in reproductive work, many men welcomed the idea but were reluctant to put it into practice for fear of being ridiculed by other community members. These revelations indicate the web of complexity surrounding behavior change in terms of gender. Although men and women may want to make changes, translating intent into action is a larger challenge faced by the Mawa gender team.

Support to Field Supervisors: Through accompaniments, Mawa community animators assisted field supervisors, fields agents, health promoters and PSPs to integrate and address emerging gender issues. For instance, during a budgeting training by a SILC field agent in Kwenje camp, an animator contributed content on joint decision-making during goal-setting in household budgets. Further, field supervisors engage community animators when gender related disputes disrupt programming. In FY2015, accompaniment visits between animators and field supervisors can be summarized as follows:

Table 9: Support between Community Animators and Field Supervisors

Project Role	Support Provided by Animators
Agriculture Field Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported in field days to promote household cooperation in farming. AA members' discussions aimed at sharing how the gender component is integrated into agriculture. Farmers in attendance were also advised to embrace and encourage a culture of support for female lead farmers by their spouses and community members, particularly on the need for land to establish demonstration plots and the practice of CA. • Supported in small livestock trainings especially in Lundazi district, to address women's need for greater access to land to support these activities and supply diverse foods for the households. • Supported in monitoring demonstration plots of lead farmers where both male and female lead farmers were encouraged to involve their partners in demonstration plot management as well as preparing their household farm land for continuous food security.
Nutrition Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the new field supervisor when administering a lesson on food preservation and processing and advised the FS to be take note of gender issues that hinder adoption of certain nutrition and health practices. • Supported in cooking demonstrations and encouraged women to invite their husbands to afford them the chance to acquire cooking skills. • Supported in selecting a male health promotor in Luambwa district.
SILC Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported in SILC shareouts across camps in Chipata and Lundazi and encouraged group members to engage in discussions with family members to brainstorm ideas for using the share-out to invest in income generating activities. • Couples who are members of the SILC groups were encouraged to continue saving together as a family. Members were also encouraged to explain the importance of saving to their spouses and, if possible, include them in SILC meetings regarding budgeting. • Supported with selection of new field agents for SILC through sensitisation meetings to the community members.

M&E, Accountability and Learning

With a well-established reporting system in place, Mawa focused M&E, accountability and learning (MEAL) efforts in FY2015 on improving data quality and rolling-out CommCare mobile applications. The data quality clerks, with support from the M&E officer, conducted three data quality assessments (DQAs) and designed verification exercises to clean the Mawa MIS and validate hand counts provided by TQCs to inform USAID and internal indicators. The data management specialist worked closely with Dimagi to design and roll-out CommCare mobile applications for nutrition field supervisors, health promoters and nutrition volunteers.

In the first quarter of FY2015, the M&E officer, Margret Nakamba resigned and was replaced by John Nyirenda. With a full, stable MEAL team in place, Mawa worked to build the capacity of staff. The MEAL manager significantly improved her abilities in data management and analysis through participating in an SPSS training offered by Indaba Agricultural Policy and Research Institute (IAPRI). The data management specialist, DQCs and M&E officer participated in technical support trainings offered by Dimagi, which increased their

capacity to support health promoters and nutrition volunteers with implementation of CommCare in the field.

Mawa MIS and Data Quality: In FY2015, the data management specialist worked with CRS's Global Knowledge and Information Management (GKIM) team to migrate the Mawa MIS to Rackspace, an online server. The cloud-based MIS is currently in the testing phase and will be made available to staff and other interested parties during the first quarter of FY2016. In addition, Benjamin Kayungwa completed the development of customized reports linked to the Mawa MIS. The reports include results for USAID and PEPFAR indicators as well as a number of internal reports designed to aid in the improvement of project management. The reports are available via an online platform and will communicate directly with the cloud-based MIS to provide real-time data access.

The MEAL team undertook a number of activities aimed at verifying and cleaning the information in the Mawa MIS. In the second and third quarters, Mawa completed the distribution of household IDs to 25,183 households using 241 Mawa field agents, lead farmers, area association members and nutrition volunteers. In the process, the distributors gathered updated household information intended for use in cleaning the Mawa MIS. Mawa will engage a consultant to recommend a process for cleaning the database in the first quarter of FY2016.

In the meantime, Mawa is relying on hand counts to inform key indicators. Therefore, the DQCs and M&E officers undertook verification exercises in quarter four of FY2015. They gathered information for authentication of membership numbers reported for Care, Farmer and SILC groups. As a result, the Mawa MIS reflects 100% of the Care Group membership. The Farmer and SILC group verifications continued into FY2016 and will be used to verify numbers for annual reporting. In FY2015, the MEAL team planned monthly DQAs to verify the quality of information contained in Health Promoter and Field Agent Discussion and Reporting Guides. The DQAs also allowed a space for DQCs and the M&E officer to mentor field agents and volunteers in reporting skills and gather informal feedback on the quality of Mawa's service delivery. However, due to a heavy activity load, the DQCs only conducted three DQAs. In FY2016, the MEAL team will plan quarterly DQAs.

Mobile Applications: Mawa invested heavily in the development and roll-out of CommCare applications in FY2015. In the first quarter, health promoters were trained in CCFLSv1 application which was designed to help them manage referrals of PLWs and CU2s, scheduling of CCFLS sessions, data gathering during CCFLS sessions and follow-up visits to CCFLS graduates. In the third quarter, 20 nutrition volunteers from Pwata and Katondo were trained in the nutrition volunteer application to help manage health facility and CCFLS referrals and enhance monthly lesson delivery through images and recordings.

Phase III of CommCare application development took place during the fourth quarter of FY2016. Phase III included finalizing development and release of CCFLSv2 for Android phones, developing a field supervisor and health promoter supervision application, linking the nutrition volunteer and CCFLS application and completing technical support and outcomes monitoring training for MEAL staff. Ms. Jennifer Harlow from Dimagi joined the MEAL team in Chipata from September 14 to October 9. The field supervisor and health promoter supervisory applications will aid in monitoring supervisee performance through modules such as home visit and care group observation and a mobile experience survey. Health promoters and nutrition volunteers are rated on their performance. Poor performers are scheduled for more frequent follow-up visits. The link between the nutrition volunteer and CCFLS application increases the efficiency of the CCFLS referral system by sending referrals directly to health promoter phones. In FY2016, Mawa intends to roll-out the nutrition volunteer application to 80 more nutrition volunteers in Katondo, Pwata and Mzapawi camps.

Phase III also included capacity building activities for MEAL staff. In Phase II, the data management specialist, DQCs and M&E officer received training in CommCare technical support. They finalized their training during Phase III by writing exams and becoming certified as CommCare Technical Support officers. Lastly, Ms. Harlow worked with the MEAL manager and Nutrition TQC to identify and create relevant reports for

monitoring worker performance and desired programmatic outcomes. In FY2016, Mawa will utilize CommCare as a resource to improve data driven management of the program.

In FY2015, Mawa intended to roll-out Farmbook and Map and Track to SILC PSPs to help track service delivery and manage activities within their SILC groups. However, a decision to drop these programs was made in the third quarter as CRS delayed the development of this software. The Androids procured for SILC PSPs were reallocated to Health Promoters to improve their experience with the CommCare CCFLS application.

Data Collection and Analysis: The MEAL team supported agriculture and nutrition with data collection activities in FY2015. In quarter two, the MEAL manager designed a DiNER follow-up survey to be administered by agriculture field supervisors in order to determine how beneficiaries utilized seed obtained with vouchers at FY2014 DiNER fairs. Results were provided to the Agriculture TQC in the third quarter. Additionally, the DQCs oversaw the administration of the Nutrition Operations Research (OR) final evaluation survey. Data entry was completed during the fourth quarter and will be analyzed in the first quarter of FY2016.

Data collection for the FY2015 annual survey ran from July 13 – August 6, 2015. Mawa achieved a 91.3% response rate after gathering surveys from 1,145 of the 1,254 sampled households. Data was retrieved from the iFormBuilder server and cleaned in the fourth quarter. With help from the CRS MEAL coordinator and regional technical advisor, the MEAL manager will conduct data analysis and submit a combined 2014/2015 annual report to USAID by the end of November.

Table 10: MEAL observations and proposed solutions

Observations	Solutions
The 2014 annual report was significantly delayed by the need to use the CRS MEAL regional technical advisor as the sole source of data analysis. His workload prohibited full attention to timely data analysis.	The MEAL manager was trained in SPSS to increase her capacity to manage and analyze data. She will conduct partial analysis of the 2015 data and continue to build her capacity in order to take on full responsibility of data analysis in 2016.
Although Mawa invested significantly in verification exercises, the Mawa MIS continues to reflect incomplete beneficiary numbers.	Mawa will engage a consultant to devise a plan to clean and maintain the database. The consultant will update the database design as needed and make recommendations for improved processes for updating beneficiary and group registration information. The data management specialist will be completely removed from database design and maintenance responsibilities.

Project Management

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

Technical strategies: In FY2015, Mawa transitioned into the next phase of the project and began recruiting the second cohort of SILC field agents and farmer groups. The first cohort of SILC field agents are marketing their skills as SILC PSPs by offering SILC, financial education and marketing basics skills to first and second-cycle groups, in addition to other interested groups in communities. Based on lessons learned from the first two years of implementation, the project is recruiting field agents with demonstrated entrepreneurial skills, which will position them for success as they transition to PSPs. Farmers from the first phase are graduating out of intensive farm-level extension services and will be supported by agriculture PSPs to develop more advanced skills, such as natural resource management, innovation and marketing basics. The agriculture and

SILC PSPs will collaborate under PSP networks, which serve as a venue to share good practices related to marketing services, identifying and targeting groups for services and practicing, learning and reinforcing skills to support diverse groups within communities.

In an effort to promote sustainability, Mawa staff concentrated on identifying opportunities to link graduating beneficiaries to other organizations. Instead of forming marketing clubs within Mawa, as proposed, the project will link farmers to the private sector by partnering with Cargill and Zasaka. These companies offer input and output markets for practiced farmers and embed extension and advisory services within their organizational structures. While transitioning to private companies, Mawa’s trained and certified PSPs will continue to offer SMART skills to farmers to improve their capacity to make informed decisions on market engagement. The MOU between Mawa (CRS) and Zasaka was finalized and signed. Mawa is working to finalize the MOU with Cargill.

In FY2015, Mawa reviewed and adapted project strategies and approaches in reaction to observations and feedback from beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The income and assets strategy was modified in response to high demand from beneficiaries for the SILC and financial education lessons. Mawa created the position of SILC Manager to allow for intensive support and monitoring to an increasing number of SILC field agents and PSPs, ensuring the quality of the SILC-PSP methodology. The Market Engagement TQC is concentrating on building the capacity of Private Service Providers (PSPs) to market their services and offer SILC groups quality trainings in the other SMART skills, including marketing basics, natural resource management and innovation.

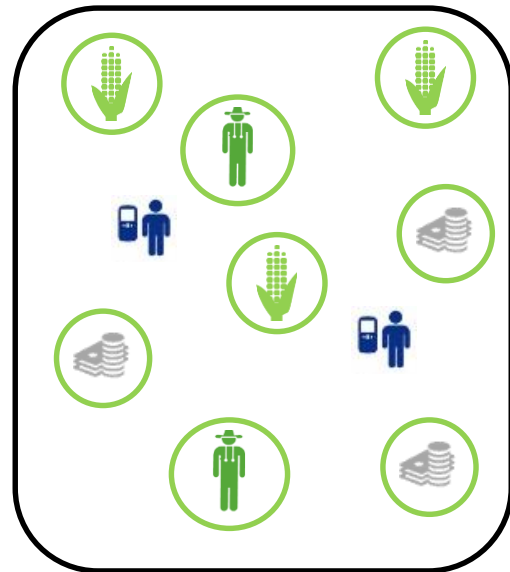


Figure 3: Within agricultural camps, Mawa’s agriculture and SILC PSPs offer SMART skills to groups in communities, including market clubs, farmer groups and savings groups. PSPs are encouraged to market these services to Mawa-supported groups, but may also identify other groups who offer viable markets for these knowledge services.

Mawa will use the opportunity to revise the original project description (in response to the USAID request for information on the technical expansion of the project) to communicate all changes related to project strategies, which have been integrated into annual work plans.

Stakeholder collaboration: During the quarter, Mawa project staff participated in meetings, and sought partnerships, with diverse government, private and public stakeholders to enhance service delivery to smallholder households served by the project. Many of these collaborations are described throughout this annual report. Participation in quarterly FTF implementing partner meetings under the direction of the District Agriculture Coordinator’s Office (DACO) served to improve understanding of FTF implementing partner activities within Chipata and Lundazi districts, while also strengthening coordination with district agricultural officers, specifically block and camp extension officers. Mawa staff continue to share quarterly work plans to avoid duplication of activities, harmonize complementary activities and improve cost efficiencies.

Mawa also prioritized collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Community Development and Mother and Child Health in order to communicate strategies to reduce under-nutrition in Chipata and Lundazi districts. Mawa began efforts to identify opportunities to sustain service delivery in communities, in coordination with these ministries, as well as the District Nutrition Coordinating Committees. With the expansion of SUN interventions in Chipata and Lundazi districts, Mawa has begun to face challenges due differing approaches amongst counterpart NGOs in engaging volunteers and managing community activities. On several occasions, Mawa management and technical staff have met with NGOs to address these different

approaches, which have – in some areas – resulted in loss of highly-trained nutrition volunteers and health promoters. Coordination through the DNCCs in FY2016 may help to resolve some of these issues.

Project review and learning meetings: In FY2015, Mawa utilized evaluative thinking (ET) approaches during meetings and field visits as a way to critically analyze observations of expected outputs and outcomes and identify programmatic areas requiring deeper investigation or adaptation for more desirable results. Mawa held a quarterly learning meeting in December 2014 in which Mr. Guy Sharrock of CRS led a practical refresher of ET methodology. The main activities of this meeting included reviewing the adoption rates of practices promoted by Mawa, checking assumptions underlying the results, seeking alternatives or other perspectives of what the results could mean and making action plans for the next steps in addressing adoption levels that are lower than expected.

Dr. Tom Archibald and Mr. Sharrock returned to Mawa in August 2015 to follow up on learning to action plans formulized during the December meeting. This meeting was to evaluate whether staff had been practicing ET tools and to share results of the learning questions researched by each section. Based on the evaluative analysis of results, each sector team formulized action plans for addressing identified challenges. For example, the agriculture team proposed adapting the agriculture strategy to include demonstrations of GMCC. During the same period, field agents were introduced to the basics of evaluative thinking. Field agents are the first line of contact with Mawa beneficiaries as they directly observe and participate in community activities. The ET basics enable them look deeper and more critically at reports before submission. Additionally, they were provided with practical tools to help lead meaningful discussions during the monthly meetings with lead farmers, volunteers and SILC group members.

Mawa management held bi-weekly meetings to review work plans and budgets and to ensure coordination of planned activities. The bi-weekly meetings also provided a space to share and reflect on observations from field monitoring visits and to consider potential changes in strategy. In FY2015, Mawa commenced monthly learning meetings at district level as requested by staff who felt quarterly review meetings were not sufficient for planning and coordination. The incoming Deputy Chief of Party will work with the project team to balance the amount of meetings to support learning and also activity implementation.

Staff: During FY2015, the Gender TQC, Mr. Lameck Simwanza, resigned and was replaced by Ms. Rose Namukwai, who left three months following recruitment. Mawa recognizes the considerable contribution made by gender community animators in mobilization of households for project implementation and improvement of gender relations within households and communities. Therefore, Mawa will increase the number of community animators to effectively cover the expanding work under Mawa, rather than replacing the Gender TQC. With WfC, Mawa will create positions for two lead animators to manage gender activities in their district and coordinate activities between districts. These lead animators will report directly to the DCoP for Program Quality. At the end of quarter three, the Nutrition TQC, Ms. Jessica Bateman, left the project and was replaced by Ms. Ulembe Chinyemba. During the year, CRS leveraged the achievements under Mawa Project to receive an award from GIZ to manage a food and nutrition security project in Petauke district. Ms. Margaret Mwenya Phiri will shift to Petauke to serve as Program Director for the GIZ Food Security and Nutrition project. CRS identified Ms. Erin Baldrige as the new DCoP for Mawa Project, and looks forward to her arrival in November 2016.

Caritas Chipata continued to face some challenges with staff turn-over. During the period under review, three nutrition field supervisors, one agriculture field supervisor and one SILC field supervisor resigned citing personal and professional reasons. The M&E officer, Ms. Margret Nakamba, resigned and was replaced by Mr. John Nyirenda, a former SILC supervisor. Ms. Sara Francis Phiri resigned her position as a senior field supervisor and was hired as the Program Manager for Lundazi. These staff departures create considerable disruptions in project implementation. Through discussions, Caritas Chipata and CRS have discussed possible reasons for these departures, including unstructure and unclear performance requirements, unfavorable conditions of services, poor orientation to Mawa strategies, and inadequate field-based support from supervisors and technical staff. Mawa will begin to address some of these challenges by planning an all-staff

meeting to re-introduce the Mawa strategies, review and clarify roles and responsibilities toward monitoring, training and reporting; and introduce a performance management system. Mawa will continue to work with Caritas Chipata and the Diocese of Chipata to address concerns related to conditions of service.

Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Update

The following table describes Mawa’s actions to monitor and mitigate negative impacts of project activities on the environment. However, based on feedback from USAID, Mawa will institute the use of a checklist for use by field supervisors, technical staff and program managers to use to confirm compliance with the established EMMP. This will be integrated into Mawa’s MEAL system as a standard and critical tool for mitigating environmental risks associated with project activities.

Table 11: IEE Mitigation and Monitoring Updates

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

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

Financial and Grant Management

CRS signed a fifth modification to Caritas Chipata and URC sub-recipient agreements in August 2015. These modifications obligated an additional USD 205,000 to the sub-recipients in line with Mawa Project's FY2015 budget, which was submitted with the work plan on October 30, 2014. Sub-recipients have collectively spent 84.6% of obligated funds from inception through September 30, 2014, as follows:

Table 12: LOA expenditure against obligation by sub-recipient (USD)

Sub-recipient	Total Estimated Amount	Obligated funds as at September 30, 2015	Expenses as at September 30, 2015	Balance of obligated funds (pipeline)	Unobligated funds
Caritas Chipata	1,222,043	644, 147	638, 889	5, 258	577, 896
GART	392,978	210, 290	199, 211	11, 079	182, 688
URC LLC	735,140	636, 537	533, 762	102, 775	98, 603
WFC	910,971	526, 922	472, 550	54, 372	384, 049
Total	3,261,132	2, 017, 896	1,844, 412	173, 484	1,243, 236

At the close of FY2015, Mawa's sub-recipients had spent more than 91.4% of their obligated funds, indicating a need for an additional obligation. The balance 8.6% of obligated funds, is represented by the sub-recipient pipeline. The pipeline also represents 5.32% of the total estimated costs of subawards. Collectively, the four sub-recipients have spent 57% of the sub-recipient total estimated amount. Given lower-than-anticipated expenditure, particularly for local partners, Mawa plans to reduce the total estimated amount of each local sub-recipient award and use funds for other strategic initiatives, which will drive project outcomes.

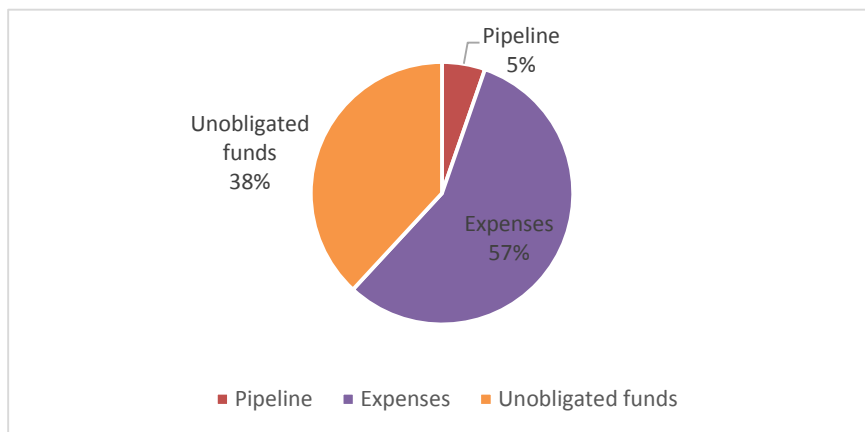


Figure 2: Mawa sub-recipient pipeline as of FY2015 closure

Table 13: Mawa sub-recipient disbursements and expenditures against obligation as of FY2015 (USD)

Sub-recipient	Obligation	Disbursement	Liquidation/ Expenditure
Caritas Chipata	644, 147	588, 357	638, 889
GART	210, 290	201, 518	199, 211
URC LLC	636, 537	488, 915	533, 762
WFC	526, 922	466, 624	450, 550
Total	2, 017, 896	1, 745, 414	1,844, 412

Caritas Chipata's expenditure exceeds disbursements because of differences in the year-end cut-offs for USAID and Caritas Chipata. Funds to cover expenditure were disbursed in the subsequent period, following the close of FY2015. URC's expenditure exceeds disbursements because CRS and URC have negotiated a cost-reimbursable sub-recipient agreement. URC receives reimbursement for expenditures based on monthly invoices.

CRS submitted an SF425 covering expenditures through 30 September, 2015, directly to USAID Zambia financial analysts (October 30, 2015). Federal share of expenditures as of September 30, 2015 is estimated at USD 6,704,023 against an obligation of USD 7,258,602. Based on average burnrates of USD 198,252 per month over 34 months of program activity, the project expects that the remaining obligation of USD 554,579 will not last through Q1 of FY2016. The project anticipates a budget just over USD 2,300,000 for FY2016.

Annex A: Performance Data Table

(See Excel file)

Annex B: Matrix of Barriers, Motivators and SBC messages related to prevention of New Castle Disease

Known Barriers or Motivators?	Lead Farmer Key Messages	Other Messages and Channels
<p>BARRIERS:</p> <p>a) Perceived high cost of vaccine</p> <p>b) Most popular vaccination (Lasota) must be refrigerated, which is difficult at village level</p> <p>c) Limited access to vaccines</p> <p>MOTIVATORS:</p> <p>a) Knowing that family members (and gov't officials) approve of the practice farmers</p> <p>b) Increased productive assets through less deaths and better prices</p>	<p>Cost Barrier:</p> <p>Did you know that a dose of NCD vaccine only costs 10 kwacha and can treat up to 200 birds?</p> <p>By selling one chicken (and rotating this responsibility throughout the village each season) your village can purchase the 10 kwacha dose of vaccine each season.</p> <p>By pooling your money together as a community, you can save the 10 kwacha to buy the vaccine.</p> <p>Cold Storage Barrier:</p> <p>It is best to purchase your vaccine the same day or the day before you plan to use it. This minimizes the need to refrigerate the vaccine.</p> <p>When you purchase the vaccine, ask your agro dealer for a free block of ice to store the vaccine overnight (if needed). Place the ice in a container and keep it out of the sun. This keeps the vaccine safe until you dilute and use it the next day.</p> <p>Universal motivators:</p> <p>Farmers, by vaccinating your chickens properly and regularly, you can be sure of earning the best price for the ones that you sell. Your chickens will also produce more babies. This way, you can use some of the money to purchase the things that your family needs and wants.</p>	<p>1. Create job aids (pictures + key messages on reverse) for LFs</p> <p>2. Where possible, provide key messages to government officers at the district level; they can reinforce periodically at the household level.</p>

Annex C: Health and Nutrition Lessons (Q4)

Lesson	Description
Hygiene	Focuses on a variety of good hygiene practices that help to stop the spread of germs and prevent disease. Although good hygiene has been promoted throughout many lessons, this lesson provides details about how germs spread and the difference between washing hands with just water compared to washing hands with soap and running water, and encourages many different practices for good hygiene and sanitation.
Food Diversity and Kitchen Garden Refresher	Focuses on the importance of a kitchen garden for increasing household food diversity and improving the nutritional value of the diet. This lesson emphasizes the importance of growing one star foods, including fruits and vegetables as a source of vitamins and minerals to boost the immune system. If the household has access to a water source, home gardens can be cultivated year round, providing an important source of food during the lean season. Home gardens can also help families save income, since they may not need to spend as much money on food.
OFSP and Vitamin A	Shows and explains the benefits of including vitamin-A rich foods in the diet. Orange fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP) are an excellent source of Vitamin A. The lesson demonstrates techniques for processing and preparing OFSP.
Feeding Your Child During and After Illness	Encourages caregivers to feed children during and after illness for improved growth and development. For children below 6 months, caregivers are encouraged to continue breastfeeding, and for children above 6 months, caregivers are advised to continue breastfeeding and giving additional nutrient dense food to the child.

Annex D: Gender Training Lessons for Area Associations

Topic	Description
Introduction to gender	Explore gender/gender roles to deepen participants understanding of the differences between gender and sex, gender roles and sex roles. Analysis of gender roles and responsibilities of men and women in particular societies. Causes of variations of gender roles from society to society; socialization and cultural practices, sharing responsibilities, addressing existing gender inequalities. It is important for participants to understand the existing unequal power relations within households, roles and responsibilities of women and men and how these may positively or negatively impact Mawa activities
Gender and culture	Explore and examine existing gender myths, attitudes, beliefs and practices in communities in general. Discuss how they impact on households and communities. Use the values and attitude tree to allow participants to explore ways of addressing social norms, some of which may negatively impact Mawa's interventions if not addressed.
Gender social norms in Mawa	Specifically, share findings of gender social norms from community mobilization as they relate to agriculture, health and nutrition and incomes. Discuss how these social norms can be addressed. Social norms can be structural causes of gender inequality.
Types of work (triple role framework)	Explore the workload of women, who perform triple roles of reproductive, productive and community work, and the effect of women's workload on their health. Discuss how that may impact their household and Mawa activities and strategies for reducing women's workload and increasing shared responsibilities between women and men.
Roles and responsibilities of the area association	Highlight roles and responsibilities of AAs; area association ensures/reinforces gender messages in respective thematic groups, communities and households. Promote gender and enhance participation of women and men in household decision making through the promotion of joint HH planning and budgeting. Conduct gender sensitization for increased women and men's access to productive resources. Enhance active participation and involvement of men in nutrition activities. Address negative social norms.
Joint Decision Making	Seeks to raise awareness on the importance of women's participation in decision making in homes and communities. Further deepen participant's analysis of challenges preventing women's participation in decision making and thereafter suggest solutions to the noted challenges. The discussions around decision making builds participants' capacities and equip them with skills and tools for increased women and men participation in decision making.