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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACPC	Area Civil Protection Committee
ADDRMO	Assistant District Disaster Risk Management Officer
ADMARC	Agriculture Development and Marketing Cooperation
AEDO	Agriculture Extension Development Officer
ANC	Antenatal Care
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
AVO	Area Veterinary Officer
CAHWS	Community Animal Health Worker
CBM	Community Based Management
CBMNH	Community Based Maternal New-born and Child Health
CG	Care Group
CCFLS	Community–Led Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions
CCM	Community Case Management
CCT	Continuous Contour Trenches
CHAG	Community Health Action Group
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
COMSIP	Community Savings and Investment Promotion
CPC	Civil Protection Committee
CSB	Corn Soya Beans
CSI	Coping Strategies Index
DCCMS	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
DCPC	District Civil Protection Committee
DCT	District Coordinating Committee
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordinating Committee
DHMT	District Health Management Team
DHO	District Health Officer
DoDMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DRM	Disaster Risk Management

DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWDO	District Water Development Officer
EPA	Extension Planning Area
FAW	Fall Armyworm
FFA	Food for Asset
FY	Financial Year
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
GoM	Government of Malawi
G-Path	Njira Data Management System
GVH	Group Village Headman
HA	Hectare
HP	Health Promoter
HSA	Health Surveillance Assistants
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses Coordinator
IDDR	International Day Disaster Risk Reduction
LoP	Life of Project
MAD	Minimal Acceptable Diet
MISST	Malawi Improved Seed System Technologies
MWK	Malawi Kwacha
MoAIWD	Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
MSME	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
MT	Metric Ton
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
NRU	Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OTP	Out-patient Therapeutic Program
PCI	Project Concern International
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage

PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
QIVC	Quality Improvement Verification Checklist
RMNCH	Reproductive Maternal New-born and Child Health
RUTF	Ready to Use Therapeutic Food
SBCC	Social and Behavioural Change Communications
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
TA	Traditional Authority
TOC	Theory of Change
TOPS	Technical and Operational Performance Support (program)
TOT	Training of Trainers
VCPC	Village Civil Protection Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
VNRMC	Village Natural Resource Management Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WE/VSL	Women's Empowerment/Village Savings and Loans
WPC	Water Point Committee
WWF	Wild World Fund

I. Executive Summary

The Njira Theory of Change is built on the recognition that the food and income security situation at the household level is influenced by a multitude of factors. The agro-ecological, gender and the wealth ranking of the particular household are among the main interrelated factors that add layers of complexity to poverty and need to be analyzed and addressed concurrently. Njira broadly used a two-pronged strategy to drive positive change on household food and income security in a complex environment. The first pathway is to increase access to information, services and inputs, and the second pathway is the empowerment of men and women participating in the project with life changing knowledge and skills to influence behavioral change and increase adoption of best practices to achieve positive lasting change by improving household food and income security as well as health and nutrition to enhance resilience of the targeted households to recurring shocks and stress.

Overall, the Njira Theory of Change has three major pathways, referred as purpose areas (Economic Livelihoods, Maternal & Child Health and Nutrition, and Disaster Risk Management) and each of the three purpose areas are mutually supportive to each other at the activity, output and outcome level. Sector interventions are grouped together under respective purpose areas to maximize coordinated targeting and implementation.

Overall, Njira's assessment of livestock beneficiaries revealed that most of the beneficiaries are selling live chicken and eggs as well as consuming them after completing their pass-on obligations. Overall, livestock ownership for goats has increased from 0.7 at baseline to 12, for chickens from 2.5 at baseline to 17, and for pigeons from 0.9 at baseline to 31. Our observation/assessment shows a monthly income range from \$9.50 to \$14.00 USD (MWK 6,900 to MWK 10,170) from the sale of live chicken and eggs. Therefore, even with the negative impacts of the dry spell and Fall Armyworm (FAW), smallholder farmers rearing chicken and/or goats, as well as those participating in irrigation, are more resilient to shocks. Njira completed the development of 225 ha for irrigation farming. Though the percentage of farmers participating in irrigation farming is relatively small, those households have transformed their food and income security. Smallholder farmers participating in irrigation and/or livestock are the most resilient according to our data. Resilience is further enhanced when the same vulnerable households participating in Women's Empowerment/Village Savings and Loans (WE/VSL) gain basic concepts and skills in financial and small business management. The project has intentionally targeted women as a priority for WE/VSL to promote economic empowerment.

Building human capacity and strengthening linkages with the respective Government of Malawi departments remains especially essential as Njira transitions into the final year of implementation. In FY18, we have been successful in finalizing commodity distribution, handing over the irrigation schemes to the local authorities and groups, closing the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) component, handing over the water points to the water point committees and local authorities, and graduating most of the WE/VSL and irrigation groups into marketing groups.

While Njira has made tangible progress in improving crop and livestock production within our target areas in Balaka and Machinga, the negative impacts of the prolonged dry spell and Fall Armyworm have dampened the success with the last harvest from the rain-fed crops. Given the relatively small landholding size (average of 0.6 ha per household), farmers who entirely rely on the rain-fed crop and used local seed (often poor quality) are likely to require food assistance, and according to the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC),

a GoM-led humanitarian response that WFP and other partners support, has been launched. Each beneficiary household is receiving a 50 kg bag of maize monthly. Our observations and results from the Resilience Study (currently being finalized) show that farmers who are rearing livestock and/or participating in irrigation farming are relatively food secure and will be able to manage their household food needs without support.

II. Interventions and Results

A. Purpose I: Increased Income

Purpose I involves tailored and integrated implementation of interventions with the overall aim of increasing household income. The pathway for achieving targeted change is through increased crop and livestock production, improved financial and basic business management skills, linkage to markets, and sustainable management of natural resources to empower men and women equitably. Increased food availability and farming income is achieved through a number of mutually reinforcing interventions. These include increased access to quality inputs, responsive extension services, soil and water conservation, integrated pest management, availability of animal health services, and complimentary irrigation where possible. In addition, improved financial and small business management skills and access to markets and market information further help boost income. Out of the 28,627 small holder farmers participating in Njira approximately 57% are involved in WE savings and loan groups, 33% of them benefit from Njira-supported livestock production, and about 28% of the smallholder farmers are actively engaged in marketing activities.

Year 4 Highlights for Purpose I

- 11,700 ha was under improved crop varieties and improved agronomic cultural practices representing an increase from 5,459 ha in the previous season
- 20,878 beneficiaries (8,556 Male, 12,322 Female) adopted improved agronomic technologies, 73% of the 28,627 smallholder farmers who participated under Njira
- 4,511 beneficiaries (3,591 Male, 920 Female) received improved seed
- To date 225 ha have been put under irrigation farming, 102% of the LoP target
- 11,910 beneficiaries (3,592 Male, 8,318 Female) received livestock (107% LoP target)
- Livestock population has increased from 44,846 to 116,859 for chickens (161%), from 3,367 to 7,907 for goats (137%) and from 4,583 to 6,864 for pigeons (47%)
- 7,924 beneficiaries (760 Male, 7,164 Female) trained in business development skills
- A total of 5,290 farmers (2,321 Male, 2,969 Female) from 57 market clusters were practicing value addition practices (Grading, bulking and storage) in FY18
- 1,207 WE/VSL groups graduated, out of 1,558, representing 77%
- Loan fund utilization for WE/VSL groups is at 60% as compared to 73.4% in FY17
- Return on Savings for WE/VSL groups is at 52% as compared to 51.8% in FY17

Sub-Purpose 1.1: Improved sustainable and nutrition-friendly agricultural production

Njira is addressing critical factors that cause food and nutrition insecurity to progressively increase sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agriculture production. Seed for the different maize, pigeon pea and cow pea varieties promoted are available locally and the technologies Njira continues to promote are demonstrated through the Lead Farmers. So far, a total of 11,700 ha has been put under conservation agriculture practices during 2017/18 season representing an increase of 181% (4,162 ha) compared to FY17.

Much as the acreage for maize has increased in FY17/18 compared to FY16/17 agriculture season the season was characterized by FAW infestation and prolonged dry spells. Our crop yield estimates indicate yield decreases of 15% for maize, 25% for pigeon pea and 37% for cow

pea. Maize suffered the least yield loss compared to Cow pea and Pigeon pea even though those crops were not attacked by the FAW. The Machinga Agriculture Development Division (ADD) production estimates indicate an overall yield decrease of 35% (maize, cow peas, and pigeon peas) which implies that farmer's participating under Njira applied improved agricultural practices and performed, comparatively better. As a result of the decreased production, the Government of Malawi through 2018/19 MVAC report is showing that 21% of households in Balaka District and 16% of households in Machinga District require food assistance for 6 and 5 months respectively. Crop yields from the irrigation sites has not been included in the calculation because the yield gap is so large. We can safely determine that the 2,770 small holder farmers participating in irrigation activities are better food secure because they were able to harvest more than once and compensate for the losses.

Immediate Outcome 1.1.1: Increased nutrition friendly food crop production practices
Lower Level Outcome 1.1.1.1: Increased adoption of improved nutrition friendly crop production practice

Njira is employing a multipronged approach to increase and diversify food production and consumption through promotion of drought tolerant crops, irrigation farming, conservation agriculture, and soil fertility improvement. Since the last reporting period, there has been a nearly six-fold increase in the adoption of improved crop varieties (Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes (OFSP), legumes, sorghum, Quality Protein Maize, etc.) and the area planted with the application at least three technologies has expanded from 2,108 ha to 11,700 ha. The combination of improved access to finance, increased knowledge on nutrition and diversification of crops among farmers within the Njira catchment area may have contributed to the increase in household dietary diversity score from 3.3 in the baseline and 4.2 last year to 4.5¹ in FY18.

Lower Level Outcome 1.1.1.1.1: Increased knowledge and skills of farmers

Njira trained 2,535 group leaders (1,523 Male, 1,012 Female) who cascaded the training to 21,335 farmers (5,849 Male, 15,486 Female), in FY18 (75% achievement of the LOP target of 28,627). Njira is promoting women's representation in producer groups through community dialogues and couples' discussions, and as a result, the percentage of women who are lead farmers increased from 20% in FY16 to 40% in FY18. Furthermore, Njira, in collaboration with seed companies, the Malawi Improved Seed System Technology (MISST), and the Ministry of Agriculture, established 499 demonstration plots (130% achievement of our target of 384). 31,046 farmers (10,652 Male, 20,394 Female) participated on field days organized around the demonstration sites and 2,149 additional farmers from outside the Njira catchment areas were involved in addition to the 28,627 farmers who are registered under Njira.

Output 1.1.1.1.0.1: Small-scale irrigation schemes developed

At the end of FY17, all planned 58 irrigation schemes were developed and completed and 225 ha were ready for crop cultivation. In FY18, Njira in collaboration with MOAIWD frontline staff to provide extension services and address plant health and production issues. Overall 2,770 farmers (1,301 Male, 1,469 Female) were mobilized and cultivated all irrigable areas. Many farmers managed to harvest more than one crop under irrigation, compensating the yield reduction experienced from rain fed production. In addition, most farmers ventured in to cash crops such as cabbage, green maize and tomatoes.

¹ 2018 Njira Annual Survey

Output 1.1.1.1.1: Training provided for farmers, and extension/CAHW workers (CA, irrigation, climate change adaptation, fodder production, manure production, seed multiplication)

In FY18, Njira developed and launched the Njira “Lead farmer” training manual in collaboration with the Machinga Agriculture Development Division (ADD) and primarily trained 2,857 lead farmers (1,200 Male, 1,657 Female) to cascade the training to all producer groups. Cumulatively, Njira trained 21,335 unique individuals (5,849 Male, 15,486 Female) out of the target of 28,627 farmers, representing a 75% achievement in FY18.

Table 1: Farmer Participants in Trainings Conducted During the FY18

Topics	Participants		
	Male	Female	Total
Fall Armyworm Management	5,302	14,476	19,778
Fertilizer Application and Weeding	2,607	4,595	7,202
Post-Harvest Handling Using PICs Bags	5,849	15,486	21,335
Manure making and Conservation Agriculture	4,882	4,998	9,880
Irrigation Farming Field days	510	1,283	1,793

The FAW management and post-harvest handling training had the widest coverage. Following the FAW assessment it was established that there were gaps in knowledge of integrated pest management skills and Njira collaborated with AgDiv to promote the PICS bags. Hence, more farmers were trained in FAW management and post-harvest handling

Lower Level Outcome 1.1.1.2: Improved quality of extension services

Output 1.1.1.2.1: Farmer groups (Producer, Irrigation, Livestock, Marketing) formed and functional

In FY18, Njira mobilized and trained 2,335 producer groups, 58 irrigation groups, 738 livestock groups, and 1,558 WE/VSL groups. Out of the 28,627 small holder producers participating in Njira approximately 57% are involved in WE savings and loan groups, 33% of them benefit from Njira-supported livestock production, and about 28% of the smallholder farmers are actively engaged in marketing activities.

Graduation: Out of all the registered groups, 1,777 out of 2,335 producer groups (76%), all 58 irrigation groups, all 738 livestock groups, as well as 1,207 out of 1,558 WE/VSL groups (77%), have graduated and are now functioning with minimal support. The remaining 558 producer groups will be graduated in Q1 of FY19 after meeting the graduation criteria.

Lower Level Outcome 1.1.1.2: Improved access to inputs

Njira facilitated the pass-on of Orange Flesh Sweet Potato (OFSP) vines, quality protein maize (QPM) seed, cowpea and pigeon pea seed to 4,511 beneficiaries against a target of 4,115 (109.6% LoP achievement). Cumulatively, all 31,250 targeted households have accessed improved seed and clean planting materials, primarily through direct distributions and pass-on from basic seed multiplication initiatives. Our rapid assessment data shows, on average, farmers who used improved seed harvested 814 kg/ha, while those who didn't only harvested about 450 kg/ha. Farmers who used local/ recycled seed lost about 45% of harvest as a result.

Immediate Outcome 1.1.2: Increased livestock production.

In the second quarter of FY18, Njira collaborated with the department of animal health services in conducting a livestock census targeting Njira Livestock beneficiaries. The results reveal an increase of local chickens by 161%, from 44,846 to 116,859, an increase of goats by 137%, from 3,367 to 7,907 and an increase of pigeons by 47%, from 4,583 to 6,864. Overall, Njira has reached a total of 11,910 beneficiaries with livestock (direct and pass-o) against a

target of 11,076, representing 107% of the LoP target. Livestock production has increased, partially as a result of reduced mortality due to feeding and animal health services.

Lower Level Outcome 1.1.2.1: Increased adoption of livestock management practices

In FY18, Njira continued to increase adoption of improved livestock management practices by enhancing knowledge and skills in relation to livestock housing, feeding and disease control as a pre-requisite for receiving livestock packages through the pass-on program. In FY18, a total of 281,822 chickens from 19,601 farmers (9,063 Male, 10,538 Female) were vaccinated against New Cattle Disease compared to only 61,989 chickens vaccinated in 2017. Similarly, 21,950 goats were dewormed against internal parasites and supporting 1,662 farmers (817 Male, 845 Female) compared to only 2,009 goats dewormed in 2017.

Lower Level Outcome 1.1.2.1.1: Increased ownership/ availability of livestock

Increased ownership of livestock helps increase resilience to shocks and stresses by building household assets that can carry them through difficult times. Cumulatively, a total of 5,805 households have benefited from the Njira livestock pass-on activity.

So far, all 738 Livestock groups have completed pass-on to secondary groups and graduated from the activity. Overall, livestock ownership for goats has increased from 0.7 at baseline to 12, for chickens from 2.5 at baseline to 17, and for pigeons from 0.9 at baseline to 31.

Table 2: Beneficiaries Accessed Livestock through Direct Distribution & Pass-on

Type of Livestock	Target (A)	Direct Distribution (Primary) (B)	Cumulative Pass-On (C)	Total (B+C)	% Achievement (B+C/A)
Goats	1,604	802	1,126	1,928	120%
Chickens	9,219	5,050	3,409	8,459	92%
Pigeons	253	253	1,270	1,523	602%
Total	11,076	6,105	5,805	11,910	108%

Please note that pigeons represent only 4% of the Direct Distribution (B), while chickens represent 82% of the total livestock distributed through the Livestock fairs. The pigeon beneficiaries were among the first to receive their livestock through the Livestock Fairs. This, coupled with the shorter reproductive cycle, led to a successful pass-on. Hence, we even have households who passed-on to tertiary households. The main reason pigeons were not continued was that we had a higher number of households who lost their initial stock because they were unable to feed them (pigeons compete for the same food grain with the vulnerable households), rather than challenges associated with pass-on. Chickens are more resilient, and the vulnerable households benefit from the sale of eggs and live chickens.

Output 1.1.2.1.1.1: Livestock distributed to vulnerable households

Cumulatively 5,805 of them in both districts benefited from the livestock pass-on program where a total of 1,126 households have received goats, 3,409 received chickens and 1,270 received pigeons.

Lower Level Outcome 1.1.2.2: Improved access to quality animal health service

In FY18, 51 CAHWs (29 Male, 22 Female) participated in the vaccinations of chickens charging MWK 30 (\$0.14)/chicken against Newcastle disease, and charging MWK 250 (\$0.34)/goat for deworming of goats to protect against internal parasites. The CAHWs have cumulatively earned MWK 8,256,920 (US \$11,373) from animal health services with an investment of MWK 2,477,076 (US \$3,412) representing a gross return to investment at 233%. The fee for

service scheme has uplifted the livelihoods of the 51 CAWHs and their success on the business model means sustainability of the services to the community.

Lower level Outcome 1.1.2.2.1: Increased Knowledge and skills of CAHWs and Government of Malawi veterinary service

In FY18, five meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture Extension Planning Areas Staff (EPAS) were held involving CAHWs, Njira facilitators and government staff to strengthen collaboration, promote joint planning and review performance of CAWHs to improve knowledge and skills. In addition, 51 CAHWs (29 Male, 22 Female) were involved in a two-day refresher training aimed at addressing challenges identified during review meetings with CAWHs on efficient delivery of extension and veterinary services.

Sub-Purpose 1.2: Increased agricultural and non-agricultural sales

During FY18, Njira prioritized key area of agribusiness, including: training farmers in basic business planning and management, increasing farmers' access to market information and business development services, enterprise selection, identification of on and off-farm income-generating activities, and private sector linkages to diversify income sources for farmers. Hence, Njira started promoting other potential value chains including sesame, vegetables, green maize, chilies and Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes because the market price for Cow pea and Pigeon pea dropped significantly. Other interventions for income included seed multiplication and non-farm income generating activities such as retailing of PICS bags, moulding energy saving cook stoves, village bakeries, and fee-based animal health services.

In FY18, Njira facilitated collective sales of both farm produce and non-farm services, working with 7,465 beneficiaries (3,140 Male, 4,325 Female) out of the LOP target of 5,868. These beneficiaries generated MWK 389,011,800 (\$535,828) with much of the revenue coming from livestock products (meat, eggs or live animals). Following harvest in FY18, farmers aggregated about 25MT of pigeon pea in anticipation of better prices, though some ended up selling their crops to vendors for as low as MWK 30/kg (\$0.14/kg) because they had no alternative.

Intermediate outcome 1.2.1: Increased access to Business Development Services

In FY18, 13,983 (5,453 Male, 8,530 Female) beneficiaries, which mainly included WE/VSL groups and producers, especially irrigation farmers, who engaged in farm and non-farm business opportunities, accessed Business Development Services. Access to market and price information, transportation, business loan from their respective WE/VSL groups and grading their produce which has enabled the participants to consider a range of market options.

Njira facilitated 2 agriculture fairs with the theme: *Effective linkages among value chain players: Key to profitable agribusiness* that aimed to facilitate business linkages between farmers and agribusinesses. The FY18 Agriculture Fairs provided a review of market trends and a platform for business meetings in which 1,290 farmers (850 Male, 440 Female) participated. During the fairs, farmers managed to secure purchase agreements with major companies trading on Green Gram, Sunflower and Moringa seed. Farmer registration with these companies for 2018/19 agriculture season is at an advanced stage.

Njira is promoting PICS bags and they are currently found, only, in major cities and with Njira's support, 35 WE/VSL groups and 5 VCPC groups who are retailing the bags at a fee. Six WE/VSL groups have also started moulding energy saving cook stoves for sale using their savings. The use of the energy saving cook stoves increase of 26-30% of thermal efficiency and fuel saving of 40-50% compared to mud stoves whose thermal efficiency is only 15-17%. Hence, less firewood is used with the energy saving cook stoves promoting sustainable management and use of the trees.

Output 1.2.1.1: Farmers trained in collective marketing activities

In FY18, a total of 383 households (132 Male, 251 Female) engaged in a variety of small-scale agriculture-based income generating enterprises ranging from vegetable production to selling eggs and chicken. Although cost of inputs and net profit varied between enterprises the range was narrow. Hence, on average individual households earned about \$62 USD net profit from the collective marketing engagements.

Output 1.2.1.2: Training in Basic Business Skills provided

In FY18, 73 lead farmers (41 Male, 32 Female) and 66 WE/VSL Community Agents (14 Male, 52 Female) received BBS training in both districts and trained 7,924 beneficiaries (760 Male, 7,164 Female) on the same. The training of field staff was facilitated by Njira trainers who were given a Training of Trainers (TOT) in Basic Business Skills (BBS) in collaboration with Agriculture Extension Development Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Community Development Assistants (CDAs) from the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW). Topics covered during the trainings included an introduction of basic business skills, understanding risk and barriers to entry, identifying business ideas, supply and demand, marketing your business, business finances (pricing), and business finances (record keeping).

Intermediate outcome 1.2.2: Increased equitable access to finance

Given the high interest rates required by most banks, Njira is promoting savings and lending from WE/VSL groups as a catalyst for all other interventions to facilitate access to finance. PCI carried out the Lives Changed Index (LCI) survey, in FY'18, and results revealed that the WE/VSL participant households, in general, have higher social capital, they are more financially stable and better food secure because they have access to finance. In FY18, the return on savings was averaging 52% against the target of 30%. The loan fund utilization rate was on average 60% against the target of 60%. There has been a decrease in loan fund utilization in the year under review from 73.8% in previous year to 60% in FY18 and an increase on return to savings is only from 51% to 52% because most of the groups invested their savings on agriculture produce and at the time of reporting they had not sold part of their produce (including Rice, G/nuts, etc.) they purchased collectively.

Output 1.2.2.1: WE/VSL groups formed and supported

As part of the project sustainability strategy, Njira completed group formation in FY17, and the project focused on capacity strengthening of the 1,558 groups serving a total membership of 33,473 participants, out of which 87% are women. Other activities conducted in FY18 included: group graduations, group supervision and business development services. Out of all the groups formed, 1,202 WE/VSL groups have graduated, and are now able to run the groups on their own. The remaining 356 WE/VSL groups will be graduated in Q1 of FY19.

Intermediate Outcome 1.2.3: Increased empowerment of men and women to fully utilize business development and other financial services

In FY18, Njira focused on sustainability and training the WE/VSL groups in BBS and linking of the graduated groups to the Government Cooperatives Community Savings and Investment Promotion (COMSIP) program, where members can buy shares and invest in bigger enterprises. For a WE/VSL group to be eligible for COMSIP membership, the following requirements must be met: The WE/VSL group must have shared out at least once; the savings and loan utilization rate should be over 75%; and the group must have 30 or more members and must be willing to combine with another group to form a cluster and be able to buy the first share of MWK 300,000 (\$408) within a year. In FY18, 13 Njira WE/VSL groups (including

195 female members) qualified to form 3 COMSIP associations and successfully bought shares and received the grant from COMSIP, which they are using to growing their business.

Couples Discussions: In FY18, 15 couples' discussions were conducted in Balaka and Machinga, in which 546 members (180 male, 366 female) participated. The couples' discussions are part of the gender integration activities within the WE/VSL groups aiming to increase spousal support for participation in WE groups and encourage more equitable decision-making between couples. WE members were able to openly discuss issues affecting them including parenting, finance utilization and joint decision-making and other gender related issues.

Lower Level Outcome 1.2.3.1: Household/producers increased connections to buyers

The FY18 Agriculture Fairs supported by Njira provided producers a platform for increased connections to buyers through business meetings, in which 1,290 (850 Male, 440 Female) farmers participated. Farmers interacted and shared experiences on various crops and livestock enterprises and engagements were made with seed companies, input /agro-dealers, and buyer companies to explore business agreements. Some of the institutions that expressed interest to engage with the farmers and buy products include; Trans Globe, Moringa Miracles, Afrisan, Sun Seed Oil, Polypack and Manjawira Goat Meat seeking Green gram, Moringa seed, Sesame, Sunflower, delivering PICS bags and need to buy live goats.

Intermediate Outcome 1.2.4: Increased access to market information

In FY18, Njira facilitated interface meetings between 321 farmer representatives (160 Male, 161 Female) from 57 market clusters and buyers. The engagement which involved potential buyers from Afrisan, Trans Globe and Kawazi was successful, leading to the sharing of important information related to proper grading, quantities and prices for bird's eye chilies, pigeon pea, groundnuts (CG 7) and rice.

Output 1.2.4.1: Rapid (participatory) Market Analysis conducted

In FY18 our preliminary market assessment and analysis aimed to establish the potential demand and supply of crops for the 2017/18 growing season. Results confirmed that pigeon peas and cowpeas had limited export market demand. Based on these findings, we are promoting diversified production (rice, sesame, vegetables, sorghum, chickens, and goats).

Intermediate Outcome 1.2.5: Increased adoption of value addition practices (grading, storage, packaging)

In FY18, Njira, in collaboration with marketing clusters organized training sessions focusing on grading and storage of crop produce. A total of 5,290 farmers (2,321 Male, 2,969 Female) from 57 market clusters have been involved in value addition practices mainly by grading and storage of 10.5 MT of Chilies and 25 MT of pigeon peas. In case of well graded Chili, Grade A was sold at MWK 1,000/kg (\$1.33/kg) which is a premium price while Grade B is sold at MWK 600 (\$0.83). Ungraded chili is sold at MWK 550 (\$0.76) thereby resulting in lower income as compared to prices offered for graded crop.

Output 1.2.5.1: Linkages developed with private sector to provide business services

With the GoM, Njira has facilitated interface meetings between CAHWs and veterinary pharmaceutical service providers through livestock fairs which resulted to 25 CAHWs from Balaka and 27 CAHWS from Machinga being successfully linked with registered pharmaceutical suppliers. The pharmaceutical companies included: Ziweto Agrovets, ATC, Akalole Vet Services, Fermano and Lilongwe. Livestock Products bought by the CAHWs during FY18 included: I-2, Lasota, Albendazole and Akheri powder. A group of farmers also organized themselves as the Mtendere Seed Multiplication Producer Group grew 25 ha of pure ZM 623 Maize for seed and all 25 tons were purchased by the Pindulani Seed Company.

B. Purpose II: Improved Health and Nutrition of Pregnant and Lactating Women and Children under Five

The primary focus of Purpose II is to improve the health and nutrition of pregnant as well as lactating mothers and children and prevent stunting and under-nutrition. Hence, the theory of change still builds on facilitating access to services through strong collaboration with the Ministry of Health structures as well as facilities and empowering the communities by establishing the Care Group platform, which serves as a vehicle for service delivery and referral mechanism. The aim of improving the quality of health and nutrition of pregnant as well as lactating mothers and children below the age of five years is in perfect alignment with the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative championed by the Government of Malawi.

The Njira approach to behavioural change aims at enhancing capacity of the participating men and women to analyse their situation and facilitators used structured modules to increase knowledge and confidence of the participants encouraging small incremental behaviour and practice changes over time. The three key elements or pathways integrated under purpose-II are; 1) improving health and nutrition practices at the household level, 2) increasing utilization of RMNCH preventative and treatment services with a focus on community health systems and linkages to facility-based services, and 3) increasing utilization of WASH facilities. Since the primary target under purpose II were women and children, PCI engaged its Senior Technical Advisors to find ways of empowering women. Male engagement was identified as a key component of empowering women.

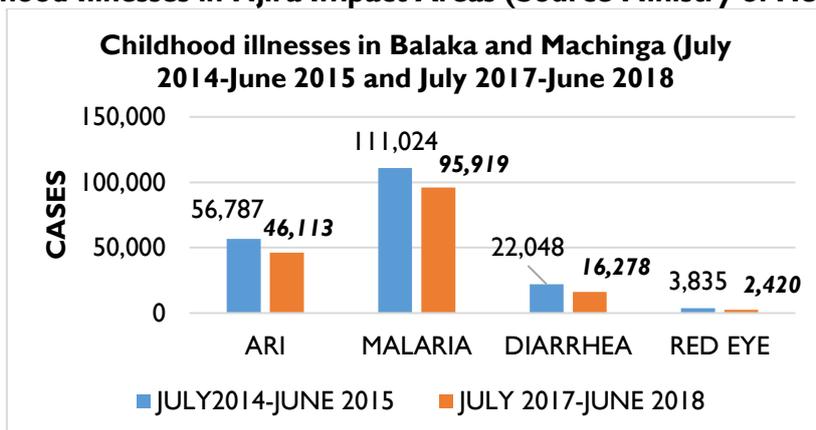
Year 4 Highlights for Purpose II

- Trained 5,252 Cluster Women and 800 Father Group members in the Household Prevention and Management of New-born and Childhood Illnesses CG module
- Trained 700 Father Group members in Hygiene, Maternal Nutrition, IYCF, Maternal and New-born Care
- Conducted 75,298 household visits to CG beneficiaries
- Established 10,812 backyard gardens
- Distribution of multivitamins to 94,128 beneficiaries (47,493 children 1-5 years and 46,635 pregnant and lactating women)
- Distribution of food rations to 37,082 beneficiaries (8,455 PLW and 28,627 children under five) (10,772 Male, 26,310 Female)
- 409 community dialogue sessions, reaching 14,595 beneficiaries (7,011 Male, 7,584 Female)
- Conducted 92 couples' workshops (2,760 couples participated)
- 36 GVHs attained ODF status in Machinga; cumulatively 70 communities within Njira impact areas have attained ODF
- Concluded CBM training reaching 255 beneficiaries
- Conducted microbiological water testing of 100 water points.

Sub-Purpose 2.1: Improved Nutrition and Health Practices

In FY18, Njira through its CGs and father group platform made efforts to address food, health and nutrition as well as water and sanitation issues with dividends on maternal and child health and nutrition. The data generated from District health management information system data base indicates significant reductions in childhood illnesses in Njira impact areas as compared to the same period at project inception.

Fig 1: Childhood Illnesses in Njira Impact Areas (Source Ministry of Health DHMIS)



Output 2.1.1.0.1: Care Groups Formed and Trained

Njira formed a total of 453 care groups. In FY18, the project concluded the training of CGs with the roll out of the last module on “household prevention and management of new-born and childhood illnesses” reaching 100% of care group beneficiaries (75,320). Specific content included the causes, transmission, prevention, danger signs and assessment and treatment of diarrhoea, malaria, acute respiratory tract infection (ARI) and red eye. The Quality Improvement Verification (QIV) found that 436 out of 453 groups (96%) are operating within set standards (i.e. conducting home visits, CCFLs and submitting reports) and have graduated. The project will focus on supporting the remaining 17 CGs to graduate in Q1 of FY19.

Output 2.1.1.0.2: Household follow-up sessions carried out

Home Visits: In FY18, Cluster Leaders conducted a total of 75,298 household visits (representing 164% achievement of the LOP target of 42,000) and conducted tailored counselling after identifying barriers to the adoption of improved behaviours using the GALIDRAA approach. More household visits have been conducted because apart from providing tailored counselling, Cluster Leaders also followed up on commitments and action plans agreed upon during household visits conducted during the year. During the follow up visits, it was found that: 1) 3,211 pregnant women out of the 3,221 (99.7%) who were followed up had birth plans and implemented them; 2) 6,786 households out of 6,851 (99%) had basic sanitary facilities (pit latrine with natural slab, dish rack, rubbish pit etc); and 3) 976 beneficiaries out of 1,001 (98%) who were followed up on had established backyard gardens.

Output 2.1.1.0.3: Participatory nutrition analysis conducted (CCFLS sessions, seasonal calendar, cooking demos)

Cooking Demonstrations: Njira conducted community-wide cooking demonstrations reaching 9,739 Care Group beneficiaries (7,277 Female, 2,462 Male).

Community Complementary Feeding and Learning Sessions (CCFLS): Njira conducted CCFLS reaching 8,429 children under five (4,069 Male, 4,360 Female) compared to the annual target of 7,533 (representing 111% achievement). During the sessions 8,340 (4,003 Male 4,337 female) children gained weight while 89 who enrolled as underweight (1% which is below the 3% reflected as the national acute malnutrition rate for wasting according to the Malawi Demographic Health Survey 2015-2016) had constant weight and were referred into the CMAM programme. Njira conducted tailored counselling to the mothers and other primary caregivers of the 89 (46 Male, 43 Female) and follow up visits revealed that all 89 children were healthy and had normal weight for age. The children gained an average of 0.5 kilograms by day 12 which is within the expected weight gain during CCFLS.

Immediate Outcome 2.1.2: Improved Access to Diverse, Nutritious Foods

CMAM data from the District Health Management Information Systems (DHMIS) indicates a decrease in the number of CMAM admissions, reflecting a drop by 56% when data from (Jan-May 2017, 2,055) is compared to the same period in the current year (Jan-May 2018, 1,145). The decrease may be partially attributed to the provision of food rations, multivitamins, increased adoption of backyard gardens and farming practices, and successes with messaging and demonstrations of good child care and feeding practices and reinforcement of these behaviours through home visits.

Output 2.1.2.0.1: FFP Commodities to PLW and Children 6-23 Months Distributed

Njira concluded the final phase of food distributions by distributing rations (pinto beans, vegetable oil and corn soya blend (CSB)) to 37,082 beneficiaries, out of which 8,455 beneficiaries were pregnant or lactating women (representing 240% of the target), and 28,627 beneficiaries were children aged 6 – 23 months (10,772 Male, 17,855 Female), representing 163% of the target. In FY18, Njira distributed household rations to 32,785 households. More pregnant and lactating women were reached because they participated in Care Group services and became eligible for conditional rations. In addition, more under 5 children were reached because more children participated in GMP services, and more of their caregivers became eligible for conditional rations through participation in Care Groups.

Multivitamin Distribution: Njira facilitated the distribution of multivitamins through District Health Office delivery channels and reached a total of 77,928 beneficiaries (38,535 PLW and 39,393 Children 1-5 years). The multivitamins are a donation from Kirk Humanitarian.

Lower level outcome 2.1.2.1: Increased food processing, preservations and storage

In FY18, beneficiaries constructed 101 locally made solar driers and used preserved foodstuffs such as amaranthus, Moringa, black jack and pumpkin leaves to prepare local nutritious foods.

Lower level outcome 2.1.2.2: Increased yield of nutritious food (home gardens)

Output 2.1.2.2.1: Backyard gardens established

Backyard Gardens: In FY18, Care Group beneficiaries established 10,812 new backyard gardens out of the targeted 3,000 backyard gardens, and cumulatively Njira has established 19,487 backyard gardens. Additionally, through collaboration with AgDiv, 10 Care Group beneficiaries received drip irrigation kits to promote technology for efficient use of water. The increase in household dietary diversity from 4.2 in 2017 to 4.5 in 2018 (out of 12 food groups) may have been influenced by a combination of factors promoting availability, access and utilization of foods within the communities.

Immediate Outcome 2.1.3: Increased Empowerment of Men and Women to Adopt Good Nutrition Practices

Njira has been utilizing gender-transformative approaches such as “couples’ workshop and “community dialogue” which enhanced communication and problem-solving at household and community levels to promoted gender equality and equity at home and broader community. Results of the 2018 annual survey include an increase from 35.9% at baseline to 49.5% of couples making the joint decisions over household finances and use of income, whereas the LCI survey indicates an increase in household expenditure on nutritious foods from 51.7 % at baseline to 64.4 % in 2018.

Output 2.1.3.0.1: Community Dialogues Facilitated

In FY18, Njira conducted 409 community dialogue sessions compared to the annual target of 160 (representing a 256% target achievement) and reached 14,595 (7,011 Male, 7,584 Female) community members. Reduced walking distance and increase coverage as well as robust participation in community dialogues conducted at village level instead of at GVH level contributed to the increase in achievement. As a result; 1) 2,462 men participated in cooking demonstrations; 2) 725 pit latrines have been constructed jointly; 3) chlorine was made available by DHO for treatment of drinking water by the HSAs; 4) area mechanics are being

used to rehabilitate boreholes; 5) 715 men escorted their wives to antenatal clinics; and 6) HSAs are now providing GMP services regularly.

Output 2.1.3.0.2: Couples' Workshops Conducted

In FY18, a total of 1,475 couples including members of the Father Groups and their spouses participated in 92 couples' workshops. During the workshops, couples discussed division of labor, household decision-making over income, engagement of men in antenatal care (ANC) services, child care, child spacing and nutrition, control over productive assets, women participation in groups and leadership positions, gender-based violence and restorative services [*counselling, psychosocial support and treatment for affected victims by the Victim Support Unit (VSU) under the Police*].

Output 2.1.3.3: Father Groups formed and trained

In FY18, Njira scaled up the number of father groups to 80 groups from the initial 10 groups. In FY18 Njira completed training of the new 70 father groups (reaching 700 father group members), and cumulatively all the 800 father group members have been trained in six the Care Group modules. Routine monitoring of care group beneficiary households supported by Father Groups shows that 1) 98.9% of households interviewed fed and bathed their children; 2) 81% escorted their wives for family planning services; 3) 95% escorted their wives to ANC, and 4) 93% took their children to hospital when they are sick. Following an assessment 59 out of 80 father groups graduated and the remaining 21 FGs will be graduated in Q1 of FY19.

Sub purpose 2.2: Increased utilization of RMNCH prevention and treatment services

In FY18, Njira focused its efforts to: 1) Strengthen the referral and follow up system; 2) Improve RMNCH care seeking behaviours; and; 3) improve decision making and self-efficacy. Data indicate that there was a 24% increase in postnatal women accessing postnatal care at one week and six weeks, from 52% at baseline to 76% in FY'18. Results from the maternal and new-born assessment conducted in 2017 and 2018 before and after the roll out of the module also revealed an increase in the number of mothers/caregivers giving their babies other foods or liquids in addition to breast milk at six months registering an increase from 78.1% before to 97.6% after roll-out. Similarly, out of 114 mothers sampled for giving their new-born children colostrum results show an increase from 68.4% before to 94.1% after the roll out of the maternal and new-born module.

Intermediate Outcome 2.2.1: Improved quality of community based RMNCH services

In FY18 Njira focused on enhancing collaboration with non-state actors to enhance sustainability of interventions and improve the quality of facility-based RMNCH services.

Lower Level Outcome 2.2.1.1: Improved capacity of Community Health Workers

Njira supported the DHO to address capacity gaps of 86 (48 Male, 38 Female) community health workers (CHWs) to provide CBMNCH and CCM services through on-the-job training, coaching, and mentoring. 84 out of 86 of CHWs trained are now able to conduct case management, identify danger signs, and provide pre-referral treatment and complete the sick child treatment form. CHWs supervisors continue to mentor the remaining 2 CHWs until they reach the required levels of competency.

Output 2.2.1.1.1: CHWs trained, supervised, and mentored

Community Based Maternal Newborn and Child Health (CBMNCH) Quarterly Planning and Review Meeting with HSAs: Njira supported two CBMNCH quarterly planning and review meeting with HSAs 18 (11 Male, 7 Female). Following the meetings, action points were agreed to task the CBMNCH coordinator to conduct mentoring, coaching and on the job training to HSAs. As a results 1) all 18 CBMNCH trained HSAs (11 Male, 7 Female) were supervised and mentored on how to check for maternal and new-born danger signs during pregnancy and after delivery and on how to properly fill out and update CBMNCH registers; 2) all 18 HSAs

are now conducting home visits to pregnant and newly delivered postpartum women; and 3) the DHO provided thermometers and timers with support from other partners.

Quarterly Community Case Management (CCM) Supervision and Mentorship of HSAs: The Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) coordinator from the DHO and HSA supervisors conducted supervision at 93 randomly selected village clinics. All 86 HSAs (48 Male, 38 Female) were mentored to improve their skills in managing village clinics, providing case management for the identification of danger signs and provision of pre-referral treatment, and completing the sick child treatment form. A total of 1,461 children (716 Male, 745 Female) accessed GMP services in the 10 clinics that received salter weighing scales from PCI.

Immediate Outcome 2.2.2: Improved Access to RMNCH Services

Lower Level Outcome 2.2.2.1: Strengthened Referral and Follow up System

Outcome 2.2.2.1.1: Increased early identification and integrated support for growth faltering children, and child/maternal illness

Active Case Finding: With the DHO and UNICEF, Njira supported the training of 5,252 Cluster Leaders, 20 Health Promoters (9 Male, 11 Female), and 7 HSAs (4 Male, 3 Female) to conduct active case finding (nutrition screening using MUAC tapes). UNICEF through the DHO provided the MUAC tapes and after the training, Cluster Leaders conducted nutrition screening among 32,798 children under five (14,539 Male, 18,259 Female) out of a total of the projected target of 33,962 CU5 (96.5 %) and 3,412 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) out of a projected target of 3,500 (97 %). Only 10 children (Female) admitted for the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and these children were discharged later-on.

Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Supportive Supervision: Njira facilitated CMAM supervisory visits in which health facility staff, who provide CMAM services, were coached on how to complete CMAM registers, and RUTF and CSB stocks were checked. Representatives of the District Health Management Team (DHMT) and UNICEF were part of the supervisory team. All 11 facilities supervised had adequate staffing levels, there was consistent availability of CMAM rations and 8 facilities had registers that were up-to-date. Challenges included, torn out Z-Score tables and failure to calculate Z-Scores in 2 of the facilities. In response, the district nutritionist provided new Z-score tables and organized an orientation for staff that had challenges calculating Z-scores and filling CMAM registers.

Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Admissions: Following active case finding screening conducted in the year, 182 under five children (95 Male, 87 Female) representing 0.53 % of the total children screened, were referred and admitted into the CMAM program, below the national acute malnutrition rates for wasting at 3% (MDHS 2015-2016). The 182 malnourished children were also enrolled into the CCFLs and household tailored counselling and follow up visits conducted revealed that each had recovered with normal weight for age.

Output 2.2.2.1.1.1: GMP Strengthened

Growth Monitoring and Promotion: During the year, 67,530 children under five (29,482 Male, 38,048 Female) participated in GMP sessions using new GMP strategy, representing 145.4 % achievement of the annual target. More children participated in GMP because of intensified mobilization through CGs. Results of the sessions include: 1) 66,829 children (29,188 male; 37,641 Female) had normal weight and 2) 701 (294 Male, 407 Female) were underweight. All underweight children were included in the CCFLS that were conducted in the year. There were more underweight children from July-September in FY18 in TAs Kalembo in Balaka and Ngokwe in Machinga (mainly female-headed households with higher rates of male spouses or siblings migrating to RSA and Mozambique and households with higher fertility rates); hence, Njira intensified active case finding to identify and refer these children, provided tailored counselling on child care and feeding and they were all enrolled into CCFLS.

Lower Level Outcome 2.2.2.2: RMNCH care seeking behaviours improved

Lower Level Outcome 2.2.2.2.1: Increased awareness of RMNCH services

Lower Level Outcome 2.2.2.2.2: Improved Decision making and self-efficacy

In collaboration with the DHO, UNICEF, and ONSE, Njira improved access to RMNCH services and strengthened the referral and follow up system through: 1) increased early identification and integrated support for growth faltering children and child/maternal illness; 2) community case management of acute malnutrition; and 3) GMP services. Njira utilized its grassroots network of Care Groups and father groups to mobilize communities and create awareness on the availability of RMNCH services and supported demand creation for services. As a result, routine monitoring data from the health facilities shows an increase, from 66.7% last year to 86% on the percentage of deliveries conducted by skilled birth workers at a health facility in Njira impact areas; increase in the number of live births receiving at least four antenatal care (ANC) visits during pregnancy from 78.9% last year to 93.9%; and 3,211 (99.7%) out of the 3,221 pregnant women that were followed up had birth plans and they implemented them in FY18. In addition, results of the annual survey indicate that 49.5% of households made decisions jointly.

Sub-Purpose 2.3: Increased Utilization of Hygiene, Sanitation, and Water Facilities

Njira is achieving the WASH outcomes through a combination of access (rehabilitation of WASH facilities) and empowerment (CBM trainings and CLTS) to increase access to and utilization quality of WASH services and facilities.

Through CLTS, Njira built the capacity of communities to attain ODF and take charge of their sanitation issues, provided training on Community Based Management (CBM) Water Point Committee (WPC) and supported the establishment of borehole spare parts supply chain.

Immediate Outcome 2.3.1: Improved Quality of WASH Facilities

Through sanitation marketing, local artisans are producing dome slabs and sanitation platforms. To date, 3,238 beneficiaries procured and are using these improved sanitary facilities. The artisans sell san-plats at MWK 8,000 (\$11 USD) – MWK 10,000 (\$14 USD). This is a positive step towards sustaining ODF status within Njira impact areas.

Output 2.3.1.0.1: Biological water testing conducted

Microbiological Water Testing: Njira supported microbiological water testing of 100 boreholes and results indicated that 26 boreholes were contaminated with faecal E. Coli forms. The cause was identified and the contaminated sources (boreholes) were disinfected in collaboration with government stakeholders.

Output 2.3.1.0.2: Sanitation marketing training conducted

A total of 3,238 Care Group beneficiaries have procured and are using san plats or dome slabs made by the trained artisans.

Lower Level Outcome 2.3.1.1: WASH Facilities are Maintained and Repaired

Njira established and trained Water Point Committees and area mechanics in the Njira catchment area as well as supported the establishment of 22 borehole spare parts supply chain points to ensure that communities have consistent access to clean and safe water. As a result, Njira communities are able to repair broken down boreholes between 24 and 48 hours.

Lower Level Outcome 2.3.1.1.1: Increased number of functional Water Point Committees (knowledge, access to finance, governance structure)

In the year under review, 565 water points out of the annual target of 464 water points (representing a 122% achievement of the annual target) were functional. Additionally, 593 WPC out of 631 have graduated after fulfilling a set of standards including: 1) having a constitution and 2) operational maintenance fund and safe keeping of committee records.

Output 2.3.1.1.1.1: CBM training for water point committees conducted

Community Based Management Training to Water Point Committees: In FY18, Njira collaborated and supported the district health officer (DHO) to train 255 beneficiaries out of 280 in CBM representing 91% achievement of the target. The remaining will be trained in Q1 of FY19

Supervision of Water Points: Njira supported the supervision of 1,055 water points. Findings concluded that 992 out of the 1,055 water points (representing 94%) had a constitution and operation and maintenance plan being used within 24-48 hours by the communities and operation and maintenance funds between MWK 20,000.00 (\$28) and MWK 75,000.00 (\$103). The remaining 63 water points will be followed up in quarter 1 of FY19.

Output 2.3.1.1.2: Borehole spare parts supply chain established

Njira worked with two shop owners per TA to stock and sell borehole spare parts and linked them with area mechanics and WPC. Njira established 22 borehole spare part supply chain points to ensure timely availability of the parts in order to reduce the turn round time for bore repair and maintenance. All the shops stocked enough supplies of borehole spare parts.

Lower Level Outcome 2.3.1.2: WASH Facilities Constructed, Rehabilitated

Lower Level Outcome 2.3.1.2.1: Improved Community Adoption & Sustainability of CLTS

In FY18 the number of people gaining access to an improved sanitation facility increased from 18,200 in 2017 to 31,500 in 2018. Clean Village Inspections conducted among a total of 24,654 households revealed that pit latrines with drop-hole covers were available in 99% (24,407) of the households, which is above the 80% recommended minimum standard pit latrine coverage for attaining ODF status (Malawi National ODF Strategy).

Output 2.3.1.2.1.1 CLTS Sessions Conducted

Community Led Total Sanitation Training: In Q-4 of FY18, Njira facilitated Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) triggering sessions among 9,220 people (2,217 Male, 7,003 Female) in 21 GVHs of TA Nkoola, Chikweo & Ngokwe. The triggering of the communities resulted in the development of action plans and the enactment of by-laws to ensure that all households and communities attain the ODF status.

Attainment of Open Defecation Free Status: In the year under review Balaka district celebrated the attainment of ODF status, an event which was graced by the Minister of Health. Balaka District is the first district in Malawi to be declared ODF. Additionally, 35 GVHs in Machinga District attained ODF status and were certified by the National Open Defecation Free Task Force (NOTF), cumulatively 70 GVHs (35 Balaka and 35 Machinga) have attained ODF against the LoP target of 66 GVHs, representing 106% achievement. For a GVH to be declared ODF it must achieve 80% recommended minimum standard pit latrine coverage for attaining ODF status (Malawi National ODF Strategy).

Immediate Outcome 2.3.2: Improved Access to WASH Facilities

Walking time and distance for a household to walk to obtain drinking water has reduced from 1 hour to 15 minutes and distance to 250 meters (recommendation is 500 meters). In addition, the number of people accessing a borehole is at 150 people as compared to 500 people before Njira project interventions in 2015 (recommended is 250 people per borehole) per borehole due to the fact that boreholes stay functional and are being maintained regularly.

Lower Level Outcome 2.3.2.1 Increased Awareness of WASH Facilities & Need for Use

In FY18 Njira reached 76,120 beneficiaries with awareness of WASH facilities vs. 71,083 in FY17. No case of cholera has been reported in both Balaka and Machinga districts in FY18.

Output 2.3.2.1.1: WASH Campaigns

WASH Campaigns Conducted: The Project conducted 10 of the targeted 5 WASH campaigns, reaching 35,098 beneficiaries (22,205 Male, 12,893 Female), representing 200% achievement of the annual target. Additionally, the DHO provided chlorine to 36,572 households for water treatment. The chlorine was distributed to beneficiaries by HSAs in collaboration with Health Promoters and Cluster Leaders.

Output 2.3.2.1.2: Hygiene and sanitation education conducted

Hygiene and sanitation education conducted: Njira conducted hygiene and sanitation education to reinforce good WASH practices, reaching 62,100 beneficiaries. Clean Village Inspections conducted among a total of 24,654 households to assess the availability of sanitary facilities such as pit latrines, rubbish pits, drying lines, dish racks, animal kraals, and the general household environment revealed that pit latrines with drop-hole covers were available in 99% (24,407) of the households, which is above the 80% recommended minimum standard pit latrine coverage for attaining ODF status (Malawi National ODF Strategy).

C. Purpose III: Disaster Risk Management

Purpose III aims to enhance the capacity of household, communities and the local authorities at the grass roots level to develop plans and implement actions that would enable them to cope with shocks better, adapt their farming and livelihood strategies, and transform in the face of recurring shocks and stresses through persistent strategy and good coordination among all stakeholders and integrated implementation.

- 93 DRM committees in Balaka and Machinga have DRM plans developed, representing 100% achievement
- Completed the rehabilitation of the nine watersheds (5 in Machinga and 4 in Balaka)
- In FY18 Njira has supported 19,965 vulnerable households through the provision of social safety nets against an annual target of 9,056, representing 220% overachievement.
- In FY18, Njira supported rehabilitation of 7,553 ha against an annual target of 4,000 ha
- 36 VCPCs from both Balaka and Machinga mobilized MWK 289,860 (\$402) and 6,480 kg of maize from within their communities to respond to small shocks
- In FY18, Njira has trained 48,300 stakeholders (21,337 Male, 26,963 Female) in climate change against an annual target of 41,112.64 people, representing 117% achievement
- 14 simulation exercises facilitated against an annual target of 11, representing 127% and the exercises were attended by 907 community members (324 Male, 583 Female)
- 42,722 people (16,234 Male, 26,488 Female) utilized Ubwino centers and utilization of the centers by other Government departments is progressively growing

Sub-Purpose 3.1: Improved Community Assets for Disaster Mitigation

In FY18, Njira invested in strengthening the capacity of communities and local structures to develop responsible disaster risk management plans. The project expanded on the watershed rehabilitation activities and engaged almost 20,000 people in Food for Asset (FFA) activities. Some of the Njira supported watersheds are being taken as prototypes by the Government, and Njira was requested by the GIZ, World Bank and the MASAF IV project management team to facilitate a learning forum to share lessons from the work done under Njira in Balaka and Machinga. The key element of the revised theory of change for Purpose III is its focus towards strengthened coordination across civil protection structures (VCPC, ACPC and DCPC) and implementation of community DRM plans at all levels.

Intermediate Outcome 3.1.2: Improved access to food for community asset creation

Output 3.1.1.1: Safety Nets designed and implemented

In FY18 Njira has supported 19,965 vulnerable households through the provision of social safety nets against an annual target of 9,056, representing 220% overachievement. Cumulatively, Njira has supported 29,091 vulnerable households with social safety nets against the LoP target of 27,927, representing 104% achievement. This overachievement is attributed to the modification of the selection criteria and the increased number of labor-intensive DRM plans that VCPCs presented to Njira and other stakeholders through the District Council for support. As one of the main partners supporting the implementation of DRM plans, Njira provided resources for labor intensive works (constructing CCT, stone bunds etc.), while

communities pledged to maintain the assets and contribute towards natural resource management (pruning trees, making fire breaks, etc.). Hence, the extra FFA activities were carried out by utilizing food balances from PM2A distributions supporting the completion of watershed development, the remaining tasks for river bank stabilization, the protection of irrigation schemes, and the natural regeneration of community forests.

Intermediate Outcome 3.1.1: Improved management of land, watershed, or other assets as identified by community in DRM plans

In FY18, Njira has supported the rehabilitation of 7,553 ha against an annual target of 4,000 ha, representing 188% achievement. According to an assessment conducted by Njira, in three of the nine watershed sites, there was an improvement in food security compared with the same period last year for households participating in livelihood activities. The assessment revealed that more than 92% of households are food secure compared to those outside watersheds because of their participation in Irrigation, WE/VSL, Marketing, and Livestock farming activities. In addition, nine watershed sites have generated MWK 13,940,000.00 (\$19,227) after investing MWK 5,056,500.00 (\$6,974) in some of the livelihood activities benefiting over 563 households. The assessment also revealed that the participating households are using the income earned from the livelihood activities to buy food.

Sub-Purpose 3.2: Improved DRM structures and risk reduction practices at all levels (community, district, and national)

Njira has supported the DRM structures through capacity building and enhancing coordination at the community, area, district, and national level.

Intermediate Outcome 3.2.1: Strengthened coordination between VCPCs, ACPCs, and DCPCs

A follow up was made to strengthen coordination between Civil Protection Committees (CPCs) at the Area and District level (ACPCs and DCPCs). Overall, the self-supported DRM workshops were attended by 1,224 people (673 Male, 551 Female) and some DCPC members also participated in the meetings, including the Agriculture Development Division representative and the Director of Planning Development (DPD). Action plans were developed from the meetings and the ACPCs aim to hold at least one meeting per quarter.

Lower Level Outcome 3.2.1.1: Strengthened participation of VCPCs, ACPCs, and DCPCs members across committees

Following the capacity building activities conducted for the CPCs in Njira impact areas, there has been an improvement in coordination among the CPCs at all levels. The content and frequency of the coordination meetings has greatly improved and a total of 70 meetings were conducted against an annual target of 55 by the DCPC, ACPCs and VCPC members. The issues discussed in the meetings included; information sharing, review of gaps in the disaster reporting and review of the implementation of VCPCs' disaster risk management plans. These meetings serve for lower level committees to provide feedback to higher level committees.

Output 3.2.1.1.1: VCPC membership restructured to include representation of extension workers from the community

In FY18, Njira administered a quality improvement checklist to assess 29 out of the 35 Njira-targeted and restructured Village CPCs in Balaka, and 5 non-restructured VCPCs in contiguous communities. The assessment established that 80% of the Njira-targeted and restructured VCPCs achieved the recommended standards of meeting at least once a month; reached 86% of recommended standards for developing their vision and creating a constitution and by-laws and for sharing its principles with their communities. In addition, all the VCPCs adhered to the recommended standards for committee membership where representatives from community and volunteers such as Lead farmers, VNRMC chairpersons, Village Health Committee representative, VDC representative among others are part of the

committee and we established 51% of the members in restructured VCPCs were women. In FY18, 36 VCPCs from both Balaka and Machinga mobilized MWK 289,860 (\$402) and 6,480 kg of maize from within their communities to respond to small shocks. Out of the 6,480 kg mobilized, 600 kg have been distributed to 60 vulnerable households each receiving at least 10 kg to support their families.

Intermediate Outcome 3.2.2: Community DRM Plans implemented (all levels)

After the successful development and implementation of DRM plans at the VCPC and ACPC levels, Njira, with the Balaka and Machinga District Councils, consolidated the ACPC plans into District Disaster Risk Management Plans. Hence, all 93 DRM committees have DRM plans developed, representing 100% achievement. The plans have been shared with stakeholders implementing DRM related activities in both districts to guide their implementation.

Lower Level Outcome 3.2.2.1: DCPC, ACPC, VCPC Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans developed Supporting Districts to Develop DRM Plans

In FY18, Njira has supported the implementation of 75 projects (39 Machinga, 36 Balaka) including watershed development (7,553 ha), riverbank stabilization (887 ha), afforestation (1,617 ha), natural regeneration (75 ha) and protection of irrigation schemes from flash floods (37 ha) among others. The communities raised and planted a total of 646,632 tree seedlings without any project support.

Linking VCPC's DRM Plans to Government and Other Development Programs: Following the successful linking of VCPCs' DRM plans to government and other development programs, 27 out of 35 VCPCs (77 %) in Balaka have implemented 54 large-scale DRM projects with support from the Local Development Fund (LDF), Malawi Flood Recovery Project (MFERP) and other stakeholders. While in Machinga, 19 out of 45 VCPCs have implemented 19 large-scale DRM projects with funding from MFERP, Climate proofing and the LDF project. In total, 29,093 beneficiaries (9,890 Male, 19,203 Female) benefited from such interventions.

Lower Level Outcome 3.2.2.1.1: Increased technical capacity of VCPCs, ACPCs, and DCPCs

As reported under P-1 (*under lower level outcome 1.1.1.1*) adoption of soil and water conservation and improved agronomic practices is part of the DRM and climate change adaptation. Hence, measures resulted into increased mitigation capacity building of people adopting risk reduction practices and climate change adaptation and mitigation practices.

Output 3.2.2.1.2: Geo Reference Maps developed and consolidated

Njira is collaborating with members of MASDAP forum, and we have since been requested by the National Spatial Data Center to sign up for the MASDAP forum so that the project can be up-to-date on the data posted in MASDAP and the Creating a Data collaborative for Health and WASH SDGs project run by the Red Cross.

Output 3.2.2.1.1.1: VCPCs, ACPCs and DCPCs trained in DRM

Following the completion of training CPCs in 11 core competencies, Njira has graduated 80 VCPCs. The handover celebration will be done in Q1 of FY19. In addition to the training, Njira project organized exchange learning visits within and outside the project areas. The external learning visit to Salima District Council, in April 2018, was organized to learn how CPCs mobilize resources for the implementation of DRM interventions, such as dike construction etc. The Njira team learned how their counterparts are sustaining interventions that were supported by organizations whose projects phased out.

Climate change capacity building: In FY18, Njira has trained 48,300 stakeholders (21,337 Male, 26,963 Female) in climate change against an annual target of 41,112 people (117% achievement). The climate change trainings involved producer groups, VNRMCs, VDCs and local leader to influence them take leadership in the adaptation and mitigation interventions.

Output 3.2.2.1.1.1.1: Curriculum development for VCPCs, ACPCs, and DCPCs facilitated

Njira consolidated all II core competencies for VCPCs and translated them to Chichewa and put them in a simple format for easy utilization by the VCPCs. These materials will be distributed to the VCPCs during handover ceremonies to be conducted in Q1 of FY19.

Output 3.2.2.1.1.1.1.1 Risks, hazards, assets and resources mapped and analyzed

Following the production of 80 maps for all targeted communities and II targeted TAs completed in FY17, Njira has been supporting the communities to continue utilizing the maps in their planning. In FY18, the geo-referenced maps played a pivotal role in planning development when communities were developing their village level action plans (VLAPs). The VLAPs were then consolidated into a District Development Plans (DDP) which is a five-year master plan for all development activities in the district.

Lower Level Outcome 3.2.2.2: Contingency plans developed or updated at all levels

Based on the Njira-supported geo-referenced hazard maps, Njira provided technical support to all 93 CPCs to revise their contingency plans taking into account the emerging hazards and vulnerabilities such as FAW.

Lower Level OUTCOME 3.2.2.3: EWS structures created/improved

Njira supported the Balaka District Agriculture Office (DADO) to train agriculture extension workers and lead farmers on installation and monitoring of FAW pheromone traps that were provided by the Strengthening Agriculture Nutrition Education (SANE) project. For example, before the installation of the river line gauge in Liwawadzi River at GVH Toleza, more than 6 lives were lost in GVH Matola, the community down stream of GVH Toleza. However, no lives have been lost since the river line gauge was installed at GVH Toleza in 2016.

Output 3.2.2.1.1.2: Good governance, gender and environment training provided

Njira trained 80 Ubwino Centers Management Committees comprising 802 community members (430 Male, 372 Female) in good governance and gender to increase groups' democratic functioning, increase transparency and accountability, and empower communities to identify, analyze and prioritize their own needs in a sustainable manner. In collaboration with the government, Njira will continue to monitor and scale up on utilization of the Ubwino centers through spot checks and review meetings monthly.

Sub-Purpose 3.3: Enhanced community empowerment to manage disasters

Njira has supported the targeted communities to increase their accountability and transparency in service delivery through good governance and gender training. Furthermore, Njira has increased awareness of plans for managing and responding to shocks and stresses and improved access to early warning systems and information related to DRM.

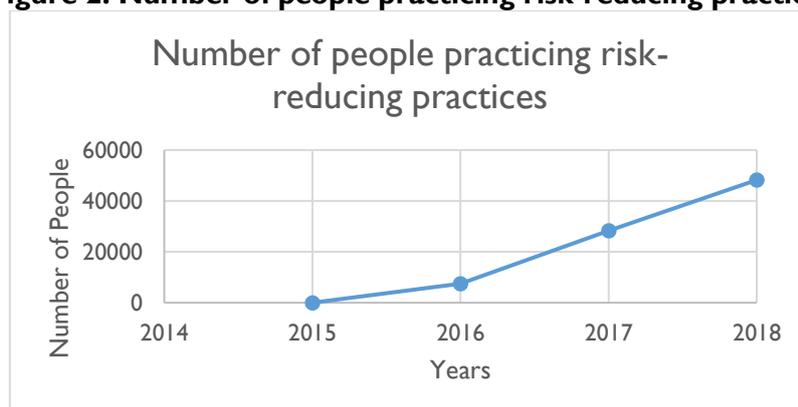
IO 3.3.1: Increased accountability and transparency in service delivery

Njira has observed improved transparency and accountability in the targeted communities. Assessments conducted in FY18 by Njira project revealed that the key local governance groups such as VDCs, VCPCs and Ubwino centers supported by Njira have recorded improvements in areas of upholding the rule of law, demonstrating transparency and accountability and also putting in place mechanisms for conflict resolution.

IO 3.3.2: Increased awareness of plans for managing & responding to shocks

Large-scale DRM awareness campaigns were conducted in all 80 targeted-communities. A total of 48,250 people participated out of the 35,768 targeted for risk-reducing practices related to disaster, agriculture, water and health messages. Through increased awareness of plans for managing and responding to shocks, the number of people practicing risk reducing practices has been increasing since the start of the project. The figure below shows the continuing increase in the number of people practicing risk reducing practices over the years.

Figure 2: Number of people practicing risk-reducing practices



Output 3.3.2.1: Large scale DRM awareness campaigns conducted

Njira conducted large-scale DRM awareness in the 80 targeted-communities, representing 100% achievement. The campaigns were conducted in Q1 and Q2 following the release of the 2017/18 rainfall forecast by the GoM's Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS). Unfortunately, the forecast was not very accurate, and the prolonged dry spell negatively impacted maize yield across the Southern region. To mitigate the impact of dry spells and FAW infestation, communities were encouraged to embark on small scale irrigation farming and plant drought-tolerant crops such as Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes and cassava. Communities were also sensitized on the FAW EWS that have been installed in the whole of Balaka by the Balaka District Agriculture Office. A total of 18,735 community members (4,621 Male, 14,114 Female) attended the meetings which included local leaders and staff from the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD).

Intermediate Outcome 3.3.3: Increased community & HH skills to manage & respond to shocks

Consequent to the Njira-supported simulation exercises, targeted communities have demonstrated increased knowledge and skills to manage and respond to shocks. These simulation exercises, unlike those in the previous seasons, were organized and led by the VCPCs with very little support from Njira.

Output 3.3.3.1: Community led disaster response simulations conducted

Njira has conducted 14 simulation exercises against an annual target of 11, representing 127% overachievement. Besides preparing communities before the on-set of the rains, the exercise tested the effectiveness of the evacuation plans and readiness of the communities to respond in the case of flooding and/or strong winds.

Intermediate Outcome 3.3.4: Improved access to early warning systems and information related to DRM

The operationalization of Ubwino centers has enabled 42,722 people (16,234 Male, 26,488 Female) to have access to EWS and information related to DRM. As a result, 48,250 out of the targeted 35,768 people are practicing disaster, agriculture, and water and health risk reducing practices, representing 135% overachievement.

Output 3.3.4.1: Ubwino centers (community resources center for information sharing) established

Capacity strengthening of Ubwino Centre Committees on Management of the Centers Including Governance: In FY18, 80 Ubwino Centers Management Committees were established and trained on group dynamics, participatory planning and evaluation, good governance and leadership, and resource mobilization. Overall, 802 community members (430 Male, 372 Female) participated in the trainings. A study conducted in Q4 of FY18 has shown that there

have been improvements in evidence and integration of utilization and the existence of sustainability traits and mechanisms in the Ubwino Centers.

In FY18, Njira conducted an assessment which revealed that 75% of the groups that conduct meetings in the centers are supported by Njira, such as VCPCs, VDCs, WE/VSL groups, producer groups, and Care Groups, while about 17% of the Ubwino centers are being used as early childhood development centers (ECD), adult literacy centers, Under-Five clinics, and youth meeting centers. Furthermore, there is evidence of Ubwino center utilization by MoAIWD and others as 88% of centers had information displayed from both the government and the NGOs and the record of activities conducted by other organization in the centers.

III. Direct Participating HH by Sector (SO/Purpose)

Table 3: Number of Direct Participating Households and Beneficiaries Receiving Multiple Interventions by Sector (SO/Purpose)

Total number of unduplicated Households and Beneficiaries under Njira								
Unique HH Count	Total	Purpose 1 only	Purpose 2 only	Purpose 3 only	Purpose 1+2	Purpose 1+3	Purpose 2+3	Purpose 1+2+3
	110,342	20,769	55,594	17,504	7,001	6,892	1,739	843
Total # of Benefic	129,761	22,601	71,389	17,957	7,239	6,955	2,373	1,247

Purpose I: Activities under Purpose I are primarily focused towards improving economic livelihoods of the participants through crop and livestock production, irrigation, WE/VSL and marketing. These activities aim at resilience building and support risk reduction by diversifying and expanding livelihood opportunities, and through engagement of households in off-farm and non-farm income generating activities.

Purpose II: Aims to improve maternal and child health and nutrition as well as access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation by using the Care Group model as a platform.

Purpose III: Disaster Risk Reduction through building community assets and bridging short term hunger gaps with FFA. Mapping of hazards as well as identifying resource and capacity gaps to develop comprehensive disaster readiness and response plans, capture activities such as infrastructure development, sustainable livelihoods and contingency planning.

Cross Cutting Issues

A. Monitoring and Evaluation

In FY18, all remaining data collection tools have been rolled out and all of Njira's FFP and Project specific indicators have been integrated in G-Path according to their indicator definitions in the PIRS and reflecting the TOC revision exercise. In addition, the data entry interfaces for all the new and revised data collection tools have also been integrated successfully in G-Path. Following the TOC revision exercise, Njira has updated the IPTT by including the new indicators and by making revisions on the existing revised indicators, in addition, PIRS have also been revised for the existing indicators and a dashboard was also designed in G-Path to enable management to access the performance of each indicators from the database. While inputting data for the FY18 ARR, we noted a discrepancy between the IPTT and the SAPQ in baseline values for indicator 16, which derive from the FY16 Annual Survey. The values from the FY18 ARR IPTT remain correct and consistent with what was submitted in previous years but differ from what is in the SAPQ. Once the FY18 ARR IPTT is approved, Njira will make appropriate edits in the SAPQ for baseline values for this indicator.

GMP Data collection strategy revision: Previously, growth monitoring data was collected monthly by Neighbour Women, and the sheer volume of data made it difficult for Njira unit to effectively review, enter and report regularly. To address the challenge, Njira consulted with USAID mission and revised the data collection strategy in May 2018.

Quality Improvement Verification: Njira has designed a quality verification strategy and checklist for all interventions and integrated 10 checklists into CommCare.

Annual Beneficiary Survey: To measure achievements against targets for selected project indicators which are reported annually, as well as to assess Njira's beneficiary's knowledge and practice regarding different program interventions, Njira undertook an annual beneficiary survey in Oct 2017 to inform the annual report. A total of 1,575 households were interviewed.

LCI End-line Evaluation Survey: PCI's Women Empowerment (WE) initiative promotes ways by which women can achieve social and economic empowerment for themselves, their families and their communities. To measure progress towards this goal, Njira administered a Lives Changed Indices (LCI) survey instrument to measure the impact at the individual-level across a broad spectrum of social, behavioural, and economic characteristics associated with improvements in quality of life and women's empowerment. Njira conducted an LCI end-line in January 2018 following the baseline survey which was held in July 2016 in both districts.

Resilience Study: Njira conducted a resilience study in April 2018. The main objectives of the study were to primarily assess which combination of Njira interventions that seem to catalyse and/ or accelerate resilience building; deepen understanding on how household asset holding influence resilience outcomes, and estimate the associations between resilience capacities, food and income security, and participation in multiple Njira interventions. In total, Njira surveyed 557 beneficiaries, representing a response rate of 87.6%. The non-response was mainly due to migration of eligible participants. The Resilience Study results and analysis are currently in the finalization process and will be shared with USAID once available.

Share-out Survey: Following the WE/VSL share-outs at the end of FY17, Njira conducted a share-out survey to understand how the money obtained through WE/VSL share-outs is contributing towards investments in other Njira interventions. The survey targeted 239 groups in both the Machinga and Balaka districts and results captured under PI report.

Collaborative learning- Case Study Development: Besides the capacity building of staff and EMMP implementation, PCI and CRS tasked Sun Mountain International with developing a case study around the environmentally-related aspects of the projects, which has unearthed the factors that are affecting the tree survival rates in implementation areas of the project.

B. Coordination and Collaboration

Review of the National Disaster Risk Management Communication Strategy: Njira participated in the review of the National Disaster Risk Management Communication Strategy (NDRMCS) held from 2nd to 5th July 2018.

Participation in National IWM Task Force: Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (EP&D) under Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Division with support from GIZ, is coordinating the National Task Force for Integrated Watershed Management (IWM).

Coordination and Learning: There is a nationwide recognition and interest to invest in watershed management in Malawi. The GoM through the Department of Economic Planning and Development approached PCI to share with them Njira's Watershed strategy and training materials. Currently, through the Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC) they are adapting Njira materials to use in their Local Development Fund (LDF) programs where the focus will be on watershed development. During the year, an entourage of senior official and extension workers including directors and principal officers from MoAIWD, Forestry

Department, Water Department, NLGFC, GIZ, World Bank, DoDMA, Concern Worldwide, United Purpose, and UNDP among others have been visiting Njira's watershed interventions to learn the successes Njira has registered.

USAID partners: Njira collaborated with AgDiv (FtF project) to access drip irrigation kits for demonstration and PICS bags for marketing. Our collaboration with AgDiv is complementary and of mutual benefit to both of our programs. Similarly, Njira is collaborating with MISST. We were able to secure improved seed for Sorghum and Pear Millet which we can't find in the market. Limited collaboration with LGAP and ONSE is happening but we can't do much in FY19 as Njira is winding its field implementation.

C. Sustainability

Support District Councils in DDP/VAP Process: In FY18, Njira and LGAP, a USAID-funded project on local governance accountability and performance for councils, supported Balaka and Machinga district councils in updating their District Development Plans (DDP). Njira and LGAP collaborated to initiate review and development of Village Action Plans (VAPs) in Balaka and Machinga. Njira contributed to the process at the community level (GVH and TA) through mobilization of Njira groups and community resources (e.g. geo-reference maps) and VDC members to actively contribute to the process and be able to influence and share a strong voice within VDC/ADC structures. Njira also took part in consolidating the VAPs to come up with a five-year DDP for both Districts.

Sustainability readiness assessment: Njira is coordinating with district councils to conduct a comprehensive sustainability readiness self-assessment targeting VDCs and ADCs as they are the two local governance structures that have a broader mandate overseeing the sustainability components. This assessment aimed at analyzing the institutional readiness of Njira stakeholders to sustain support for key project structures and achievements. The self-assessment was conducted in all 80 GVHs (80 VDCs) under 11 T/As in the Njira impact area, and preliminary results indicate the local governance structures (VDCs and ADCs) generally feel ready and able to support sustaining achievements made by the Njira. Njira will utilize the results to provide tailored support to individual VDCs and ADCs based on strengths and gaps identified to ensure their readiness to support and sustain achievements of the communities.

Collaboration with Other Partners for Sustainability: One of the three key exit and graduation mechanisms in the Njira Sustainability Strategy is phasing over responsibility from Njira groups to other key stakeholders. Apart from collaborating and facilitating linkages with government ministries and departments, Njira has also facilitated linkages between WE/VSL groups and COMSIP, between agri-business groups and NASFAM, and between producer groups and Village Agriculture Committees. Furthermore, Njira has conducted joint field days with district stakeholder structures, i.e. DA ECC, as well as joint supervision and monitoring with decentralized structures (VDC and ADC) to ensure ownership of interventions.

D. Governance Local Capacity Strengthening

Capacity Strengthening in Good Governance for Njira Groups: In FY18 Njira conducted a review of all sectoral QIVCs to align them to the Njira sustainability strategy. Through QIVCs, the project has identified high performing Njira groups who have so far been graduated as part of the project's exit and sustainability strategies. By the end of FY18, Njira has graduated 98 percent of all Njira groups. Njira also used the QIVC assessment findings to further strengthen the capacity of community groups in good governance to, among other things, increase groups' democratic functioning, increase transparency and accountability and empower communities to identify, analyze and prioritize their own needs in a sustainable manner. Njira therefore conducted staff refresher trainings in Governance and gender to enhance their skills and knowledge transfer mechanisms to the community groups that Njira works with.

Ensuing the integration of governance trainings into capacity building initiatives for all Njira groups (producer groups, care groups, WE/VSL groups, water point committees, VDCs, VCPCs, Ubwino center management committees) has led to improvements in many good governance parameters, including; development of clear visions and action plans, improvement in record keeping systems and more inclusion of marginalized persons in leadership positions.

IV. Challenges, Success and Lessons Learned

Challenge	Response	Status
1. Most of the Njira-provided rain gauges are broken and Lead Farmers are asking for replacement	Farmers encouraged to utilize information provided by DCCMS through radios and extension workers. Farmers that are close to Extension Planning Area (EPA) can access the data from the rain gauges available at the EPA	Improvement on use of the rainfall data from EPA would fill the gap. And the weather information on radio will also complement
2. Dry spells affected the growth and survival of the tree seedlings transplanted at the onset of the rain	Njira encouraged the communities to mulch and irrigate where possible to increase survival of the seedlings.	Njira to establish the survival rate of the transplanted tree seedlings in the 1 st quarter of FY19.
3. Less commitment from some promoters upon phase out of the stipends	Facilitators working closely with Community Champion Mothers (CCMs) and willing promoters	Working with CCMs
4. Misunderstanding of the meaning of graduation by some Care Groups	Clarifications to be made during CCM reviews and meetings with the CMT and CHAGS	Clarifications to be done

Annex I: Photo Gallery

AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION AND LIVESTOCK



Lead farmers pose for a group photo during manual distribution at Mbera Ubwino centre in STA Kachenga



Lead farmers at a training session in TA Kalembo



Training session on the use of PICS bags in GVH Amidu



Farmers appreciating assorted vegetables at the Mwasalale Irrigation Scheme during a field day



WUA Representatives receiving handover certificates during one of the irrigation handover ceremonies in TA Nsamala



Signing of papers during an irrigation handover ceremony in TA Nsamala



CAHWs refresher training in progress at Zomba RTC



A local chicken beneficiary of GVH Mpulula feeding and administering vaccinations to her chickens

AGRIBUSINESS AND WE/VSL



NASFAM officials orienting Njira staff on NASFAM structures



Price negotiation between livestock farmers and the owner of Baobab Restaurant in Liwonde



Basic Business Skills training in progress



Community members from Mgwirizano who received Basic Business Skills training displaying their cook stoves



WE/VSL meeting in progress in TA Amidu



WE/VSL Group graduation ceremony in Msamala



Titukulane WE/VSL Group of Chiyendausiku receiving a grant from the COMSIP officer



Msamala WE members on a learning visit in TA Sawali



Interface meeting between Njira Farmers and buyers during the Balaka Agriculture Fair



Honey and baobab products showcased at the Balaka Agriculture Fair



Livestock farmer displaying a certificate of participation at the Balaka Agriculture Fair



Farmers appreciating goods displayed at the Balaka Agriculture Fair

NUTRITION, RMNCH AND WASH



A cluster leader's backyard garden in TA Kachenga



A cluster woman's drip-irrigated backyard garden in TA Kalembo



Display of recipes prepared in TA Amidu by Care Group members



Solar-dried Lablab (khunguzu) for future use



Solar-dried cowpeas leaves for future use



Porridge preparation during CCFLS



Cluster leader taking MUAC of a child at an Active Case Management session in Balaka



Community dialogue at GVH Mpulula in TA Msamala



Mlangeni Water Point Committee members completing final touches on a rehabilitated borehole using their operation and maintenance funds

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE



Pot filling done in some tree nurseries raised by VNRMC in Balaka



Improvised tubes using banana stem in raising tree seedlings in Machinga



One of the tree seedling nursery fences in Machinga



Cooking stoves ready for sale in Machinga



Vegetable production in a watershed in Machinga



Harvested tomatoes from a watershed in Balaka



ACPC coordination meeting in Balaka



Government of Malawi departmental directors appreciating impacts of watershed at Simbota, and the impacts of harvesting rain water in Balaka



Community member demonstrating to Government of Malawi departmental directors on how to mold cooking stoves in Balaka



Communities revising their DRM plans in Balaka



A meeting in progress at Matola Ubwino Centre



Discussions underway at Kadyalunda Ubwino Centre

IRRIGATION FARMING (RESILIENCE BUILDING)



Transforming food & income through irrigation



Appreciating vegetables grown through irrigation