



Njira Project

Cooperative Agreement AID-FFP-A-15-00003/AID-OAA-A-15-00018

September 29, 2014 – September 28, 2019

Project Quarterly Report

(April – June 2015)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	Executive Summary	5
2.0	Start-up Activities	6
3.0	Performance Updates by Purpose	7
	<i>Purpose 1: Increased Income</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Purpose 2: Improved Health and Nutrition</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Purpose 3: Improved Capacity to Prepare for, Manage, and Respond to Shocks</i>	<i>14</i>
	Cross-Cutting Themes	15
	Governance.....	15
	Monitoring and Evaluation	15
	Gender.....	15
4.0	Challenges During Q3	16
5.0	Plans for Q4	16

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADC	Area Development Committees
ADD	Agriculture Development Division
AGRA	Agriculture Revolution Africa
ARCII	Addressing Root Causes II
BA	Barrier Analysis
BEMOC	Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
CAHW	Community Animal Health Workers
CCM	Community Case Management
CCCM	Camp Coordination & Camp Management
CHAM	Christian Health Association of Malawi
CIAT	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
CIP	International Potato Centre
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
COP	Chief of Party
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CU	Concern Universal
DBC	Design for Behaviour Change
DCDO	District Community Development Office
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDRMC	District Disaster Risk Management Committee
DEC	District Executive Committees
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DNO	District Nursing Officer
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EHA	Essential Hygiene Actions
GALIDRAA	Greet Ask Listen Identify Discuss Ask for commitment Appointment
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HSAs	Health Surveillance Assistant
INVC	Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains (Feed the Future)
IO	International Office (PCI)
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
KMC	Kangaroo Mother Care
MoGCSW	Ministry of Gender Children & Social welfare
MOH	Ministry of Health
MT	Metric Tonnes
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NASFAM	National Smallholder Farmers of Malawi
NERP	Njira Emergency Response Project
OFSP	Orange-fleshed Sweet Potato
OPV	Open Pollinated Variety
PSP	Private Service Provider
Q3	Quarter 3

Q4	Quarter 4
RMNCH	Reproductive Maternal Nutrition and Child Health
RTCIP	Root Tubers Crops Innovation Platform
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SSDI	Support for Service Delivery Interventions
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TA	Traditional Authorities
TOC	Theory of Change
TOT	Training of Trainers
TSU	Technical Support Unit
VCPC	Village Civil Protection Committees
VDC	Village Development Committees
VGH	Village Group Headman
VSL	Village Savings and Loans
WE	Women Empowered
WPC	Water Point Committees
YFHS	Youth Friendly Health Services

1.0 Executive Summary

This report covers progress made in the third quarter (Q3) of FY15 for the USAID-funded Njira Project, covering the period April 1, 2015, to June 30, 2015. Below are the highlights for the quarter under review.

The Njira team participated in the May 6th Mega Launch of five recently awarded projects under the USAID Social Economic Growth Sector portfolio. The launch was attended by the U.S. Ambassador to Malawi, as the guest of honor, together with Dr. Allan Chiyembekeza, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, and Bright Msaka, Minister of Energy and Mining.

The Chiefs of Party (COP) of the Njira and UBALE projects joined together to visit various national-level ministries with which the two projects will work, in order to formally introduce each project and solicit support for implementation. The visits went extremely well, and the ministries expressed their expectation for close collaboration and coordination at all levels of government.

In the period under review, the project finalized the registration strategy to guide household and beneficiary registration in Machinga and Balaka districts and subsequently rolled out the registration exercise in both districts. By the end of Q3 FY15, 22,470 households had been registered.

The project continued to conduct orientations, meetings, and training activities with project staff and various stakeholders. These activities were designed to help Njira technical staff and other stakeholders familiarize themselves with the project, as well as Njira's theory of change (TOC) and the diverse platforms, technologies, strategies and tools that will be used to achieve project objectives.

Njira collaborated with FLORAS (Flood Response for Agriculture and Sanitation) an OFDA-funded project implemented by PCI and Emmanuel International (EI), to provide technical assistance and capacity building to flood-affected communities. Njira's P1 team trained 1,941 farmers (935M, 1006F) on orange-flesh sweet potato (OFSP) vines and seed multiplication, and Njira's P2 team trained 166 local artisans to assist flood-affected households in the molding of sanitation platforms. During Q3 1,488 sanitation platforms were cast, and the construction of toilets is on course. Njira also guided the rehabilitation of ten boreholes in Balaka, which are now providing clean water to approximately 13,000 people. Njira's P3 team held sensitization meetings with Area Development Committee (ADC) and Village Development Committee (VDC) members, with participation of 1,546 people, to present the concept of establishing Ubwino Centers in all project targeted Group Village Headman (GVH), which will serve as a meeting space for community activities related to food security and disaster risk management; house key information and materials; and serve as a demonstration area for new technologies.

The full description of all project activities that were undertaken in the period under review has been outlined in the main report structured according to the three primary purposes of the project.

2.0 Start-up Activities

Household and Beneficiary Registration

Njira finalized the registration strategy, which was developed to guide household and beneficiary registration. To contextualize the registration process, the registration team first conducted a registration scoping exercise, visiting a sample of Traditional Authorities (TAs), including three TAs in Machinga (Nkoola, Ngokwe and Kapoloma) and two TAs in Balaka (Kalembo and Sawale). During this exercise, the team assessed the availability of guides, road accessibility, and village registers needed for the verification of registered households. The findings helped to refine and contextualize the registration strategy.



Registration clerk verifying the age of under 5 using health passport

Subsequently, Njira organized a two-day registration orientation in each district targeting Njira project staff (managers, coordinators and facilitators). A total of 75 attended the trainings including 40 in Balaka (16 female; 24 male) and 35 in Machinga (20 male; 15 female).

The registration exercise started on June 8th, and is expected to finish by July 31st, targeting 40,000 households: 16,000 in Balaka and 24,000 in Machinga. The registration criteria included households with pregnant and lactating women, as well as households with children under 5 years of age. At the time of report preparation, a total of 22,470 households had been registered: 9,920 in Balaka and 12,550 in Machinga.

Some challenges were encountered in the early stages of the process, such as inability of some facilitators to use GPS equipment in the collection of dwelling units for targeted households, however on-site mentorship on the use of GPS was organized and the problems were resolved.

USAID Mega-Launch

The Njira project was officially launched in Liwonde on May 6th, 2015. Guests of honor included: Virginia Palmer, U.S. Ambassador to Malawi; Dr. Allan Chiyembekeza, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development; and Bright Msaka, Minister of Energy and Mining.

At the mega-launch, each of the five new projects set up booths to display information and technologies relevant to their respective projects. Njira developed a display using erosion trays that highlighted the benefits of mulching and cover crops as promoted under Njira's conservation agriculture approach, which is designed to reduce the high levels of erosion common in Malawi. Additionally, Njira displayed sanitation platforms (latrine pit covers) and

tippy taps (i.e. simple hand washing stations made with recycled plastic bottles, string and wood / branches), technologies that will be promoted under its WASH component, as well as a display with its partner, Village Reach, showing the use of mobile phone technologies for delivering health related messages to targeted beneficiaries. Finally, Njira included live poultry and pigeon displays that highlighted one of the chicken varieties to be promoted under Njira, as well as modern pigeon housing constructed from locally grown bamboo (Njira will pilot test pigeon rearing for ultra-poor and landless households).

National Level Meetings

The COPs of Njira and UBALE joined together to visit various national-level ministries with which the projects will work, in order to formally introduce each project and solicit support for implementation. The following Primary Secretaries (PS) were met: Agriculture (Erica Maganga); Irrigation and Water Development (Sandram Maweru); and Local Government (Dorothy Banda). The COPs also met key department Directors, specifically the: Department of Disaster & Management Affairs (Paul Chiunguzeni); HIV/AIDS & Nutrition (Felix Pensulo Phiri); Ministry of Health Director of Budgeting & Planning (Dalitso Kubambe); and Agriculture Extension Services (Stella Kamkwamba). The visits went well, and the Ministries expressed their desire for close collaboration and coordination at all levels of government, which both COPs committed to do.

3.0 Performance Updates by Purpose

During Q3, Njira continued with its capacity building activities, coordination meetings, and community mobilisation initiatives.

Purpose 1: Increased Income

Progress Against Targets

Njira combined resources with PCI's OFDA-funded "Flood Response for Agriculture and Sanitation" (FLORAS) to train farmers and distribute essential agricultural inputs to flood-affected households, directly benefiting 11,660 people in Balaka (5,616 male; 6,044 female).

The Njira technical team trained 1,941 farmers (935 male, 1,006 female) on OFSP vines and seed multiplication in Balaka. This ensured the proper use of seeds and vines purchased with OFDA funds, including 2,000 packets of cowpeas (Sudan I and IT82E16 varieties); 2,000 bundles of OFSP vines; 800 packets of okra; 1,590 packets of Amaranths; and 1,590 packets of local rape seed, benefiting a total 16,660 farmers (5616 male; 6044 female) in Balaka.

Njira also received \$100,000 of additional funding through "Njira Emergency Response Proposal" (NERP), with which it will procure early maturing seeds and vines, as well as specific seeds to establish live ground cover on bare agriculture lands for flood-affected farmers and provide them with training on the production/consumption of the early-maturing seeds and vines, as well as basic concepts of conservation agriculture, food processing and preservation and household nutrition in Q4.

Capacity Building

Njira conducted a comprehensive Women Empowered (WE) / Village Savings and Loans (VSL) Training of Trainers (TOT) in Liwonde from May 25-29th, 2015. The training aimed at building the capacity of local government stakeholders and Njira's own WE/VSL staff, providing them with key WE principles and benefits, and the methodology that will be used to cascade the concept to community agents.

Table 1: Number of Participants During Training

Type of Participant	Male	Female	Total
Njira Staff (PCI + EI)	10	8	18
Government Staff (Community Development Assistants)	5	2	7
Total	15	10	25

Njira staff also participated in important workshops and conferences as indicated in Table 2:

Table 2: Workshops and Conferences attended During Q3

Event	Participants	Outcome
Feed the Future Innovation Lab Partners Meeting	COP, DCOP and Agribusiness Advisor	Njira will adopt some of the Innovation Lab technologies that have been tested and proven to address constraints faced by farmers i.e. use of bio-fortified beans.
National Legume Seed Development Industry Conference	Agribusiness Advisor and Agriculture Advisor	Discussed issues of making improved legume seed accessible to small scale farmers through better coordination and collaboration of NGO research institutions, private sector and donors.
Beating Famine Conference	Agriculture Advisor	Provided direction for Njira's conservation agriculture strategy
Conservation Agriculture Symposium	Agriculture Advisor	Provided direction for Njira's conservation agriculture strategy

Inter-Organizational Coordination Relevant to P1

Njira held meetings with NGOs working in the two districts to discuss further collaboration on women economic empowerment issues. The meetings were attended by Machinga Private Service Provider (PSP) Network as well as the District Community Development Offices of Machinga and Balaka.

Njira held consultative meetings with INVC and NASFAM to discuss and share experiences on collaboration and coordination in promoting legume value chains in Balaka and Machinga district. The meeting focused on discussing key leverage points where PCI and other USAID-funded partners can work together towards strengthening agricultural production and improving rural livelihoods. Additional consultative meetings were held with FISH¹, FAO, and the Farmers Union of Malawi.

The Njira team made contact with potential buyers and processors of crops to be promoted. The companies included: Sensed Oil Limited; Agricultural Commodity Exchange Limited; Grain Traders and Processor Association; Agriculture Green Revolution for Africa (AGRA); Chibuku Product; and Agro-Input Suppliers Limited. These meetings represented the first step towards rapid market assessment in the value chain analysis process that Njira will be embarking on in Q4. The majority of buyers indicated that there is a readily available market

¹ FISH: Fisheries Integration of Society & Habitats-USAID Funded Project

for crops if the farmers are organised. For example, Agro Input Suppliers Limited and Sun Seed Oil Limited indicated that they can provide the seed input and technical back up on production, processing and value addition at village level. They also proposed that they can offer forward contracts to Njira farmers, and the farmers can use those contracts to access input loans from the banks if needed. Sensed Oil Limited proposed that they are willing to open buying centers in the project sites, provided there is enough volume i.e. 50-100 metric tons (MT) of produce. Another buyer, Farmers World, is interested in entering formal agreements with Njira farmers to grow and sell 100 MT of cow peas in the 2015/2016 agriculture season. The Njira project plans to use groups formed under WALA² in Balaka in cementing these linkages so that we have the market platform set for new farmers.

Other P1 Activities

Women Empowered/Village Savings and Loans (WE/VSL)

In order to create a strategy for WE/VSL group support and formation, Njira undertook an assessment of the existing VSL groups in Balaka and Machinga. In addition to simply finding the numbers of groups and their location, Njira assessed their functionality with the intent of potentially strengthening existing groups by training them in PCI's WE methodology, due to its combination of economic empowerment and social change discussions. The assessment is two-fold: 1) The Njira team carried out a desk review of existing VSL activities in Balaka and Machinga to better understand how many VSL groups exist in the Njira catchment area and the organizations supporting them, and subsequently met each of these organizations about the groups they support in the area in each GVH. This assessment helped Njira map the gaps in savings-led economic empowerment and develop its plan for the way forward. The second step of the assessment will be to evaluate the functionality of a sample of the existing groups. An Assessment Tool (Annex 1) was developed to assess a group's effectiveness both in financial transactions, but also its social consciousness and willingness to be supported through further training. The tool was successfully tested in the field and is ready for implementation which will be completed by Njira Field Facilitators during Q4.

The WE/VSL Technical Advisor travelled to both Ethiopia and Tanzania, where she visited PCI WE groups at different stages of their development, and participated in a PCI WE Africa Regional Workshop. The main lessons learned from both trips which will be applied in Njira were: 1) how to introduce the WE Initiative so that groups truly understand the methodology's dual focus on financial empowerment and social empowerment; 2) how to develop and support Cluster Level Associations, which increase advocacy capacity of economically vulnerable women; 3) the importance of conducting a wealth ranking exercise so that groups formed are homogeneous enough to build trust and work cohesively, and 4) opportunities and challenges of private sector partners such as Solar Sisters, who are helping women become solar product entrepreneurs and consequently building business developments skills among WE members in Tanzania. Based on this workshop, the Njira team has refined its plan to integrate WE groups with the other Njira activities; the role Njira has with issues such as gender-based violence; and how to build the capacity of WE groups in terms of numeracy and basic business skills.

Agriculture

i. Irrigation

² WALA: Wellness Agriculture for Live Advancement

Agricane, Njira P1 Technical Lead, drafted Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for small-scale irrigation and rain water harvesting, and completed the survey of 50 hectares of potential irrigation land in Balaka and Machinga. This survey included site selection and identification, site designs, designing of MOUs with input from communities, submission of micro-grant application forms to lead partners (which includes Bill of Quantities & Environment Mitigation screening forms), and farmer sensitization meetings. The next steps include the signing of MOUs between the Irrigation Committee and the land owners.

ii. Conservation Agriculture

Njira drafted Standard Operating Procedures for conservation agriculture and these will be finalized in Q4. Njira has also been working closely with PERFORM³ on the roll-out of its training curriculum for Conservation Agriculture based on national guidelines. Njira agriculture staff will participate in PERFORM's ToT in Q4.

iii. CIAT⁴ Bio-fortified Bean Seed

Njira purchased 1.7 tons of bean seed bio-fortified with iron and zinc for winter multiplication on irrigation sites. However, due to delays in obtaining the foundation seed certificate, the seed has been stored for October/November summer planting.

Livestock

Njira developed its guidelines for the recruitment and functioning of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) and a feasibility assessment of a CAHW pay-for-service system in consultation with the government's veterinary service providers. With these guidelines, the Njira team initiated a process to identify candidates to fulfil the role of CAHW, and also began assessing performance gaps in community-based preventative interventions (e.g. deworming and vaccinations against Newcastle disease).

In consultation with village development committee members and government extension staff, Njira initiated an assessment on the production of pigeons and indigenous chicken. This will enable the project to better understand livestock dynamics in the communities where project will be implementing its livestock activities.

Purpose 2: Improved Health and Nutrition

Progress against Targets

Njira combined resources with PCI's OFDA-funded "Flood Response for Agriculture and Sanitation" (FLORAS) to cast and provide 1,488 sanitation platforms (sanplats) to flood-affected households. In ensuring effective and efficient work on sanplats casting, the Njira's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Specialist developed WASH guidelines subsequently trained 166 local artisans (88 male; 78 female) to assist flood-affected households in the molding of the sanplats. Njira's WASH Specialist also guided the rehabilitation of ten boreholes in Balaka, which are now directly benefiting approximately 13,000 people⁵, and the construction of tippy taps for improved hand-washing. Additionally, Njira led the training of water point committees in all communities with rehabilitated boreholes on topics including

³ PERFORM – Protecting Eco Systems and Restoring Forests in Malawi, USAID funded project.

⁴ CIAT is the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, lead agency for climate change, agriculture and food security for the CGIAR Consortium.

⁵ This is a preliminary result based on the Government of Malawi's estimate of 1,300 users of each borehole. The actual number of beneficiaries is likely to be much higher, and Njira will gather more accurate information in Q4, based on the number of villages that use each borehole.

borehole maintenance, hygienic practices, and the identification and appropriate management of diarrheal cases. A total of 100 committee members (25 male; 75 female) were trained.

Some of the work is captured in pictures below:



From left to right: Rehabilitated water points (picture 1 & 2) and alternative source of water prior to rehabilitation (picture 3).

Njira also supported Child Health Days in June, 2015, whereby approximately 140,000 children were able to access various under-five essential health services such as growth monitoring, immunizations, and vitamin A supplementation. Njira contributed to each district according to the district gap analysis: i.e. support for outreach worker per-diems in two TAs in Balaka (Amidu and Kalembo) and support for outreach team transport costs in Machinga.

Capacity Building

The PCI International Office conducted a 5-day Care Group training for Njira project staff and Government Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Health for both Balaka and Machinga. A total of 34 participants (18 males; 16 females) attended the meeting which was held from March 30 – April 2, 2015. Participants comprised of the DCOP, Nutrition and RMNCH team members, WASH Specialist, Program Coordinators (Nutrition, RMNCH, and M&E), Field Facilitators, and also staff from INVC. Subsequent to the training, Njira finished the following activities:

- Revision of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) flipcharts, which the Malawi MOH requires that all development partners use for hygiene and nutrition behavior change.
- Development of a Care Group DIP using a template that was shared by IO team to assist the team to develop a plan of how to roll out care group activities
- Collaboration with the PCI International Office in the development of a Care Group introductory module to be used to train Care Groups
- Revision of findings from the barrier analysis on hand washing and their incorporation in the Essential Hygiene module

PCI's Senior RMNCH Technical Advisor supported the Njira team on a trip to Malawi in May. During her visit she reviewed the P2 annual work plan and helped prioritize activities for the remainder of year one. She also provided guidance on the following strategic issues:

- Incorporation of the GALIDRAA participatory training approach in the SUN modules
- Preparation of plans for PCI modules on RMNCH and early childhood development
- Harmonizing Concern Universal and PCI Care Group methodologies in target districts
- Preparatory planning for the father and youth groups
- Revision and analysis of the Health Facility Survey, working with SSDI partners

In Q3, Njira organized a ToT training on Designing for Behavioral Change (DBC) and Barrier Analysis (BA) for its Technical Advisors and district-level Technical Coordinators. A total of 28 participants attended the TOT, which was facilitated by the consultant Bonnie Kittle. The main objective of the training was to equip the participants with knowledge and skills in the development of DBC frameworks (i.e. defining the behavior, priority group, determinants, bridges to activities and activities), and conducting Doer/Non-Doer and Barrier Analyses, which are essential for designing effective social and behavior change communication (SBCC) materials. The barrier analysis training included the steps of defining the essential behavior, writing behavior screening questions, writing research questions, learning to interview, organizing field work, conducting the survey, coding tabulating and analyzing data, and using the results to make decisions. As part of the training course, participants were able to conduct an actual survey on the identification of determinants for optimal hand washing to feeding, as well as exclusive breastfeeding. The technical team analyzed the results, and the consultant is preparing a final report. The findings will be used in reinforcing behaviors in the first Care Group module on Hygiene & Sanitation to be rolled out in Q4.

PCI’s Senior Commodity Advisor conducted a training workshop for Njira staff with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the project team in the management of food commodities, including internal transportation of commodities from the port through to the delivery of rations to the end users. The workshop helped in developing a common understanding on PM2A targeting and exit criteria and on how commodities will be used as a resource in Njira.

Njira’s WASH Specialist participated in the orientation of Area Development Committee (ADC) members of T/A Kalembo and Amidu. The meetings were aimed at introducing the project to the community leaders and other stakeholders.

Table: 3 Summary of Participants Attending Workshops and Trainings

Type of Training/ Workshop	Male	Female	Total
Designing for Behavioural Change (DBC) and Barrier Analysis (BA) ToT	8	10	18
Commodity Management Training	20	7	27
WASH orientation for ADC members	86	27	113
Care Group Training	13	16	29

Inter-Organizational Coordination Relevant to P2

Njira participated in a nutrition and HIV situational analysis and planning meeting for South East Districts, organized by the MOH in collaboration with Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA) and Dignitas International (DI). MoH District teams shared their experiences regarding integrating nutrition and HIV, and the implementing partners shared accomplishments, challenges and action points to addresses those challenges.

A series of Care Group modules will be rolled out in Njira in FY16. Four of the modules to be used come from the MOH & MoGCSW’s Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) modules which complement the 1000 Special Days Global initiative, specifically covering the areas of hygiene and sanitation, maternal nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, and infant and young child feeding. The Njira team participated in the SUN Core Team meeting held at Social Welfare Chamber in Balaka in April. Objectives of the meeting were to become familiar with the District SUN Care Group Model, introduce Njira’s Care Group concept and structure, and identify potential areas of overlap/conflict and strategies to best manage these situations. Related to this, Njira

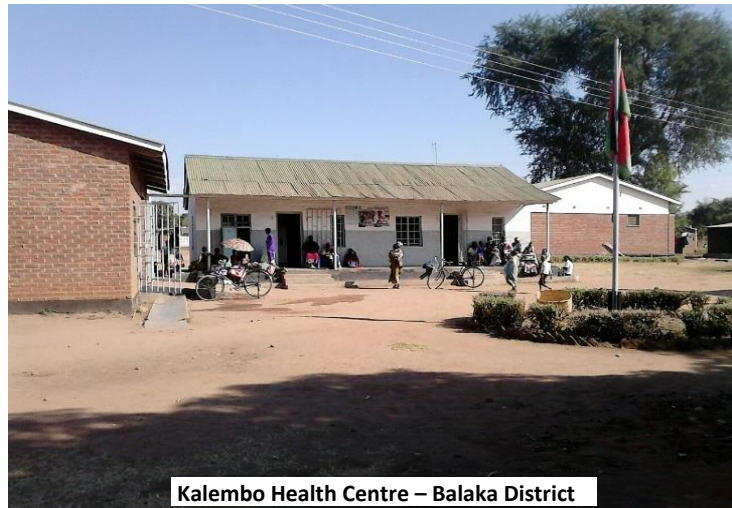
also met with Concern Universal officials to gain an understanding of the geographical coverage of their Care Group program in Balaka.

In June, Njira participated in the Roots & Tuber Crops Innovation Platform (RTCIP) sweet potato meeting in Bvumbwe. The objective of the meeting was to share experiences and challenges in the adoption of OFSP in Malawi; how OFSP can be integrated in nutrition programming; and enhancing OFSP market opportunities.

Other P2 Activities

Health Facility Assessments

The Njira team worked with Balaka district government health personnel in Balaka to conduct health facility assessments from April 28-30, 2015. The assessments covered eight health facilities, namely the Balaka District hospital and seven health centers (i.e. in Mbela Health Centre, Ulongwe Health Centre, Kalembo Health Centre, Namanolo Health Centre, Nandumbo Health Centre, Kwitanda Health Centre and



Kalembo Health Centre – Balaka District

Chiyendausiku Health Centre). The same health facility assessments were conducted in Machinga from May 18-22, 2015. The Machinga assessments targeted nine health centers (Nanyumbu, Ngokwe, Chikweo, Nainunje, Namanja, Nkwepere, Mpiri, and Nayuchi Health Centers). Eight of the Health Centers are owned by the MOH and one facility (Mpiri) is owned by CHAM.

Following the completion of these assessments, a planning meeting with Machinga District partners concluded in the prioritization of the following capacity building needs: Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS); Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEMOC); Community Case Management (CCM) of childhood illnesses; and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), as well as strengthening supervision and facility review meetings. In Q4, Njira will meet with other key stakeholders such as SSDI to determine the support to be provided by each organization and facilitate collaboration.

Essential Newborn Action

PCI's Senior Technical RMNCH Advisor from its Washington DC office and Njira's RMNCH Advisor met with the MoH Director of Reproductive Health and carried out additional facility assessments as part of a process to finalize plans to assist the Malawian MoH in improving management of premature and low-birth weight newborns. This took place in conjunction with PCI's global "Every Preemie – Scale" funded by USAID, through which PCI will contribute to the implementation of the country's Essential Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) on the prevention, management, and care for infants born prematurely and/or with low-birth weight.

Purpose 3: Improved Capacity to Prepare for, Manage, and Respond to Shocks

Progress against Targets

Sensitization meetings took place with Area Development Committee (ADC) and Village Development Committee (VDC) members during Q3, with participation of 1,546 people (786 male; 760 female). The aim of the sensitization meetings was to communicate to community leaders and stakeholders about Njira project strategies regarding the establishment and operation of Ubwino Centers. Njira will work with VDCs to establish and operate Ubwino Centers in all project targeted GVHs, which will serve as a meeting space for community activities related to food security and disaster risk management (DRM); house key information and materials; and serve as a demonstration area for new technologies. The VDCs have already identified locations for the placement of these Ubwino Centres, and Njira staff began visiting the identified places and discussing with the communities how to operationalize these centres.

Capacity Building

Njira's DRM Advisor and DRM Field Coordinators from both Balaka and Machinga Districts attended a training on "Camp Coordination and Camp Management" (CCCM) during natural disasters, organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The training aimed at equipping partners with a shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the district council members in accordance with international principles and standards. The training will assist Njira's DRM activities, particularly when supporting the development of district contingency plans and coordination in times of disasters.

Inter-Organizational Coordination Relevant to P3

Njira conducted a meeting with the Balaka District Disaster Risk Management Committee (DDRMC) that focused on briefing the DDRMC members about anticipated DRM activities that Njira would support. It was agreed that these meetings should be held quarterly to improve coordination and information sharing. A total of 27 DDRMC members (19 male; 8 female) attended the meeting.

The district offices continued with sensitization meetings targeting Area Development Committee (ADC) and Village Development Committees. The VDC meetings were held in all the 84 GVH in Machinga and Balaka targeting 1,442 participants (700 male; 742 female).

The project conducted mapping meetings in Balaka and Machinga to identify organizations operating in the districts. Njira took this step to support the district councils in developing and maintaining a service directory for all the NGOs operating in these districts. A total of 50 participants (41 male; 9 female) attended the meetings.

In their capacity as members of the Machinga DRMC, Njira team members participated in the development of the Machinga District Council's sector/cluster activities under the World Bank funded "Flood Emergency Recovery Programme" that is to be implemented in the disaster-affected districts of Malawi, including Machinga. The project focuses on all flood-affected sectors, such as Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Education, and Shelter.

Other P3 Activities

Njira and PCI's ARC II project team, in collaboration with CIP, hosted a USAID Malawi delegation comprised of the USAID Mission Director, Executive Director, Financial Controller and Head of Economic Sustainable Growth and other officials on May 20, 2015 to visit a demonstration site of drought-resistant OFSP in TA Kalembo in Balaka District prior to the

mega-launch. Community members presented different types of recipes/foods made from the six varieties of OFSP. The community also presented the nutritional benefits of the different recipes. The pictures below depict highlights of the visit.



USAID Malawi Delegation listening to an OFSP lead farmers.



USAID Malawi Delegation appreciating different recipes made from OFSP.

Cross-Cutting Themes

Governance

During Q3, Njira emphasized meeting stakeholders and developing terms of references for local partners. Njira launched a broad sector mapping exercise that will help to identify both the scale and scope of activities implemented by other organizations in both districts. Njira has met and reached agreements with several organizations to leverage resources, enhance implementation, and improve the scale of project activities, which will be highlighted in more detail in the Q4 report.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The process of refining the TOC, Log frame, IPTT and M&E Plan continued in Q3, and the latest versions are presently with FFP for approval. Subsequent to the approval, Njira will proceed in developing M&E data collection tools using the most recent version of the IPTT. Njira's management information system (G-Path) is still under development, however, the part for managing registration information was completed and is being utilized.

The project conducted a barrier analysis to identify behavior determinants associated with low adoption of conservation agricultural principles of mulching and minimum soil tillage. The purpose of the assessment was to learn the motivators and barriers associated with the low adoption of these practices. The exercise occurred in Machinga and Balaka from May 12-15, 2015. The total sample size was 180: 90 representing mulching (45 doers and 45 on-doers), and 90 for minimum soil tillage (45 doers and 45 non-doers). Data analysis is in progress and the results of the study will assist in programing of conservation agriculture activities for Njira.

Gender

In collaboration with CRS, the first and second drafts of the Gender Analysis Plan were submitted to USAID for review. Both CRS and PCI are waiting for USAID's final review and approval before any additional steps are taken on the Gender Analysis. In June, Njira's Gender Advisor attended a gender training organized by CARE International in Lilongwe for two days focusing on the customization of gender tools.

In Q3, Njira organized a CSO network meeting at Machinga and Balaka District Executive Committee (DEC), where the team unveiled plans to conduct a comprehensive mapping

exercise of all the NGOs working in Machinga and Balaka, with a specific focus on gender. The following are some of the NGOs that attended the meeting: YONECO; NANES; Mary's Meals; Green Line Movement; Story Workshop; CRS; CADECOM; Save The Children International; Machinga District Council; Zodiak Radio; EGRA – RTI; ADRA Malawi; Action-Aid; Zomba Diocese; and Emmanuel International.

4.0 Challenges During Q3

<i>Challenge</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Status</i>
Inability to develop data collection tools because delay in approval of M&E documents (IPTT, log frame and M&E plan)	Following up with USAID	Still waiting for final approval
Delayed completion of registration exercise due to lack of GPS machines	Sourced GPS machines from Government Agricultural Offices	Registration exercise progress improved
Delayed roll-out of activities due to under-estimation of the amount of time required to develop comprehensive programmatic strategies for implementation in partnership with government line Ministries	FY15 targets carried over to FY16	All strategies developed and firm foundation laid down for smooth and speedy implementation

5.0 Plans for Q4

Njira has made significant strides in start-up activities and looks to concentrate on programming once the initial beneficiary and household registration is completed. The following are some of the activities that will be undertaken in Q4:

Purpose 1

- Completion of existing VSL mapping and assessment activity, including reaching out to existing groups that Njira will support
- Recruitment of Community Agents for the Women Empowered initiative
- Profile of farmers through implementation of surveys
- Collaboration with Farmers World on formalizing cow pea forward contract
- Market and value chain analyses for crops and livestock
- Training for staff and farmers training in backyard poultry production and small ruminants
- Design poultry and pigeon production pilot replication model for testing and possible scale-up
- Training of vulnerable households in pigeon rearing
- Sourcing and distribution of fodder seeds to producer groups and training them to harvest seeds for future replication of fodder
- Development of community managed demo plots and fodder replication systems by producer groups
- Identification, screening and linking potential CAHW to pharmaceutical suppliers
- After the signing of MOUs with irrigation committees, construction will begin in Q4
- Drafts of the Irrigation/Rainwater Harvesting Manual and Standard Operating Procedures will be completed

- Facilitate acquisition of Community Animal Health Worker kits and linkages of CAHWs to mentors and develop CAHW network

Purpose 2

- Development of Care Group training modules and materials, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF
- Care Group formation
- Roll-out of the hygiene and sanitation module
- Establishment /revamping of WPCs
- TOT training for extension workers i.e. Water Monitoring Assistants, HSAs, Assistant Environmental Officers, Community Development Assistants
- TOT training of extension workers i.e. Teachers, Agriculture Extension Officers, HSAs, Assistant Environmental Officers, Community Development Assistants in CLTS
- Integrated quarterly supervision of WASH, Nutrition and RMNCH services to Balaka and Machinga teams

Purpose 3

- Mapping of existing local government DRM structures (District Disaster Risk Management Committee, Area Disaster Risk Management Committee, and the Village Disaster Risk Management Committee) to better understand capacity and level of assistance required
- TOT to staff in DRM, in line with the new National Policy on DRM and development of relevant training modules and materials
- Training and technical assistance in DRM to DDRMCs and ADRMCs
- Mapping of key institutions and resources; community level hazards; agriculture resources, opportunities and hazards; natural resources; hazards and protection resources for girls and women; WASH related hazards and resources; school hazards; and evacuation plans
- Establishment and operationalization of Ubwino Centres
- Food security assessments using an upgraded WALA tool

Other Activities

- Development and pretesting of M&E data collection tools for the project, which will include training of data collection tool users
- Continuation of beneficiary registration in the targeted districts
- Gender training for project staff targeting project coordinators, field facilitators and health promoters
- Finalization of CSO mapping in Balaka and Machinga Districts
- Participatory Rural Appraisal Training for Facilitators in Balaka and Machinga Districts
- Finalization of SoWs and due diligence of potential local sub-grantees
- Finalization of the Gender Analysis together with UBALE