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MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI

FY2020 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
(OCTOBER 2019–SEPTEMBER 2020)

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Cover Photo: A sunset over Viphya Plantation, Luwawa Block, Malawi

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DISCLAIMER

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRE	Access to Clean and Renewable Energy Project
AE	Alternative (Cooking) Energy
AMELP	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CEN	Community Enforcement Network
CLA	Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting
CMR	Consumer Market Research
CoP	Communities of Practice
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CRM	Chief Resident Magistrate
DoDMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DoEA	Department of Energy Affairs
DoF	Department of Forestry
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Organization
FE	Fuel Efficient
FFE	Forest Friendly Enterprise
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FR	Forest Reserve
FY2020	Fiscal Year 2020
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoM	Government of Malawi
GUC	Grants Under Contract
IACCWC	Interagency Committee on Combatting Wildlife Crime
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IR	Intermediate Result
ISF	Investment Support Facility
LOA	Life of Activity
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LWT	Lilongwe Wildlife Trust
MCHF	Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests

MPS	Malawi Police Service
NCS	National Charcoal Strategy
NCSC	National Cookstove Steering Committee
NEP	National Energy Policy
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFLRA	National Forest Landscape Restoration Assessment
NFLRS	National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NMU	National Forest and Landscape Restoration Monitoring Unit
PBG	Performance-Based Grant
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
PERFORM	Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi
RBF	Results-Based Finance
REDD+	Reducing emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REL	Reference Emissions Level
RFA	Request for Application
SMBC	Social Marketing Behavior Change
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
Tt	Tetra Tech
UK	United Kingdom
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VAT	Value-Added Tax
WDDU	Wildlife Detection Dog Unit
WISDOM	Woodfuel Integrated Supply/Demand Overview Mapping
WRI	World Resources Institute

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONTRACT PERIOD

The contractual period of performance for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) co-funded Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests Activity (MCHF) began on October 1, 2019 and will end on/around September 30, 2024. This report documents project implementation in Fiscal Year 2020 (FY2020) which began October 1, 2019 and concluded September 30, 2020.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Activity goal and corresponding objectives are listed below:

- **Activity Goal:** Promote sustainable forest management of selected landscapes and promote sustainable energy options in Malawi to sustainably maintain forest cover and reduce land-based emissions;
 - **Objective 1:** Alternative (cooking) energy (AE) sources and fuel-efficient (FE) cooking technologies adopted to reduce unsustainable wood fuel demand;
 - **Objective 2:** Local delivery of forestry services and sustainable use of forestry resources in targeted areas improved;
 - **Objective 3:** Regulatory and enforcement framework to support sustainable wood fuel production and use strengthened;
 - **Objective 4:** Government of Malawi's (GoM) implementation capacity of low emissions development in REDD+ and/or other land use increased; and
 - **Objective 5:** Interventions leveraged with other USAID and development partner resources.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

FY2020, the first year of MCHF implementation, began with the rapid mobilization of the MCHF team, and a series of highly participatory engagements with a wide range of stakeholders and beneficiaries which informed the design and development of the FY2020 Annual Work Plan (AWP) and the Activity Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP). The pace of field-level engagement continued to accelerate through the first two months of the second quarter, both in the four cities (which are the focus of Objective 1 implementation) and in the Central and Northern Landscapes (which are the focus of Objective 2 implementation). Then in March, the global COVID-19 pandemic began to have an impact in Malawi, and on MCHF implementation. This included restrictions on both travel (international and domestic) and group size, both of which had a significant impact on planned implementation.

Between April and May MCHF worked to identify workstreams that could be adapted and that could continue within the constraints resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, MCHF also worked directly with USAID and FCDO to revise the AWP and AMELP in an effort to reflect the anticipated impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on implementation and delivery of results. The revised AWP and AMELP were approved in June and July, respectively. Activity implementation and delivery of results in FY2020 were in line with the activities and targets included in the approved AWP and AMELP.

Below is a brief summary of select achievements from this reporting period.

- MCHF worked with our two primary Government of Malawi (GoM) counterparts, the Department of Forestry (DoF) and the Department of Energy Affairs (DoEA), to develop and

sign a Memorandum of Understanding that clarifies the roles, responsibilities and commitments of each partner.

- Design of the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund: In a conscious effort to identify options that incentivize private sector engagement in the clean cooking sector, MCHF designed the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund in the second half of FY2020. To tailor the design of this performance-based grant facility to the local context, MCHF engaged extensively with a wide range of stakeholders—including results based/performance-based fund managers, and beneficiaries, to gain an understanding of what worked well, what did not, and why. Resulting from these engagements and other research, MCHF designed the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund to foster inclusive market systems with the potential to not only scale-up solutions through implementation of the performance-based grants, but also to develop the local supply chains and partners needed to sustain these gains into the future. The Fund will be launched in the first quarter of FY2021.
- Development of data rich map products to inform local level planning and decision making: In the second half of FY2020 MCHF compiled relevant geospatial datasets (e.g., from the NFLRA; Woodfuel Demand, Supply and Sustainability Analysis; and the USGS Land Use/Land Cover and Tree Density on Farm Baseline Map) and assessed ways to best combine these datasets to inform the landscape restoration action planning process at the district and sub-district levels. These map products will be rolled-out in the first quarter of FY2021 to inform district-level restoration action planning. In addition, electronic “map sets” have been prepared for each MCHF focal district, and these will be printed and disseminated for continued use within District Councils in an effort to help ensure that stakeholders continue to have access to these practical resources that can inform and improve development planning and implementation, and support monitoring.
- Enactment of the amendment to the Forestry Act: In FY2020, MCHF supported the adoption and enactment of the amendment to the Forestry Act, which had been developed with support from PERFORM. In an effort to support the bill to be passed by Parliament, and ultimately enacted, MCHF assisted the DoF to engage with Parliamentarians (through the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus—MPCC—and the Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resources—PCCCNr) in advance of the introduction of the amendment bill to Parliament. MCHF supported the DoF to organize, plan, and hold a workshop to sensitize Parliamentarians two days prior to the bill being tabled in Parliament. Specifically, MCHF assisted with talking points and presentations to provide context for the amendment bill, highlight the proposed changes, and advocate for passage. This timely engagement assisted in the final push for the amendment, which was overwhelmingly passed in Parliament on February 14, 2020. The bill was assented by President Arthur Peter Mutharika on June 19, 2020.
- Supported the GoM to plan and initiate the National Forest Inventory (NFI) 2020: MCHF supported the DoF to plan for and initiate implementation of the NFI 2020, which targets all seven MCHF focal forest reserves. The support included review and revision of the NFI SOPs, development of the sampling plan, and initiation of the NFI field work. The NFI 2020 field work is expected to conclude in late-November of this year.
- MCHF met or exceeded all established FY2020 indicator targets.

I.0 INTRODUCTION

The Malawi Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests Activity (MCHF) is a five-year activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Organization (FCDO), and implemented by Tetra Tech (Tt) in association with five core subcontractors: the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), mHub, Winrock International (WI), and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

The contractual period of performance for MCHF began on October 1, 2019 and will end on or around September 30, 2024. This Annual Activity Report covers FY2020, the first year of project implementation.

I.1 BACKGROUND

The main threats to Malawi's forests include unsustainable harvesting due to over-reliance on wood fuels to meet energy needs (charcoal and firewood for cooking, fish smoking, and brick and tobacco curing); use of timber for construction, agriculture, and settlement expansion in forested areas; and harmful bushfires. More than 96 percent of households rely on wood fuels as their primary cooking and heating fuel, and more than 75 percent of urban households now use charcoal (up from 42 percent in 2011). Charcoal is currently the most significant driver of forest loss in Malawi. Within Malawi's development context, charcoal and firewood will continue to be significant sources of cooking and heating energy for the foreseeable future—in fact, reliance on wood fuels is expected to increase further with population growth and urbanization.

Based on the best available data, it was projected that national demand for charcoal and firewood exceeded sustainable supply in or around 2019. The lack of income-generating opportunities in rural areas is the primary cause for urbanization in Malawi. Although a major source of employment and energy, charcoal is often illegally produced from trees of protected forest reserves intended to serve as critical water catchments for large populations. The illegal charcoal value chain also fuels widespread corruption. In addition, some charcoal enters illegally from neighboring countries, including Mozambique and Zambia. To meaningfully address the linked problems of forest cover loss and unmet cooking and heating energy demands, Malawi needs to implement innovative solutions that balance citizens' energy needs and proper management and utilization of forestry resources.

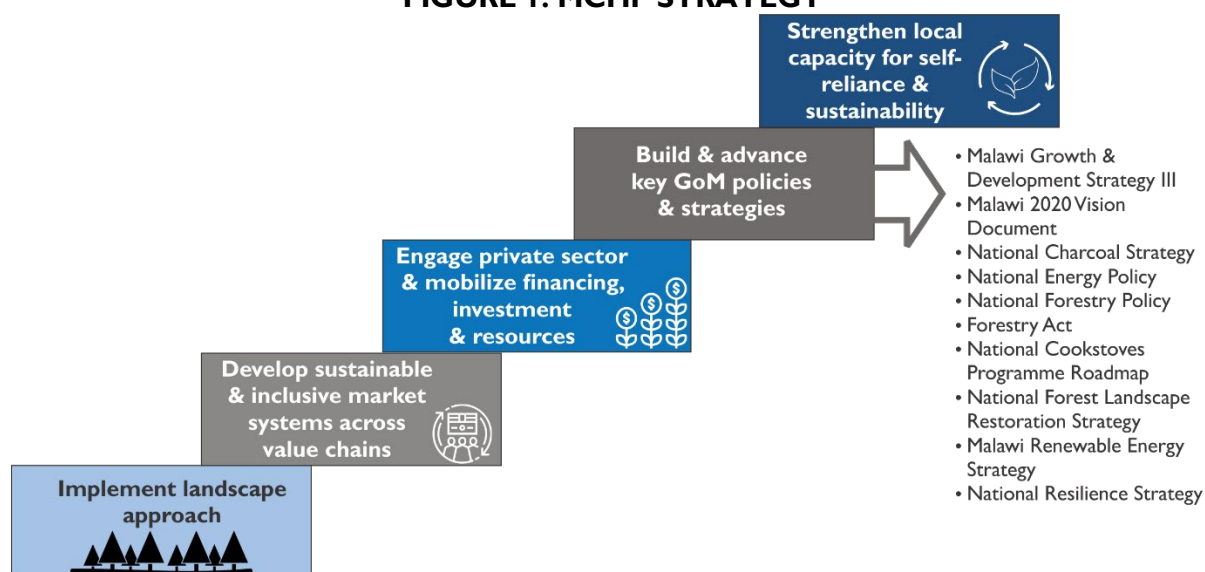
The MCHF design promotes sustainable forest management in Malawi in select landscapes and promotes sustainable energy options in select urban demand centers to maintain forest cover and reduce land-based emissions. By increasing the demand for alternative and efficient energy options and technologies and the supply of sustainable wood fuels from well-managed forest resources, MCHF will help Malawi reduce unsustainable tree cutting in both public and customary forests, improve forest cover, and conserve associated watersheds.

The Activity builds on the strong foundation laid by USAID's Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi Activity (PERFORM), which supported effective governance and forest management processes, built Malawi's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) readiness capacity, and promoted low-emissions land use opportunities. MCHF applies a landscape approach that encompasses interventions across multiple geographic scales and land use types, including urban and peri-urban areas, forest reserves, plantations, customary land, and smallholder farms, to address wood fuel supply and demand dynamics holistically. The activity also builds system-level resilience through an integrated land use management framework that seeks to integrate policies across sectors in order to harmonize development and conservation objectives.

The MCHF strategy (Figure 1) will reduce unsustainable wood fuel demand, increase sustainable wood fuel supply, and strengthen Malawi's business and regulatory enabling environment by:

1. **Implementing a landscape approach** that addresses wood fuel supply and demand and reduces underlying drivers of forest cover loss;
2. **Developing inclusive and sustainable market systems across alternative energy (AE), sustainable charcoal, and forestry value chains** by engaging a wide range of actors within each value chain; identifying leverage points that overcome market constraints; and facilitating market-based solutions that utilize local systems and resources;
3. **Engaging the private sector and mobilizing financing, investment, and additional resources** that mobilize and increase investments for the alternative fuels, fuel-efficient (FE) technology, and improved forest governance and forest land restoration;
4. **Building on and advancing key Government of Malawi (GoM) policies and strategies**, particularly the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, Malawi 2020 Vision Document, National Charcoal Strategy (NCS), National Energy Policy (NEP), National Forestry Policy, Forestry Act, National Cookstoves Programme Roadmap, National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (NFLRS), National Resilience Strategy, and Malawi Renewable Energy Strategy; and
5. **Strengthening local capacity for self-reliance and sustainability** by prioritizing local partners, working with and through GoM institutions, implementing facilitative market system approaches, and supporting human and institutional capacity development.

FIGURE I. MCHF STRATEGY



1.2 ACTIVITY STRUCTURE

MCHF’s Objective I takes a market systems approach to scale up demand for FE cooking technologies and AE sources and catalyze widespread adoption. MCHF’s market systems approach addresses three principal elements—supply, demand, and the enabling environment. Building on the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and improved charcoal cookstove market briefs developed under PERFORM, MCHF addresses the root barriers for limited adoption; identifies and engages the wide range of actors in the

BOX I. MCHF OBJECTIVE I STRATEGIES

MCHF prioritizes two main strategies to achieve Objective I results:

- Increased adoption of improved charcoal cookstoves by urban households as **the most immediate way** to address forest cover loss in Malawi.
- LPG as **the best available and most promising** alternative to charcoal in the medium term.

cookstove and alternative fuel value chains; and changes the awareness, incentives, and capacity of these actors. Through tailored social marketing behavior change (SMBC) strategies and targeted capacity building of female entrepreneurs, MCHF fosters greater involvement of women within these value chains to drive adoption and build inclusivity. Objective 1 interventions directly support key GoM policies and strategies, including the NEP, NCS, and Malawi Renewable Energy Strategy.

The focus of Objective 2 is to increase wood fuel supply through improved forest governance and enhancing natural resource-based livelihoods. MCHF builds on and expands PERFORM's successful forest governance model, which formalized the role of local institutions (including District Councils, traditional leaders, and Village Natural Resource Management Committees [VNRMCs]) in legally recognized forest co-management arrangements. MCHF also scales up forest landscape restoration (FLR) adoption in targeted forest reserves and adjacent areas—village forest areas (VFAs), customary land, government and private plantations, woodlots, etc.—through technical assistance, awareness raising, improved market incentives, and private sector investment. MCHF applies a market systems approach that identifies promising natural resource-based value chains, creates market linkages, strengthens enterprise development, and mobilizes private sector investment across larger landscapes.

MCHF Objective 3 focuses on improving the regulatory framework for wood fuels and strengthening law enforcement capacity to address forestry-related crime, which are essential to build a more sustainable forestry sector—specifically, a more sustainable charcoal value chain in Malawi. Under Objective 3, MCHF improves the enabling environment for the forestry sector by 1) strengthening the regulatory framework for charcoal, 2) improving capacity to enforce laws on forestry-related crime including illegal charcoal, and 3) improving public awareness and advocacy on charcoal and forestry laws and regulations. Activity partner LWT builds on their experience combatting wildlife crime to establish similar activities in the forest sector of Malawi.

Under Objective 4, MCHF supports the GoM to implement and institutionalize key systems, tools, and technologies that provide the requisite information base for improved forest monitoring, support REDD+ readiness and FLR efforts, and inform Objective 2 implementation within targeted forest reserves. Objective 4 builds on the leadership and foundation established by PERFORM, which worked closely with GoM to move past the piloting phase of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and reach all major milestones of the 2015 NFMS Roadmap: 1) the land monitoring system, 2) the field-based forest inventory, 3) the reference emissions level (REL), and 4) the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. This included a fully functional GHG inventory system (GHG-IS); development of the REDD+ REL for deforestation, degradation, and forest enhancements; and with the Department of Forestry (DoF), steps to define methodologies, undertake locally-led data collection, and produce results to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) standards. PERFORM's Woodfuel Integrated Supply and Demand Overview Mapping (WISDOM) modeling exercise supported the REL, but also produced the first comprehensive review of wood fuel supply and demand imbalance. In addition, PERFORM designed and supported the DoF to conduct the first national forest inventory (NFI) in Malawi, using a cost-effective approach of integrating past site-based inventories with new fieldwork. MCHF expands on these efforts to further strengthen GoM capacity to improve the quality, management, and application of forest data and information at national, subnational, and field levels.

Objective 5 is cross-cutting, supporting the first four objectives. Through this objective, MCHF operationalizes integration through the Mission's 3C approach that focuses on co-location of USAID interventions, coordination with development partners, and collaboration between USAID, GoM, development partners, the private sector, and civil society to foster and strengthen linkages to improve results. MCHF implements a Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting (CLA) approach that facilitates co-location, coordination, and collaboration at national, landscape, and site-based levels to maximize MCHF and USAID development results and mobilizes public and private sector financing and investment for sustainable landscapes.

I.3 ACTIVITY GEOGRAPHY

MCHF interventions are implemented in select areas (urban areas and rural landscapes) within Malawi. Table I presents MCHF target geographies (districts, urban areas, and the selected forest reserves and plantations) for MCHF interventions.

TABLE I. MCHF GEOGRAPHIC SELECTION

LANDSCAPE	GEOGRAPHIC SELECTION	DISTRICTS
Central	<p>Urban Area: Lilongwe</p> <p>Forest Reserves: Dzalanyama Forest Reserve, Dedza-Salima Escarpment Forest Reserve, Mua-Livulezi Forest Reserve and Thuma Forest Reserve</p> <p>Forest Plantations: Dzalanyama Plantation and Katete Plantation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lilongwe • Dedza • Salima
Northern	<p>Urban Area: Mzuzu</p> <p>Forest Reserves: Bunganya Forest Reserve, Kaning'ina Forest Reserve, and Perekezi Forest Reserve</p> <p>Forest Plantation: Viphya Plantation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mzimba • Nkhata Bay
Southern	<p>Urban Areas: Blantyre and Zomba</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blantyre • Zomba

I.4 ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT HYPOTHESIS AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The MCHF development hypothesis (Box 2) describes the causality between MCHF objectives and the activity's overall goal.

BOX 2. MCHF DEVELOPMENT HYPOTHESIS

IF the adoption of alternative energy sources and fuel-efficient cooking technologies is scaled up (Objective 1); forest governance and sustainable use of forest products are improved (Objective 2); GoM capacity for improved forest monitoring and low-emissions development is enhanced (Objective 3); wood fuel regulation and enforcement are strengthened (Objective 4); and interventions and resources are leveraged with USAID, development partners, and the private sector (Objective 5);

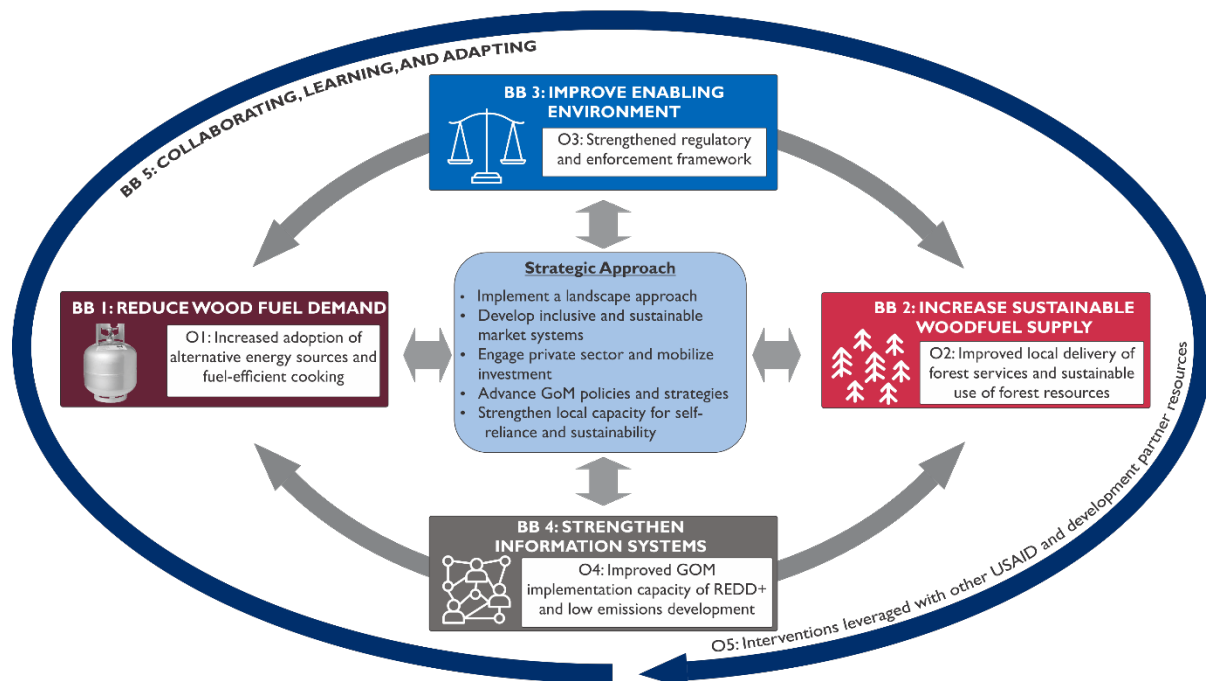
THEN forest cover will be sustainably maintained, and land-based emissions will be reduced.

The MCHF conceptual framework (Figure 2) builds on and depicts this development hypothesis, and maps MCHF objectives to five building blocks to achieve a reduction in unsustainable wood fuel demand, increase forest cover, and reduce land-based emissions:

- **Building Block 1: Reduce unsustainable wood fuel demand.** MCHF reduces wood fuel demand in key urban demand centers and forest reserves through a market systems approach that scales up adoption of AE sources and FE cooking technologies. This will be achieved by 1) creating consumer demand for these products; 2) increasing their supply through enterprise development, private sector engagement, and mobilized investment; and 3) increasing production and improving market penetration of sustainable charcoal and alternative biomass energy.
- **Building Block 2: Increase sustainable wood fuel supply.** MCHF increases wood fuel supply through improved forest governance and management in targeted forest reserves/plantations and adjacent areas (e.g., Village Forest Areas, other customary land, and woodlots). MCHF also extends its market systems approach to support forest-based livelihoods by upgrading promising value chains, creating market-based incentives, and catalyzing private sector investment.

- **Building Block 3: Improve the enabling environment.** MCHF strengthens wood fuel regulations and law enforcement by adapting successful models from Malawi’s wildlife sector that will, in turn, support market incentives to reduce wood fuel demand (Building Block 1), increase sustainable wood fuel supply (Building Block 2), and leverage private sector investment.
- **Building Block 4: Strengthen information systems for decision-making.** Building on PERFORM’s successful partnership with the DoF, MCHF further strengthens GoM capacity to utilize data, systems, and tools that improve forest monitoring and provide information for informed decision-making to reduce wood fuel demand (Building Block 1) and increase wood fuel supply (Building Block 2).
- **Building Block 5: Collaborating, learning, and adapting.** This building block cuts across and integrates the other four, helping to leverage interventions and resources from other USAID initiatives, development partners, and the private sector (Objective 5). At the same time, MCHF learns from interventions, adapts to changing circumstances, and pursues flexible implementation.

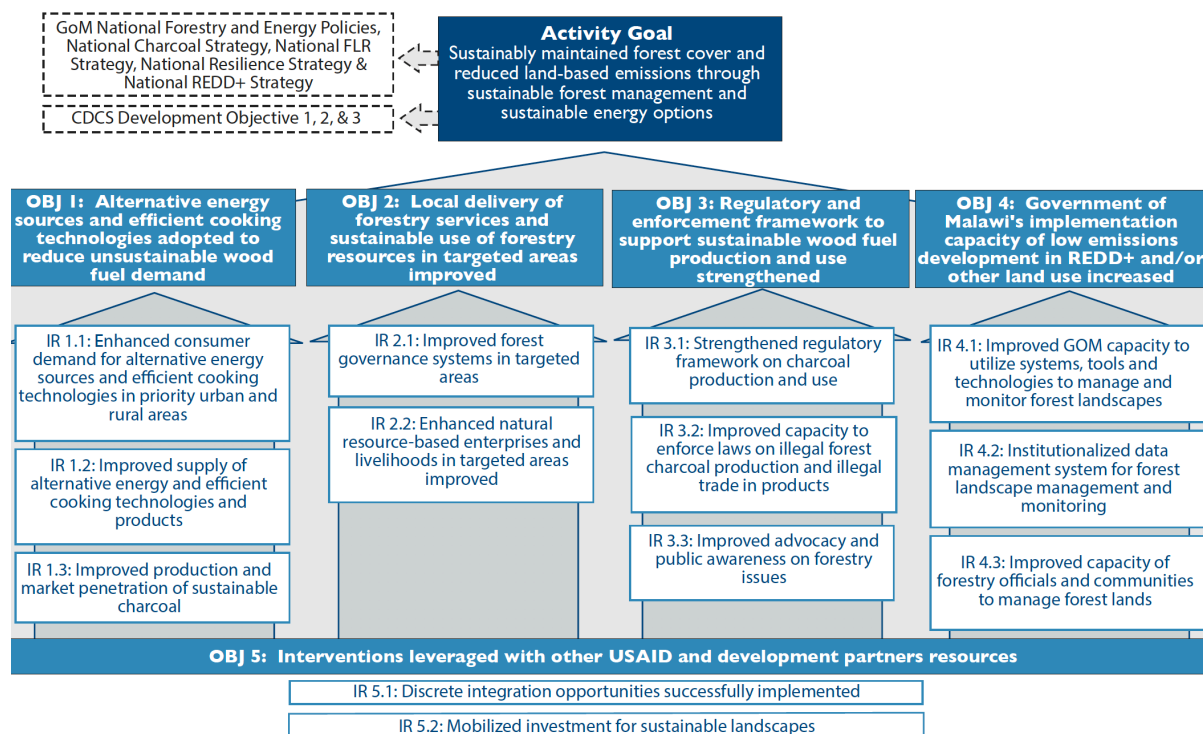
FIGURE 2. MCHF CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
Activity Goal: Sustainably maintained forest cover and reduced land-based emissions in Malawi



1.5 ACTIVITY RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND INTEGRATION WITH THE USAID COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The MCHF Results Framework defines 13 Intermediate Results (IRs) and illustrates how these link to the five objectives, activity goal, and the USAID/Malawi Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) Results Framework.

FIGURE 3. MCHF RESULTS FRAMEWORK



I.6 KEY OPERATING ASSUMPTIONS

Through the development of the MCHF Life of Activity (LOA) Performance Work Statement, the FY2020 Annual Work Plan (AWP), and the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP), MCHF has identified the key assumptions and risks with the greatest potential to impact MCHF implementation and achievement of results. The key operating assumptions are summarized as follows:

- The success of Objective 1 is premised on the performance of a viable market systems approach. This assumes the macroeconomic performance does not deteriorate significantly. Additionally, the sub-focus on sustainable charcoal assumes that USAID will amend the Sustainable Livelihoods Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) to allow work on sustainable charcoal (pending since January 2020), and subsequently will approve a revised MCHF Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP).
- The success of Objectives 2 and 4 requires consistent and meaningful commitment from the DoF. This includes a commitment to increasing staffing levels, both at the district level (the DoF staffing vacancy rate at the national level exceeds 50 percent and is much higher at the sub-district/forestry assistant level) and national level (specifically for the Monitoring Unit), and a commitment to allocate financial resources to support implementation of key activities, including but not limited to the NFI and forest/FLR monitoring.
- Objective 3 assumes maintaining sustained political will and commitment to address illegal and unsustainable charcoal production, transportation, and marketing from multiple GoM ministries/departments/services, at various scales.
- Objective 5 targets for integration activities and leverage are considerable, and MCHF has proposed to work with a wide range of partners to achieve and meet them.

Presently, the most urgent risk to MCHF implementation, results, and sustained impact is the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which began to affect Malawi and MCHF implementation in March 2020 and has limited mobility, engagement, and technical delivery. International travel restrictions stemming from the global pandemic forced MCHF to postpone

planned short-term assignments scheduled since March 2020, and domestic restrictions (e.g., travel, gatherings, etc.) significantly curtailed implementation of field activities under Objectives 1 through 4. To the extent possible, MCHF factored known and reasonably expected impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic into the development of the final FY2020 AWP, and the final AMELP.

Beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, donor commitment to MCHF focal areas and private sector interest in the Malawian market are tied to Malawi's continued stability and security. In addition, MCHF implementation and delivery of results may be influenced by weather/climatic factors well beyond the control of MCHF (as was the case with the El Niño-related drought in 2015/2016). The inability to predict with precision future extreme weather and climate-related shocks presents a degree of uncertainty that may impact activity results and require programming adjustments.

2.0 PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This section of the FY2020 Annual Activity Report summarizes progress and presents achievements. Organized by project objective, this section includes a summary on the status of all key activities included in MCHF's approved FY2020 Annual Work Plan followed by two to four key achievements. Performance on project indicators and reporting on project targets is presented in Section 3.0. Project and contract administration are addressed in Section 4.0.

2.1 OBJECTIVE I: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND EFFICIENT COOKING TECHNOLOGIES ADOPTED TO REDUCE UNSUSTAINABLE WOOD FUEL DEMAND

Within Objective I, the MCHF FY2020 Annual Work Plan defined 10 key activities. Progress for each of these key activities is summarized below.

TABLE 2. OBJECTIVE I KEY ACTIVITIES AND STATUS

Key Activity	Status
Result 1.1: Enhanced consumer demand for alternative energy sources and efficient cooking technologies in priority urban and rural areas	
Conduct urban cooking energy consumer market research (CMR) and baseline survey	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the second quarter of FY2020, MCHF developed and tendered a request for proposal to conduct the urban cooking energy CMR and baseline survey. In the third quarter, a firm-fixed price subcontract was awarded to the highest ranked offeror, Kadale Consultants, to conduct the CMR and baseline survey. The field data collection phase (in the four cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba, and in Salima town) of the urban cooking energy CMR and baseline survey, and the point-in-time market survey was completed prior to the end of September 2020. The data analysis is expected to be completed in October 2020, and the final report will be submitted in November 2020.
Support targeted consumer testing of commercially viable AE and FE technology products	<p>Delayed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the FY2020 AWP, targeted consumer testing of alternative cooking energies and fuel-efficient cooking technologies was projected to begin as early as August 2020, and to continue through FY2021. However, as a result of the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the onset of this activity was delayed. As per the FY2021 AWP, this activity is now projected to begin in December 2020.
Develop/implement Social Marketing Behavior Change (SMBC) strategies to drive adoption	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the fourth quarter of FY2020, MCHF contracted a Social Marketing and Behavior Change (SMBC) Consultant to support development of an initial SMBC strategy for urban cooking solutions (legal and licensed charcoal/alternative biomass energy; improved charcoal/alternative biomass cookstoves; and LPG). MCHF collected qualitative data from external stakeholders to inform the development of the initial Social Marketing and Behavior Change (SMBC) strategy for urban cooking solutions. Data analysis was completed, and the findings were utilized to develop initial key messages for two solutions (LPG and sustainable charcoal). Prior to the end of September, MCHF began testing these messages with key stakeholders. Testing will continue through November 2020, after which the initial messages will be revised and finalized before being rolled-out in the second quarter of FY2021.

Key Activity	Status
Develop innovative consumer financing strategies	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While slated to being in the second half of FY2020, implementation was delayed to the end of FY2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In September, MCHF engaged with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-funded Access to Clean and Renewable Energy (ACRE) Project to explore opportunities for collaboration. One component of ACRE will establish a \$500,000 Employer Guaranteed Clean Cooking Fund to help scale-up adoption of clean cooking solutions in urban areas. As agreed between ACRE and MCHF, and as reflected in the FY2021 AWP, MCHF will help to link LPG retailers to the fund and will help to target large employers. This activity will continue through FY2022.
Result 1.2: Improved supply of alternative energy and efficient cooking technologies and products	
Document and publicize commercially viable AEs and FE technology products	<p>Delayed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCHF fuel and stove testing was projected to begin in August 2020. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic this activity was delayed. As per the FY2021 AWP, this activity is now expected to begin in November 2020 and to run through March 2021. Then, in the final quarter of FY2021, supplemental testing, including emissions testing, is expected to be conducted at a qualified laboratory for the most promising fuel and stove options.
Mobilize finance and investment for the FE cooking and AE sectors	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In an effort to help mobilize finance and investment for cleaner cooking solutions, MCHF engaged a Private Sector Engagement - Fuel Efficient Technologies and Alternative Energies Consultant to: 1) design a Results-Based Finance (RBF)/Performance-Based Grants (PBG) “window” of the MCHF grants program (the “Malawi Clean Cooking Fund”) which will be launched in the first quarter of FY2021; 2) develop an urban cooking energy “Market Information Package” to help quantify Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and improved cookstove market potential in the urban markets of Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu, and Zomba, and through this to help stimulate entrepreneurial interest in the urban cooking energy sector; and, 3) use the above, and other available data and analyses, to engage Financial Institutions (FI) and select micro-finance institutions (MFI) to raise awareness of the viability of the urban cooking energy sector. In March 2020, the consultant, supported by MCHF staff, collected information from numerous stakeholders to inform the design of the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund. A second round of in-person consultations was postponed due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions; however, a number of these scheduled consultations were conducted virtually. Some of the stakeholders consulted (in person or remotely) included Power Africa, the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Maeve, Concern Universal Microfinance Operations (CUMO), RBF fund managers and fund beneficiaries, carbon project developers, as well as researchers in clean cooking. MCHF also engaged with the Investment Support Facility (ISF) of the Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI) to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund and ISF. Resulting from this engagement, MCHF decided to integrate the ISF application requirements into the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund application. This integration ensures applicants to the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund will satisfy the requirements of the ISF, and, if an applicant is interested, they can request that MCHF forward a copy of the grant application to the ISF. In the last quarter of FY2020 MCHF also engaged a number of carbon project developers to explore opportunities for collaboration, most directly in relation to the RBF. These efforts will continue through the first half of FY2021.

Key Activity	Status
Result I.3 : Improved production and market penetration of sustainable charcoal	
Conduct a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) of the charcoal value chain	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCHF developed and finalized an activity scope of work for the Political Economy Analysis (PEA) on charcoal and completed recruitment and contracting of the Charcoal PEA team in the second quarter of FY2020. The PEA was initiated, as scheduled, in early March. However, the planned mobilization of the PEA Lead and the PEA Advisor was postponed due to travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. In the third quarter, the PEA team worked virtually to complete a literature review. Early in the fourth quarter of FY2020, the team adapted the Charcoal PEA methodology and workplan and worked to identify ways to advance aspects of PEA implementation in light of the COVID-19 related restrictions. Subsequently, in the fourth quarter, the PEA team began conducting virtual discussions with key national-level stakeholders, which will continue through the first quarter of FY2021. The revised PEA work plan (and the FY2021 AWP) projects the Charcoal PEA fieldwork to be conducted between January and March 2021, and the PEA to conclude in late-April.
Augment volumes of sustainable charcoal and alternative biomass energy from production forests and non-wood biomass	<p>Postponed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite including an activity focused on augmenting sustainable charcoal production in the MCHF design (and performance work statement) USAID's Sustainable Livelihoods Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) does not allow work on sustainable production. MCHF has documented this in update meetings with USAID since February, and this is reflected in MCHF's approved Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). USAID has been working to revise the Sustainable Livelihoods IEE since March, but this was still pending at the end of FY2020. Therefore, work on sustainable charcoal has been necessarily postponed until USAID revises its Sustainable Livelihoods IEE (and subsequently, MCHF revises, and USAID approves the EMMP).
Improve efficiency of charcoal production	<p>Postponed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as above
Improve market penetration of sustainable, legal charcoal	<p>Postponed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as above

2.1.1 SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIVE I ACHIEVEMENTS

To supplement the summary presentation of Objective I activities (above), and the reporting on indicator targets and results (Section 3.0), the text below describes four notable Objective I achievements realized in FY2020.

URBAN COOKING ENERGY CONSUMER MARKET RESEARCH AND BASELINE SURVEY

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, MCHF managed to design and implement the urban cooking energy CMR and baseline survey on schedule, with field data collection completed prior to the end of FY2020. The field data collection in the four cities (Lilongwe, Blantyre, Zomba, and Mzuzu), as well as in the town of Salima, and the subsequent analysis, will enable MCHF to: 1) understand current cooking/heating fuel and technology use; 2) understand current household expenditures for cooking/heating fuel and technology; 3) identify which consumer segments are best suited to adopt certain fuels/technologies; 4) provide insights to support development of effective products and marketing strategies; 5) provide insights to inform development of consumer financing options to contribute to greater uptake; 6) establish a disaggregated baseline for the “percent of households in urban areas that have adopted alternative energy sources and/or efficient cooking technologies”; and

7) establish a baseline for the “percent of sampled target audience reporting exposure to messages on alternative energy sources and fuel-efficient technologies on radio, television, electronic platforms, or in print.”

RESTRUCTURING OF NATIONAL COOKSTOVE STEERING COMMITTEE AND LEADERSHIP OF WORKING GROUPS

In FY2020, MCHF supported the National Cookstove Steering Committee (NCSC) to restructure its constituent working groups into solution-specific associations. These efforts resulted in the following configuration: Working Group 1—Firewood and Fuelwood Stoves; Working Group 2—Charcoal and Alternative Biomass, and Associated Stoves; and, Working Group 3—LPG & Alternative Fuels. Currently, MCHF chairs Working Group 2, and supports Working Group 3. This realignment has considerably increased participation in the NCSC and has better enabled proponents of similar fuels/technologies to engage with one another and with the Government of Malawi (GoM) in a more structured manner, and on a more frequent basis. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, between January and September 2020 MCHF supported five working group meetings, one field visit, one seminar, one radio panel discussion, multiple engagements with GoM, including an in-person briefing with the Minister of Energy in September.

ENGAGEMENT WITH POLICY MAKERS TO IMPROVE THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR URBAN COOKING

MCHF worked through the Department of Energy Affairs (DoEA), and through the NCSC to engage with government and raise awareness of the need for tax relief to support increased adoption of alternative cooking energies and fuel-efficient cooking technologies. In addition to removal of value-added tax (VAT) on LPG, MCHF supported the DoEA and the NCSC to advocate for removal of: 1) Customs duty, excise tax, and VAT on LPG cooking appliances; 2) Excise tax on LPG imported from outside Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC); 3) VAT on locally manufactured improved firewood, charcoal and alternative biomass cookstoves; 4) Customs duty, excise tax and VAT on imported improved firewood, charcoal, and alternative biomass energy cookstoves; 5) Customs duty, excise tax and VAT on low wattage electric cooking appliances; 6) Customs duty, excise tax and VAT on biogas systems and components; and 7) Customs duty, excise tax, and VAT on machinery for production of biomass pellets and briquettes. MCHF addressed the issue of tax relief directly with the GoM and, in a parallel stream, through the National Cookstove Steering Committee. While the requested tax relief was not reflected in the government’s budget (presented to Parliament in September), the President, in his October 19th address on the environment, committed his Administration to consider the calls for additional tax relief and to respond before the end of February 2021.

DESIGN OF THE MALAWI CLEAN COOKING FUND

Over the second half of FY2020, MCHF worked diligently to design the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund (which will be launched in the first quarter of FY2021). To tailor the design of this performance-based grant facility to the local context, MCHF engaged extensively with a wide range of stakeholders—including results based/performance-based fund managers, and beneficiaries, to gain an understanding of what worked, what did not, and why. Resulting from these engagements and other efforts, MCHF designed the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund to foster inclusive market systems with the potential to not only scale-up solutions through implementation of the performance-based grants, but also to develop the local supply chains and partners needed to sustain these gains into the future.

2.2 OBJECTIVE 2: LOCAL DELIVERY OF FORESTRY SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF FORESTRY RESOURCES IN TARGETED AREAS IMPROVED

Within Objective 2, the MCHF FY2020 Annual Work Plan defined six key activities for implementation in FY2020. The status of each activity is summarized in the table on the next page.

TABLE 3. OBJECTIVE 2 KEY ACTIVITIES AND STATUS

Key Activity	Status
Result 2.1: Improved forest governance systems in targeted areas	
Select focal landscapes, forest reserves and plantations	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the second quarter of FY2020, MCHF engaged the DoF and USAID to finalize the selection of focal landscapes, inclusive of forest reserves (FR) and plantations. The selected FRs and plantations selected are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Northern Landscape</i>: Bunganya FR, Kaning'ina FR, Perekezi FR, and Viphya Plantation <i>Central Landscape</i>: Dedza-Salima Escarpment FR, Dzalanyama FR (including Dzalanyama and Katete Plantations), Mua-Livulezi FR, and Thuma FR
Conduct a rapid assessment of selected landscapes, forest reserves, and plantations	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In FY2020, MCHF completed a rapid scan of all selected forest reserves, using Google Earth to visually identify areas that have experienced high levels of degradation in the recent past. These areas have been catalogued and screenshots (pre- and post-degradation event) have been captured and included in forest reserve specific presentations, which have been/will be used to engage district and sub-district stakeholders in discussions to understand the agents and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. In addition, between the second and third quarters of FY2020, MCHF collected and collated data on focal districts, forest reserves and plantations, and engaged forestry sector stakeholders (national/zonal/district) to assess the effectiveness of existing forest reserve/plantation governance and management. The output of this process was and will be used together with the results of the rapid scan and other data and information to inform the landscape restoration action planning, and the design and implementation of interventions within each landscape.
Facilitate landscape-level planning with stakeholders	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCHF compiled available geospatial datasets (e.g., from the National Forest Landscape Restoration Assessment (NFLRA); Woodfuel Demand, Supply and Sustainability Analysis; and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Land Use/Land Cover and Tree Density on Farm Baseline Map), and assessed how to best combine these data to inform the landscape restoration action planning process, and as part of this, broader site-based activity design and implementation. Prior to the end of FY2020, the map products to inform restoration action planning were selected, and prepared. MCHF worked with the DoF and with other partners (e.g., Department of Disaster Management Affairs, DoDMA) to develop a guide to restoration action planning. The content of the guide was validated in early October 2020, and the guide will be laid-out, printed, and circulated for use in the first quarter of FY2021.

Key Activity	Status
Conduct site-based forest inventories and landscape-based deforestation estimations	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCHF supported the GoM to initiate planned forest inventories in September 2020 and the sequence of the seven site-based forest inventories will be completed in November 2020 (with the data analysis scheduled for completion in January 2021). Once completed, these forest inventories will provide an important current state of data for biomass (and carbon) and critical data needed to inform subsequent development of Forest Management Plans (FMPs). This data will also be integrated into the GoM’s NFI. • Given the stated interest of the GoM and the Wildlife Action Group (WAG) to consider development of a REDD+ activity for the Thuma Forest Reserve (and potentially the Dedza-Salima Escarpment Forest Reserve), the sampling density in these two forest reserves has been augmented accordingly to meet REDD+ requirements.
Result 2.2: Enhanced natural resource-based enterprises and livelihoods in targeted areas	
Analyze and select forest-friendly value chains in focal landscapes	<p>Delayed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support Forest Friendly Enterprise (FFE) development, income generation, and livelihoods in targeted areas, MCHF developed a scope of work (SoW) for a consultant to conduct an FFE value chain assessment to determine the most viable products and services for MCHF support in each landscape. Possible value chains to be assessed include honey production, sustainable charcoal production, tree crops such as macadamia and coffee, as well as certain agricultural products. Due to constraints stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the selected consultant was not contracted prior to the end of FY2020. MCHF now expects the assignment to begin in the first quarter of FY2021 and to conclude in the middle of the second quarter.
Document and publicize forest-friendly business models and projects and support efforts to secure finance through incubators/ accelerators and the online TerraMatch platform	<p>Delayed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts on field-based implementation, this activity has been delayed. It is now scheduled for implementation in the second half of FY2021.

2.2.1 SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIVE 2 ACHIEVEMENTS

As mentioned previously, the COVID-19 pandemic most significantly impacted implementation of Objective 2 in FY2020. The onset of the pandemic and the introduction of travel and other restrictions in the end of the second quarter/beginning of the third quarter coincided with the initial schedule to roll-out activities at the landscape, district, and local levels. As a result of the pandemic, these foundational activities were postponed and are now scheduled for implementation between the first and second quarters of FY2021. These impacts notwithstanding, there has been considerable progress in some areas. Two key achievements are highlighted below.

INTRODUCTION TO DATA RICH MAP PRODUCTS TO INFORM LOCAL LEVEL PLANNING

MCHF compiled relevant geospatial datasets (e.g., from the NFLRA; WISDOM and Sustainability Analysis; and the USGS Land Use/Land Cover and Tree Density on Farm Baseline Map) and assessed how to best combine these to inform the landscape restoration action planning process, and prepared district-specific electronic “map sets”. These data-rich products will be used to inform the landscape restoration action planning process that will take place in FY2021. These products will also be printed and disseminated at the district and Traditional Authority geographic levels in an effort to help ensure that these stakeholders continue to have access to these practical resources

that can inform development planning and implementation and support monitoring.

DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDE TO FACILITATING DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION ACTION PLANS

MCHF worked directly with the DoF, DoDMA, and other stakeholders to develop, review, and finalize the guide, which will be used with district and sub-district level stakeholders to facilitate development of district-specific restoration action plans. The guide will be used in all five MCHF focal districts in FY2021. MCHF will then work with government to reflect on the experience and to adapt the guide for potentially broader application in Malawi.

2.3 OBJECTIVE 3: REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE WOOD FUEL PRODUCTION AND USE STRENGTHENED

Within Objective 3, the MCHF FY2020 Annual Work Plan defined ten key activities. The status of each activity is summarized below.

TABLE 4. OBJECTIVE 3 KEY ACTIVITIES AND STATUS

Key Activity	Status
Result 3.1: Strengthened regulatory framework on charcoal production and use	
Conduct an assessment of the existing legal and regulatory frameworks for the forestry sector (related to MCHF)	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toward the end of FY2020, MCHF initiated a review of the compiled legislation and regulation for the forestry and related sectors. Draft results were presented in September 2020 and feedback is being used to finalize the assessment report early in FY2021. The assessment has helped to identify priority areas (e.g., gaps, overlaps, inconsistencies, etc.) where the development of regulations would help to strengthen the enabling framework for the forestry sector. In follow-up, in the first quarter of FY2021 MCHF will work with the DoF to prioritize areas the development of regulations that will be supported by MCHF in FY2021.
Facilitate approval of legal and regulatory reforms	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In FY2020 MCHF supported the adoption and enactment of the amendment to the Forestry Act, which had been developed with support from PERFORM. The amendment bill was tabled in the February 2020 Parliamentary sitting. In an effort to support the bill to be passed by Parliament, and ultimately enacted, MCHF assisted the DoF to engage with Parliamentarians (through the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus—MPCC—and the Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resources—PCCCNr) in advance of the introduction of the amendment bill to Parliament. Further, MCHF worked with the DoF to organize, plan, and hold a workshop to sensitize Parliamentarians. Specifically, MCHF assisted with talking points and presentations to provide context for the amendment bill, highlight the proposed changes, and advocate for passage. Presentations by the DoF were supplemented by a presentation made by Dr. Zacharia Magombo (of the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden) on the role of trees and forests in national development. This timely engagement assisted in the final push for the amendment, which was overwhelmingly passed in Parliament on February 14, 2020. The bill was assented by President Arthur Peter Mutharika on June 19, 2020.

Key Activity	Status
Disseminate approved laws, regulations, and guidelines	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the third and fourth quarters of FY2020, MCHF supported the GoM to disseminate information and raise awareness on the amendment to the Forestry Act. Specifically, MCHF supported the DoF to design and draft a leaflet which highlights changes in the forestry legislation as a result of the amendment. MCHF supported the DoF to print the leaflet, which was distributed to key stakeholders from the DoF, Malawi Police Service (MPS) and the Judiciary. The leaflet is set to be translated into Chichewa and Chitumbuka in the first quarter of FY2021, before being disseminated more widely. MCHF also printed 500 copies of the amendment to the Forestry Act which was distributed to Zonal and District Forestry Offices, MPS Officers in Charge nationwide, and Chief Resident Magistrates and Magistrates.
Result 3.2: Improved capacity to enforce laws on illegal charcoal production and illegal trade in forest products	
Collection of forestry case baseline data	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish a country-wide baseline conviction rate (2016-2019) for forest crimes, MCHF developed a forest crime data collection tool. Court monitors and the Forest Prosecutor were trained on use of the tool in July 2020. However, due to travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, MCHF engaged the Registrar of the High Court in Blantyre to assess the possibility of remotely/virtually collecting the baseline data. Through this initial engagement, MCHF was formally introduced to the Chief Resident Magistrate (CRM) for each of the Northern, Central, and Southern Regions, specifically to introduce the project, and solicit their support in the collection of the baseline case data. While the CRMs were supportive, subsequent data collection was not effective as the archiving system (which, for example, is not organized by sector, or by year) in the courts made it extremely difficult for the court monitors to identify and collate the necessary information. In response, MCHF developed a new strategy for forest crime baseline data collection together with the Director of Prosecutions at MPS. This new strategy required the court monitors to work through District Police Stations to collect the data from the case registries. Data collection was initiated in late FY2020, and will continue at least through the first quarter of FY2021.
Build capacity of Forest Guards and community enforcement networks	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the last quarter of FY2020, MCHF engaged Community Enforcement Network (CEN) members in all targeted sites (districts and urban demand centers). MCHF facilitated an orientation for CEN members to help them understand the purpose of their work and how it contributes to the efforts of the GoM (through the Department of Forestry) to preserve Malawi's natural resources and combat forestry crime.
Strengthen capacity for forestry crime investigations	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCHF engaged with the Interagency Committee on Combatting Wildlife Crime (IACCWC), which is a network of government enforcement agencies, including: DoF, Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), Financial Intelligence Authority, Malawi Revenue Authority, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Malawi Judiciary, MPS, Department of Immigration, and the Malawi Defense Force. Honorary members of the agency who work in the environmental sector include: LWT, International Fund for Animal Welfare, WAG, and the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi. The meeting provided an opportunity to broadly introduce MCHF to the IACCWC and to

Key Activity	Status
	<p>share the scope of planned forestry regulation and enforcement activities that will be implemented through MCHF. The relationship between members of the IACCWC will be crucial for forestry crime related investigations, especially in terms of information sharing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 2020, MCHF supported the Wildlife Detection Dog Unit (WDDU) to pilot a training for dogs to detect protected tree species. During the training, members of the WDDU were introduced to a protected species (Mulanje Cedar—<i>Widdringtonia whytei</i>) and a non-protected species (<i>Gmelina</i>—<i>Gmelina arborea</i>), in an effort to teach the dogs how to differentiate between the scent of the protected species and the scent of a non-protected species. The pilot was part of a larger series of activities planned under the enforcement mandate of Objective 3. The trained dogs will contribute to the fight against illegal transportation of forest products sourced from protected species. Future training sessions will include the introduction of a broader portfolio of wood samples such as Rosewood.
Strengthen capacity in prosecution of forestry crimes	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the year, MCHF provided technical assistance to the DoF and MPS to review preliminary facts and hold pre-trial meetings for two cases in Lilongwe in an effort to build capacity of the prosecutors. MCHF will continue to support GoM counterparts to monitor the cases in Lilongwe and Mzimba.
Establish a court and prison monitoring program	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In advance of establishing a formal, structured court monitoring program, MCHF mobilized monitors, on an ad hoc basis, in response to specific cases associated with alleged forest crimes in Dzalanyama and Perekezi Forest Reserves. These first cases monitored by MCHF provided valuable learning opportunities and highlighted the need for more regular, structured engagement between the DoF, MPS, and District Councils.
Develop and implement a forest crime disruption strategy	<p>Delayed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity, initially scheduled to begin in the second half of the fourth quarter of FY2020, was delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This activity is now scheduled to commence in the third quarter of FY2021 after completion of the Charcoal PEA.
Result 3.3: Improved advocacy and public awareness on forestry issues	
Raise awareness of changes to the Forestry Act and relevant regulations at the landscape level	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In an effort to raise awareness of changes to the Forestry Act, MCHF supported the DoF to design and draft a leaflet which highlights changes in the forestry legislation as a result of the enacted amendment. In addition, MCHF supported printing of an initial tranche (500 copies) of the amendment to the Forestry Act, which was distributed to Zonal and District Forestry Offices, MPS Officers in Charge and Chief Resident Magistrates or Magistrates. Broader public information will be disseminated in the first half of FY2021.

2.3.1 SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIVE 3 ACHIEVEMENTS

To supplement the summary presentation of Objective 3 activities (above) and the reporting on indicator targets and results (Section 3.0), the below text describes two notable Objective 3 achievements realized in FY2020.

ENACTMENT OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE FORESTRY ACT

The Parliament’s adoption of the amendment to the Forestry Act in February, and the subsequent assent by the President in June 2020 marks a significant achievement. Among other amendments, the government can now regulate charcoal as a forest product and the government has the authority to use much stronger penalties (both fines and custodial sentences) as a disincentive to illegal forest activity. Amending the Forestry Act was a necessary precursor to strengthening regulation and enforcement in the sector.

ASSESSMENT OF FORESTRY AND RELATED SECTOR LAWS AND REGULATIONS

MCHF worked with the DoF and the Ministry of Justice to compile existing legislation and regulations for the forestry and related sectors (e.g., land, environment, wildlife, etc.). These compiled documents were thoroughly reviewed to identify any gaps, overlaps, and inconsistencies which could undermine or complicate regulation and enforcement. Prior to the end of FY2020, the draft findings were presented and circulated, and feedback was compiled. The assessment will be revised and finalized in early FY2021 to reflect the feedback received. MCHF will then work with the DoF, Ministry of Justice, and other stakeholders to develop regulations for at least three priority areas defined in the assessment.

2.4 OBJECTIVE 4: GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI’S IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT IN REDD+ AND/OR OTHER LAND USE INCREASED

Within Objective 4, the MCHF FY2020 Annual Work Plan described six key activities. The status of each is summarized below.

TABLE 5. OBJECTIVE 4 KEY ACTIVITIES AND STATUS

Key Activity	Status
Result 4.1: Improved GoM capacity to utilize systems, tools, and technologies to manage and monitor forest landscapes	
Support the GoM to carry out the National Forest Inventory (NFI)	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the third quarter of FY2020, MCHF supported the DoF to establish an NFI Task Force, and through the Task Force solicited inputs to revise the NFI Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The Task Force is comprised of individuals from the DoF (including the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi and the Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife); National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens; and academia. The review of NFI SOPs builds on the Task Force members’ experiences from the NFI fieldwork, previous project-based forest inventory initiatives, as well as knowledge of other regional inventory processes. The compiled revisions were circulated to the NFI Task Force for final review before the SOPs were finalized and disseminated for use in the NFI 2020. In addition, the DoF will make the NFI SOPs available for use by future forestry projects so that forest inventory data is collected in a consistent manner and can feed into the central Data Management System (DMS). Focal points for the Shire Valley Transformation Project (SVTP) and Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL) were also engaged by in the SOP review process in an effort to ensure the revised NFI SOPs are adopted by these government-led forest-related projects as well. In the third quarter of FY2020, MCHF began working with the DoF to develop the sampling frame for the NFI. The design employed a random sampling grid system, overlaying any forested areas across the country, including forested areas outside the protected areas. The NFI 2020 will prototype the sampling grid design within the seven forest reserves MCHF is targeting.

Key Activity	Status
Result 4.1: Improved GoM capacity to utilize systems, tools, and technologies to manage and monitor forest landscapes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NFI 2020 was initiated in September 2020 and will conclude in November. The NFI is being conducted by teams comprised of GoM staff, representatives from academia, and community members. Analysis of the NFI will begin in late-November and is expected to be completed before the end of January.
Build GoM capacity by equipping the National Monitoring Unit with methodologies, reference guides, and training materials	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCHF engaged the DoF to establish the National Forest and Landscape Restoration Monitoring Unit (NMU), which will be located within the DoF headquarters. The DoF assigned three personnel to support the NMU. However, given the DoF's inability to allocate these individuals to the NMU on a full-time basis, MCHF requested the DoF consider assigning two additional junior staff to support the NMU unit on a full-time basis. When the DoF determined it did not have the funding to hire the two, junior staff, MCHF agreed to fund these positions for an initial period of two years. Upon completion of the NFI 2020 toward the end of the first quarter/beginning of the second quarter of FY2021, MCHF will conduct a capacity needs assessment of the NMU, develop a capacity building plan, and begin building the capacity of the NMU to fulfill its mandate.
Result 4.2: Institutionalized data management system for forest landscape management and monitoring	
Institutionalize data management system for forest landscape management and monitoring	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the second half of FY2020, MCHF completed the planned desk review of all formally-accepted national strategic documents relevant to forestry and restoration (including but not limited to the Forest Policy, NFLRS, NCS, the National REDD+ Strategy, and the National Resilience Strategy), and consolidated all available geospatial data. Early in FY2021 after completion of the NFI 2020, MCHF will convene high-level consultations with representatives from GoM Departments of Forestry, Surveys, Energy Affairs, and Disaster Management Affairs to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss a shared framework for forestry and landscape data needs; Map out specific data requirements (frequency, format, spatial referencing, etc.) and institutional roles and responsibilities; and Present proposed prioritization of monitoring functions to national government stakeholders for validation.
Result 4.3: Improved capacity of forestry officials and communities to manage forest lands	
Identify data needs per each different land use in each landscape (forest reserves, plantations, customary lands)	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCHF compiled and reviewed all relevant national strategies, policies, and other resources related to forest and landscape management and monitoring including but not limited to the: National Forest Policy, NCS, NFLRS, National REDD+ Strategy, and National Resilience Strategy. As part of this process, MCHF reviewed indicator frameworks associated with these strategic resources and began working with the DoF to rationalize a comprehensive indicator framework for forest and landscape monitoring that the GoM can apply nationally, and which integrates national and district data. In addition, MCHF compiled various geospatial datasets (e.g., from the National FLR Assessment; Woodfuel Demand, Supply and Sustainability Analysis; and the USGS Land Use/Land Cover and Tree Density on Farm), and began assessing how to best combine these data to inform the landscape restoration action planning process and, as part of this, broader site-based activity design and implementation.

Key Activity	Status
Result 4.1: Improved GoM capacity to utilize systems, tools, and technologies to manage and monitor forest landscapes	The data will be used to inform development of landscape restoration action plans.
Support village leaders and local institutions in monitoring tools and approaches	Delayed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation for this activity was delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and is now scheduled to begin in the second quarter of FY2021.
Build capacity of District Forestry Officers and managers of private forests	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation for this activity began in late FY2020 through the NFI but will be expanded considerably in FY2021 and subsequent years.

2.4.1 SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIVE 4 ACHIEVEMENTS

To supplement the summary presentation of Objective 4 activities (above), and the reporting on indicator targets and results (Section 3.0), the below describes one notable Objective 4 achievement realized in FY2020.

SUPPORT THE GOM TO PLAN AND INITIATE THE NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY 2020

MCHF supported the DoF to plan for and begin implementing the NFI 2020, which targets all seven MCHF focal forest reserves. The support included review and revision of the NFI SOPs, development of the sampling plan, and initiation of the NFI field work.

2.5 OBJECTIVE 5: INTERVENTIONS LEVERAGED WITH OTHER USAID AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS RESOURCES

In FY2020 MCHF engaged with a wide range of development partners, implementing partners, private entities, and other actors to identify win-win integration opportunities that will leverage resources such as material, technical and financial resources; expand implementation; and help to sustain activities and results. In total, MCHF implemented three integration activities in FY2020 with USAID implementing partners and other development partners.

TABLE 6. OBJECTIVE 5 KEY ACTIVITIES AND STATUS

Key Activity	Status
Result 5.1: Discrete integration opportunities successfully implemented with USAID and other development partners activities	
Discrete integration activities successfully implemented	Completed MCHF successfully integrated with the following projects/development partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The USAID-funded Local Government Accountability and Performance (LGAP) project to provide technical inputs (particularly for the forestry sector) towards finalization of Dedza and Salima (2017-2022) Socio Economic Profiles (2017-2022) National Cookstove Steering Committee (NCSC) to support two NCSC Working Groups (Working Group 2: Charcoal and Alternative Biomass and Working Group 3: Liquefied Petroleum Gas) Investment Support Facility (ISF) and MCHF have agreed on how to leverage the ISF and MCHF Clean Cooking Performance-Based Grants. Specifically, MCHF agreed to introduce scalable enterprises to the ISF, and also to integrate the ISF application requirements into the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund application process (in an effort to effectively pre-qualify interested applicants for the ISF). ISF will target

Key Activity	Status
Result 5.1: Discrete integration opportunities successfully implemented with USAID and other development partners activities	
	clean cooking enterprises which meet their screening criteria. MCHF may also leverage the ISF's cadre of trained Transaction Advisors
Result 5.2: Mobilized investment for sustainable landscapes	
Identify and document relevant media and information-sharing channels for landscape success stories in Malawi	<p>Delayed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated delay in initiating field-based activities, this activity has been delayed. It is now scheduled to commence in the second half of FY2021.

2.6 CROSS-CUTTING PROJECT SUPPORT

Throughout FY2020, MCHF applied its integrated approach to project planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting. Cross-cutting activities and achievements are presented below.

2.6.1 MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

For Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL), MCHF worked to develop and finalize the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan in FY2020. This included a participatory work planning workshop and the MCHF activity inception workshop, which engaged partners and stakeholders to assess the indicators and targets included in Tetra Tech's final proposal and the resulting contract. MCHF used the feedback received to reevaluate the performance indicators, propose revisions, and discuss these with USAID and FCDO. In addition, MCHF was requested to map activity objectives, IRs, and indicators to the new USAID/Malawi CDCS results framework and priority Mission-level indicators. These tasks were completed and included in the MCHF AMELP, which includes 23 performance indicators, a standard USAID gender indicator (GNDR 2 "Percentage of female participants in United States Government (USG)-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources [assets, credit, income, or employment]"), and an indicator to track the number of youth-led enterprises supported with USG assistance in order to measure gender and youth integration of MCHF activities. Beyond working to finalize project indicators and targets, MCHF also engaged with USAID to finalize the MCHF DevResults profile.

In the fiscal year, MCHF also developed methodologies for baseline data collection (e.g., urban cooking energy CMR and baseline survey; rapid rural cooking scan; deforestation estimation; and forest crime conviction rate baseline) and initiated baseline data collection for select indicators.

Further, MCHF developed performance indicator data collection tools and reporting protocols to ensure activity results are reported and are in compliance with the approved AMELP as well as to ensure data quality. MCHF staff have been trained on the use of the data collection forms and reporting protocols and will continue to be trained on these in FY2021 together with future grantees. In addition, MCHF reported performance indicator results for three performance indicators, two of which had annual targets in the start-up year.

To make CLA more intentional throughout the five-year MCHF period of performance, and to help the activity and collaborating partners improve effectiveness of development efforts, MCHF began laying the groundwork for Communities of Practice (CoP). Specifically, through its leadership and support for the NCSC Working Groups 2 and 3, the Working Groups have begun to answer some of the learning questions defined in the MCHF AMELP to share experiences, evidence and to generate knowledge. Some of the questions include 1) which enterprise financing models are most successful for leveraging private sector investment for the FE technology and alternative fuel sector; 2) which SMBC strategies are most effective at increasing adoption of FE cooking technologies and alternative fuels; and 3) which consumer financing models are most successful in scaling-up adoption

among others. MCHF will continue to pursue its learning agenda through other relevant CoPs (by joining existing CoPs or establishing new ones) in FY2021.

2.6.2 GRANTS UNDER CONTRACT

As part of project start-up and in parallel with the development of the FY2020 AWP, AMELP and EMMP, Tetra Tech developed the MCHF Grants Under Contract (GUC) Manual and submitted this for approval on January 7th, 2020. Verbal feedback was received on February 25th, and written feedback followed on March 3rd. The Grants Manual was then revised and resubmitted on June 5th and approved on July 31st. In anticipation of the approved Grants Manual, Tetra Tech began working on the design of the planned first and largest Request for Application (RFA), which is planned for release in the first quarter of FY2021 in coordination with the Malawi Clean Cooking Fund launch. In addition, and in parallel with the FY2021 Annual Work Planning process, MCHF worked with USAID, project partners, and stakeholders to prioritize areas for additional grants in support of the FY2021 AWP. These areas include targeted research (e.g., charcoal flows) and focused information and awareness campaigns. MCHF expects at least one additional RFA to be developed and released in the second quarter of FY2021, with at least one additional RFA in the second half of FY2021.

2.6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING PLAN

MCHF used the LOA Performance Work Statement and the draft FY2020 AWP to draft the EMMP (screening activities against the Mission's Sustainable Livelihoods IEE) and submitted this to USAID on January 9th, 2020. USAID reviewed the draft and provided feedback on February 13th. MCHF reviewed the comments, revised the EMMP, and resubmitted the EMMP on February 23rd. USAID reviewed the revised EMMP and provided final comments on March 20th. MCHF made final revisions to the EMMP, addressing USAID's final comments, and resubmitted the final EMMP on May 14th. Finally, USAID approved the final EMMP on May 21st, 2020. As noted previously, the Sustainable Livelihoods IEE recommended a "deferral" for sustainable charcoal activities. As indicated in the EMMP, MCHF notified USAID of the need for an amendment to the governing IEE in January 2020. MCHF shall not implement sustainable charcoal activities until an amended IEE is approved by the Bureau Environment Officer, after which MCHF shall add amended mitigation measures to the current EMMP.

3.0 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The previous section highlighted implementation progress of activities detailed in the approved MCHF FY2020 Annual Work Plan. This section presents performance gains against the established project indicators and targets included in MCHF's approved AMELP.

The MCHF AMELP includes a total of 23 indicators, only two of which included targets for the first year of implementation. Below, we present the FY2020 target and actual achievement for these two indicators, as well as for a third indicator which did not have a FY2020 target but for which we are reporting results. In each instance where there was more than a 10% deviation (+/-) between the FY2020 indicator target and the actual result, a narrative explanation for the deviation is provided, as well as an explanation of whether, and if so how, this may impact LOA targets.

Indicator 14: Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing sustainable landscapes formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance (EG 13-3)

- FY2020 Target: **4** Life of Activity Target: **50**
- FY2020 Actual: **5** Life of Project Actual: **5**
- Narrative Explanation: The result achieved in FY2020 is more than 10% **above** the target. The deviation in FY2020 target/actual is explained by the earlier-than-projected enactment of the amendment to the Forestry Act which was assented by the President in late-June 2020.
- Impact on Out-Year and Life-of-Project Targets: The enactment of the amended Forestry Act had been projected for FY2021, which means MCHF may under report (by one) against the FY2021 target. However, this deviation is not expected to have any impact on the life-of-project target.

Indicator 19: Number of people trained in sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance (EG 13-1)

- FY2020 Target: **0** Life of Activity Target: **5,000**
- FY2020 Actual: **28** Life of Activity Actual: **28**
- Narrative Explanation: The result achieved in FY2020 is more than 10% **above** the target. The deviation in FY2020 target/actual is explained by training associated with the earlier-than-anticipated start to the NFI 2020 which commenced in September 2020, instead of October as projected in the approved FY2020 AWP.
- Impact on Out-Year and Life-of-Project Targets: The deviation in FY2020 is not expected to have any impact on out-year or life-of-project targets.

Indicator 20: Number of discrete integration opportunities successfully pursued and implemented (Custom)

- FY2020 Target: **3** Life of Activity Target = **30**
- FY2020 Actual: **3** Life of Activity Actual=**3**
- Narrative Explanation: The FY2020 and LOA results are within 10% of the target; therefore, no explanation is necessary.

TABLE 7. PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORTING FY2020

Project Indicator Number	Performance Indicator (Type of Indicator) Frequency (A=annual, Q=quarter)	Disaggregates	Source/Data Collection Methodology	Base-line	FY20 Target	FY20 Actual	FY21 Target	FY22 Target	FY23 Target	FY24 Target	LOA Target
GOAL: Promote sustainable forest management of selected landscapes and promote sustainable energy options in Malawi											
1	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through sustainable landscapes activities supported by USG assistance (EG 13-6, Impact) A	Emissions and GHG removal-producing activity type	Calculations based on activity records using Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines	0	0	-	93,201	180,572	284,937	384,086	942,796
2	Projected greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided from adopted laws, policies, regulations, or technologies related to sustainable landscapes as supported by USG assistance	Years 1 to 5 Years 6 to 10 Years 7 to 15	AFOLU Carbon Calculator or WRI Policy Action Standard (TBD)	0	0	-	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
3 Tied to Fee	Number of hectares of forested land in targeted areas showing reduced deforestation based on the GoM deforestation estimation (Impact) A Biennial	Landscape	GoM FREL methods applied by MCHF to targeted landscapes	TBD	-	-	-	58,000	83,000	124,000	265,000
OBJ 1: Alternative energy sources and efficient cooking technologies adopted to reduce unsustainable wood fuel demand											
4	Number of improved technology products that are commercially viable and provide an alternative to illegal charcoal promoted in Malawi as a result of MCHF assistance (Output) A	Technology type (fuel efficiency or alternative fuel) and milestone	MCHF checklist, firm data, documentation of products	0	0	0	2	3	3	2	10
<i>IR 1.1: Enhanced consumer demand for alternative energy sources and efficient cooking technologies in priority urban and rural areas</i>											
5	Percent of households in/around targeted forest reserves that have adopted efficient cooking technologies (Outcome) Biennial	Landscape	Survey every other year	TBD	0	0	-	25%	-	75%	75%
6 Tied to Fee	Percent of households in urban areas that have adopted alternative cooking energy sources and/or efficient cooking technologies (Outcome) A Biennial	Urban area	Survey every other year plus estimates in gap years based on stove sales	TBD	0	0	-	8%	-	30%	30%
7	Percent of sampled target audience reporting exposure to messages on alternative energy sources and fuel-efficient technologies on radio, TV, electronic platforms, or in print (Outcome) Biennial	Urban / Rural	Survey every other year	TBD	0	0	-	25%	-	75%	75%
<i>IR 1.2: Improved supply of alternative energy and efficient cooking technologies and products</i>											

Project Indicator Number	Performance Indicator (Type of Indicator) Frequency (A=annual, Q=quarter)	Disaggregates	Source/Data Collection Methodology	Base-line	FY20 Target	FY20 Actual	FY21 Target	FY22 Target	FY23 Target	FY24 Target	LOA Target
8	Number of firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance for improving business performance (EG 5.2-1, Output) A	Formal/informal; new/continuing	Activity records	0	0	0	12	18	20	5	55
9	Increase in annual sales of firms doing business in alternative energy options and efficient cooking technologies (Outcome) A	Geography	Secondary data from distributors and firms	0	\$0K	\$0K	\$40K	\$410K	\$450K	\$600K	\$1.5M
<i>IR 1.3: Improved production and market penetration of sustainable charcoal</i>											
10	Number of tons of sustainable charcoal or alternative biomass energy produced (Outcome) A	Production source	Partner records	0	0	0	0	0	4,000	7,000	11,000
OBJ 2: Local delivery of forestry services and sustainable use of forestry resources in targeted areas improved											
<i>IR 2.1: Improved forest governance systems in targeted areas</i>											
11	Number of hectares of degraded landscapes under improved natural resources management as a result of USG assistance (Outcome) A	Landscape	Activity records, grantee reports, site visits, FLR plans	0	0	0	0	3,500	5,000	7,500	16,000
<i>IR 2.2: Enhanced natural resource-based enterprises and livelihoods in targeted areas</i>											
12	Number of forest-friendly enterprises with documented increases in sales (Outcome) A	Formal/informal Men/women/youth	Activity, subcontractor, grantee records, qualitative narrative covering enterprise, connection to benefit	0	0	0	0	4	10	6	20
13	Number of people receiving livelihood co-benefits (monetary or nonmonetary) associated with implementation of USG sustainable landscape activities (EG 13-5, Outcome) A	Sex	Activity records, Consumer Market Research and Surveys	0	0	0	5,000	15,000	20,000	30,000	70,000
OBJ 3: Regulatory and enforcement framework to support sustainable wood fuel production and use strengthened											
<i>IR 3.1: Strengthened regulatory framework on charcoal production and use</i>											
14	Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing sustainable landscapes formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance (EG 13-3, Output or Outcome) Q	National/subnational Proposed/implemented/adopted	Copy of document, rationale narrative	TBD	4	5	11	14	11	10	50
<i>IR 3.2: Improved capacity to enforce laws on illegal charcoal production and illegal trade in forest products</i>											
15 Tied to Fee	Percent change in annual conviction rate for illegal charcoal and other forestry crime activities (Outcome) A	Charcoal/other Custodial sentence/fine	Court records	TBD	-	-	5%	15%	30%	50%	50%
<i>IR 3.3: Improved advocacy and public awareness on forestry issues</i>											

Project Indicator Number	Performance Indicator (Type of Indicator) Frequency (A=annual, Q=quarter)	Disaggregates	Source/Data Collection Methodology	Base-line	FY20 Target	FY20 Actual	FY21 Target	FY22 Target	FY23 Target	FY24 Target	LOA Target
16	Number of organizations that have advanced their advocacy capacity A	Level/milestone	Advocacy Assessment	TBD	0	0	0	2	4	4	10
OBJ 4: Government of Malawi's implementation capacity of low emissions development in REDD+ and/or other land use increased											
<i>IR 4.1: Improved GoM capacity to utilize systems, tools, and technologies to manage and monitor forest landscapes</i>											
17	Number of institutions with improved capacities to address sustainable landscapes issues as supported by USG assistance (EG 13-2, Output) Q	National/subnational/other	Activity records	0	0	0	7	13	20	10	50
<i>IR 4.2: Institutionalized data management system for forest landscape management and monitoring</i>											
18	Number of discrete approaches developed and implemented for forest landscape management and monitoring (Outcome) Q	Approach and milestone	Activity records, participant list, DoF notes	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	4
<i>IR 4.3: Improved capacity of forestry officials and communities to manage forest lands</i>											
19	Number of people trained in sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance (EG 13-1, Output) Q	Sex	Training records (curriculum, attendance records)	0	0	28	700	1,550	1,750	1,000	5,000
OBJ 5: Interventions leveraged with other USAID and development partners resources											
<i>IR 5.1: Discrete integration opportunities successfully implemented with USAID and other development partners activities</i>											
20	Number of discrete integration opportunities successfully implemented with USAID and other development partner activities (Output) Q	Public/private	Activity and partner records	0	3	3	8	9	8	2	30
<i>IR 5.2: Mobilized investment for sustainable landscapes</i>											
21	Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for sustainable landscapes as supported by USG assistance (EG 13-4, Outcome) Q	Public/private; domestic/international	Financial documentation and rationale report	0	0	0	\$150K	\$2.2M	\$4M	\$3.65M	\$10M
Crosscutting											
22	Percent of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, or employment) (GNDR-2, Output) A	Numerator, dominator	Activity records	N/A	N/A	-	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
23	Number of youth-led enterprises supported with USG assistance (USAID/Malawi CDCS, Outcome)	Size (e.g., micro, small, medium...), stage (e.g., creation, on-going, etc.), and age band	Activity records	N/A	0	0	3	5	4	3	15

4.0 PROJECT/CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

4.1 PROGRESS IN CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges to MCHF. The pandemic has slowed the pace of implementation. This has most significantly impacted implementation of Objective 2 field-based activities (as well as field-based aspects of Objective 1 and Objective 3). Despite these considerable challenges, MCHF made a concerted effort to identify and prioritize work streams that could either progress as designed, or that could be adapted and advanced during the pandemic. As a result of these efforts, and adaptive planning and management, MCHF implementation and results at the end of FY2020 are largely in-line with the approved FY2020 AWP and AMELP.

From the perspective of contract administration, Tetra Tech has developed and submitted all project deliverables on-time, without exception in FY2020. In addition, Tetra Tech has worked with the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) and Contracting Officer (CO) to identify and propose resolution to contractual issues (four of which have been agreed to but remain pending at the time of drafting this report). Tetra Tech has continued to be highly responsive to recommendations and ad hoc requests from USAID, including many on short notice. This includes responding to requests to publicize MCHF through the USAID Climatelinks platform and the development and delivery of draft briefings and talking notes in support of high-level USG-GoM engagement on short notice (often the same/next day).

4.2 CONSTRAINTS AND CRITICAL ISSUES

As mentioned briefly above, in March 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic began to impact Malawi. This included impacts on MCHF—primarily by limiting mobility and engagement, which in turn delayed implementation of planned activities. While it was not possible at the onset of the disruption in March to predict with any certainty the course of the COVID-19 pandemic in Malawi or the duration of the disruption, after discussions with USAID, MCHF reviewed and revised the FY2020 AWP and the AMELP to reflect anticipated impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. That being said, this FY2020 Annual Activity Report reports that MCHF implementation and delivery of results to date are very much in accordance with the approved FY2020 AWP and AMELP. This said, the uncertain future trajectory of COVID-19 within Malawi and globally remains the greatest potential constraint to MCHF in FY2021 and subsequent years.

4.3 PERSONNEL

KEY PERSONNEL

The MCHF Chief of Party (COP), Ramzy Kanaan, was on the ground the first day of contract implementation, and within days three of the four remaining key personnel (Blessings Mwale, Deputy Chief of Party [DCOP]; Evelyn Mvalo, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning [MEL] Specialist; and Wezzie Chisenga, Forestry Specialist) were contracted. The fifth and final key personnel identified in the prime contract, Kevin Kabunda, the Private Sector Engagement/Grants Specialist, was not hired after USAID denied Tetra Tech's request for approval of Mr. Kabunda's allowances and differentials related to his status as a third country national. The position, which was extensively advertised in Malawi during the proposal, was then openly re-advertised in December 2019, together with the remaining non-key personnel vacancies. This second Private Sector Engagement Specialist/Grants Specialist recruitment did not result in any candidates that met the requirements of the position as defined by the contract, or that had the experience and knowledge to lead the market systems approach. Based on subsequent discussions with USAID, this position was modified, then was re-advertised in February 2020. Resulting from this recruitment, the top ranked candidate rejected

Tetra Tech's salary offer as his established salary exceed the local salary scale maximum established by the USG. Tetra Tech then negotiated with the second ranked candidate, and at the time of writing this report Tetra Tech had requested approval from USAID to hire this candidate, and this approval was pending.

NON-KEY PERSONNEL

In addition to key personnel, Tetra Tech (and its subcontractors) contracted the following additional staff within the first two months of implementation in an effort to achieve a rapid activity start-up:

- Thokozile Chizimbi, Finance Officer
- Jane Manda, Operations Manager
- Charles Gausi, Head Driver
- Admore Chiumia, Alternative Energy and Fuel-Efficient Cooking Technology (AEFECT) Specialist (Objective 1)
- Yolanda Ng'oma, Regulatory and Enforcement Specialist (Objective 3),
- Mary Jambawe, Acting Operations Assistant
- Khwima Kawonga, Finance Assistant
- Mavuto Waliwali, Driver
- Ruth Kaniki, Office Assistant

The following individuals were contracted in the third and fourth quarters of FY2020:

- Don Cuizon, Director of Cross-Cutting Services
- Mike Chirwa, Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) Manager (Objective 4)
- Consolata Kambani, Grants Manager
- Eliam Kamanga, Communications, Social Marketing and Behavior Change Specialist (SMBC) (*beginning October 1, 2020*)

4.4 CHANGES IN THE PROJECT

There were no considerable changes to the geographic or technical design of MCHF in FY2020.

4.5 CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Modifications #01 and #02 were issued during FY2020, on April 6 and August 31, respectively. Both contract modifications were to obligate incremental funding.

Modification #03 is currently being discussed between MCHF and USAID to address substantive issues regarding fee, clarity on personnel compensation, and an adjustment to the Chichewa name of the Activity.

APPENDIX A: DELIVERABLES TRACKER

REPORT/DELIVERABLE TITLE	DATE DUE	REVISED DUE DATE (IF ANY)	DATE SUBMITTED	DATE OF USAID COMMENTS (IF ANY)	DATE OF FINAL SUBMITTAL (IF ANY)	DATE APPROVED (WRITTEN)
Mobilization Plan	30-Oct-19		30-Oct-19			26-Nov-19
Monthly Update Report (October 2020)	15-Nov-19		15-Nov-19			19-Nov-19
Draft FY2020 Annual Work Plan	29-Nov-19		29-Nov-19	18-Dec-20		N/A
Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)	29-Nov-19	09-Jan-20	09-Jan-20	13-Feb-20 20-Mar-20	23-Feb-20 14-May-20	21-May-20
Monthly Update Report (November 2020)	15-Dec-19		12-Dec-19			12-Dec-2019
Quarter 1 Accruals	15-Dec-19		13-Dec-19			N/A
Activity Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Plan (AMELP)	29-Dec-19	09-Jan-20	07-Jan-20	31-Jan-20 31-Mar-20 21-May-20	24-June-20	03-July-20
Final FY2020 Annual Work Plan	29-Dec-19	20-Jan-20	20-Jan-20	25-Mar-20 21-May-20	12-June-20	25-June20
Baseline Report	29-Dec-19	09-Jan-20	09-Jan-20			04-Mar-20
Grants Under Contract (GUC) Manual	29-Dec-19	09-Jan-20	07-Jan-20	25-Feb-20 (verbal) 03-Mar-20 (written)	05-June-20	31-July-20
Quarter 1 Progress Report	31-Jan-20		30-Jan-20			12-Feb-20
Quarter 1 Financial Report	31-Jan-20		30-Jan-20			12-Feb-20
Monthly Update Report (January 2020)	15-Feb-20		15-Feb-20			18-Feb-20
Monthly Update Report (February 2020)	15-Mar-20		15-Mar-20			16-Mar-20
Quarter 2 Accruals	16-Mar-20		16-Mar-20			N/A
Quarter 2 Progress Report	30-Apr-20		30-Apr-20			19-May-20
Quarter 2 Financial Report	30-Apr-20		30-Apr-20			30-Apr-20
Monthly Update Report (April 2020)	15-May-20		15-May-20			19-May-20
Monthly Update Report (May 2020)	15-Jun-20		14-June-20			15-June-20
Quarter 3 Accruals	16-Jun-20		16-June-20			N/A
Quarter 3 Progress Report	31-Jul-20		30-July-20			18-Aug-20
Quarter 3 Financial Report	31-Jul-20		29-July-20			4-Aug-20
Monthly Update Report (July 2020)	15-Aug-20		15-Aug-20			17-Aug-20
Monthly Update Report (August 2020)	15-Sep-20	18-Aug-20	18-Aug-20			18-Aug-20
Quarter 4 Accruals	15-Sep-20		09-Sept-20			N/A

APPENDIX B: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TRACKER

NAME	ROLE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE
Rebecca Butterfield	AMELP Development, and support for Annual Planning and Inception Workshops	Tetra Tech ARD	3 rd November 2019	16 th November 2019
Rod Snider	Annual Planning and Inception Workshop	Tetra Tech ARD	3 rd November 2019	15 th November 2019
Renee Vendetti	Project Start-up / Operations	Tetra Tech ARD	21 st November 2019	20 th December 2019
Kevin Brown	Inception Annual Planning Workshop	Winrock International	3 rd November 2019	15 th November 2019
Kevin Kabunda	Annual Planning and Inception Workshop	Consultant (Private Sector Engagement)	4 th November 2019	16 th November 2019
Emily Aversa ¹	Inception Annual Planning Workshop	WRI	8 th November 2019	13 th November 2019
Mike Clennon	MCHF Information Technology Setup	Tetra Tech	29 th February 2020	11 th March 2020
Dr. John Fay	Private Sector Engagement Consultant	Tetra Tech	8 th March 2020	13 th March 2020
Ramzy Kanaan (and family)	Authorized Departure due to COVID-19	Tetra Tech	31 st March 2020	2 nd October 2020

¹ Note: This travel was supported through other funding, so was not billed to USAID.

APPENDIX C: FY2020 COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS

MCHF ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests (MCHF) promotes sustainable forest management and energy options to maintain forest cover and to reduce land-based emissions in Malawi. MCHF is a five-year activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Tetra Tech implements MCHF in partnership with five subcontractors: Winrock International (WI), the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), World Resources Institute (WRI), and mHub. MCHF's objectives include:

1. Promoting adoption of alternative energy sources and efficient cooking technologies to reduce unsustainable wood fuel cooking demand, and most importantly urban demand for illegal and unsustainable charcoal;
2. Improving local delivery of forestry services, and promoting forest-friendly enterprises, including sustainable charcoal and other biomass energies;
3. Strengthening regulation and enforcement to support sustainable wood fuel production and use;
4. Increasing the Government of Malawi's (GoM) implementation capacity of low emissions development in REDD+, Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), and/or other land use; and
5. Leveraging interventions with partners, including USAID, FCDO, other development partners, GoM, and the private sector.

THE CHALLENGE

Malawi's forests are threatened due to reliance on biomass for energy and timber for construction; agriculture and settlement expansion; and harmful bushfires. The country's high population density and growth is deteriorating the situation. More than 96% of Malawian households rely on firewood and charcoal as their primary cooking fuels, and around two-thirds of urban households now rely on charcoal, which is the most significant driver of deforestation and forest degradation. In order to maintain forest cover and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Malawi needs innovative solutions that prioritize citizens' cooking energy needs, and properly manage and regulate forest resources.

MCHF APPROACH

MCHF aims to reduce unsustainable wood fuel demand by increasing adoption of alternative cooking energies and fuel-efficient cooking technologies, increasing sustainable wood fuel supply, and strengthening Malawi's business and regulatory enabling environment by:

1. **Implementing a landscape approach** that addresses wood fuel supply and demand and reduces underlying drivers of forest cover loss;
2. **Developing inclusive and sustainable market systems across alternative energy, sustainable charcoal, and forestry value chains** by engaging a wide range of actors,

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- identifying leverage points that overcome market constraints, and facilitating market-based solutions that utilize local systems and resources;
3. **Engaging the private sector and mobilizing financing, investment, and additional resources** that mobilize and increase investments for the alternative fuels, fuel-efficient technology, and improved forest governance and forest land restoration;
 4. **Building on and advancing key Government of Malawi policies and strategies**, such as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, Malawi 2020 Vision Document, National Charcoal Strategy (NCS), National Energy Policy (NEP), and National Forestry Policy & Act;
 5. **Strengthening local capacity for self-reliance and sustainability** by prioritizing local partners, working with and through GoM institutions, implementing facilitative market system approaches, and supporting human and institutional capacity development.

PRIORITY RESULTS BY OBJECTIVE

MCHF's objectives and intended results are outlined below. For more information on objective-specific activities and outputs, please refer to the objective fact sheets or contact the activity office.

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced consumer demand for fuel-efficient cooking technologies and alternative energy sources in priority urban areas • Improved supply of alternative energy and fuel-efficient cooking technologies and products • Improved production and market penetration of sustainable, legal charcoal
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved forest governance systems in targeted areas • Enhanced forest-friendly enterprises and livelihoods in targeted areas
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened regulatory framework for charcoal production and use, and forest management • Improved capacity to enforce laws on illegal charcoal production and trade in forest products • Improved advocacy and public awareness on forestry laws and regulations
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved GoM capacity to manage and monitor forest landscapes • Institutionalized data management system for forest landscape management and monitoring • Improved capacity of forestry officials and communities to monitor forest landscapes
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented discrete integration opportunities with USAID and other development partners • Mobilized investment for sustainable landscapes

ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIVITY TARGETS

- 30% of households in urban areas have adopted alternative cooking energy sources and fuel-efficient cooking technologies
- 75% of households in or around targeted forest reserves have adopted alternative or fuel-efficient cooking technologies
- 16,000 hectares of degraded landscapes under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance
- 50% increase in annual conviction rate for illegal charcoal and other forestry crimes
- \$10M of investment mobilized for sustainable landscapes
- 11,000 tons of sustainable charcoal produced
- 70,000 people receiving livelihood co-benefits associated with implementation of USG sustainable landscape activities



CONTACT

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MCHF OBJECTIVE ONE FACT SHEET



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MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI

OBJECTIVE ONE OVERVIEW

Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests (MCHF) promotes sustainable forest management and energy options to maintain forest cover and to reduce land-based emissions in Malawi. MCHF is a five-year activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Tetra Tech implements MCHF in partnership with five subcontractors: Winrock International (WI), the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), World Resources Institute (WRI), and mHub. MCHF's objectives include:

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3. Strengthening regulation and enforcement to support sustainable wood fuel production and use;
4. Increasing the Government of Malawi's (GoM) implementation capacity of low emissions development in REDD+, Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), and/or other land use; and
5. Leveraging interventions with partners, including USAID, FCDO, other development partners, GoM, and the private sector.

OBJECTIVE ONE

MCHF's Objective 1 takes a market systems approach to scale up demand and supply for alternative cooking energies and fuel-efficient cooking technologies, to catalyze widespread adoption. Together these efforts are designed to directly support key GoM policies and strategies to reduce unsustainable wood fuel demand, increase wood fuel supply and to improve the enabling environment. Objective 1 work focuses especially on reducing urban household demand for illegal and unsustainable charcoal. To achieve this objective, MCHF prioritizes three main strategies:

- Increase adoption of improved charcoal cookstoves by urban households as the most immediate way to address forest cover loss in Malawi;
- Increase production and market penetration of sustainable charcoal and alternative sources of biomass energy; and
- Increase adoption of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) as the best available and most promising alternative to charcoal in the medium term.

MCHF works to address the barriers to adoption, as well as to identify and engage the wide range of actors in the cookstove and alternative cooking energy value chains, and change the awareness, incentives, and capacity of these actors. Through tailored social marketing behavior change (SMBC) strategies and targeted capacity building of entrepreneurs, MCHF fosters greater involvement of

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women within these value chains to drive adoption and build inclusivity. MCHF focuses Objective I implementation in Malawi's four cities: Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu, and Zomba.

RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

MCHF's Objective I is designed to achieve three intermediate results (IRs). These IRs and associated key activities are outlined below.

IRI.1: Enhanced consumer demand for fuel-efficient cooking technologies and alternative energy sources in priority urban areas

- Conduct Consumer Market Research (CMR) and baseline survey;
- Support targeted consumer testing of commercially viable alternative energy (AE) and fuel-efficient (FE) technology products such as improved charcoal cookstoves, LPG, biogas/firewood, and legal, licensed charcoal;
- Develop innovative consumer financing strategies for AE and FE technology products; and
- Develop and implement SMBC strategies to drive adoption/scaling-up.

IRI.2: Improved supply of alternative energy and fuel-efficient cooking technologies and products

- Document and publicize commercially viable AE and FE technology products;
- Strengthen business skills and capacity of fuel-efficient cooking technology and alternative cooking energy enterprises and entrepreneurs; and
- Mobilize finance and investment for the FE cooking and AE sectors.

IRI.3: Improved production and market penetration of sustainable, legal charcoal

- Conduct Political Economic Analysis (PEA) of the charcoal value chain;
- Augment volumes of sustainable charcoal from production forests and non-wood biomass;
- Improve the quality and efficiency of charcoal production with the private sector; and
- Improve production and market penetration of sustainable, legal charcoal and alternative biomass energies in partnership with the private sector and other enterprises.

OBJECTIVE ONE ACTIVITY TARGETS

- 30% of households in urban areas have adopted alternative energy cooking sources and fuel-efficient cooking technologies
- 75% of households around targeted forest reserves have adopted fuel-efficient cooking technologies
- 75% of sampled target audience reporting exposure to media messages on alternative energy and fuel-efficient technologies
- 11,000 tons sustainable charcoal produced
- 10 improved technology products that are commercially viable and provide an alternative to illegal charcoal promoted
- 55 firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance for improving business performance
- \$1.5M increase in annual sales of firms doing business in alternative energy options and efficient cooking technologies



CONTACT

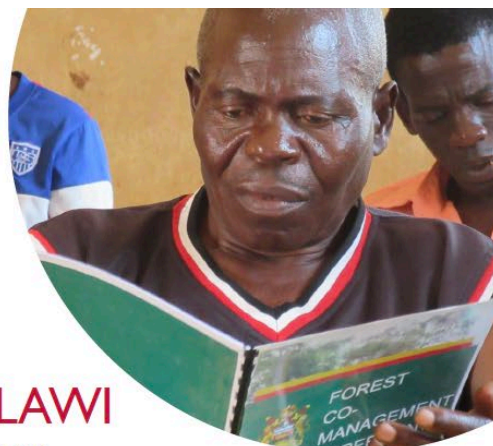
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MCHF OBJECTIVE TWO FACT SHEET



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MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI

OBJECTIVE TWO OVERVIEW

Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests (MCHF) promotes sustainable forest management and energy options to maintain forest cover and to reduce land-based emissions in Malawi. MCHF is a five-year activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Tetra Tech implements MCHF in partnership with five subcontractors: Winrock International (WI), the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), World Resources Institute (WRI), and mHub. MCHF's objectives include:

1. Promoting adoption of alternative energy sources and efficient cooking technologies to reduce unsustainable wood fuel cooking demand, and most importantly urban demand for illegal and unsustainable charcoal;
2. Improving local delivery of forestry services, and promoting forest-friendly enterprises, including sustainable charcoal and other biomass energies;
3. Strengthening regulation and enforcement to support sustainable wood fuel production and use;
4. Increasing the Government of Malawi's (GoM) implementation capacity of low emissions development in REDD+, Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), and/or other land use; and
5. Leveraging interventions with partners, including USAID, FCDO, other development partners, GoM, and the private sector.

OBJECTIVE TWO

MCHF's Objective 2 aims to improve local delivery of forestry services, and to promote forest-friendly enterprises, including sustainable charcoal and other biomass energies. The focus of Objective 2 is to increase wood fuel supply by improving forest governance and forest-friendly livelihoods. MCHF works to formalize the role of local institutions such as District Councils, traditional leaders, and Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs) in legally recognized forest co-management arrangements. Objective 2 work is anchored in two landscapes, containing forest reserves, forest plantations, and adjacent forested areas such as private plantations, customary lands, gazetted and non-gazetted Village Forest Areas (VFAs), private lands, and woodlots. These select landscapes present the greatest current and future potential to safeguard and increase wood fuel production as well as to supply urban areas. Objective 2 landscapes include:

CENTRAL LANDSCAPE

- **Districts:** Lilongwe, Salima, Dedza
- **Forest Reserves:** Mua-Livulezi, Thuma, Dzalanyama, Dedza-Salima Escarpment
- **Forest Plantation:** Dzalanyama

NORTHERN LANDSCAPE

- **Districts:** Mzimba, Nkhata Bay
- **Forest Reserves:** Bunganya, Kaning'ina, Perekezi
- **Forest Plantation:** Viphya

In these landscapes, MCHF scales up forest landscape restoration (FLR) adoption in targeted forest reserves and adjacent areas through technical assistance, awareness raising, improved market incentives, and private sector investment. MCHF applies a market systems approach that identifies promising natural resource-based value chains, creates market linkages, strengthens enterprise development, and mobilizes private sector investment across larger landscapes.

OBJECTIVE TWO RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

MCHF's Objective 2 is designed to achieve two intermediate results (IRs). These IRs and associated activities are outlined below.

IR2.1: Improved forest governance systems in targeted areas

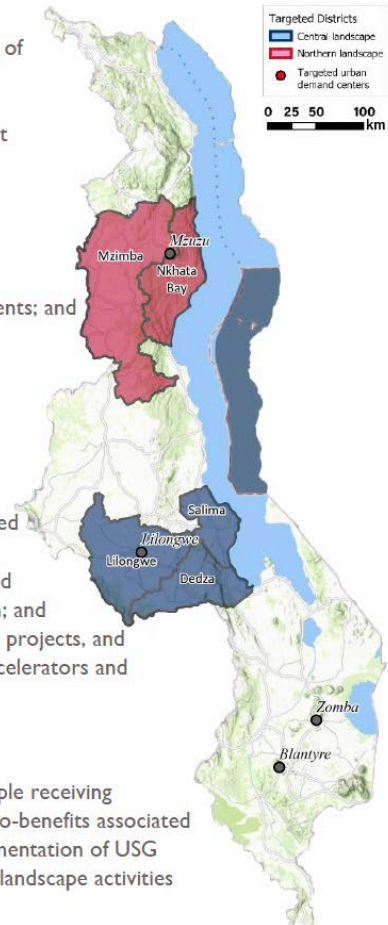
- Conduct a rapid assessment of selected landscapes inclusive of deforestation estimations, and selection of focal forest reserves/plantations;
- Facilitate landscape-level planning with stakeholders to select intervention areas;
- Implement and scale-up landscape FLR plans;
- Conduct site-based forest inventories and landscape-based deforestation estimations;
- Develop Forest Management Plans (FMPs) and Forest Co-Management/Forest Plantation/Forest Management Agreements; and
- Develop case studies of successful landscape-level FLR and showcase these on information-sharing platforms.

IR2.2: Enhanced forest-friendly enterprises and livelihoods in targeted areas

- Analyze and select forest-friendly value chains in focal landscapes;
- Strengthen natural resource-based enterprises within selected value chains;
- Strengthen business skills and capacity of FLR enterprises and entrepreneurs through mHub Growth Accelerator Program; and
- Document and publicize forest-friendly business models and projects, and support efforts to secure finance through incubators and accelerators and the online TerraMatch platform.

OBJECTIVE TWO ACTIVITY TARGETS

- 16,000 hectares of degraded landscapes under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance
- 20 forest-friendly enterprises with documented increases in sales
- 70,000 people receiving livelihood co-benefits associated with implementation of USG sustainable landscape activities



CONTACT

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MCHF OBJECTIVE THREE FACT SHEET



MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI

OBJECTIVE THREE OVERVIEW

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1. Promoting adoption of alternative energy sources and efficient cooking technologies to reduce unsustainable wood fuel cooking demand, and most importantly urban demand for illegal and unsustainable charcoal;
2. Improving local delivery of forestry services, and promoting forest-friendly enterprises, including sustainable charcoal and other biomass energies;
3. **Strengthening regulation and enforcement to support sustainable wood fuel production and use;**
4. Increasing the Government of Malawi's (GoM) implementation capacity of low emissions development in REDD+, Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), and/or other land use; and
5. Leveraging interventions with partners, including USAID, FCDO, other development partners, GoM, and the private sector.

OBJECTIVE THREE

MCHF aims to strengthen regulation and enforcement to support sustainable wood fuel production and use. MCHF Objective 3 focuses on improving the regulatory framework for wood fuels and strengthening law enforcement capacity to address forestry-related crime, which are essential to build a more sustainable forestry sector—specifically a more sustainable charcoal value chain. This, in turn, will support other MCHF objectives by providing incentives for investment in sustainable forest management, the adoption of improved charcoal production, the uptake of improved stoves, and the competitiveness of alternative fuels. Activity partner Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) leads activities under Objective 3, leveraging and adapting their experiences building Malawian capacity for regulation and enforcement in the wildlife sector. This strategically leverages LWT's funding from USAID, State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, DFID, and private sources—ensuring a consistent approach. Under Objective 3, MCHF supports government law enforcement agencies to map and profile forestry crime, including illegal charcoal production; and to assist them in the identification and adoption of key interventions that will disrupt and deter these crimes.

The MCHF approach implements key actions and recommendations of the GoM's National Charcoal Strategy (NCS) for regulating charcoal production (NCS Pillar 5) and strengthening law enforcement (NCS Pillar 4). This approach also builds on the Forestry Policy and amended Forestry Act, and will work toward enforcement of the GoM Charcoal Regulations once formalized. Objective 3 efforts and systems will span the country, including both rural and urban areas.

OBJECTIVE THREE RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

MCHF's Objective 3 is designed to achieve three intermediate results (IRs). These IRs and associated activities are outlined below.

IR3.1: Strengthened regulatory framework for charcoal production and use, and forest management

- Conduct a rapid assessment to review existing legal and regulatory frameworks related to MCHF activity scope;
- Facilitate approval of legal and regulatory reforms;
- Develop and facilitate approval of subsidiary regulations and guidelines; and
- Disseminate approved laws, regulations, and guidelines.

IR3.2: Improved capacity to enforce laws on illegal charcoal production and trade in forest products

- Build capacity of Forest Guards and community enforcement networks;
- Strengthen capacity for forestry crime investigations;
- Strengthen capacity for prosecution of forestry crimes;
- Establish court and prison monitoring programs; and
- Support the Government to develop and implement a forest crime disruption and deterrence strategy.

IR3.3: Improved advocacy and public awareness on forestry laws and regulations

- Raise awareness of changes to the Forestry Act and other regulations at the landscape level; and
- Train journalists in environmental activism and producing forestry-related journalistic reports.

OBJECTIVE THREE ACTIVITY TARGETS

- 50 laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing sustainable landscapes formally proposed, adopted, or implemented supported by USG assistance
- 50% increase in the annual conviction rate for illegal charcoal and other forestry crime activities
- 10 organizations that have advanced their advocacy capacity

CONTACT

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MCHF OBJECTIVE FOUR FACT SHEET



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MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI

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5. Leveraging interventions with partners, including USAID, FCDO, other development partners, GoM, and the private sector.

OBJECTIVE FOUR

Through Objective 4, MCHF supports the GoM to implement and institutionalize key systems, tools, and technologies that provide the requisite information base for improved forest monitoring, support to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) readiness, and FLR efforts. Objective 4 builds on the foundation established by the USAID/Malawi-funded Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi (PERFORM) project, which worked closely with the GoM to accomplish the requirements for the piloting phase of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and achieve all major milestones of the 2015 NFMR Roadmap:

- The land monitoring system;
- The field-based National Forest Inventory (NFI);
- The reference emissions level (REL); and
- The national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory.

PERFORM's work with the GoM resulted in a fully functional GHG Inventory System (GHG-IS); the development of Malawi's REDD+ FREL for deforestation, degradation, and forest enhancements; and with the Department of Forestry (DoF), steps to define methodologies, undertake locally-led data collection, and produce results to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) standards. MCHF expands on these efforts to further strengthen GoM capacity to

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improve the quality, management, and application of forest data and information at national, subnational, and field levels. Activity partner Winrock International (WI) leads activities under Objective 4.

RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

MCHF's Objective 4 is designed to achieve three intermediate results (IRs). These IRs and associated key activities are outlined below.

IR4.1: Improved GoM capacity to utilize systems, tools, and technologies to manage and monitor forest landscapes

- Integrate and streamline monitoring approaches and tools for forest/FLR monitoring;
- Support GoM to carry out the NFI in MCHF sites and other landscapes; and
- Build GoM capacity by equipping the Forest and Landscape Monitoring Unit with methodologies, reference guides, and training materials.

IR4.2: Institutionalized data management system for forest landscape management and monitoring

- Institutionalize data management system (DMS) for forest landscape management and monitoring.
- Identifying monitoring needs and best approaches for priority core National Forest Monitoring System functions.
- Establish and institutionalize a functioning DMS in the DoF to support forest management and monitoring.

IR4.3: Improved capacity of forestry officials and communities to monitor forest lands

- Identify data needs per land use in each landscape (forest reserves, plantations, customary lands);
- Support village leaders and local institutions in monitoring tools and approaches;
- Build capacity of District Forestry Officers (DFOs) and managers of private forests in forest monitoring; and
- Build GoM capacity to track forest cover change and land restoration by equipping subnational M&E leads with methodologies, reference guides, and training to set baselines and monitor progress and/or impacts of FLR.

OBJECTIVE FOUR ACTIVITY TARGETS

- 50 institutions with improved capacities to address sustainable landscapes issues as supported by USG assistance
- Deforestation rates determined, monitored and reduced for the MCHF Central and Northern Landscapes
- A Forest and Landscape Monitoring Unit established and operational within the DoF with a fully functional DMS
- 4 discrete approaches developed and implemented for forest landscape management and monitoring
- 5,000 people trained in sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance



CONTACT

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CLIMATELINKS BLOG: INCLUSIVE PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT – A KEY TO GROWTH IN MALAWI’S URBAN COOKING TRANSITION

<https://www.climatelinks.org/blog/inclusive-private-sector-engagement-key-growth-malawi-s-urban-cooking-transition>



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Inclusive Private Sector Engagement—A Key to Growth in Malawi’s Urban Cooking Transition

Inclusive Private Sector Engagement

MAY 27, 2020 | RAMZY KANAAN | ADMORE CHIUMIA | JOHN FAY | BLOG POST



Ultra-efficient charcoal stove.
Credit: Given Mwanza

In Malawi, where the percentage of urban households cooking on charcoal has increased from 44 percent to more than 75 percent between 2011 and 2018, a shift toward cleaner cooking is the best way to slow forest cover loss. In this case, cleaner cooking includes use of improved charcoal stoves, sustainable charcoal, alternative biomass energy, and liquefied petroleum gas—LPG. Private sector engagement, with an explicit focus on greater inclusion of local actors along cleaner cooking value chains, is necessary for both adoption at-scale and long-term sustainability.

Local enterprises, as compared to international companies, are well suited to lead this transition, replacing the status quo of inefficient charcoal stoves fueled by unsustainably harvested and illegally produced charcoal. Specifically, local entrepreneurs and other value chain actors are often uniquely positioned to deliver advantages across three essential components of this transition:

Acceptability based on social and cultural understanding: Locally-led companies have a detailed understanding of existing cooking technologies and the social and cultural preferences that inform local cooking practices. This understanding is essential to effectively create awareness of alternative cooking technologies that can be adopted at a scale capable of significantly reducing deforestation. For example, for any alternative cooking approach to become the new status quo and be maintained over the long term, it must be well-aligned to local cooking practices and have actual advantages over other options that can be perceived by the person doing the household cooking. A deep understanding of cooking practices is necessary to introduce technologies that can achieve scale and be sustained, and local enterprises often have a higher level of familiarity and trust with the customers than foreign companies.



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Geography:
Africa

Country:
Malawi

Keywords:
clean energy, climate finance, forest/forestry, low emission development strategies, mitigation, Self-reliance, sustainable landscapes

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- > In Nepal, cook stoves improve lives and help the environment



A prototype of a locally produced improved charcoal stove.
Credit: Alfred Chisale, Dziwani Investments

Affordability from local cost structures: Many cleaner cooking business models depend on scale because purchases of stoves and of fuel have low potential margin per customer. This is because the disposable income of the target urban customers is often extremely low. One ramification of this is that operating costs of any business in the sector must remain low for long-term sustainability, as high overhead will reduce the likelihood that the business can reach scale within a timeframe that enables it to become financially viable. The overheads of foreign-based companies are typically much higher when compared to local companies, providing a long-term advantage for local cost structures.

Accessibility through local distribution: Last mile distribution in the urban clean cooking sector requires both infrastructure and networks to make stoves and fuel—particularly fuel—easily accessible to each urban household. Replicating the existing distribution channels for illegal charcoal presents a significant challenge to large-scale adoption. Currently, illegal charcoal is often available within a short walk from the end customer's home. For any alternative to compete with this status quo, the process of getting fuel to urban households must be replicated. This will require co-opting existing distribution channels or creating new channels. Local companies will often have an advantage over foreign because of their ability to replicate those channels that can make the fuel accessible to customers at an affordable cost.

While local companies hold many of these advantages, they often lack market information and the access to finance, commercial or donor, needed to achieve scale. To help address these gaps the USAID and DFID co-funded Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests in Malawi project is conducting consumer market research and compiling market information that will support entrepreneurs to access the project's results-based finance. This will be coupled with technical assistance and business linkage support to local companies to increase the probability of long-term sustainability and scale within the cleaner cooking sector.



John Fay is a consultant and entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience designing and implementing market-led development projects in Southern Africa. He is the managing director of SVA Services International, an outsourcing services and consulting company based in Lusaka, Zambia. Previously, he was the Managing Director of VITALITE Zambia, a community distribution and service company focused on making renewable energy products available and affordable. He previously worked for Cardno Emerging Markets and investment bank FBR. John holds a PhD from the University of Cape Town's GSB, an MBA from Cornell University and a BA from Duke University.



Admore Chiumia is the MCHF Alternative Energy and Fuel-Efficient Cooking Technology (AEFECT) Specialist. An "energypreneur" and the founder of Green Impact Technologies, he has more than 8 years of professional experience working to expand delivery of energy solutions to Malawian households. Admore was educated in Energy Systems at Mzuzu University (Malawi) with supplementary training at University of California Davis (USA).



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