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**QUARTERLY REPORT
AMALIMA LOKO**

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ACRONYMS

Agritex	Department of Agriculture Advisory and Rural Development Services (now AARDS)
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
BSFP	Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program
CSB+	Corn Soya Blend Plus
CV	Community Visioning
DDC	District Development Coordinators
EHT	Environmental Health Technician
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
FDP	Food Distribution Points
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GYSD	Gender, Youth, and Social Dynamics
HCC	Health Centre Committee
IDA	Institutional Dynamics Assessment
LMMS	Last Mile Monitoring System
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
MT	Metric Tons
ORAP	Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress
PHHE	Participatory Health and Hygiene Education
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
RDC	Rural District Council
RDDC	Rural District Development Committee
R&I	Refine and Implement
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
SMTN	Sun Mountain
SOW	Scope of Work
ToC	Theory of Change
WCSC	Watershed Cluster Steering Committee
WFP	World Food Program

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I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Amalima Loko program is designed to improve food and nutrition security for more than 67,000 vulnerable households in rural Zimbabwe through increased food access and sustainable watershed management. The program is currently operating in 21 watershed clusters across Tsholotsho, Nkayi, Lupane, Binga, and Hwange districts of Matabeleland North province. Amalima Loko is a five-year Resilience Food Security Activity, which began October 1, 2020, led by CNFA as the prime implementer together with the Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP), Dabane, Mercy Corps, International Medical Corps (IMC), and The Manoff Group.

This report covers the first quarter (October–December) of FY23, which is Year 3 of the Amalima Loko program. The 2022 staple grain (maize, sorghum, millet) harvest in Matabeleland North was relatively, but not unusually, poor in an area where significant cereal deficits are the norm.¹ Food security challenges increased through this quarter, as the planting season began, and will continue to rise through the next quarter as the next harvest approaches. Seasonal rains began well in late October, with grazing conditions reported as fair-to-good. Several dry weeks followed, but rains then resumed and the overall precipitation outlook for the growing season is positive. It is expected that food availability will therefore improve toward the end of next quarter. Movement and gatherings now resemble pre-COVID pandemic conditions but general market activity remains subdued and smaller businesses continue struggling to recover from its impact, particularly those connected to the tourism and hospitality sector. After spiking in the summer, inflation remains high but is easing with prices now rising at a decreasing rate due to tighter government monetary policy, steadying black market exchange rates, and key drivers of inflation, such as fuel prices, stabilizing. No substantive shortages of fuel or basic food commodities have been seen in rural markets, but affordability continues to be a significant challenge for many. National elections will be held in Zimbabwe in 2023, so some future operational challenges are anticipated. However, Amalima Loko was able to operate in all program areas without significant impediment during the quarter.

In Q1, CNFA completed the Amalima Loko Chief of Party (COP) transition, with incoming COP, Dominic Graham, arriving in Zimbabwe in September and David Brigham demobilizing in early December. The months of overlap between the COPs enabled a smooth and gradual transition process and provided additional coverage during the very busy assets construction season and during the annual reporting process.

II. ACTIVITY SUMMARY

In the first quarter of FY23, Amalima Loko successfully concluded key community planning and preparation activities in the program areas with the completion of all 89 target wards' Ward Transformation Plans and the operationalization of all 21 Watershed Cluster Steering Committees. All 562 communities also completed their Village Action Plans and many began implementing collective action activities, independent of Amalima Loko, based on their defined priorities, such as construction of dip tanks, dams, schools, clinics, and protection of grazing lands. Amalima Loko made significant progress with watershed infrastructure activities this quarter, drilling 20 and rehabilitating 60 boreholes, completing conservation works at ten sites totaling 250 hectares of cleared land, and installing a one-hectare irrigation scheme in Ntonjeni, Nkayi. Following USAID approval, Amalima Loko signed the program's first grant agreements with Greenline Africa and Mefemo Trading. Blanket Supplementary Food Program (BSFP) distributions continued in all program areas as planned, reaching 31,985 participants. The FY22 Annual Report was approved on December 27, 2022, after providing Annual Report Issue Letter responses.

¹https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022_second_round_crop_and_livestock_assessment_report_5_may_revised_1.pdf

Amalima Loko hosted the following USAID monitoring visits this quarter:

- BHA Nutrition Advisor Mike Manske, Activity Manager, and Meal Specialist visited project sites including the Jimila clinic FDP on November 15-16 to observe health and nutrition activities, and to gain familiarity with the project approach to behavior change for improved nutrition outcomes.
- William Dreyer, Humanitarian Assistance Officer at USAID/Southern Africa Division and Justin Mupeyiwa, USAID/ BHA Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist visited project sites across Matabeleland North to view trials ongoing in collaboration with ICRISAT to test effectiveness and value of mobile kraals for rangeland management. The trip ended with a debrief at the Amalima Loko office in Bulawayo on December 13.
- Aklima Haque, Project Management Specialist (Private Sector Development) with USAID/Bangladesh, visited Amalima Loko project sites on November 14-22 to observe off-farm activities and advise the team on new market opportunities to explore in the target area.

III. ACTIVITY OUTPUTS AND IMPLEMENTATION QUALITY

COMMUNITY VISIONING (CV)

As part of the Amalima Loko program's efforts to strengthen local pride, cultivate a sense of shared purpose, and counter hopelessness and apathy with positivity, the project continued this quarter to use its Community Visioning (CV) approach to support villages to identify their own development priorities and to develop local transformation plans. FY23 began with completion of the village and ward planning processes in Nkayi (Zenka and Gwelutshena clusters). Three Village Action Plans and five Ward Transformation Plans were developed in the two clusters, wrapping up village and ward level action plan development in all of the targeted 562 villages and 89 wards in the program area. Among these, 12 ward plans (8 from Phase 1 and 4 from Phase 2) were submitted to the Hwange RDDC (Rural District Development Committee). All 12 plans were accepted and adopted by the Hwange RDDC and will be used to inform priorities for the district into 2023. Across all districts, Amalima Loko supported communities to submit 45 Ward Transformation Plans to local government by the end of Q1. The remaining 44 plans (11 Binga, 13 Lupane, and 20 Nkayi) will be submitted in the next quarter.



Figure 1: Ward 6 Councillor handing over Ward Transformation Plans to Hwange RDC

Community Action – Based on the priorities that communities defined for themselves in the village planning process, 99 villages embarked on collective action activities this quarter, independent of Amalima Loko, such as construction of dip tanks, dams, schools, clinics, and protection of grazing lands.

Some examples of community-led works that were completed:

- In Lupane, community members built lodging for three teachers at Hilltop secondary school and built a new satellite classroom to serve 16 students who live far away from the school and previously had to walk 7km to the nearest school.
- In Tsholotsho, Sihlangene village used community funds to drill and equip a new borehole benefitting 51 households. Amalima Loko is providing technical support to four additional communities (Mvundlana, Siphepha, Dombo, and Mabhandeni) in Tsholotsho, who initiated

borehole work using their own funds; the four new boreholes will benefit 456 households once complete.²

In all, 7,690 households from 99 villages participated in community actions such as these this quarter.

Local Capacity Building Activities – Amalima Loko previously developed five training modules to build leadership skills among traditional leaders and Community Action Group (CAG) leaders. The training modules include: Inclusive Leadership, Conflict Management, Social Accountability, Community-Based Monitoring and Evaluation, and Safety Net Dialogues. Following limited trials in FY22, Amalima Loko expanded the training to 35 wards this quarter reaching 5,313 people, including 812 youth (390 male; 422 female), across the project area. Of the participants, 2,955 were traditional leaders (1,778 male; 1,177 female) and the remainder were CAG leaders. Further trainings are now planned for an additional 46 wards next quarter. The table below shows reach by selected community group.

Table 1: Community leadership training participants

District	Traditional Leaders		CAGS		Youths		Persons with disabilities		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Hwange	417	369	120	190	170	185	14	13	1,478
Tsholotsho	288	182	180	180	39	45	0	0	914
Lupane	264	223	68	81	44	35	0	0	715
Binga	809	403	399	260	137	157	24	17	2,206
Total	1,778	1,177	767	711	390	422	38	30	5,313

In Nkayi, training was put on hold due to concerns from the Nkayi RDDC that the training content may not align with the Traditional Leaders Act. Amalima Loko held a successful contextualization meeting with the RDDC to review the training materials and demonstrate how it addressed capacity gaps identified by village heads, garnering their support to conduct the training next quarter.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Watershed Cluster Steering Committees – To date, Watershed Cluster Steering Committees (WCSC) have been established in each of the 21 watershed clusters supported by Amalima Loko, with a total 152 members (95 male; 57 female). This quarter, WCSCs (in Phase 1 clusters) organized eight Look and Learn visits to conservation sites as part of their quarterly planning and review meetings. A total of 355 participants from Nkayi, Lupane, Binga, and Hwange visited conservation sites together with government stakeholders from District Development Fund (DDF), RDC, Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Forestry Commission, and the Ministry of Transport. The Look and Learn visits gave participants an opportunity to exchange experiences across WCSCs on a range of conservation techniques including use of stone gabions, stone bunds, stone silt traps, brushwood silt traps and infiltration trenches; and vegetative solutions such as sisal, rubber wood, and vetiver planting. Amalima Loko staff observed a marked increase in motivation for collective action from communities following the exchanges due to the exposure to new ideas and a renewed sense of purpose gained from viewing positive examples.

Amalima Loko and key stakeholders (EMA, Forestry, Agritex, Ministry of Transport and the RDCs) supported 11 more recently formed WCSCs (in Phase 2 areas) to develop Watershed Cluster Action Plans. Facilitators guided the committees in identification of environmental hazards, causes of degradation, and possible interventions to address risks and issues, and improve natural resource management within the watershed cluster. The WCSC members are currently validating the draft plans through various

² Amalima Loko does not count or report self-supplied boreholes (boreholes developed without direct Amalima Loko financial support) as boreholes drilled or rehabilitated by the program.

consultative platforms including meetings with DRR committees, Village Development Committees (VIDCOs), and Ward Development Committees (WADCOs) to build widespread community consensus and support. Once complete, the plans will be consolidated and are expected to be endorsed by local authorities next quarter.

Watershed Youth Champions (WYCs) – Amalima Loko trained 87 new Watershed Youth Champions (39 male; 48 female) from Phase 2 clusters this quarter. Training topics included site verification (ground truthing) for areas of environmental degradation identified through remote imaging, capturing geotagged pictures and videos to share with the watershed team for mapping purposes, facilitation skills for sharing information on watershed management practices with communities, and monitoring for watershed interventions. WYCs also participated in Watershed Cluster Steering Meetings where they were introduced and their roles and responsibilities were shared with committee members.

The 78 previously trained Phase I Watershed Youth Champions (37 male; 41 female) participated in various watershed activities including irrigation development, borehole rehabilitation, revegetation around rehabilitated boreholes, and ground truthing areas of critical erosion. WYCs continued to grow in their role, supporting community mobilization, monitoring, and coach communities in conservation techniques using the knowledge gained from training workshops or with assistance from Amalima Loko staff.



Figure 2: WYC training in Binga

Water Resource Development and Rehabilitation

Borehole Drilling – A total of 20 boreholes were drilled this quarter in Lupane (10), Nkayi (7), and Binga (3) bringing the total number of boreholes drilled by Amalima Loko to 51. Of the 51 boreholes drilled during the 2022/2023 dry season, 44 were productive and 7 dry.

- 21 boreholes were drilled in Nkayi, of which 18 are productive and 3 dry.
- 20 boreholes were drilled in Binga, of which 16 are productive and 4 dry.
- 10 boreholes were drilled in Lupane, all of which are productive.

All relevant mitigation measures for borehole drilling from the program's approved Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP) were followed, including review and approval by local authorities and a qualified Amalima Loko engineer for borehole siting and drilling plans. Primarily existing routes were used to access drilling points to minimize damage to trees. Tree cutting was minimized where it was necessary to access a site, and felled trees were replaced in all cases by appropriate non-invasive, multi-purpose trees that were planted within borehole catchment areas. Borehole drilling workers were trained and equipped with appropriate PPE to protect them from injury.

Of the 44 wet boreholes, 21 were shallow and low yielding and thus suitable for B-type bush pumps. The remaining 23 boreholes had high yield blow tests which warranted capacity testing. Of the 23 high yielding boreholes, 22 were found suitable for PV systems and one was found to be too low yielding for a PV system but too deep for a bush pump and had to be capped.

Borehole Capacity Testing – During the quarter, 18 capacity tests were undertaken to determine the water-yield capacity and appropriate pump fittings for newly drilled boreholes. Capacity tests determine water yield and extraction rates and are particularly necessary at boreholes intended for multi-purpose use such as irrigation, human consumption, and livestock watering. Capacity tests are a mitigation measure agreed to in the EMMP and minimize community conflict resulting from over-extraction, especially during peak water demand periods, as they give communities some understanding of yield and help ensure that boreholes are not over-used. Amalima Loko is also conducting water quality tests at all borehole sites.

Amalima Loko is responsible for conducting the water capacity tests since the program is managing the installation. The GoZ is responsible for water quality testing but often lacks the resources. Amalima Loko provides water testing resources to the MoHCC to perform testing of water access points at Amalima Loko constructed/rehabilitated areas.

Next quarter, Amalima Loko will conduct a collective assessment of the boreholes proposed for productive use with all relevant sectors to determine the feasibility of establishing irrigation or other productive or multi-use systems at the sites. A template has been developed and shared to guide NRM, agriculture, CV, and crosscutting technical coordinators to carry out these assessments.

Borehole Pump Installation – During the quarter, 19 newly drilled boreholes were equipped with the "B" type Bush pump. Pump installations were carried out by contractors with supervision from Amalima Loko water specialists and DDF and RDC engineers. The 19 newly equipped boreholes with bush pumps will provide clean water to 1,454 households. Of these, 912 households are now within 30-minute round trip walking range to a borehole.

Amalima Loko also began procurement this quarter for contractors to install photovoltaic (PV) pumps at high yield boreholes. The program assessed that seven sites in Binga, five sites in Lupane, and five sites in Nkayi are suitable for PV installations. This work is scheduled to commence next quarter.

Borehole Rehabilitation – The program also rehabilitated 60 boreholes (20 each in Binga, Lupane, and Nkayi) during the quarter, resulting in improved water access for 3,789 households (2,025 in Binga; 600 in Lupane; 1,164 in Nkayi) for domestic use and livestock watering. Amalima Loko worked with trained Pump Minders, DDF staff, and respective users and water point committees to replace all borehole components, fencing, and headworks.

Revegetation around rehabilitated boreholes – Amalima Loko promotes tree planting as part of its strategy for improving vegetation cover across the watershed. On December 3, staff partnered with the Forestry Commission to mark National Tree Planting Day, working with communities and government stakeholders to plant trees around water points, where heavy human and livestock traffic adds to land degradation. A total of 1,148 fruit and multi-purpose tree seedlings (both indigenous and exotic species) were planted at 97 borehole sites. Species included indigenous Bird Plum, Snort Apple, Baobab, Tamarind, Mopane, and Sausage, and exotic mango and guava. Amalima Loko and government extension officers will work with Asset Management Committees to monitor the growth of the trees with support from Forestry Commission officers.

Irrigation Development – Amalima Loko is supporting establishment of local irrigated gardening plots in order to improve local availability of fresh and nutritious vegetables; create alternative sources of local income, and to diversify risk away from reliance on purely rain-fed agriculture. In pursuit of this, Amalima Loko supported local communities to complete the installation of a new one-hectare irrigation system in Ntonjeni in Nkayi this quarter, with labor for the project provided by 154 Cash For Assets (CFA) workers and paid for through CFA disbursements totaling \$13,754. Amalima Loko staff supervised the following activities:

- Clearing of one hectare of land, fenced it, dug trenches, and laid infield pipelines
- Installation of two 10,000-liter plastic storage tanks
- Installation of two horsepower submersible pump and sand abstraction system
- Installation of solar modules and constructed a storeroom
- Conservation works around the plot and pipeline route
- Training of local farmers on operation and maintenance of the system, and appropriate scheduling
- Construction of latrines

Upon completion, the site was inspected and certified by the Nkayi RDC and DDC.

Asset Management Committee Training – In collaboration with Environmental Health Technicians and Agritex staff, Amalima Loko trained Asset Management Committees (AMCs), comprised of local community members, this quarter in asset management, constitution development, fundraising, marketing, and bookkeeping. In Tsholotsho, participants included 112 (41 male; 71 female) people from 16 water point AMCs and 29 irrigated garden committee members. In Nkayi, Amalima Loko trained the seven-member (3 male; 4 female, including 1 female youth) Ntonjeni Irrigation AMC and had a look-and-learn tour to Siphulwazi garden in neighboring Ward 29 to observe the management and production practices of farmers there. With this capacity building, AMCs are expected to lead the overall management of assets, ensuring they adhere to constitutions, that financial mechanisms are in place for ongoing maintenance and repair, and that assets are operated efficiently and properly maintained.

Conservation Works – During the quarter, Amalima Loko supported 21 villages to complete conservation works at ten sites totaling 250 hectares. CFA labor was provided by 3,545 households. Conservation works included the installation of stone gabions, stone bunds, stone silt traps, brushwood silt traps, infiltration trenches, and vegetative solutions such as planting sisal, rubber wood, and vetiver, designed to reduce erosion and gully expansion and improve water infiltration and soil moisture retention to encourage natural vegetation regeneration.

BLANKET SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM (BSFP)

Amalima Loko’s Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) served 31,985 unique participants this quarter, including 10,978 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and 21,007 children 6-23 months, at 108 Food Distribution Points (FDPs) (58 primary and 50 secondary FDP) in all program districts. A total of 81,676 food baskets were distributed this quarter. More details are provided in Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2: Commodities distributed in FY23 Q1 by quantity (MT)

	Quantities distributed		
	Corn Soya Blend Plus (CSB+) (MT)	Vegetable Oil (MT)	Total (MT)
PLW	143.6435	35.9840	179.6275
Children 6-23 months	166.6770	51.0310	217.7080
Total	310.3205	87.0150	397.3355

Table 3: Commodities distributed in FY23 Q1 by number of food baskets

	Total Food Baskets Distributed							
	Actual				Planned			
	PLWs	Boys	Girls	Total	PLWs	Boys	Girls	Total
PLW	26,117			26,117	25,939			25,939
Children 6-23 months		27,406	28,153	55,559		27,189	28,298	55,487
Total	26,117	27,406	28,153	81,676	25,939	27,189	28,298	81,426

Amalima Loko, together with Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) clinic staff and Community Health Workers, mobilized 7,592 new registrants (3,459 PLWs and 4,133 children 6-23 months) this quarter. Village Health Workers (VHWs) began active screening for malnutrition with the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape at FDPs using training and tools provided by the Amalima Loko program. In total, 749 children aged 6-23 months were screened. Seven presented with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and one with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and these cases were referred to the nearest health facility.

Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) – Amalima Loko randomly selected eight FDPs (two FDPs per district in Binga, Hwange, Lupane, and Nkayi) for PDM surveys and interviewed 207 participants this quarter. A quantitative questionnaire was administered through the Kobo Collect Mobile Application.

- 98 percent (n=202) of respondents stated they had been informed of the commodities and quantities they were entitled to.
- 63 percent (n=150) of respondents stated CSB+ previously collected had been consumed only by the intended recipient.
- 37 percent (n=87) reported sharing with other children, sick household members, and the elderly.
- 51 percent (n=105) and 45 percent (n=94) of the respondents stated that CSB+ and vegetable oil lasted between three to four weeks respectively.
- 95 percent (n=196) of interviewees were satisfied with the quality of food received.

COMMODITY MANAGEMENT

The August/September 2022 Call Forward for 1,120 MT of CSB+ and 310 MT of vegetable oil, scheduled to arrive in December 2022, was delayed and is now expected to arrive late next quarter. Amalima Loko secured a loan of 160 MT CSB+ from the Takunda RFSA; however, a commodity pipeline break is anticipated in Q2 of FY23.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Care Group activities – The Child Health and Nutrition module developed under the previous Amalima project was adapted using findings from Community Visioning, the Health Behavior Study, and the Nutrition Causal Analysis. The adaptation contextualized the module to reflect health and nutrition issues in Matabeleland North and focused on addressing common cultural practices related to child feeding. The Ndebele, Nambya, and Tonga language Breastfeeding and Healthy Harvest modules have now been translated, pretested, and finalized for use. The Breastfeeding module is now being used in Care Group sessions. The Health Harvest module materials will be distributed in Care Group Promoter (CGPs) and Lead Mothers in FY23Q2, and Child Health and Nutrition module materials in Q3.

In Phase 1 areas, Lead Mothers continued cascading lessons on breastfeeding to their care group participants, focusing on breastfeeding in the context of Covid-19 and addressing common myths and misconceptions. In Phase 2 areas, 314 (55 male; 259 female) CGPs at 30 health facilities across four districts (6 Binga, 5 Hwange, 8 Lupane and 11 Nkayi) received Care Group training on “Understanding the Care Group Model”. Topics included Care Groups; the role of nurses, CGPs, and Lead Mothers; the identification and selection of Lead Mothers; reporting, and integration of Care Groups with other Amalima Loko interventions. The table below shows the number of CGPs trained per district.

Village Health Workers, who were trained as Care Group Promoters this quarter, expressed appreciation for the model, which they see as an effective way to increase the reach of nutrition activities and consequently decrease cases of malnutrition in villages. One concern raised by CGPs during the training was that caregivers who do not receive rations because their children are 24-59 months, will be less likely to participate in Care Groups compared with caregivers with children 6-23 months who receive rations. To address this, Amalima Loko will promote the participation of caregivers with children 24 – 59 months by stressing the importance during a range of Amalima Loko activities.

Table 4: Care Group Promoter training

District	Males	Females	Total
Binga	17	68	85
Hwange	4	26	30
Lupane	18	66	84
Nkayi	16	99	115
Total	55	259	314

CGPs and Lead Mothers have not yet been trained on conducting home visits and on the use of Quality Improvement Verification Checklists. Amalima Loko will accelerate trainings in both Phase 1 and 2 wards so that full scale home visits by trained volunteers can begin in April. The program identified Lead Mothers in Phase 2 areas, including 20 Lead Mothers to lead the young mother Care Groups, but their training was delayed to Q2 and will occur in March. Following the training, 20 young mother only Care Groups will be launched in April.

Male Champions – The Male Champions approach was developed under the previous Amalima project to draw community attention to gender equity issues and to promote the status and role of women in communities. In order to continue learning and building on lessons learned from the Male Champions work under the Amalima program, the Amalima Loko team revisited a group of Male Champions in Tsholotsho this quarter, who were trained and supported by the previous Amalima program. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were used to better understand the sustainability of the model and what factors contributed to sustainability, to inform the Male Champions approach under the Amalima Loko program. Thirty Amalima-supported Male Champions from wards 4, 5, and 6 in Tsholotsho were asked to participate in the FGDs and 18 participated (4 in Mlagisa, 6 in Sipepa, and 8 in Jimila). It was reported that five Male Champions had died, and some had migrated to other countries and towns to seek employment. In Sipepa ward, the Male Champions reported that their groups continue to meet every weekend for soccer sessions and during these sessions they share messaging on gender and positive masculinity based on the training they received as part of the Male Champions Campaign. In Jimila ward, Male Champions reported that they were previously meeting for soccer sessions on a weekly basis but that most group meetings were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions and have been struggling to resume since. The FGDs identified that integration of Village Savings and Loan (VS&L) and sporting activities with the Male Champions Campaign, promoted sustainability of the groups after program support ended.

In Q1, Amalima Loko staff began delivering training of trainers (TOT) and coaching to 111 Male Champions (30 Binga, 34 Hwange, 23 Lupane, 24 Nkayi). Training topics included: an introduction to the Male Champions approach; maternal and child health and nutrition; positive health seeking and WASH behaviors; gender and social inclusion; and communication, facilitation skills, and negotiation for behavior change. Traditional leaders and government stakeholders participated in the trainings, which is critical for promoting the approach. Training and coaching will continue in the upcoming quarter as Male Champions begin forming peer groups.

Community Health Clubs and Participatory Health and Hygiene Education training – Program-trained Community Based Facilitators (CBFs) continued to deliver Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) training to Community Health Clubs (CHCs) during the quarter. A total of 135 CHCs (2,494 members) completed full PHHE training curriculum (20 modules) this quarter. Amalima Loko and MOHCC also collaborated to train 279 new CBFs (57 male; 222 female) on the 20 PHHE modules and the CHC approach through a four-day training session this quarter.

Table 5: Number of CHCs completing all 20 PHHE modules

District	Number of CHCs that completed 20 PHHE modules	Males	Females	Total
Binga	47	63	759	822
Hwange	25	58	474	532
Lupane	39	75	645	720
Nkayi	19	34	278	312
Tsholotsho	5	13	95	108
Total	135	243	2,251	2,494

Latrine construction and cement subsidies – Amalima Loko continued implementing the latrine subsidy initiative in Binga which began in late FY22 to support demand-led sanitation for vulnerable households in Community Health Clubs (CHCs). Amalima Loko provided a 50 percent cement subsidy (provision of three of the six bags needed for latrine construction) in Chinonge, Kariangwe, Lubu, and Muchesu wards, where the open defecation rate is the highest in the country. During the quarter, Amalima Loko worked with MoHCC to deliver a ten-day training for 66 builders to support CHC members with latrine construction. Training included practical sessions on bottom slab casting, pit lining, and superstructure construction. Trainees also received post training support and mentoring from MoHCC

with support from Amalima Loko staff. Communities completed a total of 72 Blair Ventilated Improved Pits (BVIPs) during the quarter, bringing the cumulative total to 149 subsidized BVIPs. Amalima Loko staff inspected a sample of completed latrines in Chinonge, Muchesu and Kariangwe and confirmed that all were sited appropriately, that designs complied with MoHCC standards, and that each had a functional tippy tap. These new latrines serve 1,063 (458 male; 605 female) individuals and a further 51 BVIPs are currently under construction. In addition to the subsidized latrines in Binga, CHC members across the five districts pro-actively organized community funds and labor to construct 49 new latrines (47 BVIPs and 2 Upgradable BVIPs) themselves this quarter, based on their training from the Amalima Loko program. These self-supply latrines now provide basic sanitation services to 275 (125 male; 150 female) individuals. Amalima Loko will evaluate these two approaches for latrine construction against one another in Q2.

Commemoration of WASH significant days– On October 15th Amalima Loko marked Global Handwashing Day at Guwe Clinic in Nkayi, Pashu Clinic in Binga, and Katambe village in Hwange with a total of 272 participants (31 male; 241 female). The program held quiz, song, and poetry competitions and winners received prizes in the form of soap, buckets, and dishes. Amalima Loko, MoHCC, and other partners also commemorated World Toilet Day in November with 1,321 participants (367 male; 853 female) at events in Matshokotsha ward, Bimba Village in Lupane, and Takazwipila village in Hwange.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

Identification, selection, and training of Lead Farmers – Amalima Loko worked with Agritex³ and the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) to train 1,673 (706 male; 967 female) Lead Farmers on the Lead Farmer model this quarter. Topics included: Lead Farmer model, farmer extension approaches, presentation and facilitation skills, group formation, and conflict management. Lead Farmers work closely with the GoZ extension officers (Agritex) and Amalima Loko field officers and technical coordinators to cascade training through both formal trainings and informal interactions with the community.

Promotion of sustainable and labor-saving practices – Working with private sector actor, Zimplot, and Agritex representatives, Amalima Loko trained 2,628 (1,051 male; 1,577 female) Lead Farmers on water harvesting, soil and water conservation, and the use of labor-saving equipment for agriculture. Topics covered included ripping, use of tied ridges, infiltration pits, and dead level contours, pot holing and the use of vetiver grass for soil and moisture conservation. Agritex and Amalima Loko established 96 demonstration plots (0.1ha/plot) to show mechanized agriculture and soil and water conservation techniques. Lead Farmers cascaded their learning to 8,663 (2,914 male; 5,749 female) additional farmers.

To support the program’s objective of promoting more drought-tolerant crops, Amalima Loko partnered with private seed suppliers SEEDCO, AGRISEEDS, and Klein Karoo to distribute drought tolerant, ultra-early, and early maturing certified seed varieties donated by the International Crops and Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for sorghum (30 kg.), maize (4 kg.), and velvet beans (200kg). The donated seeds were used to establish demonstration plots on 59 small farms. The demonstration plots will showcase the performance of the improved maize, sorghum and velvet bean varieties and will be used as platforms for learning by Lead Farmers and farmers during the production cycle. Amalima Loko and Agritex will host field days at the demonstration plots next quarter, and we anticipate that over 2,300 farmers will benefit from these demonstration sites.

Amalima Loko supported ICRISAT in celebrating the upcoming “International Year of Millet” by helping to improve access to certified, drought tolerant, and high yielding sorghum and millet varieties by promoting seed production. Twenty-two Amalima Loko staff participated in a two-day Training of Trainers workshop on seed multiplication from ICRISAT and then worked with Agritex to select and train 225 (88 male; 137 female) farmers to serve as seed growers. Each farmer committed 0.1 hectare for sorghum

³ Name recently changed to Department of Agriculture Advisory and Rural Development Services (AARDS)

(Marcia variety) and 0.1 hectare for millet (Okashana variety). Each participating farmer is expected to increase their millet production by around 20 percent (from 500-700 kg/ha) as a result. Training covered agronomy, isolation distances, spacing, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), harvesting, and seed storage.

Contract Sunflower Production – During the quarter, Amalima Loko identified private sector actor Agriculture Business Centre Gokwe (ABC) and connected them with 352 farmers (229 male; 123 female) in Nkayi. Amalima Loko then supported both parties to negotiate mutually acceptable agreement terms and to facilitate technical training led by ABC to support the ability of the farmers to produce sunflowers as a new crop. Under the terms of their agreements, ABC supplied each farmer sufficient seed to plant out one hectare. The seed was priced at \$10 per farmer, \$5 of which was paid in cash up front by the farmers; the balance will be due at harvest and can be paid either in cash or in-kind. Under the terms of their agreements ABC will buy all that the farmers can produce at prevailing market price, but farmers are not committed to sell to ABC beyond the value of the seed originally supplied. After initial reluctance, other local farmers are now showing interest in sunflowers as a cash crop and it is anticipated that, if this pilot is successful, additional smallholder farmers will join the scheme in future years,

Irrigated Crop Production – The Amalima Loko agriculture team, with support from Agritex, provided irrigated crop production training to the 40 farmers (14 male; 26 female) in the newly completed Ntonjeni irrigation scheme, which was built through the Amalima Loko CFA program. Participants were trained on good agronomic practices, including seed selection, land preparation, planting, fertilization, weed control and water management. Farmers bought seedlings for their first kale, tomato and butternut crops and planted them out.

Livestock and grazing land management activities – Lead Farmers, supported by Amalima Loko, Agritex, and DVS, trained 2,980 (648 male; 2,332 female) farmers in livestock management, covering animal health, breeding, fodder production and grazing land management. In addition, 30 (19 male; 11 female) prospective Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) in Nkayi District completed the first of three weeks of training. When they complete the full training course, Amalima Loko will supply the CAHWs with kits and bicycles. CAHWs operate at ward level, delivering basic veterinary assistance to local farmers. CAHWs are in high demand and are able to charge local farmers a nominal fee for their services – sufficient to pay them a modest service fee and to buy replacement items for their kits.

The program trained 357 (213 male; 144 female) community members on the rehabilitation of grazing and crop land around NRM conservation works CFA sites at Skumbi and Mwemba in Hwange and Chikali and Simaliza in Binga. The trainings focused on grazing land management practices, including brush layering, re-seeding, and soil and water conservation-techniques such as contours, storm drains, vetiver planting, infiltration pits, pot holing and mulching. Next quarter, Amalima Loko will monitor the adoption of these actions by the trained community members.

CFA workers rehabilitated eight grazing land sites covering a combined area of 93 hectares. A total of 1,224 workers participated in the removal of invasive species such as Lantana camara, Ipomoea Carnea, and Opuntia Fulgida. Measures were taken to ensure regeneration and revegetation of the reclaimed grazing land and control erosion. Works were also aligned with the conservation works reported above to mitigate against erosion of grazing land.

Value Chains and Marketing

Labor Market Assessment – Amalima Loko conducted district level Labor Market Assessments (LMA) to understand high-level labor characterization and broad growth market opportunities. The assessment highlighted the importance of horticulture, livestock, non-timber forest products (NTFP), construction, textiles, and tourism and hospitality among other livelihood opportunities. Amalima Loko is using the findings to focus its income generation interventions including through partnerships with grantees.

Village Savings and Loans (VS&L) – Loko supported the formation of 99 new VS&L groups in Q1 and worked with ward-based government extension officers to train 1,516 (206 male; 1,223 female)

participants from 246 existing groups on VS&L methodology to help revive their savings and lending activities. In all, Amalima Loko is now working with 516 groups across the target area and works with the VS&L Facilitators to track and collect monthly data for each group. Amalima Loko uses an MIS data collection tool to capture the number of active group members, total value of savings, and number and value of loans issued.

Most groups conducted their annual share-outs this quarter distributing items such as goats, blankets, kitchen utensils, groceries, cash, and other household goods to members. For example, in Lupane, the Bekezela VS&L group used their funds to buy each member a goat and the Phikelela VS&L group (seven female members) in Nkayi bought certified maize seed for members. The Vulamehlo group in Mhlawuli village bought four goats using their VS&L funds at a total cost of \$150.

To enable VS&L facilitators to reach more VS&L groups, Amalima Loko distributed 150 bicycles.

GRANTS

Amalima Loko signed the program’s first grant agreements with Greenline Africa and Mafemo Trading in December, following USAID approval of the grant activities, which are summarized below:

- Greenline Africa**, a registered Zimbabwean NGO operating in the Hwange district, will establish a beekeeping and orchard pilot project as an alternative source of income for women and youth in the Jembwe rural community in Hwange district. The grant will promote social and economic inclusion by training and supporting women and youth to establish an orchard and tree nursery; establish 150 beehives within the orchard to produce honey for sales to hotels and restaurants; fabricate supplies such as bee suits, beehives, smokers, and bee stands; and establish live fences with *Jatropha* trees, which can be used for soap making. The project will have an integrated biodiversity approach that will build the capacities and livelihoods of the Jembwe community with income generating activities, while protecting the biodiversity of the area. The grant activity will leverage Greenline Africa’s partnership with World Bicycle Relief to provide bicycles to all activity participants to support the bee keeping and orchard income generating activities.
- Mafemo Trading** is a women-owned and run Zimbabwean business that produces oils and butters from under-utilized indigenous plants for local and export markets. Mafemo Trading’s business model is to work through rural women’s groups, training women to sustainably harvest indigenous plant products and conduct primary processing of products as suppliers for the company. Demand for Mafemo Trading’s products exceeds the supply available from their current collectors and geographic reach. The purpose of this grant activity is to enable Mafemo Trading to train 450 new small-scale farmers and wild collectors in Binga, Hwange and Lupane to sustainably harvest and process mongongo, marula and *Ximenia* nuts, and to grow Kalahari melon and moringa to supply Mafemo Trading. The 450 new suppliers, including 315 women and 135 youth, are expected to earn on average \$100/season in additional income from indigenous plant product sales.

In December, the Amalima Loko grants team held introduction meetings with the grantees to review their agreements in detail, and outline the requirements of grant management, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, environmental compliance, financial management, and record keeping.

Following orientation, Mafemo Trading trained 349 farmers (117 male; 232 female; 68 youth) in *Ximenia* collection, and Kalahari melon and moringa production in Binga, Lupane, and Hwange districts. The specific trainings by product are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Training by Mafemo Trading

Product training	Male	Female	Youth	Total
<i>Ximenia</i> and Moringa	24	40	26	64
Kalahari melon and <i>Ximenia</i>	67	162	39	229
Kalahari melon only	26	30	3	56
Total	117	232	68	349

IV. CROSS-CUTTING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

GENDER AND YOUTH SOCIAL DYNAMICS

Amalima Loko identified and trained 176 (82 male; 94 female) Gender Champions to conduct community gender dialogues focused on understanding gender and social norms and how they influence behavior and practices. The Gender Champions conducted 40 dialogue sessions this quarter, reaching 774 (273 male; 501 female) community members in Binga, Hwange, Nkayi, and Lupane. Following the gender dialogues, male and female participants reported increased interest in more equal representation and meaningful participation in community governance structures. Government stakeholders in Nkayi and Lupane also expressed interest in holding gender dialogues with all local councilors. Amalima Loko will continue to support and mentor Gender Champions to strengthen their community dialogue skills as part of the program's gender transformative approach.

RESILIENCE

Amalima Loko held an internal sensemaking workshop in December to reflect on findings from the initial Embedded Panel Study and gather recommendations to better integrate resilience thinking in program implementation. Major recommendations were on the need to scale successful interventions and ensure that livelihoods strategies include a diversity of risk profiles. Amalima Loko continued to foster resilience thinking among communities through participatory events and training sessions where participants identified their resources and strategies for addressing specific shocks and circumstances requiring external assistance from government and NGOs. VS&L groups emerged frequently as a resource for local risk management.

Disaster Risk Reduction - Amalima Loko held Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) ToT workshops with 11 District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC) members (8 male; 3 female) from Binga and Hwange on the following DRR topics:

- Identifying, ranking, and mapping hazards and conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments.
- Roles and responsibilities of DRR Committees, plan and constitution development, and monitoring.
- Conflict management, resource mobilization, and early warning information dissemination.

Supported by Amalima Loko, the DCPC members cascaded this training to 311 (215 male; 96 female) DRR Committee members from 30 committees.

Communities completed ten DRR plans (7 in Binga, 2 in Tsholotsho, and 1 in Lupane) with Amalima Loko support and submitted them to the DCPC for approval. DRR committees who previously completed their DRR plans, took steps to implement their DRR plans this quarter with Amalima Loko support for actions such as gully reclamation, clearing of invasive species, borehole rehabilitation and drilling. Several DRR committees shared early warning messages warning of upcoming dry spells, high temperatures, high pest infestation, thunderstorms, lightning strikes, and flooding with their communities through social media, announcements at community gatherings, and text messages. The main source of early warning information and advisories was the Meteorological Services Department and ward-based extension staff.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Working with VACs who were trained and supported by the previous Amalima project (2016 – 2020) as well as Agritex and DVS staff, Amalima Loko reviewed the Village Agricultural Coordinator (VAC) Model. The review found that the VACs did not continue performing roles beyond the life of project largely due to lack of buy-in and support from local officials. In response, Amalima Loko resolved to revise this approach, discontinue VAC activities, and instead embed key elements of the VAC model into the, so far successful, Lead Farmer model.

The Amalima Loko SBC team continued to support the design of curricula and training materials, job aids, and communications materials this quarter to integrate social behavior change best practices across interventions to impact the 15 priority behaviors. Amalima Loko worked with USAID/SCALE and USAID/PROWASH to complete the Make Me a Change Agent online course to continue to build staff capacity for consistent social behavior change delivery across all program purposes.

COLLABORATING, LEARNING AND ADAPTING

Given the improved COVID environment, Amalima Loko took advantage of its first opportunity to bring staff together for a Pause and Reflect workshop to review the past two years of implementation, share experiences, and garner lessons learned and best practices. The agenda included a panel discussion that facilitated access for all staff to strategic-level decision makers and provided insights on program challenges, priorities, and implementation issues. The event also introduced an anonymous staff feedback platform, which provides a channel for all staff to feel comfortable speaking up and asking questions. The team also reflected on programmatic feedback from communities and key stakeholders gathered through various feedback mechanisms.

Amalima Loko collaborated with following USAID/BHA support mechanisms this quarter:

- PRO-WASH and SCALE – Amalima Loko staff participated in a study on improving Multiple-Use Water Services (MUS) in Zimbabwe, looking at MUS in the Amalima and Amalima Loko districts. The study seeks to provide actionable recommendations for interventions designed to increase the reliability, resilience, and overall success of MUS.
- Advancing Nutrition – supported the Advancing Nutrition team’s research on developing improved food-based recommendations using locally available foods that caregivers can use at the household level to improve young child feeding practices, and research assessing Care Groups to identify best practices and challenges from the perspectives of the users (Care Group members), facilitators (Care Group Promoters and Lead Mothers), and other stakeholders (community leaders and program staff).
- In November, the Amalima Loko M&E Lead and backstop from CNFA home office attended the BHA M&E Sustainability Workshop in Washington D.C. to develop a common understanding of monitoring requirements during a RFSA sustainability phase.

V. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Commodity shipping delays with the August/September 2022 call forward are expected to cause a pipeline break in the coming quarter. To help avoid similar issues in the future, the Amalima Loko team will make the next call forward earlier than planned in Q2 (in January 2023) and will add an additional month of commodities to the calculations to provide more of a buffer for possible delays with future shipments.
- The gradual transition between the outgoing and incoming COPs over a period of 2.5 months went very smoothly and is a model that CNFA will consider replicating in the future for key staff positions on the program. We appreciate BHA’s openness to this approach.
- Seasonal rains began early in most implementation areas which caused some delays and rescheduling of activities as farmers returned to their fields.
- Upcoming elections continued to add an element of uncertainty to program planning, as the upcoming national election date was not yet set by the end of Q1.

VI. MARKET ANALYSIS

The quarter signaled the beginning of the lean season as more households began relying more on purchased cereals. On the economic front, there was relative macroeconomic stability during Q1, although the prices of basic commodities and agricultural inputs continued to increase, further reducing affordability for poor households. While the official exchange rate was almost static, the parallel market exchange rates increased by nearly 15 percent in the month of December alone. Across project areas, poorer households were increasingly engaging in agricultural and off-farm labor activities with the start of the agricultural season.

VII. PLANNED INTERVENTIONS (JANUARY-MARCH 2023)

Activities	Date(s)	Location
Cross-cutting (all three Purposes)/Administrative		
Support traditional leaders with training on gender and inclusion	Jan-Mar	All program districts
Training youths on leadership	Jan-Mar	
Collect and analyze data and draft report for Post-Shock Survey	Feb-Mar	
Sensitize of traditional leaders on the Male Champions model	January	Tsholotsho
Disseminate and operationalize the Amalima Loko Behavior-led Strategy to field officers	February	Bulawayo
Conduct remaining ToTs for Male Champions	March	All program districts
Install signage at the completed CFA sites (Irrigation scheme and gully sites)	Feb-Mar	
Purpose 1: Enhanced and Inclusive Local Ownership Over Food Security and Resilience Planning and Development		
Map youth participation in CAGs and Village Development Committees in 89 wards	By March	All program districts
Train 100 youth participants on leadership, monitoring, conflict management, and team management and encourage their inclusion in village and ward action committees.	By March	
Conduct Inclusive Leadership Trainings in 46 wards	By March	
Review and finalize 265 village profiles and submit 44 Ward Transformation Plans to RDC	By March	
Conduct Safety Net Dialogues in 46 wards	By March	
Purpose 2: Improved Health and Availability of Soil, Water, and Plant Resources within the Watershed		
Prioritize and identify sites for catchment protection works (Phase 1 in Feb, Phase 2 in March)	Feb-Mar	All program districts
Conduct Technical Assessments of prioritized sites for water infrastructure (boreholes in Phase 2; irrigation schemes and dams in Phase 1)	Feb-Mar	
Ground truth GIS maps and community identified conservation priority areas with WYCs	Jan-Mar	
Engage ZELA, EMA and RDCs to review existing and developing guidelines for working with communities in developing localized NRM by laws	January	
Procure geophysicists for hydrological surveys for new borehole establishment	February	
Commence hydrogeological surveys for boreholes in upcoming dry season	March	
Conduct ToTs for facilitators (NRM/Agriculture FOs & Agritex) on ecosystem restoration – revegetation practices	January	
Engage community at conservation sites through selection of 200 HHs and baseline data collection (FOs, Agritex, WYC, Lead Farmers)	Jan-Feb	
Train households and Lead Farmers on ecosystem restoration- revegetation practices	Jan-Feb	
Revegetation activities	Feb	
Train AMCs	Feb	
Conduct Water Quality Tests (GoZ, USAID standards) and Sanitary inspections	Feb	

Conduct Watershed Activities Data Collection training workshops for Phase I WYCs	Feb-Mar	
Conduct Technical Assessments of prioritized sites for catchment protection works and development of conservation designs and BoQs (Phase I starting)	Mar-Apr	
Support the development, endorsement, and adoption of watershed plans (Phase 2 clusters)	March	
Conduct community dialogue and awareness raising for NRM by laws	March	Binga
Equip boreholes with PV	Feb-Mar	Binga and Nkayi
Purpose 3: Improved Human Health and Livelihoods		
Lead Farmers cascade water harvesting, soil, and water conservation trainings and conduct field days	Jan-Feb	All program districts
Conduct look and learn and exchange visits	Feb-Mar	
Select and train horticulture production Lead Farmers	Feb-Mar	
Train CAHWs on animal health management and animal husbandry	Jan-Mar	
Train participants on livestock management (animal health, fodder production, harvesting, processing, and utilization)	Jan-Mar	
Collect of value of sales data	Jan-Mar	
Roll out youth skills training	March	
Assess VS&L Funds Utilization (Phase I clusters)	Jan-Feb	
Conduct gardens and irrigation schemes assessment (Phase 2 clusters)	Jan-Feb	
Identify VS&L Facilitators and conduct trainings (Phase 2 clusters)	Jan-Mar	
Promote chili strings technology at selected sits	Jan-Feb	Nkayi, Lupane, Binga
Identify and register apiculture farmers	January	Nkayi and Lupane
Receive call forward 1120 MT of CSB+ and 310 MT of veg oil	Feb-Mar	All program districts
Repay Takunda loan of 520 MT of CSB+ and 90 MT of veg oil	March	
Place 4 th call forward of 1380 MT CSB+ and 370 MT of veg oil	January	
BSFP distributions	Monthly	All program districts
Collect household inventory data	January	
Lead Mothers cascade healthy harvest and breastfeeding to neighbor women	March	
Conduct two-day training of Care Group Promoters and Lead Mothers on Healthy Harvest and Breastfeeding	February	Phase I clusters in all program districts.
Conduct two-day training on VSL for CHCs	Feb-Mar	
Establish or revive CHCs	Feb-Mar	
Conduct four-day PHHE training for Community-Based Facilitators (CBFs)	February	Lupane

VIII. ANNEX I: LOSS REPORTING AND COMMODITY QUALITY AND SAFETY

LOSS REPORTING

There are no losses to report this quarter.

COMMODITY QUALITY AND SAFETY

There are no testing results for moisture and aflatoxin levels to report this quarter as these are not required per the local country food safety guidance. The vegetable oil cans and CSB+ bags were each marked as inspected prior to shipping.