

CARE INTERNATIONAL IN MOZAMBIQUE

Viabile Initiatives for the Development of Agriculture (VIDA 2)

MID-TERM EVALUATION

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	3
Glossary/Abbreviations	3
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1.1 Introduction	4
1.2 Results	4
1.3 Issues	6
1.4 Recommendations	9
2 CONTEXT	13
2.1 Background to VIDA and CARE Programmes in Nampula	13
2.2 Evolution of VIDA activities	14
3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	16
4. RESULTS ACHIEVED	17
4.1 Strategic objective 1	17
4.2 IR 1 – Increased adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies and practices	19
4.3 IR 2 – Improved functioning of agricultural input and output markets	22
4.4 IR 3 – Improved capacity of Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to perform key activities related to achieving food security	25
4.5 IR4 - Improvements in household food consumption, especially for vulnerable children	29
5. MAINSTREAMING HIV AND AIDS INTO A FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME	36
5.1 Livelihood and labour issues	36
6. REACHING MORE PEOPLE	39
6.1 Current Coverage	39
6.2 Appropriate community structures for different activities	39
6.3 Reaching Women	41
7. GIVING SMALL FARMERS MORE POWER IN THE MARKET	44
8. GENERATING AND SPREADING NEW IDEAS	46
8.1 Continued generation and local adaptation of technologies	46
8.2 Participatory Research and Extension	47
8.3 Animadoras and Demonstradores	48
8.4 Menu of Technologies	49
9. ORGANISING EXTENSION POST-VIDA 2	51
10. VALIDATING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY ACTIVIST CAPACITY	53
11. MANAGING AND MONITORING	54
11.1 Staff Questionnaire	54
11.2 Monitoring System	54
11.3 Managing Change	56
ANNEX 1 – LITERATURE	58
ANNEX 2 - PEOPLE MET	59
ANNEX 3 – STAFF QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS	60
ANNEX 4 – Indicators for Impact. Baseline and Mid-term Evaluation	68

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Glossary/Abbreviations

CDL	Local Community Development Committee
DDADR	District Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development
DPADR	Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development
(Farmer) Association	A number of farmers formally structured to undertake economic activities
(Farmer Group)	A number of farmers less formally structured (e.g. to receive extension messages)
Fora	A grouping of about 10 associations in a business unit.
IEC	Information, Education & Communication
IR	Intermediate Result
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PAN	Posto Agronomico de Nampula (local crop research station)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

This is mid-term evaluation of the VIDA 2 project, which started in 2001 and is due to run until the latter part of 2006. The project strategic objective is **‘to increase household food and economic security through increased and diversified sustainable agricultural output’**. VIDA 2 is exclusively funded by USAID in 10 districts and provides co-financing for additional coverage in a further 4 districts of Nampula Province.

VIDA 2 has operated during a time of rapid change in Nampula Province. There has been a marked increase in private sector activity, including new opportunities within agricultural export markets. Although there have been large increases in rural retail capacity, turnover of agricultural inputs, with the exception of those for cotton and tobacco, remain very low. There are moves towards decentralisation in the public sector, including the development of a Nampula Strategic Development Plan and District Development Plans. Proagri is bringing real increases in capacity at both Provincial and District level. While there has been an improvement in the overall poverty figures (IAF, 2003) there has not been a corresponding improvement in the nutrition statistics (DHS, 2003). There is a rapid upward trend in HIV prevalence from 5.7% to 8.8% in two years.

1.2 Results

The mid-term survey shows that VIDA 2 has started to make measurable progress in achieving its strategic objective of **‘increasing household food security through increased and diversified agricultural output’**. A total of around 57,000 group/association members (41,000 households) are currently being reached by VIDA 2 which means it has already exceeded its target number of beneficiaries.

The Incprox figures are not yet available and chronic malnutrition will only be measured at the end of VIDA 2, however the available data shows:

- Overall ownership of household assets has increased substantially from the baseline to the midterm survey and are significantly higher for participants in established groups.
- The number of months of food shortage has decreased by over 40% (from almost 2.5 to 1.4)
- Diet diversity index has increased by over 15% (from 4.00 to 4.69) and is significantly higher for participating households.

There are four intermediate results for VIDA 2; the first is the **‘increased adoption of agricultural technologies and practices’**. The mid term survey shows this result is being achieved and most of the gains are likely to be sustainable:

- there is a statistically significant **increase in adoption of key technologies** in established groups compared to ‘new’ group and ‘non’ group members and increases in adoption among ‘non’ group members in mid-term compared to the baseline of botanical pesticides, manure, mulch, planting holes, rotation, line planting and recommended spacing and improved seed storage.
- There is significant adoption of **new varieties** by members and non-members, such as rosette resistant groundnut and white sesame that were introduced by VIDA, and also an increase in the **variety of crops** grown.
- There is an increase in **production and sales** by established groups and also more generally in target communities since the baseline.

The second intermediate result is the **‘improved functioning of agricultural input and output markets’**. There have been major improvements in the markets, but most of this has not been due to VIDA 2. Where market access remains poor this tends to be due to low turnover, distance, weak infrastructure and institutional issues¹ – most of which are beyond the scope of VIDA 2. Evidence collected by VIDA 2 and others suggests that external inputs, like fertilizer, are not generally viable for the crops promoted by VIDA 2 under current conditions in Nampula. Therefore the project has rightly decided to promote low external input techniques, which will tend to reduce the achievement of the current input tracking indicators for result 2. These indicators should therefore be redrafted to be more appropriate to the current reality.

There have been some important successes in developing specialized output markets, such as certified seed and certified organic produce, but overall the profitability of the association marketing chains is strained by strong competition. Farmer power outside of association marketing chains remains limited. Therefore, although the intermediate result of improved markets has partly been achieved, this has mainly been due to factors outside of VIDA 2. There may be opportunities to support farmers further when they market outside of the association chain.

Intermediate Result Three is **‘improved capacity of ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to perform key activities related to achieving livelihood security’**. This result needs to be seen in the context of the major capacity building process for the Ministry of Agriculture taking place through Proagri, which is the main driver for increased capacity at district and provincial level. The evaluators found that there are **good relations** with other stakeholders, **good coordination** and **good collaboration** - collaboration is good at district level, but is sometimes let down by the centralised nature of CARE decision making². There has been some good sharing of training and VIDA has been an important catalyst in capacity building at provincial level on Conservation Farming. Despite this, capacity building through VIDA 2 hasn’t been particularly structured, and has proved difficult to monitor. The Intermediate Result as written is not particularly appropriate for a project like VIDA 2, and this is one of the reasons it has been awkward to achieve and monitor; it is recommended that this result should be reformulated to concentrate more on coordination, collaboration and mutual learning, rather than the one-way process implied by ‘capacity building’.

Intermediate Result Four is **‘increased household food consumption, especially for vulnerable young children’**. This result has been approached through nutrition education, work with women’s groups and more general improvement to agricultural production and income. Dynamic women’s groups have proved to be successful in disseminating messages about nutrition, however the main motivation of the women’s groups is to increase their own production and income, particularly cash under the women’s own control, and therefore it is important that this emphasis continues and they are not in the future seen ‘just’ as nutrition groups. There has been significant behaviour change in the use of enriched porridges, and this has occurred not only among the group members but in the wider community, men have also been made aware of and are supportive of this practice. There has also been uptake of the practice of feeding infants at least five times per day, but this has not yet spread significantly in the wider community. There has been adoption of vitamin A rich orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. There has been much less uptake of exclusive breastfeeding of babies under four months, this

¹ E.g. the high costs of doing business through Nacala Port and other institutional/bureaucratic barriers which raise of doing business in Mozambique.

² Making it difficult for the District level VIDA team to respond rapidly to a district level initiative from DDADR – VIDA tend to need to refer such initiatives to headquarters, which can cause delay.

practice is more bound-up with cultural beliefs and practices and therefore it is unrealistic to expect change through the promotion of a message through agricultural extension workers. Overall the promotion of the more straightforward nutritional messages through the agricultural extension network has proved successful, however the extension workers themselves have limited background in nutrition, which understandably restricts their capacity to engage with more complex issues. This is still more evident when dealing with even more culturally entwined issues of sex and gender power that are important in HIV/AIDS behaviour change.

1.3 Issues

Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS

There is a reasonably high level of knowledge about HIV transmission and prevention, and VIDA has contributed to this - however the difficulty of moving from increased knowledge to low-risk behaviour is another matter. The context for behaviour change is complex, and the viable options for rural women are particularly difficult. Realistic expectations are needed about what should be achieved through mainstreaming, given the training of the staff and structure of the project. VIDA extension workers, living away from their families, are a high-risk group and should be treated as priorities for achieving low-risk status.

VIDA, with its objective of improving agricultural production, nutrition and livelihoods is not inconsistent with the needs of poor and vulnerable households, including those affected by labour shortages, chronic illness and HIV/AIDS. A vibrant rural economy is more likely to be able to support the strain of HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality. Social capital in terms of groups and associations may also increase community support for affected households and women organized in their own groups, and with their own income, may reduce their risk level and increase their resilience. These existing outcomes of VIDA can be strengthened by supporting emerging community strategies for coping with AIDS, giving continued emphasis to labour saving approaches, exploring the safety net aspect of associations and groups, providing nutrition education for people living with HIV/AIDS and forming partnership with other organizations/projects with complementary expertise.

Reaching more people

VIDA 2 is currently directly reaching over 40,000 households who have a member in one or more of the VIDA supported groups or associations. There is also a degree of adoption among a further 80,000 households in the communities where VIDA is working. This exceeds the original targets of the project. Although VIDA 2 can be satisfied that it has exceeded its targets, it still leaves over 80% of households in VIDA districts that are not being reached. It is recommended that VIDA, while retaining its overall group/association based approach, becomes more outward looking in the remaining two years of this phase - to expose a larger proportion of the whole community to the VIDA menu. This will mean concentrating on those technologies that are most widely applicable and easiest to spread with minimum extension input, working where appropriate through existing community groups rather than only through specially formed groups or associations and not assuming that groups automatically need the additional intensive input to graduate to associations and fora.

VIDA has pursued strategies to include more women within the mainstream programme and this has been largely successful, with women, and particularly members of female headed households, responding to opportunities to form women's groups and working on production and income generation. There are further opportunities to develop this work, such as using extension approaches and technologies particularly appropriate to women, and encouraging other organizations to engage in saving and literacy work.

Giving small farmers more power in the market

VIDA 2 was planned at a time when building associations, fora and unions was seen as the key way to increase the market power of rural farmers. These structures remain important and require continued support, but changes in the overall private sector marketing capacity mean that for most farmers, including many association members, sales outside of the association-fora channel are likely to remain the more important for the foreseeable future. It is therefore important that small farmer market power is supported more widely, not just when marketing through associations. This is an area for investigation and pilot work during the remainder of VIDA 2, and could become a more planned intervention in VIDA 3.

Generating and spreading new ideas

A major strength of VIDA 2 has been its rich and constantly developing menu of new technologies to promote to farmers, its ability to try these out with farmers and adapt them with feedback from farmers. This dynamic access to new technologies has provided a major motivating factor for group activities and for volunteer animators and demonstrators. Any future extension network needs to consider how to continue to develop, test and adapt new ideas. Participatory research and extension can be a part of this – but caution is urged, as participatory approaches need appropriate attitudes and skills at all levels, that are not currently present, and are more difficult to manage than more structured approaches. It is necessary to be realistic in accepting that a degree of 'top-down' approaches will be needed while appropriate skills and attitudes are gradually built. This is not a quick process.

Organising extension post-VIDA 2

The current extension system is very centralized, with virtually all decisions being taken in Nampula. This may have been appropriate in the early stages of VIDA 2, and is also a symptom of CARE's centralized operating procedures. However such centralized approaches do not help to build autonomous Mozambican capacity to manage extension and other development initiatives at district and community level. Post-VIDA there may be opportunities for staff to form autonomous service providing companies, associations or NGOs - possibly to compete for outsourcing contracts – but to make this a realistic opportunity, CARE would need to start working now on building this capacity. This does require some hard-headed decisions by CARE on what degree of priority to give this. Building this post-VIDA capacity will take management resources, and may detract for some of the short-term impact. However the approach does provide both a potential sustainable exit strategy and potential partners for CARE to work with in future. VIDA 3 could provide an intermediate bridging phase in this process.

Validating and building community activist capacity

VIDA 2 works with a dynamic network of 220 nutrition animators and 120 farmer demonstrators – many of these work 10-20 hours per week for VIDA without pay - their reward seems to be a wish to see their communities develop, personal status, a bicycle, learning opportunities and possibly some future career prospects. Many other organizations in Mozambique also work with community volunteers, including a growing number of HIV/AIDS community activists. Currently there is no accredited training for any of these activists/volunteers - many are caught in a trap of not being able to undertake further formal

training because they have not sufficient years of formal education – the formal system is quite inflexible for these adults.

A degree of quality control of training and accreditation for community activists could provide important motivation and improved quality of work throughout Mozambique. This is a proposal that is larger than VIDA and needs considerably more investigation and discussions both locally and at a national level over a 3-5 year timescale. VIDA would however be in a good position to pilot future development of this proposal, if initial investigations prove positive.

Managing and Monitoring

Results from a staff questionnaire show that VIDA has promoted an impressive variety of staff training and that staff have interesting ideas of how to improve VIDA – this bodes well for future more decentralized management.

The mid-term survey is a significant improvement on earlier data collection, but it is frustrating that changes in sample and questions make it difficult to compare change over time – it is important to get the methodology and indicators robust at the start of a project like VIDA and resist the temptation to change or add indicators unless essential. It seems that regular monitoring data is being collected, but that it is not yet being analysed and used for management decision-making, although this is promised by the end of 2004. Appropriately used monitoring data, giving sufficient emphasis to outcomes (like adoption) and not just outputs (like number of demonstrations) would provide opportunities for stimulating a more ‘problem-solving’ rather than ‘output driven’ management style, and therefore contribute to a learning approach.

The total of the changes recommended in this evaluation and those already planned in VIDA pose a significant management challenge. CARE will need to look carefully at the priorities for change and decide which they have the capacity to manage. A structured process for managing the change, including appropriate outside support needs to be planned.

Conclusion

VIDA 2 is a successful project that is beginning to make measurable change in household food and livelihood security in the operating area. Challenges ahead include

- reaching a larger proportion of the whole population;
- investigating, piloting and learning lessons from approaches and technologies that could be mainstreamed in VIDA 3;
- extending collaboration with the agriculture departments at both provincial and district level through joint planning initiatives;
- building autonomous institutional capacity (i.e. a number of independent companies or associations of ex-VIDA staff) that could create sustainability after VIDA;
- managing change using existing staff capacity, while keeping core work going.

1.4 Recommendations

Ref	Recommendation
4.3a	The indicators for Immediate Result 2 should be revised to reflect the promotion of low input techniques and the consequent more focussed demand for external inputs within the current Nampula Province context.
4.3b	Further study is required into how best to ensure the sustainable availability of high quality and appropriate seed varieties. Other input market intervention by VIDA should be limited – where appropriate this might only involve stimulating demand at farmer level and encouraging supplies to be stocked at the wholesale level.
4.4a	VIDA should explore with DPADR their specific needs in terms of Monitoring and Evaluation and whether VIDA is able to provide this technical assistance.
4.4b	There should be a concerted effort to use the increasing capacity of the Posto Agronomico de Nampula (PAN), and particularly the appointment of an anthropologist, to deepen collaboration between VIDA and the INIA during the last two years of the project.
4.4c	Intermediate Result 3 should be reworded to emphasise mutual learning and planned collaboration between different stakeholders.
4.5a	Develop more audio visual material using song as the principal medium for message transmission, use national radio and community radios to disseminate the material over a wide range of communities
4.5b	Carefully link nutrition messages to agricultural practice: new crops new messages; new processing methods new messages. These should always be referred back to the main messages on child feeding practices and balanced varied diet. This will reinforce the “old” messages whilst maintaining interest in the new ideas.
4.5c	Continue to include men in nutrition discussions; to help ensure women’s access to foodstuffs for better nutrition.
4.5d	Develop work around fruit and vegetables in the dry coastal districts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct fruit and vegetable availability calendars; with sections for planting; harvesting; conservation and preparation and consumption. • Include wild and cultivated fruits and vegetables. • Prepare locally designed material on blackboard or tin for display in the village – help to arouse curiosity about fruit and vegetable consumption.. For example: A fruit and vegetable calendar could be displayed and the activists would update monthly the fruits and vegetables available in the area for consumption. For example: A blackboard could be used to remind people (using pictures) of the time to conserve/preserve vegetables. Link this work with the fruit tree planting initiatives and the processing initiatives.
4.5e	Conduct a separate training event for animators on exclusive breastfeeding in order to learn more about cultural beliefs and practices. This cannot be a message driven exercise and must start with a thorough analysis of the existing situation. Work on exclusive breastfeeding should be carried out in women-only fora initially in order to ensure frank inter-change.
4.5f	Forge links with other agencies (governmental and non governmental) working on nutrition education; share materials and experiences; promote events that include the wider community in demonstrations and discussions.
4.5g	Learn about social marketing techniques from the World Vision Zambezia project on Sweet Potato. Apply in the communities where VIDA is promoting sweet potatoes.
5.1a	Extension worker HIV/AIDS risk should be reduced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer the extensionists the opportunity to participate in a behaviour change programme (peer education) (synergy with APPLE).

Ref	Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review location and work schedule of extension workers to minimize risk of long periods of time spent away from the family home
5.1b	Build on the strengths of extension workers (through adaptation of the agricultural extension packages to mainstream HIV/AIDS) but do not overburden them with community HIV behaviour change.
5.1c	Actively share resources and knowledge within CARE on HIV/AIDS, making use of the synergy between the APPLE project and VIDA and linking the livelihood and HIV experts at different levels within CARE.
5.1d	<p>Forge partnerships (offering logistical support and access to the thousands of associations/groups) at provincial and district level to organizations that specialize in behaviour change and IEC in the area of HIV/AIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the health system Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS Local/International NGOs (for example, PSI)
5.1e	VIDA staff should be encouraged to examine the evolving coping strategies of communities ³ in the light of HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality and where appropriate support the initiatives.
5.1f	Carry out operational research to explore and enhance the social safety net aspect of associations/groups (test the elasticity of support as prevalence increases).
6.2a	While groups/associations should remain a key element of the extension process, there needs to be more emphasis in ensuring learning opportunities reach the whole community. This will require groups, extension workers and monitoring systems to be more outward looking. Technologies should be prioritised which can spread easily to the wider community. It shouldn't be assumed that groups should always graduate into associations. There is scope for cautious expansion and integration of extension through radio with a potentially increased emphasis in VIDA 3.
6.3a	Expand the number of women's groups and continue to provide extension services to them, with an emphasis on replicable technologies and (independent) access to markets.
6.3b	Encourage and facilitate work by other organisations with the women's groups such as Ophavela on savings and Ministry of Education on literacy.
6.3c	Tailor extension work in the wider community to women's needs; for example, on farm demonstrations and training days for women. Prioritise technological options in the light of their replicability for women who are not necessarily in groups/associations.
7a	VIDA, ideally in partnership with some other Nampula based organisations, should sponsor some research into ways of overcoming market constraints faced by small farmers and, if appropriate, pilot some solutions. This might provide some clearer orientation for activities in VIDA 3.
7b	VIDA should investigate the viability of a Nampula based consultant(s) being trained and registered to certify crops as organic (and possibly Fairtrade).
8.1a	<p>For the remainder of VIDA 2 the project should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a strong but small technical team able to network provincially, nationally and internationally. This team needs to have a good understanding of the diverse rural realities, be well connected to and receive feedback from men and women farmers and to women feeding their families.

³ The extension workers should receive a short training on mainstreaming in order to increase awareness of the type of changes they may expect in the communities. Mechanisms should be put in place within the project for the extensionists to report these changes and suggest modifications in the extension packages to respond to the needs of the communities.

Ref	Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build links between INIA/PAN, the local agricultural universities and farmers.
8.1b	VIDA 2 could investigate and test different approaches to overcoming the constraint posed by hand labour. The objective might be to be in a position to make a major commitment to this in VIDA 3.
8.1c	VIDA 2 should advocate for a study into the viability of developing the local phosphate deposits into fertiliser.
8.2a	Any moves towards a more participatory approach to research and extension should be made only after careful consideration of the skills and attitudes of implementing field staff and the capacity of management to manage and supervise these less structured activities. The first step is to build staff skills and attitudes.
8.2b	There should be a gradual shift in management style towards quality of fieldwork and not just quantity. This would include a greater emphasis on more participatory interaction with farmers and adoption type indicators of performance. It should also involve the creation of 'safe space' to discuss qualitative issues, such as the reasons why certain messages are not being adopted. Specific times should be set aside (probably monthly at both District and Provincial levels) for such 'problem solving' discussions. Some facilitation and management training may be required initially.
8.3	VIDA 2 should work actively with those groups and associations being provided with services by animators and demonstrators to develop examples of sustainable community incentives.
8.4a	The technology menu should be reviewed with field staff on an annual basis with particular emphasis on trying to learn lessons from those technologies where adoption rates are low. This should lead to a streamlined menu and more confidence among extension staff about when and how to promote different technologies.
8.4b	Conservation farming should be demonstrated over a multi-year basis to spread the labour cost of digging the holes. Continued emphasis should be placed on technologies that reduce labour demand.
8.4c	Work to mitigate the impact of cassava brown streak virus should continue and be intensified, including consideration of ways to minimise the consequent narrowing of the local cassava genetic base.
9	CARE should take a decision soon on whether it is prepared and able to commit the energy to creating sustainable Mozambican extension capacity from existing VIDA staff members post-VIDA. If CARE decides to do this, it needs to investigate, plan and then implement the steps needed to create this, in consultation with existing interested staff.
10	<p>Initiate a process for validating and building community activist capacity within a 3-5 year time-frame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote discussion with stakeholders⁴; including community activists, on the concept of accredited courses for activists. Prepare a position paper based on research with the stakeholders (in Mozambique) and experiences (worldwide) of similar initiatives Forge alliances with other NGOs/Educational institutions (national and international) to discuss a united position on training and capacity building. Prepare an advocacy position and actively lobby donors and government Pilot, in Nampula, an accredited community activist's course.
11.2a	The temptation to change or to add ever more indicators needs to be resisted. Every effort

⁴ Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Technology, Universities/Polytechnic colleges and training institutions, NGOs (National and International), professional, community activists.

Ref	Recommendation
	should be made from the beginning of a programme like VIDA to establish a sufficiently simple and robust baseline and indicator system to require only minor modification during the life of the programme.
11.2b	VIDA is encouraged to complete the work of entering and analysing the monitoring data and using the results for adaptive management.
11.2c	Identify training for the monitoring staff (including aspects specific to the monitoring indicators used by USAID); this could include a visit to World Vision Zambezia monitoring section to learn about the systemization of data.
11.2d	<p>Towards a learning organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct constructive discussions with USAID on paring down the monitoring system in order to allow space for reflection on the process involved in development activities ○ Contract someone to interview and write some of the key stories and lessons learnt by VIDA. ○ Institute management meetings at all levels that build on problem solving (need to start and see how it goes, initially there will be reluctance to expose any “weakness” but as trust grows this will be replaced by frank and productive discussion)
11.3	The ongoing management load and additional change management load of VIDA should not be underestimated. This will require careful prioritisation and appropriate support and supervision.

2 CONTEXT

2.1 Background to VIDA and CARE Programmes in Nampula

Changing Context in the North of Mozambique.

There have been considerable changes in the operating context of the VIDA II project in the political, economic and social spheres.

Comparison of General Data : National and Nampula Statistics

General	National	Nampula
Population (INE projection 2004)	19 million	3,563,220
% of population below the poverty line (IAF 2003)	54%	52.6%
Nutritional Status		
Chronic malnutrition. Children 0-5 years (DHS 2003)	41%	42%
Acute malnutrition. Children 0-5 years (DHS 2003)	4%	6%
HIV/AIDS prevalence		
HIV/AIDS prevalence 15-49 years old (2002)	13.6%	8.1%
Communication		
Total % of population with radios (IAF 2003)	45.5%	48.3%

Source: www.unicef.org/mozambique (2004)

Politics and decentralization

On the political front there has been successful second term municipal elections which resulted in both of the major parties, FRELIMO and RENAMO, gaining control of towns in the province. For the first time in its history RENAMO is governing two municipalities (Angoche and Ilha de Mocambique). The elections were peaceful and the transition period has been calm. The decentralization process in the country has begun to have a positive impact and Nampula is one of the pilot provinces that has taken a lead in the process. Nampula has developed a Strategic Development Plan, based on the District development plans and a participatory process that involved all major stakeholders from the public and private sector. In many of the districts the Local Community Development Committee (CDLs) are beginning to have a real impact on district programmes.

Economics improvement reflected in poverty figures

Nampula has been seen to take strides forward from the late 1990s where the poverty levels were amongst the highest in the country (67%). The latest household budget survey shows that Nampula is now below the national average of 54% absolute poverty with a level of 52.6% (IAF 2003). The wealth generated in Nampula is based on the agricultural production and processing that has flourished in the province. There are still however, pockets of poverty in all districts, and some of the coastal districts have been particularly affected by “brown streak” disease that attacks cassava (the staple crop), and inclement weather conditions. There are concerns that the economic fortunes of Nampula may have reached a plateau as farmers are unable to make the leap into mechanized or larger scale farming due to investment constraints.

Nutrition status lags behind

Although the absolute poverty figures show improvement the percentage of malnourished children is still above the national average and reflects the lack of health services, continuing dietary problems and pockets of extreme poverty leading to both chronic and acute malnutrition.

HIV increases dramatically

The levels of HIV infection have also almost doubled in the last two years; a trend that is extremely worrying as it indicates that the epidemic is in a phase of rapid take-off. The implications for both the urban and rural populations of increased prevalence rates are serious when taken together with the poor coverage of the health system; the inability of the National AIDS programme to reach all communities; and reliance on labour intensive agricultural practices as the main livelihood strategy. .

Agricultural sector

Within the agricultural sector there have also been changes in terms of the both the public sector and the private operators. PROAGRI I has finished, leaving a legacy of better trained and qualified agricultural staff and stronger institutional capacity, and has been replaced by PROAGRI II that puts emphasis on provincial and district integrated services; including the private sector and NGOs. This will provide an enabling environment for the VIDA II project.

Although there have been large increases in rural retail capacity, turnover of agricultural inputs, with the exception of those for cotton and tobacco remain very low. The vibrant markets in rural areas suggest that where there is demand, then the market will tend to supply the goods.

Whereas at the beginning of VIDA the major crop was maize, and in some years many farmers had a difficulty to find a purchaser, the current situation is more complex. The market is looking for a variety of different crops and increasingly the level of farmer supply is the limiting factor rather than the marketing capacity. In future the quality of the crop and issues such as fairtrade and organic certification are likely to become more important.

2.2 Evolution of VIDA activities

CARE has been assisting farmers in Northern Mozambique develop their agricultural potential since 1995. This work started first with the development of rural businesses based on the production of sunflower oil using manually operated oil presses. This was piloted in three districts through the project OPEN. The experience gained from this programme was used as the basis for the first phase of VIDA. Working in eight districts of Nampula province and through three partner organisations in four districts of Zambezia province, sunflower became an important cash crop and over 900 oil presses were sold. Later sesame was developed, first as an oil seed crop for the production of cooking oil and later as an export crop. Now between 6,000 and 9,000 tonnes of sesame are exported annually. In the final half of VIDA I Paprika was introduced as a cash crop to be marketed in collaboration with a Zambian based company, Cheetah Zambia. Although initially a success, the failure of Cheetah to purchase the crop on time in the second season led to a rapid decline in production of this crop.

The development of farmers organisations has been a central feature of CARE programmes since the start of the VIDA projects in 1997. With assistance from CLUSA, the VIDA project formed 189 associations. These were later developed by CLUSA into rural trading organisations, Foras, which now form an important part of the trading structure that terminates in the producer owned trading company, IKURU.

Seed production has been the basis for the successful introduction of new crops such as sunflower and sesame and new varieties of maize, groundnuts and cowpeas. Initially started as a means of producing seed for the CARE programmes the seed programme grew into the main producer of quality certified seed in northern Mozambique. By 2002 over four hundred tonnes of seed were produced annually by small-holder farmers, many of whom were women's groups. The

seed was produced for sale to CARE and to seed companies such as PANNAR and Agro Alfa. Most of the seed sold to these companies was sold outside of the province and so VIDA target farmers, except those producing the seed, were not benefiting from this programme. In the second phase of VIDA a drive to concentrate on production of seed only for those who will use the seed within the northern region has begun.

During the later half of VIDA I, a growing awareness that the benefits of increased income resulting from the work VIDA was doing would not be translated into improved child nutrition if women were not given advice on child nutrition, led to the inclusion of a nutrition component into VIDA. Since the start of VIDA 2 this programme has been expanded in area and in scope to include not only nutritional advice but also agricultural and business development advice for women. Agri-business opportunities tried have included seed production, sesame and groundnut production, fruit drying with solar driers and broiler chicken production.

At the end of VIDA I it became apparent that farmers' ability to raise production and hence income was limited by a lack of labour. As almost all farmers do not possess animals or tractors for ploughing the initial approach to this problem was to raise production per unit of labour by raising crop yield through the use of fertilizers and hybrid maize. Trials conducted at the start of the second phase of VIDA showed, that at current fertilizer prices, the majority of farmers applying fertilizer to maize and seven other crops would lose money. It was therefore decided to raise crop yield using low external input methods based on the use of organic fertilizers and pesticides and to raise crop value by certifying these crops as organic.

VIDA is pioneering organic certification in Nampula and the development of higher value export crops. VIDA decided to concentrate effort on the two most valuable field crops, groundnut and sesame. This has involved the introduction of disease resistant early maturing groundnut varieties and sesame varieties with a better grain quality than locally grown varieties. The soil fertility management methods are based on the use of conservation farming methods that involve the preparation of planting basins in the dry season, the placing of organic matter in the planting basins and the growing of relay intercropped green manure crops to produce mulch.

During the second half of the second phase of VIDA the rise in the incidence of Cassava Brown Streak Virus in VIDA target districts has produced an urgent need to introduce cassava varieties with resistance or tolerance to CBSV and to introduce alternative crops to cassava such as sweet potato or sorghum.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

This evaluation was done by a team of two external consultants – one specialist in nutrition and one in agriculture and rural development. For part of the fieldwork, the team was joined by a member of staff from the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development – Alfred Jaime. Snr Jaime looked particularly at the relationship between VIDA 2 and the District Directorates of Agriculture.

The evaluation team used a combination of approaches to reach their conclusions:

- **Reports** - review of the large number of project reports, including quarterly and annual progress reports – these are listed in annex 1.
- **Surveys** - review of the mid-term survey which covered a random stratified sample of 600 households within VIDA 2 target communities, divided equally between those participating in groups/associations and those not participating. There was a further division of whether the groups/associations were new or had been in existence sometime. This survey was also compared with the results of the 2002 baseline survey. An evaluation of mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) of children from 6-59 months was carried out to assess nutrition status in the project area.⁵
- **Field visits** – this involved focus group discussions with a mixture of purposefully selected and randomly selected groups/associations in five districts in which VIDA 2 operates. Where possible, groups were separated into men and women to allow a more open sharing of views. These also included visits to fields, fishponds grain stores etc. as appropriate to the location.
- **Key informant interviews** – this included the Provincial Director and four District Directors of Agriculture and Rural Development, extension staff, nutrition animators and farmer demonstrators, private sector partners and other NGOs.
- **VIDA staff** – interviews, completion of a questionnaire (see Annex 3) and a staff workshop.

The draft results of the evaluation have been presented to staff and stakeholders in Nampula and to CARE and USAID in Maputo for discussion before the recommendations were finalised.

⁵ MUAC measures the current nutritional status of children, and so is not comparable with the height for age statistics gathered during the baseline survey.

4. RESULTS ACHIEVED

4.1 Strategic objective 1.

To increase household food and economic security through increased and diversified sustainable agricultural output.

The strategic objective of VIDA II is to affect a measurable improvement in food security for 30,000 households in Nampula Province through the increase and diversification of agricultural output. Incomes of the target group are expected to increase by 30%.

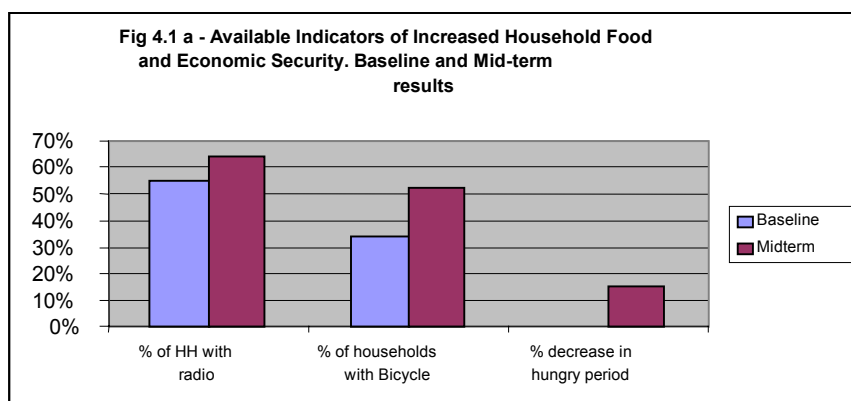
VIDA II continues to employ an approach based on the generation of improved technologies, new market opportunities, on-farm value added activities (for example, processing), and improved household diets through nutrition education and improved access to nutritious foods. VIDA II works through fora and associations, as well as less formal extension groups and women's groups; training community demonstrators and animators for out-reach agricultural and extension work.

The project has carried out a vast array of activities over the last two years working towards the overall goal of increasing household food and economic security. Details of the activities will be discussed in the sections dealing with the intermediate results I, II, III, and IV.

The impact of the project on household food and economic security is measured through five indicators:

- Increase in household income: INCOPROX (not available)
- Household assets;
- Dietary diversity;
- Length of hungry period;
- Chronic malnutrition (only measured at final evaluation)

Progress against the indicators is shown in the graph below and demonstrates a tendency to improvement, although there is no information on the impact on household incomes or children malnutrition levels⁶. NB. Full table of indicator and targets in Appendix 4.



Source: Mid term survey final survey. Mark Langworthy. 2004.

⁶ INCOPROX is to be calculated by MSU at a later date.

Data on chronic malnutrition will only be provided in the final evaluation.

Household Assets

Overall ownership of household assets has increased substantially from the baseline to the midterm survey. For example, in the baseline only 34 percent of surveyed households had bicycles, in the mid term survey over half of the households reported bicycle ownership. The percentage of participant households owning different kinds of assets is significantly higher than non-participant households (see graph below)

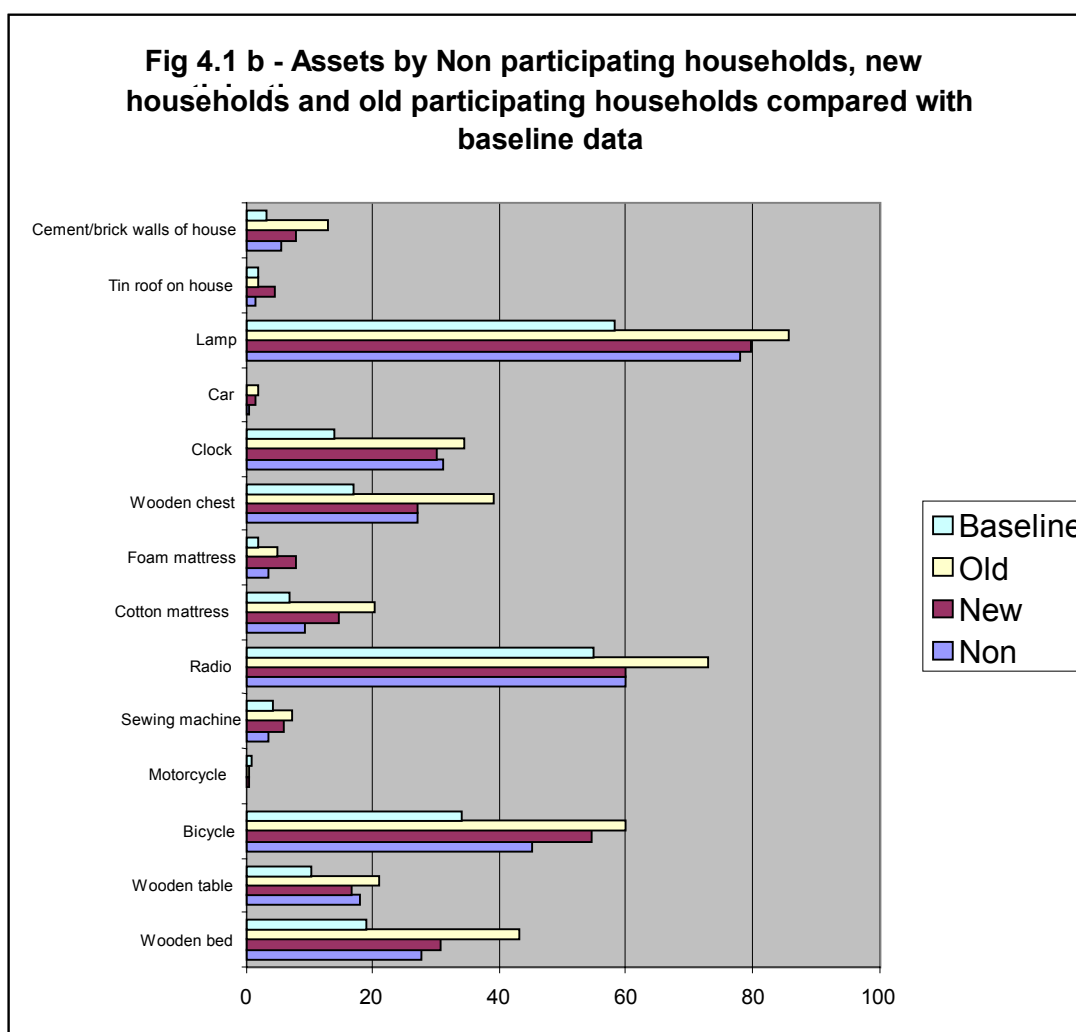
Radio ownership has increased by approximately 10% against the projected 20% for the mid-term period. However bicycle ownership has increased by approximately 20% as predicted. Overall value of assets has increased for participating households when compared to non participating households. While total value of household assets is higher for participant than non-participant households, the difference is statistically significant only for established (old) participants

Table 4.1a - Total Value of Household Assets for Categories of Households

	Non Part.	New Part	Old Part.	Total	Baseline
Value of all assets (MT)	1,224,830	2,049,635	2,123,047^a	1,666,158	<i>n.a.</i>

^asubgroup mean significantly different from the mean of non-member subgroup at 10% level (t-test)

The graph below shows asset ownership divided by baseline data, non participating households (non), households that have recently begun to work with the project (new), and households that have been working with the project for an established period of time (old).



Source. Mid Term Survey final results. Mark Langworthy. 2004

Food Security and Improved household diets

There are two indicators of household food security; number of months that households report experiencing shortage of food, and the diet diversity index which measures the quality of household diet. Overall, the household food security has improved from the time of the baseline to the midterm. The number of months of food shortage has decreased by over 40% (from almost 2.5 to 1.4) and the diet diversity index has increase by over 15 percent (from 4.00 to 4.16) However, there are no great differences in household diet across the project participation categories. The diversity index of the “established” participant households is statistically different from that of the non-participants, but the difference is only 11%.

Table 4.1b - Household Food Security indicators, by Category of Project Participation and Gender of Household Head.

HH Category	No. months of food shortage	Diet diversity score
Non	1.41	4.56
New	1.40	4.47
Established	1.33	5.08^a
Male-Headed	1.35	4.63
Female-Headed	1.58	5.02^a
Total	1.39	4.69
<i>Baseline</i>	<i>2.49</i>	<i>4.00</i>

^asubgroup mean significantly different from the mean of non-member subgroup at 10% level (t-test)

Conclusions.

In general it can be concluded that VIDA II has achieved its mid-term aspirations and is moving towards achieving the strategic objective of the project. Detailed information on the methods, approaches and technological options offered by the project are discussed in later sections of this report and will generate specific recommendations for the remaining two years of the project.

4.2 IR 1 – Increased adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies and practices

The mid-term survey shows considerable adoption of a range of practices promoted by VIDA when compared in two ways:

- Comparison of practices reported in 2004 in long establishes groups/association with newer groups/associations and those in the same communities but not in groups/associations.
- Comparison of practices reported in 2004 compared to 2002 – in the earlier survey the numbers surveyed in groups/associations were small, therefore it is difficult to use the member data in statistical analysis – however the comparison of non-member practice over time is relevant in showing spread of practices in the wider community.

Fig 4.2 - Reported adoption of selected agricultural practices⁷

Agricultural Practice	% of households			
	2002	2004		
	Non	Non	New	Old
Crop Protection				
Commercial pesticides	15	13	15	20
Botanical pesticide	n.a. ⁸	23	42	60
Soil Fertility				
Commercial fertiliser	3	7	12	9
Manure	1	9	8	23
Liquid manure	n.a.	0	1	2
Compost	n.a.	2	3	5
Mulch	n.a.	69	79	82
Mulch/fert in planting holes	n.a.	39	51	66
Plant legume cover crop	n.a.	17	15	29
Rotation/association with legumes	n.a.	83	92	92
Average number practices adopted	n.a.	2.3	2.6	3.1
Recommended planting				
Line planting	26	46	82	86
Recommended spacing	10	26	65	75
Opening holes before rains	n.a.	11	26	38
Thinning (debaste)	27 ⁹	45	66	71
Average no practices adopted	n.a.	1.3	2.4	2.7
Erosion Control				
None	n.a.	30	15	4
Plant cover crop	n.a.	22	26	30
Contour plant	n.a.	10	17	25
Fallow	n.a.	12	20	26
Drainage ditches	n.a.	31	41	63
Plant Trees	n.a.	5	9	24
Reduce field burning	n.a.	4	11	6
Barriers (contour)	n.a.	42	52	54
Average number of practices adopted	n.a.	1.3	1.8	2.4
Seed storage practices				
Botanical pesticides	3	15	25	42
Rat traps	28	21	22	34
Rat guards	2	3	11	12
Actellic		2	4	7
Average number of practices		0.8	0.9	1.4
% Households that purchased seed		44	45	53

The survey data reveals a remarkably consistent, and in many cases a statistically significant trend of reported adoption with rates rising from 2002 to 2004 and from those in target communities, those in new target groups/associations and those in old target groups/associations.

It should be remembered that the figures give **reported adoption** – they do not reveal whether some respondents were giving what they thought was the “right” answer - whether or not they are actually following the practice. It seems unlikely that this distortion is very high, as some techniques which many farmers know to be “right”, but they find difficult to follow, such as using compost, have received a genuinely low score.

⁷ Bold indicates a proportion or mean significantly different from the 2004 non-member sub-group at the 10% level.

⁸ n.a. - Figure not available because of difference in questions in baseline and mid-term surveys.

⁹ Slightly different question – this is % thinning maize.

The figures also don't reveal whether the practice has been adopted on the whole area of the farmer's fields or perhaps just the group/association demonstration field. However it probably does indicate that the technology is at least being tried by the farmer. This interpretation was confirmed by field visits - with farmers giving a variety of responses – some had tried the techniques only in demonstrations, some were waiting to see what the demonstration results were before trying them in their own fields, some were using them on their own plots within the association field and some were using them on their own fields.

It is very important that reported adoption also seems to be rising among non-members. This indicates that the technology is not just staying among those with whom VIDA works with directly, but is spreading to a certain extent within the target communities. One would expect spread beyond the target communities to be slower, but hopefully is still occurring.

The adoption figures represent a major achievement:

- They show significant adoption among the 41,000 households in groups/associations with whom VIDA is working¹⁰.
- They show at least some sustainable and improved agricultural practices are being adopted among the estimated 80,000 households in communities where VIDA is working but who have not joined groups/associations.¹¹

It should however be recognised that while the adoption figures are good this doesn't yet indicate that farmers are reaching sustainability. For instance on soil fertility:

- While erosion and mulching practices will reduce the rate of fertility loss, fertility loss is likely to be continuing.
- Reported use of manure and artificial fertiliser are most likely to be on small vegetable or specialist crops and are not yet available on a scale to build the fertility of the larger fields sufficiently for people to farm their way out of poverty.

In other words, attaining sustainability will require a considerable intensification of some of the practices that are just beginning to be adopted.

Crops grown and sold

The mid-term survey shows significantly more planting of improved maize, sunflower and sesame by old associations/groups and more planting of improved groundnuts and cowpeas by both old and new associations than non-members. However adoption of new varieties by non-members (and knowing their names) is still impressive – ranging from 17% for rosette resistant groundnut to 60% for white sesame. This does indicate that improved seed gets passed on, along with the name. In the area covered, VIDA has been the main organisation working with Metuba and Manica varieties of maize, Nikuaha cassava, Nametil and Momane groundnut, IT 18, 36 & 76 cowpea, orange fleshed sweet potato, Black Record sunflower and white seeded sesame – so most of the adoption can be directly attributed to VIDA.

There has also been a general increase in the variety of crops grown since the baseline, with the main decline being in cotton growing. New and old association/group members tend to grow a significantly wider variety of crops - including more growing millet, groundnut, cowpea, jugo beans, oloko beans, local sweet potato, paprika, piripiri, sunflower, white sesame, pineapple and

¹⁰ Mid-term table 4 - the 306 households who had members in at least one group contained a total of 421 group members meaning 38% of households are involved in more than one group

¹¹The mid term survey data shows that approximately 2/3 of households in the target communities do not have a member in any group.

soybean. While some of these crops have been promoted by VIDA, others have not. It may mean VIDA participants are keener farmers, however what it does mean is that participating in VIDA, which has tended to concentrate on a relatively small numbers of crops with the highest potential, doesn't seem to have lead to a reduction in crop diversity. This is a positive outcome.

The mid-term survey shows significantly greater production and sales by old groups. There is significantly higher production by old and/or new groups of maize, groundnut, cassava, sunflower, white sesame and soybean higher sales of maize, groundnut, pigeon-pea, cassava, paprika, white sesame and soybean.

Comparison of production and sales between baseline and mid-term surveys is difficult because of differences in weather, and the data gives quite mixed results with some crops going up and others down, and this is not always linked to those that VIDA has worked on¹². Overall from the baseline to the mid-term there is a 63% increase in production of key food crops and 28% increase in the value of key cash crops.

These results are in line with the observations from field visits, which showed stronger production and selling by older more established groups. This is a positive trend, the challenge is now to repeat this with the newer groups and also in the wider community (see section 6).

Conclusion

The intermediate result is being met and if things continue as at present, more significant changes can be expected by the end of VIDA II. However, although many group members and some target community members can be expected to have adopted a significant number of practices by the end of the project, there will still be a majority of communities who will not have had direct exposure and here adoption rates are likely to be slow.

Most of the changes are likely to be sustainable after the end of VIDA 2 as they require no external inputs and seem to be recognised by farmers as giving benefit. However as market conditions change and better varieties are developed there is likely to be a decline in relative benefit over time without ongoing extension exposure to new opportunities. In addition there is likely to be decline in quality of some of the existing improved seed varieties unless this is replenished – it is uncertain whether the farmers and the market will achieve this in the medium term without some extension support (see section).

4.3 IR 2 – Improved functioning of agricultural input and output markets

There has been an enormous change in overall market capacity for both inputs and outputs during the last few years. There has also been improvement in some road access. These changes have been largely independent of VIDA 2. However this doesn't mean market access is sufficient - communities far from primary and secondary road access remain with much weaker market links, higher prices and less variety of inputs and lower prices and choice of buyer for

¹² Increases in production by non-members of maize, rice, sorghum, cassava, cowpea, pigeonpea, sweet potato, white sesame and tobacco and decreases in cotton.

outputs. This is largely due to geography, infrastructure and low volumes rather than market weakness as such (for further comment see section 7).

The stronger market capacity has:

- Undermined the comparative competitiveness of associations and fora in comparison to other channels (except for niche markets such as fair-trade and organic) and therefore undermined the overall profitability of associations and fora.
- Increased the emphasis across the sector on raising production levels and quality rather than a concentration on market capacity.

Input Supply

VIDA has taken a wide variety of initiatives to address IR 2 including:

1. **Worked with INIA and AgroAlfa to produce basic seed** – this resulted in a revolving seed fund managed by INIA, but control was insufficient and the fund leaked away. ICRISAT has since taken over working with INIA on basic seed.
2. **Encouraged women’s groups to form seed banks** – women borrow seeds on the condition that they pay it back to their group as a seed-bank. Seed-banks tend to lend to members on a 1kg:1kg basis for the group block, and to members and non-members on a 1kg:2kg basis for their own fields. Seed-banks, by encouraging greater self-sufficiency at the local level, don’t tend to encourage more farmers to buy seed through commercial networks – which is one of the indicators of this result
3. **Worked with AgroAlfa to provide inputs (tools and seed) on consignment basis to shops** - CARE identified the shops and fora and in most cases provided the transport, AgroAlfa provided the tools. Repayment for the tools was around 70% and for seed around 20% - AgroAlfa lost money and stopped the programme.
4. **Worked with Agrifocus to supply actellic on consignment to shops and fora** – most shops paid back, but associations did not. Agrifocus follow-up is weak. This is continuing with Agrifocus supplying around 10 shops this year.
5. **CARE fertiliser on consignment to shops** – about 10 shops have been given two bags of fertiliser by VIDA which they then sell by the tin, principally to vegetable growers. On average shops have sold about one bag each -this is at an early stage and the results have not yet been analysed.
6. **Chemical fertiliser economic viability trials** – chemical fertilisers are extremely expensive in Nampula Province. Trials by VIDA and others have shown that, with the exception of vegetables, fertiliser is not currently economically viable for the crops promoted by VIDA. Better returns are achieved when small quantities of fertiliser are combined with conservation farming, but still this is unlikely to be viable at current prices. This finding means that one of the original suppositions behind this Intermediate Result¹³ is not currently valid.

Overall there have been some interesting initiatives, but the sustainable impact on input supply has been very limited. This is primarily because effective demand is low (because of many other competing priorities for relatively limited household disposable income). Where there is demand – e.g. second-hand clothes, bicycle parts and kitchen utensils – the province has seen the market supply even relatively remote areas with considerable vigour. The fact that hoes and actellic are not available in more remote areas is not because the market chain is weak, but demand is weak and seasonal¹⁴.

¹³ See VIDA DAP 2.3 which supposed that fertiliser would be found to be viable and therefore could be promoted.

¹⁴ And possibly in the case of enxadas traders have seen themselves hurt too often in the past when NGOs or MADER have suddenly done a free or subsidised distribution – leaving them with unsellable stock, or because many farmers go on hoping for a free or subsidised distribution, rather than buying.

Seed is more complicated, as it can be difficult for the existing trade networks to obtain appropriate varieties and because it is a perishable commodity. However the limited interest by the seed companies in developing sales in Nampula Province probably reflects a correct assessment that demand in the short to medium-term is insufficient to justify significant investment in capacity.

In this context VIDA has made a correct strategic choice to concentrate on low external input agriculture¹⁵ – conservation farming, biological pesticides, local seed storage and saving. The demand for external inputs, at least in the medium term, is likely to be much more limited and focussed than the indicators in the tracking table suggests. Probable inputs in the medium term are likely to be actellic, some seed and inorganic fertiliser for vegetables, veterinary inputs, fungicide for cashew, occasional replacement of worn-out tools, occasional replacement of degraded seed. In some cases the indicators for IR 2 are likely to be in contradiction to the successful achievement of IR 1¹⁶.

Recommendation 4.3a – The indicators for Immediate Result 2 should be revised to reflect the promotion of low input techniques and the consequent more focussed demand for external inputs within the current Nampula Province context.

Most retailers, market traders and *ambulantes* buy their stock from a wholesaler of some kind. Future limited VIDA support to the market should perhaps pay more attention to ensuring appropriate products are available on the wholesale market – and trust to the existing market networks to deliver at retail level. This can be complemented by work at farmer level to increase demand (e.g. IR 1). As long as there is sufficient demand, most farmer needs will be provided by the market without the intervention of NGOs – and in fact NGO intervention is more likely to hinder the development of sustainable market networks. The exception perhaps is replacing degraded seed and introducing new seed varieties – how best to do this requires further study: It is possible that the volunteer *demonstradores* and *animadoras* could become marketing agents for certain seed and other products – this might provide a useful financial incentive for them, but could also bias their work towards selling activity.

Recommendation 4.3b – further study is required into how best to ensure the sustainable availability of high quality and appropriate seed varieties. Other input market intervention by VIDA should be limited – where appropriate this might only involve stimulating demand at farmer level and encouraging supplies to be stocked at the wholesale level.

Output Marketing

The original focus on VIDA, to work where possible with associations, was in order to complement improvements to marketing being made at this time through the associations. With improvements to other marketing channels, the association channel has become less critical, but is still important, particular for certain crops.

Specific interventions by VIDA have been:

¹⁵ This is based on a hard-headed analysis of the costs and benefits of certain external inputs to poor farmers in rural Nampula Province rather than being driven by ‘Political correctness’.

¹⁶ For instance the current indicators are the number of households buying fertiliser and seed and the quantities bought – both are likely to remain low if the conservation farming and seed-banks in IR 1 are successful.

- Support to farmers to produce and get their seed certified - which may be bought by VIDA for its own programmes or sold on to commercial seed companies or NGOs.
- Support to organic groundnut growers, including certification (which is held by CARE).
- Support to association development in areas where CLUSA is not working – e.g. in Angoche – including helping these associations make contact with commercial buyers.
- Support to associations and groups in general to produce for potential markets.

Some important initial work has been done to help farmers produce for new and often niche markets. Since the market environment is constantly developing, their needs to be a sustained capacity to respond to new market opportunities. This capacity is needed in both the marketing sphere and in extension – to enable farmers to learn how to grow new crops demanded by the market.

VIDA’s concentration on marketing through associations has meant that insufficient attention has been paid to increasing the power of farmers to negotiate with some of the other channels available (see section 7).

Conclusion

This intermediate result is only partly being met by VIDA and has largely been overtaken by an enormous increase in market capacity independent of VIDA – and perhaps a degree of mis-diagnosis of the problem in the programme design. Market access often remains poor – but this is often due to low turnover (due to weak effective demand for inputs and production of outputs), large distances and weak infrastructure – rather than market failure.

On the input side, the low input approach promoted by IR1 is appropriate and means that IR 2 indicators need to be more specific. Care is needed to avoid any intervention damaging sustainable channels. On the output side, work is still needed to make access to changing markets sustainable. More work could also be done to strengthen small farmer negotiation (including encouraging women farmers engagement with the market) capacity in relation to the different channels available, rather than exclusive concentration on marketing through associations.

4.4 IR 3 – Improved capacity of Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to perform key activities related to achieving food security

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

National Level

The team from DNER mainly know about VIDA from annual meetings organised by USAID. They would be interested in field visits to learn more about the work VIDA is doing. VIDA has attended the last three annual national rural extension meetings and made presentations on CARE extension systems with associations, CARE experience with promoting cash crops and CARE experience with outsourcing contracts.

Provincial level

The Provincial Director is well informed about VIDA and is enthusiastic about the design and implementation of the programme and considers that there have been satisfactory results. There has been coordination of activities in a number of spheres:

- Involvement in joint planning, including three monthly coordination meetings.
- Paying for the Provincial Director to visit Conservation Farming in Brazil.
- The joint holding of a conference on Conservation farming in Nampula.
- Integration of DPADR staff into various training for VIDA staff.
- Participation in the production of the market information bulletin.
- Collaboration over special events like the “Dia de Productor”.

However the original plan to have a member of VIDA staff sitting within the DPADR never materialised – because at a time when VIDA was having difficulty in recruiting staff it was unclear what the person would contribute. The DPADR requested direct support in the area of programme monitoring. Further discussions on the specific needs of the DPADR would need to take place before an assessment of CARE’s ability to provide technical assistance can be made.

District Level

The closest collaboration takes place at district level and relations appear to be very good¹⁷.

- There is joint planning of the work at District level between DDADR and VIDA. Sometimes plans made at District level do not receive sufficient support from VIDA at Provincial level.
- Generally there is a geographical division of work between the VIDA and DDADR extension workers – with the VIDA extension workers covering the more distant areas as they have motorbikes.
- VIDA technicians share their extension messages with those of the DDADR
- VIDA helps with prizes and transport for special events.
- VIDA has provided training to DDADR technicians.

There is concern at District level about what will happen to the work, including support for the *demonstradores* and *animadoras* when VIDA ends. As might be expected the DDADRs would like the VIDA equipment to be handed to them at the end of the project!

With Proagri the difference in capacity between the Government extension network and that of VIDA is not as great as there used to be between international NGOs and the Government. The table below shows similar levels of human and equipment resources¹⁸ in the various teams, although the VIDA staff receive higher pay and have more resources for day-to-day activities.

Table 4.4 - Comparison of DDADR and VIDA resources at District level

Resource	Meconta		Mogovolas		Angoche	
	DDADR	VIDA	DDADR	VIDA	DDADR	VIDA
Human resources						
Tecnicos Medios	6		2		3	?
Tecnicos Basica	6		5		9	?
Technicos Elementares	2		6		1	?

¹⁷ Three out of the ten District Directors (and some other staff) covered by VIDA were interviewed during the evaluation.

¹⁸ None of the equipment of the DDADRs had been provided by VIDA.

Equipment						
4x4 vehicle	1	0	1	0	1	0
Motorbikes	6		2		4	9
Bicycles	15		10		10	24
Computer	1		0		2	0

Conclusion

Coordination with the DPADR and DDADRs have been good, relations are good and all levels would like to see VIDA continuing after this phase. Some capacity has clearly been built, but this has not been in a systematic and structured way. This is reflected in the tracking table for this result which doesn't have defined indicators. A proposed more structured capacity building planning and monitoring system has not been implemented¹⁹, probably because the position within DPADR was never filled.

The implementation of Proagri has meant that enormous capacity changes have slowly been emerging at Provincial and District level independently of VIDA. There have been trade-offs between prioritising this IR 3 by working closely through and within MADER structures and achieving more rapid gains on IR 1, 2 & 4 by more flexible direct implementation approaches – albeit coordinated and working where possible in close collaboration with DPADR/DDADRs. Generally the desire to produce the rapid results has predominated. Given the capacity building already taking place as part of Proagri, and the resources, skills and time needed for more systematic capacity building, this does not seem to have been an unreasonable decision.

Recommendation 4.4a – VIDA should explore with DPADR their specific needs in terms of Monitoring and Evaluation and whether VIDA is able to provide this technical assistance.

INIA – Posto Agronomico de Nampula

The Posto has seen considerable increases in capacity in recent years, with more, higher qualified, staff returning from training and rehabilitation and equipping of the post – this is independent of VIDA. The posto is soon to recruit an anthropologist/sociologist.

There is a MoU between the Posto and CARE and in the first two years of VIDA the two organisations worked together with AgroAlfa on the multiplication and selling of basic seed (see section 4.3). VIDA has led on work with natural pesticides and facilitated on-farm trials with sorghum, bananas, maize, cowpea, sunflower, sesame and cassava in which INIA has designed the protocols. The Posto also collaborates with ICRISAT, SCF(USA), CLUSA, WVI and Swiss Cooperation.

VIDA would like to link the Posto directly with farmer's associations for field testing and feedback – this hasn't yet developed. VIDA feel they have influenced the Posto to do trials with some of the farmers existing varieties of sorghum and bananas. Although relations remain good, there is some frustration within VIDA that as the capacity of the Posto and INIA has increased, including their collaboration with ICRISAT and CIMMYT, their interest in collaborating, sharing results and sharing seed with NGOs may have declined.

¹⁹ Mark Langworthy M & e Plan for VIDA II. April 2002

Conclusion

There has been successful collaboration between the posto and VIDA. Systematic and sustainable capacity building has not occurred. There are opportunities for more collaboration and synergy between the two organisations and ways of achieving this should be explored. The appointment of an anthropologist may be an opportunity to strengthen the relationship – particular with some of VIDA’s practical fieldwork and certain associations able to test technologies and provide feedback.

Recommendation 4.4b – there should be a concerted effort to use the increasing capacity of the Posto, and particularly the appointment of an anthropologist, to deepen collaboration between VIDA and the Posto/INIA during the last two years of the project.

CLUSA

There is a considerable level of collaboration and coordination between VIDA and CLUSA. Collaboration in the field, where VIDA staff is helping associations to increase production and CLUSA staff helping them with their sales, is close and with considerable synergy. CLUSA staff often share offices with VIDA at the District level.

The relationship between the two organisations is not one of capacity building, certainly not in a single direction – although each organisation has influenced the other’s way of working.

IKURU

There is a close relationship between VIDA and Ikuru. VIDA staff work with a number of associations and fora specifically to help them produce crops to be bought and marketed by Ikuru. In a similar way to the relationship with CLUSA, the link between the organisations is not so much one of capacity building but of mutual synergy that benefits both.

Universities

VIDA has provided useful experience to a number of students from the agricultural faculties from Cuamba and Nampula. This has provided some useful information for the project, but more importantly has provided some ‘real life’ experience for the agricultural students. It would be beneficial to both sides if this collaboration continues and expands.

SNV

VIDA also has a MoU with the Dutch Volunteer Programme (SNV) who have a programme of developing community development committees (CDLs). VIDA provides extension support to agricultural production activities of the CDL. Unfortunately the key person in SNV was not available during the evaluation so it is difficult to comment further. However it would seem that the relationship is one of mutual synergy rather than capacity building. VIDA does however help support the capacity development of the CDLs.

Conclusion

Relations with the various stakeholders are good, collaboration and coordination are good. There has been some “capacity building”, but this has not been particularly structured and the lasting capacity built is relatively small compared to the other changes taking place in most

organisations, with the possible exception of the work on conservation farming. There is no system to monitor the change in capacity achieved.

The wording of Intermediate Result 3 – with the relationship between VIDA and MADR and other stakeholders described as “capacity building”, with its implications of a one way flow, is not really appropriate in the current context. The emphasis should be on collaboration and the promotion of mutual learning and making the most of the different roles and skills of different stakeholders. This emphasis would be closer to the reality achieved.

Recommendation 4.4c – IR 3 should be reworded to emphasise mutual learning and planned collaboration between different stakeholders.

IR4 - Improvements in household food consumption, especially for vulnerable children.

The impact indicator for this objective is based on an improvement in dietary diversity and has been calculated at 4.69, close to reaching the proposed target of 5 from a baseline of 4 in 2002.

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Mid term evaluation
Diet diversity (number of different food groups consumed by HH in last 24 hours)	4	5	4.69	4.69

The results in IR 4 have been reached through a variety of measures.

- Direct nutrition training and dissemination of food and hygiene messages
- Intensive work with women’s groups on agricultural extension activities
- Work with women’s groups on income generating initiatives

Direct Nutrition Training

A wide range of nutrition messages have been disseminated during the first two years of the project. However, the teams have concentrated on three principle messages namely:

- Enriched weaning porridges for children from 4 months of age
- Increasing the number of times a child is fed (with a target of up to five times a day)
- Understanding the importance of Vitamin A in the child’s diet.

All messages on improving the quality of diet are based on locally available food, including sesame and sunflower, groundnuts and orange flesh-sweet potato. Other nutrition messages concerning family diet and exclusive breast-feeding have not been the focus of the programme and are therefore not assimilated as fully by communities.

The extension workers have a reasonable knowledge of basic nutrition and the aspects linked directly to the dissemination topics are clear. However, they lack depth of knowledge which limits their ability to adapt messages to local and changing circumstances. There are some aspects that need reinforcing due to the complex nature of the messages and the demand for additional information from the community. Exclusive breastfeeding is one of these aspects. This is a

complex cultural issue and requires sensitive facilitation and a breadth of knowledge that the extension workers do not have.

Radio programmes have been developed in partnership with Save the Children US and have been on air in the province of Nampula. Some of the groups visited had heard them; the messages confirm information they have been given from the animators and extension workers and serve to reinforce the messages. CARE staff needs to be better informed about the programming schedules in order to inform the community. Some of the women's groups have recorded theatre, songs and poems and there is interest from the groups (men and women) to participate actively in the radio programmes.

The animators work with a wide range of groups and not exclusively with their own association/groups. Each animator is responsible for working with four groups; they also give talks and demonstrations in churches, mosques and at the health centers. There appears to be extensive sharing of ideas and practices with neighbours and family as evidenced by the "leakage" of the messages on enriched papas to the non participating households.

There is a suggestion from the training team that in some areas there has been some return to using low calorie papas although this is not reflected in the statistics. This should be followed up by the extensionists in order to identify the possible problems; these could be related to availability of products; time pressure on the mothers at this time of year; or negative experiences with the papas. These issues need to be teased out in order to find ways of discussing the problem with the families in order to find workable solutions.

Intensive work with women's groups on agricultural extension activities

The women's groups have a special dynamic and have proved to be successful fora for the dissemination of messages about nutrition. However, it must be remembered that the women's groups are formed mainly in order for women to have access to technology, inputs and information on their own terms and under their own control. Their main motivation is to increase their income. One reason for increasing productivity and income generating possibilities is to provide opportunities for improved nutrition and household consumption. It is therefore important that the extensionists continue to provide the necessary skills for income generation and improved agricultural output to the women's groups as one of their primary target groups and that they should not be marginalized in future into "nutrition education" groups. Improved nutrition will occur when household production/incomes, women's production incomes and nutritional knowledge is increased.

Working in groups within the VIDA project has widen the horizons of the women who otherwise are confined to fairly restricted geographic areas; VIDA input puts them in touch with new ideas and practices. This is positive and seen as important by the women themselves; indicating the beginning of an empowerment process.

Extension activities are carried out for both food crops and for marketing

- Olima wo suka (conservation farming) for maize and groundnuts
- Improved varieties of seeds for multiplication
- Cash crops: sesame, sunflower, cowpeas, vegetables and groundnuts
- Planting of papaya trees
- Orange flesh sweet potato cultivation
- Banana seedlings

- Horticulture
- Food conservation : dried vegetables and tubers
- Seed banks
- Livestock: Intensive chicken raising.
- Fish ponds
- Savings groups

Although it is difficult to strictly attribute increased knowledge and skill in farming to improved nutrition outcome a logical link exists between these interventions and improved availability of food for the household. Coupled with the nutrition education it appears that women have adopted the weaning porridge messages (both in terms of quality of the porridges and quantity).

Results achieved in IR4.

The results indicators for the infant feeding component of the project are as follows:

Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term evaluation
HH adopting specific improved feeding practices		
• % of infants < 4 months exclusively breastfed	25.3%	26%
• % of infants 4-10 months fed enriched complimentary foods	37%	86%
• % of infants < 24 months continuously fed through diarrhoea episodes	29%	84%
• % of infants fed extra food during and after diarrhoea episodes	75%	90%
Increased number of HH feeding children 4-24 months at least five times a day	0%	23.1%
Increased number of households feeding children 4-24 months calorie dense food	37%	86%

Source. Mid-term survey final report. Mark Langworthy. 2004

In the majority of the indicators, with the exception of the exclusive breastfeeding, there has been considerable measurable improvement. The data for infant feeding are impressive and show considerable up-take of nutrition education carried out in the communities. As there are no other agents carrying out nutrition training it is clear that the results can be attributed to VIDA input.

Exclusive breast feeding

The statistics for exclusive breastfeeding have not shown a significant increase. VIDA staff has not concentrated their efforts on this aspect of infant feeding and although in the field visit it was clear that women had been exposed to some messages about exclusive breastfeeding this had not been translated into behaviour change.

Enriched porridges

During the field work discussions were held with both men and women about the training in enriched porridges. It was clear from the discussions that people were aware of why it was

important to improve infant feeding practices and how this could be achieved with local products. This is reflected in the statistics where 100% of households in older associations are feeding enriched porridges and over 80% in the new associations. Women were clearly enthusiastic about the porridges and stated that they were universally liked by the children. They also affirmed that this was a new practice and that previously they had fed children with plain porridges, putting in salt and sometimes sugar if it was available. They were pleased to know that the foodstuffs they have available through-out the year can be used to improve children's health. Men were also aware of the issues around child feeding and on a number of occasions women said that men were actively supporting them to provide improved food for the children (buying sugar or oil if there was not available). Groundnuts (one of the possible ingredients for the porridges is also a cash crop, but when questioned closely about the whether it was acceptable to keep some of the crop back in order to make the porridges the answer was that this was not a problem and that both men and women were united on this issue).

The female animators who are trained in simple nutrition messages do not work only within their own groups, the majority of them are extremely active in the general community and with other formal or informal groups. They give talks and demonstration in the churches and in the health centres. Some of the women's groups are also cultural groups and so use their songs and dances to disseminate nutrition messages.

People perceived differences in the children's health and well being after the introduction of the practice of feeding enriched papas. Aspects mentioned by the mothers (and fathers) were:

- The children are plumper (a song they sing said, children without enriched porridges are like leaves that can blow away, children eating enriched papas are like stones, good and heavy)
- The children develop more quickly; they walk earlier
- The children are healthier; less likely to fall sick with colds and diarrhoea.

The improved percentage of non participating households that are giving enriched porridges can be explained by the enthusiastic work of the animators in spreading the messages beyond the groups and even beyond the boundaries of their own communities.

The successful uptake of this message can possibly be attributed to a number of factors. The concept of enriched porridges does not directly contradict any local taboos or customs. The recipes are based on locally available products and are extremely palatable to children (they eat them with relish). It is possible to make very practical demonstrations that are entertaining and different. The idea is sufficiently different to be attractive but not totally alien. CARE was also careful to ask the animators to include men and women in the demonstration in order to increase the effective up-take of the practice. The messages are reinforced through the visits to the health centres and contact with health staff as the messages are part of the national nutrition education packages.

CARE has recently trained some of the animators in weighing and recording of child weights. This is aimed at stimulating the women to maintain the good feeding practices. Although there are merits in the system, CARE must be aware that the new tasks will lead to new demands. For example the women are asked to weigh the children and note down whether they are growing well or not. If they are not growing well they ask the mothers if the child is sick or if the mother is feeding the child correctly. If the child is sick she then encourages the mother to take the child to the clinic. Given the remoteness of many of these groups this is often a considerable distance from home. Some of the animators have begun to ask for small medical kits to treat some of the

common ailments; something that is not feasible given the levels of education of the animators and the Ministry of Health policies on use of drugs in the community.

Discussions are being held with the District Health Directorates around this subject; CARE VIDA must be careful to not over-reach their capacity by moving into activity areas that are not within their competency.

Table 4.5 - Child Feeding Practices by Category of Project Participation, Gender of Household Head

HH Category	% HH				
	% under 4 mo. exclusively breastfed	% 4-10 mo. eating enriched foods	% 04-24 mo. eating 5 times per day	% 04-24 mo. eating enriched foods	% 0-24 mo. fed more during diarrhoea
Non	28.9	75.0	0.0	71.1	76.5
New	30.6	83.3	18.2 ^a	77.3	94.1
Old	20.3	100.0 ^a	54.1 ^a	91.9 ^a	86.2
Male-Headed	27.5	81.0	12.7	77.2	82.5
Female-Headed	22.2	100.0	56.0 ^a	88.0	88.2
Total	26.0	86.2	23.1	79.8	83.8

^aSubgroup proportion significantly different from the proportion of non-member subgroup at 10% level (Chi-square test)

Frequency of feeding of infants

The percentage of participating households, in particular the old participating households, who feed their infants at least five times a day is significantly higher than in the non participating group. The old participating households are nearly three times more likely to feed than their children five times a day in comparison with the new households. It is also interesting to note that over half of female headed households are feeding children five times a day as compared to less than a fifth of male headed households. During the field visit numerous discussions were held around frequency of feeding of young children; time and resource constraints. Women were clear that with a little organisation they could feed the children and carry out their normal duties.

Organisation of infant feeding by women in Erati district.

One of the women explaining her routine.

“I have previously prepared pounded groundnuts that I keep in a covered jar. In the morning I prepare the enriched porridge for my child. She will eat some of the porridge. The remaining food I take with me to the fields. When the sun is up and I am ready for a rest, my child will eat the remaining porridge. Then at home I prepare lunch, while lunch is cooking I will make some more papas, it is very quick to do and I have all the ingredients. After the child has eaten, I save the remaining papa for later in the afternoon. When we are ready for our evening meal I will prepare a fresh papa for the child before she sleeps. I easily arrive at five papas every day”

Erati District. Nampula. Oct 2004

Vitamin A rich foods

VIDA has encouraged the planting and use of orange flesh sweet potato, vegetables and Vitamin A rich fruit (for example, papaya). The Mid term survey shows that 24.8% of households in new groups/associations consumed Vitamin A rich foods during the previous 24 hours and 29% of the established association/groups. This compares favourably with the baseline data of 2.3% consuming orange flesh sweet potato and 14.5% consuming Vitamin A rich fruit and vegetables. There were a number of problems with the distribution of tubers and cultivation of orange flesh sweet potato; including loss due to lack of rains and destruction by goats and pigs. The extension workers are working with the women’s groups on solutions to these problems. A number of

conservation techniques have also been taught to women and have been successful although the coverage of the teaching is still fairly restricted. Two conservation techniques are being used in the community, namely; chipping and drying of the potatoes; and burying of the potatoes using straw and sand. Both methods produce reasonable results.

Conclusions

The project is steadily working towards reaching the targets set under this objective. Simple and practical messages were chosen, linked to the agricultural extension programme, to positively influence household consumption, and in particular child feeding practices. Care must be taken to ensure the quality of the training carried out. Training should enable the animators to have sufficient confidence in their knowledge to be able adapt the training to the practical realities that they encounter.

The project approach of training animators is successful and resulted in a motivate cadre of community based nutrition promoters that are capable of disseminating simple nutrition messages. Care must be taken not to over burden these community volunteers, for although they are willing and eager to learn and carry out the allotted tasks there is a limit to the time available for these activities. There is also a limit to the extent that the VIDA project should take on additional tasks outside of the agricultural sector.

The nutrition messages should continue to be disseminated in mixed groups of men and women; stimulating the discussion of the availability of these food stuffs and the importance for maintaining a healthy family. With the increased emphasis on money-making crops the message concerning the food crops may be lost. The use of song and poems to transmit messages has been highly successful and should be encouraged

Messages should focus on available foods (both wild and cultivated). When there is a new variety or new crop in the fields there must be follow-up in terms of use in the home and in the family pot.

Processing and conservation are extremely important and will lead to more food availability in the household. These activities can be encouraged within the women's group but should use technologies that are widely accessible to the wider community.

Recommendation 4.5a. Develop more audio visual material using song as the principal medium for message transmission, use national radio and community radios to disseminate the material over a wide range of communities

Recommendations 4.5b - Carefully link nutrition messages to agricultural practice: new crops new messages; new processing methods new messages. These should always be referred back to the main messages on child feeding practices and balanced varied diet. This will reinforce the "old" messages whilst maintaining interest in the new ideas.

Recommendation 4.5c- Continue to include men in nutrition discussions; to help ensure women's access to foodstuffs for better nutrition.

Recommendation 4.5d - Develop work around fruit and vegetables in the dry coastal districts:

- *Construct fruit and vegetable availability calendars; with sections for planting; harvesting; conservation and preparation and consumption.*
- *Include wild and cultivated fruits and vegetables.*
- *Prepare locally designed material on blackboard or tin for display in the village – help to arouse curiosity about fruit and vegetable consumption.* For example: A fruit and vegetable calendar could be displayed and the activists would update monthly the fruits and vegetables available in the area for consumption. For example: A blackboard could be used to remind people (using pictures) of the time to conserve/preserve vegetables.
 -
 - *Link this work with the fruit tree planting initiatives and the processing initiatives.*

Recommendation 4.5e - Conduct a separate training event for animators on exclusive breastfeeding in order to learn more about cultural beliefs and practices. This cannot be a message driven exercise and must start with a thorough analysis of the existing situation. Work on exclusive breastfeeding should be carried out in women-only fora initially in order to ensure frank inter-change.

Recommendation 4.5f - Forge links with other agencies (governmental and non governmental) working on nutrition education; share materials and experiences; promote events that include the wider community in demonstrations and discussions.

Recommendation 4.5g - Learn about social marketing techniques from the World Vision Zambezia project on Sweet Potato. Apply in the communities where VIDA is promoting sweet potatoes.

5. MAINSTREAMING HIV AND AIDS INTO A FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME

5.1 Livelihood and labour issues

The principal objective of VIDA is to improve the livelihoods of households through increased production and increased income. This is achieved through improving agricultural production and stimulating income-generating opportunities. The overall goal of VIDA is consistent with the needs of poor and vulnerable households including households affected by HIV/AIDS. A vibrant economy is more likely to support the strain of stretched resources due to HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality than a subsistence economy with no margins. VIDA should continue to offer packages that aim to increase production/income of farmers and strengthen livelihoods through stimulating a robust local economy

The setting up of associations, groups and networks may also prove to be ballast against the tide of HIV; the wider the social network, within a robust local community economy, providing more possibilities for supporting affected households. For example, many of the women's groups are creating savings capacities with an additional social fund that is used for members who have problems such as deaths or illness. There is no indication of the depth of these funds but they are a sign that the communities are aware of the need for social cohesion in the face of adversity.

The incipient empowerment process for women that has started through the women's groups could be a force for positive change as women have more access to improved livelihood options and increased income.

Although a number of the new technologies introduced through VIDA are labour saving there has not been an explicit strategy to take into consideration the impact of an increase in prime age chronic illness and/or mortality on the communities and a subsequent adjustment of the offered technological packages. To mainstream HIV/AIDS in the programme there is a need to understand the constraints on livelihood options of prime age chronic illness/death in the project area and the ways in which the communities are responding to the impact of the illness. Some possible implications:

Emergent Coping strategies

- Social/Funeral funds
- Labour saving/sharing agricultural techniques
- Changes in sexual behaviour/attitudes
- Amalgamations of households

Negative impacts

- Labour loss;
- Constraints on women's time to perform essential domestic and child care tasks
- Problems with firewood/water collection due to distance from homestead
- Knowledge loss (men/women die and there are activities that only they know about)
- Loss of income from cash crops; or food crop production.

Each community may have different coping strategies and constraints. VIDA needs to examine these issues in order to offer technologies that address the issues faced by each community;

building on the positive coping strategies that are underway in the communities. Some examples might be:

- Adaptation of packages such as conservation farming to labour short environments (mulching and not hole digging/ communal hole digging in support of households with labour shortage due to chronic illness or death)
- Further work on food processing and conservation in the technological, improved cassava processing; increased number of groups looking at potato conservation; continue to disseminate peanut butter and small-scale oil processing.
- Additional packages that improve the quality of the household diet without substantially increasing work load, e.g. fruit tree planting and garden plots for herbs and vegetables
- Land distribution for vulnerable households in the communities (plots closer to homesteads – see note below)
- Nutrition education for people living with HIV/AIDS linked to agricultural extension activities. This activity will become necessary as prevalence rates for HIV increase and more people become chronically sick
- Help communities most in need of improved access to water to make contact with institutions supporting water development.

Note : Issues concerning the distribution of land and access to the most fertile land will have to be discussed on a village to village basis in order to take into consideration the needs of the labour-short households. It may be extremely difficult to accommodate the needs of the affected households within a constrained land distribution framework. However, it remains important to raise issues linked to land usage, land distribution, and the protection of the rights of widows and children to fertile lands in the context of high levels of prime-age mortality.

Comparative Advantage of CARE

CARE's comparative advantage is two fold; one in the food security area where they have considerable experience in agricultural production linked to nutrition education, including the extensive network of community based associations/ groups; and secondly the expertise within CARE as an organisation on HIV/AIDS, including a new programme for behaviour change operating in Nampula Province.

Recommendation 5.1a - extension worker risk should be reduced:

- *Offer the extensionists the opportunity to participate in a behaviour change programme (peer education) (synergy with APPLE).*
- *Review location and work schedule of extension workers to minimize risk of long periods of time spent away from the family home*

Recommendation 5.1b - Build on the strengths of extension workers (through adaptation of the agricultural extension packages to mainstream HIV/AIDS) but do not overburden them with community HIV behaviour change.

Recommendation 5.1c - actively share resources and knowledge within CARE on HIV/AIDS, making use of the synergy between the APPLE project and VIDA and linking the livelihood and HIV experts at different levels within CARE.

Recommendation 5.1d - forge partnerships (offering logistical support and access to the thousands of associations/groups) at provincial and district level to organizations that specialize in behaviour change and IEC in the area of HIV/AIDS

- *Health system*
- *Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS*
- *Local/International NGOs (for example, PSI)*

Recommendation 5.1e - VIDA staff should be encouraged to examine the evolving coping strategies of communities²⁰ in the light of HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality and where appropriate support the initiatives.

Recommendation 5.1f - Carry out operational research to explore and enhance the social safety net aspect of associations/groups (test the elasticity of support as prevalence increases).

²⁰ The extension workers should receive a short training on mainstreaming in order to increase awareness of the type of changes they may expect in the communities. Mechanisms should be put in place within the project for the extensionists to report these changes and suggest modifications in the extension packages to respond to the needs of the communities.

6. REACHING MORE PEOPLE

6.1 Current Coverage

In the 14 Districts covered by VIDA 2 the programme currently involves around 57,000 group or association members²¹. The midterm suggests about 38%²² of households are members of more than one group, so the number of households with at least one member in a group or association is around 41,000 households. This is in excess of the original target of 30,000 direct beneficiary households.

The mid-term survey raw data suggests that around 1/3 of all households in the target communities have a member in a VIDA linked group or association – i.e. are direct beneficiaries. This suggests that around 80,000 households are in the target communities but not in groups or associations.

There are approximately 686,000 households in the 14 districts²³. Therefore:

- **6% of households are direct Beneficiaries** (households with a member in a VIDA supported group or association)
- 18% of households are indirect Beneficiaries** (households in a community with a VIDA supported group or association).

80% of households are neither direct nor indirect beneficiaries. Although VIDA 2 should be congratulated for exceeding its targets, there is a question about whether the benefits of VIDA should be spread to more households, and if so, what is the best way of achieving this.

6.2 Appropriate community structures for different activities

There are often trade-offs between the number of people reached by a programme, such as agricultural extension or nutrition education, and the intensity of outreach work done with individuals or groups. For different tasks there are different optimum group sizes and structures - what is needed for a marketing or savings group may not be optimum for a nutrition group. The situation can become more complicated when one tries to use the same structure for several different tasks.

For agriculture extension and nutrition education a 'light and inclusive' groups structure can be appropriate – with people coming together mainly to learn - more time can then be spent on the livelihood learning process and less on developing the group. Women's groups seem to follow a 'light and inclusive' structure. Associations, developed along the CLUSA model of a group business, require considerable group building and sophisticated committee structures (although in practice after a few years decision making often seems to be in the hands of a small group of people). Savings groups need to be exclusive and require the development of considerable trust building. HIV/AIDS education can involve 'light and open' groups, but if one is exploring deeper issues, such as following the stepping-stones methodology, more closed and trusting groups are appropriate.

²¹ CSR4 report October 2004.

²² Mid-term table 4 - the 306 households who had members in at least one group contained a total of 421 group members.

²³ 1997 census data increased at 2.3% per year.

About 2/3 of VIDA groups are extension or women's groups and 1/3 associations. This is enabling VIDA to reach about 4,500 group/association members per district. In contrast PASANA and IDEMU, which have followed the exclusively association model, are reaching around 2,500 association members per district, with roughly similar staff teams.

Since group and association members are still in the minority in the districts where VIDA is working, it is important to consider how agricultural, nutrition and HIV/AIDS knowledge spreads beyond the group members. The midterm survey (see 4.2) shows that this is happening to a certain extent within those communities where there is an association or group – we have little information in those communities where there is no association or group. There are a number of approaches that could help increase the transfer of learning to the wider community with limited effort:

- Encourage extension workers to see it as their job to serve the whole community (this might be reinforced if some of the indicators/targets included adoption at whole community level);
- Encourage groups and associations to be outward looking – inviting the whole community to visit and discuss demonstrations;
- Extension workers, *animadoras* and *demonstradores* working with existing groups in the community, like churches, mosques, schools, health posts (this is already happening to an extent with the nutrition education);
- Concentrate on technologies that are widely appropriate and can be spread relatively easily to the wider community;
- Regularly encourage the formation of new 'extension groups' at community level.
- Explore the possibility of interacting with primary schools under the umbrella of the new curriculum that provides 20% of school time for community led learning.

Groups/associations should remain important as a key way of working with an organised group of people within a community. They allow testing, adapting, feedback and demonstration of new ideas. In particular with women, groups seem to represent an important empowerment opportunity – an opportunity to control some money and manage a set of relationships outside of their husband's control.

The aim of many extension workers seems to be to graduate extension groups to become associations. The cost effectiveness of this needs to be considered – where an association is needed to unblock a marketing constraint then this is likely to be justified. In other circumstances there needs to be some analysis to justify the relatively intense external association building input into a relatively small group of people.

Radio is a potential way of reaching more people. VIDA has sponsored some radio programming, including information on prices. However only some information is appropriate for dissemination by radio alone, perhaps the most cost effective is when radio programming (using a range of programme formats – news, magazine and radio-novela) is strategically integrated into a programme which includes 'on-the-ground' extension work. Any expansion of radio programming needs careful control to ensure quality and integration.

Recommendation 6.2 – while groups/associations should remain a key element of the extension process, there needs to be more emphasis in ensuring learning opportunities reach the whole community. This will require groups, extension workers and monitoring systems to be more outward looking. Technologies should be chosen which can spread easily to the wider community. It shouldn't be assumed that groups should always graduate into associations. There is scope for cautious expansion and integration of extension through radio with a potentially increased emphasis in VIDA 3.

6.3 Reaching Women

Positive targeting

VIDA II has specifically considered strategies to reach more women within the mainstream project interventions. Strategies tailored to women's specific needs have been designed, these include; taking women's views into consideration in the mixed associations; more on farm demonstrations for easier access by women; and the showpiece women's groups that exist either as independent entities or as part of larger associations. The women's groups have received a full package of advice and extension services, including; agricultural extension advice and technologies; nutrition training; savings and income generating training and capacity building. This has been a successful and budding empowerment processes that should be nurtured

The Mid-term evaluation shows a high proportion of female-headed households (over 40%) in women's groups. Although at first glance this is extremely positive as the rate is far higher than the general population rate for female headed households, there is, possibly, a negative slant in that married women may be prevented from joining these groups by their husbands.

Women's Motivation:

The reasons for women joining groups/associations are varied and include:

- To increase agricultural production and income on the group plots but also on their own fields.
- Gain control of agricultural produce and income
- Obtain first hand access to knowledge and technologies
- Have access to a wider social network (within and outside of the community)

A range of strategies to reach women

There are a number of ways in which the project aims to reach women as indicated above:

Women's groups

The women's groups are largely part of the mixed associations of producers, but there are some groups that exist outside of the associations. For example a number of groups have their origins as cultural dance and choral groups. Some of the women's groups have male members but identify themselves very strongly as women's groups. These groups receive extension services, plus specific nutrition training. The community animators are trained in nutrition education and are expected to work with their own group but also with groups in neighbouring communities and in the wider community. This strategy has been successful in both empowering women within the production cycle and in disseminating nutrition education outside of the restricted boundaries of the group/associations. As mentioned previously nearly half of the women in the

groups are from female-headed households. The remaining members are a mixed group; women whose husbands are in the associations; women whose husbands are in the women's group; and women whose husbands are not involved in any of the VIDA activities.

Associations

The majority of the producers associations and extension groups are mixed; with both male and female participants. There is a strong feeling amongst the VIDA staff that despite efforts to include women in decision-making, there is less direct control by women in the mixed associations. Membership of the associations is complex and the women involved are not necessarily just the wives of the male members. It also appears that people are members in their own right (with own plots and rights to a share of the produce) and not as part of a household. Therefore women are reached through the associations and extension groups, however, the level of empowerment and direct access to technologies is lower for women in mixed associations.

Family Fields

It should not be forgotten that the majority of production takes place on the family fields, by people who are not members of associations or groups supported by VIDA, and that the majority of women are working on family fields in collaboration with men. Agricultural work is shared, both through the allocation of specific tasks (land clearance carried out by men) and working together (planting, weeding and harvesting). Anecdotally, it appears that although women work in a collaborative way on the fields the majority of decisions about technologies; crop mix; and decisions about the sale of crops, rest with men. VIDA has made efforts to reach a wider audience in the community. However, we feel that this should be intensified in the second half of the project. By carrying out more inclusive out-reach activities VIDA staff must be aware of the specific needs of the female producers and tailor events in such a way that the women can benefit (first hand) from extension advice and technology.

Conclusions and Future strategies

Women's groups have proved a successful model for agricultural extension reaching women. As the women's groups mature, their demands for information, technology and services will also expand, thereby absorbing a significant proportion of time of the CARE extension staff. Although VIDA has an impressive number of active women's groups this is still a small proportion of the overall population covered by the project. In order to reach maximum coverage of the initiatives it is necessary to consider how replicable (without CARE support) initiatives are; can the rest of the community, not receiving intensive care, adopt these technologies? The selection of the extension activities should be based on low capital investment and easily transferable technologies.

Women consider income-generating activities as a fundamental reason for working in groups. In the groups where savings have been promoted they provide both provide capital for investment and an incipient social safety net.²⁴ (Ophavela). The women's groups appear to share knowledge with neighbours and non members and are creative in the dissemination of specific nutrition messages to the wider community.

²⁴ The savings groups are using a methodology introduced by Ophavela. Targets are set for savings and when reached money is shared amongst the contributing members. Some of the groups have considerable success in loaning money during the period and creating a social fund with the interest earned. Examples of women sharing up to 50,000,000 Mt were cited by Ophavela staff.

Although the women's groups are a convenient route to channel ideas about nutrition and health issues, care must be taken not to forget the core purpose of the group; to raise incomes, improve production and improve family consumption.

Recommendation 6.3a – Expand the number of women's groups and continue to provide extension services them, with an emphasis on replicable technologies and (independent) access to markets.

Recommendation 6.3b – encourage and facilitate work by other organisations with the women's groups such as Ophavela on savings and the Ministry of Education on literacy.

Recommendation 6.3c - Tailor extension work in the wider community to women's needs; for example, on-farm demonstration and training days for women. Prioritise technological options in the light of their replicability for women who are not necessarily in groups/associations

7. GIVING SMALL FARMERS MORE POWER IN THE MARKET

Originally Association membership was very clearly linked to the tremendous marketing problems faced by farmers in the 1990s. There was a great shortage of buyers and many farmers were faced with unsold maize surpluses rotting in their granaries. Marketing through an association and fora was a way of overcoming the constraint – and the profits made by the association and fora marketing transactions were able to pay gratuities for key committee members and sometimes funded local development initiatives.

In more recent years there has been an increase in the numbers of buyers, competition has slashed the profits of associations and late arrival of marketing credit often means that many members sell much of their crop to other traders before the association is able to buy. Fora and organisations like Ikuru have often dropped out of maize marketing and concentrated on more profitable niche markets.

Overall the importance of the association for marketing their members' own crops seems to have declined. Indeed the 2004 mid-term survey provided a very different vision of what members perceived as the benefits of association membership:

Perceived advantages of association membership 2004²⁵

Advantage	% member households reporting
Training in agricultural practices	44
Promotes cooperative spirit	29.5
Help in selling products	20.5
Access to seed	20.1
Nutrition education	7.7
Access to agricultural inputs	7.7
Better production/income	6.0
Access to markets	4.3
Training in seed conservation	1.7

The majority of smallholder marketing does not go through associations and fora. The ground breaking marketing work done with associations and fora in the late 1990s has meant that much less emphasis has been placed on improving smallholder power when they do not sell through an association – the exception to this is VIDA's support to the Nampula market bulletin *Esisapo*²⁶.

We don't know much about the current marketing constraints faced by small farmers in Nampula, or the best ways of addressing them – with the exception of marketing through associations:

- Farmers complain of unfair weights and measures used by *ambulante* traders. Are there innovative ways of providing 'standard' weights and measures in rural areas (perhaps through CDLs)?
- There have been an increase in the number of rural periodic markets – but distances can still be great – would more rural markets increase or decrease transaction costs?

²⁵ Mid term survey 2004 – from sample of 234 households who reported that they were members.

²⁶ However the existence of the alternative association channel is also likely to force up prices and standards in the parallel channels.

- Could more be done to enable groups or associations to **facilitate** sales between their members and a trader, rather than buying it from their members and thus becoming a link in the market chain – as is currently the case with associations and fora – and thus avoiding all the attendant problems of needing credit, paying interest, having a conflict of interest²⁷ etc.?

Recommendation 7a – VIDA, ideally in partnership with some other Nampula based organisations, should sponsor some research into ways of overcoming market constraints faced by small farmers and, if appropriate, pilot some solutions. This might provide some clearer orientation for activities in VIDA 3.

Most farmers grow organically yet organic certification, and the higher prices that come with it, is very expensive and only currently available to the few who are connected to VIDA or other organisation. Having a local, Nampula based, consultant able to certify crops as organic could bring organic certification to the reach of more farmers and reduce dependence on organisations like CARE and CLUSA. Fairtrade certification is another possible way of farmers receiving higher prices. The mechanism for achieving local certification capacity would need to be investigated.

Recommendation 7b – VIDA should investigate the viability of a Nampula based consultant(s) being trained and registered to certify crops as organic (and possibly fairtrade).

²⁷ Associations/fora tend to have a conflict between buying at a low price in order to make a profit for themselves and buying at a high price in order to benefit the seller.

8. GENERATING AND SPREADING NEW IDEAS

8.1 *Continued generation and local adaptation of technologies*

Over the life of VIDA 1 & 2 the agricultural and livelihood context has changed enormously. One of the great strengths of VIDA is that it has continually generated new ideas and adopted new interventions to address the changing context – oilseeds and oil presses, nutrition education, working through associations, paprika, white sesame, conservation farming, organic markets, HIV/AIDS education, brown streak resistant cassava. It has not fossilised with its original approach and technology package.

Although it is possible that changes may not be so rapid in future, change will continue. Although the current menu of options is probably broadly appropriate until the end of VIDA 2:

- New approaches will continue to need to be developed for whatever follows VIDA 2.
- Thought is needed about how to continue to generate new ideas in the post-VIDA 2 future.
- There is still a considerable way to go in making the existing technologies available to all the households in the VIDA districts.
- There will be a continuing need to spread new ideas, respond to different opportunities and to deal with new crop diseases.

Increased capacity in INIA (now IIAM), the new agricultural universities, more widespread access to the internet and better links to the private traders demanding new and better quality products may all help in the generation of new ideas and in networking between different organisations. However there is no substitute for direct face-to-face work with farmers. Whatever the new ideas or varieties there will be a continued need for checking them with the diverse local farmer contexts, testing and adapting with the participation of farmers.

Recommendation 8.1a - for the remainder of VIDA 2 the project should:

- ***Maintain a strong but small technical team able to network provincially, nationally and internationally. This team needs to have a good understanding of the diverse rural realities, be well connected to and receive feedback from men and women farmers and to women feeding their families.***
- ***Continue to build links between INIA/PAN, the local agricultural universities and farmers.***

If there is an agricultural extension/nutrition programme after VIDA 2, particularly if it is implemented by smaller dispersed teams (see section 9), then the system for continued generation and adaptation of technology needs to be carefully integrated. VIDA 2 has shown how the overall success of the extension component is dependent on a rich and evolving menu to be able to offer to farmers.

It seems likely that agricultural livelihoods may be approaching a plateau due to the limitation on the area possible to cultivate per household by hand²⁸. Although this has been ameliorated by encouraging higher yields, higher value crops and better marketing – there are limits to these.

There needs to be a hard-headed look at how to move beyond the limits of hand cultivation. One key approach is likely to be animal draft, although there may also be a role for small two wheel tractors and other technologies. Serious testing of the suitability of animal traction will require a reasonably scaled and sustained approach.

²⁸ This may even decline as HIV/AIDS impacts on household labour power.

Recommendation 8.1b – VIDA 2 could investigate and test different approaches to overcoming the constraint posed by hand labour. The aim might be to be in a position to make a major commitment to this in VIDA 3.

There are phosphate deposits in Nampula Province – their development as fertiliser could remove a major constraint to local productivity and profitability. Such a development is beyond the remit of VIDA, but advocacy may be appropriate.

Recommendation 8.1c - VIDA 2 should advocate for a study into the viability of developing the local phosphate deposits into fertiliser.

8.2 Participatory Research and Extension

The role of participation in both research and extension is increasingly being recognised and it is exciting that the VIDA project manager has recently been on a high level course on the subject. This is likely to provide a stimulus for the gradual inclusion of more participatory techniques. The forthcoming appointment of an anthropologist within the Posto Agronomia de Nampula will also provide some new opportunities for collaborating with PAN on more participative research activities. This could involve activities not only linked to increased crop production, but also links with nutrition and to constraints faced by households affected by AIDS.

Encouraging more participatory extension will need to be a slow process. Participatory approaches generally need higher levels of skills among facilitators – and more importantly a genuine change in attitude among the technicians involved – and also tend to be more difficult to manage and monitor. Switching to participatory extension without these skills and attitudes in place is likely to be damaging – so caution is advised.

The participatory Monitoring and Evaluation recommendations²⁹ do not seem particularly appropriate to the VIDA design, nor the current capacity. This is because the approach, if implemented fully, would seem to require a programme led by participatory planning at the community level. While valid in some contexts, this would require a fairly fundamental change in design in VIDA 2. While some PRA capacity and enthusiasm has been generated, this needs to be used in appropriate contexts and within people's capacity. Once again caution is advised.

There are however approaches that can help build participatory attitudes and capacity:

- Broader discussion with farmers in each area on what parts of the menu of technologies they would like to see demonstrated or used in farmer field schools;
- More qualitative supervision of extension workers, which could include support to the quality of work, such as the way farmer field schools and 'dias de campo' are organised.
- A gradual shift from outputs driven targets (e.g. number of demonstrations given etc) to results driven monitoring (e.g. adoption of conservation farming in the community), complete with discussion in extension teams and with farmers for the reasons for high or low adoption.

Recommendation 8.2a – any moves towards a more participatory approach to research and extension should be made only after careful consideration of the skills and attitudes of implementing field staff and the capacity of management to manage and supervise these less structured activities. The first step is to build staff skills and attitudes.

²⁹ Timothy Finan – TANGO International 2002 – A Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation System, Report on the System Design and training of Participants.

Recommendation 8.2b – there should be a gradual shift in management style towards quality of fieldwork and not just quantity. This would include a greater emphasis on more participatory interaction with farmers and adoption type indicators of performance. It should also involve the creation of ‘safe space’ to discuss qualitative issues, such as the reasons why certain messages are not being adopted. Specific times should be set aside (probably monthly at both District and Provincial levels) for such ‘problem solving’ discussions. Some facilitation and management training may be required initially.

8.3 Animadoras and Demonstradores

The possible future development of the paid extension structure is discussed in section 9.

Key components of the knowledge spreading network are the *animadoras* and *demonstradores*.

These are community chosen women and men, the former mainly involved in nutrition education

- **220 Animadoras** – community chosen woman. Literate. Responsible for nutrition education to women and some HIV/AIDS education – works with four women’s groups but also to community groups like churches and mosques and do house-to-house visits. Responsible to the Extension Worker. Supposed to work about 4 days per week 2-3 hours per day. Receives a bicycle but no salary, attends three monthly training for which travel costs and per diem paid.
- **120 Demonstradores** – community chosen man (in a few cases a woman). Literate. Responsible for agricultural messages, some demonstrations, some nutrition education, some HIV/AIDS education. Works with about eight groups/associations. Responsible to the VIDA District Supervisor, supposed to work about four hours per day, five days per week. Receives a bicycle but no salary, attends three monthly training for which travel costs and per diem paid.

Although the quality of both *animadoras* and *demonstradores* clearly varies, those met during the evaluation were extremely motivated and seemed to be doing good work. None complained of lack of payment.

It is difficult to understand exactly what motivates these people to work a considerable period per week without payment. It is probably a combination of:

- Genuine commitment to the development of their community (dependent on supplying new and beneficial ideas)
- Status/social capital (dependent on supplying new ideas)
- Learning + new seeds (dependent on new ideas and new varieties)
- Training trips (dependent on relatively small expenses and new ideas)
- Future opportunities (e.g. for further training and career development).

In many cases in Mozambique (and elsewhere) it has been difficult to create a cadre of effective unpaid base level extension link people. VIDA 2 seems unusually positive in this regard. The importance of new ideas has been stressed – as it is easy to see that the system would stagnate if the *animadoras* and *demonstradores* were just expected to continue to provide the same tired messages.

Although the idea has always been that at some stage the fora would provide some compensation out of their operating profits, this has not happened so far and this seems unlikely while profitability remains low. There are perhaps other possibilities for sustainable community based remuneration, even outside of fora – perhaps with individual group and association members making a small annual contribution. With each *animadora* advising around 100-150 people and

each *demonstradore* around 200 people, a donation of even a few kg of maize per member could provide a significant reward. This is an area which needs further discussion and work within communities. Many communities seem to think CARE pays the *animadoras* and *demonstradores* – the first stage needs to be explaining the reality to the groups and discussing with them the future options.

Recommendation 8.3 – VIDA II should work actively with those groups and associations being provided with services by animadoras and demostradores to develop examples of sustainable community incentives.

Whatever the system developed, it is only likely to be successful if there is a steady supply of really beneficial technologies and knowledge for the communities to access through the *animadoras* and *demonstradores* – you cannot expect the community to pay for advice they consider bad or irrelevant!

8.4 Menu of Technologies

As noted above one of the strengths of VIDA is its rich menu of technologies, including nutrition information, available to farmers. It is this rich menu that drives the system.

The evaluation team did not have time to review the individual technologies on offer, but below are some observations.

- Good adoption rates for a fair proportion of the technologies suggest that they are considered beneficial by farmers. There are however a minority of technologies that have much lower rates of adoption (e.g. exclusive breastfeeding, compost, planting trees, reduced field burning, rat guards, actellic, liquid manure, chemical fertiliser). Rather than continuing to promote these in the same way that is proving ineffectual, it would be worth reviewing the reason for low adoption with field staff. In some cases the technologies themselves may be regarded as having marginal cost-benefit and be dropped, in other cases they may be only appropriate in rather specific circumstances (e.g. chemical fertiliser on vegetables), in other cases the technology or the message may need to be adapted or other constraints removed, in yet other case there may be social or cultural reasons for low adoption (e.g. exclusive breastfeeding) and the presentation of the message may need to be reviewed. This process would lead to a slimmer and more focussed menu and also greater knowledge among extension workers about when and how to promote different technologies.
- Some extension workers seem to feel that they are being asked to offer too wide a range of technologies (see section 11.1). The process described above may help to focus which technologies to introduce in which circumstances and increase the confidence of extension workers in doing this.
- The package of technologies described as Conservation Farming (*olima wo suka*) is particularly exciting as it provides a possibility of more sustainable farming without the continued need to open new land or buy inputs. First year labour is clearly a deterrent to some – it is therefore particularly important to demonstrate the benefits over a multi-year cycle and also to show how only a proportion of land needs to be potholed each year.
- Oil remains an important contributor to improved nutrition. Imported oil remains expensive, particularly in more remote areas. A proportion of manual oil presses remain from OPEN and VIDA 1 doing service pressing (often pressing in exchange for a proportion of the oil extracted). There are also a number of presses not working due to (minor?) breakdowns or other reasons. Although the high price currently available for sesame has tended to make the local processing of oil less profitable, it probably still has a role – particular in the more

isolated areas. VIDA 2 should consider if there are any actions it can take to ensure the maximum benefit is achieved through this past investment.

- Continued attention is needed to encourage technologies which reduce labour requirement, particularly for women and for households affected by HIV/AIDS. Food processing, fruit trees and animal traction may fall into this category.
- Some technologies like broiler chickens require considerable investment in extension effort while benefiting a relatively small group of people. In addition broilers are unlikely to be sustainable except where they have ready access to inputs of feed and chicks and to the market. Hard-headed analysis is needed on the most effective way to benefit large numbers of people – particularly women.
- Cassava Brown Streak Virus is likely to cause considerable crop losses in VIDA areas in the coming years. VIDA should continue and step up its emphasis on multiplying and distributing CBSV tolerant varieties. At the same time ways of preventing a narrowing of the genetic base of cassava grown in the area needs to be considered.

Recommendation 8.4a – the technology menu should be reviewed with field staff on an annual basis with particular emphasis on trying to learn lessons from those technologies where adoption rates are low or where extension effort per person is likely to be very high. This should lead to a streamlined menu and more confidence among extension staff about when and how to promote different technologies.

Recommendation 8.4b – Conservation farming should be demonstrated over a multi-year basis to spread the labour cost of digging the holes. Continued emphasis should be placed on technologies that reduce labour demand.

Recommendation 8.4c – work to mitigate the impact of cassava brown streak virus should continue and be intensified, including consideration of ways to minimise the consequent narrowing of the local cassava genetic base.

9. ORGANISING EXTENSION POST-VIDA 2

The important current tendencies are decentralisation, outsourcing and creating autonomous Mozambican capacity, and within the CARE family an emphasis on partnership working with local organisations rather than having a large internal capacity. The current wave of outsourcing contracts have tended to go to consortia including international NGOs. This is unlikely to be sustainable - outsourcing needs to be tested with smaller Mozambican contractors with lower cost structures. Initially such contracts will need additional capacity building and supervision, but may be more sustainable in the long term.

VIDA 2 has a large, centrally controlled operational capacity:

- About 17 Provincially located technical/managerial staff and 11 Provincially based vehicles.
- 10 District Supervisors and 50 district based paid extension workers.
- 220 *Animadoras* and 120 *demonstradores* – community based volunteers.

This structure has produced results, as has been shown in section 4, and has not been inappropriate for VIDA 1 and 2. However its centralised management structure also has some disadvantages:

- There has been limited development of autonomous Mozambican management capacity.
- It has been difficult to develop an exit strategy from such a large and centralised structure.

There are plans underway to develop existing staff into an ‘Association of Extension Workers’ which, post-VIDA 2, could compete for outsourcing contracts. However it seems likely that such an association would be too large and inflexible to really compete on the open market. It would also run the risk of creating a local monopoly. What might however be viable would be 3-6 independent units (whether registered as businesses, associations or NGOs) ‘lean & mean’ enough to be manageable and competitive. Some will fail, as in any business, but some may survive, strengthen and grow.

CARE needs to decide what sort of exit strategy it wants – post VIDA 2 or post VIDA 3. Does it want to leave autonomous and flexible Mozambican extension capacity able to compete for future outsourcing contracts and/or perhaps able to work in future partnership with CARE or does it want to successfully finish the last DAP contract, close the programme, make staff redundant and move on? This is a serious choice - because creating autonomous Mozambican capacity will require considerable effort by CARE, which may detract from the outcome of VIDA 2 & 3.

If the decision is taken to create sustainable capacity then designing and planning the process will be required. The following are some suggestions – details will need to be researched and negotiated. The steps are likely to be something like (also depending on how long VIDA 3 is):

- **Remaining two years of VIDA 2** – progressive decentralisation of existing work, building decentralised management and administrative capacity. Capacity building on leadership, management, institutional development, legal options, tendering.
- **First half VIDA 3** - semi-outsourced position. Carefully controlled contracting out. Capital equipment remain the property CARE, but lent to teams. Continuing capacity building on leadership, management, institutional development etc.
- **Second half VIDA 3** – greater autonomy. Capital equipment transferred. Capacity building more limited. Teams able to compete for non-CARE contracts.

- **Post VIDA 3** – complete autonomy. New organisations able to compete for funding or form partnerships with different organisations, which may or may-not include CARE.

VIDA 3 structures could be geographically based or thematically based. Fairly careful thought needs to go into this. At Provincial level there would need to be two structures:

Contract management and monitoring unit – perhaps 2-3 people. There is an opportunity to involve DPADR in this.

Outsourcing support unit – providing some of the technical ideas and the institutional capacity building (some of the latter might be contracted in on an occasional basis)³⁰. It would be possible for this unit at some stage to become autonomous from CARE – and to become a higher-level service provider.

Recommendation 9 – CARE should take a decision soon on whether it is prepared and able to commit the energy to creating sustainable Mozambican extension capacity from existing VIDA staff members post-VIDA. If CARE decides to do this, it needs in consultation with existing interested staff to investigate, plan and then implement the steps needed to create this.

³⁰ This unit could perhaps provide support to other local service providing companies, associations or NGOs – not just the –ex-VIDA staff.

10. VALIDATING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY ACTIVIST CAPACITY

VIDA II, in keeping with many NGOs (and to a lesser extent the public service) in Mozambique, rely on a highly motivated cadre of community activists to disseminate information and practice. VIDA II works with community demonstrators (agriculture) and animators (nutrition and agriculture). A significant proportion of the projects resources are spent on capacity building and training exercises for the activists. At present there are no possibilities for the activists to obtain recognised or accredited qualifications that demonstrate their increased skill levels. On the other hand there are is no external adjudication measures to ensure the quality of the training/capacity building offered by the NGO to the activists.

Given that there are no accredited community activist courses in the country in the area of rural development; agricultural extension; nutrition; health; HIV/AIDS prevention etc. but that a vast amount of resources are spend annually on capacity building in all of these areas, there appears to be an argument for the formalisation of the training/capacity building offered within a flexible and appropriate framework.

The framework should be built on the following principles:

- Information gathered about the educational dreams of community activists (including information on the age and sex of activists, present levels of education, professional interests)
- Improving on existing training packages and experiences; document and formalise training “modules”
- Maintain a flexible, appropriate and inclusive³¹ approach to community training
- Involve NGOs, government and educational institutions in the debate on accredited training for community workers.

In order to achieve this goal CARE will need to make a long-term commitment to the undertaking that supersedes the geographical and time frame of VIDA II.

Recommendation 10 – initiate a process for validating and building community activist capacity within a 3-5 year time frame

- ***Promote discussion with stakeholders³²; including community activists, on the concept of accredited courses for activists.***
- ***Prepare a position paper based on research with the stakeholders (in Mozambique) and experiences (worldwide) of similar initiatives***
- ***Forge alliances with other NGOs/Educational institutions (national and international) to discuss a united position on training and capacity building.***
- ***Prepare an advocacy position and actively lobby donors and government***
- ***Pilot, in Nampula, an accredited community activist’s course.***

³¹ Guarantee the inclusion of, for example, women, youth, and disadvantaged groups in the training, through the design of the courses.

³² Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Technology, Universities/Polytechnic colleges and training institutions, NGOs (National and International), professional, community activists.

11. MANAGING AND MONITORING

11.1 Staff Questionnaire

As part of the evaluation the staff responded to a short questionnaire. The results are very interesting – a summary is given in Annex 4. Some of the salient points are:

- **The impressive amount and variety of training that has taken place.** On average each staff member has been on 4-5 courses. Although it isn't clear whether there is a carefully structured process of staff development, CARE and VIDA management have clearly encouraged a wide variety of staff to participate in training. It is not clear to what extent training is cascaded – with an individual or a group participating in a course, but then sharing the key points with their colleagues. However during the evaluation the project manager was busy photocopying the resource materials from his recent 'Participatory Research and Extension' course to share with colleagues – which is a good sign.
- **Staff have learnt new skills.** The range of new skills learnt is wide and relevant, with an average of about two reported by respondent and with teamwork being the most common. This does indicate that staff feel they are progressing in their capacity.
- **Staff want to learn more.** Common training needs in order of frequency are computing (13), English language (9), HIV/AIDS (8), associativism (4) and management (4) – the total spread is both wide and largely relevant. On average respondents made between two and three suggestions. The request for further training on HIV/AIDS is interesting, since a certain level of training has already been provided – this request came most commonly from district supervisors and extension workers.
- **Staff have many suggestions for improved working.** Most of these suggestions are reasonable and are not confined to improvements in working conditions. The most common cluster of recommendations is about a more specialist approach to interventions, the need for extension workers to try to cover a smaller range of interventions. It is not entirely clear whether this is primarily a workload, technical skills or community confusion issue – all are mentioned. This may be something the management want to look at further. The range of good suggestions across all the staff groups suggests that staff could make good contributions to a more participatory management style.
- **Staff have varied plans for the future.** Many of these are linked to helping others and studying further and not just earning money. It seems that for many staff the type of work they are doing for VIDA is a vocation and not just a job.

11.2 Monitoring System

Despite operating in some of the same areas for many years as OPEN – VIDA 1 – VIDA 2 there is a frustrating lack of statistically comparable data over time. This is because:

- Continual changes (and in many cases improvements) in the sampling system makes it difficult to compare like with like. The mid-term survey seems an improvement on earlier surveys. Hopefully the sampling frame used for the mid-term can be built on for the final survey and for VIDA 3 to achieve increased comparability.
- Changes in what is required by the tracking table makes it difficult to compare like with like. There is a constant desire to add new indicators – which makes the whole process unwieldy. The recent addition of very explicit sexual practice indicators is a case in point. These may be the practices we would like to know about – but is it realistic to expect to get truthful answers to these sort of questions in the context of a quantitative survey (probably done by agricultural

students!)? There is a need to temper the funders desire for statistical indicators of impact with what it is realistic and ethically³³ sound to collect. In some cases more qualitative monitoring would be more appropriate, even if this is less satisfying for the funder.

There is a new monitoring team in place but they do not have any experience or training. Two consultancies have been carried out to look at the monitoring system³⁴ the recommendations have yet to be implemented in full. It seems that most of the internal monitoring data (using forms A to F) is only just being entered into the database and is not yet being analysed. However this is promised by the end of 2004. The challenge will be to use the monitoring data for management purposes – not just for reporting to the donor. In order to use the data for management much of it will probably need to be disaggregated at District level and used by the supervisors – they will need support to be able to do this. This is linked to the need to encourage more emphasis on adoption monitoring and more space for problem solving discussions (recommendation 8.2b).

Some attempts are being made to introduce a more participatory style of monitoring although this leads to some inherent contradictions in the management of the project. At present decisions are largely taken at central (Nampula) level and are executed by the field staff, it is therefore difficult to see how a monitoring system based on community perspective could be usefully implemented. Monitoring is only useful when the information can be used to effect change. Participatory monitoring requires high levels of skill in facilitation and is time consuming; the pro and cons should be weighed up in terms of what is useful for the farmers to track, how long the training will take and whether the project is willing to change based on the opinions of the beneficiaries.

Learning organisation.

In order to encourage constructive and reflective learning within the VIDA project there is a need to change the format and purpose of management meetings; a need to shift from administration to issue based meetings that are seen by participants as a problem solving forum. This could be achieved by either having separate meetings or allocating a set time to administrative topics (strictly adhered to) and an hour of discussion on a pertinent topic, relevant to some or all of the people in the meeting. This will begin to build up trust and confidence, and encourage staff members to take responsibility for decision making. Ideally there should be less emphasis on targets and more emphasis on how those targets are met. (see recommendation 8.2b)

One possible methodology would be to use “Most Significant Change Monitoring”³⁵. This is a very interesting concept for both staff and farmers and could provide staff with time to tell the story of the project (maybe to a third person- journalist, writer). The stories of the project are extremely informative and are at present not captured in the reporting formats.

Possible Story Titles.

- The Input Saga
- From Sunflower to Soil Conservation
- 50.000.000 Jackpot share out for rural women
- Leaves to stones: the story of improved nutrition

³³ For instance what procedures could VIDA put in place to keep such interview replies confidential – even at the verbal reply stage such survey interviews do not necessarily have access to a confidential interview space.

³⁴ Mark Langworthy and Tim Finan

³⁵ A methodology developed by VSO (www sites available for details) and also www.mande.co.uk

- Why not to put all your sunflower seeds in one basket
- Biopesticides: Beating bugs in Northern Mozambique

Recommendation 11.2a – the temptation to change or to add ever more indicators needs to be resisted. Every effort should be made from the beginning of a programme like VIDA to establish a sufficiently simple and robust baseline and indicator system to require only minor modification during the life of the programme.

Recommendation 11.2b – VIDA is encouraged to complete the work of entering and analysing the monitoring data and using the results for decentralised management.

Recommendation 11.2c - identify training for the monitoring staff (including aspects specific to the monitoring indicators used by USAID); this could include a visit to World Vision Zambezia monitoring section to learn about the systemization of data.

Recommendation 11.2d - towards a learning organisation:

- ***Conduct constructive discussions with USAID on paring down the monitoring system in order to allow space for reflection on the process involved in development activities***
- ***Contract someone to interview and write some of the key stories and lessons learnt by VIDA.***
- ***Institute management meetings at all levels that build on problem solving (need to start and see how it goes, initially there will be reluctance to expose any “weakness” but as trust grows this will be replaced by frank and productive discussion)***

The INCOPROX figures were not available at the time of the evaluation, so it is difficult to comment on their usefulness. While INCOPROX is a statistically valid approximation of income at a particular point in time and place (when and where it is calibrated), its use to track changes over time, in relation to changes brought about by a project such as VIDA is questionable. This is because any significant qualitative changes to how households make up their income may distort the approximation. Although the overall distortion in relation to total income maybe relatively small – it is precisely the bit that we are interested in monitoring, because it is that part that is ‘distorted’ due to the project intervention, and unfortunately it seems likely that it is precisely this part that is likely to fall into the error zone of the approximation³⁶.

11.3 Managing Change

There has been a relatively recent change in VIDA Project Manager – the new manager has had a chance to get bedded in, so now is a good time to start implementing some changes. Probably the greatest risk is trying to do too much, too fast. Some changes are already in VIDA’s plans and this evaluation is suggesting some additional changes, including:

- Spreading extension messages to the wider community;
- Creating a more decentralised, problem solving management system;
- Moving towards a very different structure for VIDA 3 and beyond;
- Cautiously adopting some more participatory approaches to research and extension;

³⁶ My theoretical understanding of Incoprox is limited, so I might be misled about this problem. However I would consider it prudent for there to be some independent assessment of the usefulness of Incoprox in tracking income changes between calibrations or for samples which were not used for the calibration (Martin Whitside).

- Piloting some new interventions to prepare for VIDA 3 (e.g. non-association marketing, animal traction etc.).

These are major changes that will require careful prioritisation and then considerable management input. Appropriate support will be needed to be able to manage the change. At the same time the core task of VIDA 2 needs to continue.

Recommendation 11.3 – the ongoing management load and additional change management load of VIDA should not be underestimated. This will require careful prioritisation and appropriate support and supervision.

ANNEX 1 – LITTERATURE

CARE 2004 – Unifying Framework & Underlying Causes of Poverty Overview
CARE 2003 – Managing Risk, Improving Livelihoods
CARE 2002 - Household Livelihood Security Assessments
CARE 2001 – VIDA Development Activity proposal 2002-2006
Andy Carlton 2004 – Fairtrade cashews and organic Groundnuts – CLUSA, CARE, IKURU
INE 2003 – Demographic and Health Survey. Mozambique
Timothy Finan – TANGO International 2002 – A Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation System, Report on the System Design and training of Participants.
INE 2003 – Inquerito dos Agregados Familiares. Mozambique
Mark Langworthy 2004 – Results from Midterm Household Survey
Mark Langworthy 2002 – M & E Plan for VIDA II
Ophavela – O alivio da Pobreza
Rebecca Peters 2003 – Preliminary findings and recommendations of internship research project
USAID 2004 – USAID Mozambique Country Strategic Plan FY 2004-2010 Results Framework
VIDA II 2004 – Tracking Table (Draft)
VIDA II 2004 – Plano Annual de Operacoes
VIDA II – Core Business Statement
VIDA II 2003 – Project Implementation Report July-September 2003
VIDA II 2003 – Project Implementation Report April-June 2003
VIDA II 2003 – CSR4 Report 2002-2003
VIDA II 2003 – Results of baseline Household Survey 2002
VIDA II 2003 – Project Implementation Report October-December 2002
Whiteside and Goveia 2003 - The Role of Groups and Associations in Agricultural Livelihood Development in Northern Mozambique – Experience from CARE Programmes
VIDA II 2002 – Project Implementation Report July-September 2002
VIDA II 2002 – Project Implementation Report April-June 2002
VIDA II 2002 – Project Implementation Report October-December 2001
VIDA I – Final Evaluation of the VIDA I Project

ANNEX 2 - PEOPLE MET

Sra. Albertina Alage	Director, DNER, MADER
Sra. Isabel Alvez	USAID
Sr. Asane Amade	VIDA II - CARE
Sr. Amina Anisci	Producer Organisations, Gender Focal Point, DNER
Sr. Francisco Amela	INIA, Posto Agronomico de Nampula
Sra. Arlinda Beirao	VIDA II, CARE
Sr. Sidney Bliss	USAID
Sr. Cadre Chai Chai	District Director of Agriculture, Angoche
Sr. Kennedy Chakanyuka	Fairtrade Labelling Organisation consultant
Sr. Johnny Colon	CLUSA, Nampula
Sr. Pedro Comissal	Agrarian Research Coordinator, Posto Agronomico de Nampula
Sr. Richard Dixon	SCF - US
Sr. Joao Duarte	District Director of Agriculture, Monapo
Sra. Louise	Health Programmes, CARE
Sra. Christine de Voest	USAID
Sr. Abdul Hage	VIDA II - CARE
Sr. Idrisse	SPER
Sr. Jose Kemble	CLUSA, Nampula
Sr. Lebombo	Pecuaria, DNER
Sr. Lilali	SANAM
Sr. Amilcar Lucas	VIDA Project Manager
Sr. Americo Manhica	MADER/DNER
Sr. Carlos Mugoma	Provincial Director of Agriculture
Sra. Teresa Munguambe	VIDA 2, CARE
Sr. Eduardo Oliveira	Outsourcing, DNER
Sr. Tim Russell	VIDA Project Coordinator
Sr. Todd Thompson	USAID
Sr. Fernando Santos	USAID
Sr. Jumbe Sebunya	CARE Mozambique Country Director
Sr. Rui Sobrano	VIDA II - CARE
Sr. Holly Solberg	CARE Mozambique
Sr. Irene Souza	ProAgri Activity Manager, USAID
Sr. Donna Stauffer	USAID
Sr. Juma Vasco	VIDA II, CARE

ANNEX 3 – STAFF QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Numero de questionarios

36

1. Ha quanto tempo trabalha com VIDA

Anos	Senior Staff	District Supervisors	Extensionists	Drivers	Total
0-1	1			1	2
2-3	4	1	5	1	11
4-6	2	2	1	1	6
6+	7	5	4	1	17

2. Formacao/Nivel antes do VIDA

	Senior Staff	District Supervisors	Extensionists	Drivers	Total
Doutoramento					
Mestrado					
Tecnico Superior	5				5
Tecnico Medio	6	1	2		9
Tecnico Basico	3	7	8	4	22
Tecnico Elementar					

3. Sua experiencia antes do VIDA

	Senior Staff	District Supervisors	Extensionists	Drivers	Total
ONG	3	2	6		11
Empresa Estatal	5	3		1	9
Sector Privado	2	2	2	3	9
Extensionista do Governo	2				2

4. Formacoes/Cursos durante o trabalho com VIDA

	Senior Staff	District Supervisors	Extensionists	Drivers	Total
Extensao agricola	5	8	8		21
HIV/SIDA	2	4	5		11
Educacao nutricional	1	3	6		10
Planificacao participativa	3	2	2		7
Inqueritos		2	4		6
Nutricao	2	2	2		6
Olima wo suka	2	1	3		6
DRP	2	1	2		5
Gestao de negocios	3		2		5
seguranca alimentar			5		5
Associativismo	3		1		4
Avaliacao Participativa	3	1			4
Supervisao		4			4
Agroprocessamento	1	1	1		3
Extensao Rural	3				3
Horticultura	2		1		3
Informatica	2		1		3
Primeiros socorros				3	3
Producao organica	1	1	1		3
Construcao de represas		1	1		2

GPS			2		2
Participacao comunitaria	1	1			2
Sanidade Vegetal	2				2
Analise estatistica de dados qualitativos	1				1
Conducao de ensaios mother&baby no milho	1				1
conservacao de solos			1		1
Criacao de galinhas	1				1
Culturas alimentares		1			1
Culturas basicas		1			1
Culturas oleoginosas		1			1
Estudo de Solos	1				1
Facilitador de stepping stones			1		1
Gestao	1				1
gestao de calamidades naturais			1		1
Gestao de fertilizantes			1		1
Gestao de micro empresas	1				1
Gestao de microempresas	1				1
Gestao do pessoal e avaliacao de desempenho	1				1
Gestao dos recursos			1		1
Gestao e Lideranca	1				1
IPM	1				1
Melhoramnto da mandioca em relação ao CBSD e Mosaico	1				1
Micro empresas	1				1
mitigacao de calamidades	1				1
Monitoria e avaliacao		1			1
Multiplicacao de semente		1			1
multiplicacao e distribuicao do material vegetativo	1				1
Nocoos basicas de agricultura		1			1
Nocoos basicas sobre culturas alimentares		1			1
Nutricao em materia de HIV'SIDA		1			1
Pequenas formacoes em programas de nutricao	1				1
prensagem de oleo	1				1
Producao de bananeiras	1				1
Producao de paprika		1			1
Producao local de sementes	1				1
Satnidade vegetal	1				1
Saude natural	1				1
seguramca alimentar	1				1
tecnologia de producao de amendoim e paprika	1				1
tipo de solos	1				1
TOTAL	61	41	52	3	157

5. Novas habilidades que ganhou com VIDA

Senior Staff	District Supervisors	Extensionists	Drivers	Total
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Trabalho em equipe	2	2	3	3	10
Extensao Rural	2		4		6
lideranca	3		1		4
Construcao de represas	2	1			3
Lidar com a comunidade rural		3			3
M&E	1		2		3
Supervisao	1	2			3
Educacao nutricional	1		1		2
gestao de conflitos	1		1		2
Gestao de negocios	1		1		2
Gestao de recursos	1	1			2
Olima wo suka			2		2
Producao organica	1	1			2
Trabalho de Campo	1		1		2
transferencia de tecnologias	2				2
Agroprocessamento		1			1
Associativismo	1				1
Avaliacao participativa	1				1
Bom senso				1	1
Comercializacao	1				1
Comunicacao e dinamica dos grupos de produtres		1			1
Conducao de ensaios e demonstracoes	1				1
conservacao de alimentos			1		1
Conservacao de produtos			1		1
Conversas sociais				1	1
Covivencia com comunidades				1	1
desenvolvimento comunitario	1				1
Elaboracao de protocolos	1				1
Estimar os trabalhos dos produtores		1			1
Experiencia de trabalho de campo			1		1
Fazer Advocacia	1				1
Fazer papas enriquecidas			1		1
gestao de microempresas	1				1
Gestao de pessoal	1				1
gestao de recursos hidricos	1				1
Gestao e lideranca	1				1
HIV/SIDA			1		1
Informatica	1				1
inpeccao de produtos organicos	1				1
Liderancao	1				1
Metodologias		1			1
Montagem de CDRs		1			1
Multiplicacao de semente		1			1
novas tecnicas de producao			1		1
Nutricao		1			1
papas fermentadas			1		1
Piscicultura		1			1
Planificação participativa		1			1
Prensagem de oleo	1				1
Producao de semente	1				1

proteccao de plantas			1		1
Secagem de vegetais	1				1
supervisao de actividades	1				1
Tipos de solos	1				1
Transmissao de mensagens	1				1
TOTAL	39	19	24	6	88

6. Futuras formacoes que precisa

	Senior Staff	District Supervisors	Extensionists	Drivers	Total
Informatica	3	5	5		13
Lingua Inglesa	6	2	1		9
HIV/SIDA	1	5	2		8
Associativismo	3	1			4
Gestao	1	3			4
Desenho, Monitoria e Avaliacao de Projectos (DME)	3				3
DRP	2	1			3
Ciencias Agrarias		1	1		2
Comercializacao		1	1		2
Credito rural	1		1		2
Extensao		1	1		2
Extensao rural			2		2
Participacao comunitaria	1	1			2
Producao organica	2				2
Supervisao		1	1		2
Todas as possiveis e convenientes				2	2
Abordagem paricipativa	1				1
Administracao	1				1
Advocacia	1				1
Campanha Terra			1		1
Cartografia (Mapeamento)	1				1
Concluir o nivel medio		1			1
Conducao de ensaios on farm	1				1
Direito	1				1
Gestao de micro empresas			1		1
Gestao de programas de des. Rural	1				1
gestao e contabilidade	1				1
gestao financeira			1		1
Licenciatura em cmunicacao social	1				1
Mangement Information Systems	1				1
Mestrado e doutoramento em Agronomia	1				1
Metodos de trabalho			1		1
microfinancas			1		1
Novas tecnologias	1				1
poupanca			1		1
qualquer que for				1	1
sistemas de informacao de mercados	1				1
Sistemas de Irrigacao	1				1
Sistemas de producao		1			1

TOTAL 37 24 21 3 85

7. Sugestoes para melhorar VIDA no futuro

	Senior Staff	District Supervisors	Extensionists	Drivers	Total
Especializacao de intervencoes	5		3		8
Melhorar os incentivos dos trabalhadores	4	1	1		6
Continuar a trabalhar para a CARE		2	2	2	6
Trabalho em equipe		1		1	2
Ser gestor de um programa de agricultura ou extensao	2				2
Advocacia	1				1
Apoiar produtores com tecnicas e tecnologias que proporcionarm rendimento p/ combate da p. Absoluta		1			1
Apostar na planificacao participativa	1				1
Assistir as associacoes e comercializacao		1			1
Aumentar a rede de extensao	1				1
aumentar as formacoes em materia de novas tecnicas			1		1
aumentar comepetencia dos associados	1				1
Boas ajudas de custo (per diem)			1		1
Boas condicoes de vida do trabalhador			1		1
Bolsa de estudos	1				1
Bom relacionamento entre colegas				1	1
Bom senso de trabalho dentro da categoria				1	1
Bons meios de transporte			1		1
Capacitar o pessoal do campo para maior impacto			1		1
colaborar com outras ONG's			1		1
compatibilidade salarial				1	1
Comtinuar a ajudar os AF			1		1
concentrar as actividades para melhor resultado	1				1
Consideracao do pessoal do campo			1		1
Continuar a ajudar os AF na area de extensao rural			1		1
continuar a criar oportuidades para formaçao para aumentar conhecimentos		1			1
Criacao duma base local de gestao de extensao		1			1
criar associacoes mais desenvolvidas no meio rural		1			1
criar pequenas empresas rurais		1			1
Dar bolsas de estudo ao pessal	1				1
dar mais formacoes em outras materias			1		1
Descrição bem clara de actividades	1				1
Diminuir mistura de actividades			1		1
Direccionar as actividades de acordo com a situacao	1				1
Empoderar alguns actividades	1				1

Esclarecer todos do vida os objectivos do vida		1			1
Especializacao das intervencoes	1				1
Especializacao de estrategias	1				1
Expandir as accoes para todos os distritos		1			1
Fazer diagnostico constante	1				1
Fazer DRP e assistir as comunidades para resolver os problemas encontrados	1				1
fazer rigiriso selecção de candidatos para preencher vagas		1			1
Formacao continua do pessoal		1			1
formar e assistir associacoes		1			1
fortificar a area de monitoria	1				1
implementar o pacote de poupanca e credito rural			1		1
incentivar muito as associacoes de mulheres		1			1
Intensificar formacao dos trabalhadores	1				1
Maior colaboracao			1		1
maior respeito com colegas			1		1
maior tolerancia			1		1
Manter sempre a seguranca alimentar			1		1
melhorar a gestao de recursos	1				1
Melhorar o pacote de incentivos	1				1
Melhorar o sistema de extensao	1				1
Melhorar o transporte dos extensionistas	1				1
Mudanca do enquadramento do proejcto em alguns distritos	1				1
Nao haver discrimainacao no trabalho			1		1
Nao se pode misturar as actividades senao o grupo alvo fica confuso		1			1
O projecto nao deve cansar			1		1
Organizacao interna (coordenacao e motivacao)	1				1
orientar intervencoes para grupos e associacoes	1				1
Os tecnicos devem ter uma actividade		1			1
Os Tecnicos nao podem ter mais que tres tarefas		1			1
Pacotes ligados a grande rpomocoa de microempresas		1			1
passar algumas actividades para associacoes	1				1
Pessoal activo e profissional			1		1
Promocao de acordo com as qualidades e requisitos	1				1
promover actividades rentaveis nos grupos		1			1
questao de vencimento				1	1
Realizacao conjunta das actividades para o progresso		1			1
Realizar formacoes continuas		1			1
realizar mais recilcagens do pessoal	1				1

Recrutamento do pessoal para extensao deve ter formacao em agricultura	1				1
Recrutar o pessoa qualificado de nivel medio para frente	1				1
Recrutamento do pessoal com formacao na area			1		1
Reduzir a dependencia do VIDA à organizacao	1				1
Reduzir o volume dos pacotes para se concentrar em alguns		1			1
Ter boa coordenação entre colegas e outros parceiros		1			1
Ter um centro de formacao especifico para a CARE	1				1
Trabalhar em parceria com os outros		1			1
Trabalhar mais no meio rural com as produtoras		1			1
Treinamentos ao pessoal do campo		1			1
troca de experiencia com outras organizacoes		1			1
Usar nas tecnologias de extensao através de meios audio-visuais	1				1

8. O que voce gostaria de fazer em 2010

	Senior Staff	District Supervisors	Extensionists	Drivers	Total
Visitas de intercambio	1				1
Acessor de programas de des. Rural	1				1
Administrar um projecto	1				1
Ajudar crianças vítimas de HIV/SIDA	1				1
Ajudar o grupo alvo difundindo mensagens			1		1
Aumentar o numero de grupos de mulheres	1				1
Consultor privado	1				1
Continuar a ajudar os AF como vinha fazendo			1		1
Continuar a desenvolver actividades de extensao e investigacao	1				1
Criar associacoes de extensionistas para um forum tecnico onde poderao ser resolvidas as preocupacoes		1			1
Criar oportunidade de mercado	1				1
Criar um sistema de M&E que abarque todos os projectos	1				1
Estudar fora do Pais	1				1
fazer com que os camponeses cuidem das crianças e maes gravidas			1		1
fazer com que todos os nossos beneficiarios adoptem as tecnicas transmitidas			1		1
fazer com que todos os produtores siabam defender olima wo suka			1		1
Fazer licenciatura em gestao empresarial			1		1
Fazer mais represas para zonas com falta de agua	1				1
Formadora em Nutricao ou HIV	1				1
Fornecer insumos aos extensionistas nos distritos	1				1

Fornecimento de servicos na area de extensao		1			1
Gerir minha propriedade agricola onde posso aplicar todas as tecnologias que aprendi com o VIDA		1			1
gerir um sistem de informacao de mercados	1				1
Gostaria de produzir muito material de promocao para grupos alvos de extensao e associados	1				1
Maior ligacao dos grupos de mulheres com outros parceiros	1				1
Montar um centro de consultoria para producao e inspeccao de producao organica	1				1
passar algumas actividades para associacoes	1				1
Possuir formacao em DME	1				1
Reduzir a pobreza no grupo alvo			1		1
Ser "Umbrella" para transferir tecnologias para instituicoes	1				1
ser consultor do funcionamento das grandes associacoes de camponeses			1		1
Ser consultor juridico para pessoas sem posses	1				1
Ser grande criador de aves e gado			1		1
Ter propriedade de geracao de rendimentos		1			1
Ter tranporte para evacuar doentes para hoistal c/precos simbolicos		1			1
Trabalhar como tecnico extensionista para melhorar a vida do campones		1			1
Trabalhar por conta propria no ramo de agricultura		1			1

ANNEX 4 – Indicators for Impact. Baseline and Mid-term Evaluation

Indicator	Baseline	Mid term	Mid –Term Results
	Results	Target	Achieved
Net per capita average real income per year rises for both male and female headed households	Central \$48 West \$51	20% 20%	Not available
Measurable income in assets per hh for both male and female headed households			
• Radio %	55%	20% increase	64%
• Goats/sheep %	29%	20% increase	
• Bicycle %	34%	20% increase	52%
Measurable decrease in stunting	63.2% M 55.8% F		Not available
Measurable decrease in acute malnutrition	New indicator		In process
Measurable increase in diet quality index (Nutriprox)	4.00	10% increase	4.69
Measurable decrease in hungry period (mean number of months reported food shortage)	2.49 months	15%	1.39

Table 1. Household Assets, by Category of Project Participation

Type of asset	% HH Owning			Total Sample	Baseline Total
	HH Categories				
	Non	New	Old		
Wooden bed	27.8	30.7	43.2 ^a	32.8	19
Wooden table	18.0	16.8	20.7	18.5	10
Bicycle	45.2	54.7 ^a	59.8 ^a	51.5	34
Motorcycle	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.3	1
Sewing machine	3.4	5.8	7.1 ^a	5.0	4
Radio	59.9	59.9	72.8 ^a	63.5	55
Cotton mattress	9.2	14.6 ^a	20.1 ^a	13.5	7
Foam mattress	3.4	8.0 ^a	4.7	4.8	2
Wooden chest	27.2	27.0	39.1 ^a	30.5	17
Clock	31.0	29.9	34.3	31.7	14
Car	0.7	1.5	1.8	1.2	0
Lamp	77.9	79.6	85.8 ^a	80.5	58
Tin roof on house	1.7	4.4	1.8	2.3	2
Cement/brick walls of house	5.4	8.0	13.0 ^a	8.2	3
Value of all assets (MT)	1,224,830	2,049,635	2,123,047 ^b	1,666,158	<i>n.a.</i>

^asubgroup proportion significantly different from the proportion of non-member subgroup at 10% level (Chi-square test)

^bsubgroup mean significantly different from the mean of non-member subgroup at 10% level (t-test)