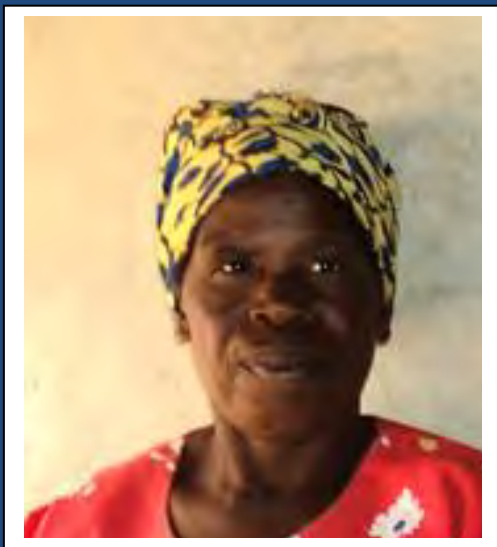


# CARE WE-RISE Final Evaluation Malawi



March 27

# 2016



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## ACRONYMS

AACES	Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme
CFIRW	Chronically food insecure rural women
CSI	Coping strategy index
FG	Focus group
FGD	Focus group discussions
GVH	Group village head
HDDS	Household dietary diversity score
KII	Key informant interview
MAICC	Mponela Aids Information and Counselling Centre
MK	Malawi Kwacha
MFI	Microfinance institution
OIM	Opportunity International Malawi
PPS	Probability proportionate to size
TA	Traditional authority
VSLA	Village savings and loan association
WEI	Women's empowerment index

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*To the many Malawian households who took time from a long, busy day to participate in this endline evaluation during August of 2015, it is our sincere hope that the findings within will contribute to programming that improves your well-being.*

The TANGO team would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance received from colleagues at CARE Malawi, particularly the fundamental support of Constance Msungu CARE WE-RISE Program Manager, George Kaunda, MAICC WE-RISE Program Manager, and Salome Mhango, Pathways Program Manager, who were tireless in ensuring that all problems and potential issues were addressed and for both project evaluations.

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The success of this assessment owes inestimable credit to the outstanding qualitative and quantitative teams that carried out the fieldwork, working through duress and logistics challenges with courage and patience. This bright and dedicated group of individuals will always occupy a warm spot in our hearts.

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*Laurie Starr and TANGO International*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Overview

Funded by the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme, CARE's programme, Women's Empowerment: Improving Resilience, Income and Food Security (WE-RISE), seeks to improve the quality of life for chronically food insecure rural women (CFIRW), targeting 15,000 households in two districts of Malawi, 9,846 households in two districts of Tanzania, and 15,441 households in three districts of Ethiopia. Aligned with other CARE initiatives, such as CARE USA's Pathways programme, WE-RISE is designed to overcome the constraints to women's productive and equitable engagement in agriculture.

The programme theorizes that marginalized CFIRW will be more productive and their families more food secure when:

- Women have increased capacity (skills, knowledge, resources), capabilities (confidence, bargaining power, collective voice), and support
- Local governance and institutions have in place and are implementing gender-sensitive policies and programming that are responsive to the rights and needs of poor women farmers
- Agricultural service, value chain, and market environments of relevance to women are more competitive, gender-inclusive, and environmentally sustainable

Each of the WE-RISE Change Outcomes is designed to contribute to one or more realms of agency, structure, or relations.

In partnership with the Mponela Aids Information and Counselling Centre (MAICC), CARE implements the WE-RISE project in the districts of Dowa and rural Lilongwe.

CARE contracted with TANGO International to design and support the implementation of a global evaluation framework for WE-RISE and to lead the endline evaluations in all of the program countries.

### Methodology

The baseline assessment and endline evaluation used a mixed-methods approach. Quantitative survey offers statistically representative results; qualitative research helps to understand why project indicators may or may not have changed.

**Quantitative sample:** The WE-RISE baseline and endline quantitative surveys are “beneficiary-based” in that the sample was randomly drawn from a sample frame composed of all households with a female member in a collective with which WE-RISE is working. Designed as a longitudinal study, data are to be collected from the same households for both surveys. TANGO and CARE calculated a sample size that provides statistically representative results for household and individual level indicators at the project level. Due to high attrition rates, the endline sample is significantly reduced. The unanticipated attrition could have resulted in some indicators for which the reduced sample size was now too small to detect change; however this did not occur, as explained in Annex 2.

**Quantitative data:** A 25-member Malawian quantitative team administered the household survey in Chichewa using Nexus 7 tablets. Survey data were collected August 23rd through September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Chewere and Kalumbu Traditional Authorities. Supervisors conducted one spot check per day, per



enumerator, allowing them to regularly review the accuracy of the data. TANGO provided comprehensive daily feedback to CARE and the survey supervisors on the quality of data collection. TANGO used SPSS v20.0 software to collate and analyse the data. Statistical differences are determined with t-tests or non-parametric tests. We report probability levels for statistically significant differences only.

**Qualitative data:** An eight-member qualitative team (seven Malawian team members and one TANGO International consultant) carried out participatory research in six communities that are a subset of the quantitative sample. The villages were purposively selected, maximizing diversity of relevant criteria. The qualitative methods included focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and ranking exercises. The team interviewed female VLSA members, husbands of female VLSA members, female non-members, marketing committee and village development committee members, village agents, community-based extension agents, literacy instructors, produce buyers, government officials, and MAICC and CARE Malawi staff.

**Study limitations:** WE-RISE staff were concerned that the final evaluation team would not be able to locate all sampled members within the budgeted time frame and thus, elected to send front runners (typically community-based extension agents or CARE field officers) to schedule appointments. It is possible that this tactic, even with the best of intentions, introduced a positive bias to the results. The extent to which project contact with participants directly before the survey affected the results, if at all, is unknown.

The endline survey was programmed into the tablets in Chichewa. The baseline survey was programmed in English and translated by enumerators into Chichewa as they administered the questionnaire. While a translated survey greatly improves the accuracy and reliability of the endline data, it may also mean that baseline and endline questions were asked slightly differently. If so, survey participants may have elicited different types of responses due to differences in translation. The extent to which this limitation affected the results, if at all, is unknown.

Neither baseline or endline data are able to determine the depth of food insecurity that populations face during lean season. The surveys were conducted at the end of the harvest season for the majority of the main seasonal crops in Malawi, a time when food shortages are not as prevalent as other times of the year. The baseline survey was conducted in late July - early August, 2012. Endline data were collected one month later than baseline (late August), however; 2015 harvests were delayed due to the climate-related late start of planting,<sup>1</sup> resulting in similar timing of the survey relative to household harvests, and therefore comparable data.

## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

**Household Characteristics:** As would be expected in a longitudinal study, household demographics are similar between baseline and endline surveys. Households typically have five members and level of education of the household head remains relatively constant. At endline, more households are headed

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<sup>1</sup> FEWS NET. Malawi Food Security Outlook. April to September 2015.  
[http://www.fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/Malawi\\_FSO\\_2015\\_04.pdf](http://www.fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/Malawi_FSO_2015_04.pdf)

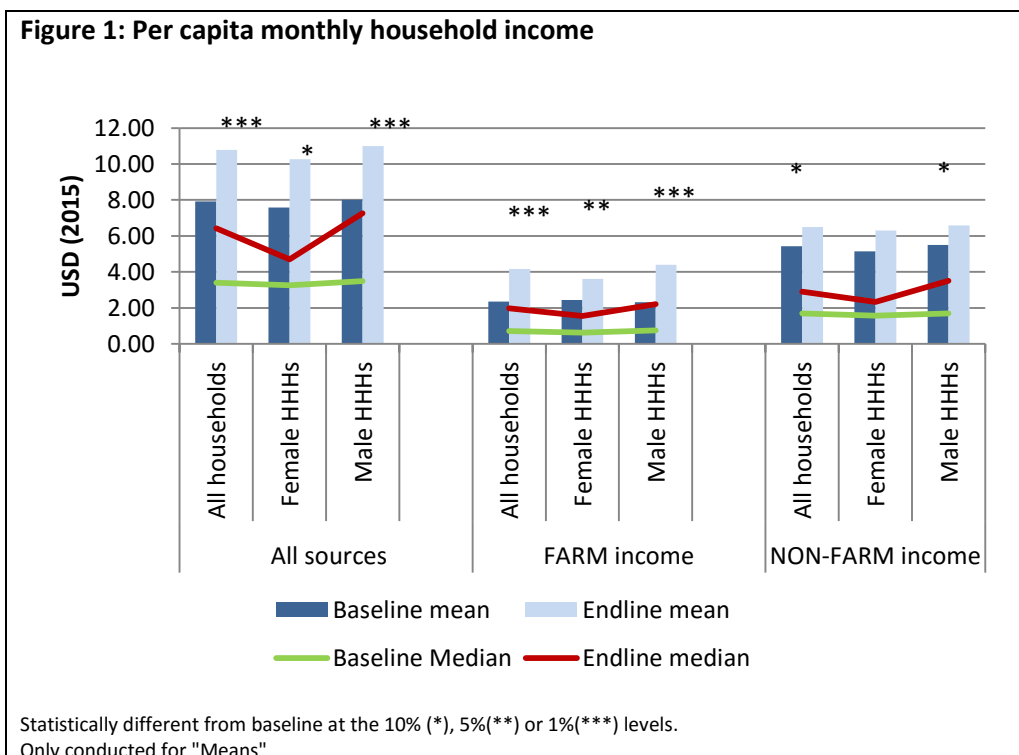
by females than at baseline (30% versus 22%). This is possibly due to death of the husband (the number of widows has also increased). Another explanation may be men’s attitudes about women’s participation. Compared to baseline findings, it was much less common for the endline qualitative team to hear that males were distrustful of women’s participation; however, some women residing in male-headed households still face barriers to participation that are not experienced by women residing in female-headed households.

**Impact: food security, livelihoods resilience, women’s empowerment**

**Dietary diversity** for all surveyed households has increased slightly from 4.9 to 5.2 food groups, meaning households are on average accessing five different types of food daily. This result falls short of the end of project target of 6.2 food groups. Similar to baseline, members of female-headed households at endline still access fewer food groups daily compared to members of male-headed households (4.8 versus 5.4,  $p < .01$ ). Endline results show that across the sample, food access for women, specifically, has also slightly increased since baseline from 4.7 to 5.0 food groups, nearing the end of project target of 5.1. The change is primarily due to improved food distribution in male-headed households as disaggregated data detect no change among female-headed households. Similar to baseline, within a household, females over the age of 15 years consume slightly fewer food groups than other household members (5.0 compared to 5.2,  $p < .01$ ).

**Household income:** Across the total sample, households surveyed show notable gains in net farm and non-farm per capita household income. Monthly per capita income from all sources has increased on average by 2.86 USD since baseline (currently 10.77 USD versus 7.91 USD). Both male- and female-headed households have increased their earning by more than a third since baseline (35% more for female-headed households; 37% more for male-headed households). The increased income is a positive trend, yet falls short of the end of project target (15.30 USD), by a significant amount.

Of particular interest for the WE-RISE project are changes to farm income. Male- and female-headed households alike show strong gains in this area. Monthly per capita *non-farm*

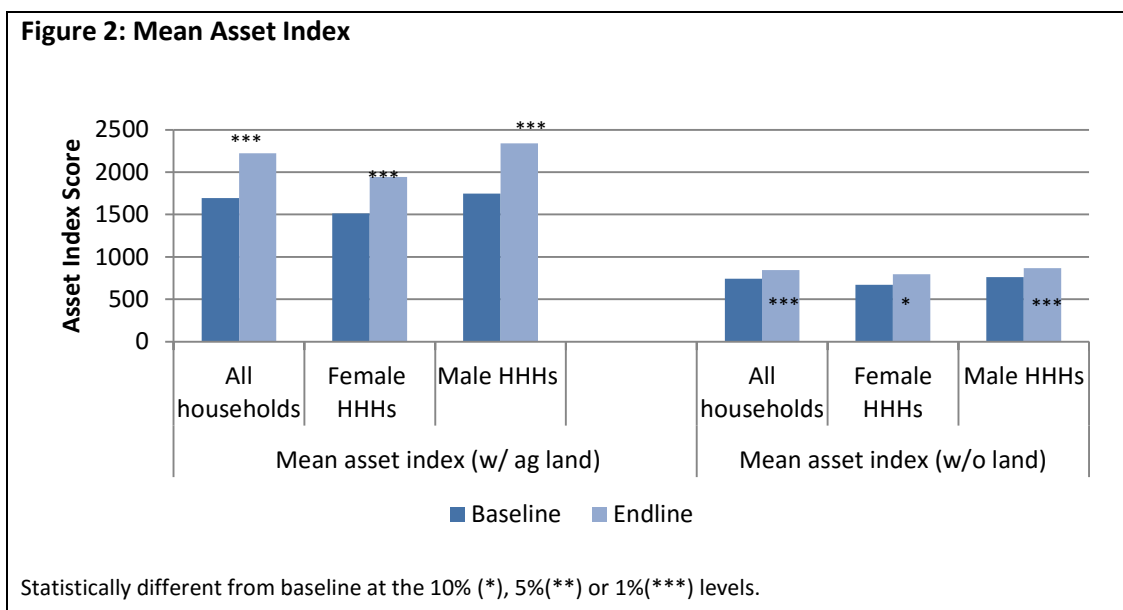


income has also increased for male-headed households (6.50 USD versus 5.43 USD).

**Income diversity:** The vast majority (85%) of WE-RISE participants now report earning income from three or more sources, compared to baseline when almost two-thirds of households (65%) reported such diversity. Both female-and male-headed households experienced this gain. The greatest gains are for nursery sales (18% BL versus 42% EL); livestock sales (30% BL versus 52% EL), small business (46% BL versus 66% EL) and crop production (68% BL versus 86% EL). While survey findings demonstrate an increase in small business activities, there is insufficient evidence to link the improvement to increased income. Qualitative findings show small numbers of women are engaging in small businesses, but many are struggling and few cite the businesses as contributing to household income.

**Household expenditures:** In line with increased income, mean monthly per capita expenditures have also increased from 15.27 USD to 17.75 USD for the total sample. Disaggregated data show the gain is restricted to male-headed households who are spending close to 4.00 USD more per month on average than they were at baseline. Female-headed households appear to be spending slightly less than at baseline, although the sample size is too small to determine whether this decline is statistically significant. Although the project met the endline target for this impact indicator (13.00 USD), it appears there was a lack of understanding on how to set an appropriate target for this indicator. The direction of change should increase rather decrease—expenditures are a proxy for income.

**Household assets:** As income and expenditures increase, so do asset holdings. The value of all assets across the sample has increased remarkably from 1695 to 2222 (Figure 2) and WE-RISE surpassed end of project asset targets for all categories (MHH, FHH, total households). Male-headed households experience the greatest gain (34% increases) in asset holdings. The spike in total asset holdings for female-headed households now puts them above baseline status for all households, but the gap between the total asset holdings of female- and male-headed households has widened slightly.



**Savings:** There has been no change in the percentage of households who report they have savings, and thus WE-RISE did not meet the end-of-target goal of 90%. While the number of households who are saving has not increased, it is quite likely that the amount of savings has increased substantially. Qualitative evidence strongly supports this theory, as do survey data which show that 76% of women interviewed believe that participating in WE-RISE has resulted in improved household savings.

**Consumption coping strategies:** Due to contextual factors, at endline, more households experienced stress from food shortages than they did three years ago; however, the level of stress did not increase substantially. The coping strategy index increased from 2.8 to 6.4; the number of households reporting food and income shortages increased from 18% at baseline to 25% endline. Extended dry periods caused maize and other cereal production to severely decline to below-average levels.<sup>2</sup> Higher maize prices in 2015 constrained food access across the country—the national average maize price in July 2015 was 54 percent higher than in July 2014.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, households experienced more shocks than three years ago, particularly shocks that impact crop and livestock food supplies, such as drought (up from 16% of the sample at baseline to 53% at endline; hailstorm, up from 31% BL to 48% EL; and disease, up from 50% BL to 57% EL). Given these contextual factors, it is remarkable that the coping strategy index at endline did not spike much higher than it did, and that households were able to increase income, expenditures and asset holdings.

**Non-consumption coping strategies:** The use of non-consumption coping strategies considered to be “negative” also increased across the sample between 2012 and 2015 (13% BL versus 19%EL); the increase is even larger for female-headed households (15% BL versus 23% EL). On a positive note, the availability and or use of informal and formal social protection mechanisms (factors considered to be contributors to increased household resilience) in response to food and income shortages has increased since baseline.

**Empowerment:** Female participants in the WE-RISE project have experienced a decent gain in empowerment—both the level of empowerment and the prevalence of women who have achieved empowerment. The mean empowerment score increased from .58 to .67. Worth noting is that the score for women in male-headed households increased from .53 to .64. In addition to a greater level of empowerment, more women have crossed the .80 threshold of CARE’s criteria for achievement. In three years, the prevalence of empowered women increased from 20% to 31%.

Domains where WE-RISE participants experience gains for all indicators are Resources, Income, and Leadership/ Community. More women are also achieving empowerment within the Production and Autonomy domains. Areas in which there has been no detectable change and which still appear to be challenging for women are mobility and autonomy in production.

The final evaluation also examines men’s and women’s parity in each empowerment domain. The largest gaps between men’s and women’s achievement of empowerment remain in the domains of income, production, although the gaps are narrowing substantially. The greatest shift toward parity has

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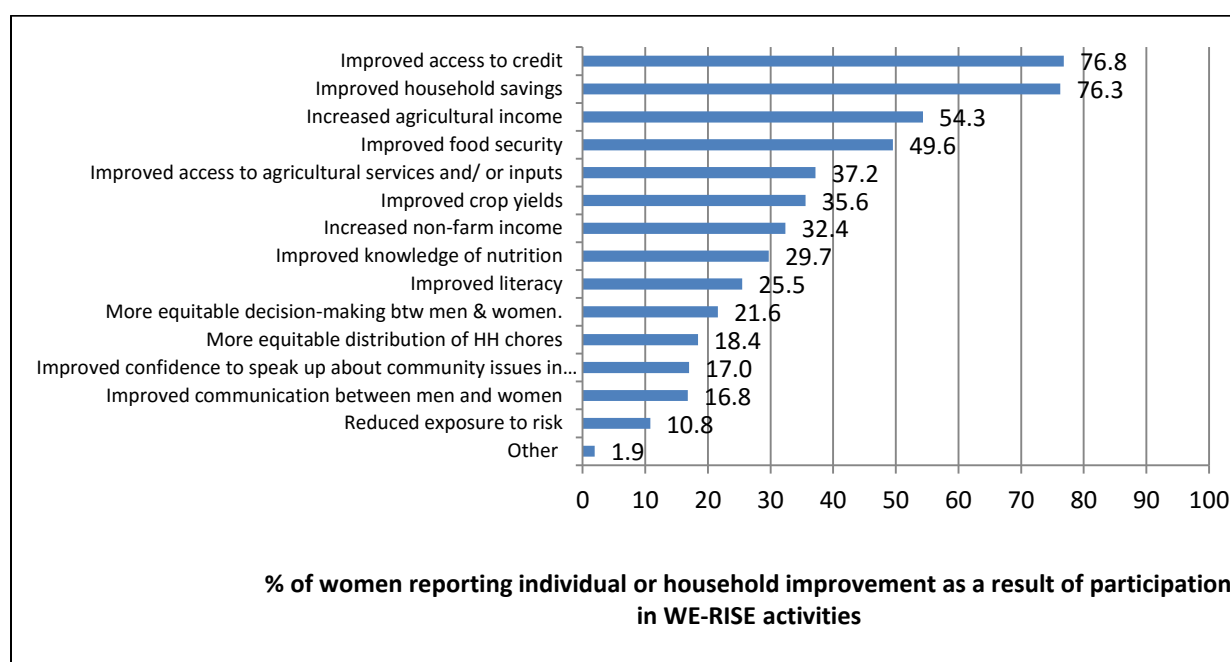
<sup>2</sup> FAO. 2015. GIEWS Country Briefs. Malawi. Reference Date 06-August-2015.  
<http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=MWI>

<sup>3</sup> FAO. 2015. GIEWS Country Briefs. Malawi. Reference Date 06-August-2015.  
<http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=MWI>

occurred in women’s control over household income and expenditures—the 51 percentage point spread between men and women at baseline has been reduced by half, to 25 percentage points; likewise, the 42 percentage point spread between men and women at baseline for control of productive decisions has been reduced by 17 points.

**Project Participant Perceptions of Impact:** To understand participant’s perceived impact on the household, the endline survey explored perceived level of well-being compared to four years ago. Female and male participants overwhelmingly believe their household is better off after participating in WE-RISE activities. Only 8% of female respondents and 10% of male respondents state there has been no change to household well-being as a result of participating in WE-RISE. The top improvements noted by females are shared in Figure 3.

**Figure 3 : Participants’ perceptions of impact**



**Outcome 1: Increased productivity, resources, and resilience to climate shocks**

*“Change Outcome 1: CFIRW have increased household productive assets and resource and control over these, and are more resilient to climate shocks”*

Evaluation findings show that women are increasingly adopting improved practices and have greater access to inputs and output markets. While these improvements did not lead to improved yields per hectare for 2015, there is a general feeling that over the three years, production has increased. Endline data show women’s agricultural income substantially increased, and despite being subjected to more shock or stress situations than in 2012, households are more resilient.

**Adoption of agricultural and post-harvest practices:** At endline women are more likely to use improved agricultural practices than they were at baseline (66% endline versus 45% baseline). This surpasses the

end of project target of 52%. The specific practices more women are adopting are: use of improved seeds, use of irrigation technologies, diversifying crops, and use of manure or composting. Specifically, the number of female farmers using improved seeds doubled (25% versus 56%). All of the practices that show large increases are practices promoted by the WE-RISE project. Community-based extension agents / farmer-to-farmer trainers (FFT) are the main channel through which WE-RISE has been encouraging women to adopt improved agricultural practices and demonstration plots are a key factor in FFT outreach. Qualitative evidence shows that the FFTs are highly valued by the community and by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Women are also much more likely to use improved livestock management practices than they were three years ago (78% endline versus 33% baseline), although it is difficult to fully attribute these results to the WE-RISE project, due to the relatively new, and small-scale of the project's efforts to support the training of community paravets.

**Women's access to agricultural inputs:** At endline, WE-RISE reached its end of project target for women accessing agricultural inputs: 78% of women report they accessed such inputs, and the percentage sourcing the inputs from cooperatives has jumped from 1.3% to almost 20%. The main sources for inputs remain the same as baseline (agrodealers within 5km; government programs, and cooperatives or producer groups).

**Women's agricultural yields:** Using only 2012 and 2015 crop data, it does not appear that the increased use of improved practices and greater access to inputs resulted in higher yields, however; other data points must be considered because 2015 was a particularly difficult year for farmer throughout Malawi. At endline, women's soya yields, at 649 per hectare, are not statistically larger than baseline values (600 per hectare<sup>4</sup>), and per hectare yields for groundnuts and maize have declined (groundnuts 739 baseline versus 531 endline, and maize 1850 baseline versus 1559 endline). There is no detectable change in the amount of land devoted to any of the three crops, and the same stagnant or declining patterns hold for total annual yields. There is plentiful evidence from qualitative and secondary sources to indicate that generally, until 2015, production has been increasing since 2012, and that endline results for crop data are not representative of farmers experience over the three years. In 2015, the drought impacted 17,373 households in Chiwere traditional authority and 4,673 households in Kalumbu traditional authority.<sup>5</sup> District reports show that extended dry periods caused local maize production to fall by 35 to 50 percent in Dowa District, in comparison to the five-year average.<sup>6</sup> Groundnuts, a rain-fed crop, also suffered severe declines in production.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, the baseline 2012-13 season hosted unusually favourable weather conditions for groundnuts,<sup>8</sup> which may have positively skewed baseline results. At

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<sup>4</sup> Soya yields may have increased. The sample size is too small to detect with 90% confidence whether the 8% difference is statistically significant.

<sup>5</sup> Government of Malawi. 2015. 2015/2016 National Food Insecurity Response Plan. September, 2015. No data noted for Kalumbu TA.

<sup>6</sup> FEWS NET Malawi Food Security Outlook. July to December 2015.  
[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Malawi\\_FSO\\_2015\\_07\\_1.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Malawi_FSO_2015_07_1.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Interviews with Ministry of Agriculture.

<sup>8</sup> Fitzgerald, G. 2015. The production of ready to use therapeutic food in Malawi: Smallholder farmers' experience with groundnut production. Results from a four year livelihoods analysis in Malawi's Central region. Department of Food Business and Development. University College Cork.

endline, in contrast to the poor survey results for “yield per hectare”, more than one-third of households state that a key improvement as a result of WE-RISE participation is better crop yields.

**Women’s income from agriculture:** Since 2012, the percentage of households with a woman earning farm income has increased by 18 percentage points, from 72% at baseline to 90% at endline. This is true for both female- and male-headed households. Women’s annual net income from agricultural production has substantially increased over the past three years from 72 USD to 181 USD, and has greatly surpassed the end of project target of 90 USD. Income has more than doubled for women farmers in female-headed households, and has tripled for women in male-headed households. The former group is still earns considerably less net annual farm income than the latter (151 USD versus 193 USD). Qualitative evidence shows that women link increased agricultural income to increased participation in soya and groundnut production, promoted by WE-RISE.

There is a notable disconnect between the large increase in women’s agricultural income and the decrease or stagnant levels for agricultural yields. Several factors could influence the conflicting data points. First, while yields may not have improved in 2015 compared to 2012, prices for corn, soya, and groundnuts did increase substantially. Women may have earned more income despite lower yields. Second, the survey took place within the 2015 harvest season, when crops may have been harvested but may not yet have been sold. In some cases, households may have reported 2015 crop yields but reported income from the 2014 harvest, which qualitative evidence indicates was much higher.

Survey results for participants’ perceptions of impact support the theory that, with the exception of 2015 harvests, farmers have increased their productivity. More than one-third (36%) of women state that a key improvement to their lives as a result of WE-RISE participation is better crop yields; 54% claim project participation has helped to increase household farm income.

**Women’s access to output markets:** At endline, the number of women who state they have accessed an output market has increased by more than 20 percentage points from 29% to 52% surpassing the project’s cumulative target of 40%. Qualitative findings suggest that while the project may indeed have achieved the outcome of improved market access for targeted women, there is room for improvement.

Although WE-RISE carried out some small marketing studies, nothing substantive had taken place by 2015. Qualitative evidence shows that farmers were initially enthusiastic about the many producer groups that have formed since 2012 and had high expectations they would be able to sell their crops through the groups, but according to farmers “the groups are not functioning as planned.” The consensus among interviewed participants is that small farmers are seldom able to make a profit because they are not linked to appropriate markets and do not have the skills to negotiate within the market. Most must sell individually to vendors at lower prices than planned for.

In all communities visited at endline, male and female focus group participants and key informants state that training to improve marketing and negotiation power or learn new business skills is not adequate—when training occurs, it is described as a one-off session with no follow-up. In ranking exercises, where participants were asked to rank all WE-RISE activities based on the positive contribution they make to individual or household well-being, marketing committees and collective buying, business skill training, and producer groups are the three lowest ranking activities.

**Shocks and adaptation:** On average households experienced one more shock in 5 years preceding the endline survey, than they had at baseline (3.5 versus 2.7). The main shocks that are more prevalent than at baseline are drought, hailstorm; failure or bankruptcy of a business, and increased disease. Each of these shocks is reported by more than 40% of respondents. Dramatic food price increase continues to be the top shock reported by households, although the number of households reporting this shock has slightly declined from 84% to 79%.

Among households who had experienced at least one shock, there has been a small increase since 2012, in the number of households who report using one or more adaptive strategy to protect themselves from the impact of a similar future shock (89% endline versus 85%). Male-headed households, particularly, are more inclined to adapt to shock than they were at baseline, with 91% now reporting at least one form of adaptation, compared to 85% at baseline. Of note is the percentage of households who cite the use of savings to cope with shock and stress; it has increased substantially across all shocks (52% endline versus 39% baseline) indicating greater absorptive resilience capacity.

Four additional adaptation strategies that are linked to WE-RISE efforts stand out: households at endline are more likely to use drought tolerant or early maturing crops compared to three years ago (31% EL versus 13% BL); to invest in irrigation infrastructure (14% EL versus 5% BL); and to diversify income sources (50% EL versus 43% BL).

## **Outcome 2 – Enabling Institutional Environment**

*“Change Outcome 2: Formal and informal institutions are more responsive to women’s priorities and accountable to upholding their rights”*

**Women’s access to agricultural extension services:** Access to agricultural extension increased dramatically over the three year period. At baseline only 27% of female respondents stated they, themselves, had met with an agricultural extension worker or a livestock / fisheries worker in the last 12 months; three years later, that number increased to nearly 78%, exceeding the project’s cumulative target of 40%. Qualitative evidence supports the survey results. All FGD with female VSLA members report that agricultural information is more readily available to women compared to three years ago, due to community extension officers, government extensions officers, and the private sector whose link to the women is through a VSLA. In qualitative ranking activities, across all groups (male, female, and village development committees) increasing access to extension services ranks as the third most effective project activity, relative to impact on individual and household well-being. People interviewed specifically link increased access to extension services with the ability to get higher yields from small land parcels, but also appreciate additional information shared by extension providers such as nutrition tips, gender equality, the importance of savings, among other topics.

**Women’s access to financial services:** There is a small increase in the number women who have access to and control over loans used for IGA (34% endline versus 29% baseline). WE-RISE surpassed its end of project target for this indicator for female-headed households and did not meet its end of project targets for all households or male-headed households. Of note is that targets for this indicator are set remarkably low—only a two percentage point increase is anticipated over three years for female-headed households and a six percentage point increase for male-headed households. Qualitative



findings suggest women have substantially more say in how loans and shareouts are used than quantitative data indicate.

The main use of loan capital is for food purchases. This was also true at baseline and is cause for concern, as borrowing for this purpose can often result in a cycle of debt. On a positive note, data are trending in the right direction for the number of women who report using a loan to purchase agricultural inputs (19% BL versus 25% EL) and the number of women who report using loans to purchase livestock ( 1.8% versus 5.4%).<sup>9</sup>

A concerning qualitative finding is that loans are compulsory in many communities. Women report that many times they do not want to borrow or have any need to borrow, but because borrowing is mandatory, they will take loans and keep the money in their home or spend it on food, clothing or other non-productive resources. When it comes time to pay back the loan, they will do *ganyu* work to earn enough to pay the interest.

**Women’s participation in groups:** All (100%) women sampled are active members of at least one formal or informal group that exists in their community. Qualitative discussions with member and non-member in all six sampled villages agree that groups are open to anyone who wants to join. In ranking exercises women, men, and village development committees cite VSLA participation as the most beneficial activity of all WE-RISE initiatives and report diverse benefits of VSLA participation. The vast majority of VSLA participants greatly appreciate the ability to borrow, as few financial services are available with attractive lending terms. VSLA loans serve diverse purposes including fertilizer purchase, livestock purchase, school fees, clothing purchase, food purchase, home improvement and emergencies. VSLA shareouts allow members to sub-lease land. Participants also acknowledge that by belonging to a VSLA group they are exposed to information about agricultural production and gender equality, and also have the opportunity to learn new skills, such as saving and spending wisely, cooking skills, and social skills like how to present their ideas in public. Several groups assert that “the VSLA has helped to reduce poverty in the community.”

**Self-confidence in public speaking:** WE-RISE Malawi has been supporting community advocacy, primarily through the use of a community scorecard, to ensure citizens understand their rights and responsibilities, and are able to engage with local government structures on issues that affect them, specifically enhancing women’s voice and dialogue. WE-RISE project participants of both sexes made great strides in voice and agency regarding community affairs. The number of women stating they are comfortable speaking up in public drastically increased from 45% to 74%. Male respondents also show increased agency with 86% stating they are comfortable speaking up about these issues versus 68% at baseline. Both endline results surpass project targets.

### Outcome 3 – Gender Equitable Environment

*Change Outcome 3: Cultural and social norms and attitudes better support the individual and collective aspirations and improved opportunities for CFIRW*

#### Women’s control of income, expenditures, and assets

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<sup>9</sup> Statistical tests of significance not conducted.

Across all household types, women’s decision-making control over household income and expenditures increased by roughly nine percentage points to 60%, but the project did not reach its cumulative target of 70%. All of the gain is due to increased decision-making control for women in male-headed households—54% now report decision-making control of household income and expenditures compared to 42% at baseline. More women also have control over household assets. Almost 76% of surveyed women now report they can make sole or joint decisions about the household’s assets, compared to 65% at baseline. The project surpassed the cumulative target (65.5%) by 10 percentage points. The gain is restricted to women from male-headed households; women from female-headed households experienced no gain. Qualitative suggest that disparity is greater than what is captured by quantitative data, but that the gap is steadily narrowing.

**Women’s control of reproductive and health care decisions:** Women did not experience similar advances in control over health care decisions. In fact, women in female-headed households actually have less control of these decisions than they did at baseline (90% versus 98%). Qualitative findings provide no explanation for the decline.

**Attitudes about gender equality in family life:** Despite a small increase in women’s attitudes (37% baseline versus 44% endline) patriarchal attitudes about family life are held not only by men, but are ingrained in women’s opinions of their own role in family life.

**Attitudes about gender-based violence:** Qualitative evidence from FGD participants, key informants, and project staff strongly suggests gender-based violence is reduced in most villages visited at endline and specifically links the reduction to the shifts in household workloads and improved relationships, much of which participants credit to WE-RISE messaging and initiatives, as well as to increased ability to report domestic violence to authorities.

Survey data find no detectable change in the number of women who reject household-based gender violence. Of great concern is that the number of men who reject household-based gender violence has declined by almost seven percentage points to 72%. Importantly, both men and women who have taken part in WE-RISE dialogues are much more likely to reject household violence than men and women who did not participate in the sessions.

**Women’s mobility:** There is no detectable change in freedom of mobility for women. When data are disaggregated by sex of household head, mobility in fact declines significantly for women residing in female-headed households. It is not a surprise that only half of women achieve freedom of mobility as qualitative evidence emphasizes that sociocultural norms still constrain women’s freedom of movement. The rationale that a mobile woman is likely to be unfaithful were not as prevalent as they were at baseline, but domestic obligations still contribute to significant constraints for women, reducing her ability to travel long distances to do *ganyu* work, to market, or to purchase inputs.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**Staffing:** The evaluation team finds all project staff to be highly-committed to the project objectives and technically and professionally competent in most general implementation areas. Similar to midterm findings, M&E, value-chain development, and gender are areas where technical capacity could be strengthened.

By design, the WE-RISE project is a complex and comprehensive effort. Objectives rely on technical skills that were new areas for many WE-RISE staff. Numerous outputs were planned in order for the project to reach these complex objectives. Collectively the outputs put forth in the project design require a much larger staff than the project has ever enjoyed. While the Project Manager and M&E advisor have made admirable efforts to directly support the implementation teams, and WE-RISE field staff have made commendable efforts to engage many volunteers, the evaluation team believes that understaffing, due to limited resources, is the reason several initiatives have not had optimal success.

**Partner roles and performance:** CARE and MAICC still appear to be learning from one each other and offering each other complementary technical backstopping and quality assurance, which is an exemplary example of good partnership practice.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Cohort studies are a highlight of WE-RISE M&E efforts. The in-depth studies, which explore the progress of ten women over the course of three years, are the brainchild of CARE Australia. The exercise served to strengthen qualitative skills of WE-RISE staff, helped staff reflect on the factors that contribute to or prevent women's empowerment, and contributed to global learning about empowerment metrics and evaluation design.

Aside from the admirable cohort studies, M&E continues to be the weakest link in the WE-RISE project. The project delayed setting targets for outcome and impact indicators until after midterm, and then had great difficulty setting appropriate targets in many cases. It is difficult to see the relationship between a number of outputs and indicators, and the Change Outcomes they purportedly contribute to. When causal logic is flawed in this way, it makes it difficult to use the project M&E framework to determine effective sequencing of project activities, to help staff see what is changing and why, or to pinpoint factors that might be impeding change.

## CONCLUSIONS

WE-RISE Malawi Change Outcomes appropriately addressed some of the greatest barriers to food and economic security, and social equity in Kalumbu and Chiwere Traditional Authorities. The project improved access to services and has influenced women's control of productive assets and resources. Productivity is challenged by climatic conditions, land access, and sub-optimal agricultural practices and WE-RISE project activities have helped to mitigate all of these challenges. Households in the WE-RISE program appear more resilient to shocks than they were in 2012. The project is also contributing to changes in women's empowerment, specifically within domains of resources, income, and leadership/community. As testimony to the project's earnest efforts, participants overwhelmingly believe their household is better off after participating in WE-RISE activities.

**Income:** Project activities contributed to increased per-capita monthly income for all household types, with male-headed households experiencing the greatest gains. By promoting soya and groundnut cultivation and encouraging vegetable sales, WE-RISE also influenced a substantial increase in the number of women who are earning farm income. Integration into soya and groundnut markets needs significant strengthening as the majority of project participants still sell their product to middlemen for a low price.

Non-farm income gains were experienced by male-headed households only. There is sufficient qualitative data to suggest that small gains in this area are partly due to women's participation in small business activities promoted by WE-RISE and funded by women's VSLA activity.

**Resilience:** Since the project's inception, households are experiencing more shocks than they did at baseline, particularly shocks that impact crop and livestock food supplies. Despite the challenging context of 2015, household level of stress did not increase substantially. Project activities contributed to greater absorptive and adaptive resilience capacities within targeted communities, although, generally, female-headed households are still less resilient to shock compared to their male-headed counterparts.

WE-RISE has made excellent progress establishing a culture of savings and lending. Savings are contributing to improved absorptive capacities and increased access to credit is contributing to improved adaptive capacity. Additionally, households have more assets to buffer shortfalls in incomes or sudden increases in necessary expenditures.

Endline qualitative findings suggest decent progress in WE-RISE efforts to address climate change resilience. In addition to the small-scale introduction of hand irrigation methods, men and women speak enthusiastically about how the new knowledge about early planting and the use of drought-resistant seeds (shared with them by community extension officers) helped to maintain yields during the challenging drought in 2015.

Finally, a critical component of resilience is social capital, and within the VSLA membership, the collectives are undoubtedly enhancing this asset.

**Empowerment:** Gender-equitable cultural norms and roles, policies, community receptiveness to women's views on gender, and access by women to formal and informal institutions, while showing significant improvement as a result of WE-RISE efforts, still have to gain traction among the majority of participating households—as evidenced by results showing that only 20% of women enjoy empowerment. Specific areas that still pose challenges for the majority of women are freedom of mobility, autonomy in production and gender-equitable attitudes on the part of females and males.

### **Conclusions Outcome 1 – Increased Productivity, Resources, and Resilience**

Women are experiencing greater access to inputs than at baseline, and have measurably increased their knowledge and skills in agricultural production. As a result their income from agricultural production has also increased. Additionally since 2012, the percentage of households with a woman earning farm income has increased by 18 percentage points, to 90% at endline.

The promotion of soya and groundnut production by the project has had impressive results. The percentage of women growing soya doubled since baseline; the percentage of women growing groundnuts increased by almost 15 percentage points. WE-RISE promotion of vegetable production via seed distribution resulted in doubling the number of women who cultivate beans and tomatoes. Qualitative input from project participants provides promising evidence that project activities designed to sensitize smallholders on crop production and diversity have taken hold; households are now growing half to one more crop on average than they did three years ago.

While distance to input suppliers is still a challenge, more women are obtaining inputs through local input suppliers or through the government, and there is a small increase in the number of women obtaining inputs through cooperative groups facilitated by WE-RISE. The majority of women use VSLA savings and loans to purchase the inputs. Equally important, some women now communicate directly with input suppliers.

As measured by 2015 production, soya yields per hectare did not increase and groundnut yield per hectare declined by 28%. Given the extended dry periods in 2015, which caused maize and groundnut production to suffer severe declines country-wide, this result is not a reflection of poor program implementation. In contrast, the fact that households maintained soya production despite the drought is a sign of increased resilience. Participants' perceptions of impact support the theory that, with the exception of 2015 yields, project participants have indeed increased their productivity. More than one-third (36%) of women state that a key improvement to their lives as a result of WE-RISE participation is better crop yields; 54% claim project participation has helped to increase household farm income.

Although more households are growing soya and groundnuts, they are not yet linking to preferred markets. While the outcome indicator “% of women accessing output markets” shows a 34 percentage point increase, this is one of the less-precise indicators in the M&E system. The indicator title suggests improved integration into value chains; however tabulation of the indicator includes local market sales as well as sales to local traders (i.e., middlemen). Qualitative evidence consistently shows that women (and men) are still primarily selling to middlemen at a very low price. Women would very much like to be bulking their product through a cooperative to obtain better prices, but few are doing so yet.

Marketing initiatives have been a consistent struggle for the WE-RISE project. Government interventions that introduce value chains with packing, sorting, and grading options are limited, thus, realistically the project resources required to launch this effort as designed would be substantial. The project design and budget did not seem to take this contextual constraint into consideration. Additionally, training in marketing has not sufficiently prepared farmers to take on this new challenge. Bare bones staffing of field officers and insufficient resources are the main reason for slow progress. There simply has not been enough staff with marketing expertise to carry out the project design.

Despite small gains for non-farm income and income from a small business, the promotion of off-farm business opportunities is one of the weaker aspects of the WE-RISE program. Similar to marketing training, sufficient guidance on developing small businesses has not occurred. The majority of project participants interviewed at baseline rank business training as the least effective WE-RISE initiative. Many who have tried to run a small business complain of poor sales due to market saturation of the products they choose to sell.

There is no evidence that project staff have carried out a rigorous analysis of how project participants might meet off-farm market opportunities in selected commodities. Again, the reason for this is not negligence, but rather a staff that is too slim to carry out all designed outputs. While the dream of using VSLA loans or shareouts to start a successful small business is widespread among the targeted population, those who attempt such a feat often find themselves struggling to stay afloat.

## **Conclusions Outcome 2 – Enabling Institutional Environment**

Women's access to agricultural extension services is greatly expanded under the project, from only 27% of female farmers at baseline to nearly 78% of female farmers at endline. Spillover of farming skills and knowledge is also apparent among women who are not members of the collectives, essentially benefiting whole communities. Community members greatly value extension services ranking them the 3rd (of 12 activities) most effective contribution of WE-RISE.

The project's establishment of VSLAs and corresponding network of village agents resulted in accessible credit throughout communities. Access to financial services was high at baseline, and is now available for the vast majority of participants (94%). Household survey data and qualitative findings show that access to credit through the VSLAs is the most valued contribution of the WE-RISE program.

### **Conclusions Outcome 3 – Gender Equitable Environment**

In recent years, institutions within Malawi committed to stimulating a more enabling environment for gender equality and women's advancement. Legislation and policy reforms have mainstreamed gender although there is still a vast gap between policy and practice. WE-RISE is helping to close this gap by disseminating and normalizing gender messaging. Most notably the project's on-the-ground presence offers guidance for communities to better understand the shifts in roles and responsibilities that are promoted nationally, as well as a means to monitor change first hand and identify the elements that effectively lead to change.

Community expectations of gender roles and responsibilities are slowly changing and becoming more equitable as a result of WE-RISE efforts to engage males in male champion clubs and in gender dialogues. Three years after the project's inception, more women have decision-making input to all household production, more women have sole or joint ownership and control of assets, women's access to and ability to make decisions about credit has increased, and there are small, but important gains in women's control over household income and expenditures.

Despite positive shifts that suggest more equitable attitudes about gender roles and norms, progress is challenged by deeply-rooted norms. Less than one-third of women are considered to be empowered, and there are only very small gains noted for the percentage of women who *express* gender equitable attitudes about roles and norms.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

Based on the findings of the final evaluation, this section provides a few suggestions for a follow-up phase of WE-RISE or any future program designed to overcome the constraints to women's productive and equitable engagement in agriculture.

#### **1. Design monitoring systems for learning**

A program as complicated as WE-RISE calls for adequate time to be devoted to developing and vetting a theory of change with all involved stakeholders. By devoting more critical thinking to a theory of change that is founded on an evidence base and vetted hypotheses, CARE could maximize on staff ability to learn, reflect, and adapt throughout the program cycle. The theory of change would allow for the development of a monitoring framework that is logically solid. A rigorous causal analysis model and accompanying theory of change would fully support recommendation two.

## **2. Prioritize the most strategic project activities**

Project impact could have been maximized had project focus been simplified to fewer activities. A solid theory of change will help to identify the most strategic outcomes for intervention. If future budgets only permit a staff as small as that which implemented WE-RISE for four years, this recommendation is even more critical. If future projects attempt a comprehensive set of outcomes, budget and staffing must be better aligned to the level of effort required to implement activities.

## **3. Strengthen staff capacity in key technical areas prior to implementation.**

Several key technical areas require specialists rather than generalists. In future programs, small business enterprise and agricultural value chain initiatives could have greater impact if field staff have a keen understanding of systems approaches, know how to conduct adequate market research and identify opportunity, feel comfortable building relationships with the private sector, and understand how to develop business acumen among participants. Future programs could also maximize impact by ensuring that staff understand how the advancement of gender equality forms an integral part of their work *prior to* implementing field work. CARE International has several successful flagship value-chain programmes and is a leader in gender and the development of tools and training that promote gender equality. Thus, maximizing impact may simply mean drawing on existing resources and budgeting sufficient time for staff capacity development.

Finally, enhanced organizational learning and knowledge sharing is key to improving capacity throughout the program cycle. WE-RISE has struggled with weak M&E capacity for most of the project's life. Future projects should ensure that M&E staff are able to rigorously capture positive change that is occurring, and alert field staff of triggers that indicate program design elements may be impeding expected change.

## **4. Scale up the inclusion of men and adolescent boys in empowerment strategy**

The empowerment strategy WE-RISE used could be significantly strengthened by engaging men and boys from the start. In order to transform complex behavioural patterns and value systems, all contributors must increase their understanding of the patterns and systems, actions, and reactions that perpetuate gender disadvantage. Midway through the project, WE-RISE began to intensify male-engagement efforts. This was a significant turning point for the project. It is likely that impact could have been greatly increased had an inclusive strategy been used from day one.

## **5. Expand training and follow up.**

Critical aspects of effective empowerment advocacy such as negotiation skills and business development were not sufficiently addressed by WE-RISE. In most cases training was offered once. Training is not synonymous with learning, particularly when complex behavioural and systemic changes are the desired outcome. For these concepts to take root, reinforcement is necessary. Future training programs could be strengthened and reinforced by offering refresher and follow-up sessions. If budgets are not adequate to fund an effective training plan, inclusion of initiatives should be reconsidered.

# **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Funded by the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES), CARE's programme, Women's Empowerment: Improving Resilience, Income and Food Security (WE-RISE), seeks to improve the quality of life for chronically food insecure rural women (CFIRW), targeting 15,000 households in two districts of Malawi, 9,846 households in two districts of Tanzania, and 15,441 households in three districts of Ethiopia. Aligned with other CARE initiatives, such as CARE USA's Pathways programme, WE-RISE is designed to overcome the constraints to women's productive and equitable engagement in agriculture. Using a strong gender focus, the WE-RISE programme seeks to improve household food security and resilience by empowering women to more fully engage in and benefit from agricultural activities.

## **1.1 We-RISE Goals and Objectives**

The programme theorizes that marginalized CFIRW will be more productive and their families more food secure when:

- Women have increased capacity (skills, knowledge, resources), capabilities (confidence, bargaining power, collective voice), and support
- Local governance and institutions have in place and are implementing gender-sensitive policies and programming that are responsive to the rights and needs of poor women farmers
- Agricultural service, value chain, and market environments of relevance to women are more competitive, gender-inclusive, and environmentally sustainable

Each of the WE-RISE Change Outcomes is designed to contribute to one or more realms of agency, structure, or relations (Table 1). The global monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan serves as the basic framework for this endline evaluation (Annex 1).



**Table 1: Alignment of AACES and WE-RISE Frameworks**

AACES	Domains of Change	WE-RISE
Goal: To contribute measurable outcomes for people in three priority sectors: water and sanitation, women and children’s health, and food security	Agency Structure Relations	Goal: To improve food security, income and resilience for chronically food insecure rural women through their social and economic empowerment
Objective 1: Marginalized people have sustainable access to the services they require	Agency	Change Outcome 1: CFIRW have increased household productive assets and resource and control over these, and are more resilient to climate shocks
	Structure	Change Outcome 2: Formal and informal institutions are more responsive to women’s priorities and accountable to upholding their rights
	Relations	Change Outcome 3: Cultural and social norms and attitudes better support the individual and collective aspirations and improved opportunities for CFIRW
Objective 2: DFAT policy and programmes are strengthened particularly in their ability to target and serve the needs of marginalized people	Structure	Change Outcome 4: CARE’s learning, knowledge and documentation on women’s empowerment, transforming gender norms, and climate change resilience is strengthened such that CARE can better inform and influence DFAT and other key stakeholders
Objective 3: Increased opportunity for the Australian public to be informed about development issues in Africa	Structure	Change Outcome 5: Outcomes and lessons learnt from WE-RISE are communicated effectively to the Australian public

In partnership with the Mponela Aids Information and Counselling Centre (MAICC) CARE implements the WE-RISE project in the districts of Dowa (Chiwere traditional authority) and rural Lilongwe (Kalumbu traditional authority), which lie within the same agro-ecological zone and have similar traditional and cultural values and challenges. These areas were prioritized because they represent areas of entrenched gender discrimination, rural poverty, chronic food insecurity and unsustainable farming practices. Of the 15,000 chronically food insecure households targeted by the project, approximately 3,000 are female-headed households.<sup>10</sup> At least 40 percent of the targeted beneficiaries participated in a six-year (2005-

<sup>10</sup> CARE definition of target group (P1s- chronically food insecure): **Group 1:** “Economically-active women of childbearing age who earn less than two \$2/day, have household labour/agricultural production constraints, are likely impacted by HIV/AIDS, have minimum assets, practice sub-optimal production techniques, have limited access to, use and control of resources, opportunities and services, and are under-producing. These also often include women in households hosting chronically ill family individuals. As a result of these factors, their households are chronically food insecure.” “Poor and very poor, labour-constrained

2011) Australian Partnership with African Communities program that preceded WE-RISE. Expansion into new areas emerged from discussions of priority areas with the Lilongwe and Dowa District Councils.<sup>11</sup>

## **1.2 Baseline, Mid-term and Endline Comparison Data**

The main purpose of the baseline and endline studies is to provide quantitative and qualitative data on food and livelihood security, agricultural productivity, and gender equality in WE-RISE Malawi's targeted groups. The studies provide information necessary to characterize the status of participants at the project's start-up and again at endline, in order to assess the effect of project interventions. The purpose of both surveys is to estimate and analyse the status of key impact and outcome indicators described in the CARE WE-RISE Indicator Framework (Annex 1). The baseline survey was explicitly designed to enable an evaluation of program performance through implementation of a directly comparable endline survey. Results for all indicators for which information was collected at baseline and endline are presented in Annex 2.

Baseline information was used for setting short and long-term targets for tracking progress of WE-RISE activities and for refining and/or prioritizing project activities in the operational area. Additionally, TANGO conducted a qualitative midterm review October, 2013, the purpose of which was to offer project and programme staff at all levels the opportunity to reflect on WE-RISE activities and adjust strategies to enhance desired outcomes.

This report first describes the methodology used in the studies, including data collection and data analysis, followed by a presentation of results and qualitative findings for food security, resilience, income, and empowerment impact indicators for CARE's targeted program participants and their households. Sections 3.6 through 3.10 present results and qualitative findings for CARE WE-RISE outcome indicators. Section 4 touches on Project Management, reviewing the successes and challenges related to staffing, resources, and monitoring and evaluation. Section 5 presents the conclusions of the evaluation team about the extent to which the WE-RISE goal and domains of change have been realized. The report concludes with a few recommendations for similar projects aiming to integrate agricultural productivity, profitability and gender equality.

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*households with an able-bodied, male adult member (usually a married couple)". Group 2: "includes both de jure and de facto female-headed households. They are female-headed primarily due to the impact of HIV/AIDS. They are women who have very few or no productive assets, and their households are labor constrained. They include women with high dependency ratios, widowed or divorced, and sometimes caring for chronically ill dependents."* CARE Malawi P1 Strategy. CARE Malawi Rural Smallholder Program (P1). 2013

<sup>11</sup> Design document. Women's Empowerment: Improving Resilience, Income and Food Security (WE-RISE) Final revised narrative 19, May, 2011.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

This section gives a brief overview of the methodology. Full details on the evaluation methodology are shared in Annex 2.

The WE-RISE baseline and endline surveys use a non-experimental design for pre-post comparison of results. The survey is “beneficiary-based” in that the sample is drawn randomly from a sample frame composed of all households with a female member in a collective with which WE-RISE is working. The sample size is determined to provide statistically representative results for household and individual level indicators at the project level. Designed as a longitudinal study, data are to be collected from the same households for both the endline and the baseline surveys. Due to the project reducing project implementation areas and overall attrition, the endline sample is significantly reduced. Annex 2 provides details.

*Indicators:* A set of “global” indicators was designed to align with better practices and is validated by experts from FANTA-2, USAID, IFPRI, and others. The box to the right presents WE-RISE impact indicators. Detailed descriptions of indicators, along with direction of change targets, are summarized in the CARE WE-RISE Evaluation Plan.<sup>12</sup>

### WE-RISE Impact Indicators

- Mean household dietary diversity score
- Mean women’s intra-household food access
- Coping strategies index
- Per capita monthly household income (farm and non-farm)
- % households with non-agricultural income
- % households with 3 or more different income sources
- Per capita monthly household expenditures
- % households with savings
- Mean asset index
- Coping strategies index

### 2.1 Quantitative Study

**Sample size:** At baseline the minimum sample size was computed as 787. (Details on sample size calculation are in Annex 2). Prior to the endline survey, project staff updated participant rosters to exclude households who are longer participating in the program, due to migration, death, or personal choice or who reside in one village that was dropped by the project —resulting in an endline target sample of 662. The endline survey experienced a 6.6 % non-response rate, resulting in 618 households total interviewed, for an overall 21.5 % rate of attrition and non-response compared to households interviewed at baseline (Table 38). The unanticipated attrition could have resulted in some indicators for which the reduced sample size was now too small to detect change this did not occur for WE-RISE Malawi data. Annex 2 explains this in detail.

Following discussions between CARE headquarters and TANGO, it was agreed that the baseline and endline comparisons would not include households who reside in communities where WE-RISE ceased to operate (12 HH), thus the restricted baseline sample is 739 households versus 751 households (Table 2: Endline analysis sample size Table 2). Point values for the baseline are recalculated to better reflect the status of the project participant population. Annex 3 presents original and restricted baseline values, and endline results for all impact and outcome indicators.

<sup>12</sup> TANGO International. 2012. CARE WE-RISE Evaluation Plan.

**Table 2: Endline analysis sample size**

	<i>Baseline Sample Size</i>	<i>Restricted Baseline<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Endline Sample Size</i>
All households	751	739	618
Female-headed households	163	159	186
Male-headed households	588	580	432

<sup>a</sup> Households who reside in communities where WE-RISE ceased to operate are omitted from endline analysis. Point values for the baseline are recalculated to better reflect the status of the project participant population.

### ***Survey training, data collection, and data quality measures***

CARE Malawi recruited 20 Malawian enumerators and five supervisors to carry out the household survey, and seven qualitative facilitators (five female and two male) to carry out the complementary qualitative research. TANGO International trained all endline survey team members – household interviewers, team supervisors, and program M&E staff responsible for coordinating the data collection and aggregation. The questionnaire was programmed into the tablets in both Chichewa and English.

Survey data were collected August 23rd through September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in the Traditional Authorities (TA) of Chewere and Kalumbu, the two operational areas of CARE Malawi’s WE-RISE project. Supervisors conducted one spot check per day, per enumerator. This allowed them to regularly check the quality and accuracy of the data entered by the enumerators. Supervisors regularly communicated the results of spot checks to TANGO. TANGO provided comprehensive daily feedback to CARE and the quantitative survey supervisors on the quality of data collection.



**Quantitative analysis:** The quantitative data were collated and configured by TANGO International using SPSS v20.0 software. Statistical differences are determined with t-tests or non-parametric tests (e.g., Mann-Whitney U). Probability levels are reported for statistically significant differences only.

## **2.2 Qualitative Study**

**Qualitative Team and Training:** The qualitative data collection team was composed of the TANGO consultant and seven Malawian research assistants (5 women and 2 men). All the Malawians were fluent in Chichewa and English. Prior to field work, the qualitative team reviewed and adjusted the focus group topical outlines and agreed on the phrasing of questions and the Chichewa translation. Training focused on effective group facilitation, probing for content and recording of information in matrices developed for data collection.

**Site selection:** The qualitative sample (six communities) was a subset of the quantitative sample, and included three villages in each TA. The villages were purposively selected by TANGO in collaboration with CARE Malawi staff, maximizing diversity of relevant criteria listed in Annex 2.

**Data Collection:** Qualitative data collection was performed through three main focus group discussions (FGDs) in each of the six communities visited. The three focus groups were with a) Female VLSA members, b) husbands of female VLSA members; c) female non-members. Additionally, in each village



small group discussions were separately held with members of the marketing committee and village development committee members. All focus group discussions were conducted in Chichewa. Over 110 key informants were interviewed at community and national levels including customary authorities (village heads, group village heads), village development committee members, marketing group members, community volunteers, local traders, and officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Gender. Finally, TANGO conducted process interviews with MAICC and CARE staff.

### 2.3 Study Limitations

WE-RISE staff were concerned that the final evaluation team would not be able to locate all sampled members within the budgeted time frame and thus, decided to send front runners (typically community-based extension agents or CARE field officers) ahead of the team to alert sampled respondents that the team was coming and to “schedule” appointments. It is possible that this tactic, even with good intentions, introduced a positive bias to the results. The extent to which CARE’s contact with participants directly before the survey affected the results is unknown.

The endline survey was programmed into the tablets in Chichewa. The baseline survey was programmed in English and translated by enumerators into Chichewa as they administered the questionnaire. While this greatly improves the accuracy and reliability of the endline data, as all enumerators asked questions exactly the same way, it may also mean that baseline and endline questions were asked slightly differently. If so, survey participants may have elicited different types of responses due to differences in translation. The extent to which this limitation affected the results, if at all, is unknown.

Neither baseline or endline data are able to provide insight on the depth of food insecurity populations face during lean season. The surveys were conducted at the end of the harvest season for the majority of the main seasonal crops in Malawi, a time when food shortages are not as prevalent as other times of the year. The baseline survey was conducted in late July - early August, 2012. Endline data were collected one month later than baseline (late August), however; 2015 harvests were delayed due to the climate-related late start of planting,<sup>13</sup> resulting in similar timing of the survey relative to household harvests, and therefore comparable data.

<sup>13</sup> FEWS NET. Malawi Food Security Outlook. April to September 2015.  
[http://www.fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/Malawi\\_FSO\\_2015\\_04.pdf](http://www.fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/Malawi_FSO_2015_04.pdf)

## 3 RESULTS AND FINDINGS

### 3.1 Household Characteristics

This section summarizes the household characteristics of the sampled VSLA members.

As would be expected in a longitudinal study, household demographics are similar between baseline and endline surveys. Table 3 shows that the average number of household members reported at endline is 5.2 compared to 4.6 members reported at baseline, presumably due to an increase of children under 18 (2.8 EL versus 2.3 BL). The percentage of female-headed households in the sample has increased from 22% to 30% ( $p < .000$ ). One explanation for some of this increase may be death of a husband, as the number of widows appears higher than at baseline (7% compared to 9%).<sup>14</sup> It may also be that the enumerators at endline were more accurate than their baseline counterparts at capturing second wives from polygamous marriages as a female-headed household. Another explanation may be due to men's attitudes about women's participation. At baseline, qualitative findings suggested that it may be easier for female-headed household members to participate in VSLAs. Women reported that males were at times distrustful of

women's participation, feeling it was just a way for women to waste time. Evidence of this attitude was much less prevalent at endline, but some women residing in male-headed households still face barriers to participation that are not experienced by women residing in female-headed households. Focus group (FG) participants related that some men will beat their wife if she tries to join a

**Table 3: Household demographics**

Indicator	Point Estimate		Sample Size	
	BL	EL	BL	EL
Household size	4.6	5.2	739	618
Number of children (under 18)	2.3	2.8	739	618
Number of females in household	2.3	2.7	739	618
Number of females involved in Ag in HH	1.4	1.3	739	618
% of female-headed households	21.5	30.1	739	618
Age of head of household	42.4	44.0	739	546
Education of head of household (%)				
No education	22.4	20.2	738	549
JP (1-4)	30.1	31.3	738	549
SP(5-8)	37.0	36.8	738	549
JS (1-2)	4.3	6.7	738	549
SS (3-4)	5.7	4.2	738	549
Tertiary	0.5	0.7	738	549
Marital status of head of household (%)				
Single	1.2	0.7	739	618
Married (Less than or equal to two years)	16.0	5.5	739	618
Married (More than two years)	68.9	78.2	739	618
Divorced	7.0	6.9	739	618
Widow/Widower	6.9	8.6	739	618
% of households with a disabled member	12.4	17.0	739	618

<sup>14</sup> No statistical comparison conducted.

VSLA; others “allow” their wives to join, but prevent them from attending meetings or planting in the project demonstration fields during rainy season, demanding that they instead work in the household crop field.

Levels of education of households head remain relatively constant. Finally, the percentage of households reporting a disabled member increased from 12% to 17% ( $p < .05$ ).

### 3.2 Impact: Food Security

The primary indicators used in this study to measure levels of food security are: 1) the household average dietary diversity score (HDDS), a proxy for food access, and 2) the mean women’s intra-household food access score. Table 4 illustrates that there have been small improvements in these two indicators.

#### 3.2.1 Dietary Diversity and Intra-Household Access

The main food preparer (typically the sampled CARE member) is asked to report on 12 different food groups consumed by any household member over a 24-hour period (the day and night prior to the interview). The responses produce a HDDS between 0 and 12, with the higher score demonstrating access to diverse food groups. After determining whether *any* household member consumes each of the 12 food groups, the main food preparer is asked if all, some, or no female household members over the age of 15 ate the food item. The responses for “all women” or “some women” produce an intra-household access (IHA) score between 0 and 12, with the higher score indicating greater access to diverse food groups.

The mean HDDS for all surveyed households has increased slightly from 4.9 to 5.2 food groups, meaning households are on average accessing five different types of food daily (Table 4). This result falls short of the end of project target of 6.2 food groups. Similar to baseline, members of female-headed households at endline still access fewer food groups daily compared to members of male-headed households (4.8 versus 5.4,  $p < .01$ ).

Endline results show that across the sample, food access for women, specifically, has also slightly increased since baseline from 4.7 to 5.0 food groups, nearing the end of project target of 5.1. The change is primarily due to improved food distribution in male-headed households as disaggregated data detect no change among female-headed households. Similar to baseline, within a household, females over the age of 15 years consume slightly fewer food groups than other household members (5.0 compared to 5.2,  $p < .01$ ).

**Table 4: Food Security**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
IM 1.1: Mean household dietary diversity scores					
All households	4.9	5.2	**	634	566
Female HHHs	4.3	4.8	*	135	174
Male HHHs	5.0	5.4	**	499	392
IM 1.2: Mean women’s intra-household food access					
All households	4.7	5.0	**	634	566
Female HHHs	4.2	4.6		135	174
Male HHHs	4.8	5.1	*	499	392

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

**Table 5: Food item access**

Indicator	Point Estimate		Point Estimate		
	BL	EL	BL	EL	
Food categories consumed yesterday					
	% of households reporting someone in HH consumed item		% of HH reporting women consumed item		
Cereals	99.7	*	98.8	98.1	97.7
Tubers	63.0	***	42.9	61.2	*** 41.5
Vegetables	85.4	***	92.0	84.0	*** 90.6
Fruits	24.9		26.0	22.5	24.0
Meat	25.7		24.2	23.1	22.4
Eggs	9.7	**	14.5	8.6	** 13.1
Fish	19.2	**	25.3	18.3	*** 24.4
Pulses / legumes	53.3	*	48.4	50.5	46.5
Dairy	7.5	***	12.9	7.1	*** 11.5
Fats/Oils	33.0	***	59.0	32.9	*** 57.2
Sugars	35.7	**	41.7	34.0	* 39.2
Condiments, etc.	32.9		30.2	31.4	* 26.9
n	630-634		566	630-634 566	

Table 5 helps to understand the slight changes noted since baseline in access to specific food. Six food items show increased access since baseline (four of which are considered nutritious foods). An additional 5% of the sample are consuming eggs (14.5% versus 9.7%) and dairy (12.9% versus 7.5%), and 25% now consume fish versus 19% at baseline. While increased access to high protein foods is not affecting the majority of the sample, it is a positive trend. Of concern is the marked decline in tuber consumption and small decrease in pulse/legumes consumption. Soya is a key crop promoted by the project, and nutrition and cooking demonstrations place high focus on soya consumption through the making of chips, soya milk, soya meat and other products. It appears that most households are choosing to sell rather than eat soya.

### 3.3 Impact: Economic Poverty Reduction

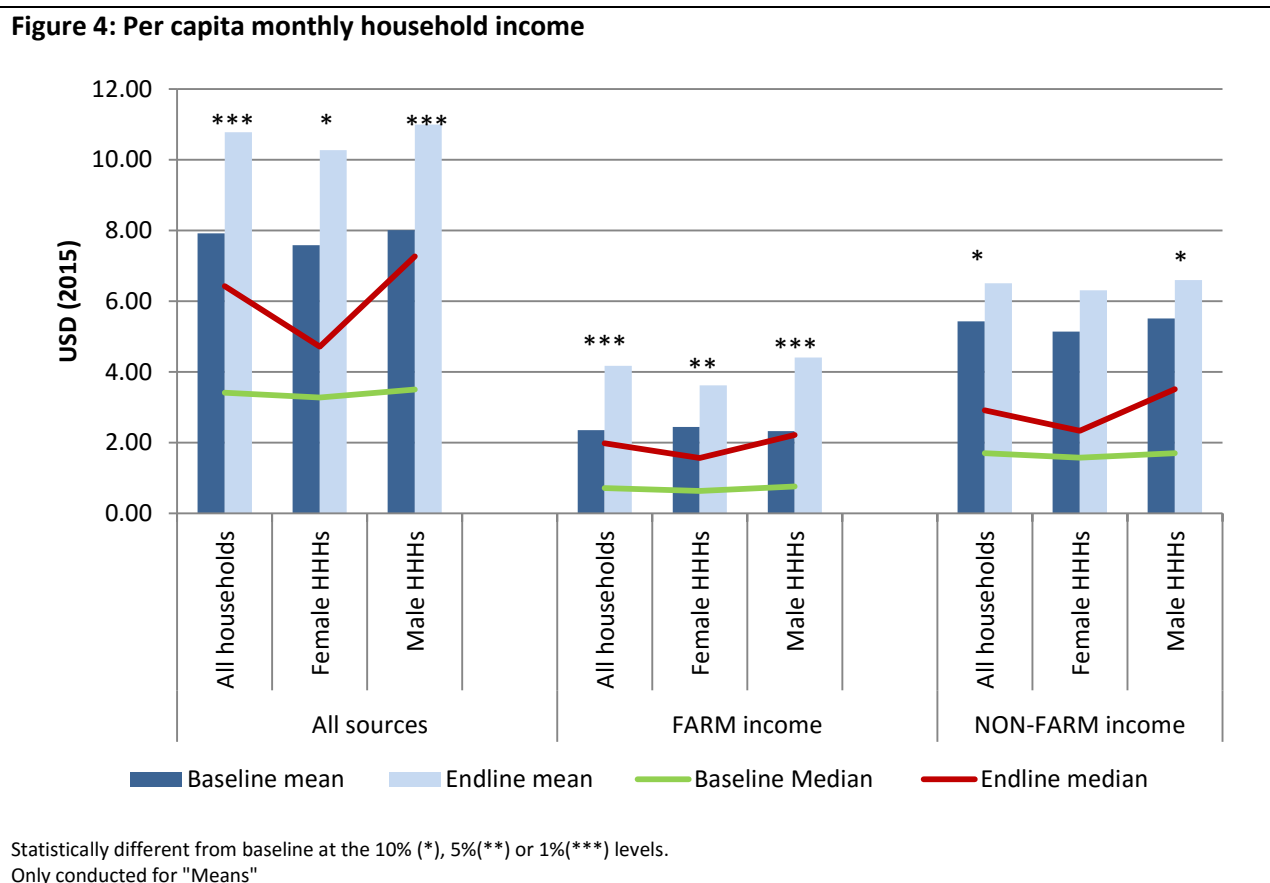
To understand progress toward the long-term goal of “*Improved Food Security, Income, and Resilience for Chronically Food Insecure Rural Women (CFIRW) through their social and economic empowerment*”, WE-RISE tracked information to inform four key areas: Per capita monthly household income (farm and non-farm), percentage of households with non-agricultural income, percentage of households with three or more different income sources, and per capita monthly household expenditures.



### 3.3.1 Household Income and Livelihood Diversity

Monthly per capita income<sup>15</sup> is presented in Figure 4, as is monthly per capita farm income and monthly per capita non-farm income. Overall, results are quite promising. **Across the total sample, households surveyed show notable gains in net farm and non-farm per capita household income.** It is important to acknowledge that results related to income are only indicative; conclusive findings on the relative profitability of different income sources requires a more comprehensive analysis of expenses for each source of income.<sup>16</sup>

Monthly per capita income from all sources has increased on average by 2.86 USD since baseline (currently 10.77 USD versus 7.91 USD). Both male- and female-headed households have increased their earning by more than a third since baseline (35% more for female-headed households; 37% more for male-headed households). The increased income is a positive trend, yet falls short of the end of project target (15.30 USD), by a significant amount.



**Of particular interest for the WE-RISE project are changes to farm income. Male- and female-headed households alike show strong gains in this area. Male-headed households now earn 4.40 USD per month on average, about 2.08 USD more than at baseline; female-headed households are earning 50%**

<sup>15</sup> Average amount of household income from all income sources/earners earned per month, divided by the total number of individuals living in the household.

<sup>16</sup> This type of analysis is beyond the scope of the final evaluation of the WE-RISE project.

more than they did at baseline and are now reporting approximately 3.62 USD per month, per capita (BL value was 2.44 USD). Production data (Table 20) show that soya and groundnut yields did not increase, however, since baseline, prices for both crops have increased significantly country-wide. It is logical that better prices are one key reason farm income has increased.

Monthly per capita *non-farm* income has also increased for male-headed households (6.50 USD versus 5.43 USD). Data are trending in the right direction for female-headed households who now report earning 6.30 USD versus 5.14 USD at baseline; however, this difference is not statistically significant with 90% confidence.<sup>17</sup>

Median values are much lower for per capita monthly income from all sources, and farm and non-farm income individually (6.42 USD; 1.98 USD; and 2.91 USD, respectively). Notably, however, median values (which are less-likely to be influenced by extreme data values) have more than doubled for all types of income and all types of household heads. Median farming income has increased by 148 % for female-headed households (0.63 USD BL versus 1.56 USD EL) and by 191 percent for male-headed households (0.76 BL versus 2.21 USD EL) Table 40, Annex 5 presents detailed results for income and expenditures.

**Small business enterprise:** In addition to supporting improvements to agricultural income, CARE WE-RISE supports improvements to non-agricultural income via small business activities. At the time of the baseline, 46% of households were earning income from small business activities (Table 6). At endline, the percentage has substantially increased to 66%. Both female-and male-headed households experienced this gain (endline values are 63% for female-headed households; 67% for male-headed households).

While survey findings demonstrate an increase in small business activities, there is insufficient qualitative evidence to link the improvement to increased income across the sample. Small numbers of women are engaging in small businesses (e.g., fritter, tomato, fish, or plastic item sales, brewing local beer, etc.), and a few participants in FGDs cite these businesses as a reason for increased household income, but this is not the norm. In five of six villages visited in the qualitative study, men, women, VDC members and key informants rank business training as the least effective WE-RISE initiative. Most

**Table 6: Income Diversification**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
IM 1.5 : % of households with income from small business					
All households	46.0	66.0	***	739	618
Female HHHs	40.9	63.4	***	159	186
Male HHHs	47.4	67.1	***	580	432
IM 1.6 : % of households with three or more income sources					
All households	65.2	86.6	***	739	618
Female HHHs	61.0	87.1	***	159	186
Male HHHs	66.4	86.3	***	580	432

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

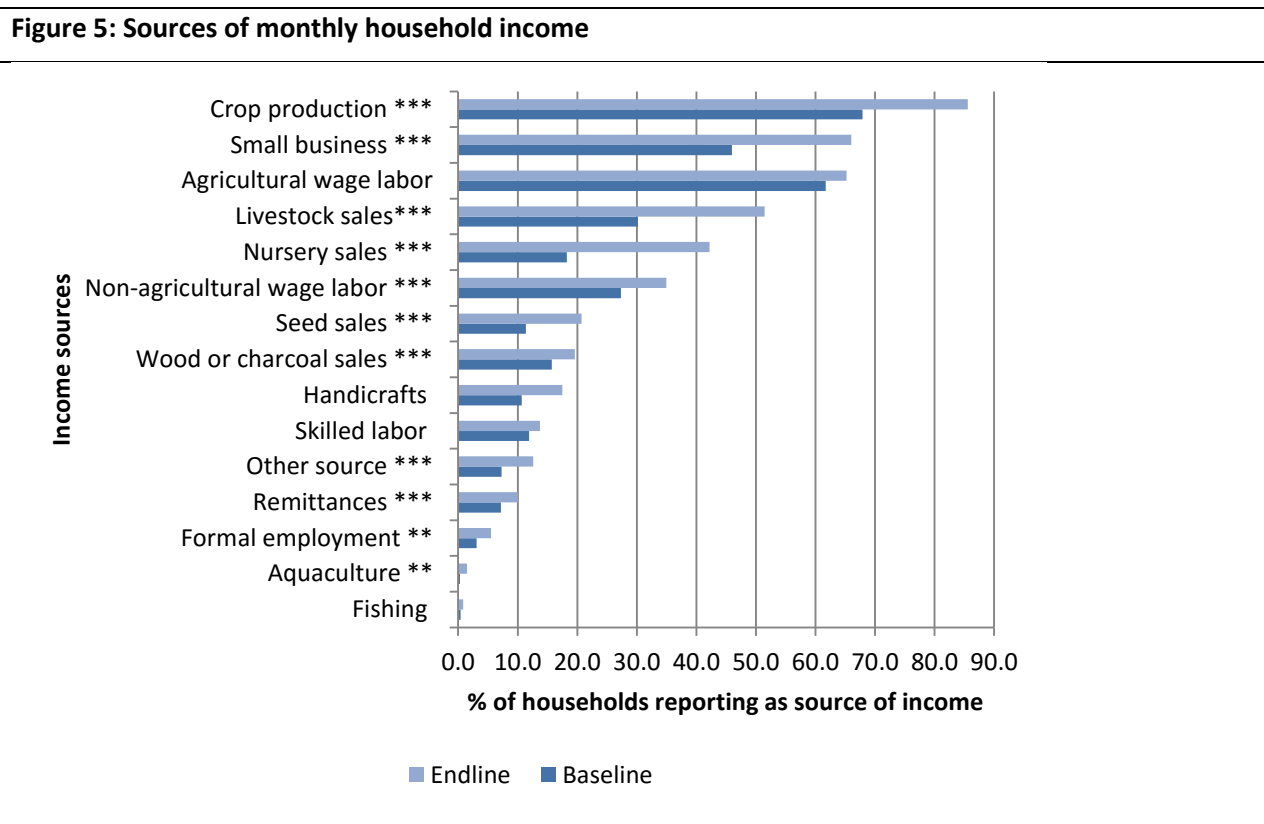
<sup>17</sup> The standard deviations (baseline and endline) are very high for female-headed household non-farm income, resulting in a high coefficient of variance. This, as well as a small sample of female-headed households, makes it difficult to detect whether change is statistically significant.

communities claim no training has occurred; for two communities it was a one-off training. WE-RISE staff explain that many villages did not receive training because the VAs only target groups who they deem “ready” for training.

In the one community that ranks business training 6<sup>th</sup> rather than last, there are still many challenges. Participants feel they do not have enough information to run a business that is distinct from those offered by almost everyone in the community (e.g., sales of bananas, fritters, or *chitenge* cloth). Many who have tried to run a small business complain of poor sales due to market saturation.

**Income diversity:** Compared to baseline when almost two-thirds of households (65%) report earning income from three or more sources, 87% of WE-RISE participants now report such diversity. Both female-and male-headed households experienced this gain (Table 6 shows endline values are 87% female-headed households; 86% male-headed households).

Figure 5 helps to explain which new income-generating activities households are engaging in. While there have been statistically significant changes for many income categories, the greatest gains have been for nursery sales (18% BL versus 42% EL); livestock sales (30% BL versus 52% EL), small business (46% BL versus 66% EL) and crop production (68% BL versus 86% EL).



At baseline there was a collective awareness that women’s labour was paid less than men’s labour. Both sexes justified the gap in remuneration with the observation that women have domestic tasks they must do; therefore, any paid job they undertake requires more time to complete. At endline, FG participants emphasize little difference between men and women’s pay if the quality of work is similar.

### 3.3.2 Expenditures

In line with increased income, **mean monthly per capita expenditures have increased from 15.27 USD to 17.75 USD for the total sample** (Table 7). Although the mean for the whole sample has increased, disaggregated data show **the gain is restricted to male-headed households** who are spending close to 4.00 USD more per month on average than they were at baseline. Female-headed households appear to be spending slightly less than at baseline, although the sample size is too small to determine whether this decline is statistically significant. The project met the endline target (13.00 USD), yet it appears as if there was a lack of understanding on how to set an appropriate target for this indicator. The direction of change should increase rather decrease—expenditures are a proxy for income.

Mean and median expenditures greatly exceed mean and median income for all types of households, which may be due to a) difficulties in accurately estimating income flows that are erratic and which fluctuate during the year or b) purposeful under-reporting of income. The differences between income and consumption results could also suggest an accumulation of debt. Additional analysis by CARE of specific types of expenditures that have increased, and the types of items households report borrowing for, will help to explain these patterns.

**Table 7: Household expenditures**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
IM 1.7: Per capita MEAN monthly household expenditures (Current USD 2015)					
All households	15.27	17.75	**	737	615
Female HHHs	17.86	16.06		159	183
Male HHHs	14.55	18.46	***	578	432
Per capita MEDIAN monthly household expenditures (Current USD 2015)					
All households	9.92	13.06		737	615
Female HHHs	9.92	11.66		159	183
Male HHHs	9.90	13.23		578	432

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

### 3.4 Impact: Livelihoods Resilience

To understand progress toward the long-term goal of *“Improved Food Security, Income, and Resilience for Chronically Food Insecure Rural Women (CFIRW) through their social and economic empowerment”*, WE-RISE tracked information to inform three key areas: coping strategies related to food scarcity, household asset holdings (reflected in an asset index) and whether households are saving. Measuring the resources that individuals and households can draw upon to reduce vulnerability, provides insight on household capacity to absorb a range of different risks and adapt to various external drivers of change (e.g., ecological, economic, social, etc.).

### 3.4.1 Consumption Coping Strategies

*Coping Strategy Index (CSI)*: The CSI is a tool used to measure behaviour change in households when they cannot access adequate or preferred foods. It can be used as a food security and early warning indicator, and can also be used as an indicator of longer-term changes in food security status.<sup>18</sup> The CSI attempts to answer the following question: “What do you do when you don’t have enough food, and don’t have enough money to buy food?” The various answers to this question comprise the basis of the CSI score. Annex 5 provides more details on how the CSI is computed.

At baseline, close to one-fifth (18%) of households reported experiencing food and income shortages in the three months prior to the survey (Table 8). The mean CSI at baseline was correspondingly low (2.8 out of a possible 100). At endline, the percentage of households reporting food shortages in the three months prior to the endline survey increased to 25%, yet the mean CSI only increased slightly and the value remains relatively low (6.4 out of a possible 100; 7.5 for female-headed households; 6.0 for male-headed households). This means that **while more households experienced stress from food shortages, the level of stress did not increase substantially.**<sup>19</sup>

Key contextual factors help to explain why more households experienced stress from food shortages in 2015 compared to 2012. Extended dry periods caused maize and other cereal production to severely decline to below-average levels.<sup>20</sup> Supporting survey data validate that crop production for the three main crops (maize, soya, and groundnuts) has declined for the sample population in the past 12 months. Among farmers growing each crop, 66% report maize production decreased (N=502); 67% state soya production decreased (N=374), and 66% report groundnut production decreased (N=425). The overwhelming reason given for decreased production was insufficient rainfall (Table 41 and Table 41Table 42 Annex 5). Furthermore, higher maize prices in 2015 constrained food access across the country—the national average maize price in July 2015 was 54 percent higher than in July 2014.<sup>21</sup>

Finally, results presented in Table 24, Section 3.7.1 also show households experienced more shocks than three years ago, particularly shocks that impact crop and livestock food supplies, such as drought (up from 16% of the sample at baseline to 53% at endline; hailstorm, up from 31% BL to 48% EL; and disease, up from 50% BL to 57% EL). Given these contextual factors, it is remarkable that the coping strategy index at endline did not spike much higher than it did.

Data in Table 8 show the percentages of households using eight common consumption coping behaviours one or more times per week in the last 30 days. Among those using these strategies, there has been an increase from baseline to endline for all eight strategies. Borrowing food, reducing food quantities, and relying on less-preferred food are the most common tactics households used to combat

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<sup>18</sup> Developed by CARE and field tested by WFP and CARE, the CSI has been used for early warning and food security monitoring in African and Asian countries, in addition to several Middle Eastern countries.

<sup>19</sup> As explained in Section 2.5 Limitations, these data do not reflect the depth of food insecurity that households may experience during lean season.

<sup>20</sup> FAO. 2015. GIEWS Country Briefs. Malawi. Reference Date 06-August-2015. <http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=MWI>

<sup>21</sup> FAO. 2015. GIEWS Country Briefs. Malawi. Reference Date 06-August-2015. <http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=MWI>

shortages. Of concern is the 13% of households who have skipped an entire day of eating due to food scarcity, up from 8% at baseline.

**Table 8: Coping with food shortages**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
IM 1.3: Coping strategies index					
All households	2.8	6.4	***	739	616
Female HHHs	3.5	7.5	***	159	184
Male HHHs	2.7	6.0	***	580	432
Households who did not have enough food or money to buy food in past 3 months					
All households	17.5	25.1	***	739	618
Female HHHs	20.1	28.0	*	159	186
Male HHHs	16.7	23.8	***	580	432
% of HHs to use consumption coping strategy 1 or more times each week					
Borrowed food or borrowed money to buy food	11.8	19.6	***	739	618
Relied on less preferred or less expensive foods	11.0	18.9	***	739	618
Reduced the number of meals or the quantity eaten per day	11.1	17.8	***	739	618
Skipped eating due to lack of money or food for entire day	8.0	13.3	***	739	618
Consumed taboo food, wild food, famine foods which are normally not eaten	2.4	6.1	***	739	618
Restricted consumption of some family members so that others could eat normally or more	4.7	7.0	*	739	618
Eat seed stock held for next season	8.9	11.7	*	739	618
Beg or scavenge	3.5	6.6	***	739	618

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

### 3.4.2 Non-consumption Coping Strategies

Households were also asked to report on non-consumption strategies used to cope with food and income shortages in the three months prior to the survey, many of which are more likely to contribute to longer-term irreversible effects, such as sale of productive assets, sale of land, or selling seed held for next season. While the related indicator technically falls under Outcome 1 (Section 3.7), results are discussed here for flow and continuity.

Table 9 shows that the number of households who report using at least one “negative” coping strategy in the last three months increased across the sample between 2012 and 2015 (13% BL versus 19%EL); the increase is even larger for female-headed households (15% BL versus 23% EL). Small increases in the following specific strategies contributed to this unintended change: taking a loan with interest, lowering children’s school attendance or children dropping out from school; sending children away to better off

relatives; reducing expenditures on health and education; selling household assets; reducing expenditures on livestock or selling more livestock than normal.

**Table 9: Non-consumption coping strategies adopted by households**

	Point Estimate			Sample	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 1.11: % households adopting at least one negative coping strategy in past 3 months					
All households	12.7	18.8	***	739	618
Female HHHs	14.5	22.6	*	159	186
Male HHHs	12.2	17.1	**	580	432
<b>Percentage of households to utilize specific "negative" coping strategies:</b>					
Pledge or sell labour/crops/livestock in advance	6.9	5.2		739	618
Take a loan with interest	7.4	12.1	***	739	618
Sell seed stock for next season	3.8	3.2		739	618
Lower school attendance or drop out from school	1.4	4.0	***	739	618
Unusual sales (e.g., household assets, firewood, charcoal, etc.)	0.9	2.6	**	739	618
Send children away to better-off relatives and friends	0.4	1.5	**	739	618
Slaughter more animals than normal	1.2	1.5		739	618
Migrate	0.7	0.3		739	618
Reduce expenditure on livestock and agricultural inputs	0.3	2.6	***	739	618
Sell a higher number of livestock than usual	1.4	3.1	**	739	618
Reduce expenditures (e.g., health care, education )	0.1	2.9	***	739	618
<b>Percentage of households to utilize more positive strategies:</b>				739	618
Use own savings	3.9	4.7		739	618
Participate in food or cash for work programs	3.9	7.1	***	739	618
Request local government for assistance	0.4	0.2		739	618
Receive remittances (food or cash) from relatives, friends	3.2	7.9	***	739	618

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

The largest increase noted was for “taking a loan with interest” (7% BL versus 12% EL). While it can be argued that borrowing with interest may not be a negative strategy per se, in the context of using this strategy as a direct result of not having enough food or money to buy food there is high potential for entering a cycle of debt. This data point is supported by results in Table 28, which show that nearly half of all households use borrowed capital to purchase food.

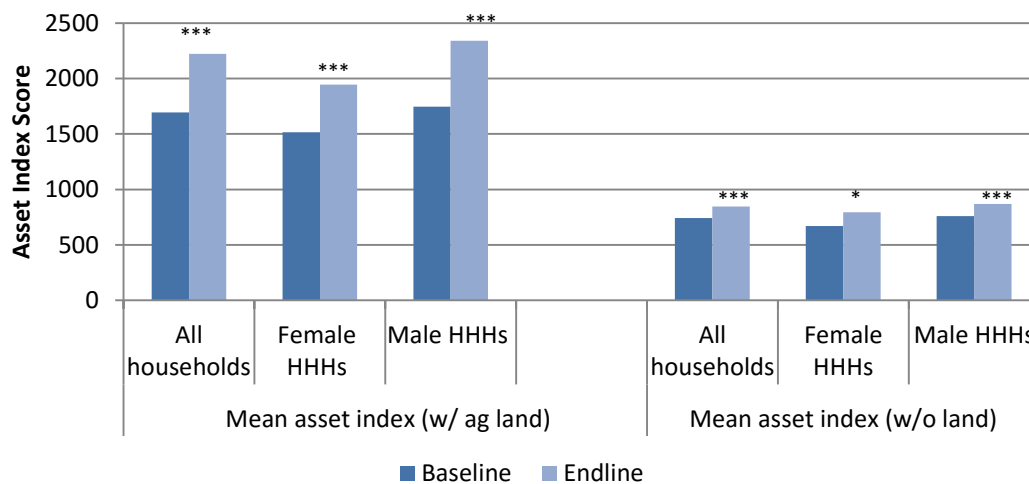
**Notably, the availability and or use of informal and formal social protection mechanisms (factors considered to be contributors to increased household resilience) in response to food and income**

**shortages has increased since baseline.** Over 7% of households report participating in food for work or cash for work programs, compared to less than 4% at baseline, and nearly 8% of households state they now receive remittances compared to 3% at baseline.

### 3.4.3 Household Assets

The mean asset index is a proxy for household wealth and measures the number and weighted value of animal and other productive and household assets. This index is computed by multiplying the number of each type of household asset by the index value for that particular asset type. Index values of household assets used for construction of the asset index are presented in Annex 5. A higher asset index value indicates that households have been able to accumulate assets over time. Households are able to accumulate assets if income is greater than the necessary expenditures to meet household subsistence requirements. Assets also provide households with a cushion to adjust to shortfalls in incomes, or sudden increases in necessary expenditures. Thus, households with a higher asset index are less vulnerable than households with lower asset index values. The asset index is critical to understanding the resilience capacity of WE-RISE participants at endline.

**Figure 6: Mean Asset Index**



Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

**Asset holdings have increased remarkably since baseline,** with the value of all assets for all households increasing from 1695 to 2222 (Figure 6). Male-headed households have experienced the greatest gain (34% increases) in asset holdings, with a value of 2340 compared to 1745 at baseline. The spike in total asset holdings for female-headed households now puts them above baseline status for all households, but the gap between the total asset holdings of female- and male-headed households has widened slightly. Female-headed households now own 17% fewer total assets than male-headed households, compared to 13% fewer than male-headed households at baseline. WE-RISE surpassed end of project targets for all categories (MHH, FHH, Total HH).



When the asset index is calculated without land assets, female-headed households have seen the greatest increase in asset holdings (19% increase); male-headed households show a 14% increase in asset holdings. Despite the increase, asset holdings without land are 9% less for female-headed households than male-headed households, although the gap has narrowed slightly—at baseline female-headed households owned 12% fewer assets than males.

Table 10 offers detail on selected assets that are statistically different from baseline to endline, providing insight on what type of assets households have been investing in over the past three years.

**Table 10: Asset ownership**

Asset	Female-headed HH		All households			All households			
	BL	EL	BL	EL		BL	EL		
	<b>Mean # of assets owned</b>			<b>% of HH owning asset</b>					
<i>Agricultural land (acres)</i>	1.6	2.1	***	1.8	2.6	***	92.4	98.9	***
<i>Non-mechanized farm equipment</i>	2.7	3.6	***	3.1	4.2	***	89.6	96.6	***
<i>House (and other structures)</i>	1.2	1.4	*	1.3	1.5	***	80.0	95.8	***
<i>Chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigeons, guinea fowl</i>	4.7	5.9		5.4	6.7	***	65.7	78.2	***
<i>Small livestock (goats, sheep)</i>	1.7	2.3	**	2.4	2.5		60.2	63.3	
<i>Small consumer durables (radio, cookware, iron)</i>	0.4	2.6	***	0.6	3.1		42.5	55.6	***
<i>Cell phone</i>	0.2	0.5	***	0.4	0.6	***	29.0	47.2	***
<i>Bicycle, car or motorcycle</i>	0.1	0.3	***	0.7	0.5		38.7	43.6	*
<i>Other land not used for agricultural purposes</i>	0.2	0.3		0.2	0.3		12.1	26.0	***
<i>Nonfarm business equipment</i>	0.2	0.5	*	0.4	0.6	**	10.6	22.5	***
<i>Large consumer durables</i>	0.1	0.2	*	0.2	0.5	***	5.1	15.8	***
	158-	183		735-	615		735-739	615	
n	159	183		739	615		735-739	615	

*Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.*

Since baseline, across the full sample, ownership has substantially increased for cell phones, housing structures, small household items, such as cookware, radios, etc., land not used for agriculture, poultry, non-farm business equipment, and large household items, such as furniture. The percentage of households reporting ownership of cell phones, has increased by over 18 percentage points to almost half (47%) of all households at endline. Similarly, the percentage of households owning poultry has increased by almost 13 percentage points to 78% of all households.

All types of households (female- and male-headed) own, on average, one more non-mechanized farm tool than they did in 2012 and flock size has increased by at least one for all groups.

Notably the mean number of acres owned by female-headed households has increased from 1.6 to 2.1; for all households the number of acres owned has increased from 1.8 to 2.6. However, across the six sampled villages in the qualitative study, findings regarding changes to women’s land access do not fully support quantitative findings. Women state that little has changed in the past few years. Male and female FG participants state that women typically come to a man’s home village when they marry, and as such, land is a man’s asset—women own very little compared to men and it is the man who determines how any land will be used and/ or distributed. Males explain that it is important that the most fertile land be used for tobacco and maize; as such, if they decide to allocate land to their spouse for groundnuts and soya, it is the least fertile land. Community extension workers added because women are growing soya and groundnuts, men are more likely to share land with women than they were in the past. Anecdotal evidence suggests that women prefer to rent land rather than buy land, because if they separate from their husbands they would have to give up purchased land.

### 3.4.4 Savings

Results in Table 11 demonstrate that since 2012, there has been no change in the percentage of households who report they have savings, and thus WE-RISE did not meet the end-of-target goal of 90%. While the majority of sampled households (83%) at endline report that either a male or a female household member has savings in a formal or informal institution, given the focus of the WE-RISE program and the use of VSLAs as the entry point for all project activities, it is perplexing the number is not closer to 100%.

**Although the number of households who are saving has not increased, it is quite likely that the amount of savings has increased substantially.** Qualitative evidence strongly supports this theory as do survey data which show that 76% of women interviewed believe that participating in WE-RISE has resulted in improved household savings. The baseline and endline data sets include variables that will allow CARE to carry out further analysis on the extent to which level of savings have increased.

At baseline, a general opinion heard by the qualitative team was that men mistrust women gathering with a focus on money, especially in the first stage of VSLA initiatives, and they tend to associate women handling cash with the existence of extramarital relationships. Four years later, this perception has radically changed, and **a culture of savings seems to be strongly developed in all WE-RISE villages visited by the qualitative team.** FGD findings also suggest that the source of women’s savings contributions is often their own income, rather than their husband’s income, which was the primary way women obtained

VSLA contributions at baseline. While some of this income comes from small businesses and crop sales, key informants and FGD participants

**Table 11: Household savings**

Indicator	Point Estimate		Sample Size	
	BL	EL	BL	EL
IM 1.9: % households with savings				
All households	84.3	83.1	737	616
Female HHHs	77.4	78.8	159	184
Male HHHs	86.2	85.0	578	432

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

in most villages also noted that more women are participating in *ganyu* than in the past for the sole purpose of investing in savings.

Women’s main reasons for savings are the same as at baseline (productive asset purchase and emergencies); however the percentage who are saving for specific reasons has shifted in three areas since baseline (Table 12). Women at endline are more likely to save in order to purchase productive assets (56% EL versus 48% BL), to purchase household assets (25% EL versus 15% BL), and to fund a social event (7% versus 2% EL) .

Notably, given last year’s poor harvest as a result of little rain, women at endline are much more likely to report saving to avoid seasonal hunger than they were four years ago (35% versus 25% of all households). Qualitative findings were aligned with survey results; the vast majority of all FGD participants state that women mainly use their savings from the VSLA to purchase fertilizer and seeds, purchase livestock, and purchase household items.

**Table 12: Reasons for saving**

	Point Estimate		
	Baseline	Endline	
Productive asset purchase	48.3	55.6	***
In case of emergency	54.3	55.1	
Facing seasonal hunger	25.4	27.2	
Household asset purchase	15.1	25.0	***
Invest in small business	18.5	20.5	
Health care/ medicine	16.2	16.7	
Education	12.1	14.8	
Social event (wedding, etc.)	1.8	6.8	***
Other	4.1	3.9	
	N	735	615
Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (*) , 5%(**) or 1%(***) levels.			

## 3.5 Impact: Women’s Empowerment

### 3.5.1 Women’s Empowerment Index

TANGO constructed a Women’s Empowerment Index (WEI) for CARE modelled after the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).<sup>22</sup> Similar to the WEAI, two sub-indices comprise CARE’s WEI—the Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE) and Gender Parity.

The 5DE reflects the percentage of women who are considered empowered, based on their empowerment score. This score is calculated from 13 weighted indicators within five domains: production, resources, income, leadership, and family life (Annex 6 presents the domains, their total weight within the index, and the weight of each indicator). CARE’s WEI includes 9 of the 10 indicators that comprise the WEAI,<sup>23</sup> as well as indicators for political participation, mobility, self-confidence, and attitudes on gender, for a total of 13 indicators distributed among the five domains. A woman who achieves an empowerment score of .80 or greater is considered to be empowered.

The 5DE index is calculated using the following formula.

<sup>22</sup> International Food Policy Research Institute. 2012. *Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index*. IFPRI, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and Feed the Future. Washington, D.C.

<sup>23</sup> The WEI does not include the indicator for workload, however this topic was explored by the qualitative team.

$$5DE = H_e + H_d A_e = (1 - H_d A)$$

Where:

$H_e$  is the percentage of empowered women

$H_d$  is the percentage of disempowered women

$A_e$  is the average absolute empowerment score among the disempowered

Table 13 shows that **female participants in the WE-RISE project have experienced a decent gain in empowerment— both the level of empowerment and the prevalence of women who have achieved empowerment.** The mean 5DE score increased from .58 to .67. Worth noting is that the score for women in male-headed households increased from .53 to .64.

In addition to a greater level of empowerment, more women crossed the .80 threshold of CARE’s criteria for the WEI. In three years, the prevalence of empowered women increased from 20% to 31%.

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
Women's 5 domains of empowerment - mean score for all women in sample					
All households	0.58	0.67	***	739	618
Women in female HHHs	0.74	0.74		159	186
Women in male HHHs	0.53	0.64	***	580	432
% of women achieving empowerment (.80 or greater)					
All households	20.2	31.4	***	739	618
Female HHHs	50.9	59.1		159	186
Male HHHs	11.7	19.4	***	580	432

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

Domains where WE-RISE participants experience gains for all indicators are Resources, Income, and Leadership/ Community. More women are also achieving empowerment within the Production and Autonomy domains. At endline, the percentage of women stating they have decision-making input to all household production domains increased by almost 12 percentage points (69% EL versus 58% BL). Women’s sole or joint ownership of 75% of all household assets also increased (69% EL versus 58% BL), as has women’s control over the purchase and sale of these assets (76% EL versus 65% BL). Women’s access to and control of credit increased almost 11 percentage points to 83% at endline.

There is a small, but important, gain in women’s control over household income and expenditures, which at endline is almost seven percentage points higher than it was in 2012 ( 60% EL versus 53% BL).

The largest gains occur within the domain of leadership and community. Women’s agency substantially increased—more than 74% now report they are comfortable speaking about gender and other community issues at the local level—only 45% stated this was true at baseline. Women’s self-confidence also soared by more than 20 percentage points (87% EL versus 72% BL). The percentage of women who express gender equitable attitudes about roles and norms increased from 37% to 44%, yet with fewer than half of all women achieving the indicator it is an area that still needs to gain traction.

Areas in which there is no detectable change and which qualitative findings show are still challenging for women are: mobility (50% achievement) and autonomy in production (38% achievement).

**Table 14: Five domains of empowerment**

Domain	Indicator	% of women achieving indicator		Sample Size		
		BL	EL	BL	EL	
Production	With decision-making input for all HH productive decision domains	57.7	***	69.3	731	615
	With autonomy in one or more HH production domains	38.4		38.4	731	615
Resources	With sole or joint ownership of 75% of household assets	57.7	***	69.2	728	614
	With sole or joint control over purchase or sale of 75% household assets	65.0	***	75.7	728	614
	With access to and control of credit	72.8	***	83.3	628	588
Income	With control over household income and expenditures in 60% of HH decision-making domains	52.9	***	59.8	735	615
Leadership & community	Participating in formal and informal groups	97.3	***	99.8	731	615
	Confident speaking about gender and other community issues at the local level	45.4	***	74.2	735	615
	Demonstrating political participation	83.1	***	91.9	736	615
	Who express self-confidence in 5 of 7 statements	65.8	***	86.7	735	615
Autonomy	Satisfied with the amount of time available for leisure activities	81.6		83.9	735	615
	Achieving a mobility score of 16 or greater	48.2		50.1	735	615
	Expressing attitudes that support gender equitable roles in family life	37.2	***	44.2	736	615

*Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*) , 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.*

The WEI also examines men's and women's parity in each empowerment domain. Gender parity measurements are based only on households in which a man and a woman answered questionnaire modules respective to their sex. Thus, no female-only households are included, and no households where a man was unavailable to respond to the male portion of the questionnaire are included. Empowerment scores are constructed (as defined above) for all men and women.

The largest gaps between men's and women's achievement of empowerment remain in the domains of income, production, although the gaps are narrowing substantially (Table 15). The greatest shift toward parity occurs in women's control over household income and expenditures—the 51 percentage point spread between men and women at baseline is reduced by half, to 25 percentage points; likewise, the 42 percentage point spread between men and women at baseline for control of productive decisions is reduced by 17 points.

One gap at baseline favoured women—participation in formal or informal groups. This gap narrowed substantially as well, with a much larger number of males achieving this indicator (93% versus 73%).

Like women, males are also much more likely to be empowered in the Leadership and Community domain than they were at baseline, with a statistical difference noted for three of four indicators making up this domain (group participation, public speaking, and self-confidence). The vast majority of men at baseline (94%) already achieved the indicator for political participation; thus it is not surprising that change was not detected for the fourth indicator in this domain. Men are less likely than women to have access to credit or to achieve the indicator for group participation; however the gaps are relatively small. These results mirror baseline findings.



**Table 15: Gender parity**

Domain	Indicator	% achieving indicator at baseline			% achieving indicator at endline				
		Females	Difference F & M	Males	Females	Difference F & M	Males	Females BL to EL	Males BL to EL
PRODUCTION	With decision-making input for all HH productive decision domains	46.1	+++	87.1	63.8	+++	87.8	***	
	With autonomy in one or more HH production domains	19.2	+++	62.7	20.7	+++	43.5		***
RESOURCES	With sole or joint ownership of 75% of household assets <sup>a</sup>	51.0	++	62.9	64.7	+	72.6	***	***
	With sole or joint control over purchase or sale of 75% household assets <sup>a</sup>	63.9	+++	86.6	72.6	+++	90.9	***	***
	With access to and decisions on credit	72.1		72.0	82.7	++	76.2	Not tested <sup>d</sup>	Not tested
INCOME	With control over household income and expenditures <sup>b</sup>	37.6	+++	88.1	50.8	+++	76.0	***	***
LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY	Participating in formal and informal groups	96.9	+++	73.8	99.7	+++	93.0	***	***
	Confident speaking about gender and other community issues at the local level	51.0	+++	68.0	78.4	+++	85.4	***	***
	Demonstrating political participation	85.6	+++	94.3	91.5	++	96.1	**	
	Who express self-confidence	65.6	++	73.9	88.8		90.6	***	***
AUTONOMY	Satisfied with the amount of time available for leisure activities	83.0		84.1	84.5		81.2		
	Expressing attitudes that support gender equitable roles in family life	38.0		42.1	45.6		40.7	*	
	Achieving a mobility score of 16 or greater	35.1		-	48.3	**	52.9	***	
	N <sup>c</sup>	193-194		193-194	328- 329		328- 329		

<sup>a</sup> excluding poultry, non-mechanized farm equipment, and small consumer durables as modelled in the WEAI. This indicator is based on the female respondent's perception of who makes decisions on household assets. Male respondents were not directly asked questions about asset ownership and control.

<sup>b</sup> excluding minor household expenditures as modelled in the WEAI.

<sup>c</sup> Specific N values for each indicator are presented in Annex 5.

<sup>d</sup> Test across surveys not completed due to a difference in credit access between males and females in households with a male and female respondent. Used smallest N for pairwise testing between sexes.

Endline results statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5% (\*\*) or 1% (\*\*\*) levels.

Male results statistically different (pairwise) from Females (during same time period) at the 10% (+), 5% (++) or 1% (+++) levels.

### 3.6 Project Participant Perceptions of Impact

To understand saturation of project activities and participant’s perceived impact on the household, the endline survey asks male and female respondents to list who within the household participated in each type of activity. Follow up questions explore perceived level of well-being compared to 2012.

As expected, virtually all women surveyed are members of a WE-RISE VSLA; in 23% of these households the male is also a savings group member. The next most common activities for women to participate in are producer group (58%), cooking demonstrations (57%), and gender dialogues (52%). Just over a third (35%) have taken part in seed multiplication activities, 27% attended literacy training, and 22% belong to a marketing committee. The most common activity for male spouses to take part in is a producer group, with 31% of interviewed males stating they belong to this group. Less than one-fourth of men have taken part in gender dialogues, and only 11% consider themselves to be male motivators. Project activities seldom include other household members with fewer than 1% reporting participation for all activities with exception of producer groups (2%) and VSLA (3%).

**Table 16: Women reporting household participation in CARE activities**

n=618	Self	Spouse	Other HH member	No one
VSLA	97.4	22.8	3.1	0.8
Producer group	57.8	31.1	2.3	36.2
Cooking demonstration	56.8	7.1	0.3	40.6
Gender dialogue	52.3	22.5	0.5	44.0
Seed multiplication	34.5	12.6	0.3	63.3
Literacy training	27.3	6.0	0.6	68.6
Marketing committee	22.0	14.1	0.8	72.7
Male motivator	5.5	10.8	0.6	84.8

**Female and male participants overwhelming believe their household is better off after participating in WE-RISE activities.** Only 8% of female respondents and 10% of male respondents state there has been no change to household well-being as a result of participating in WE-RISE

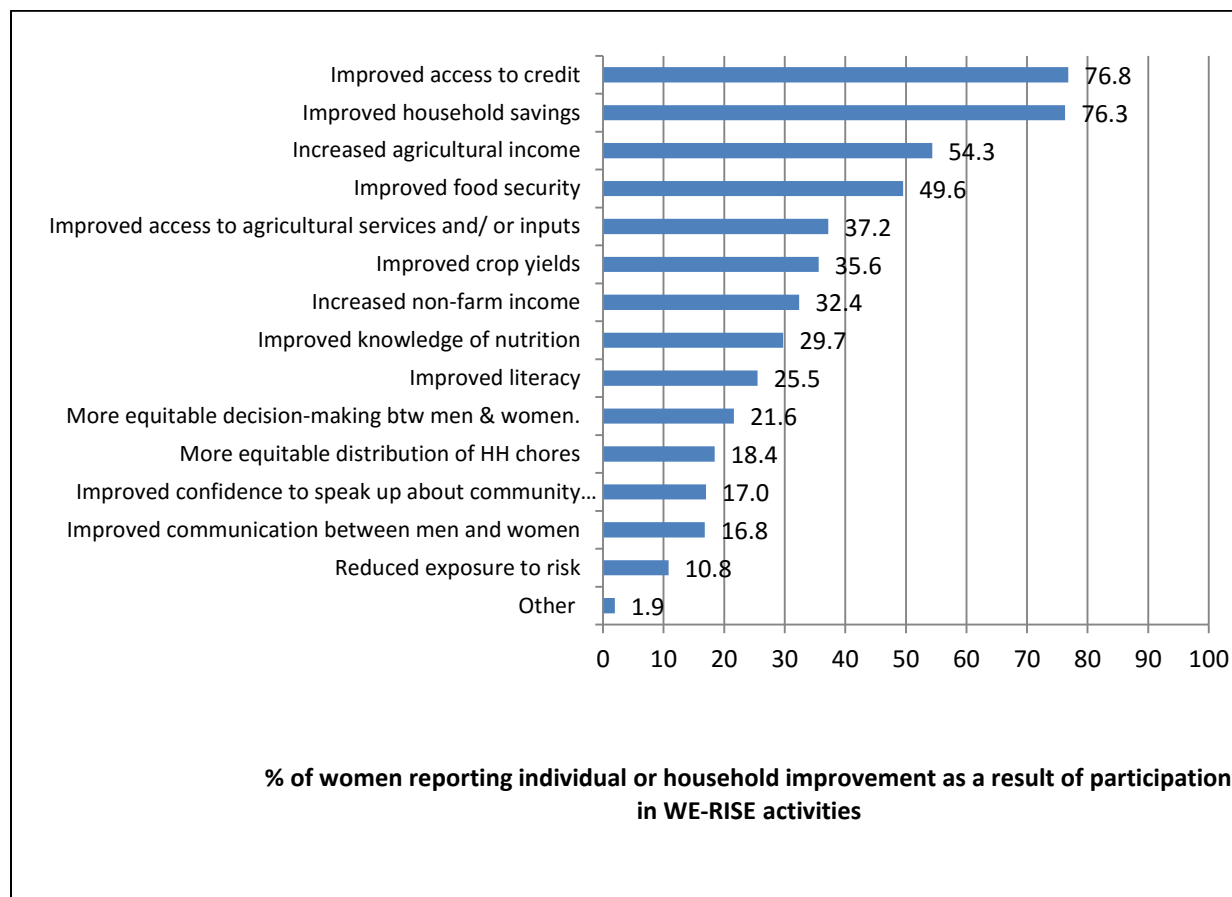
**Table 17: Participant perception of HH status after project participation**

	Female respondents	Male respondents
Better off than 4 years ago	89.0	88.2
Same as 4 years ago	7.6	10.3
Worse off than 4 years ago	1.0	.9
Better in some ways and worse in others	2.4	.6
n	618	330



The top improvements noted by females interviewed are improved access to credit, mentioned by 77%, improved household savings (76%), increased agricultural income (54%), and improved food security (50%). Approximately one-third of female participants believed that they or their households have better access to agricultural services and inputs (37%), better crop yields (36%) more non-farm income (32%) as a result of participating in WE-RISE. Between 17% and 22% of participants note changes that suggest increased gender equity within the household.

**Figure 7 : Participants’ perceptions of impact**



### 3.7 Outcome 1: Increased Productivity, Resources, and Resilience

*“Change Outcome 1: CFIRW have increased household productive assets and resource and control over these, and are more resilient to climate shocks”*

Per WE-RISE theory, increased income from agriculture primarily relies on smallholders having increased access to inputs and adopting improved agricultural and post-harvest practices—skills they can learn from FFTs and other community-based agents (CBA). Once farmers adopt improved agricultural skills, WE-RISE hypothesizes that, coupled with 1) new business and marketing skill knowledge, 2) adoption of improved post-harvest practices, and 3) increased capacity to reduce risk and adapt to climate change via initiatives such as small-scale irrigation, water harvesting, and crop diversification, small-holders will

have a greater marketable crop surplus, which they will be able to sell through improved market linkages.

Project activities were designed to improve access to gender-sensitive community-based agents and government staff; increase access to inputs; increase access to information about food and nutrition security, health and behaviour change, and marketing; increase marketable crop surplus and the ability to identify and meet local market opportunities; and finally, improve community capacity for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

To determine change in the status of poor women farmer's agricultural productivity this evaluation compares baseline and endline values for women's net income from agricultural production and/or related processing activities; the agricultural yield of crops supported by the project; the number and type of crops grown; women's access to and control over loans for income-generating activities (IGA)—discussed in Section 3.8.2, and whether women are adopting agricultural, livestock, storage, and post-harvest practices which promote sustainable production and value addition. The project also placed the adoption of negative coping strategies under Outcome 1; however, findings were shared earlier in Section 3.4.2.

Women who engage in any agricultural activity, including primary production, processing, or marketing of food, fiber, or fuel crops, large and small livestock, bees, fish, horticultural crops such as vegetables, fruit, nuts, berries, herbs or natural products (non-timber forest products and wild fisheries) were interviewed to understand numerous aspects of their involvement in and experiences with production. Women whose only involvement in agriculture is wage labour are not interviewed about these topics. Table 18 offers an overview of results for Change Outcome 1. Specific results are discussed in detail in sections 3.7.1 through 3.7.8.

Table 18: Change Outcome 1 indicators

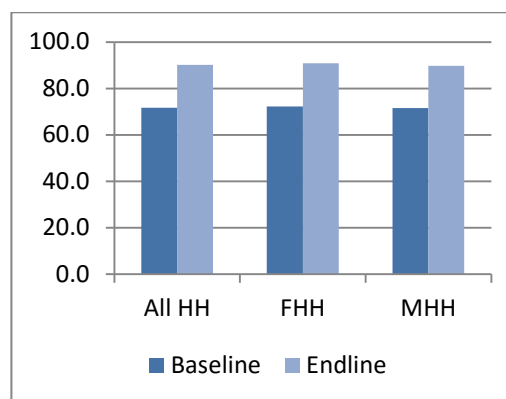
Change Outcome 1 : CFIRW have increased household productive assets and resources and control over them, and are more resilient to climate shocks						
	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Baseline	Restricted BL	Cumulative Target	Actual Achieved	
					ENDLINE 2015	
Productivity, Resources, and Resilience	Net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities <i>Current USD for restricted baseline and actual</i>	88.87	72.22	90.00	180.71	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	60.75	54.07	85.00	151.88	***
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	96.79	77.31	95.00	193.31	***
	Total annual yield per hectare: <i>Soya</i>	419.0	599.5	No target	649.0	
	Total annual yield per hectare: <i>Groundnut</i>	1451.3	738.7	No target	530.5	***
	Number of different crops grown	3.0	2.5	5.0	3.1	***
	<i>Female headed-households</i>	3.0	2.3	5.0	3.1	***
	<i>Male-headed households</i>	3.0	2.5	5.0	3.0	***
	% women with access to and control over loans for IGA	29.6	29.0	40.6	34.2	*
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	47.8	46.7	50.8	56.3	*
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	24.5	24.1	30.5	24.9	
	% women adopting three or more improved agricultural practices	43.5	44.7	52.2	66.0	***
	% women farmers adopting two or more post-harvest processes	58.2	58.7	70.0	68.6	***
	% women adopting one or more improved storage practice	36.7	37.3	40.4	27.0	***
	% women using one or more improved livestock practice	32.0	32.8	35.2	77.7	***
	% women accessing agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.) over the last 12 months	65.6	65.5	78.0	77.6	***
	% women accessing output markets to sell agricultural production over the last 12 months	31.8	28.5	40.0	51.9	***
	· % households adopting negative coping strategies in past 3 months	15.0	12.7	12.5	18.8	***
	<i>Female headed-households</i>	17.2	14.5	14.0	22.6	*
	<i>Male-headed households</i>	14.5	12.2	11.0	17.1	**
Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (*), 5%(**) or 1%(***) levels.						
Cells shaded orange indicate data are trending in the wrong direction.						

### 3.7.1 Women's Income from Agriculture

Since 2012, the percentage of households with a woman earning farm income increased by 18 percentage points, from 72% at baseline to 90% at endline (Figure 8). This is true for both female- and male-headed households.

**Women's annual net income from agricultural production<sup>24</sup> has substantially increased over the past three years from 72 USD to 181 USD, and has greatly surpassed the end of project target of 90 USD (Table 19).** Income more than doubled for women farmers in female-headed households, and tripled for women in male-headed households. The former group still earns considerably less net annual farm income than the latter (151 USD versus 193 USD).

**Figure 8 : Percentage of households with women earning farm income**



All categories statistically different from baseline 1% level.

**Table 19: Women's net annual income from agricultural production**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 3.1 Mean annual net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities (Current USD 2015 ) Base year 2012.					
All households	72.22	180.71	***	525	536
Female HHHs	54.07	151.88	**	115	163
Male HHHs	77.31	193.31	***	410	373
Median annual net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities (Current USD 2015) Base year 2012.					
All households	28.29	60.50		525	536
Female HHHs	28.29	45.24		115	163
Male HHHs	26.87	65.40		410	373
OC 3.1 Mean annual net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities (MWK). Base year 2012.					
All households	33,127.47	88,619.70	***	525	537
Female HHHs	24,803.96	69,667.66	**	115	163
Male HHHs	35,462.11	96,879.55	***	410	374
Median annual net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities (MWK) Base year 2012.					
All households	12,975.00	28,000.00		525	537
Female HHHs	12,975.00	20,750.00		115	163
Male HHHs	12,326.25	30,000.00		410	374

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*) , 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.  
Only conducted for "Means"

The median annual net income for women (a value less-likely to be influenced by extreme data values) is much lower than the mean, at 28 USD for the total sample at baseline and 61 USD at endline—still, when viewing median values, income has more than doubled for all household categories since 2012. Qualitative

<sup>24</sup> Women's reported mean annual net agricultural income is calculated from estimated women's estimated sole and/ or joint earnings from agricultural sources, minus estimated annual costs of inputs for each income source.

evidence shows that women link increased agricultural income to increased participation in soya and groundnut production.

### 3.7.2 Women's Agricultural Yields

Yields (kilogram (kg) per hectare) are calculated for soya and groundnuts (crops promoted by the project) and maize, based on reported production in the 12 months prior to the survey. Table 20 demonstrates that there is **no detectable change in soya yields from 2012 to 2015**, although data are trending in the preferred direction (649 per hectare versus 600 per hectare at baseline),<sup>25</sup> **and there is a substantial decline in groundnut and maize yields per hectare** (groundnuts 739 BL vs 531 EL, and maize 1850 BL vs 1559 EL). There is no detectable change in the amount of land devoted to any of the three crops, and the same patterns of change hold for total annual yields.

Crop	Point Estimate		Sample Size	
	BL	EL	BL	EL
<b>Outcome 1.2: Yield kg. per hectare</b>				
Crops directly supported by WE-RISE				
<i>Soya</i>	599.5	649.0	169	344
<i>Groundnut</i>	738.7	*** 530.5	342	407
Crops not directly supported by WE-RISE				
<i>Maize</i>	1850.3	*** 1559.3	441	477
<b>Total annual yield</b>				
Crops directly supported by WE-RISE				
<i>Soya</i>	108.0	108.0	210	374
<i>Groundnut</i>	157.5	*** 112.5	399	425
Crops not directly supported by WE-RISE				
<i>Maize</i>	1000.0	*** 720.0	474	501

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5% (\*\*) or 1% (\*\*\*) levels.

The finding that project participants have not experienced any change in soya yields from baseline to endline, and have faced declining crop production for groundnuts does not indicate that production has never improved for either of these crops during the past three years. In fact, 2015 was a particularly difficult year for farmers. District reports indicate that extended dry periods caused local maize production to fall by 35 to 50 percent in Dowa District, in comparison to the five-year average.<sup>26</sup> The drought impacted 17,373 households in Chiwere TA and 4,673 households in Kalumbu TA.<sup>27</sup> Interviews with Ministry of Agriculture officers indicate that groundnuts, a rain-fed crop also suffered severe

<sup>25</sup> Soya yields may have increased. The sample size is too small to detect with 90% confidence whether the 8% difference is statistically significant.

<sup>26</sup> FEWS NET Malawi Food Security Outlook. July to December 2015. [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Malawi\\_FSO\\_2015\\_07\\_1.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Malawi_FSO_2015_07_1.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Government of Malawi. 2015. 2015/2016 National Food Insecurity Response Plan. September, 2015. No data noted for Kalumbu TA.

declines in production. Table 42, Annex 5 demonstrates that insufficient rain was the main reason respondents attributed to the decline in production.

Furthermore, the 2012-13 season hosted unusually favourable weather conditions for groundnuts,<sup>28</sup> which may have positively skewed baseline results. At midterm in 2014, virtually all interviews with focus groups and key informants indicated that maize, soya and groundnut yields had improved since participants began engaging with community extension workers and purchasing inputs with VSLA shares or loans.

There is a notable disconnect between the large increase in women’s agricultural income and the decrease or stagnant levels for women’s agricultural yields. Several factors could influence the conflicting data points. First, while yields may not have improved in 2015 compared to 2012, prices for corn, soya, and groundnuts did increase substantially. Effectually, women could be earning more or the same despite lower yields. Second, the survey recall period is 12 months for both data points. The survey took place within harvest season, when production may have been harvested but may not have yet been sold. If this were true, households could be reporting yields for 2015 crops and income from the 2014 harvest, which reportedly was much higher. Third, there are many new growers of both soya and groundnuts since baseline. The percentage of households (male- and female-headed) with a woman earning farm income increased by almost 20 percentage points since baseline. Due to learning curves, new growers may be less likely to have high yields when they first start cultivating a product. Their yield per hectare may pull down the mean value.

Finally, survey results for participants perceptions of impact support the theory that, with the exception of 2015 yields, project participants have indeed increased their productivity. More than one-third (36%) of women state that a key improvement to their lives as a result of WE-RISE participation is better crop yields; 54% claim project participation has helped to increase household farm income.

### 3.7.3 Crop Diversification

WE-RISE efforts to diversify food crops primarily relied on seed distribution. In year three alone, the project distributed over 25,000 kilograms (kg) of seed for staple and value chain crops (maize, 1000 kg.; soya, 7500 kg.; beans, 9050 kg., groundnut, 8000 kgs.) and 4525 packets of vegetable seed, such as mustard, onion, carrot, tomato and cabbage.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, 112

**Table 21: Crop diversity**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 3.3: Number of different crops grown					
All households	2.5	3.1	***	603	611
Female-headed households	2.3	3.2	***	131	181
Male-headed households	2.5	3.0	***	472	430

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

<sup>28</sup> Fitzgerald, G. 2015. The production of ready to use therapeutic food in Malawi: Smallholder farmers’ experience with groundnut production. Results from a four year livelihoods analysis in Malawi’s Central region. Department of Food Business and Development. University College Cork.

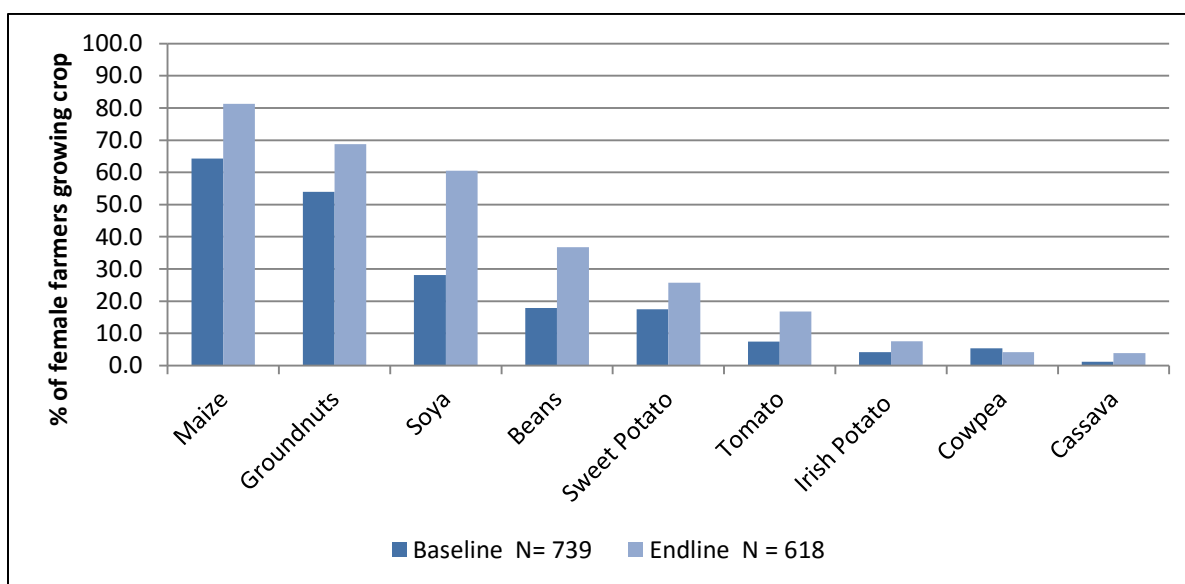
<sup>29</sup> Project Documents. WE-RISE Annual Achievements (2011-2014). WE-RISE Malawi Project Annual Progress Report (year 3- July 13 – June 14).

sweet potato nurseries in Dowa allowed for starts of the improved sweet potato variety, Zondeni, to be distributed to farmers for further multiplication.

Across the sample the mean number of crops grown by women has increased by half of a crop, from 2.5 to 3.1 (Table 21); **female-headed households have increased the number of crops by almost one full crop**. Data show high probability that if a household adopted a new crop it was soya, groundnuts, beans, or tomatoes. Despite these positive results, WE-RISE did not meet the end of project target of five crops. Figure 9 shows great diversity in the types of new crops that female farmers are adopting.

Similar to baseline, the main crops grown are maize, groundnuts and soya; however at endline, as demonstrated in Figure 9, **the number of women who are growing soya has more than doubled** (61% versus 28%,  $p < .001$ ); **bean and tomato cultivation has more than doubled** (37% versus 18%,  $p < 001$  beans; 17% vs 7% tomato), and **substantially more women are growing groundnuts** (69% versus 54%,  $p < .01$ ) and maize (81% vs. 64%).

**Figure 9 : Crops grown by female farmers**



With exception of cowpea, all changes statistically significant at the 1% level.

Given the substantial increase in farm income despite declines in maize and groundnut yields, and the minute increase in dietary diversity, despite a large increase in crop diversity, it is reasonable to assume that people are selling rather than eating the new crops, and that at least some of the increase in farm income is due to vegetable sales. Qualitative evidence supports this theory. Transit walks and observations in all village visited indicate a notable increase in vegetable stands since



baseline; interviews with CARE staff and focus group participants suggest similar changes are taking place across the implementation area.

### 3.7.4 Women’s Agricultural and Post-harvest Practices

Community-based extension agents / farmer-to-farmer trainers (FFT) are the main channel through which WE-RISE has been encouraging women to adopt improved agricultural practices. Demonstration plots are a key factor in FFT outreach. Qualitative evidence shows that the FFTs are highly valued by the community and by the Ministry of Agriculture and project participants directly link the adoption of practices to the knowledge shared by the FFTs.

**Sampled women are more likely to use improved agricultural practices than they were at baseline.** In 2012, close to half of surveyed women (45%) stated they had adopted three or more of the practices CARE WE-RISE considers to be improved; three years later, that percentage has increase substantially to almost 66% (Table 22) and surpassing the end of project target of 52%.

**Table 22: Women's agricultural and post-harvest practices**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 1.5: % women adopting three or more improved agricultural practices	44.7	66.0	***	472	430
OC 1.6: % women farmers adopting two or more value chain processes	58.7	68.6	***	603	611
OC 1.7: % women adopting improved storage practices	37.3	27.0	***	603	611
OC 1.8: % women using one or more improved livestock practice	32.8	77.7	***	603	611

*Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.*

**Endline results indicate that of the ten improved practices asked about, seven practices have more farmers using them compared to baseline.** Figure 10 shows that the greatest increases in number of farmers using improved practices occurred for: adoption of improved seeds, use of irrigation technologies, crop diversity, and use of manure or composting. Specifically, the number of female farmers using improved seeds has increased by 31% points, doubling the number of women who reported this practice at baseline (25% versus 56%).

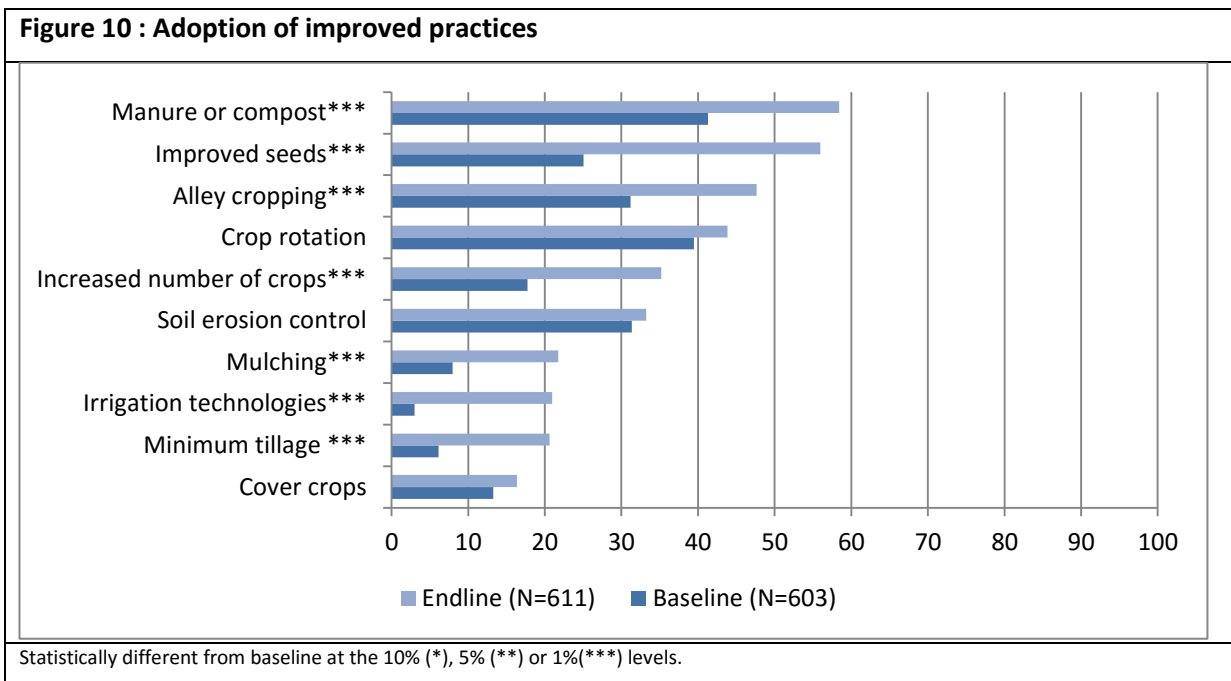
All of the practices that experienced large increases are promoted by the WE-RISE project. For example, in addition to seed distribution discussed in Section 3.7.3, the project procured PVC piping, cement, and construction tools for maintenance in order to promote irrigation for winter cropping, and has continued to promote hand-irrigation,

*“In the past I used to do a lot of ganyu to buy food for my family but since last year when I went for training at Mponela that was provided by CARE, I managed to harvest enough food to feed my family for the whole year. They taught us that we can use sasakawa (planting one maize seed per station) and apply fertilizer using a bottle top after the maize has germinated and again after the maize plant is knee high. Using that method I harvested a lot of maize.”*

*FGD participant – Ulaya GVH*



particularly in Chiwere TA. Per qualitative interviews with FFTs, and Ministry of Agriculture officials, joint-field days with the Ministry, and local demonstration sites have been critical to promoting practices such as intercropping, weeding, and composting.



There has also been a substantive increase in the number of female farmers adopting two or more value-chain processes, such as sorting, grading, packaging, bulk sales through producer groups, or bulk transport. Nearly 69% of female farmers surveyed state they have adopted two or more post-harvest practices, compared to 59% at baseline. Analysis was not carried out to determine exactly what type of activities contributed to the increase, but project document review and qualitative findings suggest that the majority of the increase is due to bulk sales. The scale of training on post-harvest processing has been very small (i.e., 20 people trained in bakery), and while valued by participants, is not sufficient to result in such an increase.

The WE-RISE program in Malawi planned to strengthen post-harvest management by training communities in improved crop/seed storage systems, including demonstration units. The midterm evaluation found that although farmers were trained in the use of *nkhokwe* (outdoor grain banks) there was minimal uptake of this technique due to fear of theft. Instead, farmers store crops inside their homes. Interviews with staff indicate the project elected to reduce focus on this output and prioritize other areas that seemed less resistant to change.

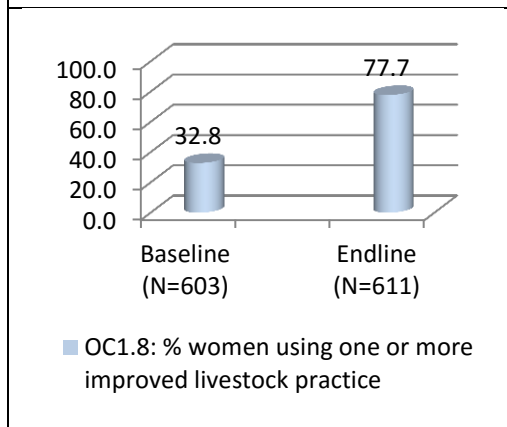
Nevertheless, in accordance with the global M&E framework, the endline evaluation captured whether any change had occurred since baseline. Table 22 displays the results, which show that just over one-third of (37%) female farmers reported using improved storage at baseline, and in accordance with the project reducing focus in this area, the percentage has declined to just over one-fourth of women at endline (25%).

### 3.7.5 Women's Livestock Practices

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture extension staff, WE-RISE contributed to the training of 100 community Paravets, whose role was to promote improved livestock practices.

At baseline, among all female farmers who owned livestock, 33% reported practicing one or more forms of improved livestock management (Figure 11). At endline, this figure has drastically increased to 78%, far beyond the end of project target of 35%. It is difficult to fully attribute these results to the WE-RISE project, due to the relatively new, and small-scale of the project's efforts. Nevertheless, the project can take credit for contributing to the positive results.

**Figure 11 : Adoption of improved livestock practices**



### 3.7.6 Women's Access to Agricultural Inputs

By design, activities related to Outcome 1, intended to improve access to productivity-enhancing inputs, such as seed and fertilizer via collective purchase, improved linkages to input suppliers, and support to VSL groups/ members to operate as input suppliers.

The baseline survey found that almost two-thirds (66%) of female farmers had accessed agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers from at least one external source (e.g., Government program, agro dealer, local supplier) in the 12 months prior to the survey (Table 23), yet only 1.3% used a cooperative group to do so (Figure 12). **At endline, WE-RISE reached its end of project target: 78% of women report they have accessed such inputs, and the percentage sourcing the inputs from cooperatives has jumped to almost 20%.** It must be noted, that for a project whose design theory purports that success of higher level goals will rest heavily on improved access to inputs, it is surprising that the end of project targets were set only 12 percentage points higher than baseline.

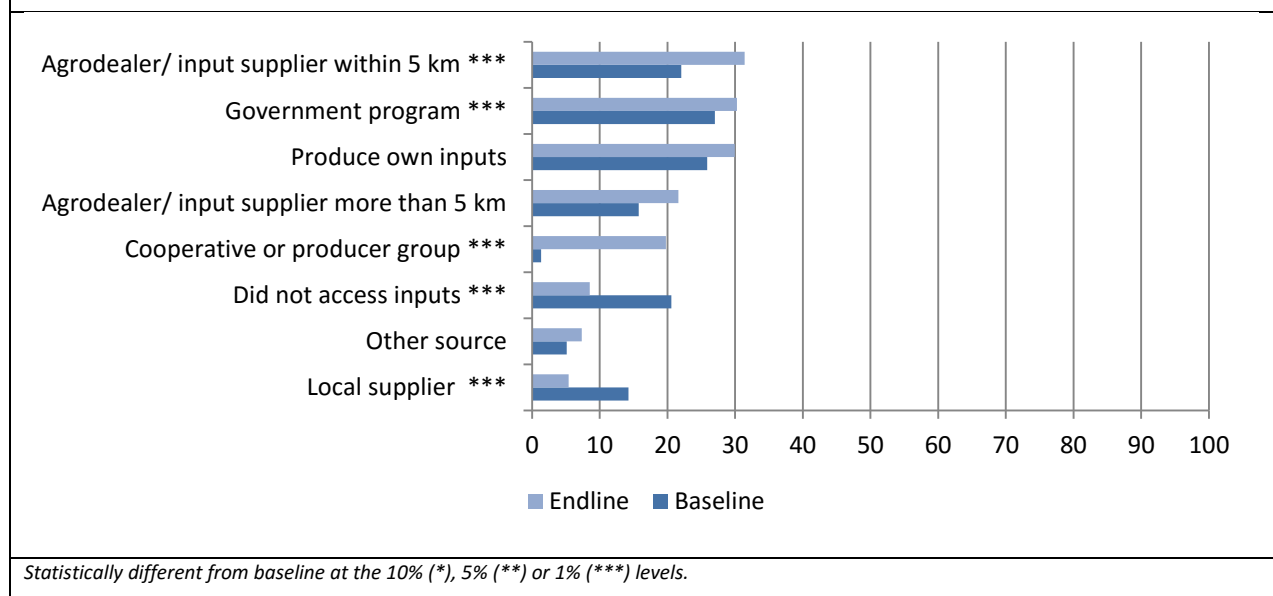
**Table 23: Women's access to agricultural inputs**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 1.9: % women accessing agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.) over the last 12 months	65.5	77.58	***	603	611

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

At baseline, women were primarily sourcing inputs from a government program (quite likely the Malawi Agricultural Input Subsidy Program), producing their own inputs, or getting them from an agrodealer within 5 km. The top sources remain the same at endline, but more women are accessing from agrodealers within 5 km (31% EL versus 22% BL), from government programs (30% EL versus 27% BL), and as mentioned from cooperatives or producer groups. Fewer women are accessing inputs from local suppliers (5% EL versus 14% BL) and fewer state they are not accessing inputs from any source (9% EL versus 21% BL).

**Figure 12 : Women’s sources of agricultural inputs in last 12 months**



It is interesting to note that the number of female farmers who report they rely on inputs which they produce themselves has increased from 20% to 33%. In conjunction with the finding that shows a dramatic increase (43% BL to 58% EL) in the use of compost and manure (Table 22 section 3.7.3), a sustainable and improved agricultural practice, and one promoted by WE-RISE, it is plausible that this group of farming women seek to optimize the use of on-farm resources and minimize the use of expensive purchased inputs. Therefore, although these women will not be counted in the tabulation of CARE’s Outcome Indicator: % women accessing agricultural inputs over the last 12 months,<sup>30</sup> they may very well increase their own short-term farm profitability by lowering production costs; improve long-term sustainability by reducing surface and groundwater pollution; and protect household health by reducing pesticide residues in food.

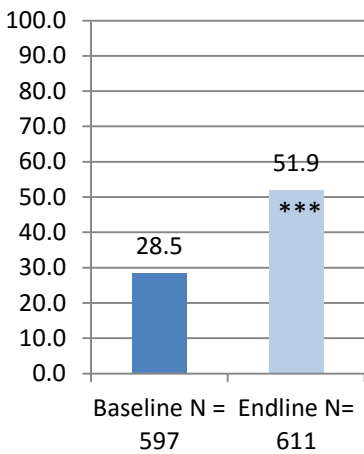
### 3.7.7 Women’s Access to Output Markets

Through the development of clusters and networks of producer groups, CARE WE-RISE aimed to improve marketing and negotiation power for CFIRW. Market opportunity analysis and the development of market training modules were planned for Year 2, simultaneous with training for business and marketing skills.

Figure 13 shows that at baseline only 29% of women surveyed had accessed an output market (outside of the local market) to sell their agricultural production in the last 12 months. **At endline, this number has increased by more than 20 percentage points to (52%) surpassing the project’s cumulative target of 40%.** Figure 14 displays results for reported sales points where women state they have sold at least a portion of their production compared to the sales point at baseline.

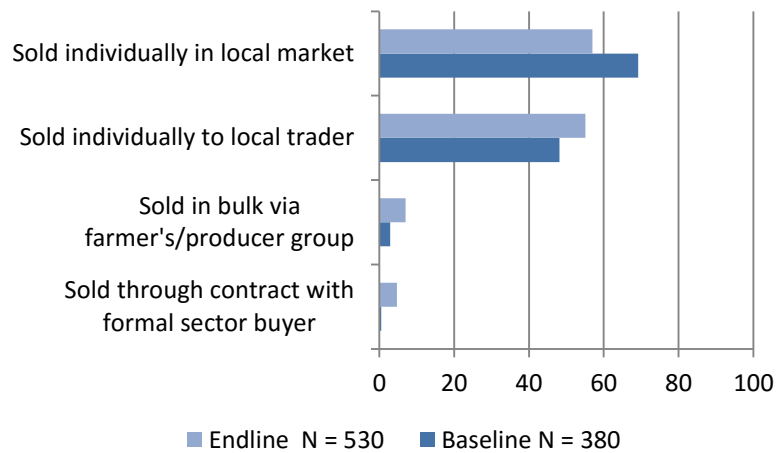
<sup>30</sup> The tabulation of Outcome indicator 2.5 in the Global M&E plan does not include “produce own inputs” as a qualifying response.

**Figure 13 : % women accessing output markets**



Statistically different from baseline at the 1% (\*\*\*) level.

**Figure 14 : Reported source of sale**



No statistical tests conducted.

Qualitative findings demonstrate that while the project may indeed have achieved the outcome of improved market access for targeted women, there is substantial room for improvement.

At baseline, in very few cases did FGD participants report that VSLA members were operating producer cooperatives oriented at generating income. At endline, interviewed participants state that producer groups were formed sometime between 2013 and 2014 with high expectations that farmers would be able to sell their crops through the groups, but in their opinion “the groups are not functioning at all”. Key informants with the Ministry of Agriculture agree this is a weaker part of the program. **The consensus among interviewed participants is that small farmers are seldom able to make a profit because they are not linked to appropriate markets and do not have the skills to negotiate within the market.** Men and women report it is very difficult to sell produce to any other source beyond the vendors who come to their villages, who often cheat them.<sup>31</sup> Similar to mid-term findings, several factors underscore the lack of progress in this area: there is a paucity of markets, insufficient linkages to larger buyers, little understanding of the benefit of waiting until larger buyers arrive to purchase crops, and often little financial capacity to wait for formal buyers to arrive. Numerous focus groups shared the frustration that “the buyers come late” and they must sell to vendors who offer very low prices. Findings from key informants suggest that what is perceived as “late” by small farmers is simply later than the middlemen, who typically show up one month before the formal markets open. WE-RISE staff insist that other villages are having successful marketing experiences. This is certainly plausible and is supported by the data that show more than have of farmers believe the project has contributed to increased agricultural income; however, across the six villages visited, two of which were specifically selected as positive examples of marketing, there is no variance in the less-than favourable finding.

<sup>31</sup> The calculation of the access to output market indicator counts the response “sold individually to trader/ collector.” This is often middlemen who offer low prices. If using this question in future surveys, it would be more accurate to modify the response menu such that middlemen are not tallied in greater access to output markets.

Although WE-RISE carried out some small marketing studies, nothing substantive had taken place by 2015. In all communities visited at endline, male and female focus group participants and key informants state that **training to improve marketing and negotiation power or learn new business skills is not adequate—when training occurs, it is described as a one-off session with no follow-up.** In ranking exercises, where participants were asked to rank all WE-RISE activities based on the positive contribution they make to individual or household well-being, marketing committees and collective buying, business skill training, and producer groups are the three lowest ranking activities.

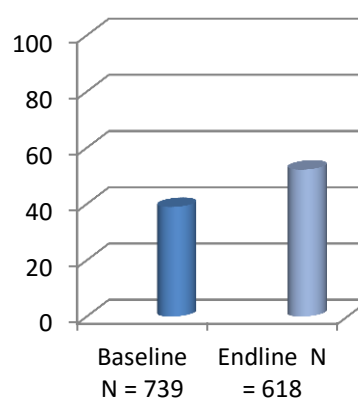
### 3.7.8 Shocks and Adaptation

Table 24 shows that **on average households experienced one more shock in the past 5 years, than they had at baseline** ( 3.5 versus 2.7.); the increase is less for female-headed households who were more likely to experience a shock at baseline than male-headed counterparts (3.6 at endline versus 3.1 at baseline). The main shocks contributing to the increase are drought (up by 37 percentage points), hailstorm (up by 17 percentage points); failure or bankruptcy of a business (up by 9 percentage points), and increased disease (up by 7 percentage points). Each of these shocks is experienced by more than 40% of respondents, with some shocks, such as epidemic disease, being experienced by 57% of the population. Dramatic food price increase continues to be the top shock reported by households, although the number of households reporting this shock has slightly declined from 84% to 79%.

When households were asked each shock directly impacted the household, “loss of income”, loss of food sources (“crops and/or livestock”), increased indebtedness, and increased hunger in household were the top responses for the four main shocks that households have experienced more often since baseline (disease, drought, hailstorm, and business failure). Given these results, it is logical to assume that the number of shocks experienced contributed to the increased percentage of households who reported food and income shortages (Table 8, Section 3.4.1).

**Of note is the percentage of households who cite the use of savings to cope with shock and stress** (Figure 15); **it has increased substantially across all shocks** (52% EL versus 39% BL) **indicating greater absorptive resilience capacity**, particularly for male-headed households (55% EL versus 39% BL). While data are trending in the right direction for female-headed households, no statistical difference is detected for this group.

**Figure 15: % of households using savings to cope with shock**



*Statistically different from baseline at the 1% (\*\*\*) level.*

**Table 24: Shocks**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
Number of shocks experienced per household					
All households	2.7	3.5	***	739	618
Female HHHs	3.1	3.6	***	159	186
Male HHHs	2.6	3.4	***	580	432
Percentage of households to experience each shock:					
Sudden or dramatic increase in food prices	83.5	79.3	**	739	618
Epidemic disease (crop, livestock, human)	49.7	56.5	**	739	618
Major drought	16.0	53.2	***	739	618
Hailstorm	30.6	47.7	***	739	618
Failure or bankruptcy of business	31.5	40.5	***	739	618
Chronic illness or severe accident of HH member	19.2	21.5		739	618
Major conflicts / theft	6.2	12.9	***	739	618
Divorce or abandonment	10.3	11.8		739	618
Death of HH income earning members	8.1	7.4		739	618
Waterlogging or flooding	6.6	6.5		739	618
Decreased or cut off regular remittances	5.1	5.3		739	618
Loss of a regular job of a HH member	3.8	3.1		739	618
Issues with division of father's property	1.6	2.9		739	618

*Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5% (\*\*) or 1% (\*\*\*) levels.*

Among households who had experienced at least one shock, baseline values are relatively high (85%) for households who reported using one or more adaptive strategy to protect themselves from the impact of a similar future shock (Table 25). There has been a small increase since 2012, 89% of all households now report using such strategies. **Male-headed households**, particularly, **are more inclined to adapt to shock**, with 91% now reporting at least one form of adaptation, compared to 85% at baseline.

Relative to WE-RISE efforts, two adaptation strategies stand out. Table 25 shows households at endline are much more likely to use drought tolerant or early maturing crops compared to three years ago (31% EL versus 13% BL); to invest in irrigation infrastructure (14% EL versus 5% BL); and to diversify income sources (50% EL versus 43% BL).



**Table 25: Adaptation to shock**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 1.12 % households using at least one adaptation strategies to reduce the impact of future shocks					
All households	84.5	88.8	**	696	614
Female HHHs	81.9	83.2		155	184
Male HHHs	85.2	91.2	***	541	430
<b>Adaptation strategies<sup>32</sup></b>					
Invested in savings	59.3	52.8	**	696	614
Diversified IGAs	42.5	49.8	***	696	614
Used drought tolerant/ early maturing crops	12.6	31.4	***	696	614
Stored food for future use		28.0		696	614
Purchase additional livestock	28.9	24.8	*	696	614
Invested in animal health care		20.0		696	614
Invested in irrigation infrastructure	5.3	14.2	***	696	614
Reinforced housing	8.5	13.2	***	696	614
Invested in human health care		8.1		696	614
Accessed additional land	11.9	7.7	***	696	614
Participated in conflict resolution		4.6		696	614
Improved drainage/ dam or dyke construction		2.0		696	614
Other	0.0	9.9		696	614

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

### 3.8 Outcome 2 – Enabling Institutional Environment

*“Change Outcome 2: Formal and informal institutions are more responsive to women’s priorities and accountable to upholding their rights.”*

A key focus of WE-RISE Change Outcome 2 is to improve the linkages between service providers (private sector, institutions, and government) and women farmers. Additionally, WE-RISE aims to develop the capacity of local institutions to promote democratic representative processes, increase awareness of women’s rights and inclusion of women into leadership positions, and to support communities to conduct community review meetings and develop links with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) for advocacy objectives.

To determine if change has taken place since baseline in any of these areas, the surveys explore women’s access to and satisfaction with agricultural extension services, women’s access to financial services, women’s participation and leadership in groups(formal and informal); and women’s self-confidence in public speaking.

<sup>32</sup> Some strategies were not specifically asked about at baseline, but appeared when respondents specified “other.” These were added to the menu of endline responses, but statistical tests cannot be carried out between the individual strategies.

Specific activities included under Outcome 2 focus on supporting VSL group formation including training and equipping the village agents; training and equipping adult literacy trainers and facilitating graduation; training communities to implement community scorecards; and raising awareness on right and responsibilities through drama presentations. The causal relationship between the activities designed for Outcome 2 and the anticipated outcomes is weak in some cases—for example, activities that would logically lead to increased access to and satisfaction with extension are included under Outcome 1, rather than Outcome 2. This is simply a matter of flawed causal logic in the M&E system rather than poor overall design. Of note, is that the project did conduct specific activities to meet all outcome indicators, regardless of where they housed these activities in the M&E framework.

Table 26 offers an overview of results for Change Outcome 2. Results are discussed in detail in sections 3.8.1 through 3.8.4.

<b>Outcome 2: Formal and informal local-level institutions are more responsive to women's priorities and accountable to upholding their rights.</b>						
	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Restricted BL</b>	<b>Cumulative Target</b>	<b>Actual Achieved</b>	
<b>Enabling Institutional Environment</b>	% women with access to agricultural extension services over last 12 months	27.4	26.8	40.0	77.5	***
	% women accessing agricultural financial services in last 12 months	87.3	88.1	95.0	94.4	***
	% women reporting satisfaction with agricultural extension services	91.2	91.0	97.0	93.6	***
	% women participating in formal and informal groups	97.3	97.3	98.5	99.8	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	95.7	95.6	98.0	100.0	***
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	97.8	97.7	99.0	99.8	***
	% women holding leadership positions in formal and informal groups	34.7	50.6	53.0	67.3	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	32.9	53.0	52.0	66.7	**
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	35.2	50.0	54.0	67.5	***
	% <i>Female</i> respondents confident speaking in public about gender and other community issues at the local level	45.3	45.4	60.0	74.1	***
	% <i>Male</i> respondents confident speaking in public about gender and other community issues at the local level	68.3	67.9	70.0	85.5	***
	<i>Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (*), 5%(**) or 1%(***) levels.</i>					

### 3.8.1 Women's Access to Agricultural Extension Services

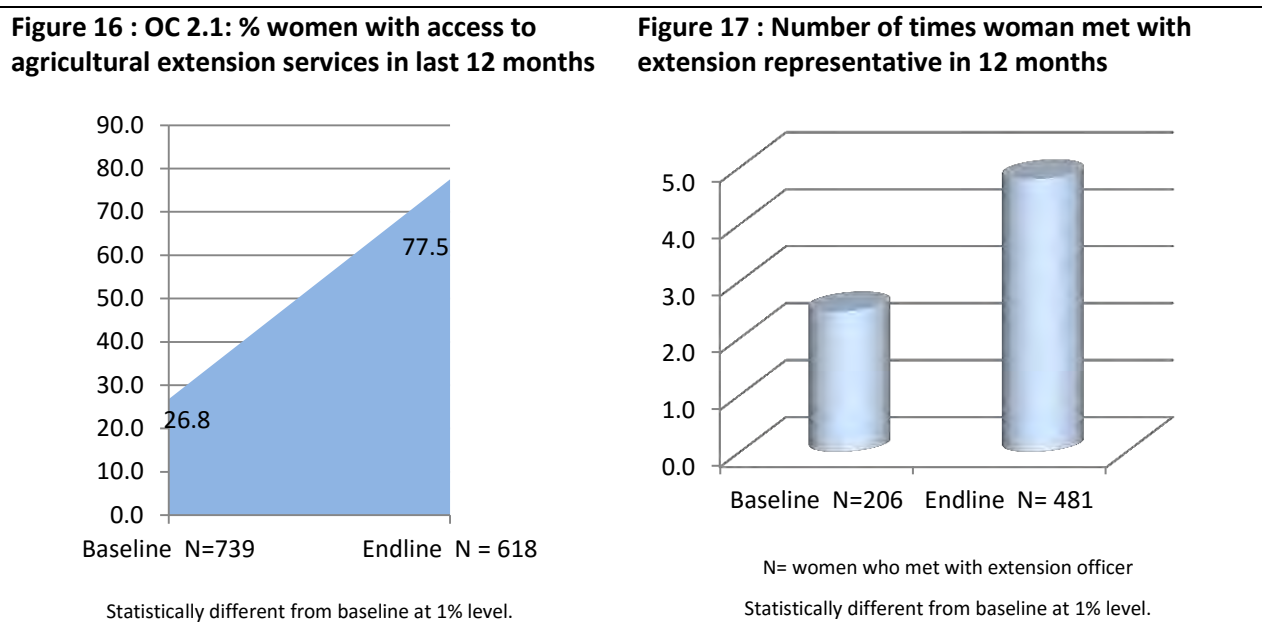
The project uses VSL groups as the source for selecting community-based agents (CBA) ( e.g., farmer-to-farmer trainers (FFT), and village agents (VA)), for training on topics such as agronomy, extension skills, post-harvest loss management, nutrition, and gender equity advocacy. WE-RISE then helps strengthen



linkages between the agents and district-level structures. Providing training on processing and paravet skills to FFTs was planned, but not yet implemented by August 2015.

Qualitative community interviews indicate that generally communities either elect a person who they feel is fit to serve as a community extension officer, or chiefs nominate people whom they feel are suitable for the voluntary position. Anecdotal evidence suggests that, in some cases, a chief will assign men and women to the position without consulting them.

**Access to agricultural extension increased dramatically over the three year period.** At baseline only 27% of female respondents stated they, themselves, had met with an agricultural extension worker or a livestock / fisheries worker in the last 12 months (Figure 16); three years later, that number increased to nearly 78%, exceeding the project’s cumulative target of 40%.<sup>33</sup> Figure 17 demonstrates that the frequency of visits with an extension representative almost doubled (2.5 times in the last 12 months at baseline compared to 4.8 visits in the last 12 months at endline). Similar to baseline results, among women who had met with an extension worker, the vast majority of respondents (94%) are satisfied with the services provided.



Qualitative evidence supports the survey results. All FGD with female VSLA members report that agricultural information is more readily available to women compared to three years ago, due to community extension officers, government extensions officers, and the private sector whose link to the women is through a VSLA. In qualitative ranking activities, across all groups (male, female, and village development committees) **increasing access to extension services ranks as the third most effective**

<sup>33</sup> Similar to comments made about end of project targets for “access to inputs”, it is surprising that the end of project targets were set only 12 percentage points higher than baseline. The success of Outcome 1 and the overall goal rests substantially on increasing access to extension.

**project activity**, relative to impact on individual and household well-being. People interviewed specifically link increased access to extension services with the ability to get higher yields from small land parcels, but also appreciate additional information shared by extension providers such as nutrition tips, gender equality, the importance of savings, among other topics.

Qualitative interviews with non-members suggest that benefits related to extension access as a result of the WE-RISE project, are not limited to VSL members only. Most non-member FGDs spoke about spill over from the project and relate that they too, have more access to information about agriculture than they did three years ago due to the increased presence of community extension workers. Only one non-member FG in Kalumbu TA claims that the increase in extension services only benefits VSLA members.

*[Extension workers] “are the backbone to our success. We had no knowledge of how to improve our lives until extension services started coming.”*

Female FGD participant- Mbalame Village



Interviews with government extension staff suggest they are aware of gender issues and are committed to holding up women’s rights, however the meagre flow of public revenues to local levels of government severely constrain the provision of adequate extension services and access to government extension staff. They cite WE-RISE FFTs as being a great help to scale out services. Government extension staff consider the quality of FFT work and reporting to MOA to be very good, and assert that the FFTs are highly reliable, citing minimal drop out over the course of four years.

### 3.8.2 Women’s Access to Financial Services

Per the M&E framework, women’s access to and control over loans used for income-generating activities (IGA) falls under Outcome 1. The evaluation team believes it makes more sense to discuss the findings for this outcome indicator here, amidst other findings related to access to services.

Table 27 illustrates a small increase in the number of households where women have access to and control over loans used for IGA.<sup>34</sup> Among female VSLA members who took out loans of 1000 MWK

<sup>34</sup> Control over loans is defined as solely determining to take out the loan and solely determining how the borrowed capital was used.

(\$2.18 USD<sup>35</sup>) or more, and those who wanted to borrow but were unable to, 34% of women report at endline that they had access to and control over loans, and that they used these loans for income-generating activities such as investments in a business enterprise, the purchase of agricultural inputs or production assets, or the lease or purchase of land for agricultural purposes—an increase of 5 percentage points since baseline. The increase is even greater for women from female-headed households who now report that the majority (56%) have access to and control over such loans, up from 47% at baseline. Women in male-headed households do not experience any gain. Similar to baseline results, less than one-fourth (25%) of female VSLA members who reside in male-headed households report loan access, control, and use. WE-RISE surpassed its end of project target (50.8%) for this indicator for female-headed households and did not meet its end of project targets for all households or male-headed households. Of note is that targets for this indicator are set remarkably low—only a two percentage point increase is anticipated over three years for female-headed households and a six percentage point increase for male-headed households.

**Table 27: Access to and control over loans for income-generating activities**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 1.4: % women with access to and control over loans for IGA					
All households	29.0	34.2	*	625	588
Female-headed households	46.7	56.3	*	135	174
Male-headed households	24.1	24.9		490	414

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5% (\*\*), or 1% (\*\*\*) levels.

As at baseline, the source of loans for the vast majority of women (90%) is a VSLA. Very few respondents in survey took a loan from a formal lender (2% BL and .5% EL). Per interviewed groups, other lenders are available (e.g., CUMO, VisionFund) in some areas, but FG participants state that most women and men in their villages prefer the VSLA over these institutions because of less-desirable loan terms, and collateral requirements. Households who use the formal institutions are typically not VSLA members. Similar to midterm findings, the WE-RISE VSLAs remain highly relevant to women’s priorities and fill a wide gap in access to financial services.

The main use of loan capital is for food purchases. This was also true at baseline and is cause for concern, as borrowing for this purpose can often result in a cycle of debt. Data are also trending in the wrong direction for the number of women who report they are using loans to invest in small business capital (43% BL versus 39% EL).<sup>36</sup> On a positive note, data are trending in the right direction for the number of women who report using a loan to purchase agricultural inputs (19% BL versus 25% EL) and the number of women who report using loans to purchase livestock ( 1.8% versus 5.4%).<sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Based on August 2015 exchange rate of 1 MWK = 0.00218USD.

<sup>36</sup> Statistical tests of significance not conducted.

<sup>37</sup> Statistical tests of significance not conducted.

**Table 28: Women's use of loans**

Use of loan: multiple response	Baseline	Endline
To buy food	50.5	51.1
Business capital (IGAs)	43.3	39.4
Purchase agricultural inputs/seed	19.1	25.5
Pay for medical expenses	11.5	12.0
Furniture/utensils	5.1	9.7
Clothing	12.1	9.1
Pay for school expenses		
To purchase livestock		
Housing		
Funeral expenses		
Purchase/lease of land for agriculture		
To repay other loan		
Wedding/ marriage		
Other		
n = women who took a loan valued at 1000 MK or more	569	564

**Table 29: Women's access to resources**

Indicator	Point Estimate		Significance	Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 2.2: % women accessing financial services (loans, savings, crop insurance) in last 12 months	3.5	88.1	***	603	611
	3.4	94.4			
	3.2	4.4			
	4.8	3.3			
	0.7	2.6			
	6.0	16.7			

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

Qualitative findings validate most uses of loans that were reported in the household survey, with business investment and inputs cited most often in FGDs. A concerning finding is that loans are compulsory in many communities. Women in FGDs report that many times they do not want to borrow or have any need to borrow, but because borrowing is mandatory, they will take loans and keep the money in their home or spend it on food, clothing or other non-productive resources. When it comes time to pay back the loan, they will do *ganyu* work to earn enough to pay the interest.

Qualitative findings suggest that although few women achieved this indicator, women do have substantial say in how loans and shareouts are used. Per indicator guidelines, “control over loans” is defined as solely determining to take out the loan *and* solely determining how the borrowed capital was used. In virtually all FGDs, respondents state that men and women make decisions together on how to spend share outs and VSL loans if husbands are helping to pay for shares and are helping to pay back the loans. This is the case for most households. If a woman is able to purchase shares on her own and also pay the loan back on her own, qualitative evidence indicates she is able to make sole decisions on the use of that loan.

**Access to financial services:** WE-RISE came very close to meeting the end of project target for % women accessing financial services (loans, savings, crop insurance) in last 12 months. At baseline the vast majority (88%) of women interviewed reported accessing financial services in the last 12 months for this purpose (Table 29). At endline, 94% report such access.

### 3.8.3 Women’s Participation in Formal and Informal Groups

To understand change to women’s participation and leadership in formal and informal groups, the surveys first determine whether 10 different types of groups existed in the community. If groups exist,

women are asked about their active participation, reasons for not participating, amount of decision-making input they contribute, and whether they held a leadership position.

Data in Table 30 show that all (100%) women sampled are active members of at least one formal or informal group that exists in their community. Qualitative discussions with member and non-member in all six sampled villages agree that groups are open to anyone who wants to join, although at times it is necessary for newly-interested people to form their own group if an existing group feels it has reached capacity, or if the potential member has borrowed from the group as a non-member and has not been rigorous about paying back her loan on time. In some cases, VSLAs will make extra efforts to ensure anyone who wants to join is able, as long as she or he can pay back a loan. For example, FGD participants in one village shared that members who are HIV positive may buy shares at lower prices. MAICC staff offered several anecdotal success stories about disabled women who had joined VSLAs.

In qualitative ranking exercises with women, men, and village development committees, **VSLA participation is cited as the most beneficial activity of all WE-RISE initiatives.** Across all six village FGDs, women and men alike cite diverse benefits of VSLA participation. The vast majority of VSLA participants greatly appreciate the ability to borrow, as few financial services are available with attractive lending terms. VSLA loans serve diverse purposes including fertilizer purchase, livestock purchase, school fees, clothing purchase, food purchase, home improvement and emergencies. VSLA shareouts allow members to sub-lease land. Participants also acknowledge that by belonging to a VSLA group they are exposed to information about agricultural production and gender equality, and also have the opportunity to learn new skills, such as saving and spending wisely, cooking skills, and social skills like how to present their ideas in public. Several groups assert that “the VSLA has helped to reduce poverty in the community.”

*“The VSLA has helped to reduce poverty in the lives of so many women.”*

Male FGD participant - Malaza

Reasons for VSLA drop out were explored in FGDs with member, non-members, and village agents. The main reason cited by non-members is conflict and back-biting within the group, followed by husbands who will not allow them to join, either because he has taken her place in the group, or because he fears participation in the group leads to a promiscuous wife. VSLA members and village agents identified the inability to pay back a loan as the key determinant for women leaving the group. The second most common barrier mentioned by VSLA members and village agents is male domination related to

**Table 30: Women’s participation and leadership in groups**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 2.4: % women participating in formal and informal groups					
All households	97.3	99.8	***	731	615
Female HHHs	95.6	100.0	***	158	183
Male HHHs	97.7	99.8	***	573	432
OC 2.5: % women holding leadership positions in formal and informal groups					
All households	50.6	67.3	***	711	614
Female HHHs	53.0	66.7	**	151	183
Male HHHs	50.0	67.5	***	560	431

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*) , 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

control over the loan. In some cases, husbands take the borrowed money and never repay it. Others do not repay it per the agreed-upon timeframe. In these situations, women feel they have no control over loan use and repayment. This situation was widely present at baseline, but appears to be less prevalent at endline.

The baseline and midterm review pointed out that while the project is successfully reaching many poor women who experience transitory food insecurity and some very poor women who are chronically food insecure, CFIRW are not predominant among participants. This challenge remains at endline.

Among women who participate in groups, the number of women who state they hold leadership positions increased from 51% to 67% (Table 30). Qualitative findings validate the quantitative increase as most FG participants state that there are more women in leadership positions than in past years. Similar to baseline findings, qualitative endline findings also suggest that, for the most part, women are only recognized as capable leaders in their gender-normative sectors, such as school committees, or in gender normative positions such as secretary or treasurer. Women also face a different set of criteria than men for determining leadership capacity. Per qualitative interviews, a woman must not be argumentative, and if considered for treasurer in a VSLA, she must have enough resources to pay back the loan if she misuses the money.

### 3.8.4 Self-confidence in Public Speaking

Equally important to the achievement of WE-RISE Change Outcome 2 are women’s ability and motivation to participate in community affairs and local politics. WE-RISE Malawi has been supporting community advocacy, primarily through the use of a community scorecard, to ensure citizens understand their rights and responsibilities, and are able to engage with local government structures on issues that affect them, specifically enhancing women’s voice and dialogue.

To better understand women’s potential for leadership and influence in their communities, the survey asks men and women about their comfort level in speaking up about three topics and whether they have expressed their opinion in a public meeting (other than VSLA or producer group meetings) any time in the last 12 months. Those who respond positively to three of the four questions are considered to have achieved CARE WE-RISE outcome indicator: *% respondents confident speaking about gender and other community issues at the local level.*

**WE-RISE project participants of both sexes made great strides in voice and agency regarding community affairs.** The number of women stating they are comfortable speaking up in public drastically

**Table 31: Expressing opinions in community affairs**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 1.3: % respondents confident speaking in public about gender and other community issues at the local level					
Female respondents	45.4	74.1	***	735	615
Male respondents	67.9	85.5	***	196	330

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

increased from 45% to 74%. Male respondents also show increased agency with 86% stating they are comfortable speaking up about these issues versus 68% at baseline. Both endline results surpass project targets.

### **3.9 Outcome 3 – Gender Equitable Environment**

*Change Outcome 3: Cultural and social norms and attitudes better support the individual and collective aspirations and improved opportunities for CFIRW*

The central features of Change Outcome 3 are to use the VSLA as an entry point for women to discuss gender equality issues, and to influence cultural-social norms, such that women more actively participate in decision-making. This includes the piloting of the Male Champion (motivators) clubs to model exemplary gender roles and support women empowerment efforts in the communities.

To determine if there have been changes to cultural and social norms, the surveys measured women's control of household and agricultural income and expenditures;<sup>38</sup> women's control of household assets<sup>39</sup>; women's decision-making related to health care and reproductive health; attitudes that support gender-equitable roles in family life, attitudes that reject gender-based household violence, and finally, women's freedom of mobility.

Table 32 offers an overview of results for Change Outcome 3. Results are discussed in detail in sections 3.9.1 through 3.9.4.

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<sup>38</sup> Women's control of income and expenditures is defined as women who have input into most or all decisions relative to a household or agricultural domain AND who have input into most or all decisions regarding the use of income from the activity (if it is an income-generating activity). For CARE Malawi, the outcome indicator is computed as the percentage of women who have control in 60% or more of the domains in which the household reports that decisions are made, excluding minor household expenditures.

<sup>39</sup> Women's control of household assets is defined as women who state they are a sole or joint decision maker regarding the sale or purchase of various household and agricultural assets. For CARE Malawi's WE-RISE project the outcome indicator is computed as the percentage of women who have control in 80% or more of the domains in which the household reports they hold assets.

Table 32: Change Outcome 3 indicators

<b>Outcome 3: Cultural and social norms and attitudes better support the individual and collective aspirations and improved opportunities for chronically food insecure rural women.</b>						
	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Restricted BL</b>	<b>Cumulative Target</b>	<b>Actual Achieved</b>	
<b>Cultural and social norms and attitudes</b>	% women with sole or joint control over household income and expenditures	51.7	50.6	70.0	59.5	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	81.0	80.5	95.0	72.1	*
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	43.5	42.4	50.4	54.2	***
	% women with sole or joint decision-making and control over 75% or more of household assets	53.8	64.8	65.5	75.7	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	86.3	87.1	88.6	83.1	
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	44.9	58.8	50.4	72.6	***
	% women reporting sole or joint decision-making over reproductive health decisions (birth control; spacing of children)	93.4	90.5	95.0	93.9	**
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	97.0	96.9	98.0	97.0	
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	89.8	89.6	92.0	93.0	*
	% women making sole or joint decisions about health care	87.4	87.4	95.0	86.3	
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	98.1	98.0	99.0	90.1	***
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	84.3	84.5	91.0	84.7	
	% <b>female</b> respondents expressing attitudes that support gender-equitable roles in family life	37.4	37.2	45.0	44.2	***
	% <b>male</b> respondents expressing attitudes that support gender-equitable roles in family life	42.7	41.8	50.0	40.4	
	% <b>female</b> respondents expressing attitudes that reject gender-based household violence	71.9	71.9	75.0	74.8	
	% <b>male</b> respondents expressing attitudes that reject gender-based household violence	78.9	78.6	85.0	71.7	*
Women's mobility	47.8	48.2	60.5	50.1		
<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	67.5	67.9	70.5	45.4	***	
<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	42.2	42.7	50.5	52.1	***	
<i>Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (*), 5 %(**) or 1 %(***) levels.</i>						
Cells shaded orange indicate data are trending in the wrong direction.						



### 3.9.1 Women’s Control of Income, Expenditure, and Asset Decisions

Across all household types, women’s decision-making control over household income and expenditures increased by roughly nine percentage points to 60% (Table 33). The result is still substantially lower than the end of project target of 70%. All of the gain is due to increased decision-making control for women in male-headed households—54% now report decision-making control of household income and expenditures compared to 42% at baseline. Of concern is the finding that women who reside in female-headed households are less empowered when it comes to making decisions about income and expenditures than they were at baseline (81% BL versus 72% EL).

**Table 33: Gender-equitable decision-making for income, expenditures, and assets**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 3.1: % women with sole or joint control over household income and expenditures					
All households	50.6	59.5	***	735	615
Female HHHs	80.5	72.1	*	159	183
Male HHHs	42.4	54.2	***	576	432
OC 3.2: % women with sole or joint decision-making and control over household assets					
All households	64.8	75.7	***	730	614
Female HHHs	87.1	83.1		155	183
Male HHHs	58.8	72.6	***	575	431

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

More women also have control over household assets,<sup>40</sup> Endline results show that 76% of surveyed women now report they can make sole or joint decisions about the household’s assets, compared to 65% at baseline. The project surpassed the end of project target (65.5%) by 10 percentage points. The gain is restricted to women from male-headed households; women from female-headed households experienced no gain.

Qualitative baseline findings suggested that the disparity in control of income, expenditures, and assets was far greater than what quantitative data indicated. Endline qualitative findings also suggest that disparity is greater than what is captured by quantitative data, but that the gap is steadily narrowing. FGDs reveal that in most households men have more control of household income and how it is spent, however; focus group participants emphasize they’ve felt a

*“Women are free to start a small scale business without telling the husband; this decision is made by a woman herself.”*

*“Women are not afraid of approaching their partners for input and support. At first it was hard for men to understand that even women had that right to make decisions, though some men still think that empowering a woman makes a man less important in the society.”*

Female focus group participants

<sup>40</sup> Women’s control of household assets is defined as women who state they are a sole or joint decision maker regarding the sale or purchase of various household assets. For WE-RISE Malawi, the outcome indicator is computed as the percentage of women who have control in 75% or more of the domains in which the household reports they hold assets, excluding poultry and non-mechanized farm equipment.

change over the past three years. In the past, women had no influence on decision-making because men (and women) believed men were the head of the household. These days some men are beginning to listen to women’s ideas about what type of inputs to buy, what crops to plant, and how to spend household income—the three decisions that all focus groups (men, women, VSLA members and non-members) consider to be the most important decisions a household makes. Focus group participants credit WE-RISE-supported community discussions on gender relations as one contributor to this change. In qualitative ranking exercises, gender discussions are ranked #4 (of 12) by women for impact on individual or household well-being. Across all interviewed groups (women, men, VDCs) gender discussions rank 5<sup>th</sup> for impact.

### 3.9.2 Women’s Control of Reproductive and Health Care Decisions

WE-RISE mainstreamed family planning and HIV information in the VSL meetings primarily through coordination with the new CARE LIFT project, which is devoted to enhancing services for HIV positive patients.

In both male- and female-headed households, survey data indicate that there are small positive changes to women’s influence over family planning. At baseline, the majority of women (91%) were the sole or joint decision maker for family planning decisions including contraception, and whether to space or limit births. At endline, 94% of women report decision-making control in this area. Qualitative discussions show that men and women consider family planning to be one of the most important decisions a household must make.

Women did not experience similar advances in control over health care decisions. In fact, women in female-headed households actually have less control of these decisions than they did at baseline (90% versus 98%). Qualitative findings provide no explanation for the decline.

**Table 34: Gender-equitable decision-making for health care and reproductive health**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
<b>OC 3.3: % women reporting sole or joint decision-making over reproductive health decisions (family planning; spacing of children)</b>					
All households	90.5	93.9	**	528	460
Female HHHs	96.9	97.0		65	101
Male HHHs	89.6	93.0	*	463	359
<b>OC 3.4: % women making sole or joint decisions about health care</b>					
All households	87.4	86.3		701	611
Female HHHs	98.0	90.1	***	153	181
Male HHHs	84.5	84.7		548	430

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5% (\*\*) or 1% (\*\*\*) levels.

Endline qualitative inquiry regarding intimacy and harmony in the household reveals that while women feel comfortable communicating their sexual needs to their husbands, men get angry if a woman says no to sex. Most women in focus groups agree that it is rarely possible to refuse sex without retribution, which usually comes in the form of a husband seeking sexual relations with other women.

### 3.9.3 Attitudes about Gender Equality in Family Life

To determine whether there has been any change in men’s and women’s attitudes toward gender-equality, male and female respondents are asked questions about their attitudes, perceptions, and practices related to gender roles, household violence,<sup>41</sup> and women’s mobility.

Respondents are asked whether they agree or disagree with four statements that reflect men’s and women’s roles in family life. Data in Table 35 shows that despite a small increase in women’s attitudes (37% BL versus 44% EL) patriarchal attitudes about family life are held not only by men, but are ingrained in women’s opinions of their own role in family life.

**Table 35: Attitudes about gender equality in the household**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 3.5: % of respondents expressing attitudes that support gender-equitable roles in family life					
Female respondents	37.2	44.2	***	736	615
Male respondents	41.8	40.4		196	332
OC 3.6: % of respondents expressing attitudes that reject household gender-based violence					
Female respondents	71.9	74.8		736	615
Male respondents	78.6	71.7	*	196	332

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*), 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

Survey data find no detectable change in the number of women who reject household-based gender violence. Of great concern is that the number of men who reject household-based gender violence has declined by almost seven percentage points to 72%. Although these data provide insight on attitudes toward domestic abuse, it may or may not reflect actual practice.

Qualitative evidence from FGD participants, key informants, and project staff strongly suggests gender-based violence is reduced in most villages visited at endline and specifically links the reduction to the shifts in household workloads and improved relationships, much of which participants credit to WE-RISE messaging and initiatives, as well as to increased ability to report domestic violence to authorities. Additional analysis presented in Table 36 supports this claim. These data are disaggregated by whether or not family members took part in WE-RISE gender dialogues. **Both men and women who have taken part in WE-RISE dialogues are much more likely to reject household violence than men and women who did not participate in the sessions.** Gender discussions don’t appear to have as strong an impact on attitudes for gender equitable roles in family life. Data are trending in the right direction for both men

<sup>41</sup> Male and female respondents were asked to agree or disagree with two statements: 1) *There are times women deserve to be hit*, and; 2) *a women should tolerate violence in order to maintain stability in the family*. For this study, disagreeing with both qualifies as a rejection of household gender-based violence and serves as the underlying measurement for the outcome indicator.

and women, but no statistical difference is detected between households who participated in gender dialogues and those who did not.

**Table 36: Effect of participation in gender dialogues on gender equitable attitudes.**

	HH participated in WE-RISE gender dialogue	Sample size	HH did not participate in WE-RISE gender dialogues	Sample size	
Females with supportive attitude for gender equitable roles in family life	47.0	345	40.7	270	
Males with supportive attitude for gender equitable roles in family life	43.5	193	36.0	139	
Female: rejection of household violence	78.8	345	69.6	270	***
Male: rejection of household violence	78.8	193	61.9	139	***

Statistically different between groups at the 10% (\*) , 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.

### 3.9.4 Women's Mobility

To understand freedom of mobility, female VSLA members are asked if they had to ask permission from their spouse or another family member to go to ten different locations. Four responses are possible: 'Yes, always' 'Yes, most often' 'yes, but only now and then', and 'No, never'. Table 37 presents the data as a mean score of women's individual answers.<sup>42</sup> The maximum score is 30. Women with a score of 16 or greater are considered to be mobile.

Results in Table 37 indicate that across the sample, there is no detectable change in freedom of mobility for women. When data are disaggregated by sex of household head, mobility in fact declines significantly for women residing in female-headed households. It is not a surprise that only half of women achieve freedom of mobility as qualitative evidence emphasizes that sociocultural norms still constrain women's freedom of movement. The rationale that a mobile woman is likely to be unfaithful were not as prevalent as they were at baseline, but domestic obligations still contribute to significant constraints for women, reducing her ability to travel long distances to do *ganyu* work, to market, or to purchase inputs.

The result showing declining mobility for women from female-headed households is quite puzzling and is not supported by qualitative findings. One explanation for the perplexing results may be

**Table 37: Women's mobility**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 3.7: % of women achieving freedom of mobility					
All households	48.2	50.1		735	615
Female HHHs	67.9	45.4	***	159	183
Male HHHs	42.7	52.1	***	576	432

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*) , 5% (\*\*) or 1% (\*\*\*) levels.

<sup>42</sup> The scores for women's mobility are calculated by taking the mean across women's individual scores. They are calculated using the following categories and score values from 3 (most mobile) to 0 (least mobile): "Never" (3), "Yes, but only now and then" (2), and "most often" (1) and 'always' (0).

due to enumerator confusion on the question. During the midterm, despite repeated explanation to the qualitative team that the question asks “do you need to ask *permission* to go to [location]”, the qualitative team continued to ask respondents if the woman “*notified her husband*” before going to a particular place or if the man “*notified his wife*.” Somehow the concept of “asking permission” was difficult for the team. Given the results of men’s mobility, which show only 53% of males achieve this indicator, it seems plausible that the results for this indicator may be due to poor survey implementation. Another possible explanation, which needs further qualitative investigation to substantiate, relates to community concepts of an empowered woman. Virtually all FGs relate that an empowered woman “did not have to depend on the husband financially, conducted business on her own, and grew her own crops.” The flipside of these positive traits is that portions of the community view empowered women as stubborn, disrespectful of husbands, and sexually promiscuous. It is possible that women from households without a male head to “keep them in line” are subjected to even more community scrutiny as they begin to bring in income from their own crops and small businesses. Mothers, sons, and other household members may be more protective or demanding about knowing the women’s whereabouts. CARE could conduct further quantitative analysis based on age of women and her relationship to the household head to understand these female respondents’ dynamic within a female-headed household. CARE could also conduct qualitative research to understand specifically who these women must ask permission from.

## 4 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

### Staffing

By design, the WE-RISE project is a complex and comprehensive effort. Objectives rely on technical skills that were new areas for many CARE staff (e.g., gender equity and value chain development). Numerous outputs were planned in order for the project to reach these complex objectives. Collectively the outputs put forth in the project design require a much larger staff than the project has ever enjoyed. Due to a limited budget, WE-RISE has always been implemented by a very small field staff—two field advisors and one field supervisor were present in each TA in 2014, and by endline in 2015—one year before the project was due to end, staff had been reduced to one field advisor in Kalumbu TA and two field advisors in Chiwere TA. In the opinion of this consultant, supported by information shared in interviews with WE-RISE project staff, understaffing is the reason several initiatives have not had optimal success, and even in the phase-out stage it is crippling the project.<sup>43</sup>

To mitigate this challenge, the Project Manager and M&E advisor have made admirable efforts to directly support the implementation teams. WE-RISE field staff have also made commendable efforts to engage many volunteer trainers—in fact, by design the vast majority of implementation rests on the efforts of volunteers—but operating as a bare bones operation does not allow staff to ensure optimal quality of volunteer implementation. Volunteers appear to be highly-dedicated individuals whose implementation quality may wane or waver simply because they do not receive sufficient training or

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<sup>43</sup> The evaluation team notes that senior management strongly disagrees with this statement.

follow-up from the project. Again, this is not due to unqualified or unmotivated staff, but solely due to the fact that it is physically impossible for existing staff to adequately cover each and every group village head administrative district.

The evaluation team finds all project staff to be highly-committed to the project objectives—many have been with the project since its inception. They are technically and professionally competent in most general implementation areas. Similar to midterm findings, M&E, value-chain development, and gender are areas where technical capacity could be strengthened.

### **Partner roles and performance**

A highlight of the midterm review was the estimable coordination and collaboration that existed between CARE Malawi and implementing partner MAICC. The teams' synchronized work made it difficult to determine who worked for CARE and who worked for MAICC, underscoring the strong and venerable relationship. Sadly, at endline the relationship was severely stressed due to untimely resource distribution and misunderstandings regarding the reasons for delayed payments to MAICC. CARE Australia is aware of these problems and reportedly took measures to remedy them quickly, so this evaluation team will not explore the issue in detail. During qualitative research in selected villages, however; it is clear that the inability to purchase fuel and pay for communications has reduced the admirable field presence of the small MAICC staff, and has stifled their spirit.

On a positive note, both organizations still appear to be learning from one each other and offering each other complementary technical backstopping and quality assurance, which is an exemplary example of good partnership practice.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

**Cohort studies** are a highlight of WE-RISE M&E efforts. The in-depth studies, which explore the progress of ten women over the course of three years, are the brainchild of CARE Australia. They were implemented in each WE-RISE country and consisted of survey-style questions drawn from the empowerment modules, combined with immediate qualitative probing, that allowed more insight to the survey responses. While the findings from the cohort studies are anecdotal and cannot be applied across the project, the exercise served to strengthen qualitative skills of WE-RISE staff, helped staff reflect on the factors that contribute to or prevent women's empowerment, and contributed to global learning about empowerment metrics and evaluation design.

Aside from the cohort studies, monitoring and evaluation continues to be the weakest link in the WE-RISE project.

**Performance targets:** At midterm there were no targets set for impact and outcome indicators in the global M&E framework, an essential step to defining achievement at endline and ensuring accountability to the program intent and donors. The project has since set targets, but with apparently little understanding of how to set these targets. In some cases the direction of change is inaccurate—a higher target is set when the project should be aiming for a lower value at endline (CSI) or a lower value is set

when the project should be aiming for a higher value (expenditures). In other cases, the targets are absurdly low. To those not close to the project, such low targets would suggest WE-RISE has little motivation to catalyse change or that WE-RISE does not believe it can catalyse much change. Based on interviews with devoted staff, neither situation is accurate; in contrast, the staff have high motivation to initiate positive change in the lives of beneficiaries, and are very optimistic about the level of success they can achieve. This situation highlights the importance of having staff on board who have the M&E capacity to rationalize and set appropriate targets.

Examples of the extremely low targets follow:

- Target for women’s mean net income from agriculture is set to 1 USD higher than baseline; for women in male-headed households, the end of project target is set *lower* than baseline.
- Target for “increased access to extension services” is set only 12% higher than baseline to 40%, yet it would be impossible to achieve Outcome 1 or the overall project goal, without a very high rate of achievement for this indicator.
- Target for “increased access to inputs” is set only 12% higher than baseline—similar to above, the design theory purports that success of the higher level goals rest heavily on improved access to inputs.
- Targets for women’s access to and control over loans for income-generation were set only two percentage points higher than baseline for female-headed households and sex percentage points higher than baseline for male-headed households. This makes no sense at all—loans for IGA are a foundation of the project design.

As noted at midterm, it is difficult to see the relationship between a number of outputs and indicators, and the Change Outcomes they purportedly contribute to. For example, activities and outputs that would logically lead to the improved linkages the project strives for in Outcome 2, are actually conducted under Outcome 1. When causal logic is flawed in this way, it makes it difficult to use the project M&E framework to determine effective sequencing of project activities, to help staff see what is changing and why, or to pinpoint factors that might be impeding change. The M&E framework simply becomes a tracking system for accountability rather than a tool that can shed light on effective implementation and reflective learning.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

WE-RISE Malawi Change Outcomes appropriately addressed some of the greatest barriers to food and economic security, and social equity in Kalumbu and Chiwere Traditional Authorities. The project improved access to services and has influenced women’s control of productive assets and resources. Productivity is challenged by climatic conditions, land access, and sub-optimal agricultural practices and WE-RISE project activities have helped to mitigate all of these challenges. Households in the WE-RISE program appear more resilient to shocks than they were in 2012. The project is also contributing to changes in women’s empowerment, specifically within domains of resources, income, and leadership/community. The conclusion that WE-RISE is overall a praiseworthy project is based on the evaluation team’s interpretation of results, rather than the achievement of end of project targets in the M&E framework—as discussed in Section 4, there are errors in the cumulative targets set by WE-RISE

Malawi, making some of them an unreliable source by which to gauge project performance. Finally, as testimony to the project's earnest efforts, surveyed female and male participants overwhelmingly believe their household is better off after participating in WE-RISE activities.

**Income:** Project activities contributed to increased per-capita monthly income for all household types, with male-headed households experiencing the greatest gains. By promoting soya and groundnut cultivation and encouraging vegetable sales, WE-RISE also influenced a substantial increase in the number of women who are earning farm income. Integration into soya and groundnut markets needs significant strengthening as the majority of project participants still sell their product to middlemen for a low price.

Non-farm income gains were experienced by male-headed households only. There is sufficient qualitative data to suggest that small gains in this area are partly due to women's participation in small business activities promoted by WE-RISE and funded by women's VSLA activity.

**Resilience:** Project activities contributed to greater absorptive and adaptive resilience capacities within targeted communities, although, generally, female-headed households are still less resilient to shock compared to their male-headed counterparts. Since the project's inception, households are experiencing more shocks than they did at baseline, particularly shocks that impact crop and livestock food supplies. While a greater number report food and income shortages, there is a relatively low increase in the CSI. This means that while more households experienced food shortages this year compared to 2012, the level of stress did not increase substantially. Given the challenging context of 2015, this finding suggests improved absorptive capacity.

Additionally, households have more assets to buffer shortfalls in incomes or sudden increases in necessary expenditures. With a substantially higher asset index than noted at baseline, WE-RISE participants are less vulnerable than they were 3.5 years ago. Women's participation in VSLAs is a key reason households are able to expand their asset base.

WE-RISE has made excellent progress establishing a culture of savings and lending. The vast majority of VSLA participants greatly appreciate the ability to borrow as very few financial services are available, and the few services that do exist require prohibitively high interest rates, risky collateral, and other unattractive terms. Capital borrowed via the VSLA is reportedly used to invest in agriculture and other income-generating activities (IGA) or school fees. Occasionally loans help to smooth consumption in times of stress. Savings are contributing to improved absorptive capacities and increased access to credit is contributing to improved adaptive capacity.

At midterm there was little evidence that WE-RISE was addressing climate change resilience –or adaptation. Endline qualitative findings suggest decent progress in this area. In addition to the small-scale introduction of hand irrigation methods in Chiwere TA, which was occurring last year, men and women speak enthusiastically about how the new knowledge about early planting and the use of drought-resistant seeds (shared with them by community extension officers) helped to maintain yields during the challenging drought in 2015.

Finally, a critical component of resilience is social capital, and within the VSLA membership, the collectives are undoubtedly enhancing this asset.



**Empowerment:** Gender-equitable cultural norms and roles, policies, community receptiveness to women’s views on gender, and access by women to formal and informal institutions, while showing significant improvement as a result of WE-RISE efforts, still have to gain traction among the majority of participating households—as evidenced by results showing that only 20% of women enjoy empowerment. Specific areas that still pose challenges for the majority of women are freedom of mobility, autonomy in production and gender-equitable attitudes on the part of females and males.

### **5.1 Outcome 1 – Increased Productivity, Resources, and Resilience**

Outcome 1 aims to increase CFIRW’s access to and control of productive assets and resources. It also strives to ensure that CFIRW are more resilient to climate shock. The endline evaluation shows that women are experiencing greater access to inputs than at baseline, and have measurably increased their knowledge and skills in agricultural production. As a result their income from agricultural production has also increased. Additionally since 2012, the percentage of households with a woman earning farm income has increased by 18 percentage points, to 90% at endline.

The promotion of soya and groundnut production by the project has had impressive results. The percentage of women growing soya doubled since baseline; the percentage of women growing groundnuts increased by almost 15 percentage points. WE-RISE promotion of vegetable production via seed distribution resulted in doubling the number of women who cultivate beans and tomatoes, and increased the number of women who report growing sweet potato by eight percentage points. Qualitative input from project participants provides promising evidence that project activities designed to sensitize smallholders on crop production and diversity have taken hold; households are now growing half to one more crop on average than they did three years ago.

At midterm there was broad agreement among project participants that the availability of quality and diverse seed was a severe challenge. Endline findings suggest slight improvements to this obstacle with newfound access to agricultural inputs (e.g., improved seed and fertilizer) from a variety of sources. WE-RISE demonstration plots and organization of seed committees and seed multiplication schemes have helped to improve access. While distance to input suppliers is still a challenge, more women are obtaining inputs through local input suppliers or through the government, and there is a small increase in the number of women obtaining inputs through cooperative groups facilitated by WE-RISE. The majority of women use VSLA savings and loans to purchase the inputs. Equally important, some women now communicate directly with input suppliers.

As measured by 2015 production, soya yields per hectare did not increase and groundnut yield per hectare declined by 28%. Given the extended dry periods in 2015, which caused maize and groundnut production to suffer severe declines country-wide, this result is not a reflection of poor program implementation. In contrast, the fact that households maintained soya production despite the drought is a sign of increased resilience. Another factor contributing to seemingly stagnant production data includes the many new growers of both crops since baseline. The percentage of households (male- and female-headed) with a woman earning farm income increased by almost 20 percentage points since baseline. Due to learning curves, new growers may be less likely to have high yields when they first start cultivating a product. Their yield per hectare may pull down the mean value. Further analysis on yield could be carried out to better understand production trends for women who were growing at baseline.

In contrast to results for yield per hectare, more than one-third of households surveyed stated that a key improvement to their lives as a result of WE-RISE participation was better crop yields.

Although more households are growing soya and groundnuts, they are not yet linking to preferred markets. While the outcome indicator “% of women accessing output markets” shows a 34 percentage point increase, this is one of the less-precise indicators in the M&E system. The indicator title suggests improved integration into value chains; however tabulation of the indicator includes local market sales as well as sales to local traders (i.e., middlemen). Qualitative evidence consistently shows that women (and men) are still primarily selling to middlemen at a very low price. Women would very much like to be bulking their product through a cooperative to obtain better prices, but few are doing so yet.

Marketing initiatives have been a consistent struggle for the WE-RISE project. Government interventions that introduce value chains with packing, sorting, and grading options are limited, thus, realistically the project resources required to launch this effort as designed would be substantial. The project design and budget did not seem to take this contextual constraint into consideration. Additionally, as noted in midterm findings, training in marketing has still not sufficiently prepared farmers to take on this new challenge. Marketing committee members and producers report they received no business training, and while negotiation skills are explored in training, all committee members report their skills need more development to successfully carry out negotiations. In four of the six communities visited by the qualitative team, men and women report that marketing committees are not functioning as planned. Bare bones staffing of field officers and insufficient resources are the main reason for slow progress. There simply has not been enough staff with marketing expertise to carry out the project design.

Non-farm income increased slightly for male-headed households, and promising results are noted in the increase in number of households with income from a small business. In line with these findings, just under one-third of participants state that their household increased non-farm income as a result of participation in the program. Despite these small gains, the promotion of off-farm business opportunities is one of the weaker aspects of the WE-RISE program. Similar to marketing training, sufficient guidance on developing small businesses has not occurred. The majority of project participants interviewed at baseline rank business training as the least effective WE-RISE initiative. Many who have tried to run a small business complained of poor sales due to market saturation of the products they choose to sell. The number of households where women have access to and control over loans used for income-generating activities (IGA) increased slightly, but two-thirds of women still do not enjoy this privilege. Furthermore the number of women using these loans for IGAs declined since baseline.

There is no evidence that project staff have carried out a rigorous analysis of how project participants might meet market opportunities in selected commodities. Again, the reason for this is not negligence, but rather a staff that is too slim to carry out all designed outputs. While the dream of using VSLA loans or shareouts to start a successful small business is widespread among the targeted population, those who attempt such a feat often find themselves struggling to stay afloat.

## **5.2 Outcome 2 – Enabling Institutional Environment**

Women’s access to agricultural extension services is greatly expanded under the project, from only 27% of female farmers at baseline to nearly 78% of female farmers at endline. Spillover of farming skills and

knowledge is also apparent among women who are not members of the collectives, essentially benefiting whole communities. Project participants highlight that the community extension workers trained by WE-RISE live in the community, which makes it easy for them to provide guidance to their neighbours. In the words of one VSLA member “when the WE-RISE project phases out, extension services in this community will not phase out because the extension worker lives here.” When community members were asked to rank project activities in order of positive impact at the household and community level, improved access to extension services ranked 3rd among the 12 activities listed.

The project’s establishment of VSLAs and corresponding network of village agents resulted in accessible credit throughout communities. Access to financial services was high at baseline, and is now available for the vast majority of participants (94%). Household survey data and qualitative findings show that access to credit through the VSLAs is the most valued contribution of the WE-RISE program.

Group participation remained high throughout the project. The baseline and midterm review pointed out that while the project is successfully reaching many poor women who experience transitory food insecurity and some very poor women who are chronically food insecure, CFIRW are not predominant among participants. This challenge remains at endline. One of the key reasons noted for non-participation is the inability to afford shares. As VSLAs experience success, groups agree to increase the value of initial share purchase, required weekly contributions, and interest rates, putting the possibility of VSLA membership even further out of reach for the chronically food insecure. On a positive note, the perceived social stratification created by VSLAs noted at midterm<sup>44</sup> is not prevalent in the communities visited at endline.

### **5.3 Outcome 3 – Gender Equitable Environment**

In recent years, institutions within Malawi committed to stimulating a more enabling environment for gender equality and women’s advancement. Legislation and policy reforms have mainstreamed gender although there is still a vast gap between policy and practice. WE-RISE is helping to close this gap by disseminating and normalizing gender messaging. Most notably the project’s on-the-ground presence offers guidance for communities to better understand the shifts in roles and responsibilities that are promoted nationally, as well as a means to monitor change first hand and identify the elements that effectively lead to change.

The midterm review found strong qualitative indications that community expectations of gender roles and responsibilities are slowly changing and becoming more equitable. Endline survey data confirm this is true. Three years later, more women have decision-making input to all household production, more women have sole or joint ownership and control of assets, women’s access to and ability to make decisions about credit has increased, and there are small, but important gains in women’s control over household income and expenditures. The largest gains occur within the domain of leadership and community. Women’s agency and confidence both substantially increased. There is a strong link between men and women’s rejection of gender-based violence and household participation in WE-RISE gender discussions. Finally, when survey participants who state their lives have improved as a result of WE-RISE participation, are asked to specify the type of improvements they had experienced, 22% claim

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<sup>44</sup> VSLA’s were viewed as exclusionary and non-member status placed a woman near the bottom of the social hierarchy.

“more equitable decision-making between men and women”, 18% claim more equitable distribution of household chores, and 17% claim improved communication between men and women.

Despite all these positive shifts suggesting more equitable attitudes about gender roles and norms, less than one-third of women are considered to be empowered, highlighting the extent to which progress is challenged by deeply-rooted norms. There are also only very small gains noted for the percentage of women who *express* gender equitable attitudes about roles and norms. Fewer than half of all women achieve this indicator. As a side note, CARE may wish to explore the extent to which this indicator accurately captures what it intends to measure. Conversations with US headquarter staff suggest that the organization may be seeking to, or has already, advanced the measurement of this indicator.

## **6 LESSONS LEARNED**

Based on the findings of the final evaluation, this section provides a few suggestions for a follow-up phase of WE-RISE or any future program designed to overcome the constraints to women’s productive and equitable engagement in agriculture.

### ***1. Design monitoring systems for learning***

A program as complicated as WE-RISE calls for adequate time to be devoted to developing and vetting a theory of change with all involved stakeholders. The current monitoring system is riddled with logic flaws that do not allow staff to critically think through the small steps that will lead to change or the obstacles that might prevent change. The theory of change is not detailed enough to serve as a clear communication tool with other stakeholders. By devoting more critical thinking to a theory of change that is founded on an evidence base and vetted hypotheses, CARE could maximize on staff ability to learn, reflect, and adapt throughout the program cycle. The theory of change would allow for the development of a monitoring framework that is logically solid. Such a process would also allow CARE to work toward a common understanding, and shared values, strategies, systems with other stakeholders who are critical to implementing a program as comprehensive as WE-RISE. A rigorous causal analysis model and accompanying theory of change would fully support recommendation two.

### ***2. Prioritize the most strategic project activities***

Project impact could have been maximized had project focus been simplified to fewer activities. All activities in the project design have some link to improving social and economic empowerment for women, but some proved more effective than others. Following the midterm review, the WE-RISE team made admirable efforts to winnow down the set of activities, which contributed to greater efficiency overall. For future projects, a solid theory of change will help to identify the most strategic outcomes for intervention so staff and resources are not overextended and participants do not experience a start/stop of various initiatives. If future projects attempt a comprehensive set of outcomes, budget and staffing must be better aligned to the level of effort required to implement activities.

### ***3. Strengthen staff capacity in key technical areas prior to implementation.***

Successful pro-poor gender sensitive market development programs rest on successful strategies, and pro-poor gender sensitive value chain development requires substantial technical capacity. Initiatives

such as these require specialists, rather than generalists. In future programs, small business enterprise and agricultural value chain initiatives could have greater impact if field staff have a keen understanding of systems approaches, know how to conduct adequate market research and identify opportunity, feel comfortable building relationships with the private sector, and understand how to develop business acumen among participants. As an organization, CARE has had several successful flagship programmes that could contribute best practices and offer advice on the most effective means for staff capacity development in value chain initiatives.

Future programs could maximize project impact by ensuring that staff understand how the advancement of gender equality forms an integral part of their work *prior to* implementing field work. In this way, staff will be better equipped to support volunteers to plan and implement gender equality discussions and activities designed to address gender gaps. WE-RISE staff are clearly committed to promoting gender equality, but all staff could benefit from increased knowledge, techniques, and tools that would help them work in communities where attitudes about equality are not prevalent. CARE International is a leader in the development of such tools and training; thus, maximizing impact may simply mean drawing on existing resources and budgeting sufficient time for staff capacity development.

Finally, enhanced organizational learning and knowledge sharing is key to improving capacity throughout the program cycle. WE-RISE has struggled with weak M&E capacity for most of the project's life. Monitoring efforts have not been able to rigorously capture positive change that is occurring, alert field staff of triggers that indicate a critical program design elements are impeding expected change, or improve decision-making via ongoing and timely feedback loops.

#### **4. *Scale up the inclusion of men and adolescent boys in empowerment strategy***

The empowerment strategy WE-RISE used could be significantly strengthened with modification. In order to transform complex behavioural patterns and value systems, all contributors must increase their understanding of the patterns and systems, actions, and reactions that perpetuate gender disadvantage. Most of the program's empowerment efforts targeted women and girls for economic capacity development and social awareness-raising. Including women and girls in gender discussions circles is an important component to meeting this goal, but cannot on its own reduce the negative impacts of a patriarchal society. Midway through the project, WE-RISE recognized this weakness and began to intensify male-engagement efforts by introducing gender dialogue to enrich the male champion initiative. This was a significant turning point for the project. It is likely that impact could have been greatly increased had an inclusive strategy been used from day one.

#### **5. *Expand training and follow up.***

Critical aspects of effective empowerment advocacy such as negotiation skills and business development were not sufficiently addressed by WE-RISE. In most cases training was offered once. Training is not synonymous with learning, particularly when complex behavioural and systemic changes are the desired outcome. For these concepts to take root, reinforcement is necessary. Future training programs could be strengthened and reinforced by offering refresher and follow-up sessions. If budgets are not adequate to fund an effective training plan, inclusion of initiatives should be reconsidered.

## Annex 1: WE-RISE Global M&E Framework

WE-RISE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (PROGRAM LEVEL)						
	Narrative Logic	Indicators	Sources of Information	Frequency of reporting	Who to collect/analyse data	WE-RISE Global Indicators
<b>ACCES OBJECTIVE ONE: Marginalised People have sustainable access to the services they require</b>						
<b>IMPACT ( sustainable changes in conditions)</b>	<b>WE-RISE IMPACT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % change in months of food insecurity</li> <li>• % change in mean HH dietary diversity scores</li> <li>• % change in mean women’s dietary diversity scores</li> <li>• % of HH with non-agricultural income sources</li> <li>• % of HH with three or more different income sources</li> <li>• % increase in HH income</li> <li>• % of HH with increased incomes</li> <li>• % HH engaged in savings and credit groups</li> <li>• % of HH with savings</li> <li>• % average increase in savings for HH</li> <li>• % change in average HH asset index</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline data and analysis, including FGDs, KII, HH surveys</li> <li>• End-line data and analysis, including FGDs, KII, HH surveys</li> <li>• Annual cohort assessments</li> <li>• Routine project monitoring and progress reports, with output level data provided as markers for progress on higher level program indicators</li> <li>• Relevant government and market reports</li> <li>• Annual reflection and learning workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline in Year 1</li> <li>• Quarterly and annual progress reports</li> <li>• Annual cohorts assessments</li> <li>• End-line and final evaluation – 6 months before the project end</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An independent contracted consultancy (TANGO) and local firm working with the WE-RISE Program</li> <li>• Program Managers &amp; Field staff;</li> <li>• LNGO partner staff</li> <li>• Local government officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean household diet diversity score</li> <li>• Mean women’s intra-household food access</li> <li>• Coping strategies index</li> <li>• Per capita monthly household income (farm and non-farm)</li> <li>• % of HH with three or more different income sources</li> <li>• Per capita monthly household expenditures</li> <li>• % households with savings</li> <li>• Mean asset index</li> <li>• Women’s empowerment index</li> </ul>
		Improved Food Security, Income & Resilience for Chronically Food Insecure Rural Women (CFIRW) through their social and economic empowerment				

WE-RISE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (PROGRAM LEVEL)						
	Narrative Logic	Indicators	Sources of Information	Frequency of reporting	Who to collect/analyze data	WE-RISE Global Indicators
EFFECT (Responses of CFIRW to project activities)	<p><b>WE-RISE CHANGE OUTCOME 1</b></p> <p>CFIRW have increased household productive assets &amp; resources and control over these; and are more resilient to climate shocks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % change in crop yield /unit labour achieved by CFIRW for crops supported by WE-RISE</li> <li>• % change in crop yield/unit land achieved by CFIRW for crops supported by WE-RISE</li> <li>• # and type of income sources</li> <li>• # and type of crops grown</li> <li>• % of CFIRW adopting improved conservation agricultural practices in the most recent agricultural cycle</li> <li>• # of farmers groups (mixed and women) reporting increased capacity in technical/agricultural conservation skills</li> <li>• % of CFIRW adopting improved storage practices</li> <li>• % of CFIRW using improved livestock practices in most recent agricultural cycle</li> <li>• % decrease HH adopting irreversible coping strategies during food shortages &amp; external shocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline data and analysis, including FGDs, KII, HH surveys</li> <li>• End-line data and analysis, including FGDs, KII, HH surveys</li> <li>• Annual cohort assessments</li> <li>• Routine project monitoring and progress reports, with output level data provided as markers for progress on higher level program indicators</li> <li>• Annual reflection and learning workshops</li> <li>• District Agricultural Records</li> <li>• VSLA records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline in Year 1</li> <li>• Quarterly and annual progress reports</li> <li>• Annual cohorts assessments</li> <li>• End-line and final evaluation – 6 months before the project end</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An independent contracted consultancy (TANGO) and local firm working with the WE-RISE Program</li> <li>• Program Managers &amp; Field staff;</li> <li>• LNGO partner staff</li> <li>• Local government officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities</li> <li>• Agricultural yield in crops supported by WE-RISE</li> <li>• Number of different crops grown</li> <li>• % women accessing output markets to sell agricultural production over the last 12 months</li> <li>• % women accessing agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.) over the last 12 months</li> <li>• % women with access to and control over loans for IGA</li> <li>• % women adopting minimum number of improved agricultural practices</li> <li>• % women adopting improved storage practices</li> <li>• % women adopting minimum number of improved livestock practices</li> <li>• % women adopting minimum number of value chain practices</li> <li>• % households adopting negative coping strategies in past 3 months</li> <li>• % households using adaptation strategies to reduce the impact of climate change</li> </ul>

WE-RISE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (PROGRAM LEVEL)						
	Narrative Logic	Indicators	Sources of Information	Frequency of reporting	Who to collect/analyze data	WE-RISE Global Indicators
	<p><b>WE-RISE CHANGE OUTCOME 2</b></p> <p>Formal &amp; informal local-level institutions are more responsive to women's priorities &amp; accountable to upholding their rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % Men and women reporting women's meaningful participation in the public sphere (meaningful will be defined by the women themselves during the baseline FGDs – this is a perception-based indicator).</li> <li>• % Men and women reporting women's ability to effectively control productive assets (perception-based indicator).</li> <li>• % women with access to agricultural extension services in most recent agricultural cycle</li> <li>• % women accessing agricultural financial services (loans, savings, crop insurance) in most recent agricultural cycle</li> <li>• % women satisfied with selected list of services (e.g., agricultural, health, local government)</li> <li>• % increase in women's representation in formal and informal institutions</li> <li>• % women holding leadership positions with decision-making power in membership groups and community-level institutions</li> <li>• % group members with demonstrated understanding of the benefits of group formation</li> <li>• % women and men farmers at local level comfortable and confident speaking about women's rights</li> <li>• % respondents sensitized to women's rights</li> <li>• % village/district budgets, policies, customary bylaws incorporating women's strategic gender needs and gender equality</li> <li>• # and type of laws developed and/or reformed that promote women's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline data and analysis, including FGDs, KII, HH surveys</li> <li>• End-line data and analysis, including FGDs, KII, HH surveys</li> <li>• Annual cohort assessments</li> <li>• Routine project monitoring and progress reports, with output level data provided as markers for progress on higher level program indicators</li> <li>• Annual reflection and learning workshops</li> <li>• District Agricultural Records</li> <li>• VSLA records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline in Year 1</li> <li>• Quarterly and annual progress reports</li> <li>• MTR</li> <li>• Annual cohort assessments</li> <li>• End-line and final evaluation – 6 months before the project end</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An independent contracted consultancy (TANGO) and local firm working with the WE-RISE Program</li> <li>• Program Managers &amp; Field staff;</li> <li>• LNGO partner staff</li> <li>• Local government officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % women with access to agricultural extension services in last 12 months</li> <li>• % women accessing agricultural financial services (loans, savings, crop insurance) in last 12 months</li> <li>• % women reporting satisfaction with agricultural extension services</li> <li>• Village/district/institutional budgets, policies, customary bylaws incorporate women's strategic gender interests and gender equality</li> <li>• Women report civil society &amp; government are responsive to their agricultural needs</li> <li>• % women participating in formal and informal groups</li> <li>• % women holding leadership positions in formal and informal groups</li> <li>• % respondents confident speaking about gender and other community issues at the local level</li> </ul>



WE-RISE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (PROGRAM LEVEL)						
	Narrative Logic	Indicators	Sources of Information	Frequency of reporting	Who to collect/analyze data	WE-RISE Global Indicators
	<p><b>WE-RISE CHANGE OUTCOME 3</b></p> <p>Cultural &amp; social norms &amp; attitudes better support the individual and collective aspirations and improved opportunities for chronically food insecure rural women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % women reporting joint control over household income and expenditures</li> <li>• % women reporting joint decision-making and control over household assets</li> <li>• % women reporting equitable distribution of time between productive/domestic tasks</li> <li>• % women reporting sole or joint decision-making over reproductive health decisions (birth control; spacing of children)</li> <li>• % of women and men with changed attitudes toward gender-based violence.</li> <li>• % formal/informal groups and institutions developed or strengthened by the projects that have developed a gender policy</li> <li>• Evidence of local institutions demonstrating accountability &amp; responsiveness to women's priorities including # community leaders (e.g.,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline data and analysis, including FGDs, KII, HH surveys</li> <li>• End-line data and analysis, including FGDs, KII, HH surveys</li> <li>• Annual cohort assessments</li> <li>• Routine project monitoring and progress reports, with output level data provided as markers for progress on higher level program indicators</li> <li>• Annual reflection and learning workshops</li> <li>• District Agricultural Records</li> <li>• VSLA records</li> <li>• MTR</li> <li>• Annual cohort assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline in Year 1</li> <li>• Quarterly and annual progress reports</li> <li>• MTR</li> <li>• Annual cohort assessments</li> <li>• End-line and final evaluation – 6 months before the project end</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An independent contracted consultancy (TANGO) and local firm working with the WE-RISE Program</li> <li>• Program Managers &amp; Field staff;</li> <li>• LNGO partner staff</li> <li>• Local government officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % women reporting joint control over household income and expenditures</li> <li>• % women reporting joint decision-making and control over household assets</li> <li>• % women reporting sole or joint decision-making over reproductive health decisions (birth control; spacing of children)</li> <li>• % women making sole or joint decisions about health care</li> <li>• % respondents expressing attitudes that support gender-equitable roles in family life</li> <li>• % respondents expressing attitudes that reject household gender-based violence</li> <li>• Women's mobility</li> <li>• % of the project's groups that have developed a gender policy</li> </ul>

WE-RISE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (PROGRAM LEVEL)						
	Narrative Logic	Indicators	Sources of Information	Frequency of reporting	Who to collect/analyze data	WE-RISE Global Indicators
		<p>political, traditional, religious) at the local level sensitized and engaged in women's rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # women and men farmers at the local level sensitized and engaged on women's rights (re: land use and other agricultural issues)</li> <li>• % change in social perspective of values/rights of women among leaders, among men &amp; boys; among women &amp; girls</li> <li>• # and type of community-based sensitization/awareness-raising campaigns for women/men on gender</li> </ul>				
<b>ACCES OBJECTIVE 2: AusAID policy and programs in Africa are strengthened particularly in their ability to target and serve the needs of marginalised people</b>						
	<p><b>WE-RISE CHANGE OUTCOME 4</b></p> <p>CARE's learning, knowledge &amp; documentation on women's empowerment,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # and type of workshops/meetings based on lessons learned with relevant stakeholders</li> <li>• # and type of WE-RISE knowledge products influencing/taken up by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AACES learning events</li> <li>• WE-RISE knowledge products and materials</li> <li>• AusAID external MTR &amp; evaluation of WE-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of project and an</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AusAID's external M&amp;E specialists</li> <li>• CARE's International Programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # and type of WE-RISE knowledge products influencing/taken up by CARE country offices</li> <li>• # of partner organizations influenced by and/or applying WE-RISE knowledge products (disaggregated by institution</li> </ul>

WE-RISE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (PROGRAM LEVEL)						
	Narrative Logic	Indicators	Sources of Information	Frequency of reporting	Who to collect/analyze data	WE-RISE Global Indicators
	transforming gender norms, reducing food insecurity, and climate change resilience is strengthened such that CARE can better inform and influence its own programs, AusAID & other key stakeholders	<p>AusAID policies and programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of ACCES peer agencies influenced by and/or applying WE-RISE knowledge products (disaggregated by institution type)</li> <li># relevant CARE programs/initiatives applying tools/practices/evidence generated by WE-RISE</li> <li># of CARE staff reporting improved knowledge and skills to implement and advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment</li> <li>Documented feedback from AusAID to CARE on quality of information on women's empowerment, food security and climate change</li> </ul>	RISE Program and ACCES more broadly		Department	<p>type)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CARE and partners report improved knowledge and skills to implement and advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment</li> </ul>
<b>ACCES OBJECTIVE 3: Increased opportunity for the Australian Public to be informed about development issues in Africa</b>						
	<p><b>WE-RISE CHANGE OUTCOME 5</b></p> <p>Positive outcomes from WE-RISE are communicated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning from field experiences published in relevant sector journals and/or presented in selected forums (local, regional, international)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation tools yet to be developed for this but will be appropriate to the mode of communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the lifecycle of the program in particular during the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AusAID's external M&amp;E specialists</li> <li>CARE's International</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning from field experiences published in relevant sector journals and/or presented in selected forums (local, regional, international)</li> </ul>

WE-RISE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (PROGRAM LEVEL)						
	Narrative Logic	Indicators	Sources of Information	Frequency of reporting	Who to collect/analyse data	WE-RISE Global Indicators
	effectively to the Australian public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#/type of communications re: positive outcomes from WE-RISE produced for targeted members of Australian public (strategy developed/implemented)</li> </ul>		last year	Programs Department	

## Annex 2: Methodology

The WE-RISE baseline and endline surveys used a non-experimental design for pre-post comparison of results. The survey was “beneficiary-based” in that the sample was drawn randomly from a sample frame composed of all households with a female member in a collective with which WE-RISE is working. The sample size was determined to provide statistically representative results for household and individual level indicators at the project level. At baseline, in a two-stage selection process, 69 VSLA clusters were first randomly selected (from 361 in the WE-RISE operational area) using probability proportionate to size (PPS) based on female membership in CARE’s VSLAs. In the second-stage of sampling, 12 female VSLA members were randomly selected from each VSLA cluster. In cases where a VSLA did not have 12 or more members, two to three VSLA’s were clustered based on geographical proximity and the second stage sample was drawn from these clusters. Designed as a longitudinal study, data were to be collected from the same households for both the endline and the baseline surveys. Due to the project reducing project implementation areas and overall attrition, the endline sample was significantly reduced. Section 2.2 explains this in detail.

### Development of Indicators and Data Collection Tools

WE-RISE impact and outcome indicators were developed through discussions at the CARE M&E workshop held in Pondicherry, India in May, 2012 and subsequent comments from CARE-AUS management and staff. As a result of the May workshop, indicators were developed that would allow for assessing the broader impact of CARE’s work with systems that affect women’s productive engagement in agriculture, and in particular with the CARE USA’s Pathways program because of its strong gender focus, similar program approach and methodology, and overlapping countries of implementation. Thus, a set of “global” indicators was designed to align with better practices and has been validated by experts from FANTA-2, USAID, IFPRI, and others. Detailed descriptions of indicators, along with direction of change targets, are summarized in the CARE WE-RISE Evaluation Plan.<sup>45</sup>

Impact indicators for the final evaluation are presented below. The full set of final evaluation indicators and results are presented in Annex 2. Indicators included in Annex 2 represent those that are tracked at the impact and outcome levels. Some indicators are disaggregated by sex or sex of the household head; others target women beneficiaries only; and some are disaggregated by male and female respondents within the same household. Finally, some are composite indicators that require the combination of two or more variables.

#### **WE-RISE Impact Indicators**

- Mean household dietary diversity scores
- Mean women’s intra-household food access
- Coping strategies index
- Per capita monthly household income (farm and non-farm)
- % households with non-agricultural income
- % households with three or more different income sources
- Per capita monthly household expenditures
- % households with savings
- Mean asset index
- Mean household dietary diversity scores
- Mean women’s intra-household food access
- Coping strategies index

<sup>45</sup> TANGO International. 2012. CARE WE-RISE Evaluation Plan.

## Quantitative Study

**Sample size:** The baseline survey design was discussed at a workshop in Pondicherry, India May 21-25, 2012 and subsequently reviewed by CARE Australia before implementation of the survey. Malawi (and all other countries) independently calculated their sample size based on household expenditures, with a targeted improvement of 30% ( $X_2$ ) over the life of the activity. A design effect of 2,  $Z_\alpha = 1.282$  (Z-value corresponding to a 90% significance level), and  $Z_\beta = .84$  (Z-value corresponding to 80% power) were used for all country-level calculations. Malawi set the non-response factor at 3%, attrition rate at 2%, and  $X_1$  at 1.

The minimum sample size required was computed using the formula for means provided in the FANTA Sampling Guide:

$$n = N * D [(Z_\alpha + Z_\beta)^2 * (sd_1^2 + sd_2^2) / (X_2 - X_1)^2] * A$$

where:

$n$  = required minimum sample size per survey round or comparison group

$N$  = non-response factor

$D$  = design effect

$A$  = attrition factor (baseline to endline)

$X_1$  = the estimated mean of the indicator at the time of the first survey

$X_2$  = the *expected* mean of the indicator either at some future date or for the program area such that the quantity  $(X_2 - X_1)$  is the size of the magnitude of change or comparison-group differences it is desired to be able to detect

$Z_\alpha$  = the Z-score corresponding to the degree of confidence with which it is desired to be able to conclude that an observed change of size  $(X_2 - X_1)$  would not have occurred by chance ( $\alpha$  - the level of statistical significance)

$Z_\beta$  = the z-score corresponding to the degree of confidence with which it is desired to be certain of detecting a change of size  $(X_2 - X_1)$  if one actually occurred ( $\beta$  - statistical power)

$sd_1$  = the expected standard deviation of the indicator the time of the first survey

$sd_2$  = the expected standard deviation of the indicator at some future date

Using these values,  $n$  (the minimum baseline sample size) was computed as 787. The total number of households surveyed at baseline was 751, exceeding the 3% non-response rate that CARE Malawi had budgeted for, and not allowing for any non-response at endline. Prior to the endline survey, project staff updated participant rosters to exclude households who are longer participating in the program, due to migration, death, or personal choice or who reside in one village that was dropped by the project —resulting in an endline target sample of 662 (13% attrition versus the 2% the country office had budgeted for).

The endline survey experienced a 6.6 % non-response rate, resulting in 618 households total interviewed, for an overall 21.5 % rate of attrition and non-response compared to households interviewed at baseline (**Error! eference source not found.**). The unanticipated attrition could have resulted in some indicators for which the reduced sample size was now too small to detect change (potentially increasing the 30% difference in means that the study was designed to be able to detect between the endline and baseline). This did not occur for WE-RISE Malawi data for two reasons. In some cases the coefficient of variance is less than the 1.7 estimated in the study design (for example, income) meaning the full sample is not needed to detect a 30% change. In other cases the

difference in percentages is so small that even the original sample size could not have detected a statistical difference at the 90% confidence level.

**Table 38: Sample Sizes**

	<i>Baseline achieved sample size</i>	<i>Endline target sample size<sup>A</sup></i>	<i>Endline achieved sample size</i>	<i>Attrition and non-response rate<sup>B</sup></i>
WE-RISE	751	662	618	21.5%

<sup>A</sup>This list was based upon all households to complete the baseline survey, and was updated for project staff to exclude households no longer participating in program or to have migrated away from program area

<sup>B</sup>This figure includes non-response and attrition since baseline. Households who could not be located, households where the female interviewed at baseline was not available, households who were located but stated they had not participated in the program in over a year, and households who did not consent to participate in the survey.

Following discussions between CARE headquarters and TANGO, it was agreed that the baseline and endline comparisons would not include households who reside in communities where WE-RISE ceased to operate (12 HH), thus the restricted baseline sample is 739 households versus 751 households. Point values for the baseline have been recalculated to better reflect the status of the project participant population. Annex 2 presents original and restricted baseline values for all impact and outcome indicators.

**Table 39: Endline analysis sample size**

	<i>Baseline Sample Size</i>	<i>Restricted Baseline<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Endline Sample Size</i>
All households	751	739	618
Female-headed households	163	159	186
Male-headed households	588	580	432

<sup>a</sup> Households who reside in communities where WE-RISE ceased to operate are omitted from endline analysis. Point values for the baseline are recalculated to better reflect the status of the project participant population.

### **Survey Instrument**

The data collection tools originate from a standardized set of global tools developed in collaboration with CARE-AUS and CARE-USA. CARE Malawi helped to contextualize the standardized tools to the local context. The quantitative survey instrument was designed to ensure that baseline information on project indicators is sufficiently captured. The indicators emphasize women’s empowerment across the five domains identified in Feed the Future’s (FTF) *Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index*<sup>46</sup> (WEAI), including agricultural production, access to and ownership of resources, control over income and expenditures, leadership and community participation, and allocation of time. TANGO and CARE also drew on other sources to develop the indicators, including CARE’s Strategic Impact Inquiry on Women’s Empowerment (SII)<sup>47</sup> and IFPRI’s *Engendering Agricultural Research, Development and Extension*.<sup>48</sup>

Learning from baseline survey implementation, where the excessively long survey potentially jeopardized data quality, CARE Australia, CARE USA and TANGO collaborated on reducing the survey to only the essential variables that are needed to measure and shed light on impact and outcome variables. This was a great improvement and

<sup>46</sup> USAID. 2011. Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index.

<sup>47</sup> CARE International. 2006. The Courage to Change: Confronting the limits and unleashing the potential of CARE’s programming for women. Synthesis Report: Phase 2. CARE International Strategic Impact Inquiry on Women’s Empowerment.

<sup>48</sup> IFPRI. 2011.

resulted in enumerators and respondents who were much more engaged with the survey process. Annex 3 contains the quantitative survey tool.

### ***Survey Training and Logistics***

CARE Malawi recruited 20 Malawian enumerators and five supervisors to carry out the household survey, and seven qualitative facilitators (five female and two male) to carry out the complementary qualitative research. CARE Malawi staff provided administrative and logistical support for the quantitative and qualitative teams throughout the survey.

TANGO International trained all endline survey team members – household interviewers, team supervisors, and program M&E staff responsible for coordinating the data collection and aggregation. Training took place over a total of six days (August 17 -22, 2015) with five days in a workshop and one day for field testing. The field visit served as a pilot test of the survey and qualitative tools and provided interviewers with experience in interviewing households and conducting focus groups.

Quantitative training covered the following topics:

1. Overview of CARE’s WE-RISE program
2. Review of the objectives of the endline evaluation
3. Detailed discussion of the survey tool (question-by question)
6. Training on administering the questionnaire with tablets
7. Pilot testing of the survey tool
8. Modifications to the survey tool in response to the pilot test

Enumerators and supervisors received basic training on the use of computer tablets, including how to enter data, recharge batteries, and navigate the survey using ODK software. Supervisors also received training on how to transfer data files from tablets to the TANGO server via wireless connection. Training modules on tablets were based on similar materials developed by TANGO for quantitative surveys. The questionnaire was programmed into the tablets in both Chichewa and English. During the course of training, several modifications were made to the Chichewa translation and to specific questions to make them relevant to the local context. Enumerators practiced the questionnaire in Chichewa repeatedly to ensure that they understood the questions, and had practice in conducting interviews using the tablet.

The M&E supervisors from CARE WE-RISE and CARE Pathways programs were responsible for logistical coordination of the field-based survey teams.

### ***Data Collection and Data Quality Measures***

Survey data were collected August 23rd through September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in the Traditional Authorities (TA) of Chewere and Kalumbu, the two operational areas of CARE Malawi’s WE-RISE project. Quantitative data were collected using Nexus 7 tablets programmed with ODK. Each enumerator used the Chichewa version of the questionnaire to record interviews. Supervisors conducted one spot check per day, per enumerator. This allowed them to regularly check the quality and accuracy of the data entered by the enumerators. Supervisors regularly communicated the results of spot checks to TANGO.

TANGO provided direct oversight for the quantitative teams for the first three days of fieldwork. For the remainder of the study, TANGO provided comprehensive daily feedback to CARE and the quantitative survey supervisors on the quality of data collection. The feedback highlighted issues with specific questions or



enumerators in a way that enabled supervisors to work with individual enumerators to improve data collection efforts.

## **Qualitative Study**

### ***Qualitative Tools***

A variety of qualitative participatory tools were developed to explore contextual factors, including agency, structure, and relations and their impact on poor smallholder women farmers. The qualitative tools allowed the team to capture information on norms that affect women's empowerment and power relationships, particularly as these factors relate to women's ability to actively engage in and have control over agricultural production and marketing activities. The tools were designed to provide insight to better understand and interpret the quantitative indicators and to help identify the key factors critical to the success of the program, including progress markers defined at midterm by participants and country team. In addition to topical outlines, participatory tools including a ranking exercise that captured the perceived effectiveness of WE-RISE project activities, a wealth ranking matrix, and a daily activity record for women.

### ***Qualitative Team and Training***

The qualitative data collection team was composed of the TANGO consultant and seven Malawian research assistants (5 women and 2 men), one of which functioned as the team leader once TANGO returned to the United States. All the Malawians were fluent in Chichewa and English. In addition to the joint training with the quantitative team mentioned above, the qualitative team spent three days reviewing and adjusting the focus group topical outlines and agreeing on the phrasing of questions and the Chichewa translation. Training also focused on effective group facilitation, probing for content and recording of information in matrices developed for data collection.

### ***Site selection***

The qualitative sample (six communities) was a subset of the quantitative sample, and included three villages in each TA. The villages were purposively selected by TANGO in collaboration with CARE Malawi staff, maximizing diversity of relevant criteria listed below:

- population size
- road accessibility
- coverage of other development programs
- access to services
- Project staff perception of success / lack of success of marketing initiatives

### ***Data Collection***

Participatory methods were used throughout the assessment to secure information from program participants, including their views of what is most valuable and relevant. Qualitative data collection was performed through three main focus group discussions (FGDs) in each of the six communities visited. The three focus groups were with a) Female VLSA members, b) husbands of female VSLA members; c) female non-members. Additionally, in each village small group discussions were separately held with members of the marketing committee and village development committee members. All focus group discussions were conducted in Chichewa.

About 50 key informants were interviewed at community and national level including customary authorities (village heads, group village heads, traditional authorities), community volunteers (farmer to farmer trainers,

adult literacy volunteers, and village agents), local traders, and officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Gender.

Finally, TANGO conducted nine process interviews with implementing partners and CARE staff.

Topical outlines and list of persons interviewed will be presented in the next draft of this report.

## **Data Analyses**

**Quantitative analysis:** The quantitative data were collated and configured by TANGO International staff using SPSS v20.0 software. This included organization of the data to align to the common indicator framework, calculation of secondary variables (asset index, coping strategy index, etc.) from primary variables where appropriate,<sup>49</sup> and formulation of tables and charts. Analysis and reporting is consistent with the CARE WE-RISE Evaluation Plan, therefore some data are disaggregated by sex of respondent, some data are reported for female respondents only and are disaggregated by the sex of their households' head, other data are reported for female respondents only and are not disaggregated, and finally some data are reported for the household, disaggregated by the households' head (e.g., demographic data, savings, etc.)

Statistical differences were determined with t-tests or non-parametric tests (e.g., Mann-Whitney U). Probability levels are reported for statistically significant differences only.

**Qualitative analysis:** After each day of data collection, the team spent one day to review all data collected, cross check information and its interpretation, and to sharpen inquiry tools as necessary. All notes were electronically captured in English into informational matrices by the qualitative team. This information was later integrated with the quantitative analysis by the TANGO consultant.

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<sup>49</sup> Annex 5 provides a description of how the asset and coping strategy indices were computed. Annex 6 describes the computation of the WEI, as well as how it aligns to and differs from the WEAI.

### Annex 3: WE-RISE Baseline to Endline results

WE-RISE Goal: Improved food security, income, and resilience for chronically food insecure rural women through their social and economic empowerment					
IMPACT INDICATORS	Baseline	Restricted BL	Cumulative Target	Actual Achieved	
IM 1.1: Mean household dietary diversity score	4.9	4.9	6.3	5.2	**
<i>Female headed-households</i>	4.3	4.3	6.0	4.8	*
<i>Male-headed households</i>	5.0	5.0	6.5	5.4	**
IM 1.2: Mean women's intra-household food access	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.0	**
<i>Female headed-households</i>	4.2	4.2	4.8	4.6	
<i>Male-headed households</i>	4.9	4.8	5.5	5.1	*
IM 1.3: Coping strategies index	2.8	2.8	4.1 <sup>50</sup>	6.4	***
<i>Female headed-households</i>	3.6	3.5	4.2	7.5	***
<i>Male-headed households</i>	2.6	2.7	4.0	6.0	***
IM 1.4: Per capita monthly household income (farm and non-farm) <i>Current USD for restricted baseline and actual</i>	10.00	7.91	15.30	10.77	***
<i>Female headed-households</i>	9.97	7.58	15.10	10.27	*
<i>Male-headed households</i>	10.01	8.01	15.50	10.99	***
IM 1.5: % households with non-agricultural income	46.1	46.0	?	66.0	***
<i>Female headed-households</i>	41.1	40.9	?	63.4	***
<i>Male-headed households</i>	47.5	47.4	?	67.1	***
IM 1.6: % households with three or more different income sources	65.1	65.2	?	86.6	***
<i>Female headed-households</i>	61.3	61.0	?	87.1	***
<i>Male-headed households</i>	66.2	66.4	?	86.3	***
IM 1.7: Per capita monthly household expenditures <i>Current USD for restricted baseline and actual</i>	15.37	15.27	13.00 <sup>51</sup>	17.75	**
<i>Female headed-households</i>	14.61	17.86	13.30	16.06	
<i>Male-headed households</i>	18.11	14.55	12.70	18.46	***
IM 1.8: % households with savings	84.3	84.3	90.2	83.1	
<i>Female headed-households</i>	77.8	77.4	90.0	78.8	
<i>Male-headed households</i>	85.9	86.2	95.0	85.0	
IM 1.9: Mean asset index	1697	1695	1800	2222	***
<i>Female headed-households</i>	1517	1514	1750	1944	***
<i>Male-headed households</i>	1747	1745	1850	2340	***
IM 1.10: Women's empowerment index score	0.58	0.58	.82	0.67	***
<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	0.75	0.74	.85	0.74	***
<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	0.53	0.53	.80	0.64	***
<i>Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (*), 5%(**) or 1% (***) levels.</i>					
Cells shaded orange indicate data are trending in the wrong direction.					

<sup>50</sup> This target should have been set lower than baseline, not greater than baseline. Higher values indicate greater stress related to food and income shortages.

<sup>51</sup> This target should have been set higher than baseline, not lower than baseline. Expenditures are a proxy for income increases.

Change Outcome 1 : CFIRW have increased household productive assets and resources and control over them, and are more resilient to climate shocks						
	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Baseline	Restricted BL	Cumulative Target	Actual Achieved	
					ENDLINE 2015	
Productivity, Resources , and Resilience	· Net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities <i>Current USD for restricted baseline and actual</i>	88.87	72.22	90.00	180.71	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	60.75	54.07	85.00	151.88	***
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	96.79	77.31	95.00	193.31	***
	Total annual yield per hectare <i>Soya</i>	419.0	599.5	?	649.0	
	Total annual yield per hectare <i>Groundnut</i>	1451.3	738.7	?	530.5	***
	· Number of different crops grown	3.0	2.5	5	3.1	***
	<i>Female headed-households</i>	3.0	2.3	5	3.1	***
	<i>Male-headed households</i>	3.0	2.5	5	3.0	***
	· % women with access to and control over loans for IGA	29.6	29.0	40.6	34.2	*
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	47.8	46.7	50.8	56.3	*
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	24.5	24.1	30.5	24.9	
	· % women adopting three or more improved agricultural practices	43.5	44.7	52.2	66.0	***
	· % women farmers adopting two or more post-harvest processes	58.2	58.7	70.0	68.6	***
	· % women adopting one or more improved storage practice	36.7	37.3	40.4	27.0	***
	· % women using one or more improved livestock practice	32.0	32.8	35.2	77.7	***
	· % women accessing agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.) over the last 12 months	65.6	65.5	78.0	77.6	***
	· % women accessing output markets to sell agricultural production over the last 12 months	31.8	28.5	40.0	51.9	***
	· % households adopting negative coping strategies in past 3 months	15.0	12.7	12.5	18.8	***
	<i>Female headed-households</i>	17.2	14.5	14.0	22.6	*
	<i>Male-headed households</i>	14.5	12.2	11.0	17.1	**
Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (*), 5 %(**) or 1 %(***) levels.						

Cells shaded orange indicate data are trending in the wrong direction.

<b>Outcome 2: Formal and informal local-level institutions are more responsive to women's priorities and accountable to upholding their rights.</b>						
	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Restricted BL</b>	<b>Cumulative Target</b>	<b>Actual Achieved</b>	
<b>Enabling Institutional Environment</b>	% women with access to agricultural extension services over last 12 months	27.4	26.8	40.0	77.5	***
	% women accessing agricultural financial services in last 12 months	87.3	88.1	95.0	94.4	***
	% women reporting satisfaction with agricultural extension services	91.2	91.0	97.0	93.6	***
	% women participating in formal and informal groups	97.3	97.3	98.5	99.8	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	95.7	95.6	98.0	100.0	***
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	97.8	97.7	99.0	99.8	***
	% women holding leadership positions in formal and informal groups	34.7	50.6	53.0	67.3	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	32.9	53.0	52.0	66.7	**
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	35.2	50.0	54.0	67.5	***
	% <b>Female</b> respondents confident speaking in public about gender and other community issues at the local level	45.3	45.4	60.0	74.1	***
	% <b>Male</b> respondents confident speaking in public about gender and other community issues at the local level	68.3	67.9	70.0	85.5	***
<b>Outcome 3: Cultural and social norms and attitudes better support the individual and collective aspirations and improved opportunities for chronically food insecure rural women.</b>						
<b>Cultural and social norms and attitudes</b>	% women with sole or joint control over household income and expenditures	51.7	50.6	70.0	59.5	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	81.0	80.5	95.0	72.1	*
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	43.5	42.4	50.4	54.2	***
	% women with sole or joint decision-making and control over 75% or more of household assets	53.8	64.8	65.5	75.7	***
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	86.3	87.1	88.6	83.1	
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	44.9	58.8	50.4	72.6	***
	% women reporting sole or joint decision-making over reproductive health decisions (birth control; spacing of children)	93.4	90.5	95.0	93.9	**
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	97.0	96.9	98.0	97.0	
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	89.8	89.6	92.0	93.0	*
	% women making sole or joint decisions about health care	87.4	87.4	95.0	86.3	
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	98.1	98.0	99.0	90.1	***
<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	84.3	84.5	91.0	84.7		

	% <b>female</b> respondents expressing attitudes that support gender-equitable roles in family life	37.4	37.2	45.0	44.2	***
	% <b>male</b> respondents expressing attitudes that support gender-equitable roles in family life	42.7	41.8	50.0	40.4	
	% <b>female</b> respondents expressing attitudes that reject gender-based household violence	71.9	71.9	75.0	74.8	
	% <b>male</b> respondents expressing attitudes that reject gender-based household violence	78.9	78.6	85.0	71.7	*
	Women's mobility	47.8	48.2	60.5	50.1	
	<i>Women in female headed-households</i>	67.5	67.9	70.5	45.4	***
	<i>Women in male-headed households</i>	42.2	42.7	50.5	52.1	***
<i>Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (*), 5%(**) or 1%(***) levels.</i>						
Cells shaded orange indicate data are trending in the wrong direction.						



## Annex 4: Quantitative Survey Tool

### CARE WE-RISE MALAWI

Endline Questionnaire WORKING

August- September, 2015

#### Module A: Identification

FILL IN. A1 – A8 BEFORE CONTACTING SAMPLED COLLECTIVE MEMBER.

No	Question	Response																																																																												
A1	Date of interview	DD / MM  _ _ / _ _																																																																												
A2	Enumerator Code	_ _																																																																												
A3	Which CARE project is the household being interviewed for?	Pathways.....1 WERISE.....2																																																																												
A4	Traditional authority	Chiwere (WE-RISE).....1 Kalumbu(WE-RISE .....2 Mwase(Pathways).....3 Njombwa(Pathways).....4 Dzoole (Pathways).....5 Kaomba(Pathways).....6																																																																												
A5	<b>GVH ( and Village) Chiwere TA (WE-RISE)</b>																																																																													
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Funachina (Dikisoni)	(Nyama)	32	Mkomba	(Mkalimuti)	41	
Kalumbi (Kadzakatha)	(Mmbalame)	33	Mninga (Kosamu)	(Yakobe)	42	
Kalumbu (Kalumbu)	(Mwatsindo)	34	Mthethe (Chidothi)	(Mthethe)	43	
Kamphata (Kamchacha)	(Nanthambwe)	35	Mwachilolo (Binuwelo)	(Kadafumbwa)	44	
Khombe		36		(Kumfela)	45	
Khuzi		37	Nyundo	(Salimakumwala)	46	
			Zipendo		46	
GVH (and village) Mwase TA		GVH Njombwa TA		GVH Dzoole TA		
Chipwaira/Chipwila	47	Chimwala	59	Kamwana	69	
Chikwesa 1	48	Chungu	60	Mwaphila	70	
Chinkhombwe	49	Kachembwe	61	Mwenye	71	
Chinyamunyamu	50	Kapyola	62			
Galiko	51	Kasela	63			
Kacheche	52	Mbwindi	64			
Msenga	53	Mchinga	65			
Katema	54	Njombwa	66			
Malangano	55	Nsewu	67			
Mavungira	56	Zaya	68			
Mtembwe	57					
Vidzumo	58					
GVH (and Village) in Kaomba TA						
A5	Bwanali	72	Joni	82	Mndume	92
	Chamamatira	73	Kalikwembe	83	Mwanalumo	93
	Chikankheni	74	Kaniga	84	Ndume	94
	Chilanga	75	Kantchembele	85	Ngwata	95
	Chilowa	76	Kapindula	86	Njalale	96
	Chipekwe	77	Kaweza	87	Suza (Kantolo)	
	Chiphaso	78	Mankhaka	88	(Suza)	97
	Chisamba	79	Mbira	89	Yasanya	98
	Chisazima	80	Mgaule	90		
	Gogodi	81	Mlangali	91		
A6	Full name of sampled collective member e.g., Ruth Loveness Phiri					
A7 a	Household Number [From Household List]		_ _ _ _			
A7 b	Re-enter Household Number [From Household List]		_ _ _ _			
A8	Are you able to locate the household?		Yes...1 No...0		If No, end of Survey	

	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Hello. My name is _____ and I work for <i>[WE-RISE / PATHWAYS]</i> project. We are conducting an endline survey. The information we collect will be used for planning, implementation and evaluation of the project.</p>		
<b>A9</b>	Is the sampled collective member available to be interviewed?	Yes...1 No...0	<b>If No, end of Survey</b>
<b>A9 a</b>	Are you a member of a CARE-supported group?	Yes, still active...1 Yes, not active.....2 No, quit group.....3 No, never was a member...4	<b>3 &amp;4 = END SURVEY</b>
<b>A10</b>	<p>Introduction and consent</p> <p>You have been selected at random to participate in this survey. Your participation is completely voluntary and you may choose not to participate. Your responses will be kept confidential.</p> <p>We will be asking you questions about members of your household, agricultural practices, food security, household expenditures, and gender roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Do you have any questions for me about the survey?</p> <p><b>Do you agree to participate in the survey?</b></p>	Consent....1 Does NOT consent.....0	<b>If No, end of survey</b>

## Module B: Household roster

ASK THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. IF NOT AVAILABLE, ASK ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD (such as the sampled member, if she is not the household head..

### DEFINITION OF HOUSEHOLD

A household is a group of people who live together and take food from the “same pot,” even if not blood relatives. In our survey, a household member is someone who has lived in the household at least 6 months, and at least half of the week in each week in those months.

Even those persons who are not blood relations (such as servants, lodgers, or agricultural laborers) are members of the household if they have stayed in the household at least 6 months and take food from the “same pot.” If someone stays in the same household but does not bear any costs for food or does not take food from the same pot, they are not considered household members. For example, if two brothers stay in the same house with their families but they do not share food costs and they cook separately, then they are considered two separate households.

Generally, if one person stays more than 3 months out of the last 6 months outside the household, they are not considered household members. We do not include them even if other household members consider them as household members.

Exceptions to these rules should be made for:

Consider as HOUSEHOLD member

- A NEWBORN child less than 3 months old.
- Someone who has joined the household through marriage less than 3 months ago.
  - Servants, lodgers, and agricultural laborers currently in the household and will be staying in the household for a longer period but arrived less than 3 months ago.

Do not consider as HOUSEHOLD member

- A person who died very recently though stayed more than 3 months in last 6 months.
- Someone who has left the household through marriage less than 3 months ago.
  - Servants, lodgers, and agricultural laborers who stayed more than 3 months in last 6 months but left permanently.

**This definition of the household is very important.** The criteria could be different from other studies you may be familiar with, but you should keep in mind that you should not include those people who do not meet these criteria. Please discuss any questions with your supervisor.

**The HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD is the the primary decision-maker for the household**

**SAY TO RESPONDENT** “Please tell me the name and sex of each person who lives here, starting with the head of the household. Let me tell you a little bit about what we mean by 'household.' For our purposes today, members of a household are those that live together and eat from the "same pot." It should include anyone who has lived in your house for 6 of the last 12 months, but it does not include anyone who lives here but eats separately.”

**LIST THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD FIRST and fill in all information in the household listing. THEN ASK: “Does anyone else live here even if they are not at home now. These may include children in school or household members at work.” IF YES, COMPLETE THE LISTING. THEN, COLLECT THE REMAINING COLUMNS OF INFORMATION FOR EACH MEMBER, ONE PERSON AT A TIME.**

Line No	B1 Name List full name for HH head.	B2 Relationship to head of HH  see codes	B3 Sex 1 = Male 2=Female	B4 Please tell me how old [NAME] is. How old was [NAME] on his/her last birthday?  (if less than one year, enter “0”)  <b>If &lt;= 5 go to next HH member</b>	B5 Marital status  see codes	B6 Highest level of education achieved by _____	B7 Can [NAME] read and write?  Yes = 1 No = 0	B8 <b>Eligible for Module C</b> Is this <b>female</b> engaged in agriculture or livestock activities? If yes, put a checkmark Yes = 1 No = 0	B9 <b>Eligibility for Modules D-M</b>  Is [ ] the CARE collective member? Yes = 1 No = 0
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11	Collect information for all HH members, even if there are more than 10								

Column B5: Marital status	Column B2: Relationship to Head of HH	Column B6: Highest level of education received
Single .....1 Married <=2 years).....2 Married > 2 years .....3 Divorced.....4 Widow/er.....5	1 = Head of household 2 = Spouse 3 = Child (step/in-laws) 4 = Grandchild 5 = Parent/grandparent (step/in-laws) 6 = Sibling (including step/in-laws) 7 = Cousin 8 = Nephew/niece 9 = Aunt/uncle 10 = Other	None.....0 JP (1-4).....1 SP (5-8).....2 JS (1-2).....3 SS (3-4).....4 Tertiary.....5

B10 Is any member of the Household disabled?	1 Yes 2 No	No = Skip to C1.
B11 What type of disability? (Select up to four)	Vision Impaired Hearing impaired Speech and Language Upper Limbs Lower limbs Mobility Mentally Impaired Other	

**Module C. Expanded Coping Strategies Index (CSI)**

ASK THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. IF NOT AVAILABLE, ASK THE FEMALE DECISION-MAKER OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

Question		0 = never 1= 1 day each week 2= 2-3 days each week 3= 4-6 day each week 4= daily				
<b>C1. In the past 3 months, were there times when you did not have enough food or enough money to buy food?</b> Yes = 1 No = 0  If No End Module		Frequency (tick one)				
<b>If yes, how many times per week on average did ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD do the following: [READ EACH COPING STRATEGY]</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>C2</b>	Borrowed food or borrowed money to buy food					
<b>C3</b>	Relied on less preferred or less expensive foods					
<b>C4</b>	Reduced the number of meals or the quantity eaten per day					
<b>C5</b>	Skipped eating due to lack of money or food for entire day					
<b>C6</b>	Consumed taboo food, wild food, famine foods which are normally not eaten					
<b>C7</b>	Restricted consumption of some family members so that others could eat normally or more					
<b>C8</b>	Eat seed stock held for next season					
<b>C9</b>	Beg or scavenge					

**C10. Did the household use any of the following strategies over the last 3 months to cope with food or income scarcity? Read all responses and SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

- Pledge or sell labour/crops/livestock in advance..... 1*
- Receive remittances (food or cash) from relatives, friends .....2*
- Take a loan with interest .....3*
- Slaughter more animals than normal .....4*
- Request local government for assistance .....5*
- Lower school attendance or drop out from school .....6*
- Reduce expenditures (e.g., health care, education).....7*
- Reduce expenditure on livestock and agricultural inputs .....8*
- Sell a higher number of livestock than usual.....9*
- Unusual sales (e.g., household assets, firewood, charcoal, etc.)..... 10*
- Migrate ..... 11*
- Send children away to better-off relatives and friends..... 12*

*Use savings intended for other investment* ..... 13  
*Participate in food for work/ cash for work programs* ..... 14  
*Sell seed stock held for next season*..... 15  
*None listed*..... 16

## Module D. Shocks

ASK THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. IF NOT AVAILABLE, ASK ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

	Shocks  Recall period: Last 5 years.	D1. Over the last 5 years, has the HH experienced any of the following unexpected shocks?  No.....0 Yes.....1  [READ ALL RESPONSES] [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]  If no, > next shock	D2. How many years ago was the most recent occurrence?  (This year=0)	D3. How did this shock impact the HH ?  <i>Do not read responses (See codes below)</i>  Select up to 5 responses  If response 1, skip to next shock	D4. What did you do to cope with its effect?  <i>Do not read responses (See codes below)</i>  Select up to 5 responses	D5. What is the HH's current condition after the shock?  <i>Worse than before=1 Better than before=2 Same as before = 3</i>  If 3, skip to D7	D6. Who in HH is the most affected?  <i>All in HH =1 Adult Women = 2 Adult Men = 3 Children =4 Women &amp; children = 5 Women &amp; men= 6 Men &amp; children =7</i>	D7. What have you done to protect your HH from the impact of [shock] in the future?  (See codes below)  Select all that apply
			D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
<b>A</b>	Death of HH income earning members							
<b>B</b>	Chronic illness or severe accident of HH member							
<b>C</b>	Loss of a regular job of a HH member							
<b>D</b>	Divorce or abandonment							
<b>E</b>	Hailstorms							
<b>F</b>	Major drought							
<b>G</b>	Issues with division of father's property							
<b>H</b>	Failure or bankruptcy of business							
<b>I</b>	decreased or cut off regular remittances							
<b>J</b>	Major conflict/ theft							
<b>K</b>	Epidemic disease (crop, livestock, human)							
<b>L</b>	Sudden or dramatic increase in food prices							
<b>M</b>	Waterlogging or flooding							

<b>D3. Impacts</b>		
No impact.....1	Lost land.....5	Lost equipment/materials.....9
House destroyed/damaged.....2	Loss of Income .....6	Displaced HH.....10
Increased illness in HH .....3	Loss of crops.....7	Forced to change occupation.....11
HH more indebted .....4	Lost livestock.....8	Increased hunger in HH .....12
		Other .....13
<b>D4. Coping strategies</b>		
Nothing .....1	Ate less/lower quality food.....6	Got assistance from gov't, NGO, friends).....11
Sold/mortgaged/leased land .....2	Took children out of school.....7	Spent savings.....12
Sold/mortgaged productive asset (land, bicycle, oxcarts)...3	Sent children to work.....8	Sold luxury items/ jewellery.....13
Took loan from NGO/institution.....4	Sent children to live with others.....9	Other .....14
Took loan from moneylender .....5	Migration of HH member for work..10	
<b>D7. Adaptation strategies</b>		
Nothing .....1	Invested in savings.....7	
Accessed additional land .....2	Invested in human health care.....8	
Use of drought tolerant/ early maturing crops .....3	Invested in animal health care .....9	
Invested in irrigation infrastructure.....4	Participated in conflict resolution .....10	
Diversified income generating activities.....5	Improved drainage / constructed dams or dyke.....11	
Purchased additional livestock. ....6	Stored food for future use.....12	
	Reinforced housing.....13	
	Other (specify).....14	



**Module E. Major Sources of Cash Income**

ASK THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. IF NOT AVAILABLE, ASK ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

Enumerator: Read each source and record answers before moving to next source.

<b>NON- PRODUCTION INCOME SOURCES FOR LAST 12 MONTHS</b>				
	<b>Sources</b>	<b>E1. Who earned income from this [activity] over the last 12 months?</b>  Men=1 Women=2 Both Men and Women =3 Children = 4 All HH Members =5 No one = 6  <b>If 6, skip to next Source</b>	<b>E2. How many months in the last 12 months did this [INSERT activity] generate income?</b>	<b>E3. How much does the household earn from [INSERT activity] each month?</b>  (MK)
<b>A</b>	Agriculture wage labour			
<b>B</b>	Non-agriculture: wage labour			
<b>C</b>	Skilled labor			
<b>D</b>	Small business activities (street vending, shopkeeping)			
<b>E</b>	Formal employment ( Gov't, NGO, private)			
<b>F</b>	Handicrafts			
<b>G</b>	Remittances (foreign, domestic)			
<b>H</b>	Firewood / charcoal sales			

**PRODUCTION INCOME SOURCES FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS**

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sources</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">READ EACH SOURCE AND RECORD ANSWERS BEFORE MOVING TO NEXT SOURCE</p>	<p><b>E5. Who earned income from this [activity] over the <u>last 12 months?</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Men=1 Women=2 Both men and women =3 Children = 4 All HH members 5 No one = 6</p> <p><b>If 5, skip to next source</b></p>	<p><b>E6. Estimated <u>annual</u> earnings from [activity]</b></p> <p>(MK)</p>	<p><b>E7. Estimated <u>annual</u> cost of inputs</b></p> <p>(MK)</p>
<b>A</b>	<i>Crop sales (own production, Household gardening)</i>			
<b>B</b>	<i>Sales of livestock and livestock products(milk, meat,</i>			
<b>C</b>	<i>Nursery products (vegetable, fruits/ forest products, seedling)</i>			
<b>D</b>	<i>Seed selling (cereals, vegetables, herbs)</i>			
<b>E</b>	<i>Aquaculture</i>			
<b>F</b>	<i>Fishing</i>			
<b>G</b>	<i>Other sources</i>			

## Module F. Household Expenditures

ASK THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. IF NOT AVAILABLE, ASK ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

Type of expenditure (Ask separately about each item and take detail)		F2. How much was spent on [item] (MK) DNK = -9 Enter 0 if no expenditure
<b>Recall period : Last 7 days</b>		
<b>Food</b>		
a	Cereals(,millet, sorghum, maize, rice, wheat or grain)	
b	Beans, peas, lentils, groundnuts	
c	Meat/fish	
d	Vegetables and fruits	
e	Milk/dairy products	
f	Other foods	
<b>Fuel</b>		
g	Firewood/ Charcoal, Kerosene/Petrol	
<b>Recall period : Last 30 days</b>		
h	<b>House rent or mortgage</b>	
i	Fees for doctors/clinics /traditional practices	
j	Medicines (traditional and modern)	
k	Mobile phone	
l	Personal hygiene items and personal cosmetics (soap etc)	
m	Bus fares/ bicycle hire/ motorcycle hire	
n	Other transportation costs (e.g. transportation of ag. production)	
o	Money given to relatives and friends	
p	Repayment of loan	
q	Other monthly costs	
<b>Recall period : 12 months</b>		
<b>Livestock/agriculture</b>		
s	Animal purchases	
t	Veterinary fees	
u	Fertilizers/seeds/pesticides/herbicides	
v	Irrigation pump/tubing	
w	Farming equipment/tools	
<b>Household items</b>		
y	Utensils/cooking items	
z	Household furniture (bed sheets, chair, table etc)	
AA	Household small appliances (TV, iron, radio, etc)	
AB	Clothing and footwear	
AC	Bicycle/motorbike purchase	

	<b>Type of expenditure</b> (Ask separately about each item and take detail)	<b>F2. How much was spent on [item] (MK)</b> DNK = -9 Enter 0 if no expenditure	
AD	<i>Other household items</i>		
	<b>Taxes</b>		
AF	<i>Tax (income, holding, land)</i>		
	<b>Others Costs</b>		
AG	<i>Repair costs (HH items, house, care)</i>		
	<b>Household event</b>		
AH	<i>Wedding costs/marriage day</i>		
AI	<i>Funeral/ tombstone unveiling</i>		
AJ	<i>Other religious/traditional/ social ceremonies</i>		
	<b>Education</b>		
AK	<i>School fees</i>		
AL	<i>Book/ exercise book/ pen/ pencil</i>		
AM	<i>Other education expenses (boarding, etc.)</i>		
	<b>Other Annual Expenses</b>		
AN	<i>Jewellery</i>		
AO	<i>House/Latrine construction</i>		
AP	<i>Water well construction</i>		
AQ	<i>Land purchase</i>		
AR	<i>Other Annual Expenses</i>		

**Enumerators: the next section is for female collective members involved in agriculture who were interviewed at baseline.**

**Module G. Agriculture**

**For this module, the woman who was interviewed at baseline should be interviewed. Confirm they are engaged in any agricultural activities, including as primary producers, laborers, processors or marketers of food, fiber, or fuel crops, large and small livestock, bees, fish, horticultural crops such as vegetables, fruit, nuts, berries, herbs or natural products (non-timber forest products and wild fisheries).**

No.	Question	Response codes	Skips	
<b>G1</b>	Is the woman engaged in agricultural activities of the household available to be	Yes = 1 No = 0	<b>NO = skip to H1</b>	
<b>G2</b>	What is her full name?			
<b>G3</b>	What is her relationship to the head of the household?	Head of household Spouse Child (including step/ in-laws) Grandchild Parent/grandparent (step/in-laws) Sibling (including step/in-laws) Cousin Nephew/niece Aunt/uncle Other		
<b>G4</b>	Has the respondent for this section already been interviewed for a previous section?	Yes = 1 No = 0	<b>YES = skip to G6</b>	
<b>G5</b>	<p>Hello. My name is _____ and I work for Pathways/WERISE project. We are conducting an endline survey for [WE-RISE / Pathways ] project. The information we collect will be used project evaluation.</p> <p>You have been selected at random to participate in this survey. Your participation is completely voluntary and you may choose not to participate. Your responses will be kept confidential.</p> <p>We will be asking you questions about your agricultural (crop/livestock) practices, value chain activities, improved storage techniques and access to financial services.</p> <p>Do you have any questions for me about the survey?</p>		Yes.....1 No.....0	<b>If no, skip to H1</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>G6</b>	<p>How were you (singular) engaged in agricultural or livestock/ aquaculture activities over the last 12 months?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b> <b>Cannot select 6 and any other answer.</b></p>	1=Make decisions about type of crops/livestock 2=Grow crops 3=Tend livestock 4=Sales and marketing 5=Post harvest processing 6= Provide paid labor only 7=Other	<b>If 6, skip to H1</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	

ACCESS TO INPUTS AND SERVICES			
G7	<p>Did you (singular) access inputs from any of the following sources related to your agricultural activities during the last 12 months?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b> <b>Cannot select 8 and any other answer.</b></p>	Cooperative or producer group.....1 Government program.....2 Agrodealer / input supplier within 5 km.....3 Agrodealer / input supplier farther than 5 km .....4 Local input producer (feed, seed multiplier, etc).....5 Produce own inputs.....6 Other.....7 Did not access inputs.....8	
G8	<p>Did you (singular) access market or extension information from any of the following sources during the last 12 months?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b> <b>Cannot select 11 and any other answer.</b></p>	Cell phone/SMS update.....1 Radio .....2 Television.....3 Government extension agents.....4 Other producers.....5 Collectors/traders (i.e. middlemen).....6 Input suppliers/agrodealer....7 NGOs.....8 Spouse or family member ...9 Other.....10 No information received..11	
G9	<p>How did you (singular) finance your agricultural activities during the last 12 months?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b></p>	Own income/savings.....1 MFI loan.....2 Agricultural cooperative.....3 Agricultural insurance.....4 VSLA.....5 Other.....6	
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES/TECHNOLOGIES			
G10	<p>Did you (singular) produce or sell any agricultural or homestead garden crops during the last 12 months?</p>	Yes.....1 No.....0	<p><b>If no, skip to G19</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
G11	<p>Did you (singular) use any of the following sustainable agriculture practices/technologies for any of your crops in the last 12 months?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b> <b>Cannot select 'none' and any other answer.</b></p>	Minimum tillage.....1 Mulching.....2 Crop rotation.....3 Cover crops.....4 Manure or compost.....5 Alley cropping/intercropping..6 Improved seeds.....7 Increased number of crops (increased diversity)...8 Irrigation technologies....9 Soil erosion control (terraces, contours, grass strips).....10 Other.....11 None ...12	

		<b>G12</b>	<b>G13</b>	<b>G14</b>	<b>G15</b>	<b>G16</b>	<b>G17</b>	<b>G18</b>
	Major crops grown in the most recent agricultural year	<b>Did you (singular) grow [crop] in the last 12 months</b>  Yes.....1 No.....0 If no, go to next crop	<b>Area Cultivated (Acres)</b>	<b>Annual Production</b>  <b>Unit of measure</b> (Kgs) Pail (20 kg) Bag (50 kg) Bag (90 kg) Oxcart  Enter amount reported by respondent DO NOT calculate total Kg if unit of measure is reported as pail, bag, oxcart, etc.	<b>Who primarily cultivates these crops?</b>  1=Men 2=Women 3=Both Men and Women 4 = Children 5 = All	<b>How has your harvest of [crop] changed over the last 5 years?</b>  Increased....1 No change..2 Decreased...3  <b>For each crop:</b> <b>If 1 -&gt; G17</b> <b>If 2 -&gt; next crop</b> <b>If 3 -&gt; G18</b>	<b>Why has it been increasing?</b>  Fewer pests and/or diseases...1 Improved tools (farm implements) .....2 More labour.....3 Good rains.....4 No floods/disaster...5 Cultivated more land...6 Increased use of fertilizers.....7 Use of pesticides....8 Improved seeds...9 Use of improved practices.....10 Improved irrigation..11 Other.....12  <i>(Select all that apply)</i>	<b>Why has it been decreasing?</b>  Increased Pests/disease.....1 No inputs/tools.....2 Less labour.....3 No/bad rains.....4 Floods/disaster....5 Cultivated less land.....6 Market fluctuations..7 Decreasing soil fertility.....8 Other.....9  <i>(Select all that apply)</i>
A	Soya							
B	Groundnuts			Unshelled !				
C	Maize							
D	Cassava							
E	Cowpea							
F	Tomato							
G	Common beans							
H	Sweet Potato							
I	Irish Potato							

<b>G19</b>	In the last 12 months, did you (singular) use any natural resource management practices/techniques that are not directly related to on-farm production, such as [ <b>e.g., agroforestry, soil conservation, reforestation</b> ]?	Yes.....1 No.....0	<b>If 2, skip to G21</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>G20</b>	Which of the following natural resource management practices/techniques did you use during the last 12 months?  <b>Select all that apply</b>	Agroforestry.....1 Soil conservation.....2 Revegetation (planting of crop cover, etc.).....3 Gabions/Check Dam (protection of river embankments).....4 Reforestation.....5 Other-----6	
<b>SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES – LIVESTOCK</b>			
<b>G21</b>	Did you (singular) own or produce products from any livestock in the last 12 months?	Yes.....1 No.....0	<b>if no, skip to G24</b>
<b>G22</b>	Did you (singular) practice any of the following livestock management practices directly related to your <b>animals</b> during the last 12 months?  <b>Select all that apply</b> <b>Cannot select NONE and any other answer</b>	Food complementation. ....1 De-worming.....2 Habitat construction.....3 Vaccination.....4 Artificial insemination.....5 Other services provided by a veterinary official.....6 Forage management.....7 Improved poultry.....8 Poultry management 9 Livestock husbandry 10 Other.....11 None .....12	

		<b>G23</b>
		How many [ANIMAL] do you currently own?  <i>Enter 0 for none.</i>
a	Cattle	
b	Goats/sheep	
c	Poultry/chickens/ ducks, guinea fowl, pigeon	
d	Rabbits	
e	Beehives (# of hives)	
f	Pigs	



	IMPROVED STORAGE TECHNIQUES	RESPONSES	SKIPS
<b>G24</b>	During the last post-harvest period, did you store any crops that you grew?	Yes.....1 No.....0	<b>If 2 , skip to G27</b>
<b>G25</b>	What was the main method of storage that you (singular) used for this crop over the last 12 months?  <b>Select all that apply</b>	Improved locally made structure/granary.....1 Modern storage structure like cribs or silos.....2 Sealed/airtight containers...3 Improved cereal banks.....4 Improved community storing facilities.....5 Traditional storage .....6 Other.....7	
<b>G26</b>	What is the purpose of the crop being stored? <b>Select all that apply</b>	Food for household consumption.....1 To sell for higher price.....2 Seed for planting.....3 Other .....4	
<b>POST-HARVEST PROCESSING PRACTICES</b>			
<b>G27</b>	Did you (singular) practice any post-harvest processing practices with the production from your <b>[plot of land, animals]</b> during the last 12 months?  <b>Select all that apply</b> <b>Cannot select 8 and any other answer</b>	Sorting.....1 Grading.....2 Processing (flour, etc.).....3 Packaging.....4 Bulk sale through farmers' groups 5 Bulk transport through farmers' groups.....6 Other 7 Wasn't involved with post-harvest processing.....8	
<b>MARKETING PRACTICES</b>			
<b>G28</b>	Did you or anyone in your household sell any of the products from your [plot of land, animals,] during the last 12 months?	Self.....1 Husband.....2 Both jointly.....3 Nothing was sold.....4	<b>If 4, go to G31</b>
<b>G29</b>	Which of the following practices were used to sell the produce from your <b>[plot of land, animals]</b> during the last 12 months?  <b>Select all that apply</b> <b>Cannot select 5 and any other answer</b>	Sold individually in local market.....1 Sold individually to trader/collector....2 Sold in bulk via farmer's / producer group.....3 Sold through contract with formal sector buyer.....4 I don't know. ....5	

RECORDKEEPING			
<b>G30</b>	<p>Did you (singular) practice any of the following <b>record keeping</b> practices to help you manage your <b>[plot of land, animals]</b> during the last 12 months?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b> <b>Cannot select 5 and any other answer</b></p>	<p>Kept track of expenses related to inputs, services, etc.....1 Kept track of production volumes.....2 Kept track of sales values.....3 Calculated profitability of my productive activities .....4 Did not practice any recordkeeping....5</p>	
EXTENSION		SKIPS	
<b>G31</b>	<p>Have you (yourself) ever met with an agricultural extension worker or livestock/fisheries extension worker during the last 12 months?</p>	<p>Yes.....1 No .....0</p>	<b>if no, SKIP TO H1</b>
<b>G32</b>	<p>How many times did you meet with the agricultural extension worker or livestock/fisheries worker during the last 12 months?</p>		
<b>G33</b>	<p>What type of extension services have you received?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b></p>	<p>None.....1 Improved agriculture practices...2 Improved livestock practices.....3 Agricultural Tools.....4 Improved seeds.....5 Inputs (fertilizer, pesticide, etc.) ...6 Veterinary services.....7 Other.....8</p>	
<b>G34</b>	<p>The last time you met with an extension worker(s), were they a male or female?</p>	<p>Male.....1 Female.....2 Both male and female (Two ex. Workers).....3</p>	
<b>G35</b>	<p>How satisfied were you with the extension services provided?</p>	<p>Not at all.....1 Somewhat...2 Mostly.....3 Very much.....4</p>	
<b>G36</b>	<p>Who provided the extension services?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b></p>	<p>Government (District agricultural and livestock development department).....1 NGO Staff.....2 Community based extension workers.....3 Other.....4</p>	

**Module H. Women’s Background Information**

This module provides the background information for the CARE group member. This should be the female interviewed at the time of the baseline. This women will respond to Modules H through Module WAT.

<b>H1</b>	Is [FEMALE MEMBER FROM BASELINE] available to be interviewed at this time?	Yes = 1 No = 0	<b>No= SKIP TO MODULE R</b>
<b>H2</b>	Re-enter Household Number [From Household List]	_ _ _ _ _	<b>Validate from A7a</b>
<b>H3</b>	What is her relationship to the head of household?	Head of household 1 Spouse 2 Child (including step in-laws) 3 Grandchild 4 Parent/grandparent (step/in-laws) 5 Sibling (including step/in-laws) 6 Cousin 7 Nephew/niece 8 Aunt/uncle 9 Other 10	
<b>H4</b>	Has the respondent for this section already been interviewed for a previous section?	Yes=1 No = 0	<b>YES – skip to H6</b>
<b>H5</b>	<p>Hello. My name is _____ and I work for WE-RISE / Pathways project. We are conducting a baseline survey. The information we collect will be used for planning, implementation and evaluation of the project.</p> <p>You have been selected at random to participate in this survey. Your participation is completely voluntary and you may choose not to participate. Your responses will be kept confidential.</p> <p>We will be asking you questions about members of your household, agricultural practices, food security, and gender roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Do you have any questions for me about the survey?</p> <p><b>Do you agree to participate in the survey?</b></p>	Yes=1 No = 0	<b>YES – skip to Module R</b>
<b>H6</b>	<p><b>H6. Is [NAME] able to be interviewed alone:</b>  <b>(Up to two responses)</b>  <b>Cannot select Alone and any other response.</b></p>	Alone 1 With adult females present 2 With adult males present 3 With adults mixed sex present 4 With children present 5	

H7	<p><b>What is your PRIMARY occupation? SELECT only one.</b></p> <p>CANNOT SELECT "NONE" and any other response.</p>	<p>Crop sales (own production)... ..1  Livestock (milk, meat, sales, etc.)....2  Fish sales.....3  Wage labor (agr).....4  Wage labor (non-agr)..... 5  Small business activities..... 6  Skilled labor (self-employed).....7  Salaried worker (gov't, office, factory, etc.)....8  Nursery stock/seeds.....9  Firewood/charcoal sales.....10  Other ..... .11  None of the above.....12</p>		
H8	<p>How many children in the household depend on you for food each day?  <i>[Children under 18 years of age]</i>  <i>Cannot be more than # of children listed in HH Roster</i></p>			
H9	<p>Are you in a polygamous marriage?</p>	<p>Yes=1  No = 0</p>		<b>No- skip to I1</b>
H10	<p>How many other wives does your spouse have?</p>			

### Module I. Access to productive capital

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about women's access to and control of assets.

Productive Capital		How many of [ITEM] does your household currently have?  (if 0 skip to next item)	Who would you say owns most of the [ITEM]?	Who would you say can decide whether to sell [ITEM] most of the time?	Who contributes most to decisions regarding a new purchase of [ITEM]?
Productive Capital		I2	CODE 1↓ I3	CODE 1↓ I4	CODE 1↓ I5
<b>a</b>	Agricultural land (acres)				
<b>b</b>	Large livestock (oxen, cattle)				
<b>d</b>	Small livestock (goats, sheep)				
<b>e</b>	Chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigeons				
<b>f</b>	Fish ponds or Fishing equipment				
<b>g</b>	Farm equipment (non-mechanized, e.g. hoes, machete, sickle)				
<b>h</b>	Farm equipment (mechanized e.g. tractors, mills, etc.)				
<b>I</b>	Nonfarm business equipment				
<b>J</b>	House (and other structures)				
<b>K</b>	Large consumer durables ( TV, sofa, air conditioner)				
<b>L</b>	Small consumer durables (radio, cookware, iron for pressing clothes)				

<b>M</b>	Cell phone				
<b>N</b>	Other land not used for agricultural purposes (residential or commercial land)				
<b>O</b>	Bicycle				
<b>P</b>	Motorcycle, car				

<b>CODE 1 (for I3 – I5): Decision-making and control over assets/ capital</b>		
Self.....1	Self and other household member(s).....5	Self and other outside people.....8
Partner/Spouse.....2	Partner/Spouse and other household member(s).....6	Partner/Spouse and other outside people.....9
Self and partner/spouse jointly...3	Someone (or group of people) outside the household.....7	Self, partner/spouse and other outside people.....10
Other household member.....4		

**Module J. Access to Credit**

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about women’s access to credit.

**Record each loan taken out by by the RESPONDENT (female collective member), not the HOUSEHOLD.**

**J1** Have you taken out any loans the last 12 months for more than 1000 Malawi Kwacha?  Yes  
 ....1 No.....0

If yes, skip to **J4**

**J2 Did you want to borrow or get a loan in the last 12 months? Yes ....1 No.....0**

If no, end module

**J3 Why did you not borrow or take out a loan? (see CODE below, enter up to 3 responses; then end module )**

**DO NOT READ RESPONSES**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Afraid of losing collateral.....1                               | Place of lender is too far.....6         |
| Do not have enough collateral/did not qualify for the loan....2 | Process is too long.....7                |
| Afraid cannot pay back the money.....3                          | Lender provides few loans to women.....8 |
| Interest rate/other costs too high.....4                        | Other.....9                              |
| Not allowed to borrow/family dispute in borrowing decision....5 |  |

	Was the loan in cash or in-kind?  1=cash 2= in kind	Who made the decision to take out the loan?  <b>CODE 1</b>	Who made the decision about what to do with the loan?  <b>CODE 1</b>	What was the loan mainly used for?  (List 3 most important uses)  <b>CODE 2</b>	What was the source of the loan?  <b>CODE 3</b>	What was the value of the loan?  (MK)	Has this loan been paid off?  Yes = 1 No = 0	Did you take out any other loan in the last 12 months valued at MK 1000 or more?
	<b>J4</b>	<b>J5</b>	<b>J6</b>	<b>J7</b>	<b>J8</b>	<b>J9</b>	<b>J10</b>	<b>J10_a</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> loan</b>								
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> loan</b>								
<b>CODE 1 (for J4/J5): Access to credit</b>			<b>CODE 2 (J7a,b,c): Uses</b>			<b>CODE 3 (J8): Loan source</b>		
Self.....1 Partner/Spouse.....2 Self and partner/spouse jointly.....3 Other household member.....4 Self and other household member(s)..5 Partner/Spouse and other household member(s).....6 Someone (or group of people) outside the household.....7 Self and other outside .....8 Partner/Spouse and other outside people.....9 Self, partner/spouse and other outside people.....10			Business capital (IGA, etc.).....1 Purchase agricultural inputs/seed .....2 Purchase/lease of land for agriculture 3 To purchase livestock.....4 Pay for school expenses .....5 Pay for medical expenses .....6 To buy food.....7 Clothing .....8 Housing .....9 To repay other loan.....10 Furniture/utensils 11 Funeral expenses.....12 Wedding/ marriage .....13 Other .....14			Friend/relative.....1 Village savings and loans associations (VSLA).....2 NGO .....3 Formal lender (bank, financial institution, MFI).....4 Informal lender/moneylender.....5 Other community group (SACCO, IDIR).....6 Government extension .....7 Shop/merchant .....8 Other.....9		
	QUESTION			ANSWER			SKIP	
<b>J11</b>	Do you have any cash savings?			Yes .....1 No .....0			<b>If no, end module</b>	
<b>J12</b>	Who has access to the savings?			Self only.....1 Self and spouse.....2 Spouse only.....3				
<b>J13</b>	What is the current level of your savings? (Enter 0 if none) (if DNK = -9)			_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _  (MK)				
<b>J14</b>	Where do you currently have savings?  <b>Select all that apply</b>			Home .....1 Friends/relatives .....2 (VSLA) .....3 ROSCA/ SACCO, etc.....4 Bank/MFI .....5 Agricultural Cooperative .....6 NGO .....7 Insurance company.....8 Post office.....9 Other 10				

<b>J15</b>	<p>What are your reasons for saving?</p> <p><b>Select all that apply</b></p>	<p>In case of emergency.....1  Facing “seasonal hunger”.....2  Household asset purchase.....3  Productive asset purchase.....4  Education.....5  Healthcare/medicine.....6  Social event (wedding, etc.).....7  Invest in small business.....8  Other...(specify).....9</p>		
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**Module L. Individual leadership and influence in the community**

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about women’s potential for leadership and influence in the communities where they live.

No.	Question	Response	Response options/Instructions
<b>L1</b>	Do you feel comfortable speaking up in public to help decide on infrastructure (like small wells, roads, water supplies) to be built in your community?		No, not at all comfortable ..... 1 Yes, but with a little difficulty ..... 2 Yes, very comfortable 3
<b>L2</b>	Do you feel comfortable speaking up in public to regarding gender issues (e.g., women’s rights, access to common resources, etc.)?		
<b>L3</b>	Do you feel comfortable speaking up in public to protest the misbehavior of authorities or elected officials?		

Group membership		Is there a [GROUP] in your community?	Are you an active member of this [GROUP]?	Why are you not a member of this [GROUP]?	Do you hold a leadership position in this [GROUP]?	
		Yes ... 1 No .... 0 <b>If no, skip to next group</b>	Yes... 1 No .... 0 <b>If Yes, go to L7</b>	<b>Code L6 (up to 3 responses)</b> <b>Go to next Group</b>	Yes... 1 No ... 0	
Group Categories		L4	L5	L6	L7	
<b>A</b>	Agricultural / livestock/ fisheries producer's group (including marketing groups)					<b>CODE L6: Why not member of group</b>  Not interested.....1 No time.....2 Unable to raise entrance fees..3 Unable to raise reoccurring fees.....4 Group meeting location not convenient. ....5 Family dispute/unable to join...6 Not allowed because I am female....7 Not allowed because of other reason.....8
<b>B</b>	Water users' group					
<b>C</b>	Forest users' group (preservation groups)					
<b>D</b>	Credit or microfinance group (including SACCOs/ merry go round, VSLA))					
<b>E</b>	Mutual help or insurance group (including burial societies,					
<b>F</b>	Trade,business, or cooperatives association					
<b>G</b>	Civic groups (improving community) or charitable group (helping others)					
<b>H</b>	Local government, Community Elders, village council					
<b>I</b>	Religious group					
<b>J</b>	Other women's group (only if it does not fit into one of the other categories)					
<b>L</b>	Other					



## Module M. Women's Decision making

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about women's ability to make a variety of productive and household decisions.

<b>ENUMERATOR:</b>		<b>M1</b>	<b>M2</b>	<b>M3</b>	<b>M4</b>
If household does not engage in that particular activity, enter code for "Decision not made" and proceed to next activity.		M1. Who normally makes decisions regarding [INSERT ACTIVITY], ?  <b>If 8 "Decision not made" skip to next decision.</b>	M2. How much input do you have in making decisions about [ACTIVITY]?  <b>Avoid if M1=2</b>	M3. In the last 12 months, did you (singular) participate in [ACTIVITY]?  Yes.....1 No.....0	M4. How much input did you have in decisions on the use of income generated from [ACTIVITY]?
<b>A</b>	Crops that are grown primarily for household food consumption	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		CODE M4↓
<b>B</b>	Cash crop farming: crops that are grown primarily for sale in market	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		CODE M4↓
<b>C</b>	Livestock raising?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		CODE M4↓
<b>D</b>	When to or who takes products to the market?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓	In this case insert "taking products to market" for [ACTIVITY]	CODE M4↓
<b>E</b>	Non-farm business activity?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		CODE M4↓
<b>F</b>	What inputs to buy for agricultural production?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓	In this case insert "purchasing inputs for ag production" for [ACTIVITY]	
<b>G</b>	Major household expenditures? (large appliances, etc.)	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		
<b>H</b>	Minor household expenditures? (such food for daily consumption or other household needs)	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		
<b>I</b>	Buyer negotiations?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		
<b>J</b>	Buying clothes for yourself?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		
<b>K</b>	Spending money that you have earned?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		
<b>L</b>	Spending money that your spouse has earned?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		
<b>M</b>	Children's education	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		
<b>N</b>	Seeking medical treatment for your children or yourself in case of illness	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		
<b>O</b>	Whether or not to use family planning (including contraception) to space or limit births?	CODE M1↓	CODE M2↓		

<b>CODE M1: Decision making</b>	<b>CODE: M2/M4 Input into decision making</b>
Main male or husband.....1	No input .....1
Main female or wife.....2	Input into some decisions....2
Husband and wife jointly.....3	Input into most decisions.....3
Someone else in the household...4	Input into all decisions.....4
Jointly with someone else inside the household.....5	
Jointly with someone else outside the household.....6	
Someone outside the household/other.....7	
Decision not made.....8	

## Module N. Women's Mobility

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about women's mobility.

	Do you have to seek permission of your husband or other family member to go:	Yes, always 1	Yes, most often 2	Yes, but only now and then 3	No, Never have to 4
<b>N1</b>	To the market?				
<b>N2</b>	To a female friend's house?				
<b>N3</b>	To the house of a member of your family?				
<b>N4</b>	To the church or mosque?				
<b>N5</b>	To a public village meeting?				
<b>N6</b>	To a meeting of any association of which you are a member?				
<b>N7</b>	Outside your village?				
<b>N8</b>	And undertake revenue generating activities?				
<b>N9</b>	Local social event (fair, festivals, etc.)?				
<b>N10</b>	To health care provider?				

## Module O. Women's Political Participation

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about women's political participation.

<b>O1</b>	Did you vote in the last parliamentary election/local election?	Yes = 1 No = 0 If no, skip to O3
<b>O2</b>	Who decided who you should vote for in the last election?	Myself ..... 1 My spouse ..... 2 Local leaders..... 3 The Party..... 4 Other _____ 5
<b>O3</b>	What was the main reason you did not vote?	Disagreement with spouse.....1 I wasn't aware.....2 No electoral card..... 3 Lack of time .....4 Does not concern me.....5 Other.....6
<b>O4</b>	Were you a candidate in the last parliamentary or local elections?	Yes = 1 No = 0

<b>O5</b>	In the last 12 months, have you expressed your opinion in a public meeting (other than VSLA, or producer group regular meetings)?	Yes = 1 No =0
<b>O6</b>	During the past 12 months, have you been a member of an advisory team for any community conflict resolution or in local government meetings?	Yes = 1 No =0

**Module P. Women’s Perceptions on Gender Roles**

Ask respondent whether she agrees or disagrees with the following statements.

	<b>Gender roles</b>	<b>Response</b>  Agree = 1 Disagree = 2
P1	Personally, I think that most household decisions should be made by the man	
P2	Personally, I think that there is men’s work and women’s work and the one shouldn’t ever do the work of the other	
P3	Personally, I think that if a woman works outside the home, her husband should help with child care and household chores.	
P4	Personally, I think that a husband should spend his free time with his wife and children.	
P5	Personally, I think a husband and wife should decide together about what kind of family planning to use	
P6	Personally, I think there are times when a women deserves to be hit	
P7	Personally, I think a woman must tolerate violence in order to maintain stability in the family	
P8	How many hours do you have available for leisure activity each day? (visiting neighbours, listening to the radio, playing sports or games etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Less than one hour enter 0.
P9	Are you satisfied that you have enough time for leisure activities like visiting neighbours, watching TV, listening to the radio or doing sports?	

**Module Q. Women’s Self Image/confidence**

Use the response codes to rate the following statements:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>Response Codes</b> Strongly disagree (never agree).....1 Somewhat disagree .....2 Neither agree or disagree....3

		Mostly agree .....4 Strongly agree (always).....5
Q1	I can always resolve household problems if I try hard enough	
Q2	If somebody opposes me, usually I can find a way to get what I want	
Q3	I always find some way to deal with problems that confront me	
Q4	I have the skills and information I need to improve my agricultural production	
Q5	I have access to the resources and services I need to improve my agricultural productivity	
Q6	I can take action to improve my life	
Q7	I can influence important decisions in my community	

**Enumerator: The next module is for the person in the household who is responsible for or knowledgeable about food preparation**

**Module R. Food Security (HDDS/Women's consumption)**

ASK THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE (OR KNOWLEDGABLE) FOR HOUSEHOLD FOOD PREPARATION.

No.	Question	Response codes	Responses
R1	"Is this women responsible for, <b>and/or knowledgeable about</b> , household food preparation?" If	Yes.....1 No.....0	<b>If yes skip to R4</b>
R2	"Locate person responsible for, <b>and/or knowledgeable about</b> , household food preparation. Has this person already been interviewed for a previous section?"	Yes.....1 No.....0 No person available = 3	<b>If yes, skip to R4</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If No → end module</b>

R3	<p>Hello. My name is _____ and I work for X project. We are conducting a baseline survey for WE-RISE project. The information we collect will be used for planning, implementation and evaluation of the project.</p> <p>You have been selected to participate in this survey because you are the primary person responsible for household food preparation. Your participation is completely voluntary and you may choose not to participate. Your responses will be kept confidential.</p> <p>We will be asking you questions about I would like to ask you about the types of foods that you or anyone else in your household ate yesterday during the day and at night.</p> <p>Do you have any questions for me about the survey?</p> <p><b>Do you agree to participate in the survey?</b></p>	<p>Yes.....1 No.....0</p>	<p><b>If No, end module</b></p>
R4	<p>WAS YESTERDAY AN UNUSUAL OR SPECIAL DAY (E.G., FESTIVAL, FUNERAL),</p>	<p>Yes.....1 No.....0</p>	<p><b>If YES, end module</b></p>

<b>Household Dietary Diversity</b>		<b>Women's intra-household access to food</b>	
THE FOODS LISTED SHOULD BE THOSE PREPARED IN THE HOUSEHOLD AND EATEN IN THE HOUSEHOLD OR TAKEN ELSEWHERE TO EAT. DO NOT INCLUDE FOODS CONSUMED OUTSIDE THE HOME THAT WERE PREPARED ELSEWHERE.			
<b>R5 During previous 24 hour period, did you or any household member eat [insert food groups below]?</b>	Yes.....1 No... 0  (if no Skip to next food group)	<b>R6 Did any women over the age of 15 in this household eat this food item during the last 24 hours?</b>  All Women = 1 Some Women= 2 No Women=3  <b>If 1 skip to next food group</b>	<b>R7 Why did only some (or none) of the women eat this food?</b>  (Select all that apply) Sick..... 1 Only enough for men..... 2 Only enough for children.....3 Cultural reasons ...4 Dislike of food.....5 Women were absent...6
a Any <i>nsima</i> , bread, rice, thwoba, biscuits, or other foods made from ,millet, sorghum, maize, rice, wheat or grain?			
b Any tubers [e.g., potatoes, yams, cassava, irish potato, or any other foods made from roots or tubers?			
c Any vegetables (chisoso, mpiru, chigwada, bononqwe, pumpkin leaves)?			
d Any fruits?			
e Any beef, pork, lamb, goat, wild game, poultry, or organ meats?			
f Any eggs?			
g Any fish?			
h Any foods made from beans, peas, lentils, or nuts (e.g.)?			
i Any cheese, yogurt, milk, or other milk products?			
j Any foods made with oil,fat, or butter (ghee)?			
k Any sugar or honey?			
l Any other foods, such as condiments, coffee, tea?			

**Module WAT: Women’s Attribution**

**Enumerator: Inform the woman that you would now like to ask her a few questions about changes in her or her family’s lives as a result of project activities.**

WAT1	In the past 4 years, who within the household has participated in the following groups or activities?	SELF 1	Spouse 2	Other HH member 3
<b>a</b>	VSLA			
<b>b</b>	Producer group			
<b>c</b>	Marketing group			
<b>d</b>	Adult literacy trainings			
<b>e</b>	Male motivator/ champion group			
<b>f</b>	Community discussions about gender roles/ responsibilities			

No.	Question	Response codes	SKIPS
WAT2	As a result of participating in these groups or activities is the household or are individual household members <i>[read responses]</i> ?	Better off than 4 years ago.....1 Same as 4 years ago .....2 Worse off than 4 years ago.....3 Better in some ways and worse in others...4	2= SKIP to WAT5 3= SKIP to WAT4



WAT 3	<p>How is the household (or members of the household) better-off as a result of participating in the various groups or activities?</p> <p>[Select all that apply] DO NOT READ RESPONSES</p>	<p>Increased agricultural income Increased non-farm income Improved access to agricultural services and/ or inputs Improved crop yields Reduced exposure to risk</p> <p>Improved HH savings Improved access to credit Improved literacy</p> <p>More equitable decision-making between men and women. More equitable distribution of HH chores for men and women Improved communication between men and women Improved confidence to speak up about community issues in public Improved food security Improved knowledge of nutrition Other (specify)_____</p>	AVOID IF WAT2 ≠ 1
WAT 4	<p>What were the negative consequences of participating in the groups or activities?</p> <p>[Select all that apply] DO NOT READ RESPONSES</p>	<p>Could not sell crops promoted by activity....1 Switched to crop with low yields.....2 Unsustainable non-farm business investment .....3 Increased time burden.....4 Increased tension within the household.....5 Increased social tension within the community...5 Other (specify)_____</p>	AVOID IF WAT2 ≠ 3
WAT 5	<p>In the past 4 years, how, if at all, has the effectiveness of the VDC to have a positive influence on the community changed?</p>	<p>More effective.....1 No change.....2 Less effective .....3 No VDC in this community.....0</p>	2= SKIP to S1 3= SKIP to WAT7
WAT 6	<p>In what way is the VDC more effective?</p> <p>[Select all that apply] DO NOT READ RESPONSES</p>	<p>Quality of leadership improved More equitable participation by men and women</p> <p>More responsive to community input Decision-making is more transparent Other (specify)_____</p>	AVOID IF WAT5 ≠ 1

WAT 7	<p>In what way is the VDC less effective?</p> <p>[Select all that apply]</p> <p>DO NOT READ RESPONSES</p>	<p>Quality of leadership declined</p> <p>Equitable participation by men and women declined</p> <p>Less responsive to community input</p> <p>Decision-making is less-transparent</p> <p>Other (specify) _____</p>	<p>AVOID IF WAT5 ≠ 3</p>
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**This ends the women’s sections of the survey. Thank you for your time!**

## Men's Questionnaire

**Modules S – MAT are for the male that responded at baseline. If no male responded at baseline, interview another primary male decision-maker.  
If no adult male in household, end survey.**

### Module S. Men's Background Information

<b>S1</b>	Is [three names from baseline sample ] available be interviewed at this time?	Yes = 1 No = 0 > skip to S4
<b>S2</b>	Household Number [From Household List]	_ _ _ _
<b>S3</b>	Is another adult male available be interviewed at this time?	Yes = 1 No = 0 > end survey
<b>S4</b>	What is the male's relationship to the female group member respondent?	Spouse Child (including step /in-laws) Grandchild Parent/grandparent (step/in-laws) Sibling (including step/in-laws) Cousin Nephew Uncle Other
<b>S5</b>	Enter the three names of MALE respondent: _____	<b>Avoid if S1=1</b>
<b>S6</b>	Has the respondent for this section already been interviewed for a previous section?	Yes > S8 No = 0

**S7.** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I work for WE-RISE project. We are conducting a baseline survey. The information we collect will be used for planning, implementation and evaluation of the project.

You have been selected at random to participate in this survey. Your participation is completely voluntary and you may choose not to participate. Your responses will be kept confidential.

We will be asking you questions about members of your household, agricultural practices, food security, and gender roles and responsibilities.

Do you have any questions for me about the survey?

<b>S7</b>	<b>Do you agree to participate in the survey?</b>	Yes =1 No = 0 > END SURVEY
<b>S8</b>	Is [NAME] able to be interviewed alone (see codes):  _ _ _  <b>(Up to two responses)</b>	Alone.....1 With adult females present.....2 With adult males presen.....3 With adults mixed sex present.....4 With children present.....5

<b>S9</b>	What is your PRIMARY occupation?	Crop sales (own production).....1 Livestock (milk, meat, sales, etc.)....2 Fish sales.....3 Wage labor (agr).....4 Wage labor (non-agr).....5 Small business activities.....6 Skilled labor (self-employed) ...7 Salaried worker (gov't, office, factory, etc.)....8 Nursery stock/seeds.....9 Firewood/charcoal sales.....10 Other .....11 None of the above.....12
<b>S10</b>	Are you in a polygamous marriage? <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes = 1 No = 0 > end module
<b>S11</b>	How many wives do you have? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Module T. Men’s Access to Credit**

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about the respondents access to credit. **Record each loan taken out by by the RESPONDENT.**

T1 Have you taken out any loans in the last 12 months valued at MK 1,000 or more?   
 Yes ....1  
 No.....2  
 If yes, skip to T4

T2 Did you want to borrow or get a loan in the last 12 months?  Yes ....1  
 No.....2  
 If no, Skip to T11

T3 Why did you not borrow or take out a loan? (see **CODE below, enter up to 3 responses; Skip to T11** )

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Afraid of losing collateral.....1                               | Place of lender is too far.....6       |
| Do not have enough collateral/did not qualify for the loan....2 | Process is too long.....7              |
| Afraid cannot pay back the money.....3                          | Lender provides few loans to men.....8 |
| Interest rate/other costs too high.....4                        | Other.....9                            |
| Not allowed to borrow/family dispute in borrowing decision....5 |  |

	Was the loan in cash or in-kind?  1=cash 2= in kind	Who made the decision to take out the loan?  <b>CODE 1</b>	Who makes the decision about what to do with the loan?  <b>CODE 1</b>	What was the loan mainly used for?  (List 3 most important uses)  <b>CODE 2</b>			What was the source of the loan?  <b>CODE 3</b>	What was the value of the loan?  (MK)	Has this loan been paid off?  Yes = 1 No = 0	Did you take out any other loan in the past 12 months, valued at MK 1000 or more?
	<b>T4</b>	<b>T5</b>	<b>T6</b>	<b>T7a</b>	<b>T7b</b>	<b>T7c</b>	<b>T8</b>	<b>T9</b>	<b>T10</b>	<b>T10a</b>
1										
2										

<b>CODE 1 (for T5/T6): Access to credit</b>	<b>CODE 2 (T7a,b,c): Uses</b>	<b>CODE 3 (T8): Loan source</b>
Self.....1	Business capital (IGA, etc.)..... 1	Friend/relative..... 1
Partner/Spouse .....	agricultural inputs/seed ..... 2	Village savings and loans associations (VSLA)..... 2
Self and partner/spouse jointly.....	Buy/lease of land for agriculture ..... 3	NGO ..... 3
Other household member .....	livestock..... 4	Formal lender (bank, financial institution, MFI)...4
Self and other household member(s)..5	Pay for school expenses ..... 5	Informal lender/moneylender.....5
Partner/Spouse and other household member(s).....6	Pay for medical expenses.....6	Other community group (SACCO/IDIR)).....
Someone (or group of people) outside the household.....7	To buy food ..... 7	.6
Self and other outside .....8	To Repay Other Loan.....8	Government extension.....7
Partner/Spouse and other outside people.....9	Clothing ..... 9	Shop/merchant ..... 8
Self, partner/spouse and other outside people.....10	Housing ..... 10	Other ..... 9
	Furniture/utensils..... 11	
	Funeral expenses.....12	
	Wedding/marraige.....13	
	Other (specify)..... 14	
	—	

	QUESTION	RESPONSE	SKIP								
<b>T11</b>	Do you have any cash savings?	Yes ..... 1 No .....0	<b>If no, end module</b>								
<b>T12</b>	Who has access to the savings?	Self ..... 1 Self and Spouse ..... 2 Spouse Only ..... 3									
<b>T13</b>	What is the current level of your savings? (Enter 0 if none) (if DNK = 9)	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table> (MK)									
<b>T14</b>	Where do you currently have savings?  <b>Select all that apply</b>	Home ..... 1 Friends/relatives..... 2 Village savings and loans associations (VSLA) ..... 3 ROSCA, SACCO, etc.....4 Bank/MFI..... 5									

		Agricultural Cooperatives..... 6 NGO ..... 7 Insurance Company.....8 Post office.....9 Other ..... 10	
<b>T15</b>	What are your reasons for saving? <b>Select all that apply</b>	In case of emergency.....1 Facing “seasonal hunger”.....2 Household asset purchase.....3 Productive asset purchase.....4 Education.....5 Healthcare/medicine.....6 Social event (wedding, etc.).....7 Invest in small business.....8 Other...(specify).....9	

### Module U. Men’s Access to Agriculture/livestock/fisheries extension

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about men’s access to extension services.

No.	Question	Response	SKIP
<b>U1</b>	Have you (yourself) ever met with an agricultural extension worker or livestock/fisheries extension worker during the last 12 months?	Yes..... 1 No ..... 0	<b>if no, end module</b>
<b>U2</b>	How many times did you meet with the agricultural extension worker or livestock/fisheries worker during the last 12 months?		
<b>U3</b>	What type of extension services have you received? <b>Select all that apply</b>	None.....1 Improved agriculture practices...2 Improved livestock practices.....3 Agricultural tools.....4 Improved seeds.....5 Inputs (fertilizer, pesticide, etc.) ...6 Veterinary services.....7 Other.....8	
<b>U4</b>	The last time you met with an extension worker, were they a male or female?	Male ..... 1 Female ..... 2 Both male and female..... 3 (two extension workers)	
<b>U5</b>	How satisfied were you with the extension services provided?	Not at all.....1 Somewhat.....2 Mostly.....3 Very much.....4	
<b>U6</b>	Who provided the extension services? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY	Government (district ag./livestock development department)..... 1 NGO staff.....2 Community-based extension workers.....3 Other.....4	

**Module V. Men’s Individual leadership and influence in the community**

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about men’s leadership and influence in the communities where they live.

No.	Question	Response	Read Response options
V1	Do you feel comfortable speaking up in public to help decide on infrastructure (like small wells, roads, water supplies) to be built in your community?		No, not at all comfortable 1 Yes, but with a little difficulty 2 Yes, very comfortable.....3
V2	Do you feel comfortable speaking up in public regarding gender issues (e.g., women’s rights, access to common resources, etc.)?		
V3	Do you feel comfortable speaking up in public to protest the misbehavior of authorities or elected officials?		

Group membership	Is there a [GROUP] in your community?	Are you an active member of this [GROUP]?	Why are you not a member of this [GROUP]?	Do you hold a leadership position in this [GROUP]?	CODE (V6) Why not member of group
	Yes ... 1 No ....0 <b>If no, skip to next group</b>	Yes....1 No ....0 <b>If Yes, go to V7</b>	<b>Code V6 (up to 3 responses)</b>  <b>Go to next Group</b>	Yes ... 1 No ....0	Not interested.....1 No time.....2 Unable to raise entrance fees...3 Unable to raise reoccurring fees...4 Group meeting location not convenient. ....5 Family dispute/unable to join...6 Not allowed because I am male....7 Not allowed because of other reason.....8
Group Categories	V4	V5	V6	V7	
<b>A</b> Agricultural / livestock/ fisheries producer’s group (including marketing groups)					
<b>B</b> Water users’ group					
<b>C</b> Forest users’ group (Preservation groups)					
<b>D</b> Credit or microfinance group (including SACCOs/ / merry go round, VSLA))					
<b>E</b> Mutual help or insurance group (including burial societies)					
<b>F</b> Trade,business, or cooperatives association					
<b>G</b> Civic groups (improving community) or charitable group (helping others)					
<b>H</b> Local government, Community elders, village council					
<b>I</b> Religious group					
<b>J</b> Other (specify)					
No group exists					

**Module W. Men’s Decision making**

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about men’s contributions to household decision making

<p><i>ENUMERATOR:</i> If household does not engage in that particular activity, enter code for “Decision not made” and proceed to next activity.</p>		<p>W1. Who normally makes decisions related to [INSERT ACTIVITY FROM LIST]?</p> <p><b>CODE 1</b> If W1 = 8, Skip to next item↓</p>	<p>W2. How much input do you have in making decisions about [ACTIVITY]?</p> <p><b>AVOID IF W1 =1</b></p> <p><b>CODE 2↓</b></p>	<p>W4. In the last 12 months, did you (singular) participate in [ACTIVITY]?</p> <p>Yes.....1 No.....2</p>	<p>W6. How much input did you have in decisions on the use of income generated from [ACTIVITY]?</p> <p><b>CODE 2↓</b></p>
		<b>W1</b>	<b>W2</b>	<b>W3</b>	<b>W4</b>
<b>A</b>	Food crop farming: crops that are grown primarily for household food consumption				
<b>B</b>	Cash crop farming: crops that are grown primarily for sale in market				
<b>C</b>	Livestock raising?				
<b>D</b>	When or who would take products to the market?				
<b>E</b>	Non-farm business activity?				
<b>F</b>	What inputs to buy for agricultural production?				
<b>G</b>	Major household expenditures? (large appliances, etc.)				
<b>H</b>	Minor household expenditures? (such food for daily consumption or other household needs)				
<b>I</b>	Negotiate with buyers?				
<b>J</b>	Buying clothes for yourself?				



<b>K</b>	Spending money that you have earned?				
<b>L</b>	Spending money that your spouse has earned?				
<b>M</b>	Children's education				
<b>N</b>	Seeking medical treatment for your children or yourself in case of illness				
<b>O</b>	Whether or not to use family planning (including contraception) to space or limit births?				

<b>CODE 1: W1 Decision making</b>	<b>CODE 2: W2/W4 Input into decision making</b>
Main male or husband.....1	No input .....1
Main female or wife.....2	Input into some decisions....2
Husband and wife jointly.....3	Input into most decisions.....3
Someone else in the household....4	Input into all decisions.....4
Jointly with someone else inside the household.....5	
Jointly with someone else outside the household.....6	
Someone outside the household/other.....7	
Decision not made.....8	

## Module X. Men's attitudes about women's mobility and men's mobility

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about men's attitudes about women's mobility AND men's own mobility. **ONLY ONE RESPONSE** per question.

	Does your spouse have to seek your permission or other family member's permission to go:	Yes, always 1	Yes, most often 2	Yes, but only now and then 3	No, Never have to 4
<b>X1</b>	To the market?				
<b>X2</b>	To a female friend's house?				
<b>X3</b>	To the house of a member of her family?				
<b>X4</b>	To the church or mosque?				
<b>X5</b>	To a public village meeting?				
<b>X6</b>	To a meeting of any association of which she is member?				
<b>X7</b>	Outside your village?				
<b>X8</b>	To undertake revenue generating activities?				
<b>X9</b>	To a local social event (fair, festival, etc.)?				
<b>X10</b>	To health care provider?				
	Do YOU have to seek permission from your spouse or other family member's permission to go:	Yes, always 1	Yes, most often 2	Yes, but only now and then 3	No, Never have to 4
<b>X11</b>	To the market?				
<b>X12</b>	To a friend's house?				
<b>X13</b>	To the house of a member of your family?				
<b>X14</b>	To the church or mosque?				
<b>X15</b>	To a public village meeting?				
<b>X16</b>	To a meeting of any association of which you are a member?				
<b>X17</b>	Outside your village?				
<b>X18</b>	To undertake revenue generating activities?				
<b>X19</b>	To a local social event (fair, festival, etc.)?				
<b>X20</b>	To health care provider?				

## Module Y. Men's Political Participation

Enumerator: The purpose of this module is to get an idea about men's political participation.

<b>Y1</b>	Did you vote in the last parliamentary election?	Yes = 1 No = 0 If no, skip to Y3
<b>Y2</b>	Who decided who you should vote for in the last election?	Myself ..... 1 My spouse ..... 2 Local leaders..... 3 The party..... 4 Other .....5
<b>Y3</b>	What was the main reason you did not vote?	Disagreement with spouse .....1 I wasn't aware.....2 No electoral card..... 3 Lack of time .....4 Does not concern me.....5 Other.....6
<b>Y4</b>	Were you a candidate in the last parliamentary or local elections?	Yes = 1 No =0
<b>Y5</b>	In the last 12 months, have you expressed your opinion in a public meeting (other than VSLA, or producer group regular meetings)?	Yes = 1 No = 0
<b>Y6</b>	During the past 12 months, have you been a member of an advisory team for any community conflict resolution or in local government meetings?	Yes = 1 No = 0

## Module Z. Men's Perceptions on Gender Roles

ASK RESPONDENT whether he agrees or disagrees with the following statements.

	<b>Gender roles</b>	<b>Response</b> Agree = 1 Disagree = 2
Z1	Personally, I think that most household decisions should be made by the man	
Z2	Personally, I think that there is men's work and women's work and the one shouldn't ever do the work of the other	
Z3	Personally, I think that if a woman works outside the home, her husband should help with child care and household chores.	
Z4	Personally, I think that a husband should spend his free time with his wife and children.	
Z5	A husband and wife should decide together about what kind of contraception to	

	use	
Z6	There are times when a woman deserves to be hit	
Z7	A woman must tolerate violence in order to maintain stability in the family	
Z8	How many hours do you have available for leisure activity each day? ( visiting neighbors, listening to the radio, playing sports or games?)	
Z9	Are you satisfied with the amount of time available for leisure activities?	Yes = 1 No = 0

### Module AA. Self Image/confidence

No.	ASK RESPONDENT to rate the following statements:	Response Codes Strongly disagree (never agree).....1 Somewhat disagree .....2 Neither agree or disagree....3 Mostly agree .....4 Strongly agree (always).....5
AA1	I can always resolve household problems if I try hard enough	
AA2	If somebody opposes me, usually I can find a way to get what I want	
AA3	I always find some way to deal with problems that confront me	
AA4	I have the skills and information I need to improve my agricultural production	
AA5	I have access to the resources and services I need to improve my agricultural productivity	
AA6	I can take action to improve my life	
AA7	I can influence important decisions in my community	

### Module MAT: Male Attribution

**Enumerator: Inform the man that you would now like to ask him a few questions about changes in his or his family's lives as a result of project activities.**

MAT1	In the past 4 years, who within the household has participated in the following groups or activities?	SELF 1	Spouse 2	Other HH member 3
<b>a</b>	VSLA			
<b>b</b>	Producer group			
<b>c</b>	Marketing group			
<b>d</b>	Adult literacy trainings			
<b>e</b>	Male motivator/ champion group			
<b>f</b>	Community discussions about gender roles/ responsibilities			

No.	Question	Response codes	SKIPS
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MAT2	As a result of participating in these groups or activities is the household or are individual household members	Better off than 4 years ago.....1 Same as 4 years ago .....2 Worse off than 4 years ago.....3 Better in some ways and worse in others...4	2= SKIP to MAT5 3= SKIP to MAT4
MAT3	How is the household (or members of the household) better-off as a result of participating in the various groups or activities?  [Select all that apply] DO NOT READ RESPONSES	Increased agricultural income Increased non-farm income Improved access to agricultural services and/or inputs Improved crop yields Reduced exposure to risk  Improved HH savings Improved access to credit Improved literacy  More equitable decision-making between men and women. More equitable distribution of HH chores for men and women Improved communication between men and women Improved confidence to speak up about community issues in public Improved food security Improved knowledge of nutrition  Other (specify)_____	AVOID IF MAT2 ≠ 1
MAT4	What were the negative consequences of participating in the groups or activities?  [Select all that apply] DO NOT READ RESPONSES	Could not sell crops promoted by activity....1 Switched to crop with low yields.....2 Unsustainable non-farm business investment .....3 Increased time burden.....4 Increased tension within the household.....5 Increased social tension within the community...5 Other (specify)_____	AVOID IF MAT2 ≠ 3
MAT5	In the past 4 years, how, if at all, has the effectiveness of the VDC to have a positive influence on the community	More effective.....1 No change.....2 Less effective .....3 No VDC in this community.....0	2= End survey 3= SKIP to MAT 7

MAT 6	In what way is the VDC more effective?  [Select all that apply]	Quality of leadership improved More equitable participation by men and women  More responsive to community input Decision-making is more transparent Other (specify)_____	AVOID IF MAT 5 ≠ 1
MAT 7	In what way is the VDC less effective?  [Select all that apply]	Quality of leadership declined Equitable participation by men and women declined Less responsive to community input Decision-making is less-transparent Other (specify)_____	AVOID IF MAT 5 ≠ 3

**This ends the man’s participation in the survey. Thank you...**

## Annex 5: Additional tables

**Table 40: Women's net annual income from agricultural production**

Indicator	Point Estimate			Sample Size	
	BL	EL		BL	EL
OC 3.1 Mean annual net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities (Current USD 2015 ) Base year 2012					
All households	72.22	180.71	***	525	536
Female HHHs	54.07	151.88	**	115	163
Male HHHs	77.31	193.31	***	410	373
Median annual net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities (Current USD 2015 ) Base year 2012					
All households	28.29	60.50		525	536
Female HHHs	28.29	45.24		115	163
Male HHHs	26.87	65.40		410	373
OC 3.1 Mean annual net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities (MWK). Base year 2012 .					
All households	33,127.47	88,619.70	***	525	537
Female HHHs	24,803.96	69,667.66	**	115	163
Male HHHs	35,462.11	96,879.55	***	410	374
Median annual net income of women from agricultural production and/or related processing activities (MWK) Base year 2012 .					
All households	12,975.00	28,000.00		525	537
Female HHHs	12,975.00	20,750.00		115	163
Male HHHs	12,326.25	30,000.00		410	374

Statistically different from baseline at the 10% (\*) , 5%(\*\*) or 1%(\*\*\*) levels.  
Only conducted for "Means"



**Table 41: Perceptions on production changes in last 12 months for key crops**

		Point Estimate		Sample Size	
		BL	EL	BL	EL
Maize	Increased	32.1	28.1		
	No change	17.1	6.0	474	502
	Decreased	50.8	65.9		
Soya	Increased	27.3	27.0		
	No change	24.9	6.1	209	374
	Decreased	47.8	66.8		
Groundnuts	Increased	30.3	21.2		
	No change	13.5	4.2	399	425
	Decreased	56.1	74.6		

**Table 42: Reasons production has declined for key crops, respondent perceptions**

Reasons production has decreased	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
	Maize		Soya		Groundnuts	
<i>No/bad rains</i>	43.6	94.3	31.0	88.8	52.2	94.3
<i>No inputs/tools</i>	47.7	13.0	23.0	3.6	10.3	2.8
<i>Cultivated less land</i>	18.7	6.0	40.0	10.8	29.5	5.7
<i>Less labor available</i>	14.9	5.1	11.0	3.2	10.7	5.4
<i>Floods/disasters</i>	0.8	4.2	0.0	4.0	0.4	2.8
<i>Decreased soil fertility</i>	22.0	3.0	13.0	0.8	11.2	0.6
<i>Increased pest/diseases</i>	1.7	2.7	8.0	4.0	18.8	6.0
<i>Other</i>	7.1	2.1	8.0	5.6	6.3	0.6
<i>Market fluctuations</i>	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.4	0.4	0
N= farmers who reported a decrease	241	331	100	250	224	317

**GENDER PARITY INDICATORS**

Domain	Indicator	% achieving indicator at baseline			% achieving indicator at endline			Diff between females BL to EL	Diff between males BL to EL
		Female respondents	Difference between male and female at BL	Male respondents	Female respondents	Difference between male and female at EL	Male respondents		
PRODUCTION	With decision-making input for all HH productive decision domains	46.1 n=193	***	87.1 n=193	63.8 n=329	***	87.8 n=329	***	none
	With autonomy in one or more HH production domains	19.2 n=193	***	62.7 n=193	20.7 n=329	***	43.5 n=329	none	***
RESOURCES	With sole or joint ownership of 75% of household assets <sup>a</sup>	51.0 n=194	**	62.9 n=194	64.7 n=329	**	72.6 n=329	***	***
	With sole or joint control over purchase or sale of 75% household assets <sup>a</sup>	63.9 n=194	***	86.6 n=194	72.6 n=329	***	90.9 n=329	***	***
	With access to and decisions on credit	72.1 n=129		72.9 n=129	82.7 n=260	**	76.2 n=260	not tested	not tested
INCOME	With control over household income and expenditures in 60% of HH decision-making domains <sup>b</sup>	37.6 n=194	***	88.1 n=194	50.8 n=329	***	76.0 n=329	***	***
LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY	Participating in formal and informal groups	96.9 n=192	***	75.0 n=192	99.7 n=328	***	93.0 n=328	***	***
	Confident speaking about gender and other community	51.0 n=194	***	68.0 n=194	78.4 n=329	***	85.4 n=329	***	***

	issues at the local level (3 of 4 topics)								
	Demonstrating political participation	85.6 n=194	***	94.3 n=194	91.5 n=329	**	96.1 n=329	**	
	Who express self-confidence in 5 of 7 statements	66.0 n=194	**	73.7 n=194	88.8 n=329		90.6 n=329	***	***
<b>AUTONOMY</b>	Satisfied with the amount of time available for leisure activities	83.0 n=194		84.5 n=194	84.5 n=329		81.2 n=329		
	Expressing attitudes that support gender equitable roles in family life (Scoring 4 of 4)	38.0 n=194		42.1 n=194	45.59 n=329		40.73 n=329	*	
	Achieving a mobility score of 16 or greater	35.1 n=194		NOT MEASURED AT BL	48.3 n=329	**	52.89 n=329	***	

## Annex 6: Computation of secondary variables

### Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

This indicator is computed by summing the number of different food categories reported eaten by the household in day prior to the interview. This indicator was measured as recommended by FANTA, using the following 12 food groups: cereals, tubers, legumes, dairy, meat, fish, oils, sugar, fruits, eggs, vegetables, and others. The HDDS provides a measure of a particular household's food access. A higher HDDS represents a more diverse diet, which is empirically highly correlated with a household's income level and access to food.<sup>52</sup>

### Asset Index

The weighted asset index is computed by multiplying the number of each type of household asset by the index value for that particular asset type. Index values of household assets used in the construction of the asset index are presented in the table below. A higher value of the asset index indicates that households have been able to accumulate assets over time. Households are able to accumulate assets if income is greater than the necessary expenditures to meet household subsistence requirements. Assets also provide households with a cushion to adjust to shortfalls in incomes, or sudden increases in necessary expenditures. Thus, households with a higher asset index are less vulnerable than households with lower asset index values.

Asset type	Asset weights	Notes
Small consumer durables	2	
Farm equipment non-mechanized	10	
Cell phone	5	
Transportation Means	25	The low weight is based on DHS 2010 data and qualitative observations that show the vast majority of rural transportation assets are bicycles
Non-farm business equipment	15	
Large-consumer durables	25	
House	500	
Poultry	1	
Small livestock	5	
Large livestock	15	
Fishing equipment / fish ponds	5	Low weight is based on fishing equipment: qualitative observations found limited ownership of fish

<sup>52</sup> Swindale, Anne, and Paula Bilinsky. *Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) for Measurement of Household Food Access: Indicator Guide (v.2)*. Washington, D.C.: Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project, Academy for Educational Development, 2006.

		ponds. Few exist, and those that do are community property.
Farm equipment mechanized	50	
Agricultural Land	500	
Non-agricultural land	250	

### Coping strategy index

The coping strategy index is computed on the basis of a series of questions asked to respondents about how frequently they utilize a list of possible consumption coping strategies in response to times when the household does not have food or enough money to buy food.<sup>53</sup> The eight strategies used for this study are:

1. Borrow food or borrowed money to buy food
2. Rely on less expensive or less preferred foods
3. Reduce the number of meals or the quantity eaten per day
4. Gather unusual types or amounts of wild food / hunt
5. Reduce consumption of some family members so that others could eat normally or more
6. Skipped eating due to lack of money or food for an entire day
7. Consume seed stock to be saved for next season
8. Beg or scavenge

The frequency of adoption of each category is coded according to the following categories:

- 0 = never
- 1=1 day each week
- 2=2-3 days each week
- 3=4-6 days each week
- 4=daily

The coded frequency response for each strategy is then weighted by the severity weight of each strategy. Average severity weights across several coping strategies conducted in countries around the world are then applied to each coping strategy, using the following formula:

$$CSI = \sum (\text{frequency category}_i * \text{severity weight}_i)$$

i=1 to 8

The severity weights are as follows:

<sup>53</sup> Maxwell, Daniel, Richard Caldwell and Mark Langworthy. "Measuring food insecurity: Can an indicator based on localized coping behaviors be used to compare across contexts?" *Food Policy*, Volume 33, Issue 6, December 2008

Strategy	Severity weight
Borrow food or borrowed money to buy food	2.5
Rely on less expensive or less preferred foods	1.8
Reduce the number of meals or the quantity eaten per day	2.7
Skipped eating due to lack of money or food for an entire day	4.6
Consumed taboo food, wild food, famine foods which are normally not eaten	2.9
Reduce consumption of some family members so that others could eat normally or more	2.6
Consume seed stock to be saved for next season	3.6
Beg or scavenge	3.4

## **Annex 7: Construction of the Women’s Empowerment Index**

The Women’s Empowerment Index (WEI) indicator used as part of CARE’s evaluation plan was adapted from, and follows closely, the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) developed for Feed the Future. The WEAI is comprised as an average of two sub-indices: the 5 domains of empowerment index (5DE) and the Gender Parity Index (GPI).

The 5DE index is a direct measure of women’s empowerment and itself is split into two main components:

- Incidence of Women’s Empowerment: calculated as the percentage of women that are empowered
- Adequacy of the Disempowered: empowerment score of those women that are disempowered

Empowerment, as defined in the WEAI, is achievement in 80% or better of a weighted-index of the 10 indicators underlying the WEAI. The table below shows the weighting used for both the WEAI index and the adapted WEI index being used by CARE for this evaluation. The differences in weighting between the two are driven in large part by additional indicators that were included as part of CARE’s evaluation plan. Those new indicators include:

- Women’s self confidence
- Women’s mobility
- Women’s attitudes towards gender equitable roles in family life
- Women’s political participation.

The addition of the new indicators adds several important dimensions directly related to women’s empowerment that were previously unaccounted for in the WEAI. Women’s engagement in the political process and a measure of self-confidence were added to the leadership domain. With the expansion of that domain from two to four indicators, the indicators were re-weighted to 5% from 10%, leaving the domain weighted at 20%.

The WEAI “Time” domain was relabeled “Autonomy” to more accurately reflect the indicators contributing to this domain in the WEI. The workload indicator, weighted at 10% in the WEAI, was replaced by two indicators measuring women’s mobility and their attitudes concerning gender equity in the home. Questions related to women’s workload were explored through qualitative interviews rather than the quantitative survey. Again with the addition of an extra indicator to the time domain the indicators were re-weighted appropriately in order to leave all domains equally weighted at 20%.

**WEAI vs. WEI: Indicator weights**

Domain	Indicator	WEAI weight	WEI (CARE) weight
<b>PRODUCTION (20%)</b>	With decision-making input for HH productive decision domains	1/10	10%
	With autonomy in HH production domains	1/10	10%
<b>RESOURCES (20%)</b>	With sole or joint ownership of household assets <sup>a</sup>	1/15	6.67%
	With sole or joint control over purchase or sale of household assets <sup>a</sup>	1/15	6.67%
	With access to and decisions on credit	1/15	6.67%
<b>INCOME (20%)</b>	With control over household income and expenditures in HH decision-making domains <sup>b</sup>	1/5	20%
<b>LEADERSHIP &amp; COMMUNITY (20%)</b>	Participating in formal and informal groups	1/10	5%
	Confident speaking about gender and other community issues at the local level	1/10	5%
	Demonstrating political participation	N/A	5%
	Who express self-confidence	N/A	5%
<b>TIME/ AUTONOMY (20%)</b>	Satisfied with the amount of time available for leisure activities	1/10	6.67%
	Workload	1/10	0%
	Achieving a mobility score of 16 or greater	N/A	6.67%
	Expressing attitudes that support gender equitable roles in family life	N/A	6.67%
	Total	100%	100%



Analysis was initially conducted using the WEAI thresholds for indicator achievement, or those specified by CARE in the case of new indicators. These thresholds often resulted in baseline levels of achievement of 90% or greater, leaving little room for project improvement over time. To allow for country-specific improvement, baseline values were adjusted to country-specific thresholds. In cases where baseline indicator values were greater than 50% using the WEAI thresholds, the threshold for the indicator was adjusted until the value fell between 45-60%. The table below gives both the initial WEAI thresholds and the ending country-specific thresholds.

As an example where a threshold was adjusted for Malawi, the initial guidance for the indicator measuring the decision-making import for household productive decision domains was defined as achievement being realized for those women that had input in 2 or more (of 5 total) domains. When calculated, the percentage of women achieving was greater than 95%. Thus, the indicator was recalculated increasing the threshold for achievement until the value fell between 45 and 60% (in this case, to 5 of 5 production domains). Those indicators with “N/A” signify cases where there was no threshold to adjust (i.e., participating in formal and informal groups – either they participated in at least one group or they didn’t).

Domain	Indicator	WEAI Threshold	Country-Specific Threshold
<b>PRODUCTION</b>	With decision-making input for HH productive decision domains	2 of 5	5 of 5
	With autonomy in HH production domains	1 of 5	1 of 5
<b>RESOURCES</b>	With sole or joint ownership of household assets <sup>a</sup>	≥ 50%	≥ 75%
	With sole or joint control over purchase or sale of household assets <sup>a</sup>	≥ 50%	≥ 75%
	With access to and decisions on credit	N/A	N/A
<b>INCOME</b>	With control over household income and expenditures in HH decision-making domains <sup>b</sup>	≥ 50%	≥ 60%
<b>LEADERSHIP &amp; COMMUNITY</b>	Participating in formal and informal groups	N/A	N/A
	Confident speaking about gender and other community issues at the local level	2 of 4	3 of 4

	Demonstrating political participation	N/A	N/A
	Who express self-confidence	2 of 7	5 of 7
<b>AUTONOMY</b>	Satisfied with the amount of time available for leisure activities	N/A	N/A
	Achieving a mobility score of 16 or greater	N/A	N/A
	Expressing attitudes that support gender equitable roles in family life	N/A	N/A

To accommodate the addition of CARE’s new indicators, adjustments were also made to the GPI portion of the WEI. The most conspicuous change comes in the removal of the aggregated GPI component itself. Although a single index number for gender parity was not calculated, examination of the differences in response between males and females for each indicator allows CARE to gain an understanding of parity as it relates to each WEI domain.

Removal of the aggregated GPI component was necessary because of differences between men and women for three indicators. Including these three indicators as part of the GPI would have violated the spirit of what the GPI represents. The three indicators are: women’s mobility, women’s ownership of assets, and women’s input in the purchase in sale of assets.

The GPI includes two components:

- Percentage of women achieving gender parity: measured by the percentage of empowered women + percentage of women that have empowerment scores  $\geq$  to the empowerment score of the male respondent in their household
- (Avg.) Difference in empowerment between men and women: calculated for those women that don’t achieve gender parity.

The WEAI is structured to ask both men and women about their own mobility. The question was adapted as a result of input from the Ethiopia baseline survey (the first baseline study to be conducted) wherein men felt it absurd to be asked about their own mobility. The WEI, therefore, asked for men’s perceptions about their spouse’s mobility. Thus, there was no measurement of men’s empowerment as regards their own mobility, making it impossible to measure differences between male and female empowerment in mobility (i.e., parity), as men and women were asked different questions.

Both questions related to asset ownership were only asked of the female household member (in part to help shorten the lengthy survey), again making it impossible to calculate a relative difference in empowerment between males and females for ownership and control of assets.

One option would have been to exclude all three of these indicators from calculation of the gender parity index. However, that would have meant a lack of valuable information and muddled

interpretation of the results. Thus, rather than calculating a single, somewhat meaningless number as indicative of differences in men's and women's overall empowerment, men's and women's empowerment in each domain is used to understand parity. Mobility was excluded due to the interpretation issues cited above. The two asset indicators were included because, as constructed, the questions asked of household females still captured the relative difference in asset ownership and decision-making between household males and females (even if only from the perspective of the household female). Finally, the percentage of women achieving women's parity and the average difference in empowerment between men and women respondents was excluded due to the issues cited above.