Baseline Report

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for the Enhancing Community Resilience Programme

Submitted to DFID by LTS International, Baastel, Centre for Development Management and Training Support for Partners

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Executive Summary

The baseline phase informed an array of indicators, a number of them contained in the programme level Log Frame (LF) and detailed in the Performance Measurement Framework for the programme. This covers indicators at the impact level, outcome level as well as under each of the five programme outputs. Some of these indicators are quantitative in nature, while others are meant to measure the quality of some of the outputs or processes being supported by the programme.

The main methods used during the baseline exercise to inform the indicator values included: a household survey covering the 11 targeted districts, focus groups, an agent-based modelling study, desk review, and an e-survey.

For the household survey, a two stage cluster sampling design was adopted for the household baseline survey. The achieved final sample size stood at 2,093 households after data cleaning and post-survey adjustment weighting was performed by the M&E Technical Agency. Focus groups (one with men, one with women) were held in each of the 11 ECRP Districts to help qualify and nuance the household survey results at the analysis stage, focusing on the key aspects covered by this survey. The agent-based modelling study employing mixed methods also fed into this baseline work. The first type of data gathering under the study was through the medium of a survey applying a Discreet Choice Experiment (DCE) on a sample of 94 respondents in three ECRP District (Salima, Chikwawa and Nsanje). The guiding technique for gathering qualitative information was the use of semi-structured interview questions. Interviewees were targeted to represent a variety of viewpoints including NGO workers, traditional leaders, farmers, and government sector employees. Some of the programme level indicators of a national nature were best informed through desk review of the various national sources available and these sources are provided where relevant in the report. To conclude, another limited set of non-household survey indicators were informed through the use of an e-survey sent to the relevant stakeholders. The e-survey was addressed to 81 respondents for a range of institutions working in Malawi and involved in food security and resilience work.

These different data sources are analysed in this baseline report and provided the basis to fine tune the ECRP LF values. In most cases, following exchanges with DFID, this led to slight adjustments in the wording of all indicator in the Log Frame, to clearly bring out the focus on targeted ECRP beneficiaries and households. The revised indicator wording is provided in the revised LF annexed to the Baseline report. This also led, in light of the baseline value, to adjustments in indicators milestones and targets, to duly take into account the starting point.

These revised milestones and targets are also provided in the LF annexed to this report. The changes made have been discussed with the Implementing Partners and shared with them as they were working on their annual work planning. DFID was actively involved in the discussions that led to these adjustments, through the baseline workshop held on 02 October 2012 in Lilongwe.

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Acronyms

CEPA	Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy
CISONEC	Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change
CPC	Civil Protection Committees
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCE	Discreet Choice Experiment
DCPC	District Civil Protection Committee
DDP	District Development Plan
DEO	District Environmental Officers
DFID	Department for International Development
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DoDMA	Department for Disaster Management Affairs
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSEP	District Socio-Economic Profile
EA	Enumeration Area
ECRP	Enhancing Community Resilience Programme
EWS	Early Warning System
FISP	Farm Input Subsidy Programme
GVH	Group Village Headman
HH	Household
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IP	Implementing Partner

LF	Logical Framework
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MK	Malawian Kwacha
MS	Multi-stakeholder
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
USD	United States Dollar
VAA	Vulnerability Analysis Assessment
VCPC	Village Civil Protection Committee
VCP	Village Civil Protection
VSL	Village Savings & Loans

1. Introduction

1.1 Background on programme

ECRP's goal is to help eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in Malawi while the purpose of the programme is to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate variability and change. DFID, Irish Aid and the Norwegian Embassy are the funding partners. Programme funding targets the scaling up of tried and tested interventions such as building community capacity and knowledge on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate change, establishing local economic development activities such as village savings and loan schemes, income generating activities and loans associations, and implementing community based livelihood adaptation practices – e.g. crop diversification, soil fertility management, irrigation and water management. The expected impact is that ECRP will benefit 1.2 million people in disaster prone Districts by increasing their resilience to climate variability and climate change. This will be delivered by achieving five outputs:

- Output 1. Increased capacity of local authorities, communities and individuals to address the impacts of climate change
- Output 2. Community and household livelihood practices are better adapted to the impacts of climate variability and change
- Output 3. Strengthened information sharing by different stakeholders on DRM and climate change adaptation. (including District and national level governments, research institutions and Civil Society Organisations)
- Output 4. A strengthened early warning system for climate related hazards (including slow and rapid onset disasters).
- Output 5.Strengthened disaster risk reduction and climate change programmes and delivery structures of key Government Ministries and Departments

1.2 The consortium and its mandate

The mandate of the independent Technical Agency for ECRP is to:

- Design and support the implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework, applying both international best practice and national relevance and experience by building on and supporting the Implementing Partners and Government of Malawi, to develop and improve their own monitoring and evaluation capacity as far as possible.
- Establish robust programme and project baselines in participation with the implementing NGOs.

- Review and provide advice on NGO project proposals and potential amendments to ensure consistency with the latest existing international and national evidence of good practice.
- Support the Implementing Partners to use monitoring to measure and improve (financial and staff) management as well as results achievement. This includes highlighting potential amendments and using evaluation in a way that supports learning, knowledge management and lesson sharing.
- Prepare detailed work plans according to agreed programme stages and quarterly progress reports. Conduct external reviews and evaluations at the project and programme level.
- Make recommendations to enhance ECRP's efficiency and effectiveness.
- Prepare information materials (policy briefs, research papers, etc.) and disseminate the lessons from the ECRP in a cost effective way; building in Implementing Partners' own knowledge management strategies. Maximise the use and uptake of findings by other programmes in Malawi and internationally and leverage strategic impacts for the programme in national climate and disaster risk management processes.
- Manage an inclusive M&E process that builds stakeholder commitment and buy-in to use the framework and the evidence it generates. Maintain effective liaison with DFID and its donor partners through a structured and efficient contract management process.

1.3 Baseline report objective and structure

Specifically, this report is intended to present an analysis of the status of the baseline at the beginning of the implementation period for ECRP. The aim is to inform the baseline value for the various performance indicators to be used as part of the monitoring and evaluation function of the programme, but also to provide a basis to reflect on the implication of this adjusted baseline for the potential work in the years to come under ECRP.

After presenting briefly the scope of work and the methodology used to inform this baseline, the report then presents the baseline information, under each expected result at the programme level. For each result, this presentation is followed by a first attempt at explaining some of the drivers behind the baseline indicator values found, in particular in cases where they diverge substantially from those that had served to inform the design and inception phases of the programme. This is then followed by a discussion on potential areas that may require attention for future planning and implementation efforts under ECRP, given these differences in baseline value and in view of the results to be achieved. To conclude, some

lessons learned from this baseline exercise are proposed, as well as potential areas of recommendations.

The updated programme level LF is attached to this report as Annex B. This LF, with its revised milestones and targets, will become one of the key guiding tools to benchmark the programme performance in implementation for its remaining 4 years. This baseline report has updated the preliminary report and the baseline data analysis that was presented during the October 2, 2012 Baseline Workshop, held with programme partners. Hence, some of the baseline indicators values have slightly changed because of the weighting of the data which has been adjusted.

2. Scope and Methodology

2.1 Coverage of baseline

2.1.1 Types of indicators informed

The baseline phase informed an array of indicators, a number of them contained in the programme level LF and detailed in the Performance Measurement Framework for the programme. This covers indicators at the impact level, outcome level as well as under each of the five programme outputs. Some of these indicators are quantitative in nature, while others are meant to measure the quality of some of the outputs or processes being supported by the programme.

2.1.2 Districts

As this report is at the programme level, this baseline covers all 11 target Districts under the ECRP programme, 5 under the DISCOVER consortium and 7 under the ECRP consortium (Nsanje District is split between both consortia, hence the apparent total of 12), with the aim of providing a programme level picture. In addition, as some of the results under ECRP are national in scope (e.g. work on policies, information sharing mechanisms and information generated by MVAC), some of the reporting is also at that level (in particular under outputs 4 and 5).

The present report is meant to be complementary to the consortium level and MVAC baseline reports and is not meant to replace them. The IP level baseline reports for instance go into more detail into District level differences, to help better inform the planning of the respective IPs. It also provides analysis on other sub-indicators that are often consortium specific and link to the IP specific LFAs. The focus of this report has been placed on baseline information in a consolidated fashion, while also highlighting the main trends at consortium level for both DISCOVER and ECRP. This type of reporting on the performance indicators will be central to measuring the effectiveness at the programme level in the future, leaving District specific information to the IP reporting.

2.2 Methodology used for household survey

A two stage cluster sampling design was adopted for the baseline survey. Traditional Authority (TA) areas in which the IPs were active were selected. A sample of one (or two, if necessary) enumeration areas (EA) within the selected TAs was taken while within the selected EA, a random sample of households was also taken to give a total of around 50 households in the selected EA. For the results in the baseline report, households were weighted by reference

to the latest available population data from the 2008 census. The achieved final sample size stood at 2,093 households after data cleaning was performed by the M&E Technical Agency, as well as post survey adjustment in the weighting of the sample. For consortium wide estimates, the 95% confidence interval gives a margin of error of around ±3%. However, for estimates for individual Districts, this rises to around ±6% for Karonga, Salima, Chikhwawa and Nsanje, 8% for Kasungu, Thyolo Mulanje and Balaka and ±10% for Dedza, Machinga and Mwanza. Estimates at District or other level in the report thus refer to the corresponding Traditional Authority Areas within Districts, rather than to Districts as a whole.

The questionnaire for the survey was jointly designed by the M&E Technical Agency and the IPs, through several iterations. The questionnaire was also jointly field tested prior to being administered. The administration of the questionnaire to households was conducted by enumerators from the two NGO consortia. The enumerators were trained by the M&E Technical Agency, and quality assurance in survey administration was performed by the M&E Technical Agency during the survey period.

Data entry was also under the responsibility of each consortium, while data entry staff from the two consortia were trained and supervised by the M&E Technical Agency. Basic training was also provided to the two consortia on statistical data analysis by the M&E Technical Agency, and national and international technical assistance was provided in data analysis, with the bulk of the statistical analysis ultimately performed by the M&E Technical Agency's International Statistical Analysis Expert, based on the specific requirements for data expressed by the two consortia as well as the M&E Technical Agency.

2.3 Methodology for non-household survey indicators

The data for indicator measures were gathered by the M&E Technical Agency using a range of data collection tools and sources. Some of the programme level indicators of a national nature were best informed through desk review of the various national sources available. The exact sources are indicated were relevant throughout the text of this report. Another limited set of non-household survey indicators were informed by the M&E Technical Agency through the use of an e-survey sent to the relevant stakeholders. The e-survey was addressed to 81 respondents, representing government institutions, civil society organisations, private sector, development partner, research institutions and international NGOs working in Malawi and involved in food security and resilience work. Several reminders were sent to the respondents during the e-survey administration period that span July and August 2012. Twenty-nine individuals responded to the survey leading to a response rate of 36%, a typical response rate for such surveys according to recent experiences. 83% of the respondents are members of MVAC, giving a good level of confidence with respect to the informants and their level of

exposure and interest to information on this topic in Malawi. Seventeen individuals fully completed the survey, translating into a completion rate of 59%.

A series of other indicators were informed directly by the IPs and consolidated from literature review, interviews and focus groups at the District and village level. The IPs reported on them in their own baseline reports, following agreed data collection protocols developed under the guidance of the M&E Technical Agency.

The M&E Technical Agency complemented its own data collection with two additional data sources:

- Focus groups (one with men, one with women in each Districts) were held in each of the 11 ECRP Districts (Nsanje, Dedza, Salima, Karonga, Balaka, Chikwawa, Kasungu, Machinga, Mulanje, Mwanza and Thyolo), to help qualify and nuance the household survey results at the analysis stage, focusing on the key aspects covered by this survey.
- The results of these focus groups have been further incorporated in this final version of the baseline report.
- An agent-based modelling study employing mixed methods also fed into this baseline work. The first type of data gathering under the study was through the medium of a survey conducted at the beginning of the choice experiment and was designed to collect background information about the experiment respondents applying a Discreet Choice Experiment (DCE) on a sample of 94 respondents in three ECRP District (Salima, Chikwawa and Nsanje). The guiding technique for gathering qualitative information was the use of semi-structured interview questions. Interviewees were targeted to represent a variety of viewpoints including NGO workers, traditional leaders, farmers, and government sector employees.This study assessed farmer decision-making on, and the drivers behind, the adoption of conservation agriculture practices and technologies to improve resilience. The goal of using choice modelling was to use the empirical evidence gathered to make predictions about how farmers in Malawi might choose to adopt different kinds of new farming technologies. The results of this study were also further incorporated into the final baseline data analysis as presented in this report and were shared at the ECRP-sponsored Resilience Workshop in September 2012. .

2.4 Actual timeline for baseline data collection and analysis

Data collection for this baseline took place from 12 June 2012 to 10 August 2012, with the household survey being implemented between 12 June and 10 July. This timing was selected as a number of the performance indicators, which the survey is intended to inform, are best informed directly after the harvest season. Once data was cleaned and fully keyed in at the

beginning of August 2012, a first level of data analysis followed in August and September, to allow the timely production of the various draft baseline reports by the M&E Technical Agency and the two IP consortia in time for the baseline workshop planned for 02 October 2012.

2.5 Constraints and limitations

This section highlights some of the key constraints and limitations faced during the baseline planning and implementation process. The section has been developed to strengthen the lesson learning process of the programme, so that in future improvements can be made, particularly for the mid-term and end of term programme evaluations.

To begin with, it should be noted that as the first draft baseline report had to be prepared in time for the baseline workshop, the household survey data analysis was undertaken on the basis of non-weighted data sets to begin with, as weighting of the sample was still being fine-tuned at the time of preparing the draft report. This led to some slight changes in some of the indicator values when this final version of the Baseline Report was produced, but did not impact on the broader analysis or trends identified. The international statistical expert from the M&E Technical Agency worked closely with the IPs to make sure they have an updated set of weighted statistical data analysis as well for their own use.

In addition, the limited time available between the reception of the IP draft baseline reports (received on 18 & 19 September respectively), and the distribution of the consolidated, draft programme level report, by the M&E Technical Agency (on 25 September), meant that a more detailed analysis of the data from the various baseline data sources (including focus groups conducted and the agent-based modelling study), to inform drivers behind some of the performance indicators could not be fully completed for the first draft. The M&E Technical Agency then further involved the International Statistical Analysis Expert to produce additional statistical analysis following the discussions at the workshop on the draft. Furthermore, the analysis was further strengthened in the final report, using the other sources of data mentioned above.

During the consolidation of the overall programme baseline report, it was noted that baseline reports from the IPs did not inform some of the qualitative indicators to the extent that was expected. Data had not been fully collected and/or analysed, therefore limiting the validity of some of the information at this level. It is possible that the workload with the household survey, coupled with the limited amount of time, could have affected IPs in collecting and analysing qualitative data. The IPs provided some additional information on this in time for the final version of this consolidated baseline report. Some additional information from the IPs is likely to come later on as well on indicators, based on the guidance that was provided by the M&E Technical Agency in June 2012. LF baseline, milestones and targets can be further

adjusted as the programme unfolds. The time and resources available for the baseline work, for both the IPs and the M&E Technical Agency was limited in view of the task at hand. Important methodological activities such as training of data collectors, household listing, field supervision and data cleaning therefore had to be carried with these limitations in mind.

The introduction of the National Statistical Analysis Expert to the M&E Technical Agency team in late July, due to the early departure of the Lead National Statistician, created a certain time lag as the new team member was brought on board and up to speed. This impacted mostly the schedule of DISCOVER, which was further ahead in data collection and entry, but was not the main source of delay in implementing the baseline work. This main source of delay rather related to the longer than expected time required for data collection and data entry in July and early August.

The IPs have also reported the following constraints:

DISCOVER consortium constraints

- The survey was being implemented at a time when Malawi was facing acute fuel shortages. Most rural Districts where this project is located were not usually supplied with fuel; therefore DISCOVER partners resorted to bulk procurement of fuel so that there was no break in the implementation of the survey.
- The DISCOVER project was facing a significant cash flow problem at the time the survey was implemented. The funding partner had not made a transfer of funds to the project in time and some partners struggled to find sources to meet the cost of the baseline survey. Concern Universal advanced some funds to its consortium partners in order to conclude the baseline survey in their respective Districts.
- There was a lack of familiarity with the software that was used to enter data and analyse, which proved to be one of the more important challenges this survey has faced, hence causing delays in the data analysis process and baseline reporting.

ECRP consortium constraints

- More time and resources were required due to the sudden change of baseline survey methodology to include Enumeration Area (EA) based household listing and sampling.
- Frequent changes in the EA samples made it difficult to plan for the survey.
- The EA based methodology meant that the survey was carried out in villages that will not be directly targeted by ECRP. Managing expectations that come along with assessments of this nature was and may continue to be difficult for the Implementing Partners working in those areas.

- Field staff were involved in support and coordination of the baseline, taking away their time from the actual implementation of the interventions.

There are also limitations to findings related to District and community-wide indicators. Firstly, all Districts lacked proper documentation of the existence and functionality of the various disaster risk management structures. Secondly, due to time constraints, it was not possible to visit more than one village per District.

3. Description of baseline and proposed adjustments to milestones

3.1 Impact level: Baseline values for impact indicators

Impact: Reduction in extreme poverty and hunger in Malawi

Impact indicator 1: Percentage of population living on or less than $1.00 a day

There have been three Integrated Household Surveys (IHS) in Malawi, which have measuring poverty as a key objective. The poverty line based on the market value of basic calorific intake (2,400 calories per person per day) and consumption expenditure patterns for households at that level of intake was set at MK 37,002 per person per year at 2011 prices, which is approximately equivalent to MK 40,000 at 2012 prices. Based on this poverty line the IHS estimated the overall incidence of poverty in Malawi at just over 50%.

The survey results suggest that that 86% of the households in the ECRP areas are in income poverty (if only their cash income is calculated). If the anticipated market value of stored crops is also included this figure drops to 83%. However, the proportion is still 33% higher than the national average.

- *Baseline Value (*Error! Reference source not found.*)*

While the national average stands at 39%[1], it is considerably higher in the project intervention areas. Indeed, the household survey reveals that 86 per cent of households in the targeted areas live on less than $1 a day per equivalised adult at PPP exchange rate of MK 137 per USD. The range is from 72.5% in the District of Karonga to 94.7 per cent in Thyolo. Baseline results agree with findings from a poverty and vulnerability assessment by DISCOVER in its impact area, conducted in 2011, which also reported poverty levels of 85%.

Table 1 : Baseline values for Impact Indicator 1 (Percentage of population living on or less than $1.00 a day)

Level		Baseline value	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF

[1] 2010 Malawi Millennium Development Goals report p.9

At overall programme level for target areas	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in target areas)	86%	86%
	National data (2009)	39%	39%
	Male headed households in target area	84%	84%
	Female headed households in target area	91%	91%
For DISCOVER consortium	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in target area)	85%	85%
	National data (2009)	39%	39%
For ECRP consortium	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in target area	87%	87%
	National data (2009)	39%	39%

Furthermore, the M&E Technical Agency focus group findings also confirm that households themselves classify as poor in a higher proportion than national statistics would suggest. For example, a wealth ranking exercise in Chambogo Village, in Traditional Authority Wasambo in Karonga District (DISCOVER impact area), showed that out of 400 households, the Village had 12 households (3%) which it considered 'rich', 80 households (20%) that it considered to be in the middle and 308 households (77%) were considered poor. In Kasungu (ECRP), in Mphepo Village in TA Wimbe, the FGD produced a table and characteristics of wealth ranking of their village as presented in the **Error! Reference source not found.** below. Results are similar across most areas.

Table 2: Wealth ranking and characteristics of various wealth groups

Poorest (45 HH), 33%	Poor (55 HH), 41%	Better off (25 HH), 19%	Rich (10 HH), 7%
Depends on casual labour for food.	They have food lasting three to four months then hunger.	They have livestock such as goats, sheep, pigs and poultry.	They have big assets such as cars, oxcart and bicycles.
Lacks of food hence eat inadequate food once a day.	They do a lot of casual labour.	Have workers.	They keep livestock such as cattle, goats, pigs and poultry.
Disagreements in their families as they lack	They have food such as nsima, two	They also have good clothes.	They help the poorest in form of

Poorest (45 HH), 33%	Poor (55 HH), 41%	Better off (25 HH), 19%	Rich (10 HH), 7%
many things.	times a day but with vegetables not meat.		handouts.
Have worn out clothes. They use zitenje , sacks as something to cover them when they are sleeping		They drink tea in the morning.	They are employers
Early marriages because of poverty.		Have flour for nsima and rice.	They have enough food throughout the year.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

It should be noted that the reference period for this indicator (past 12 months) was a period where Malawi faced a number of political, economic and governance challenges.

- The government was at the time implementing a zero deficit budget, which reduced the effectiveness of service delivery through extension services that might have contributed to this.
- A poor macro-economic situation reduced overall economic growth and affected household economic activities due to persistent fuel shortages.
- Most tobacco farmers had sold their crop at very low prices, which reduced their income at household level.
- Some ECRP Districts, such as Chikwawa and Nsanje were affected by heavy floods in January 2012, which washed away crops and household assets.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

The following targets have been discussed and agreed with the IPs.

Table 3: Proposed LF targets for Impact Indicator 1 (Percentage of population living on or less than $1.00 a day)

Level	Baseline value		June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in impact area)	86%	84%	80%	74%
	National Level data (2009)	39%	37%	33%	27%
	Male headed households in impact area	84%	82%	78%	72%
	Female headed households in impact area	91%	89%	85%	79%
For DISCOVER consortium	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in impact area)	85%	83%	79%	73%
	National Level data (2009)	39%	37%	33%	27%
For ECRP consortium	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in impact area)	87%	85%	81%	75%
	National Level data (2009)	39%	37%	33%	27%

Impact Indicator 2: Average food insecure population in targeted Districts in Malawi

- *Baseline value*

Table 4: Baseline values for Impact Indicator 2 (Average food insecure population in targeted Districts in Malawi)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level for all 11 targeted districts	1,097,868 individuals	1,097,868 individuals
For DISCOVER consortium	383,881 individuals	383,881 individuals
For ECRP consortium	713,987 individuals	713,987 individuals

As of April 2012, MVAC estimates that about 1,630,007 people will be at risk to food insecurity and experience food deficits across the country ranging from 3 to 8 months during the 2012/2013 food consumption year in 15 Districts[2]. The affected population represents 11 per

[2]MVAC National Food Security Forecast, April 2012 to March 2013, and, Bulletin No. 8 Volume 1

cent of the projected population in 2012-2013 compared to 2 percent recorded the year before. Based on the 2011 MVAC report, the LF originally accounted for a food insecure population, for the country as a whole, of 555,638 individuals. This thus represents a threefold increase over the planning assumptions for ECRP. Only two of the 11 ECRP targeted Districts are outside the 15 Districts identified by MVAC as food insecure (Karonga and Kasungu).

The 2012 MVAC estimates by District among the 11 targeted Districts (total of 1,097,868 individuals) are as listed in Error! Reference source not found. below. This is used here as a broad proxy for the impact areas of ECRP:

Table 5: Number of individuals (by District) at risk to food insecurity and experience food deficits across the country

District	No. of individuals
Nsanje	105 012
Dedza	70 406
Salima	52 468
Karonga	n/a
Balaka	208 501
Chikwawa	275 653
Kasungu	n/a
Machinga	20 556
Mulanje	196 847
Mwanza	1 404
Thyolo	167 021

Source: MVAC National Food Security Forecast, April 2012 to March 2013, and, Bulletin No. 8 Volume 1

In addition to MVAC data, the baseline study analysed the median months of food left per household (stored crops at calorie KG equivalents)(Error! Reference source not found.); household consumption at 2,100 calories per day per equivalised adult. At programme level, the data shows that all households had food to last only for about 2 months (1.7 months), with Districts such as Nsanje, Mulanje, Thyolo, Balaka and Mwanza being worst hit. This also confirms that fact that poverty is very high in the programme Districts, as food security is a key measure of poverty in Malawi.

Table 6: Median months of food left per household

Programme District	All households	Male headed households	Female headed households
Karonga	2.2	2.5	1.4
Kasungu	3.8	4.6	2.5
Salima	3.3	4.9	2.7
Dedza	3.5	4.0	2.5
Machinga	2.0	2.5	1.1
Mwanza	1.4	1.6	0.9
Thyolo	1.6	1.7	1.4
Mulanje	0.5	0.4	0.5
Chikhwawa	2.9	2.7	3.3
Nsanje Discover	1.0	1.0	1.0
Nsanje ECRP	0.5	0.5	0.3
Balaka	1.0	1.1	0.7
Total	1.7	1.8	1.3

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

The past year has seen more acute and spread out droughts and floods over the programme target areas. The key drivers behind this indicator are of course those aspects that are essentially being targeted by ECRP through the outputs discussed later in this report. They build on a logic of intervention for the programme as a whole that went through a thorough assessment at the design and inception stages of the programme.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the changes in the baseline value, and keeping to the target of reducing the number of food insecure individuals to 80% of the baseline value, understanding that not all of the food-insecure households in the 11 districts are in the specific ECRP target area, the new target value for the programme would stand at 878,295 food insecure individuals in the 11 districts targeted by June 2016. The milestones also need to be redefined accordingly. The target and baseline for the programme as a whole and for each consortium is set out in Table 7.

Table 7: Proposed LF baseline and targets for 2013-2016

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	1,097,868 individuals	1,042,975 (95%)	988,081 (90%)	878,295 individuals (80% of baseline)
For DISCOVER consortium	383,881 individuals	364,687 (95%)	345,493 (90%)	307,105 individuals (80% of baseline)
For ECRP consortium	713,987 individuals	678,288 (95%)	642,588 (90%)	571,190 individuals (80% of baseline)

3.2 Outcome level: Baseline values found for outcome indicators

Outcome: Increased resilience of vulnerable communities to climate variability and change

Outcome Indicator 1: Number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) reached

The overall aim of the programme at inception was to reach 603,500 direct beneficiaries and 1.2 million beneficiaries in total (direct plus indirect). Direct beneficiaries will be those people reached by the programme through direct interventions at household and community level such as conservation agriculture, irrigation, afforestation, village savings and loan schemes, energy related interventions, food security interventions, training, technical assistance and other related hardware or livelihoods activities.

The direct beneficiaries are additional people that the programme will reach with its interventions, above the baseline for programme impact areas. Indirect beneficiaries will cover the rest of the population of the impact villages that will also indirectly benefit from the programme, for example by being covered by protection plans and early warning systems developed with programme support.

In parallel to these indirect beneficiaries at the District and community level, MVAC is expected to reach, and therefore indirectly benefit at least 200,000 individuals a year through its early warnings. It is however assumed that the majority of those would be from the same Districts, and would likely cover to a large extent the same households, therefore not affecting

the programme target for total beneficiaries (indirect and direct) for the programme. MVAC would have its members as direct beneficiaries of its efforts under the programme as well.

i) Number of direct beneficiaries;

Table 8: Number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) reached as the baseline.

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	0	0
For DISCOVER consortium	0	0
For ECRP consortium	0	0
For MVAC	15 members	15 members

The number of direct beneficiaries reached by the programme at the baseline was zero as the programme implementation had not yet started. The programme aim is to increase resilience of 603,500 people as direct beneficiaries in 11 Districts through two consortia: the DISCOVER consortium led by Concern Universal and the ECRP consortium led by Christian AID. The DISCOVER consortium aims to increase resilience of 298,500 people in 104 GVHs (within 5 Districts and 17 Traditional Authorities- TAs) while the ECRP consortium aims to reach out to 305,000 people within 7 vulnerable Districts in central and southern Malawi. The programme aim is that at least 30% of people (about 201,000) targeted should be from female headed households.

In the case of MVAC, at the time of the baseline, 15 members had already gone through a refresher training, while the target is to train 78 members, therefore bringing the total number of direct beneficiaries for the programme to 603,578.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

For this indicator, it is proposed to maintain the targets as specified in the original LF, with a specification of the gender focus. The following milestones are proposed (

).

Table 9: Proposed LF target for Outcome Indicator 1 (Number of beneficiaries reached)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	0	200,000 (of which 66,000 are from female headed households)	428,563 (of which 142 400 are from female headed households)	603,578 people (of which 201,000 are from female headed households)
For DISCOVER consortium	0	150,000 people (of which 49,500 are from female headed households)	298,500 people (of which 99,500 are from female headed households)	298,500 people (of which 99,500 are from female headed households)
For ECRP consortium	0	50,000 people (of which 16,500 are from female headed households)	130,000 people (of which 42,900 are from female headed households)	305,000 people (of which 101,500 are from female headed households)
For MVAC	15 MVAC members	30 old members 10 new members	35 old members 8 new members 20 District govt officers	35 old members 8 new members 35 District govt officers

ii) Number of total beneficiaries (direct and indirect beneficiaries).

- *Baseline value*

The total number of beneficiaries targeted including indirect beneficiaries was announced at 1.2 million by DFID at programme design stage. However, this number of beneficiaries must be adjusted in view of the fact that DISCOVER announces a target of 800,000 beneficiaries (which also accounts for the more restricted number of direct beneficiaries that are necessarily included in the target areas covered and discussed earlier) and the ECRP consortium a target of 603,400 beneficiaries (as for DISCOVER, both direct and indirect beneficiaries are accounted for in this total number), for a new total of over 1,403,400 beneficiaries.

Just as with direct beneficiaries, the total number of people reached by the programme at the baseline was zero as the programme implementation had not yet started. This is with the exception of MVAC, which services were already benefitting indirectly local populations and

the 15 staff trained, and was expected to continue to do so over the course of the programme, at a similar pace.

Table 10: Baseline values for Outcome Indicator 1 (Number of beneficiaries reached – ii) total beneficiaries)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	0	0
For DISCOVER consortium	0	0
For ECRP consortium	0	0
For MVAC	200,000+	200,000+

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the above, the following revisions are proposed to the programme and consortium level targets and milestones.

Table 11: Proposed LF targets for Outcome Indicator 1 (Number of beneficiaries reached)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	0	600,000	950,000	1,403,400 individuals (total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries)
For DISCOVER consortium	0	300,000	450,000	603,400 individuals
For ECRP consortium	0	300 000	500 000	800,000 individuals
For MVAC	0	200,000 +/year	200,000+/year	200,000 + individuals (already accounted for above)

Sub-indicator 1.1: Change in the level of real household income for targeted direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by household headship)

The data presented below is median total household income in thousands of MK and in USD at the exchange that prevailed during the 2012 reference period.

- *Baseline value*

Table 12: Baseline values for Sub-indicator 1.1 (Change in the level of real household income for targeted direct beneficiaries)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	Male headed households: MK34,000 ($206) Female headed households: MK16,000 ($97) All households:MK28000 ($170)	Male headed households: MK34,000 ($206) Female headed households: MK16,000 ($97) All households:MK28000 ($170)
For DISCOVER consortium	Male headed households: MK35, 000 ($212) Female headed households: MK16,000 ($97) All households:MK26000 ($158)	Male headed households: MK35, 000 ($212) Female headed households: MK16,000 ($97) All households:MK26000 ($158)
For ECRP consortium	Male headed households: MK33,600 ($203) Female headed households: MK16,600 ($101) All households:MK29000 ($176)	Male headed households: MK33,600 ($203) Female headed households: MK16,600 ($101) All households:MK29000 ($176)

In 2005, the most recent year for which national data is available on this indicator, average household income in Malawi was about MK 50,000. Urban areas had almost three times the level of income compared to rural areas[3]. By gender of household head, male-headed households had a higher income relative to female-headed households. The average annual income in male headed households was about MK 56,000 (Salaries/Wages: MK 21,002; Agriculture: MK 20,712; Enterprises: MK 33,091; Others: MK 4,862) while in female headed households it was slightly above half of this at MK 34,000 (Salaries/Wages: MK 9,351; Agriculture: MK 16,222; Enterprises: MK 16,243; Others: 4,808).

The baseline exercise collected household income data for the year from all sources that the household used to earn income over the past 12 months. These sources included but were

[3]IHS 2004-2005 p.74, October 2005

not limited to crop production sales, livestock production sales, natural resources production sales, formal permanent employment, casual labour (ganyu), semi-skilled contract work, income generating activities, asset sales, land rentals, gifts/remittances, pensions and others. The methodology used to collect data was adapted from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Joint Task Force.

Results of the survey show that the average annual real income for all ECRP Districts in all households is MK 28,000 ($170). The income is much higher of male headed households with MK 34,000 ($206) compared to female headed households at MK 16,000 ($97). Findings from the FGD also showed that female headed households had lower incomes than male headed households.

Although there were variations across Districts, the most frequently used sources of income were crop production sales (36.5%), casual labour/ganyu (28.3%) and various other income generating activities (14.7%).

Within DISCOVER impact Districts, the major sources of income were crop sales (33%), Income generating activities (21.3%), Casual labour (24.2%), natural resources products (3.3%), gift and remittances (7.2%), semi-skilled contract labour 2.6%. Formal perfect employment, pension and livestock production anchors the list at 0.65% each.

Similarly, within the ECRP impact Districts, the main sources of income were crop sales (44%), other sources (including ganyu and paid employment, 39%) and natural resources, 10% and livestock (7%). Village savings and loan schemes, which are being promoted by the programme, were not mentioned as a source of income. Similarly, most interventions being promoted by the programme as income generating activities were minimally mentioned as income sources.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

A number of factors have affected the value of this indicator. Among them, the following are noted:

- The government was at the time implementing a zero deficit budget, which reduced the effectiveness of service delivery through extension services that might have contributed to this.
- Poor macro-economic situation reduced overall economic growth and affected household economic activities due to persistent fuel shortages.
- Most farmers who grow tobacco had sold their crop at very poor prices, which reduced their income at household level.

- Some ECRP Districts, such as Chikwawa and Nsanje were affected by heavy floods in January, 2012, which washed away crops and household assets.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the baseline now established, the following targets and milestones are proposed:

Table 13: Proposed LF targets for Sub-indicator 1.1 (Change in the level of real household income for targeted direct beneficiaries)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level		5% increase	10% increase	20% increase
	Male headed households: MK 34,000 ($206)	MK 35,700	MK 37,400	MK 40,800
	Female headed households: MK 16,000 ($97)	MK 16,800	MK 17,600	MK 19,200
	All households: MK 28,000 ($170)	MK 29,400	MK 30,800	MK 33,600
For DISCOVER consortium		5% increase	10% increase	20% increase
	Male headed households: MK 35,000 ($212)	MK 36,750	MK 38,500	MK 42,000
	Female headed households: MK 16,000 ($97)	MK 16,800	MK 17,600	MK 19,200
	All households: MK 26,000 ($158)	MK 27,300	MK 28,600	MK 31,200
For ECRP consortium		5% increase	10% increase	20% increase
	Male headed households: MK 33,600 ($203)	MK 35,280	MK 36,960	MK 40,320
	Female headed households: MK 16,600 ($101)	MK 17,430	MK 18,260	MK 19,920
	All households: MK 29,000 ($176)	MK 30,450	MK 31,900	MK 34,800

Sub-indicator 1.2: Change in the median capital asset value per targeted household (USD) (iron sheets, livestock, oxcart, bed, table, mobile phone, radio, television, bicycle, hoe, axe, sickle, panga, cash) disaggregated by household headship.

- *Baseline value*

Ownership of assets is an important proxy for poverty in Malawi. Households that own assets such as oxcart, bicycle, livestock, radio television etc are often considered rich or better off and hence more resilient to the effects of climate change. Assets can provide a fallback mechanism in case of loss of income, during food insecurity and other disasters.

Table 14: Baseline values for Sub-indicator 1.2 (Change in the median capital asset value per targeted household (USD) disaggregated by household headship)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	All households: MK 18,750 Male headed median: MK 25,900 Female headed median: MK 9,950	All households: MK 18,750 Male headed median: MK 25,900 Female headed median: MK 9,950
For DISCOVER consortium	All households: MK 25,100 Male headed median: MK 33,000 Female headed median: MK 13,050	All households: MK 25,100 Male headed median: MK 33,000 Female headed median: MK 13,050
For ECRP consortium	All households: MK 21,250 Male headed median: MK 8,100 Female headed median: MK 16,000	All households: MK 21,250 Male headed median: MK 8,100 Female headed median: MK 16,000

The baseline found that the mean capital asset value amongst sampled households was MK 18,750 (about $114)[4] per household (Table 15). Households sampled in DISCOVER Districts had asset valued at MK 25,100 (about $152) while those under the ECRP consortium target area have assets with an average value of MK 21,250 (about $129).

[4] At the exchange rate of 1 USD to MK165 which prevailed during most of the reference year

Table 15: Weighted asset values (in MK and USD) by District

District	Household headship	Median Asset value in MK	Median Asset value in $
Karonga	1 Male	79,750	483
	2 Female	27,000	164
	Total	62,450	378
Kasungu	1 Male	35,500	215
	2 Female	10,200	62
	Total	28,500	173
Salima	1 Male	29,100	176
	2 Female	17,000	103
	Total	25,400	154
Dedza	1 Male	23,000	139
	2 Female	6,300	38
	Total	16,000	97
Machinga	1 Male	17,910	109
	2 Female	6,600	40
	Total	12,500	76
Mwanza	1 Male	21,000	127
	2 Female	2,400	15
	Total	12,650	77
Thyolo	1 Male	17,600	107
	2 Female	6,600	40
	Total	13,500	82
Mulanje	1 Male	14,600	88
	2 Female	5,600	34
	Total	11,500	70
Chikhwawa	1 Male	19,200	116
	2 Female	13,850	84
	Total	17,900	108
Nsanje	1 Male	21,450	130
	2 Female	6,800	41
	Total	15,700	95
Balaka	1 Male	24,250	147
	2 Female	10,115	61
	Total	16,900	102
Total	1 Male	25,100	152
	2 Female	9,950	60
	Total	18,750	114

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

The poor macro-economic situation explained above can lead to increases in the cost of living for rural households. The situation could have led some households to liquidate assets to meet their day-to-day requirements, thereby reducing the asset base. Other factors that will influence the liquidation of assets include the sale of assets after loss of crops due to droughts and/or floods. The application of a series of climate resilient and transformative strategies can help reduce the dependence of households on certain income sources that can be affected by climate related disasters, and therefore reduce the likelihood of assets sold as a coping strategy in response to those disasters.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the baseline now established, the following targets and milestones are proposed:

Table 16: Proposed LF targets for Sub-indicator 1.2 (Change in the median capital asset value per targeted household (USD) disaggregated by household headship)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	Male headed households: MK 25,100 ($152) Female headed households: MK 9,950 ($60) All households: MK 18,750 ($114)	Male headed households: 5% ($160) Female headed households: 5%, ($63) All households, 5%, ($120)	Male headed households:10% ($167) Female headed households: 10%, ($66) All households, 10%, ($125)	Male headed households, 20% increase ($182) Female headed households: 20%, ($72) All households, 20%, ($137)
For DISCOVER consortium	Male headed households: MK 33,000 ($200) Female headed households: MK13,050 ($79) All households:	Male headed households: 5% ($210) Female headed households: 5%, ($83) All households,	Male headed households:10% ($220) Female headed households: 10%, ($87) All households, 10%, ($167)	Male headed households, 20% increase ($240) Female headed households: 20%, ($95) All households, 20%,

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
	MK 25,100 ($152)	5%, ($160)		($182)
For ECRP consortium	Male headed households: MK 21,250 ($129) Female headed households: MK 8,100 ($49) All households: MK 25,100 ($152)	Male headed households: 5% ($135) Female headed households: 5%, ($51) All households, 5%, ($160)	Male headed households:10% ($142) Female headed households: 10%, ($54) All households, 10%, ($167)	Male headed households, 20% increase ($155) Female headed households: 20%, ($59) All households, 20%, ($182)

Sub-indicator 1.3: Change in the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the target Districts (%) covered by protection plans, readiness plans or resilience enhancing plans at District level

- *Baseline value*

Table 17: Baseline values for Sub-indicator 1.3 (Change in the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the target Districts (%) covered by protection plans, readiness plans or resilience enhancing plans at District level)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	16.9% of the population reported that they lived in villages which have a functional disaster risk management plan	109,311 direct beneficiaries 261,515 total beneficiaries (direct and indirect)
For DISCOVER consortium	21.6% of the population reported that they lived in villages which have a functional disaster risk management plan 3 Districts (Nsanje, Dedza and Karonga) out of 5 have preparedness plan. These plans cover a combined population of about 1,134,667 people	64,476 direct beneficiaries 172,800 total beneficiaries (direct and indirect)
For ECRP consortium	14.7% of the population reported that they lived in villages which have a functional disaster risk management plan Only 3 Districts (Nsanje, Machinga and Chikwawa) out of the 7 Districts targeted by ECRP have ever had District	44,835 direct beneficiaries 88,715 total beneficiaries (direct and indirect)

	Preparedness Plans	

The household survey showed that at community level, about 16.9% of households reported that their communities had protection plans against disasters. Extrapolated over all the target population of direct and indirect beneficiaries, this means that approximately 109,311 direct beneficiaries and 261,515 total beneficiaries (direct and indirect) are covered by protection plans.

At District level, a total of 5 Districts out of the 11 programme Districts (45.5%) have a District Preparedness Plan. Of the total population of the 11 Districts (4,543,078), approximately 2,062,558 people are therefore covered by a District Preparedness Plan, representing coverage of 45.4%. However, it should be noted that within Districts with no District Preparedness Plans, there are some communities with active Village Civil Protection Committees (VCPC) that have developed contingency plans to protect their communities against disasters and the effects of climate change.

In the Districts covered by DISCOVER, 3 Districts out of 5 have preparedness plan: Nsanje, Dedza and Karonga. These plans cover a combined population of approximately 1,134,667 people. For the ECRP consortium, consultations with District officials discovered that only 3 Districts (Nsanje, Machinga and Chikwawa) out of the 7 Districts targeted by ECRP have ever had District Preparedness Plans; the plans were developed with support from UNDP. In Machinga and Nsanje, the plans were due for updating in 2011 and 2009 respectively, but this has not yet been done.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

The primary mandate of developing structures, systems and support services for disaster management lies with the Department for Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA). However, the Department does not have a budget line in the national budget and often has limited technical and financial support particularly at District level. For example, ECRP consultations with District council officials found that only three Districts (Machinga, Chikwawa and Nsanje) have a DoDMA District Office. In the other 5 Districts (Kasungu, Mwanza, Mulanje and Thyolo), climate change and DRM issues are coordinated by District Environmental Officers (DEOs) in addition to their normal responsibilities.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the above analysis, it is proposed to keep the same targets as those originally proposed. Milestones were discussed with the IPs at the October 2nd baseline workshop and are proposed in Table 18 for the whole programme.

Table 18: Proposed LF targets for Sub-indicator 1.3 (Change in the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the target Districts (%) covered by protection plans, readiness plans or resilience enhancing plans at District level)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	109,311 direct beneficiaries 237,175 total beneficiaries (direct and indirect)	301,750 additional direct beneficiaries 701,700 additional total beneficiaries covered	301,750 additional direct beneficiaries 701,700 additional total beneficiaries covered	603,500 additional direct beneficiaries covered 1,403,400 additional total beneficiaries covered
For DISCOVER consortium	64,476 direct beneficiaries 172,800 total beneficiaries (direct and indirect)	149,250 additional direct beneficiaries 301,700 additional total beneficiaries covered	149,250 direct beneficiaries 301,700 additional total beneficiaries covered	298,500 additional direct beneficiaries covered 603,400 additional total beneficiaries covered
For ECRP consortium	44,835 direct beneficiaries 88,715 total beneficiaries (direct and indirect)	152,500 additional direct beneficiaries 400,000 additional total beneficiaries covered	152, 500 additional direct beneficiaries 400,000 additional total beneficiaries covered	305 000 additional direct beneficiaries covered 800,000 additional total beneficiaries covered

During the baseline meeting, the above indicator was modified to read: "Number of Districts, TAs, and GVHs in the target areas that have up–to-date DRM plans or contingency plans". Based on this modified indicator the targets were agreed as follows in Table 19.

Table 19: Modified targets for Sub-indicator 1.3 (Change in the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the target Districts (%) covered by protection plans, readiness plans or resilience enhancing plans at District level)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	1 Districts 0 TAs 0 District	8	10	11 Districts 43 TAs 171 GVHs
For DISCOVER consortium	1 District 0 TAs 0 GVH	5 17 30%	5 17 70%	5 Districts 17 TAs 94 GVHs (90% of 104)
For ECRP consortium	0 District 0 TA 0 GVH	3Districts 30% TA GVH (30%)	6 Districts 70% TA GVH (70%)	7 Districts 26 TAs (100%) 77 GVH (90% of 84 GVH)

Sub-indicator 1.4: Number of direct beneficiaries (and % of targeted households) that passed through at least 9 months with food from their own production

In light of the discussions held at the Baseline workshop on October 2nd, in Lilongwe, and the attribution problems associated with this indicator, it has been agreed to move it up as an indicator of impact rather than an outcome indicator in the final Log Frame. This indicator assessed the physically available energy[5] food reserves at household level and used household demographic data and their nutritional requirements to assess whether a household had enough energy food reserves to last for up 9 months or beyond.

5 The nutrient required in the highest quantities by the body is energy (kilocalories). Availability of energy food at household level, though not enough nutritionally is a good measure of food security.

- *Baseline value*

Table 20: Baseline values for Sub-indicator 1.4 (Number of direct beneficiaries that passed through at least 9 months with food from their own production)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	All households: 15% Male headed households: 19% Female headed households: 11%	90,550 people (18,480 HH or 15% of HH)
For DISCOVER consortium	All households: 16% Male headed households: 20% Female headed households: 12%	44,759 people (9,747 HH or 16% of HH)
For ECRP consortium	All households: 15% Male headed households: 19% Female headed households: 11%	45,750 people (9,337 HH or 15% of HH)

Table 21: Sex of Household Head (HH) by District

Sex of HH Head	Karonga	Kasungu	Salima	Dedza	Machinga	Mwanza	Thyolo	Mulanje	Chikhwawa	Nsanje Discover	Nsanje ECRP	Balaka	All Discover	All ECRP	Total
Male	20%	36%	41%	28%	24%	17%	10%	9%	16%	8%	12%	10%	20%	19%	19%
Female	13%	14%	13%	25%	15%	3%	1%	10%	17%	14%	13%	2%	12%	11%	11%
Total	16%	25%	27%	26%	19%	10%	6%	10%	16%	11%	13%	6%	16%	15%	15%

In Malawi, the consumption year traditionally starts in April and ends in March the following year. Household food stocks are normally at their peak during April-June and at their lowest during January-March. Un-weighted results of the baseline study show that about half of the households (50.9%) in the target Districts had food for at least 9 months during the baseline year. DISCOVER Districts were more likely to be food secure than ECRP consortium Districts. For DISCOVER, the baseline survey results indicated that 59% of households produced food that last for at least 9 months while in 41% of households surveyed food will last for less than 9 months. For the ECRP consortium, baseline survey findings show that during 2011/2012

consumption year, only 43% of respondent households had adequate food for at least 9 months of the consumption year across ECRP consortium Districts.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*[6]

While the Malawian Government is implementing the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP), it was nevertheless expected that food security would have been high. This could be due to farmers selling their maize to earn income to meet other household needs. As has been found, crop sales are the major sources of income in the surveyed households. In addition, the poor macro-economic situation described earlier in this report led to increases in the cost of living for rural households. The situation could have led to some households to over sell their food baskets to meet their day-to-day requirements, thereby reducing the asset base. The Farm Input Subsidy Programme may not have made impacts in Districts where maize is not the main staple or is not a major component of their staple food; these include Karonga, Chikwawa and Nsanje.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

Table 22: Proposed LF target for Sub-indicator 1.4 (Number of direct beneficiaries that passed through at least 9 months with food from their own production)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	90,550 people (18480, or 15% of HH)	316,350 people (64,561 HH or 52% of HH)	340,425 people (69,475 HH or 56% of HH)	406,550 people (82,970 HH or 67% of HH)
For DISCOVER consortium	44,759 people (9747 HH or 16% of HH)	179,100 people (37,551 HH or 60% of HH)	194,025 people (39,597 HH or 65% of HH)	238,800 people (48,735 HH or 80% of direct beneficiaries)
For ECRP consortium	45,750 people (9,337 HH or 15% of HH)	137,250 people (28,010 HH or 45% of HH)	146,400 people (29,878 HH or 48% of HH)	167,750 people (34,235 HH or 55% of direct beneficiaries)

The following are also important additional food security indicators that have been developed from the household survey that are also proxies for Sub-indicator 1.4. These indicators are not in the LF but can provide additional understanding of the food security situation in the programme impact areas.

[6] It will be interesting, for the final report, to analyse this data in light of values for other indicators, such as household average income, existence of protection plans, adoption rate for climate smart agriculture techniques, etc, to assess further the various potential drivers

Sub-indicator 1.4.1: Median month when food harvested runs out

The median month when food harvested (Table 23 is August 2012 for the 2011/2012 harvest and October 2011 for the 2010/2011 harvest. The later harvest leads us to believe that food security was better last year than the current year because of drought that affected most of the ECRP Districts. Female headed households are likely to run short of food earlier than male headed households.

Table 23: Median month when food harvested runs out

	Sex of Household Head	Median month when 2011/2012 harvest is expected to run out	Median month when harvest from last season (2010/2011) finished
Overall ECRP	1 Male	August	October 2011
	2 Female	July	September 2011
	Overall ECRP	August	October 2011
DISCOVER	1 Male	August	October 2011
	2 Female	August	October 2011
	Overall	August	October 2011
ECRP	1 Male	August	October 2011
	2 Female	July	August 2011
	Overall	July	September 2011

Sub-indicator 1.4.2: Percentage of households with energy food reserves that can last up to the 2012/2013 harvest

This indicator assessed the physically available energy[7] food reserves at household level and used household demographic data and their nutritional requirements to assess whether a household had enough energy food reserves to last for up the next harvest in 2013. The following common energy foods should be considered in the assessment: maize, cassava, rice, sweet potato, sorghum, millet, plantain / banana and Irish potato. The energy food available in the household could be from own production, bought or could be obtained through transfers from other households.

Table 24: Proportion of households with energy food reserves disaggregated by sex of household head

Sex of Household Head	Karonga	Kasungu	Salima	Dedza	Machinga	Mwanza	Thyolo	Mulanje	Chikhwawa	Nsanje Discover	Nsanje ECRP	Balaka	All Discover	All ECRP	Total

7 The nutrient required in the highest quantities by the body is energy (kilocalories). Availability of energy food at household level, though not enough nutritionally is a good measure of food security.

Male headed HH	22%	38%	45%	31%	25%	17%	10%	11%	19%	11%	14%	13%	23%	21%	21%
Female headed HH	19%	14%	16%	27%	20%	3%	1%	11%	22%	16%	13%	2%	14%	13%	14%

Sub-indicator 1.5: *Number of direct beneficiaries (% of targeted households) using a combination of at least three types of climate change and DRR transformative strategies (solar, irrigation, livestock, Income Generating Activities (IGA), agro-forestry, conservation agriculture, drought/flood tolerant crops)*

- *Baseline value*

Table 25: Baseline values for Sub-indicator 1.5 (Number of direct beneficiaries using a combination of at least three types of climate change and DRR transformative strategies)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	52%	314,072 people (64,096 HH or 52% of HH)
For DISCOVER consortium	49%	146,265 people (29,850 HH or 49% of HH)
For ECRP consortium	54%	164,699 people (33,612 HH or 54% of HH)

The programme developed a list of climate change and DRR transformative strategies, which included: conservation agriculture, irrigation, livestock, IGAs, agro-forestry, drought/flood tolerant crops, post-harvest management practices, fuel efficient stoves, solar PV technologies/products, afforestation, village savings and loans schemes.

Weighted baseline results show that slightly above half of the households (52%) surveyed practiced at least three of the above climate smart agriculture technologies. Fewer (about a third) of female headed households in all Districts were likely to use a combination of at least three types of climate change and DRR transformative strategies compared to male headed (about two thirds). Under DISCOVER, the baseline analysis revealed that 49% of the households used a combination of at least three types of climate change and DRM transformative strategies, while within ECRP consortium Districts, the baseline survey results show that about 54% of households practice at least three (3) of these strategies.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

The percentage of farmers already using at least 3 types of climate change and DRM transformative strategies is generally higher than expected. This could be due to increasing

prominence of climate education through various media, including the radio. In light of this data, there is potentially a need for the partners to review the combination of strategies and assess whether all the technologies included in the list are climate smart and whether the threshold of 3 is relevant, in view of the fact that food insecurity remains high according to a previously discussed indicator.

In addition to a combination aspect, there might be a need for the IPs to monitor in the future which technique or combination of techniques appears to be more effective, and the quality of the implementation of this buddle of techniques. This is an issue that the mid-term evaluation will likely have to assess, but monitoring by the IPs on this issue should not be delayed in the meantime.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In view of the above, it is, at the moment, proposed to keep the set targets for this indicator. Milestones have been revised given the high level of the baseline.

Table 26: Proposed LF targets for Sub-indicator 1.5 (Number of direct beneficiaries using a combination of at least three types of climate change and DRR transformative strategies)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	275,417 people (56 207 HH or 45.6%)	65% of HH	65% of HH	543,150 people (90% of HH)
For DISCOVER consortium	125,967 people (25,507 HH or 42.2% of HH)	65% of HH	80% of HH	268,650 people (90% of HH)
For ECRP consortium	149,450 people (30,500 HH or 49% of HH)	65% of HH	80% of HH	274,500 people (55,000 HH or 90% of HH)

Outcome indicator 1.2: Number and type of DRM or climate change adaptation policies and programmes positively influenced by ECRP at national, District and local levels

- *Baseline value*

Table 27: Baseline values for Outcome indicator 1.2 (Number and type of DRM or climate change adaptation policies and programmes positively influenced by ECRP at national, District and local levels)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	0	0
For DISCOVER consortium	0	0
For ECRP consortium	0	0
MVAC	1	1

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

At the time of the baseline, the NGO Consortia programmes had not yet started implementing advocacy programmes to influence government policies and programmes, both at national and District level. The two consortia will work with the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) to deliver this outcome indicator. The programme has just initiated engagement with various stakeholders through the development of the advocacy strategy.

As Malawi is in the process of developing a National Climate Change policy, CEPA has identified six priority areas that the National Climate Change policy should address. These include: climate governance and coordination; awareness and education; climate finance and funding flows; capacity development, human resources development and management; adaptation and mitigation and enhanced participation of the civil society. With respect to MVAC, its baseline information says that it has contributed to informing government policy/programmes already, as the Government uses MVAC population at risk to food insecurity to monitor Goal 1 in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) and Millennium Development Goals (MDG 1).

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

It is proposed to keep the agreed targets for this indicator, with the following in Table 28.

Table 28: Proposed LF targets for Outcome indicator 1.2 (Number and type of DRM or climate change adaptation policies and programmes positively influenced by ECRP at national, District and local levels)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	0	3	6	10[8] new or amended polices or programmes
For DISCOVER consortium	0	Policy analysis concluded, Policy and Advocacy strategy and plan in place,	3 new or amended polices or programmes	6 new or amended polices or programmes
For ECRP consortium	0	2	3	5 policies or programmes influenced by ECRP as well as 7 District Development Plans and socioeconomic profiles
MVAC	1	2	3	4 policies or programmes influenced

[8] Note, some of the policies and programmes influenced by each consortium and MVAC will be the same, hence the need for them to coordinate to ensure that a total of 10 policies or programmes or more are influenced. The annual lessons learning workshops under ECPR in the years to come can provide one of the venues for this coordination, as well as the sharing of the consolidated annual progress report from the Technical Agency which will be reporting on which policies or programmes have been influenced, according to each IP. Some of the policies and programmes targeted at the moment include the following: Disaster risk management, Climate change, Energy, Agriculture,Carla (the government-led resilience programme). Others will have to be identified as ECRP evolves.

3.3 Output level: Baseline Values Found for the Various Output Indicators

3.3.1 Output 1

Output 1: Increased capacity of local authorities, communities and individuals to address the impacts of climate change

The performance towards this output will be informed by change in the following indicators, for which the baseline value is discussed below:

Output Indicator 1.1: Percentage of targeted households that are sensitised to climate change and have knowledge of at least 3 solutions that enhance individual and community resilience to climate related disasters and variability

For clarity, this indicator has three related sub-indicators, which are presented first before the main indicator.

Output Sub-indicator 1.1.1 Percentage of targeted households that are aware of/have ever heard of climate change (basic awareness of climate change)

- *Baseline value*

Table 29: Baseline value for Output Sub-indicator 1.1.1 (Percentage of targeted households that are aware of/have ever heard of climate change)

Level	Value from analysis
At overall programme level	79.2%
For DISCOVER consortium	70%
For ECRP consortium	87%

When respondents were asked whether they had ever heard about climate change (to measure basic awareness of climate change), results showed that 79.2 % of the household surveyed had already heard about climate change. This percentage varied widely among the

Districts surveyed, ranging from 97.7% in Mulanje, down to 46% in Karonga[9]. The most common sources of information on the subject being the radio (76.4%), followed by traditional authorities (27.8)% and extension workers (10.3%). This ranking of sources held also for Districts that had a higher level of awareness, with radio coming out even more strongly. In focus group discussions, it was also noted that awareness of climate change is relatively high. Most respondents said that they had heard climate change mentioned on radios, newspapers and in community meetings which were conducted in the area by NGOs. Most of them attributed climate change to the cutting down of trees and yet they are not planting trees to save the environment. Most respondents said that "the rains of today are undependable, we used to plant our crops in November but nowadays we do not have the exact dates and months for planting our crops"

DISCOVER pointed out in its baseline study that in some if its Districts, CPCs played a role in climate change awareness and DRR, although this appeared to be very limited so far. A total of 1.1% of the population in the impact area for DISCOVER received climate change awareness messages from CPCs. At least 0.2% of the communities reported to have received support from the CPCs during floods and earthquakes respectively. A further 0.2% of the communities reported to have received notification on the occurrence of earthquakes. It is thus clear that much progress remains to be done if CPCs are to impact communities in climate change adaptation and DRR[10].

In DISCOVER Districts, the level of climate change awareness in the impact areas stood at 70% with Balaka topping the District's climate change awareness at 88%. The other Districts were Salima (84.8), Dedza (86.7%), Nsanje (59.1%) and Karonga at 46%.[11] Across ECRP Districts, 87% of respondents indicated they had heard of issues of climate change. The highest proportions were in Mulanje (98%) and Thyolo (98%) with the lowest proportion found in Kasungu (81%). Therefore, globally, the awareness of climate change issues is considerably lower in the DISCOVER impact area.

9 These figures are un-weighted and not presented in the baseline tables

10 These figures are un-weighted and not presented in the baseline tables

11 These figures are un-weighted and not presented in the baseline tables

Output Sub-indicator 1.1.2 Percentage of targeted households that have knowledge on climate change (measured by knowledge of climate change effects)

- *Baseline values*

The most commonly known impacts of climate change among households were the delayed and/or reduced rains (74.8%), reduced agricultural yields (52.6%), and rising temperatures (34.2%). In the DISCOVER Districts, the communities were aware of the effects of climate change with 77% linking it to less rainfall, decreased yields (50%), and 26% to raising temperature, the awareness of other impacts falling well below the 20% range. For ECRP Districts, the highest proportion of respondents (73%) identified unfavourable rainfall conditions. This was followed by 54% of respondents that mentioned reduced crop yields.[12]

The Discreet Choice Experiment (DCE) confirms these findings on both the general knowledge of climate change discussed in the section above, and of its effects, and nuances them. One of the most consistent themes in the qualitative data from the DCE work was that farmers are acutely experiencing changes in environmental conditions. The specific changes include increased temperatures, increasingly erratic rainfall, increased incidence of extreme weather events such as floods, increased drought with corresponding increases in pest in some places, and decreasing soil fertility.

These challenges were all mentioned consistently by farmer focus groups, individual farmer interviews, and by key informants. In many cases, farmers spoke openly about climate change and made linkages between changing weather and deforestation; in other words, farmers were well versed in the idea of climate change. For decreased soil fertility, farmers mentioned long-term use of inorganic fertiliser, lack of crop rotation due to land scarcity, and deforestation as principle causes. In many cases, the individual farmer interviews showed that farmers were at a loss for how to deal with these problems, and many farmers look to the Farm Input Subsidy Programme to supply them with fertiliser and to the Extension Service to provide them with solutions.

[12] These figures are un-weighted and not presented in the baseline tables

Box 1: Sample responses from focus groups about the biggest changes they've seen recently in farming.

Mpangira, Nsnaje Focus Group

- "Because of climate change, now we are practicing crop diversification because … we are not sure as to which crop we will harvest…"
- "Because of the hot weather, and because of climate change, nowadays…. now we are harvesting low yield unlike in the past we were harvesting a lot of yield."
- "A long time ago, we used to grow crops without applying fertilizer. But now, due to loss of soil fertility, we cannot grow without fertilizer. If we do that then we will not harvest anything."

Chikaoneka, Chikwawa Focus Group

- "Persistent drought…land degradation, loss of soil fertility [are challenges here]."
- "People are cutting down trees to make charcoal to sell to earn a living."
- "Because we are receiving inadequate rains, now, we have actually switched our staple food….towards sorghum and millet.
- "Long time ago we used to grow local maize. Now a lot of people … are opting for hybrid maize because it matures early."
- "For those who have money, they buy some other seeds like groundnuts so that they can grow."

Output Sub-indicator 1.1.3 Percentage of targeted households that are aware of individual climate adaption strategies and take action on them

The following table shows the percentages of households that knew a particular adaptation strategy and also acted or were using it. The table shows in general that while households may be aware of the strategy, not all will be using that strategy.

- *Baseline values (weighted values)*

Table 30: Baseline values for Output Sub-indicator 1.1.3 (Percentage of targeted households that are aware of individual climate adaption strategies and take action on them)

Adaptation Strategy	% aware of the strategy			% acting on the strategy		
	Overall Programme	ECRP	DISCOVER	Overall Programme	ECRP	DISCOVER
Adopt irrigation	25.0	28.0	20.2	12.3	12.6	11.7
Diversify crops grown	12.5	11.9	13.5	7.8	7.3	8.8
Diversify income sources	12.9	12.6	13.5	10.9	9,8	12.7
Diversify food sources and types	12.0	12.6	10.9	8.6	9.2	7.7
Save money	1.9	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.6	2.4
More assets	1.2	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.6
Use manure	14.3	17.9	8.4	10.4	13.4	5.3
Conservation Agriculture	12.6	16.8	5.8	6.6	8.3	3.8
More livestock	1.9	1.3	2.8	1.4	0.8	2.3
Plant/conserve trees	38.0	41.3	32.5	19.9	22.3	16.0
Not burning charcoal	5.3	6.1	3.9	4.7	6.0	2.4
Adopt agro forestry	8.2	9.0	6.8	4.2	4.7	3.5
Drought tolerant crops	8.8	10.3	6.3	5.8	6.8	4.2
Good post-harvest management of crops	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.1	1.4	0.6

Adaptation Strategy	% aware of the strategy			% acting on the strategy		
Improve cook stoves	0.6	0.1	1.6	0.6	0.1	1.6
Harvest and store rain water	0.9	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.6
Other	5.5	6.1	4.6	8.9	11.6	4.3
Not aware of any action	11.8	11.9	11.7	24.3	23.1	26.4

In terms of knowledge of solutions that enhance individual and community resilience to climate related disasters and variability, which could be seen as the benchmark value for this output indicator, the household survey reveals at the programme level that some response strategies are already known by some, but to varying degrees, including in particular: planting and/or conserving trees (38% of households knew about this measure), adopting irrigation (25% of households knew about this measure), use of manure (14.3%) followed by income diversification (12.9%), conservation agriculture, (12.6%), diversification of crops grown (12.5%) and diversification of food sources (12%). The other potential strategies to tackle the effects of climate change were known by less than 12% of the households. It should also be noted that some 11.8% of all household surveyed on this issue had no knowledge of response strategies.

The percentage of households that actually took action along these strategies was even lower. About 24.3% of households were not acting, while the most commonly known actions were promoting afforestation and reforestation (19.9%), followed by promoting irrigation (12.3%), and diversifying income sources (10.9%).

However, overall, the household survey shows that there is a gap between what the households knew ought to be done to avert the above problems and what they were actually doing as reflected in the Table 31 below.

Main Indicator 1.1: Percentage of targeted households that are sensitised to climate change and have knowledge of at least 3 solutions that enhance individual and community resilience to climate related disasters and variability

- *Baseline value*

Table 31: Baseline values for Main Indicator 1.1 (Percentage of targeted households that are sensitised to climate change and have knowledge of at least 3 solutions that enhance individual and community resilience to climate related disasters and variability)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	At least 82.7% know at least 1 strategy, 43.6% have known at least two strategies and 20.3% know at least three strategies	101,772 households are aware of at least one strategy 53,655 households are aware of at least two strategies: 24,982 households are aware of at least three strategies
For DISCOVER consortium	At least 75.4% know at least one strategy, 38.6% know of at least 2 strategies and 16.2% know of at least 3 strategies	45,932 households are aware of at least one strategy 23,514 households are aware of at least two strategies 9,868 households are aware of at least three strategies
For ECRP consortium	At least 87.1% know at least one strategy, 46.6% know of at least 2 strategies and 22.9% know of least 3 strategies	54,215 households are aware of at least one strategy 29,006 households are aware of at least two strategies 14,091 households are aware of at least three strategies

At programme level, at least 82.7% know at least one strategy or solution to mitigate against climate change, 43.6% have known at least two strategies and 20.3% know at least three strategies. Within DISCOVER Districts, at least 75.4% know at least one strategy, 38.6% know of at least 2 strategies and 16.2% know of at least 3 strategies, while within ECRP Districts, 87.1% know at least one strategy, 46.6% know of at least 2 strategies and 22.9% know of least 3 strategies

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

Overall, households in the impact area of the programme have a varying knowledge of climate change, some District population faring better than others. This degree of knowledge goes down as one moves from a general knowledge, to understanding all key effects of climate change, and knowing about all relevant solutions and strategies to address climate

change. The various strategies planned for raising this awareness under the programme therefore have a fertile ground to work from and the baseline already provides some indications of both Districts and issues that need more attention in this upcoming awareness raising work by both consortia. Hopefully, this data will feedback into their detailed work planning when it comes to identifying the appropriate message, including its medium, for each type of audience. IPs should take stock of the main media for such awareness raising and build on the most effective ones so far (such as radio), while experimenting with new, more targeted ones in the intervention zones, particularly when it comes to more proactively engaging the target beneficiaries in identifying and, above all, acting on solutions and strategies to build their resilience.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In view of the data and analysis above, to make this indicator more sensitive and forward looking, it has been agreed to amend slightly its wording to integrate a threshold in the indicator statement, as follows: "*% of households that are aware of at least 3 strategies*."

The revised overall targets and milestones under this indicator in the LF now reads as follows (Table 32).

Table 32: Proposed LF targets for Main Indicator 1.1 (Percentage of targeted households that are sensitised to climate change and have knowledge of at least 3 solutions that enhance individual and community resilience to climate related disasters and variability)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	24,982 (21%) households are aware of at least three strategies	30% of HH	45% of HH	60% of HH (72,420 HH)
For DISCOVER consortium	9,868 (17%) households are aware of at least three strategies	30% of HH	45% of HH	60% of HH (35,820 HH)
For ECRP consortium	14,091 (23%) households are aware of at least three strategies	30%	45%	60% (36,600 HH)

Output Indicator 1.2: Number of Districts and targeted GVH with functional EWS

- *Baseline value*

Table 33: Baseline values for Output Indicator 1.2 (Number of Districts and targeted GVH with functional EWS)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	0 District and 10 GVHs fully functional and 4 GVHs partially functional only	0 District and 10 GVHs fully functional and 4 GVHs partially functional only
For DISCOVER consortium	0 District, 10 GVHs fully functional and 4 GVHs partially functional only	0 District, 10 GVHs fully functional and 4 GVHs partially functional only
For ECRP consortium	0 District and 0 GVHs fully or partially functional	0 District and 0 GVHs fully or partially functional

For the purpose of this baseline, Districts and GVH were deemed to have functional Early Warning System (EWS) if they had the following building components of a EWS already in place: satellite mapping, mobile phone technology, river gauges, evacuation plans, trialled exercises and well equipped evacuation sites. If one of these elements was missing, the EWS was considered as partially functional only.

The baseline study has established that a very limited number of communities/villages have functional EWS. The baseline analysis could only identify 6 villages in total with a functioning EWS; none of the Districts had all the requisite components of a EWS in place and current.

For the DISCOVER impact area, the baseline study established that before the inception of the project, there were two communities in Karonga – Mwakaboko and Kilupula – that were covered by river gauges installed by the Water Department on the Songwe and Lufilya rivers. The remaining communities did not have any community based warning system, however the project in Karonga has of late installed river gauges on the Nyungwe, Vovwe and Hara rivers to protect Mwirang'ombe and Wasambo communities. There are plans to give a mobile phone to the VCP so that it can timely send messages to low lying areas each time water levels reach critical reading which can cause floods.

Furthermore, DISCOVER reports that in terms of the existence of trialled disaster preparedness and response plans, which could include evacuation plans (tested during evacuation simulation exercises and with well-equipped evacuation sites), the baseline study noted the existence of one community in Salima under GVH Kasache in Traditional Authority Msosa and three communities in Nsanje – namely Nguluwe, Anne Petro and Mnembe – under Mbenje traditional authority that have such plans. No evidence of the existence of such plans was available for the other communities. In the end, a total of 4 communities with

trialled disaster preparedness and response plans can thus be noted in the DISCOVER impact area.

For the ECRP impact area, consultations with District officials found out that only 3 Districts (Nsanje, Machinga and Chikwawa) out of the 7 Districts targeted by ECRP have ever had District Preparedness Plans. The plans were developed with support from UNDP and expired in 2011. Kasungu considered developing a District Preparedness Plan but was looking for support from her development partners. The consultations also found in absence of a coordinated system at the District level that is used as early warning.

Consultations with communities revealed that villages do not have any structured preparedness plans that guide work on disaster management. On early warning, there are some villages in Machinga, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Mwanza that use river gauges and mobile phones for early warning. However, District councils did not have a clear record of the number of villages that use this early warning system.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline value*

The existing awareness, capacity and resources required to put in place functioning EWS are just absent at the moment from all Districts.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In the view of the team, the milestones and targets for this indicator should remain the same (Table 34) given the low level of the existing baseline and the planned focus on this by the Implementing Partners.

Table 34: Proposed LF target for Output Indicator 1.2 (Number of Districts and targeted GVH with functional EWS)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	0 District and 10 GVHs fully functional and 4 GVHs partially functional only	68 GVHs in 6 Districts	133 GVHs in 10[13] Districts	180 GVHs fully functional in all 11 targeted Districts
For DISCOVER consortium	0 District, 10 GVHs fully functional and 4 GVHs partially functional only	40 GVHs (40% target) in 3 Districts	75 GVHs (75%) in 5 Districts	94 GVHs fully functional in 17 TAs (90% target) in 5 Districts

[13]This consolidated target accounts for the fact that one of the Districts is covered by both ECRP and Discover Consortia

For ECRP consortium	0 District and 0 GVHs fully or partially functional	28 GVHs (30% target) in 3 Districts	58 GVHs (60% target) in 6 Districts	At least 86 GVHs fully functional in 26 TAs (90% achievement) in 7 Districts

Output Indicator 1.3: Number of Districts and targeted GVH with functional Community Protection Committee

- *Baseline value*

Table 35: Baseline values for Output Indicator 1.3 (Number of Districts and targeted GVH with functional Community Protection Committee)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	0 District with fully functional CPC, 3 Districts with partially functional CPC, 27 fully functional VCPC 6 partially functional VCPC	0 District with fully functional CPC, 3 Districts with partially functional CPC, 27 fully functional VCPC 6 partially functional VCPC
For DISCOVER consortium	0 District with more than 90% functional CPC 27 fully functional VCPC (Salima and Nansje)	0 District with more than 90% functional CPC 27 fully functional VCPC (Salima and Nansje)
For ECRP consortium	0 District with fully functional CPCs 3 Districts with partially functional CPC 0 fully functional VCPC 6 partially functional VCPC	0 District with fully functional CPCs 3 Districts with partially functional CPC 0 fully functional VCPC 6 partially functional VCPC

For the purpose of this baseline, a functional CPC was defined as one having the following components in place: i) meets as per required; ii) has a contingency plan; iii) its contingency

plan is costed out; and iv) the plan is reviewed annually. CPCs that failed to meet one of these criteria, but could meet at least one, were considered only partially functional.

At the programme level, the household survey revealed that only 10.9% of households reported knowing that there is a disaster preparedness plan in their respective Districts. This situation is spread fairly consistently across the programme impact areas, with DISCOVER impact area showing an 11.6% rate of awareness of such plans and ECRP impact areas standing at 10 per cent.

The field work on the status of CPC and VCPC by the two NGO consortia has revealed that none of the 11 Districts covered have fully functional CPC, while some have partially functional ones; only 35 VCPC appear to be functional.

The DISCOVER consortium categorised functional CPCs as those having a constitution, bank account with funds and have an action plan in place, which could be considered fairly equivalent to the criteria proposed above, albeit less stringent. DISCOVER accounted for 27 of 104 VCPCs that are functional at baseline. Karonga District has no GVH with a fully functional DRM and climate change system in place. There is no District with more than 90% functional CPCs. It is expected that as monitoring work moves forward, the Discover definition will be adjusted to the programme level definition.

In terms of means of training, the DISCOVER baseline work highlighted that a total of 36 CPCs (4 DCPC and 32 VCPC) were reported to have received some level of training in climate change adaptation and DRR. These were mainly from Karonga and Balaka Districts. CPCs from Nsanje and Salima were reported not to have undergone any training in climate change and DRR.

For the ECRP impact area, consultations with District officials found out that only 3 Districts (Machinga, Chikwawa and Nsanje) out of the 7 targeted Districts have District Civil Protection Committees (CPCs). However, these are not fully functional: they do not meet as per the requirements; sometimes they only meet when there is a disaster to respond to.

Existence of Village Civil Protection Committees (in some villages) was noted in Mulanje, Machinga, Thyolo, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Mwanza. Many of them were just being established and had not yet been trained on their roles. However, there were no clear records at District level on specific villages where CPCs are existent.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

The mandate of developing structures, systems and support services for disaster management lies with the Department for Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA). However, the

Department does not have a budget line in the national budget and often has limited technical and financial support particularly at District level. For example, ECRP consultations with District council officials found that only three Districts (Machinga, Chikwawa and Nsanje) have a DoDMA District Office. In the other 5 Districts (Kasungu, Mwanza, Mulanje and Thyolo); climate change and DRM issues are coordinated by District Environmental Officers (DEOs) in addition to their normal responsibilities. Basically, proper efforts and resources must be allocated to allow adequate capacity building and maintenance of these community and District level structures.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any*

In light of the baseline identified, the LF milestones and targets are retained (Table 36).

Table 36: Proposed LF targets for Output Indicator 1.3 (Number of Districts and targeted GVH with functional Community Protection Committee)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	1 District 0 VCPC	4 Districts	9 Districts	11 Districts 165 VCPC (GVHs)
For DISCOVER consortium	0 District 0 VCPC	1 Districts 52 Districts	3 Districts 80 Districts	5 Districts 94 VCPC (90% of 104)
For ECRP consortium	0 District with fully functional CPCs 3 Districts with partially functional CPC 0 fully functional VCPC 6 partially functional VCPC	3 Districts 28 VCPC	6 Districts 50 VCPC	7 Districts 71 GVH (85% of 84 GVH)

3.3.2 Output 2

Output 2: Community and household livelihood practices are better adapted to the impacts of climate variability and change

Output Indicator 2.1: Number of households (and individuals) directly benefitting from the programme that use a combination of climate smart agriculture techniques per growing season

- *Baseline value*

Table 37: Baseline values (un-weighted) for Output Indicator 2.1 (Number of households and individuals directly benefitting from the programme that use a combination of climate smart agriculture techniques per growing season)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	51.0%	61,810 HH (302,867 individuals)
For DISCOVER consortium	42.2%	25,708 HH (125,967 individuals)
For ECRP consortium	58.0%	36,102 HH (176,900 individuals)

The household survey data point out that 51% of households surveyed already use a combination of climate smart agricultural techniques per growing season, while 49.0% do not. The highest use rate for two or more techniques is in Kasungu, with 63.1% while the lowest level is in Salima, with 27.6%. It should be noted that overall, male headed households tend to score much higher in adoption of such approaches compared to female headed households. Indeed, the adoption rate stands at 73.8% for male headed households, compared with just 26.2% for female headed one.

Across the DISCOVER Districts, survey findings show that 42.2% of households use at least two of the identified climate smart agriculture techniques. Across ECRP Districts, this percentage goes up to 58%. Within Districts under the ECRP impact area, the highest proportion was found in Nsanje District (67.0% of respondent households) with the least being in Mwanza (43.0%)[14].

Corroborating the findings from the household survey, the case studies under the Agent-based modelling study found that few farmers – less than half – have tried a modern farming technology for their maize crop. This contrasted sharply with qualitative comments from farmers (also from the DCE study) that they are interested in trying new technologies.

[14] These figures are un-weighted and not presented in the baseline tables

Additionally, of those farmers who have used a modern farming technology, half of that number was using *Sasakawa*, a farming technology over ten years old and not specifically designed to address climate change. By the time one looks at the number of farmers sampled under the DCE study who were using climate-smart farming techniques such as conservation agriculture, the numbers were extremely low. These numbers were additionally surprising considering that qualitative key informant estimates of the usage of these techniques seemed to indicate a larger scope. Key informants may have had a biased view of the uptake of these technologies.

The DCE study suggests that dissemination of new farming technologies seemed to be linked overwhelmingly to the government Extension Service; however, on many projects it appears that NGOs work in partnership with the Extension Service, which may explain why so few farmers mentioned learning a new technology from an NGO. The overwhelming majority of farmers practicing traditional techniques reported learning those techniques from their parents or from friends, and although it was a small number, a few farmers mentioned the radio as a source of information for them across all sample sites. There were a few notable variations across the three Districts. In the Nsanje case study sample, two thirds of farmers sampled had tried a new farming technology compared to one third in Salima and Chikwawa. Most of these farmers also reported learning that technology from the Extension Service. Compared to national statistics for Nsanje which report that merely 16% of farmers in Nsanje interacted with the Extension Service in 2007, it would appear that the Nsanje sample for this study was biased towards villages with what was likely an abnormally strong presence of the Extension Service.

While the DCE case study was focused on social aspects - rather than a study of the intricacies of different agriculture practices – it is worthwhile to review the types of farming techniques in use in the study sample. The information about these techniques comes directly from Extension Service key informants and from farmers themselves in qualitative portions of the study. Traditional farming techniques varied across the three Districts. In Salima farmers created ridges while in Chikwawa most farmers did not use ridges and instead planted seeds in small pits. Secondly, Chikwawa and Nsanje are regions with more livestock while in Salima livestock were much fewer. This allowed Chikwawa and Nsanje farmers greater access to manure for use as organic fertilizer than farmers in Salima. Finally, the dynamic of lowland farming in Chikwawa and Nsanje is slightly different than Salima due to the presence of the Shire River basin which, though it is a powerful source of water, is also at risk of flooding.

The most common modern technology in use across all three Districts was *Sasakawa*, a technique in which farmers plant fewer seeds per planting station, apply small amounts of inorganic fertiliser, and plant ridges closer together. The benefits of this technique are that it is

a more efficient use of seeds and small land sizes; however, several farmers mentioned that if no fertiliser is applied, *Sasakawa* is not viable. *Sasakawa* was introduced by researchers and promoted within the Malawi Extension Service beginning about 10 years ago according to key informants. Most farmers interviewed for the study were familiar with the technique even if they weren't using it. Some of the specific environmental challenges posed to farmers in Malawi are reduced soil fertility and erratic or low rainfall, and the case study encountered several farming methods designed as long-term solutions to mitigate these challenges. While the overall number of farmers using these technologies was very low in the study sample, many key informants spoke about these technologies in particular. Oftentimes, villagers would have heard of one or two of these technologies but many villagers had never heard of any of them.

Figure 1: The most common modern farming technologies encountered in study sites.

Compost Manure

- Farmers place crop residues and/or livestock manure in a large pit and leave the mixture to composte.
- Farmers then apply the composte to fields as an orgnaic fertilizer.
- While farmers need less or no fertilizer, the process of digging pits and carrying composte to fields is labour-intensive.
- Few farmers in the sample were using this technique.

Different Types of Ridges

- Box ridges are rectangular ridges farmers construct to trap water and increase water retention.
- Contour ridges are large riges farmers build to prevent soil erosion
- Ridging in general is labour intensive, and if not done correctly can exacerbate rather than help soil erosion.
- Ridging techniques were common in the sample.

***Sasakawa*/One-One**

- Farmers plant one or two seeds per planting stations instead of 3 to 6 as is done traditionally.
- Farmers build ridges and plant seeds closer together, and apply small amounts of inorganic fertilizer.
- *Sasakawa* is a more efficient use of resources; however, it may be inappropriate if no fertilizer is available.
- *Sasakawa* was the most common modern technique in the sample.

Box 2: Responses from smallholder farmers being asked about the barriers to adopting modern farming techniques.

Question: Why have you not tried modern technologies?

"We use the traditional way of farming because we don't have access to other techniques. But if someone could teach, I'd be more than willing to learn and practice."
Male farmer, 32 years old, Changamale, Salima

"Since I rely on *ganyu*, I prefer traditional farming because it's faster and doesn't require inputs I can't afford."
Male farmer, 41 years old, Sekela, Chikwawa

"Yes, I'm interested but the problem is the seeds. New technologies require seeds and other inputs which are very expensive to buy."
Female farmer, 28 years old, Mpangira, Nsanje

* * *

"These organizations gave out fertilizer to farmers but in small quantities. It was not enough for an acre but they had to share as a group. During inception of the project when we were forming clubs, they gave inputs but the following year there were no inputs and some of the farmers abandoned the group; they didn't continue. There were maybe me, my neighbour and one other who continued with the project."

Dalankwanda Village Chief on Conservation Agriculture, Salima

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

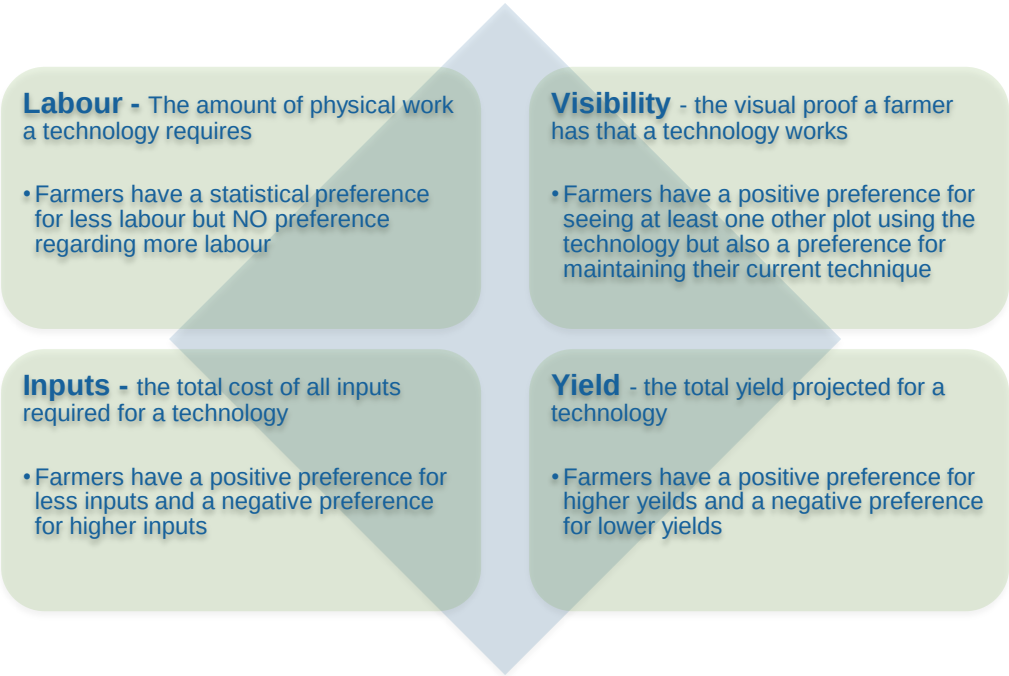
There are many factors that influence farmers to adopt particular technologies in Malawi. These include, but are not limited to: access to land, knowledge of the technology, labour

availability, extension services available, inputs requirements and availability and the potential for the technology to contribute to yield, as exemplified in part by some of the comments received form farmers during the DCE study.

Individual farmers also spoke about a lack of opportunity to learn about new technologies. Farmers consistently said they would try a new technology and yet they never had because they claim that nobody comes to teach them. At the same time, many key informants attested to limitations in the coverage of the Extension Service. Firstly, rural regions of the country are likely strongly disadvantaged in access to services. Secondly, the service is stretched very thin, even where it is present. One Extension Worker said he was responsible for upwards of 2,500 households, and farmers in that region indicated that they had not seen the Extension Worker in many years. Additionally, one village of farmers told us that there is little quality control over the performance of individual Extension Workers, and farmers have no way of communicating to government officials whether Extension Workers are really visiting the villages they claim to be.

The DCE has also shown that farmers prefer technologies that increase in yields, decrease in inputs and demand less labour. The focus group discussions also revealed the same findings Figure 2.

Figure 2: Summary of statistically significant results of the choice experiment.



The DCE study also looked at whether or not there are different preference profiles that exist amongst different groups of farmers. In analysing the responses from this case study, farmers were separated into those with access to lowland plots and those with only upland plots.

Additionally, farmers who had been assigned higher wealth rankings were analysed separately from farmers with lower wealth rankings to see if the way they approach farming technologies is different. In both situations, the importance of inputs in particular was different amongst the different groups.

Farmers with access to lowland plots were averse to both increasing and decreasing the money they spent on maize. They likely prefer to use excess revenue in their lowland plots where crops for market such as vegetables can be grown. They may prefer not to decrease their inputs on maize out of fear that their maize yields will go down. The higher wealth ranking farmers had a similar aversion to reduced inputs for maize which could be again out of distrust of a technique that uses less fertiliser.

Finally, farmers who grew their own subsistence food needs were separated from those who did not. Farmers not meeting household food needs were more averse to reductions in yield than they were drawn to increases in yield showing that these households are very intolerant of any further decrease in their yields.

This data can be further analysed to look for other differences. Qualitative statements seemed to indicate that farmers with small businesses were averse to increases in labour, but there were not enough small business respondents to analyse this statistically.

Figure 3: Statistically significant variations amongst farmers in how they view farming technologies.

Has lowland plot

- Farmers with lowland plots were averse to both spending more money on their maize and also spending less money on maize. These farmers likely have more lucrative crops like vegetables where they prefer to use their extra resources, and yet they are satisfied with their current expenses on maize on do not want to reduce them.

Wealth ranking

- Farmers with the higher relative wealth rankings did not have a preference for reduced inputs indicating they prioritise maize and do not wish to divert resources to other activities.

Subsistence food needs not met

- Farmers who did not grow enough food to feed their household from one harvest to the next were very sensitive to reductions in yield, moreso than they showed preference for increased yield. These farmers are very averse to any reduction in yields.

More insightful analysis can be found on the drivers of choices and adoption by farmers on new agricultural techniques and/or technologies in the DCE study presented in Annex A to this report, such as environmental limitations and the role of communities and their leaders in the adoption process. An analysis of the main barriers to adoption and steps towards scaling up conservation agriculture specifically is also included in the DCE study in annex. The lessons learned section of the Baseline report also builds on the findings of the DCE study to look at some of the options for promotion and greater adoption of climate smart technologies.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

The current targets for both the programme and the IP consortia are quite low and the overall target is actually less than the baseline value. But once the indicator threshold is adjusted upwards, the current targets may be sufficient. Given the high value of this indicator at project start, the M&E Technical Agency proposes that this indicator be supplemented by disaggregated values for each of the climate smart agricultural techniques covered in the household survey, so that analysis can be made on changes in the combination of techniques and their effect on resilience at the mid-term and at the final stages of the programme, through the planned evaluations. The targets below and milestone should thus be supplemented through reporting on each technique.

Table 38: Proposed LF targets for Output Indicator 2.1 (Number of households and individuals directly benefitting from the programme that use a combination of climate smart agriculture techniques per growing season)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	61,810 HH (302,867 individuals) Including: • Conservation agriculture techniques • Irrigation • Agro-forestry • Drought tolerant crop variety and type of crops • Post-harvest management practices • Watershed management • Water harvesting	73,000 HH	82,000 HH	86,630 HHs (424,487 individuals)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
For DISCOVER consortium	25,708 HH (125,967 individuals) Including: • Conservation agriculture techniques • Irrigation • Agro-forestry • Drought tolerant crop variety and type of crops • Post-harvest management practices • Watershed management • Water harvesting	35,000 HH	42,000 HH	45,630 HH (90%) 223,587 individuals
For ECRP consortium	36,102 HH (176 900 individuals) Including: • Conservation agriculture techniques • Irrigation • Agro-forestry • Drought tolerant crop variety and type of crops • Post-harvest management practices • Watershed management • Water harvesting	38,000 HH	40,000 HH[15]	41,000 HH (66%) (205,000 individuals)

[15] Proposed by the M&E Technical Agency and yet to be discussed with consortia

Output Indicator 2.2: Number of households (and individuals) directly benefitting from the programme that are adopting low carbon energy techniques (including solar, cook stoves, afforestation)

- *Baseline value*

Table 39: Baseline values for Output Indicator 2.2 (Number of households and individuals directly benefitting from the programme that are adopting low carbon energy techniques)

Level	% value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	0.7% use energy efficient stoves 3.1% use solar for lighting 13.7% practice afforestation (have own woodlot (4.2% have a planted communal woodlot)	1,294 HH (63340 people) use efficient stoves 3,834 HH use solar for lighting 17,326 HH practice afforestation
For DISCOVER consortium	1.1% use energy efficient stoves 3% use solar for lighting 6.9% practice afforestation	670 households (3281 people) use efficient stoves 1,827 HH (8,955 people) use solar 49,203 HH have own woodlots (20,594 people) i.e practice afforestation
For ECRP consortium	0.2 1% use energy efficient stoves 2% use solar for lighting 15.2% practice afforestation	124 HH (610 people) use energy efficient stoves 1,245 HH (about 6,100 people) use solar for lighting 9,461 HH have own woodlots (46,359 people) i.e. practice afforestation

Overall, the percentage of households adopting low carbon energy techniques is very low at the start of implementation. The percentage of households using energy efficient stoves for cooking stands at a mere 0.7%. Households using solar power for lighting stood at 3.1%. With respect to afforestation, only 13.7% of households using firewood as their main source of energy for cooking (95.9%)also used their own woodlot for this fuelwood, meaning that only 13.7% of the total household surveyed practice afforestation

Across the DISCOVER impact area, the baseline study found that only 1.1% of households were using energy efficient stoves (*chitetezombaula*) in the communities. Approximately 8.4% of households used their own wood lots as a source of fuelwood. Across ECRP Districts, less than 1% of respondent households reported using improved charcoal burner or *Chitetezombaula*; 2% reported using solar powered products for lighting; 13.7% use their own woodlots as a source of energy for cooking.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

Adoption of low carbon energy techniques (including solar, cook stoves, afforestation) is often affected by high costs, limited availability of the technology and limited knowledge of the benefits of such technologies by rural communities. Technologies such as solar cost a minimum of MK 12,000, which may not be affordable for most poor farmers. In addition, they are not readily available in rural areas and where they are available, back-up services are weak. On the other hand, cook stoves improve efficiency of fuel, but often rural communities do not have access to such technology. With respect to afforestation, adoption is influenced by availability of land, inputs and labour. In addition, most communities do not prioritise afforestation programmes because benefits of tree planting are in large part long-term.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*[16]

In view of the analysis above, and after discussions at the baseline workshop on October 2, the following revised milestones and targets for the Logframe have been agreed.

Table 40: Proposed LF target for Output Indicator 2.2 (Number of households and individuals directly benefitting from the programme that are adopting low carbon energy techniques)

Indicator dimension	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	1,294 HH (about 63,340 people) use efficient stoves 3,834 HH use solar for lighting 17,326 HH practice afforestation	9,240 additional HH (45276 individuals) 13,600 additional HH (about 66,640 individuals) 15,500 additional HH (75,950	23,100 additional HH (113,190 individuals) 29,150 additional HH (142,835 individuals) 37,000 additional HH	26,200 additional HH (158,760 individuals) use stoves 35,250 additional HH (about 172,725) 51,000 additional HH (249,000 individuals)

[16] All milestones are additional households supported by the project

		individuals)	(181,300 individuals)	
For DISCOVER consortium	670 households (3,281 people) use efficient stoves 1,827 HH (8,955 people) use solar 4,934 HH have own woodlots (24,176 people) i.e practice afforestation	8,000 additional HHs 7,500 additional HH 7,500 additional HH (2 million trees planted)	7,000 additional HHs 20,000 additional HH (20,000 additional HHs) 4 million trees planted	20,000 additional HH stove 20,000 additional HHs (use solar) (1 unit per household) (25,000 additional HHs) (5.8 million trees)
For ECRP consortium	124 HH (610 people) use energy efficient stoves 1,245 HH (about 6,100 people) use solar for lighting 8,465 HH have own woodlots (39,650 people) i.e practice afforestation	2% (1,240 additional HH) 10% (6,100 additional HH) 8,000 additional HHs (30%)	5% (3,100 additional HH) 15% (9,150 additional HH) 17,000 additional HHs	6,200 additional HHs (10%) 15,250 additional HHs (25%) 26,000 additional HHs (130,000 individuals)

Output Indicator 2.3: Number of direct beneficiaries (and groups) participating in Village Savings and Loans Schemes (disaggregated by gender)-household survey

- *Baseline value (un-weighted)*

At the programme level, 45.8% of households in the 11 Districts covered confirmed that there was a Village Savings and Loan (VSL) scheme in their village, while 54.2% confirmed there was none, which clearly demonstrates the potential to expand this coverage. The data also indicated that overall, only 15.5% of the households had a family member in a VSL, with an overwhelming 84.5% not participating in such schemes. Therefore, even in villages with VSL schemes, the uptake rate remains very low amongst households. The breakdown is presented in Table 41.

It should be noted, at the level of the sample covered, that the ratio of women to men confirming they were members of such VSL schemes stood at 3 to 1 (300 female and 103 male members) with lower membership rates noted in Machinga, Dedza and Mwanza.

Table 41: Baseline values (un-weighted) for Output Indicator 2.3 (Number of direct beneficiaries and groups participating in Village Savings and Loans Schemes)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	45.8% covered (knowledge about VSL) (15.5% participating)	263,262 individuals covered, of which 52,881 are participating 0 micro-entrepreneur groups
For DISCOVER consortium	43.5% covered (10.1% participating, 29,000, 10.1% of 298,500) 0 micro-entrepreneur groups	129,847 individuals covered, of which 29,000 are participating 0 micro-entrepreneur groups
For ECRP consortium	43.7% % covered (17% participating) 47.3% covered (17.9% participating)	133,415 individuals covered 23,881 participating in schemes) 0 micro-entrepreneur groups

These findings vary slightly by consortium impact area. In the DISCOVER impact area, 10.1% of households reported having a household member belonging to a VSL scheme, while 43.5% reported to have VSL groups in their villages. Furthermore, the survey did not find any households that are engaged in micro-solar business in all Districts. The baseline thus stands at zero for this particular item.

Across ECRP Districts, 17% of households reported having at least one of the household members being a member of a VSL group in their community. Within Districts, the highest proportion of households with a household member as member of VSL groups was reported in Thyolo (22% of respondents), Kasungu (21%) and Chikwawa (21%). The lowest proportion was reported in Machinga (2% of respondent households). In terms of households reporting a VSL group in their village, the percentage stood at 43.7% for the ECRP impact area.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

Participation rates in VSL can be influenced heavily by adequate sensitisation. In addition, a VSL group is typically limited to around 20 individuals. In order to increase participation in the impact areas, it is therefore important to accompany the existing ones to ensure they become and remain good demonstration efforts for the rest of the community, inciting them to duplicate such efforts. In this respect, in parallel, it is also important to facilitate the

establishment of new VSL groups and develop capacity to manage them effectively, so that a larger percentage of the local populations benefit directly from such structures.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the above, the following revised targets and milestones are proposed.

Table 42: Proposed LF targets for Output Indicator 2.3 (Number of direct beneficiaries and groups participating in Village Savings and Loans Schemes)

Indicator dimension	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	40,346 are participating 0 micro-entrepreneur groups	35,000 additional participants, 80% are from female headed households 250 Micro-entrepreneurs	52,205 additional participants , 80% are from female headed households 500 Mircro-entrepreneurs	52,205 additional participants 80% female headed households Micro-entrepreneur=500
For DISCOVER consortium	Baseline=29,000 participating (10.1% of 298,500) 0 micro-entrepreneur groups	8,000 additional members participants , 80% are from female headed households 250 micro-entrepreneurs	16,000 additional participants, 80% are from female headed households 500 micro-entrepreneurs	16,000 additional participants (80% are from female headed households Micro-entrepreneur=500
For ECRP consortium	23,881 participating in schemes) 0 micro-entrepreneur groups	27,000 new participants, 80% are from female headed households	36,205 additional participants, 80% are from female headed households	36,205 additional participants (80% from female headed households)

3.3.3 Output 3

Output 3: Strengthened information sharing by different stakeholders on DRM and climate change adaptation. (including District and national level governments, research institutions and CSOs)

Output Indicator 3.1: Type, number and level of satisfaction with respect to information shared (including policy briefs, papers, and lesson learning papers from CEPA) that builds on evidence and practical experiences and feedback from research and ECRP implementation

- *Baseline value*

Table 43: Baseline values for Output Indicator 3.1 (Type, number and level of satisfaction with respect to information shared that builds on evidence and practical experiences and feedback from research and ECRP)

Indicator dimension	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
Type	44% received Policy brief 33% Lesson learning papers 50% Other types	Policy Briefs, lesson learning documents and others
Number	55% received up to 5 publications over the 12 months	55% of the users surveyed received up to 5 publications over the 12 months
Level of satisfaction of users	83% satisfied 17% highly satisfied	83% satisfied 17% highly satisfied

Production of materials (coordinated by CEPA) for purposes of advocacy, information sharing, awareness raising on climate change form one of the core interventions for the two Implementing consortia: ECRP and DISCOVER. At the time of the assessment in July and August 2012, drafts of the first policy brief on climate change were in circulation for commenting. Apart from this, no other material had been fully produced by ECRP and DISCOVER.

34% of the respondents to the on-line survey[17] declared that they did not receive any publication from third parties in the 12 month period prior to March 1st 2012 that discuss experiences and feedback from research on resilience issues as they pertain to disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and/or food insecurity in Malawi specifically. 10% declared that they received one publication in the 12 month period prior to 01 March 2012 on the subject, 45% between one and five publications, and 10% more than 5 publications.

Sources for these publications included Government agencies from Malawi, National and/or international research and academic organisation, national and international NGOs and development partners. 66% of respondents declared that none of these publications came from CEPA, while 26% declared that one or two of these publications came from CEPA. This is likely to refer to the draft of the first policy brief on climate change.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Government agency from Malawi		56%	10
National and/or international research/academic organisation		22%	4
National and/or international NGO/ association		56%	10
Private sector		0%	0
Development partners		28%	5
	Total Responses		18

Figure 4: Sources for these publications according to the baseline e-survey

The type of publication format used to diffuse information includes among others policy briefs (44%) and lessons learning papers (33%).

Among respondents that received publications from both CEPA and others sources, they all declared that they are satisfied (83% of them) or highly satisfied (17% of them) with the information presented in the publications from both CEPA and other sources. This last finding should however be taken with caution because, as already mentioned, CEPA's work on publications so far provides for a very thin basis on which to make any conclusions at this stage.

[17] Results from 2012 on-line survey

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

Respondents in particular valued the fact that the issues that were highlighted in the publications received were based on facts from on-the-ground work and reflected the real problems and solutions to them. In addition to lessons learned, they also generally valued the level of analysis and its quality, as well as the format used: clear and to the point, with the sources of the data clearly in evidence. Some concerns were nevertheless expressed regarding the sometimes biased nature of some of the publications, not always presenting the whole picture. All these points would be worth considering while CEPA embarks on policy brief preparation.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In view of the findings from this baseline assessment, the following is proposed as revised milestones and target for this indicator under the programme level LF, to be confirmed between DFID and MVAC. It is proposed to adjust the level of satisfaction upwards from 80% in the LF to 95%, because of the existing high level of satisfaction with both CEPA and MVAC documents.

Table 44: Proposed LF targets for Output Indicator 3.1 (Type, number and level of satisfaction with respect to information shared that builds on evidence and practical experiences and feedback from research and ECRP)

Indicator dimension	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
Type	44% received Policy brief 33% Lesson learning papers 50% Other types 26% come from CEPA	Policy briefs Lessons learnt documents	Policy briefs Lessons learnt documents	Policy briefs Lessons learnt documents
Number	55% received up to 5 publications over the 12 months	3 publications from ECRP/CEPA	6 publication from ECRP/CEPA	15 in total
Level of satisfaction of respondents	83% satisfied 17% highly satisfied	94% satisfied or above	94% satisfied or above	95% of sampled users are highly satisfied with the information that was provided through ECRP information sharing products.

Output Indicator 3.2: Level of uptake of recommendations from MVAC vulnerability assessment and analysis outputs by its users

- *Baseline value*

Table 45: Baseline values for Output Indicator 3.2 (Level of uptake of recommendations from MVAC vulnerability assessment and analysis outputs by its users)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	24% of users fully took recommendations into account 53% of users partially 24% did not take action	24% of users fully took recommendations into account 53% of users partially 24% of users did not take action

At the programme level, 90% of the respondents to the e-survey declared that they have been informed of the results of, or that they have received vulnerability assessments conducted by MVAC in the 12 months prior to 1 March 2012.

56% of them judge that the recommendations from the MVAC vulnerability assessments were relevant to their needs and priorities, and 39% that they were highly relevant. Only 6% judged that they were somewhat relevant.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Not relevant		0%	0
Somewhat relevant		6%	1
Relevant		56%	10
Highly relevant		39%	7
	Total Responses		18

Figure 5: Relevance of the MVAC vulnerability assessment recommendations, according to baseline e-survey

24% of the respondents declared that they implemented activities that fully take the recommendations from the MVAC vulnerability assessments into account, while 53% that they implemented activities that partially take these recommendations into account. 24% declared that they did not implement activities that take these recommendations into account.

83% of the respondents declared that they developed plans to implement these recommendations (partially or fully), while only 17% declared that they did develop such plans.

This thus already makes for a fairly strong uptake ratio amongst respondents at baseline stage.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

Respondents highlighted that the MVAC recommendations provide good guidance as they usually point on the current and future food security conditions and vulnerabilities of the households, which provide useful input for future programming by different organisations and for policy making. It is seen as a credible source of information in general, building on information from the field. One respondent pointed out that this being said, the timing of providing assistance following MVAC reports does not necessarily tally with the situation on the ground. Many people suffer and by the time assistance reaches them, they would have had suffered and be stretched to the limit. The numbers of people at risk needs to be updated from time to time taking into account the situation on the ground. The sometimes perceived politicised nature of the MVAC recommendations was also noted by another respondent.

These last two points certainly offer a least a partial explanation of the reasons why the rate of uptake of MVAC recommendations has some room for improvement and points to avenues to address this.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the above, it is proposed to revise the targets for this indicator. Revised milestones will have to be agreed with MVAC on this indicator through bilateral discussions with DFID.

Table 46: Proposed LF targets for Output Indicator 3.2 (Level of uptake of recommendations from MVAC vulnerability assessment and analysis outputs by its users)

Indicator dimension	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
Rate of uptake of recommendations	24% of users fully took recommendations into account 53% of users partially 24% did not take action	35%	45%	At least 75% of participants develop action points or plans to implement recommendations.

Output Indicator 3.3: Number of multi-stakeholder (MS) platforms at national, District and community level that ECRP IPs participate in

- *Baseline value*

Table 47: Baseline values for Output Indicator 3.3 (Number of multi-stakeholder (MS) platforms at national, District and community level that ECRP IPs participate in)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	3 in total	3 MS platforms
For DISCOVER consortium	2 District level	2 MS platforms
For ECRP consortium	1 National level	1 MS platform
For MVAC	2 national level	2 MS platform

The baseline study reveals that, let alone the involvement of ECRP partners in them, at this stage of the process, the number of platforms at national, District and community level on climate change and DRR remains very limited. Two platforms in which ECRP partners are involved were identified at the level of one District (Karonga), and one at the national level, through CEPA's participation in CISONECC.

With respect to DISCOVER, the baseline established non-existence of community and local government panels at both District and national level on climate change and DRR. However during the project implementation, Karonga has conducted two panels, one with the coordinating unit and the other with District Executive Committee.

With respect to ECRP, National level engagements will largely be coordinated by CEPA while District level engagements will be coordinated by ECRP implementing partners with technical support from CEPA. At the time of the assessment, noticeable engagements were only at national level through CEPA's participation in CISONECC forums. Coordinated District level engagements had not yet started.

The information from MVAC has yet to be ascertained in terms of workshop organised, which could be used as a proxy in the case of that organisation.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

The key driver behind this indicator at this stage relates to the early days of the programme. There is no doubt that as implementation progresses, the value of this indicator will go up. Future reporting on this indicator, once implementation is well in gear, may reveal other bottleneck and success factors.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

Given this assessment, it is proposed to keep the milestones and target values for this indicator as outlined in the approved LF.

Table 48: Proposed LF targets for Output Indicator 3.3 (Number of multi-stakeholder (MS) platforms at national, District and community level that ECRP IPs participate in)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	3 MS platforms	10 panels and 32 per year (4 CISONEC)	20 panels and 4 DEC meetings per District per year)	25 (target is exceeded): New target: 50 panels (DISCOVER, 160 MS platforms (ECRP), 20 MS platform for MVAC Total platforms: 230 MS platforms
For DISCOVER consortium	2 MS platforms	10 panels	20 panels	50 panels
For ECRP consortium	1 MS platform	32 per year (4 CISONEC meetings	4 DEC meetings per District per year)	32 per year (4 CISONEC meetings, 4 DEC meetings per District per year)
For MVAC	2 MS platforms	4/yr	4/yr	4 per year (4 workshops per year)

3.3.4 Output 4

Output 4: A strengthened early warning system for climate related hazards (including slow and rapid onset disasters)

Output Indicator 4.1: Timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy of information generated by MVAC and other stakeholders (NGOs) and CPCs on Early Warning

- *Baseline value*

Table 49: Baseline values for Output Indicator 4.1 (Timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy of information generated by MVAC and other stakeholders (NGOs) and CPCs on Early Warning)

Baseline value at the programme level for the following dimensions	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
Timeliness	Currently 75% of reports and pieces of early warning info	Currently 75% of reports and pieces of early warning info
Comprehensiveness	50 % regard information to be comprehensive	50 % regard information to be comprehensive
Accuracy	75% regard information to be accurate	75% regard information to be accurate

Guidance was provided to the two NGO IPs and MVAC to inform this qualitative indicator. However baseline reports from the two IPs did not provide data or analysis on the assessment of the Timeliness, Comprehensiveness and Accuracy of information generated by (NGOs) and CPCs on Early Warning. The above table therefore presents data reported by MVAC only. A complete detailed baseline value looking at the three aspects is thus difficult to assess for both IPs and MVAC. To fill this gap, however, the following proxy, which is based on drought as an example of slow onset disasters, was captured in the baseline survey as an proxy-indication of effectiveness of early warning systems for slow onset disasters.

- *Baseline value for slow on-set disasters (drought as an example)*

Table 50: Baseline values for slow on-set disasters under Output Indicator 4.1 (Timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy of information generated by MVAC and other stakeholders (NGOs) and CPCs on Early Warning)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	84.5% of households who had experienced a drought in ECRP Districts were not warned	84.5% of households (98,384 HH) who had experienced a drought in ECRP Districts were not warned
For DISCOVER consortium	85.8% of households who had experienced a drought in DISCOVER Districts were not warned	85.8% of households (52,268 HH) who had experienced a drought in DISCOVER Districts were not warned
For ECRP consortium	84.2% of households who had experienced a drought in ECRP Districts were not warned	84.7% of households (57,380 HH) who had experienced a drought in ECRP Districts were not warned

MVAC is responsible for providing data, information and advice on slow onset disasters such as food insecurity arising from droughts. The information and advice provided acts as an early warning system. MVAC conducts national awareness meetings to disseminate its findings. The baseline results showed that about 84.5% of households who had experienced a drought in ECRP Districts in the past twelve months were not warned about the drought. This could be a proxy for assessing effectiveness of MVAC and its stakeholders in disseminating early warning on slow on-set disasters to the general public.

In addition to the household questionnaire, the programme developed a list of MVAC stakeholders and partners that either are members of MVAC or need to receive information from MVAC. About 91% of respondents reported to have been informed of the results of, or having received vulnerability assessments conducted by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee in the 12 months prior to 1 March 2012, as shown in the figure below.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Informed		91%	20
Not informed		9%	2
	Total Responses		22

As already mentioned, the e-survey rated overall relevance of the recommendations from the MVAC vulnerability assessments very highly.

- *Baseline value for rapid on-set disasters (floods as an example)*

NGOs can play an important part in development of community-based early warning systems for slow onset disasters, but also for rapid onset disasters such as floods. The household, survey found the following (

Table 51) with respect to rapid onset disasters.

Table 51: Baseline values for rapid on-set disasters under Output Indicator 4.1 (Timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy of information generated by MVAC and other stakeholders (NGOs) and CPCs on Early Warning)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	82.0% of households who had experienced floods in ECRP Districts were not warned	82.0% of households (95,472 HH) who had experienced floods in ECRP Districts were not warned
For DISCOVER consortium	88.2% of households who had experienced floods in DISCOVER Districts were not warned	88.2% of households (102,690) who had experienced floods in DISCOVER Districts were not warned
For ECRP consortium	69.2% of households who had experienced floods in ECRP Districts were not warned	69.2% of households (80,569) who had experienced floods in ECRP Districts were not warned

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

With respect to slow on-set disasters, the high rating of MVAC recommendations was due to the fact that MVAC makes thorough assessments which involve the rural vulnerable communities and as such their recommendations are seen as addressing the real issues faced by these populations. However, the low rate of household respondents being warned about droughts in the ECRP impact area, suggest that this information is not using the appropriate channels for dissemination, a situation that should be looked at closely by MVAC and its members to increase the effectiveness of the mechanism.

With respect to rapid on-set disasters, the low rate of early warning suggest, as been confirmed elsewhere in this report, that EWS at the community level are still not effective and indeed require strengthening through the ECRP programme.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the analysis provided above, the following milestones are proposed for both slow on-set disasters (Table 53) and rapid on-set disasters (Table 54).

- *Targets for slow on-set disasters (drought as an example)*

Table 52: Proposed LF targets for slow on-set disasters under Output Indicator 4.1 (Timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy of information generated by MVAC and other stakeholders (NGOs) and CPCs on Early Warning)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	84.5% of households who had experienced a drought in ECRP Districts were not warned	70%	50%	0%
For DISCOVER consortium	85.8% of households who had experienced a drought in DISCOVER Districts were not warned	70%	50%	0%
For ECRP consortium	84.2% of households who had experienced a drought in ECRP Districts were not warned	70%	50%	0%[18]

Table 53: Proposed LF targets for rapid on-set disasters under Output Indicator 4.1 (Timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy of information generated by MVAC and other stakeholders (NGOs) and CPCs on Early Warning)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	82.0% of households (95,472 HH) who had experienced floods in ECRP Districts were not warned	70%	50%	0%
For DISCOVER consortium	88.2% of households (102,690) who had experienced floods in DISCOVER Districts were not warned	70%	50%	0%
For ECRP consortium	69.2% of households (80,569) who had experienced floods in ECRP Districts were not warned	70%	50%	0%[19]

Output Indicator 4.2: In the Districts covered by MVAC reporting, average lead time between: i) early warning and occurrence of a hazard/disaster; ii) early warning and response at national and community level

18 Targets suggested by the M&E Technical Agency based on targets on Sub-indicator 1.3: Change in the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the target districts (%) covered by protection plans, readiness plans or resilience enhancing plans at district level, which requires that all direct beneficiaries be covered by a DRM plan, which includes an early warning system

19 Targets suggested by the M&E Technical Agency based on targets for early warning system and coverage of drm plans. Need confirmation by IPs

For the households that were affected by some disasters during the past 12 months and were warned about such disasters, the household survey sought to collect the following information:

- The time elapsed between the warning received about a disaster and the occurrence of the disaster itself
- The time elapsed between the occurrence of the disaster and external assistance to the household
- The time elapsed between the occurrence of the disaster and the return to normal life by the household (recovery).

- *Baseline value*

The average lead time between early warning and occurrence of a hazard/disaster was found to be 1 month across the programme, while the average lead time between occurrence of disaster and first external support was 5 months. The average lead time between early warning and response was 6 months while the average lead time between occurrence of a hazard/disaster and household recovery to normal life was 3 months. Results show that over the past year, in general external support is provided after some households have recovered from the effects of a disaster, particularly for the ECRP consortium Districts.

Table 54: Baseline values for Output Indicator 4.2 (In the Districts covered by MVAC reporting, average lead time between: i) early warning and occurrence of a hazard/disaster; ii) early warning and response at national and community level)

Indicator level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level		
i. The average lead time between early warning and occurrence of a hazard/disaster	1 month	1 month
ii. The average lead time between occurrence of disaster and first external support	5 months	5 months
iii. The average lead time between early warning and response	6 months	6 months
iv. The average lead time between occurrence of a hazard/disaster and household recovery to normal life	3 months	3 months
For DISCOVER consortium		
i. The average lead time between early warning and occurrence of a hazard/disaster	1 month	1 month

ii. The average lead time between occurrence of disaster and first external support	2 months	2 months
iii. The average lead time between early warning and response	3 months	3 months
iv. The average lead time between occurrence of a hazard/disaster and household recovery to normal life	2 months	2 months
For ECRP consortium		
i. The average lead time between early warning and occurrence of a hazard/disaster	3 months	3 months
ii. The average lead time between occurrence of disaster and first external support	6 months	6 months
iii. The average lead time between early warning and response	9 months	9 months
iv. The average lead time between occurrence of a hazard/disaster and household recovery to normal life	5 months	5 months

Table 55: Time lag (by District) between early warning and response

District	Time lag (days, weeks and months) between:								
	a) When the household received the warning about a disaster to when the disaster occurred			b) When the disaster actually happened and when the household was externally assisted			c) When the disaster actually happened and the household recovered to normal life		
	Days	Weeks	Months	Days	Weeks	Months	Days	Weeks	Months
Karonga	14	2	0.5	32	5	1	96	14	3
Kasungu	42	6	2	221	32	8	176	25	6
Salima	5	1	0	115	16	4	64	9	2
Dedza	1	0	0	29	4	1	1	0	0
Machinga	34	5	1	1	0	0	89	13	3
Mwanza	86	12	3	31	4	1	121	17	4
Thyolo	79	11	3	149	21	5	67	10	2
Mulanje	10	1	0	412	59	15	61	9	2
Chikhwawa	28	4	1	82	12	3	99	14	4
Nsanje	35	5	1	297	42	11	185	26	7
Balaka	11	2	0	54	8	2	47	7	2
Overall	24	3	1	152	22	5	105	15	4

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

Government has designated 15 Districts as disaster prone Districts, (DoDMA, 2012) . These are Karonga, Rumphi and Nkhata-Bay in the Northern Region, Nkhotakota, Salima, Dedza and Ntcheu in the Central Region, Balaka, Zomba, Blantyre, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Machinga, Nsanje and Mangochi Districts in the Southern Region. Ntcheu has been newly added to the list, but was originally not in the list. For Districts that are on the list, Government prioritizes them in terms of disaster preparedness: setting up structures, capacity building and putting in place response systems. All Districts targeted by DISCOVER are on the list of disaster prone Districts while about half (three Districts namely, Kasungu, Mwanza and Mulanje) of the seven Districts for ECRP, are not on the list. This may explain why lead times for most indicators are larger for ECRP Districts than for DISCOVER Districts.

This also suggests that notwithstanding these differences between impact areas, further efforts at capacity building in all 11 Districts could help streamline the response process and help ensure more timely support. In that perspective, the ECRP IPs could influence this streamlining though policy dialogue and advocacy with DODMA to further engage and coordinate response efforts with line ministries at the national level and at the level of District authorities.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

After careful discussion with DFID, the M&E Technical Agency recommends to DFID not to use this indicator as a measure of performance in the LF as MVAC and others only have limited control over it and cannot be strictly held accountable for progress in its value

Output Indicator 4.3: Enhanced MVAC capacity for vulnerability assessment analysis and reporting on acute and chronic vulnerability

- *Baseline value*

Table 56: Baseline values for Output Indicator 4.3 (Enhanced MVAC capacity for vulnerability assessment analysis and reporting on acute and chronic vulnerability)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	15 members trained 95% of users surveyed consider MVAC recommendations and vulnerability assessments as relevant or highly relevant	15 members trained 95% of users surveyed consider MVAC recommendations and vulnerability assessments as relevant or highly relevant
MVAC	15 members trained	15 members trained

A total of 15 members have received refresher training on the Vulnerability Analysis Assessment(VAA)Methodology and data collection tools (Table 57). This is done every year to maintain good standards in VAA as well as to orient new members on the methodology.

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

The main challenge faced by MVAC in ascertaining the quality of its assessment is that the methods to assess the baselines are very old. This makes it difficult to provide for a valid comparison between the baseline picture and the current situation. In addition, MVAC members do not have the capacity to conduct assessments in urban areas, which are also exposed to the impacts of climate change. The ECRP programme will provide capacity to MVAC members in relation to vulnerability assessments and mapping.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

In light of the values found on this indicator, the following targets and milestones are proposed

Table 57: Proposed LF targets for Output Indicator 4.3 (Enhanced MVAC capacity for vulnerability assessment analysis and reporting on acute and chronic vulnerability)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level and MVAC	15 members trained	25 MVAC members given training	78 MVAC members and Districts officers were given training	78 MVAC members and District officers trained by end of programme
	95% of users surveyed consider MVAC recommendations and vulnerability assessments as relevant or highly relevant	95%	95%	95% of MVAC users satisfied with improvement in the quality of MVAC vulnerability assessment and reporting

3.3.5 Output 5

Output 5: Strengthened disaster risk reduction and climate change programmes and delivery structures of key Government Ministries and Departments

Output Indicator 5.1: Number of National level climate change adaptation related policies, strategic plans and programmes that have been targeted and provided information by the programme and its innovations

- *Baseline value*

Table 58: Baseline values for Output Indicator 5.1 (Number of National level climate change adaptation related policies, strategic plans and programmes that have been targeted and provided information by the programme and its innovations)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	0	0
For DISCOVER consortium	0	0
For ECRP consortium	0	0
For MVAC	1	1

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

At the time of the baseline, the programme had not yet started implementing advocacy programmes to influence government policies and programmes, with the exception of MVAC, which past work had informed the MDG goal, as earlier noted.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

After analysis and discussion with the IPs, it has been agreed to proposed the following milestones and targets for revision in the Logframe

Table 59: Proposed LF targets for Output Indicator 5.1 (Number of National level climate change adaptation related policies, strategic plans and programmes that have been targeted and provided information by the programme and its innovations)

Indicator level	Baseline	June 2013	June 2014	Target June 2016
At overall programme level	1	4	6	10 policies[20](policies and programmes to be defined by IPs)
For DISCOVER consortium	0	1	3	5 policies or programmes targeted by DISCOVER
For ECRP consortium	0	2	3	5 policies or programmes targeted by ECRP[21]
For MVAC	1	2	3	4 policies or programmes targeted by MVAC

Output Indicator 5.2: The number of different mechanisms for community engagement in climate related policy and decision making processes and actual use made of each mechanism

- *Baseline value*

Table 60: Baseline values for Output Indicator 5.2 (The number of different mechanisms for community engagement in climate related policy and decision making processes and actual use made of each mechanism)

Level	Value from analysis	Actual baseline value to be reported in final LF
At overall programme level	No mechanism per se but there is CISONEC-which is composition of CSOs active on climate change	No mechanism per se but there is CISONEC-which is composition of CSOs active on climate change
For DISCOVER consortium	Same as programme	Same as programme

[20] Note that some of the targeted policies, strategies, programmes, might be the same, hence the lower consolidated total at the programme level.

[21] Actual policies or programmes as determined by the ECRP climate change advocacy strategy are: (1) enhanced coherence and effective implementation of DRM and climate change policies and programmes (2) increase national budget allocation for DRM and CC sectors (3) Increased access to renewable energy sources (4) Up-scaling conservation agriculture (6) increased integration of gender issues in climate change policy formulation.

For ECRP consortium	Same as programme	Same as programme

- *Analysis of drivers informing these baseline values*

At national level, there is not, at present, a specific mechanism for engaging communities in policy formulation and decisions on climate change issues that is recognised by the authorities. That being said, civil society based coordination mechanisms exist, through CISONEC (Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change). At District level and within the DISCOVER consortium, the baseline established the non-existence at the moment of community and local government panels. Similarly within the ECRP Districts, coordinated District level engagements with communities had not yet started.

- *Proposed LF target and milestones revisions, if any, in light of baseline values*

After careful consideration and discussion with DFID, it has been decided to take out this indicator as it is repetitive of other similar indicators used at other levels and as indicator 5.1 is judged sufficient by all partners involved in this exercise to inform performance under output 5.

4. Unexpected findings

4.1 Discussion of surprising findings from the baseline exercise

4.1.1 Low income level in impact area for programme

The data from the baseline study shows generally very low per capita real income, despite Malawi's increased economic growth over the past five years. In addition, since 2005/2006 Malawi has been registering surplus production of maize due to the Farm Inputs Subsidy Programme, which is being implemented by the Government of Malawi. This data confirms without a doubt the high level of vulnerability of the targeted populations under the ECRP programme. The baseline team suspects the real per capita income may have been affected negatively during 2011/2012 by the social, economic and political challenges – e.g. limited foreign reserves, scarcity of fuel, political instability, poor public service delivery and poor agricultural produce prices – that faced the country before the current government took over power.

4.1.2 High level of food insecure population

The finding that food security is at 20.9% of the population is surprising because it is well documented that Malawi has been food secure since it adopted the Farm Input Subsidy during the 2005/2006 agricultural season. That said, even with the subsidy programme there are pockets of Malawi that have been food insecure; e.g. in 2011, about 2% of the population was declared food insecure, a figure that has risen to 11% in 2012. It is indeed documented that increases in maize production from the Farm Input Subsidy programme may lead to more overall production, but a production that is not always distributed evenly through the country nor through the community.

The survey was unable to determine whether respondents benefitted from the FISP, but in general terms approximately one third of all households – representing the poorest in a beneficiary village – receive a coupon. In its 2012 report, MVAC indicated that over the past three years, prolonged dry spells have been experienced in most of the southern region for three consecutive years, thereby weakening the resilience and coping capacity of affected households. The most chronically affected Districts included: Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Neno, Nsanje and Zomba – some of which are Districts covered by ECRP. This could also have cumulatively increased food insecurity in the affected Districts.

4.1.3 High level of only basic awareness on climate change

Although climate change issues are generally recent in Malawi, environmental awareness programmes began immediately after the Rio Conference in 1992 when Malawi developed its first National Environmental Action Plan. Through the plan, the National Environmental Policy, National Environmental Management Act and the Department of Environmental Affairs were created. Later in 2000s, the Department developed the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) as an instrument to galvanise action on adaptation to climate change. And through the NAPA, many stakeholders have been implementing awareness programmes on environment and climate change in the country. However, there remain gaps in translating the high levels of basic awareness into practical adaptation actions on the ground. The depth of that knowledge could also be strengthened to increase knowledge on a broader range of solutions for each household.

4.1.4 High level of uptake of smart agriculture techniques

The discussions on programme level indicators with the IPs had led to setting a threshold of at least two smart agricultural techniques being adopted by a household, which in retrospect appears to be very low. The partners would gain from reviewing the list of these techniques and assess in more detail why and how they are currently termed as smart, as some of

practices have traditionally been the choices of farmers even before climate change became a major development issue.

4.2 Potential implications of findings

4.2.1 Low levels of income and high levels of poverty in ECRP impact areas

With respect to the low income data, this has required revision of the targets for the programme and milestones, to ensure they are realistic. The low income status, combined with high levels of food insecurity, implies that some humanitarian emergency programming could potentially precede or at least be combined with development work. Thereafter economic empowerment, particularly of the most vulnerable groups, such as female headed households should be upped up. Interventions such as VSLs, income generating activities etc need more focus. In addition, considerations could be given to direct cash transfers and asset-based social safety programmes such as public works.

4.2.2 Low levels of food security in programme areas

MVAC data supports baseline findings on food security. MVAC maize price projections indicate that maize prices will range from MK60/kg in the first quarter of the consumption period (April to July, 2012), picking up to a maximum of MK100/kg in the lean period but averaging between MK70-MK80/kg throughout the year. Given the low income and high levels of poverty found in the target area, it is expected that most ECRP beneficiaries will require timely food emergency support. Without such support, their participation in ECRP activities will be limited. Others may begin to liquidate their assets, hence compromising the objective of the ECRP.

4.2.3 High levels of awareness on climate change

The threshold built into this indicator has been revised. There is a need to monitor the depth of this knowledge of climate change solutions as the program evolves and target awareness raising accordingly, building on the detailed data collected at this level through the household survey.

5. Lessons learned

5.1 Future IP work planning under ECRP

Many more lessons can be drawn from this baseline exercise as stock is taken of the findings in the months ahead. As a first set, here are some implications emerging from this analysis:

- Further awareness raising on both climate change and DRM is required and must be targeted building on the findings of the household survey. There is obviously a need to ensure a close link between this awareness raising on climate change and the actual application of solutions by the households and communities;
- Pinpointing efforts at building the capacity of Districts and communities with respect to DRM (DCPC, CPCs and VCPC) is required. Evidently, the level of functionality of these structures at this point is quite limited with some District already having some of the building blocks in place, which need to be complemented. Strategies to ensure the sustainability of these structures will also have to be thought through early in the process;
- There is a need to broaden the range of agricultural techniques adopted by each household targeted, and ensuring they are part of a broader package, as most are already using a minimum of two smart agricultural techniques, while still suffering heavily from food insecurity;
- There is a need to think through adapted approaches and incentive packages for female headed households in the adoption of such packages, as they tend to lag behind, due to the various pressures they are facing;
- There is potentially a need for integrating a humanitarian component in the programme, given the high level of income poverty, food insecurity and generally difficult economic challenges that the country is facing at the moment.
- As highlighted by the DCE study, the following avenues must be explored with respect to the promotion of climate smart agricultural techniques:

    - #1: Tailored solutions

        - One of the overarching themes uncovered by the DCE interviews is the variability that exists for farmers in the study sites. Firstly, survey data show that maize yields vary tremendously which are not explained by differences in size of land or inputs spent on the crop. There is reason to believe that complicated combinations of existing land quality, past farming practices, and a household's ability to invest in inputs creates dramatically different potentials for farmers to harvest high yields. A

second difference amongst farmers is the way they approach farming technologies. Farmers with higher revenue or with access to the fertile lowland fields do not weigh the pros and cons of new farming technologies in the same way that poorer farmers do. Farmers with different livelihood activities such as small business activities are also likely approach new technologies with a different set of preferences and concerns. Third, there are starkly different agro-climatic conditions across the different Districts, and these change the experiences that farmers have with new farming technologies. Modern farming technologies need to be tailored to a minimum of two different conditions. On the one hand, they need to represent environmental diversity so drought-prone Chikwawa farmers are not employing technologies that will not work in their environment. Secondly, technologies need to be tailored to at least two tiers of farmers: those in danger of not meeting subsistence needs and highly resource constrained and those with larger, more fertile land holdings.

- #2 Targeting for participation in new trainings and projects needs to be understood in detail

- In this case study it was very difficult to get clear answers to the way that targeting is done for trainings directed at farmers. Oftentimes within the same village one farmer reported that a new technology was well known while others claim to have never heard of it. Local practices of informing villagers about new activities should be understood to ensure that some of the poorest farmers are not being marginalised. Documented experiences with the distribution of the FISP coupons supports the notion that careful attention should be paid to leakage and mishandled targeting. If targeting programs to the poorest is not practical given local procedures, then targeting strategies need to be re-thought. This recommendation gains importance if tailored technologies are promoted to specific populations. Finally, targeting has an important implication for baseline and evaluation work: it is important to reach a true random sampling of farmers to ask questions about barriers to marginalisation and not to rely on groups settings as a forum to ask questions about these potentially sensitive topics.

- #3. Develop realistic ways of addressing soil fertility problems

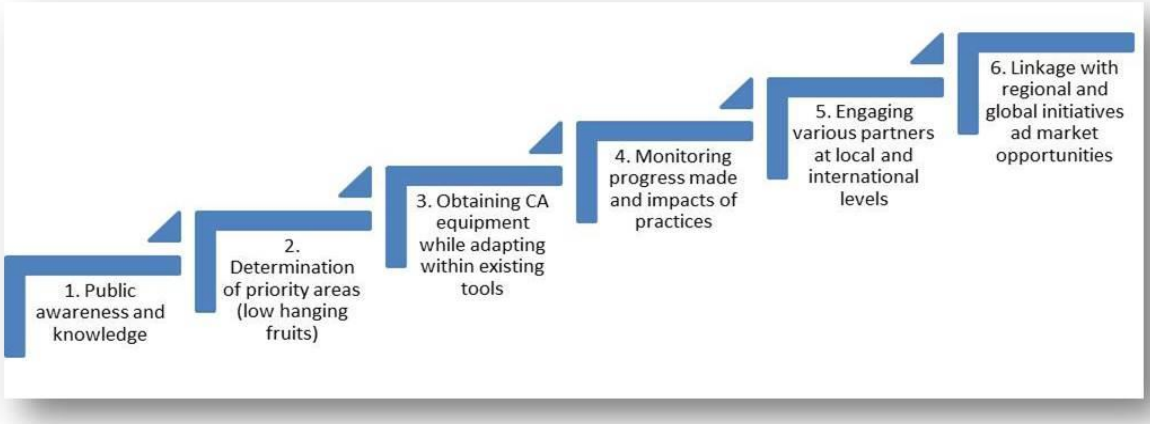
- Based on all of the comments gathered for this case study, soil fertility in the case study areas seems to have degraded to such an extent that farmers are required to use at least some inorganic fertilizer even with climate smart technologies to

have yields in the first few years that they are rebuilding the soil health. The AISP has a strong presence in the minds of local farmers, and many view fertilizer as their only truly promising solution. While NGOs should be wary of creating dependence, it may be necessary to develop realistic technologies that address highly depleted soil fertility and take into account the role that the prospect of AISP coupons has on farmer mentality and decision-making.

- #4. Acknowledge local solutions to climate change
- Farmers, especially in Chikwawa and to some degree in Nsanje, had started shifting their staple food consumption and hence their farming away from maize and towards drought-resistant crops, and this is an adaptation strategy that is highly pertinent to climate change. A weakness in this study is that it was not designed to look at shifts away from maize farming; however, having identified this significant adaptation measure already in progress, future baseline reports should seek to explore changes in staple food.

- With respect conservation agriculture specifically, the DCE work conducted also highlights that this field of practice has witnessed a substantial amount of success in Malawi, but there is currently a large opportunity for scaling up efforts in order to increase the benefits, both socioeconomic and biophysical, that this farming technique offers. Although project level examples can shed light on what is working and what is not, scaling up efforts must be systemic and operate at a higher level.

Figure 6: Six steps to scaling up conservation agriculture (Grubb 2012)



The figure above shows the six stages recommended for scaling up efforts. Each is explained in more detail in the DCE report on this topic attached in Annex A. Essential in all of these stages is to build ownership and a deep understanding of how CA can be applied in each specific context.

5.2 M&E practice

Below are also some additional lessons from the exercise, from an M&E practice perspective, to feed into the discussion.

5.2.1 Baseline exercise (both HH and non HH survey indicators)

- The baseline design and development provided an opportunity for learning for the IPs and the M&E agency and DFID on the programme, its target beneficiaries and performance measurements and its challenges in the context of the programme.
- Doing such a baseline requires a lot of resources, high level of capacity and a level of effort that was perhaps underestimated by the programme.
- Non-household survey indicators also require adequate time to be informed during the data collection phase and are as important as more quantitative household survey related indicators.

5.2.2 Informing future M&E activities

- Having multiple partners involve in both baseline design, data collection and analysis requires a level coordination that must give due attention to the actual time required to ensure such coordination
- Adequate resources are required for effective implementation of M&E functions both within the IPs and for the M&E Technical Agency.

6. Recommendations

The following recommendations for potential further analysis of baseline data to help better guide future programming are made. It is evident that the present baseline report analysis has not exhausted the potential wealth of information from the baseline data collected, but at the same time, it is clear that additional in-depth analysis is beyond the scope of work provided to the M&E Technical Agency under the baseline stage

Data collection

- Ensure that the IPs perform additional data collection in the six months ahead through their local partners on the series of qualitative indicators already provided, to ensure the validity of some of the indicator values. This baseline information can then be updated for the next annual report on these few specific indicators. The complementary data required relates mostly to the level of capacity of certain structures: CPC, EWS, etc. This information will in any case be of great value to the IPs as they move ahead with their work at the District and village level with these structures.

Additional data analysis

- The M&E Techncal Agency should explore potential partnerships with UK based universities, research institutes (at no or very limited cost to DFID), to perform further analysis on the baseline data, so that the results from this additional analysis can be fed back down the road in ECRP for future planning purposes.

Future M&E work

- The programme level independent mid-term evaluation and final evaluation, to be performed by the Technical Agency respectively in 2014 and 2016, should make sure to review the following data collection tools to fine tune them prior to their administration by the data collectors/enumerators from the Technical Agency:
    - Household survey: a few of the questions may gain from being rephrased to provide for a more direct measurement of some performance and indicator values.
    - The sampling methodology needs to be reascertained and adjusted by the International Statistical Expert, as relevant, in light of the baseline data results and the weighting process that took place, to ensure comparability at mid-term and final stages.
    - Discussions must be held with DFID on the potential to use alternative methods to the Household survey at the mid-term and final point of the programme, in view of data needs and of the needs to ensure comparability with the baseline.
    - Other non-household survey: Data will be collected on these again, in an independent fashion, by the Technical Agency in 2014 (mid-term point) and 2016 (final evaluation), to measure progress, following the same methodology already provided to the IPs for the data collection and analysis on these indicators.
- The Technical Agency should re-conduct the e-survey as planned, every year, at the same time (July/August), with the same list of 81 key respondents to ensure

comparability. It could be expanded slightly to provide more nuance for some of the findings (qualitative assessment informing the drivers) for the relevant indicators.

- Based on the analysis provided in this baseline report, a revised Log Frame, with slightly reworded indicators to make their scope clearer, as well as revised milestones and targets in provided in Annex B. It is recommended that this revised Log Frame, with its milestones and targets, be used as a basis for performance management and future programme performance monitoring and evaluation under the ECRP programme.