WFP EVALUATION

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Evaluation of the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) in the Context of Malawi 2015-2019

Decentralized Evaluation Report

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Disclaimer

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Executive Summary

1. This activity evaluation focuses on the World Food Programme (WFP) Malawi's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) implementation under its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) (implemented 2014–19) and the current Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (2019–23). FFA has been a core intervention in WFP support for those recovering from, or at risk of, dry spells, flooding and natural resource deterioration, to build resilience and support graduation from food insecurity. The evaluation was commissioned by WFP Country Office (CO) Malawi and covers the period December 2014–June 2019. The objective of the evaluation is to contribute to identifying inclusive and effective scaling-up strategies to inform implementation of the CSP and ensure strategic shifts in programming where necessary. The results will also help refine WFP programming and enable donors, development and international partners to be better informed and more supportive of integrated approaches to resilience programming, including within the context of COVID-19. The main internal (WFP) stakeholders and users of the evaluation include: Malawi Country Office; Regional Bureau (RB), Johannesburg; WFP Headquarters (HQ); Office of Evaluation (OEV); and WFP Executive Board. The main external users and stakeholders are: individual beneficiaries (women, men, girls and boys) and communities; Malawi government; district-based stakeholders; the United Nations (UN) Country Team; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners; main FFA donors – United States (US) Agency for International Development (USAID), Japan, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Germany; and donors to other complementary activities.

Methodology

2. The evaluation was designed to assess FFA against the following Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) evaluation criteria: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. The evaluation answers five main evaluation questions, as indicated in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

3. In order to respond to these questions, the evaluation team (ET) conducted quantitative survey data collection across five FFA implementation districts and qualitative data collection in a subset of three districts. Limitations included time constraints imposed on data collection due to COVID-19 restrictions and a lack of control group in the quantitative survey, but measures were taken to mitigate against these as far as possible, including scaling back districts covered in the qualitative fieldwork and prioritising key sub-evaluation questions (SEQs) to ensure adequate depth of coverage. The survey comprised recall questions and in-sample comparative analysis of programme participants engaging in different activity areas. This was further mitigated in the qualitative sample and analysis, which included consideration of non-participants as well as spillover effects.

Key Findings

4. The key findings of the evaluation team are summarised below, structured according to the main evaluation questions (EQs). There is strong evidence to support each finding, with FFA making significant, important, or critical contributions to the outcomes, based on a synthesis of qualitative and quantitative evidence.

EQ 1. How relevant is FFA as the foundation for WFP resilience programming in Malawi? (Relevance)

5. FFA has proved to be a key foundation for the design and implementation of integrated resilience initiatives. Multi-sector collaboration and inclusive community planning ensured local ownership, and relevance of activities created a strong foundation for an integrated approach at community and district levels. Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) combined with community-based participatory planning (CBPP) enabled the programme to align its targeting to the magnitude of the shocks and to reach out to more beneficiaries in the five years of the programme. Immediate food requirements (during shocks – floods and dry spells) were extensively met, reducing the number of individuals, households and communities resorting to negative coping mechanisms to meet their food, income, and resilience needs. The types of assets created empowered individuals, households, and communities to select activities that were relevant to their situation and also ensured community buy-in, gender and age integration across the different beneficiaries. A catchment/watershed management approach has been instrumental in ensuring

the effectiveness and impact of natural resource-based assets within the communities and in leveraging the potential of sustainable livestock production.

EQ 2. To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes and strategic results been achieved? (Effectiveness)

6. FFA achieved planned outputs over the course of implementation, with some overreaching of targets and some flexible rescheduling of activities in response to contextual factors such as pipeline delays. The integrated approach to resilience building, which saw the connection of FFA to the pilot project initiatives, R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) and Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), and the Integrated Risk Management and Climate Services Programme (IRMP) resulted in significant food security outcomes during the implementation period, setting a strong foundation for increased household food consumption and diversification. FFA also led to improved quality of assets at household and community levels, increased ability to recover from the impacts of shocks, improved knowledge, and capacity to withstand future shocks and improved household and community well-being. Overall resilience scores from the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA)[1] model were significantly higher for households in villages where any assets were created compared to those without any asset creation. The resilience of households headed by women was also lower than that of households headed by men. Households headed by women had significantly lower food consumption scores (FCSs) and Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)[2] scores. FFA has created multiple entry points for strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment. Women's increased participation in project management committees – with representation of between 50 percent and 65 percent – has not changed power structures within communities, with men retaining control of resources and income generated through women-focused activities.

EQ 3. To what extent was FFA implemented efficiently? (Efficiency)

7. WFP was able to respond efficiently to meet increased demands on FFA and the scale-up of activities after 2016, for example by internal and external fundraising, rapidly increasing staffing and improving overall organizational efficiency. Synergies across complementary initiatives maximised outcomes and potential impacts of the FFA programme. There is some evidence of widespread delays across the different FFA districts, such as late delivery of commodities due to 'pipeline' problems, throughout the implementation period. These were often not within WFP control. Delays in payments to FFA participants affected their motivation to participate in FFA activities and impacted negatively on the beneficiaries, in some cases leading to reliance on high-interest loans, eroding the value of cash transfers once they were paid. WFP operational flexibility meant it was able to adapt to some extent to meet challenges, through fundraising, leveraging internal resources, and shifting activities from one quarter to the next.

EQ 4. To what degree have the project outputs and outcomes contributed to progress towards resilience? (Impact)

8. There is strong evidence that FFA is useful in preparing households before, during and after shocks to deal with such events. RIMA results present strong evidence that strengthening resilience "pillars" leads to strengthened resilience "outcomes" and project components. Households receiving assistance had the capacity to exercise resilience in the face of shocks, demonstrated by no difference in outcomes between those facing a shock and those who had not. The number of food deficit months for the three different types of years (bad, normal and good) showed a general decline for most of the districts. Communities were able to cope with dry spells through climate smart agriculture, use of Village Savings and Loans (VSL) income for livestock pass-on schemes and investment in small business such as selling vegetables and fish vending. The construction of check dams and riverbank protection systems helped in reducing the impact of floods, significantly reducing loss of lives, property and essential assets. Spillover effects were created through replication of community-level interventions (afforestation, soil and water conservation) at

[1] RIMA is an innovative quantitative approach based on structural equation modelling which aims to explain variations in household resilience, accounting for the multidimensional nature of both household resilience capacities, organised as pillars, and of different long- and short-term resilience outcomes (FAO 2016). See Appendix 7.2 and http://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/450540/

[2] Reduced Coping Strategy Index: An index measuring household behaviours in past 7 days if insufficient food was available to them. https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp211058.pdf

household level and increased adoption by non-beneficiaries after seeing considerable benefits from the FFA interventions.

EQ 5. To what extent does FFA support resilience beyond the lifetime of WFP intervention? (Sustainability)

9. There is evidence of self-driven, scaled-up initiatives in tree plantations, improved through the knowledge gained under FFA, increased construction and maintenance of soil and water conservation assets and accelerated development of backyard vegetable gardens. There is also evidence of continued participation in catchment management activities by community members in traditional areas (TAs) where the WFP incentive support phased out in 2018. Tenure arrangements that are community-based, especially if they depend on project committees and on land controlled by individuals, pose challenges to sustainability. Activities are more sustainable on communal land. Collaborative practices, strengthened through WFP support including FFA, are evident in multi-sector district planning systems. WFP is committed to supporting community ownership of the planning and implementation process for long-term sustainability of their interventions.

Conclusions

10. The evaluation finds that FFA is overall a good, flexible programme that has had significant, positive effects on the lives of the people participating in the programme. Evidence suggests it is a strong and effective programme that is reasonably well integrated within the broader system for social protection within Malawi. It plays a key role as one of the main providers outside government for cash related to asset development. As a foundation for resilience the programme can be considered to be successful, and the FFA Theory of Change (ToC) is fit for purpose. Multi-sector collaboration and inclusive community planning ensured local ownership. Activities are relevant, and this creates a strong base for an integrated approach at community and district levels. FFA provides a fundamental and crucial base for meeting participants' needs, especially in the face of shocks and stresses, through the food and cash modalities, while asset building, such as catchment management activities, forms a foundation for strengthened resilience down the line. Situating FFA within a more integrated way of working, aligning and complementing FFA with other WFP resilience-focused programmes, has amplified benefits of the programme. While FFA has created multiple entry points for strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment, there were clear gender differences in resilience outcomes in the RIMA model, related to underlying structural inequalities.

Lessons Learned

11. WFP operational flexibility allows it to respond swiftly to the needs of communities in the face of shocks and stressors, providing crucial support to protect gains from the programme. Timing of FFA activities in the context of the high frequency of shocks and threats is critical for empowerment, continuity and sustainability. Resilience modelling, using the RIMA model, suggests a positive cumulative effect from the creation of multiple different types of asset, highlighting the need to maximise the use of complementary approaches.

12. FFA works well in mainstreaming and integrating gender considerations throughout its operations, achieving notable positive outcomes for both women and men, including some closing of the hunger gap. The context of deep structural inequalities means that social, cultural and economic dynamics continue to affect women's social status and capacity to influence decision making and resource allocation processes. This, in turn, impacts on their resilience.

13. Multi-sector collaboration and inclusive community planning ensures local ownership, and the multi-sector institutionalization of CBPP has been an important driver for the success of FFA and integrated resilience programming in the context of recurring shocks affecting at-risk communities in Malawi.

14. FFA needs to be considered to contribute towards a 'foundation for resilience'. Layering FFA with complementary resilience building initiatives reaps rewards in terms of positive outcomes: there is considerable value in situating FFA within a more integrated way of working by aligning and complementing FFA with other WFP resilience-focused programmes, for example with R4 and Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS), in order to strengthen resilience capacities at intermediate and higher levels.

15. Households' low base in terms of poverty and asset levels makes recovery from shocks and stressors, and the ability to cope and be resilient in the future, challenging. There is some evidence of people still resorting to damaging coping strategies in the face of shocks and stressors, suggesting that FFA does not go quite far enough. There is therefore a need to expand current FFA interventions and those of government and other stakeholders, beyond the FFA support.

16. Delays in procurement and distribution of non-food items (NFIs) and incentives erode trust in the programme, not to mention welfare implications. Timeliness is key. Making payments on time incentivises people to continue to contribute to the programme because they are able to meet their food needs, which understandably take priority over community asset building.

17. While there have been some negative unintended consequences arising from the programme – for example, the reported increased work burden of women (which has implications for their ability to participate in training and therefore knock-on effects on uptake by women) – the evaluation finds that such unintended consequences, rather than being a function of operational shortcomings, arise from deep structural issues in the Malawian context, notably sociocultural norms related to gender, as well as land tenure and barriers to market access, such as productivity and standards.

Recommendations

The findings and conclusions of this evaluation led to the evaluation team making the following recommendations:

Operational recommendations that can be addressed in the short term by WFP:

18. **Recommendation 1:** Given the mismatch between the FFA programme schedule and the timing of the 'hungry gap', WFP should explore possibilities for extending payment schedules to cover the critical lean months of January–March, making any decisions to shift payments in collaboration with participants. WFP needs to weigh up the trade-offs inherent in meeting food needs later at the expense of providing funds for the timely purchase of productive inputs, such as improved seeds and fertiliser. They should also bear in mind the feasibility of deferring payments before the roll-out digital transfers, and the potential knock-on effects on VSL. Expanding irrigation coverage may also help to close the hunger gap and put the beneficiaries on a path of real transformation, notwithstanding the need to first address land ownership issues.

19. **Recommendation 2:** FFA should explore additional ways of dealing with new threats and/or shocks, such as fall armyworm, posing a significant threat to the sustainability of agricultural interventions working with UN and other development partners. WFP should continue linking with other programmes providing support and training in effective and accessible solutions/treatments, including extra work on prevention and treatment in the fields and continuing to include coverage in the area yield index insurance. This is especially pressing given the recent significant reduction in Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience (PROSPER) programme activities, where support was provided to FFA participants in PROSPER districts in farmer field schools.

20. **Recommendation 3:** There is a need for an agency to be an intermediary in implementing weather insurance in communities. WFP should play this role – as underwriter and 'honest broker', linked to implementation of the R4 insurance component – given the context of barriers to market access and lack of experience, knowledge or understanding by participants of insurance as a mechanism to manage risk. While broader financial system change is ultimately needed, in order to effect take-up of insurance while it is in this nascent stage of development this bridging role is crucial.

21. **Recommendation 4:** WFP needs to address unequal power relations between participants and programme staff and other stakeholders, such as private sector actors, that may result in programme participants acting in ways they believe to be to their detriment, for example purchasing too-expensive equipment and inputs. This can be achieved through careful monitoring of partners (COVID-19 restrictions permitting), establishing and communicating an efficient and effective grievance mechanism system, and clear communication of participants' obligations under the programme. Faster transition to e-payments and promoting financial and digital inclusions would help to address this, as well as problems such as delays in cash payments, resulting in more impactful FFA implementation.

Strategic recommendations requiring longer-term engagement and collaboration to contribute to effecting structural change:

22. **Recommendation 5:** The evaluation shows that households headed by women continue to lag behind households headed by men in terms of outcomes. Addressing strategic and structural barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment requires challenging the social, cultural and power relations in both patriarchal and matrilineal communities in which the social and economic status of women remains subordinate to that of men at household and community levels. As a long-term stakeholder in Malawi's development, WFP needs to continue to embed gender equity and women's empowerment throughout its programming.

23. **Recommendation 6:** WFP should work with appropriate government departments and other key stakeholders in Malawi in relation to land tenure arrangements, given the importance of communal land for successful community asset creation and the challenges posed by using private land for public goods. This entails, over the longer term, exploring opportunities to contribute to debates and national policy fora.

24. **Recommendation 7:** Barriers to market access and lack of market development pose threats to longer-term resilience of FFA participants. WFP should continue to work in an integrated way with programmes such as R4 and SAMS to enhance market engagement and support. FFA should align in particular with resilience building programmes with a strong market focus, working towards market system change both to allow for increased competition in input markets, so as to offer choice to smallholder farmers, and to develop potential markets for outputs (farm and non-farm). This could also entail partnering at different levels with the private sector (both small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large enterprises), for example playing an intermediary role with agro-dealers and private sector inputs/post-harvest losses (PHL) solution providers. This may also include further alignment to programmes that provide adaptation support: sustainable solar-powered irrigation systems, agricultural value chains and market access, as well as early warning systems for protection against future shocks and new threats such as the fall armyworm.

25. **Recommendation 8:** Integrating with other resilience building programmes appears to be a fruitful strategy, building off the foundational role played by FFA acting as a springboard for participants into other resilience-strengthening activities. WFP should continue to integrate with other programmes, strengthening and building synergies, as this increases the impact of FFA.

26. **Recommendation 9:** FFA offers a number of key lessons learned in implementing programmes to contribute towards strengthening adaptation and resilience that can be shared, not only across WFP programming in Malawi at CO level but also nationally and regionally: i) meeting basic needs is a fundamental foundation for building adaptation and resilience in the Malawi context and others like it; ii) aligning and integrating with other programmes greatly complements and augments the impact of FFA, especially through linking and layering multiple activities to address short, medium and long-term resilience needs. Resilience scores are higher for increasing numbers of assets; iii) structural causes of vulnerability continue to undermine outcomes for women, and particularly households headed by women, compared to male-headed households, and programmes need to continue to both consider the impact of programme activities on women's work burdens and also programme in a gender-transformative way; iv) CBPP is an effective planning tool for stakeholder participation and ensuring commitment to integrated resilience programming. This has contributed to shared visioning, better collaboration and complementarity of activities, and strong partnerships by key stakeholders in delivering FFA and resilience interventions.

1. Introduction

1.1 EVALUATION FEATURES

1. This activity evaluation focuses on the World Food Programme (WFP) Malawi's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) implementation under its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO, implemented 2014–19) and the current Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (2019–23). Designed as a multi-year integrated programme, FFA has been a core intervention in WFP support for those recovering from, or at risk of, dry spells, flooding, natural resource deterioration and many other challenges, to build resilience and support graduation from food insecurity. WFP provides food or cash in the framework of FFA programmes, the participants of which create or rehabilitate productive assets at household and community levels to diversify and boost agricultural production and build resistance to future shocks. Over 60 percent of Malawi's FFA participants are women.

2. The evaluation was commissioned by WFP Country Office (CO) Malawi to cover the period December 2014–June 2019. The evaluation Terms of Reference (ToR) are in Annex 1. The evaluation is important at this point for a number of key reasons. It contributes to identifying inclusive and effective scaling-up strategies to inform implementation of the CSP and ensure strategic shifts in programming where necessary. The results will also help refine WFP programming and enable donors, development and international partners to be better informed and more supportive of integrated approaches to resilience programming, including within the context of COVID-19. The evaluation therefore has both accountability and learning objectives, with greater emphasis on the learning function. The main internal (WFP) stakeholders and users of the evaluation include: the WFP Malawi Country Office (CO); the WFP Regional Bureau (RB), Johannesburg; WFP Headquarters (HQ); WFP HQ-based Office of Evaluation (OEV); and the WFP Executive Board. The main external users and stakeholders are: individual beneficiaries (women, men, girls and boys) and communities; Malawi government (Mainly Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, Ministry of Disaster and Relief Management, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development); district-based stakeholders; the United Nations (UN) Country Team; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners; main FFA donors – United States (US) Agency for International Development (USAID), Japan, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Germany; donors to other complementary activities (Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Flemish government); private sector – National Insurance Company (NICO) (see detailed stakeholder matrix in Annex 2).

3. The evaluation builds on the findings of the 2016 mid-term evaluation of PRRO 200692 (implemented 2014–19) and the 2019 Integrated Risk Management and Climate Services Programme (IRMP) mid-term evaluation.2F[3] This evaluation tests the Theory of Change (ToC) (see Annex 3.1) for ToC and evaluation conceptual framework) developed in response to a recommendation in the 2016 evaluation and draws on the testing already done (on a smaller sample) under the 2019 IRMP evaluation. The evaluation captures the effects and impacts of FFA activities on targeted beneficiaries as well as on the local community that should benefit from the asset(s). The 2016 PRRO mid-term evaluation noted the need for more specific needs assessments or studies related to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and protection, especially with respect to transfer modality and differences between regions. For instance, the appropriateness of the chosen modality with respect to women was found to have a strong regional component, being influenced by patriarchal norms in the north and matriarchal norms in the south (where FFA mainly operates). This is discussed in paragraph 131. It has been observed that assumptions vis-à-vis target groups, access to and ownership of resources, as well as adoption of project activities, have often been made without substantive research supporting said claims. This has informed the evaluation design, mainstreaming gender across all evaluation objectives and evaluation questions (EQs), as well as ensuring ability to analyse differences within and between districts, in order to try to tease out some of these potentially incorrect assumptions as well as discern potential pathways for addressing these in future FFA

[3] IRMP operated from January 2017 to December 2019 in Blantyre Rural, Chikwawa and Mangochi districts. It combined: (i) climate services activities, e.g. the provision of climate and weather information and associated agricultural advisories; (ii) risk mitigation activities, e.g. the design and provision of a weather index-based micro-insurance; and (iii) financial services activities, e.g. the creation and training of Village Savings and Loans (VSL) groups.

programming. Gender issues are very closely linked to resilience, not only because shocks and crises affect men and women differently but also because women's roles in family life and household nutrition, and frequently in essential aspects of household food security, contribute to resilience of the whole family.

1.2 CONTEXT

4. **Context Overview:** Malawi is a landlocked country in southern Africa with an estimated population of 17,563,749, of whom 51 percent are under the age of 18. Population density is one of the highest in the world, at 186 persons per square kilometer nationally. Malawi has a predominantly agriculture-based economy: more than 80 percent of the population are engaged in smallholder farming activities. The sector contributes approximately 28 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs 64 percent of the country's workforce. This makes Malawi's economy vulnerable to externally induced shocks, such as dry spells and floods, and particularly affects smallholder farmers, most of whom rely on rain-fed agriculture. Most of WFP's FFA activities are implemented in the Southern Region of Malawi, where the farm holdings are limited to an average of 0.24 hectares (compared to an average of 0.40 hectares for sub-Saharan Africa as a whole).[4]

5. **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):** The implications and negative impacts of COVID-19 are well documented in the UN Country Team's emergency appeal for May to October 2020.[5] These include: increased poverty and vulnerability, as 89 percent of Malawi's workforce are in the informal sector; shrinkage of real GDP by 3.2 percent; loss of incomes in urban areas, with the slowing down of economic activities; shortages and increasing costs of basic food, significantly affecting the poor; disruptions to goods and services trading; and disruption to local and regional supply chains. Other sectors of importance seriously hit by COVID-19 include health, water and sanitation, agriculture, food security and nutrition, child caring systems and risk management.[6] Due to the combined effects of COVID-19 and natural shocks, the economy of Malawi contracting by 2 percent in 2020.[7] The COVID-19 situation will have important contextual impacts for future FFA programming.

6. **Poverty Trends and Inequality:** Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 172nd out of 189 countries in the global Human Development Index (HDI).[8] Between 2008 and 2016 the national poverty rate slightly increased from 50.7 percent to 51.5 percent. Prior to COVID-19, about 70 percent of the population in Malawi lived below the international poverty line of US$1.90 per day. Households headed by women are more affected by poverty than households headed by men. At national level, the Gini index had decreased to 42.2 in 2016 from 45.5 in 2010.[9] The causes of poverty in Malawi include low agricultural productivity and performance, poor macroeconomic performance, and a rapidly growing population in a context where health, education and other essential services are deteriorating.[10] Rural populations face limited returns from non-farm self-employment and very limited social safety nets.

7. **Food and Nutrition Security:** Malawi experienced a significant decrease in the percentage of children under five who are stunted: from 47.1 in 2010 to 37.1 in 2015/16 (Demographic Health Survey (DHS) 2015–16). Despite this, in 2016 only 7.8 percent of children and young people aged 6–23 years were consuming foods meeting the minimum acceptable diets (DHS, 2015–16). Continued high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, which is estimated at 8.8 percent for the 15–19 age group in 2015 – and higher among women (10.8 percent) than men (6.4 percent) – is undermining achievement of nutrition targets.

8. Climate shocks have continued to affect Malawi in the past two decades, affecting agricultural performance and leading to increased food and nutrition security at household level and with significant

[4] WFP (2019) Terms of Reference, FFA Evaluation in the Context of Malawi (2015-2019).

[5] https://malawi.un.org/en/46701-covid-19-flash-appeal-humanitarian-community-malawi-may-oct-2020

[6] https://malawi.un.org/en/46701-covid-19-flash-appeal-humanitarian-community-malawi-may-oct-2020

[7] World Bank (2020). https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34931

[8] http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf

[9] https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/rr-inequality-in-malawi-261115-en.pdf

[10] https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/malawi/overview

impacts on the economy.[11] In 2019 Tropical Cyclone Idai affected 15 of Malawi's 28 districts and approximately 868,900 people (CARE 2019).[12]

9. **Gender Analysis:** Malawi has widespread gender inequalities (USAID Gender Equality Factsheet), ranking 173rd out of 188 on the UN's Gender Inequality Index (GII), and the eighth highest child marriage rate in the world. Negative impacts of existing gender gaps in land rights, access to education, access to agriculture and nutrition training, and resource access, use and intensification include gendered food security gaps (WFP 2019, CSP 2019–2023, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) 2017). Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) are major concerns, heightened by the restrictive measures and economic challenges of COVID-19. Children and young people are likely to face increased protection risks without a protective environment such as schools and other learning infrastructure at tertiary levels. Without functional job markets, the closure of informal sector activities can be a daunting challenge for young people in Malawi, especially for young women in need of economic empowerment opportunities. This is likely to worsen the problem of early marriages, unplanned pregnancies and lack of safe spaces. It is estimated that 47 percent of girls in Malawi marry before the age of 18 years and 12 percent get married before the age of 15 (government of Malawi and UNICEF 2020).[13] Such a trend will end up increasing the burden of care for women and will reduce their level of participation in productive and resilience building initiatives for supporting their families.

10. **Policy Context:** The government of Malawi (GoM) has enacted several policies to deal with recurring hazards, food insecurity, nutrition and poverty challenges, supporting and linking to FFA. Of major importance are the National Climate Change Management Policy (NCCMP) (2016), which emphasises the need for understanding environmental and ecological risks in all development processes, and this is linked to the National Climate Change Investment Plan (NCCIP), which emphasises building community resilience to climate change. This links up well with WFP watershed management approach, which underpins the FFA initiatives and is aligned to components of climate information services to enable farmers to make informed choices. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is likely to undermine further the capacity for resilience at individual, household and community levels, depending on how these levels have been affected by the pandemic socially, economically and with regard to the health status of family members.

11. At least 15 of the major government policies linked to WFP programming in Malawi emphasise coordinated climate change response. Particular elements in individual policies: community resilience building (NCCMP), investment in climate change adaptation, mitigation, research, technology and capacity building (NCCIP), promoting national adaptation for sustained food security, nutrition and livelihoods (National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA)), climate change adaptation for equity and justice (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)), sustainable agricultural transformation and climate-resilient ecosystems (MGDS III), resilient communities able to absorb, recover and transform under multiple shocks and hazards (National Resilience Strategy (NRS)), resilient smallholder farmers and market access (National Agricultural Plan (NAP) and National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP)), sustainable use and management of water resources (National Water Development Programme (NWMP)), agro-forestry and sustainable natural resources management (Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II) 2018 and Forestry Amendment Act 2017), sustainable water abstraction, use and management (Water Resources Act 2013), mainstreaming disaster risk management (Disaster Risk Management Policy (DRMP) 2015), sustainable rehabilitation and use of natural resources (National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (NFLRS) 2017), sustainable charcoal production and clean energy services (National Charcoal Strategy (NCS) 2017–27) and the use of quality standards in environmental management (Environmental Policy 2008). There are significant overlaps and synergies in these policies and a strong alignment for multi-sectoral linkages and collaboration with WFP programming in Malawi.

12. There are complementary government policies that promote gender equality (National Gender Policy (NGP) 2015), youth participation and empowerment (National Youth Policy (NYP) 2013), farmer

[11] Nearly half of Malawi's 28 districts have experienced at least four major shocks in the past decade (primarily dry spells, floods and hailstorms) which makes it difficult for households to recover from one shock to another (WFP, 2018; 2019).

[12] https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Regional-RGA-Cyclone-Idai-29032019.pdf

[13] Government of Malawi and UNICEF (2020) Budget Scoping on Programmes and Interventions to End Child Marriage in Malawi.

organization, inclusion and commercialization of smallholder agriculture (Farmer Organization Development Strategy (FODS) 2018), market access and transformation for smallholder agriculture (Malawi Contract Farming Strategy (MCFS) 2016); these all point to the need for participatory community-based planning and putting gender and inclusion at the centre of sustainable development.

13. **Development Assistance and Donor Support:** Major donor support programmes are USAID's Food for Peace Development Food Assistance Programme (food security, resilience and support to WFP for the FFA programme), FCDO supporting vulnerable household resilience to climate-induced shocks and stresses), Irish Aid (supporting food security and dietary diversity, social accountability), and World Bank (supporting public works and social protection). Several NGOs work on food security and disaster risk management.

14. **UN and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) coordinates UN agency programmes in Malawi to ensure coordination and collaboration with the GoM, under SDG 17 to strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development. Within this framework WFP has a mandate for achievement of UN SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and leads on Pillar Three (Inclusive and Resilient Growth).

15. **WFP Malawi Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2019–23): WFP** Malawi's assistance to GoM is within the context of a phased move from direct operations to technical assistance and capacity building support. It has three outcomes under its integrated resilience approach: i) support restoration of livelihoods and improve household and community resilience through the creation of productive assets under government-led complementary partnerships, and ii) reduce disaster risks and, iii) enhance resilience of households vulnerable to lean season shortages. The overall objective is to support Malawi to coordinate efforts effectively at national level to address hunger, improve nutrition and reduce vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition, and strengthen resilience to recurrent shocks.

1.3 SUBJECT OF THE EVALUATION

16. Within PRRO 200692 (2014–19), FFA aimed to i) support restoration of livelihoods and improve household and community resilience through the creation of productive assets under government-led complementary partnerships, and ii) reduce disaster risks and enhance resilience of households vulnerable to lean season shortages. The key project outcomes were: a) adequate food consumption was reached or maintained over the assistance period for targeted households; b) access to livelihood assets and/or basic services was improved, including community and market infrastructure; c) improved access to livelihood assets has contributed to enhanced resilience and reduced risks from disaster and shocks faced by targeted food insecure communities and households; d) risk reduction capacity of country, communities and institutions was strengthened.

17. FFA has been delivered through two key modalities: food and cash, which vary from year to year. The choice of modality is informed by market and sectoral assessments, as well as donor preferences considering seasonality, price trends, food supply and availability, cost-efficiency and effectiveness, and gender analysis.

18. Geographic scope and targeting: FFA targeted 10 districts identified as vulnerable and food insecure through the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) and consultation with stakeholders at district level: Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Dedza, Karonga, Machinga, Mangochi, Nsanje, Phalombe and Zomba. In November 2019, FFA activities remained active in eight districts, having been phased out in Dedza and Karonga (Figure 1). Between 2015 and 2019 the areas covered by the FFA have changed as activities have scaled up (especially in responding to climate shocks, as in the case of response to El Niño effects from 2015 onwards) or ceased. By November 2019, FFA activities were active in eight

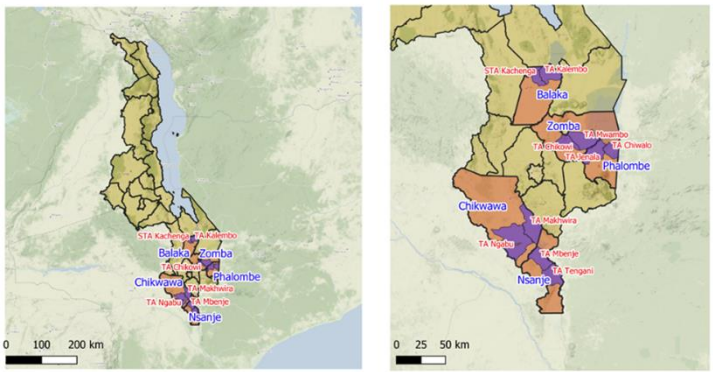


Figure 1: Map of Malawi and implementation districts

districts, with recent phase-out of programmes in the districts of Dedza and Karonga. The total number of beneficiary households reached per annum via WFP Malawi's FFA programmes fluctuated over the period. Under the PRRO, in 2018 a total of 131,596 households were targeted solely under the FFA component. Other resilience-based activities, including Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4)[14] and Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS), complement FFA as part of the integrated resilience programming approach. Some FFA-targeted households may also have been participants in the other programmes. In 2019 – the start of WFP Malawi's CSP – a total of 154,639 households were enrolled in FFA. The table below shows the total number of beneficiary households targeted under the various interventions from 2015 to 2019.

Table 1: Households targeted under WFP Malawi's integrated resilience programming approach

Livelihoods Programme Scale up 2015-2019																				
	2015				2016				2017				2018				2019			
Districts	FFA	R4	Climate services	SAMs	FFA	R4	Climate services	SAMs	FFA	R4	Climate services	SAMs	FFA	R4	Climate services	SAMs	FFA	R4	Climate services	SAMs
Balaka	1,696	500	1,696		6,086	2,342	6,086		7,561	3,065	7,561		7,561	3,332	7,561		16,626	11,960	16,626	4,505
Blantyre	-				1,500				6,796	4,171	6,796		6,796	7,809	6,796		13,721	4,000	13,721	
Chikwawa	-				9,929				20,929	-	20,929		20,929	10,587	20,929		19,222	6,001	19,222	8,330
Dedza	-								6,500	-			6,500				-			
Karonga	-				1,709				1,709	-			1,709				-			
Machinga	-				9,138				9,138	-			9,138				18,138			12,135
Mangochi	-				8,806				35,406	-			35,406	9,756			25,541	6,001		18,040
Nsanje	-				6,249				8,498	-	8,498		8,498		8,498		18,128		18,128	10018
Phalombe	1,003				2,003				6,003	-			6,003	2,181			14,207	8,204		6,003
Zomba	3,200				3,200		3,200		29,056	3,111	29,056		29,056	3,304	29,056		29,056	3,500	29,056	25,856
	5,899	500	1,696		48,620	2,342	9,286		131,596	10,347	72,840		131,596	36,969	72,840		154,639	39,666	96,753	84,887

19. The key FFA partners of WFP encompass government departments, district councils, international and local NGOs and private sector companies, especially the micro-credit and insurance companies. These include: the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), the Ministry of Local Government, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services, district councils, sector-specific departments and associated extension workers, international non-governmental organization (INGO) and NGO partners – including the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe (CARE) Malawi, the Circle for Integrated Community Development (CICOD), the International Committee for the Development of People (CISP), Concern Universal, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Development Aid from People to People (DAPP), Emmanuel International, the Foundation for Community and Capacity Development (FOCCAD), Plan Malawi, Save the Children, the Synod of Livingstonia Development Department (SOLDEV) and World Vision Malawi – civil protection committees, micro-credit and insurance companies, and Concern Universal Microfinance Operations (CUMO) and NICO General Insurance.

20. **Logical Framework:** The logic model for the project and the impact, outcomes and outputs are highlighted in Annex 5, supported by the ToC (Annex 3.1) Summary budget data are in Table 2.

21. The logical framework links well with Malawi Growth Development Strategy (MGDS III) 2017–22 that aims to work towards a competitive, productive and resilient nation by 2023 (Impact). This policy framework also aligns all the key subsector goals that relate to different sectors of the economy in Malawi. The logic model emphasises outcomes that enhance resilience to weather-related shocks and diversification of livelihoods. It provides for strong collaboration and partnerships with government, NGOs and the private sector, and lessons and experiences generated are designed to feed into the development of national policies and programmes that enhance resilience building and shock-sensitive social protection systems. The first outcome focuses on reducing vulnerability and stabilising food and nutrition security options for the poor, which is a key first step in the resilience building continuum/framework in the integrated resilience approach. This enables vulnerable men, women, boys and girls to access food, nutritional products, non-food items (NFIs) and cash transfers in an inclusive and gender-sensitive way, also taking into account changing environmental and health threats such as COVID-19.

[14] R4 has integrated four risk management strategies – risk reduction, risk transfer, prudent risk-taking and risk reserves – to help poor households improve their food security and deal with climate variability, thereby strengthening their resilience. https://www.wfp.org/r4-rural-resilience-initiative

22. Table 2 Summary budget data

2016	WFP needed US$ 280 million to respond to high levels of food insecurity and support ongoing safety net and development programmes.	US$ 23 million was raised for cash-based transfer programming in 2016 to cover the 2016 and 2017 needs.	El Niño Preparedness Budget was US$ 285,288 (Regional Preparedness). Government cash and in-kind contributions amounted to US$ 112 million.	WFP CO had received support from 27 donors by end of 2016 (including 8 from the private sector). WFP strengthened mechanisms for better alignment with government programmes to leverage complementary support and financing.
2017	Overall country budget was US$ 262 million.	CO secured US$ 66.4 million (25% of projected budget).	Government cash and in-kind contribution was US$ 100 million. Funding for capacity strengthening which was not available in previous years amounted to US$ 2.1 million to strengthen integrated programming. Gender Equality funding to the tune of US$ 35.72 million for period 2017–19 – this saw increased capacity strengthening of partners and community structures on gender and protection.	Benefited from use of carry-over funds from 2016 as the CO received 25% of its project requirement in 2017. WFP strengthened collaborative approach to resource mobilization with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) and NGO partners (One UN Mechanism approach) – an approach which informed 2018 CO Strategy.
2018	Work was executed within the PRRO 200692 budgeting framework (2014–18) with a total approved budget of US$ 653.8 million.	40% of Annual Country Budget.	Governments of US, Germany, the FCDO, Japan, Iceland, Switzerland and Flanders, UN-Pooled Funds and private donors supported the CO operations for 2018. Government was highly supportive through cash and in-kind donations. WFP worked closely with line ministries.	2018 witnessed a huge budget decline due to the emergency crisis in 2017. Only 40% of annual country budget was met. WFP forged linkages with government and other UN agencies.
2019	US$ 44,566,224	US$ 32,144,255	WFP maintained its highly collaborative approach with government, UN agencies and private sector.	60% funding received for FFA activities. Beneficiary coverage was reduced to 155,000 (of 167,000 planned).

Table 3: FFA intended impact, outcomes and outputs

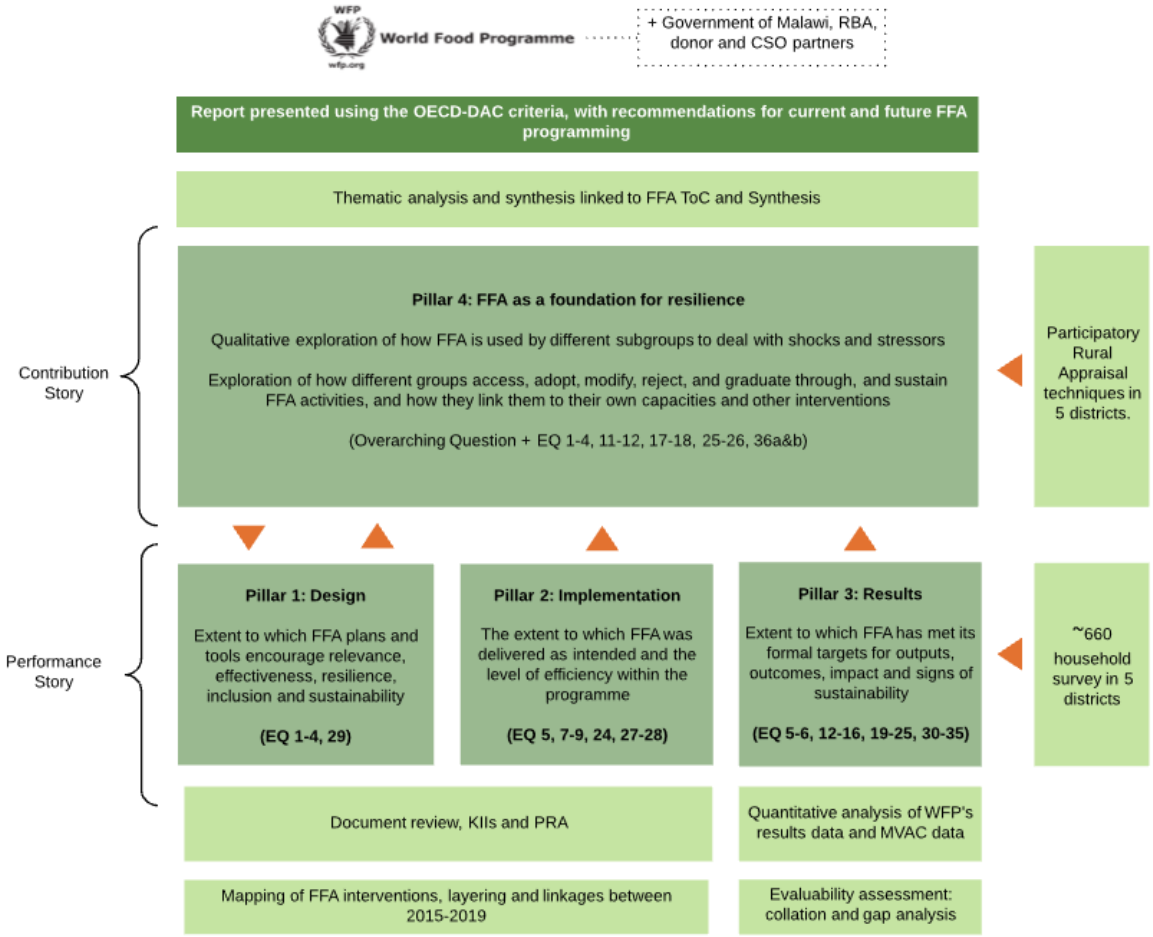
Impact	Contributes to MGDS III 'Significant progress realised towards a competitive, productive and resilient nation by 2023'.
Outcome 1	Vulnerable populations, including smallholder farmers from districts targeted by resilience interventions, improved (or stabilised) food and nutrition security situation by the end of the assistance period.
Output 1.1	Food, nutritional products, NFIs and/or cash transfers distributed in sufficient quantity and quality and in a timely manner to targeted beneficiaries.
Outcome 2	Vulnerable populations in targeted districts have enhanced resilience to weather-related shocks and diversified livelihoods by the end of the assistance period.
Output 2.1	Community-based integrated natural resources management promoted in target areas.
Output 2.2	Technical capacity of implementation partners, WFP staff and communities enhanced.
Output 2.3	Integrated Watershed Management approach and technologies harmonised and adapted.
Output 2.4	Community infrastructures improved (water sources and roads).
Output 2.5	Targeted smallholder farmers access an integrated package of risk management tools and services to increase productivity and income.
Output 2.6	Targeted population with access to climate services at household, community and national levels.
Outcome 3	Increased smallholder production and sales of agricultural products and food at national and local levels for farmers.
Output 3.1	Agricultural production and productivity enhanced for smallholder farmers participating in resilience interventions.
Outcome 4	National policies and programmes are informed on innovative approaches to resilience building and shock-sensitive social protection systems.
Output 4.1	Development of national policies on innovative approaches to resilience building and shock-sensitive social protection supported.

23. **Gender dimensions of the intervention:** FFA's design and performance measurement have been guided by WFP gender and FFA normative guidance. The logframes (for both the PRRO and CSP) contain gender-disaggregated indicators and cross-cutting indicators relating to empowerment, representation and protection. WFP and partners aim to ensure that 70 percent of management committees are composed of women, to mitigate any discrimination against marginalised groups and to ensure equal access to assistance. In line with the learning focus of the evaluation, guided by earlier evaluation findings and key interests of WFP, gender is likewise mainstreamed across the evaluation objectives.

1.4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY, LIMITATIONS AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

24. Evaluation Approach: The evaluation takes a theory-based approach to assess and explain what change has happened and how it came about, focusing on the links and assumptions in FFA's ToC (Annex 3.1) and covering the two major considerations in the ToR questions: i) FFA's contribution to people's resilience capacities, and to other resilience interventions designed to support these (contribution 'story'); and ii) its design and performance in Malawi between 2015 and 2019 (performance 'story').

Figure 2: Pillars of assessment in the evaluation of FFA Malawi



25. EQ 1: How relevant is FFA as the foundation for WFP's resilience programming in Malawi? (Relevance)

26. EQ 2: To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes and strategic results been achieved? (Effectiveness)

27. EQ 3: To what extent was FFA implemented efficiently? (Efficiency)

28. EQ 4: To what degree have the project outputs and outcomes contributed to progress towards resilience? (Impact)

29. EQ 5: To what extent does FFA support resilience beyond the lifetime of WFP intervention? (Sustainability)

30. **Data Sources:** The evaluation is based on analysis of primary and secondary data sources. The main primary data collection methods were: a survey of 660 beneficiary households, designed to incorporate FAO's Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis II (RIMA-II) methodology,14F[15] which was used on the dataset to produce a statistical model capable of calculating imputed resilience scores for each household in the survey; eight participatory rural appraisal (PRA) meetings with beneficiary women and men (254 participants) comprising 117 women and 137 men, and eight focus group discussions (FGDs) with local community leadership (120 participants, comprising 35 women and 85 men) in three districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe; 37 key informant interviews (KIIs) comprising 10 WFP staff members, 10 partner staff members, eight district-level stakeholders and nine national-level stakeholders, identified in the stakeholder analysis conducted during the inception period. Methodologies and data collection tools are provided in full in Annex 7; Stakeholders interviewed are listed in Annex 8.

[15] FAO (2016) Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis – II. http://www.fao.org/3/i5665e/i5665e.pdf

31. The ET and Evaluation Manager (EM) developed and populated a document library of secondary data sources for the evaluation, which contains WFP organizational material relevant to this evaluation (e.g. policies, reporting frameworks, ToC, programme guidance) as well as data from past studies. There was good clarity on the level of data availability and known gaps (Annex 9.1). The ET had access to all key monitoring reports for the project, which were compiled in the project library, and a WFP-facilitated presentation presented the existing data sets, analysis and interpretation of the data. Specifically, programme monitoring reports that have been made available to the ET and reviewed include FFA baselines for 2016, 2017 and 2018, CSP Resilience and Recovery Baseline data, FFA post-distribution monitoring reports, and R4 monitoring and follow-up reports for 2017 to 2019. Data disaggregated by gender was available and sufficient. The main gaps in data availability related to some district-level monitoring reports. Documents reviewed are given in full in Annex 9.2.

32. **Analytical approach and triangulation:** Data matrices were used to organise and analyse the qualitative data, with a strong focus on gender. The question 'for whom' was used to interrogate evidence, and analysis of FFA's influence on resilience considered multiple perspectives and intersecting realities – including age, religion, education and social status – that also have a bearing on women's resilience. Triangulation of evidence, and weighing up FFA's Contribution and Performance stories, bringing together multiple pieces of data to understand the 'whole', was used to cross-check and corroborate findings and also to gain a deeper and more complete understanding (See Annex 10.1). The strength of evidence was understood as a relationship between three things:

- Empirical evidence: tangible, observable phenomena – for example, the testimony of interview respondents, the content of programme documentation, statistical data, minutes of meetings, media products.
- Findings or hypotheses: statements about the existence of something – for example, the impact of a programme, or how and why an observed change happened. These statements might or might not be true, but they are not directly observable.
- The evaluator's confidence in the findings: how confident the researcher is that the finding is true, based on the empirical evidence. New evidence can increase or decrease confidence in the findings, by different degrees (Table 4 below).

Table 4: Weighing the strength of evidence

		Extent of FFA's contribution resilience capacities			
		Critical contribution	Important contribution	Some contribution	No contribution
Strength of evidence	Strong evidence	Very confident that FFA made a critical contribution to resilience capacities.	Very confident that FFA made an important contribution to resilience capacities.	Very confident that FFA made some contribution to resilience capacities, alongside other factors, but was not the most important cause.	Very confident that FFA's contribution to resilience capacities was negligible.
	Some evidence	More confident than not that FFA made a critical contribution to resilience capacities.	More confident than not that FFA made an important contribution to resilience capacities.	More confident than not that FFA made some contribution to resilience capacities, alongside other factors, but was not the most important cause.	More confident than not that FFA contribution to resilience capacities was negligible.

	Limited evidence	Insufficient evidence to support a contribution judgement.

33. FAO's RIMA-II methodology[16] was utilized on this dataset to produce a statistical model capable of calculating resilience scores for each household in the survey. This is based on a structural equation model from which 'resilience' is seen as an intermediate variable that is predicted by resilience 'pillars' and is a predictor towards resilience outcomes. The 'pillars' are defined, following RIMA-II methodology, as Access to Basic Services (ABS), Adaptive Capacity (AC), Social Safety Nets (SSNs) and Assets (ASTs).[17] The 'outcomes' were chosen to capture a broad definition of different aspects of resilience, looking both at the current situation and hypotheticals for how the household would be able to deal with shocks in the future. These resilience scores allow for comparisons to be made in the relative level of resilience experienced by household across social and demographic factors as well as variables linked to the experiences of shocks and support received by the project. Full details on this methodology can be found in Annex 7.2.

34. **Sampling:** Five districts in which WFP intends to continue FFA interventions were purposefully sampled: Zomba, Balaka, Phalombe, Chikwawa and Nsanje. Within each district, quantitative data were collected in the traditional area (TA) most affected by dry spells in the last nine years, as per WFP historical TA analysis, and a randomly selected less-affected TA (using Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) historical data). Qualitative data was collected in Phalombe, Chikwawa and Nsanje, chosen to ensure inclusion of TAs that had experienced dry spells and a TA that had experienced floods (Annex 10.2). Quantitative data collection took place between 22 and 29 March 2021. Qualitative data collection took place from between 19 March and 2 April 2021 (see Annex 10.3 for the timeline and fieldwork schedule). Of the households visited across the sampled districts, those in Phalombe were most likely to be matrilineal.

35. **Quality Assurance (QA) Processes:** Data from all sources and methods were systematically checked and cross checked to verify data quality. Itad's QA system used the Evaluation Matrix to ensure that all questions have been sufficiently answered before the draft report was submitted. To ensure that the findings identified are adequately supported by evidence, QA assessed both the quality of the evidence presented and the clarity of the analysis (Annex 11).

36. **Gender and Social Inclusion:** GEWE considerations are mainstreamed throughout the evaluation. The EQs provided the structure for detailed sub-questions relating to the experience of men, women, girls and boys at major stages of FFA's ToC, from access and participation through to impact. The evaluation design included detailed indicators, and an analysis approach to each of these, in the Evaluation Matrix (see Annex 6 and Annex 12). All data collection tools, including PRA tools applied through both gender-mixed and separate groups, were gender-sensitive and designed to gather and analyse age and gender-disaggregated data, with sampling ensuring inclusion of marginalised groups.

37. **Ethical Considerations:** WFP decentralized evaluations must conform to WFP and UNEG ethical standards and norms. The contractors undertaking the evaluations are responsible for safeguarding and ensuring ethics at all stages of the evaluation cycle. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of participants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results in no harm to participants or their communities. The evaluation conforms to WFP and United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) ethical standards and norms and was conducted according to Itad's Statement of Ethical Principles (Annex 13). A sensitive, ethical and non-harmful sex- and age-disaggregated PRA methodology was developed, and strict training and guidelines were issued to all ET members undertaking community-based research methodologies. All questions were reviewed with the CO to ensure the principle of 'Do No Harm' was strictly adhered to. The data collection teams encountered no ethical issues during data collection.

38. **Limitations and Mitigation:** The evaluation faced the following limitations, mitigated as necessary by the ET (see Annex 13.2 for full details).

[16] FAO (2016) Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis – II. http://www.fao.org/3/i5665e/i5665e.pdf

[17] Each of these four pillars is the result of conducting a factor analysis to reduce the dimensionality of relevant variables collected in the household survey. These pillars and variables within are referred to as formative, and can be seen as analogous to explanatory variables in conventional regression terminology.

39. **Lack of Control Group in Household Survey:** It was not possible to devise a feasible strategy within the maximum possible sample size for identifying a valid comparison population given the targeting of the WFP interventions, as any possible comparisons would have had to be made to populations with different socioeconomic, demographic and/or climate shock histories. Mitigation: Throughout the quantitative survey many of the key questions were addressed, both to the households' current situation and to the time before the interventions began. In relation to specific major shocks, households were also asked to reflect on how well they had coped with shocks in the past, and how they perceived their situation would be different should an identical shock happen again. This allowed a temporal comparison of the impact of the FFA programme from among the beneficiary population. There is, however, potential recall bias to historic questions, given the long time period since the start of programme activities. There are also potential issues with the hypothetical nature of the responses to questions asking about future events.

40. **Travel Restrictions Due to COVID-19:** National and regional – but not international – travel was possible for data collection. Mitigation: The team leader and Jimat Development Consultants, a private survey firm, conducted the PRAs and household survey, and national experts were found to replace the European-based Resilience and Gender Evaluators. All face-to-face meetings were held outside, using social distancing measures, and all field teams were equipped with face masks and hygiene equipment.

41. **Time Constraints Due to COVID-19:** i) The full set of sub-EQS could not be covered within the scope of the evaluation. Mitigation: The ET prioritised key sub-questions over others in order to ensure full coverage of all the EQs. These are highlighted in the matrix in Annex 6. However, the depth of discussion meant that in practice all areas of interest arose in interviews, and these findings are reported. The only sub-EQs the evaluation was not able to address were SEQ27–SEQ29 under sustainability. However, in practice many of the SEQs overlap, and evidence for SEQ28 and SEQ29 on ownership and maintenance of assets falls under other SEQs. SEQ27 is related to intra-household dynamics and was therefore more difficult to cover in the short window available for data collection. ii) Scale-back of qualitative coverage to three districts only, prioritising depth over breadth. Findings might be less generalizable compared to a wider sample. However, as the objective of the qualitative enquiry is to generate in-depth insights, prioritising depth over breadth responds better to the learning priorities of the evaluation and is mitigated by the broader coverage of the quantitative survey.

2. Evaluation findings

42. The evaluation findings and the evidence to substantiate them are presented below. They are structured as a response to each EQ in turn. The ET's confidence in the findings has been considered using the scoring rubric (Table 4 above and Annex 10). Some indication of strength of evidence is presented in the main text for key findings. Descriptive statistics from the survey data and additional quantitative analysis are in Annex 14.

2.1 RELEVANCE: HOW RELEVANT IS FFA AS THE FOUNDATION FOR WFP RESILIENCE PROGRAMMING IN MALAWI? [EQ1]

To what extent does FFA allow or hinder WFP in designing and implementing integrated programmes? [SEQ1]

43. FFA has proved to be a key foundation for the design and implementation of integrated resilience initiatives, building on natural resource-based asset strengthening and diversification of livelihood choices in fragile ecosystems and environments. It has achieved this through targeted interventions in resource-conserving technologies, water harvesting, deep trenches and improved energy-saving stoves, with added pivotal interventions on climate services, SAMS and insurance. FGDs conducted with men, women and local leaders in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe confirm that FFA has also strengthened the systematic use of the watershed/catchment management approach, enabling recharging of the water table in regions affected by dry spells. Better targeting of interventions such as afforestation, irrigation and conservation work has created more opportunities for enhancing the resilience of at-risk communities (Strong evidence).[18]

To what extent are the objectives of FFA in line with the needs of women, men, boys and girls from different marginalized groups? [SEQ2]

44. The FFA objectives show a strong commitment to differentiated analysis and understanding of the needs and priorities of women and men in the targeting of interventions, and this is a key consideration in selecting implementing partners. Including women and local leadership structures through CBPP and ICA creates a sound basis for understanding the differentiated gender needs of target groups. This also enhances understanding of the sociocultural environment and barriers that need close monitoring, support and progressive transformation through WFP implementation processes on the ground. To a large extent, differentiated analysis is used by WFP and its partners in monitoring food pre- and post-distribution, beneficiary dynamics in cash transfer processes, and tracking any conflicts created as a result of WFP assistance. There is no explicit commitment to girls and boys, given the emphasis on labour-based criteria for participation.

45. The programme was able to align its targeting to the magnitude of the shocks and to reach out to more beneficiaries in the five years of the programme. The short-term objective was concerned with ensuring immediate access to food and cash in response to shocks being experienced by the different marginalized groups within the community. The food and cash modalities were highly valued by the beneficiaries as critical bridging mechanisms to reduce the food gap in the event of shocks such as floods and dry spells (FGDs, PRAs). The understanding of the short-term transfers as bridging mechanisms towards building resilience of vulnerable households and communities shows the extent to which beneficiaries had grasped the objectives of the FFA programme (Very strong evidence that FFA made an important contribution).

46. Most of the FFA beneficiaries in Chikwawa and Nsanje felt that the cash modality was more flexible and effective than food in ensuring that households respond better to the different shocks being experienced (Strong evidence that FFA made an important contribution). However, some beneficiaries argued that cash transfers are effective only when there is food in the market and in an environment with no price

[18] These interventions were repeatedly highly ranked in the eight PRAs and eight FGDs with FFA beneficiaries, as well as eight FGDs with local community leaders conducted across the three districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe.

distortions. But FGDs in TA Makhuwira (Chikwawa District) and TA Mbeje (Nsanje District) suggested that businesses tend to increase prices when they know cash transfers have been made, rendering the amount being paid as cash inadequate in meeting participant needs. This is a reflection of opportunistic business practices which undermine the extensive market monitoring processes of WFP, especially in a shortage economy, making the modelling of commodity process a challenging process.

47. The deliberate targeting of women as the recipients of cash and food transfers ensured better and equitable use of the assistance (Strong evidence that FFA made an important contribution). Women, as custodians of food resources within households in the local cultural context, were considered to be the most appropriate target, as men are believed likely to misuse the cash for other non-food purposes given their high level of mobility, especially in the border districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe.[19]

48. There was a high level of confidence in both the FGDs and PRAs about the relevance of a longer-term objective focusing on ensuring that the assets created and/or rehabilitated are appropriate to the long-term development goals for the different groups participating in the programme. In FGDs, both men and women were able to relate their future goals to the different types of activities being promoted through the productive asset creation activities. An example is in TA Chiwalo, where men and women identified interventions that address their needs (Table 5):

Table 5: Meeting men and women's needs in TA Chiwalo, Phalombe District

Gender Group	Key interventions addressing needs and priorities
Women	• Backyard nutrition gardens contribute to meeting food, diets and nutrition requirements of all household members. • Water and Sanitation and Hygienic practices contribute to healthy homes without exposure to risks and disease outbreaks. • VSL are a vehicle for resource mobilization, asset creation and income diversification by vulnerable households. • Tree planting around homesteads and in the communities helps in maintaining a cool and healthy living environment for men, women, girls and boys within the entire community. • Manure making contributes directly to better quality yields which contribute to food security and well-being of family members.
Men	• Soil and water conservation practices contribute to natural and water resources management in both dry spells and flood situations, helping to ensure sustainability of food security initiatives. • Agro-forestry has potential to improve quality of the soil, leading to higher yields in the fields for improved household food security. • Manure making helps in promoting low-cost soil nutrient management processes.

49. Most of these interventions have led to restoration of lost tree species, improved quality of soils leading to higher yields, reduction in soil erosion, improved hygiene, reduced cases of cholera, rapid adoption of practices to create productive assets and increased formation of VSL groups[20] (Strong evidence from the FGDs and PRAs that FFA made a critical contribution). The pattern of needs and priorities addressed by the programme remained predominantly the same across Chakwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe. All key FFA interventions were also shaped by the prevailing local-level geographic, livelihood, climatic and

[19] For example, in Jana VDC, Chikwawa district, it was specifically pointed out that women were taking a greater lead in household diversification self-help initiatives through household tree planting, backyard gardens and active participation in savings and lending schemes, and the pattern of women's participation was reported to be similar in the eight PRAs, eight FGDs with beneficiaries and eight FGDs with local leaders.

[20] The soil and water conservation and soil erosion prevention measures through woodlots and afforestation initiatives were the first interventions to be shown in the PRA maps of responses to shocks that were conducted in three districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe.

ecosystem conditions to ensure adaptive responses and interventions and allow for continuous innovation and adaptation to new threats and shocks. However, there are no inbuilt preventive mechanisms for dealing with new threats and/or shocks, such as fall armyworm, posing a significant threat to the sustainability of agricultural interventions.

50. The link between short-term and long-term objectives is not always grasped well by FFA beneficiaries, as some argued that smaller cash incentives such as the cash transfer of MK 14,400 would not be able to meet the food and nutrition needs of the household, which would require a cash outlay of between MK 25,000 and MK 30,000 (FGDs with FFA beneficiaries in TA Tengano and Mbenje, Nsanje District). As such, women would be more attracted to participate in such a programme, while men venture out to find additional livelihood opportunities. In the same FGD meetings it became clear that men would prefer a higher cash incentive. Indeed, women comprise the majority of the FFA beneficiaries who continue to work outside the project schedule on maintenance work of communal assets. Most of the women have remained committed to maintain and increase productive asset creation initiatives on their own, with more men now joining the women's groups to improve incomes, food security and long-term resilience (Strong evidence that FFA made a critical contribution).

51. FGDs with local leadership structures highlighted the importance of aligning and harmonising project and community structures for better coordination and ensuring management of power dynamics which can negatively impact on the project. First is the issue of unequal power relationships within the project hierarchy between implementing partners at project level and community-level actors, and the lack of coordination of the project committee and the other development committees at community level. A clear reflection of such unequal relations of power relates to the following issues raised in TA Makhuwira, Chikwawa District:

52. 'Towards the end of the project [2018] [one NGO] brought an agro-dealer and forced every project beneficiary to buy a watering can, a shovel, hoes – even those who had no money were forced to buy under duress or else they would be removed as project beneficiaries, they threatened. People had by then no money, as the project had long ended – they ended up getting loans from loan sharks to buy off the stuff. Since that time [the NGO] has not come to implement further projects in the area – looks like the project had actually ended. [The NGO] brought agro-dealers and forced us to buy seeds from them at inflated prices, yet we knew those items cost half the price in Blantyre [nearby commercial city]' Area development committee (ADC)/village development committee (VDC)/village civic protection committee (VCPC) FGD, GVH Jana, TA Makhuwira

53. Although the community described having felt 'defrauded' through these actions, they never took up the issue with either the NGO in question or the District Commissioner or the District Executive Committee, as they did not understand the channels for raising their grievances. In some communities there were complaints of failure by the project to engage the community and provide feedback on issues. One example is in Nsanje District, GVH Bithi, TA Tengani, where the community raised issues with regard to the irrigation facility: both the contractor and the district stakeholders (NGO/District Commissioners Office) are reported to have ignored the community concerns about irrigation pumps are submerged in flooded water because community advice on where to site the pumps was said to be ignored by the contractor. Community members felt the irrigation facility had been constructed and dumped on the community but had never worked for even a single day. Community expectations in these cases remained unmet. The occurrence of these issues suggests that power dynamics in beneficiary communities are real and can create some conflict with local communities. Implementers mentioned that useful lessons were drawn from the incident, especially the need to ensure adequate community engagement in the planning of irrigation projects.

To what extent is the FFA design based on a sound gender analysis and to what extent is the design and implementation gender-sensitive? [SEQ2a]

54. The FFA objectives addressed constraints faced by marginalised men, women, boys and girls through designing integrated initiatives that enabled these vulnerable groups to benefit from tangible and intangible assets, based on sound gender analysis. The FGD meetings with VDCs and VCPCs indicated that the productive assets around water and soil conservation met the immediate need of reducing the impact of shocks and strengthening resilience to natural disasters, because families were supported in terms of food security. Immediate food requirements (during shocks – floods and dry spells) were extensively met,

which reduced the number of individuals, households and communities resorting to negative coping mechanisms to meet their food, income and resilience needs. Apart from meeting the food requirements through productive asset creation, the cash transfers complemented by VSL strengthened the capacity of vulnerable households to recover from the impact of previous shocks and to assets at household level (strong evidence that FFA made a significant contribution). FGDs with FFA beneficiaries in Nsanje and Chikwawa highlighted that the VSL initiatives were relevant as they were instrumental in improving school attendance for children (boys and girls) and ensuring availability of food for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), reinforcing their adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) during lean months with support from increased income-earning opportunities and use of backyard gardens for the nutrition security of the household.

55. From the FGDs and PRAs conducted across the three districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe, it was learned that the FFA package was highly flexible in meeting the needs and priorities of a diverse range of men, women, boys and girls affected by the different types of shocks in the communities. The types of assets created empowered the individuals, households and communities to select activities that were relevant to their situation (Strong evidence that FFA made a critical contribution). For example, women in Nsanje District, found that selecting fast-growing tree species that ensured easier availability of charcoal significantly saved their time for other valuable activities such as improving their sanitation and hygiene, as well as working more on their backyard gardens to improve nutrition and income from the sale of garden produce.

56. FFA has created a strong foundation for greater social cohesion at household and community levels through reducing outmigration, especially by men into neighbouring countries in search of opportunities, as well as creating household and community assets that require collective efforts by men, women and young people. Women focus groups, especially in Nsanje (TA Mbenje and TA Tengani), a border district, were emphatic that they now have the opportunity to live together with husbands and adult youths, working together rather than migrating to Mozambique for piece jobs and where they are often humiliated and beaten by the locals in neighbouring countries. Through sharing their stories of change, it was clear that women's social networks were also strengthened through internal savings and lending schemes. This triggered further investments in asset creation through purchase of livestock (goats, pigs and poultry) and establishment of backyard gardens, leading to diversification of income and nutrition sources at household level, creating a strong avenue for women's empowerment (Strong evidence that FFA made a critical contribution).

57. The PRAs conducted in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe districts showed that FFA supported food insecure families, especially those recovering from, or at risk of, dry spells, flooding and natural resource deterioration (climate-related shocks), through the creation and maintenance of productive household and community assets (Strong evidence that FFA made a critical contribution). The FFA programme recognized the existence of multiple gender inequalities due to local social and cultural norms within the target communities and climate change dynamics, as women face more adaptation constraints and challenges in low-resource community settings. Due to the gendered division of labour at household and community levels, women are less able than men to access and control key economic resources necessary for their resilience, as they experience high levels of poverty and often lack decent incomes from the survival-based activities. And yet women in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe were reported to be negatively affected by dry spells and floods, as they need to take care of the family property, children and key household assets when the floods affect their community. This was strongly expressed in FGD meetings with both community leaders and beneficiaries in GVH Jana in Chikwawa as well as GVH Nembe, TA Mbenje, GVH Bithi and Kaleso, TA Tengani, all in Nsanje District).

58. When faced with severe shocks, marginalized women and girls, boys and men without support resorted to negative coping mechanisms, such as: women and girls giving in to sexual exploitation; engaging in casual labour and withdrawing children from school to help with casual labour; or forcing girls into unwanted and early marriages due to desperation of hunger and poverty. Such desperate situations were reported in all FGD meetings in Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts, where the impact of dry spells and floods has been devastating in the past four years, suggesting that the programme has only gone some way towards reducing such negative coping strategies.

To what extent is the design of FFA linked/complementary with other resilience activities in Malawi? [SEQ3]

59. FFA has been implemented on its own and connected to/integrated with other WFP interventions (Table 6), underpinned by strong local ownership built through multi-sector collaboration and inclusive community planning:

Table 6: WFP integrated resilience programming – related interventions

Programme name	Brief descriptor
R4	Combined packages addressing risk
IRMP	Climate information services
SAMS	Market and livelihood support
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services

60. WFP FFA monitoring data suggests that, in particular, linking FFA to two pilot project initiatives, R4 and GFCS, as well as to the IRMP, resulted in significant food security outcomes during the implementation period, which set a strong foundation for increased household food consumption and diversification. The broadening of activities included the combination of asset creation, food and cash transfers, training, insurance coverage, use of smart agricultural technologies and local institutional strengthening, and contributed to the initial outcome achievements aimed at stabilization of the food security situation through improved consumption, dietary diversity and enhanced coping strategies. Capacity building is provided both for the asset operation and maintenance, and in broader skills areas – such as use of climate information, agricultural techniques, financial management, business and marketing skills.

61. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) at national level highlighted the important role WFP FFA programme plays in social protection of vulnerable populations, including support to the Malawi National Social Support Programme, which aims to strengthen social support mechanisms for vulnerable populations. It is also seen as supporting the DRR work of government through technical and financial support to MVAC in line with the NRS.

62. National government respondents felt that to be more effective in supporting national efforts, WFP should harmonise with and align more to government systems and procedures. The interviewee believed that this would enhance sustainability and enable government to take over activities once WFP funding ends, and that FFA should focus more on resilience, in order to be '*more cost effective and impactful*' (national government KII).

63. From the perspective of other donors, FFA remains very much a 'Food Aid' type approach, whereas there is a wider drive within the context towards community-driven investment (including people carrying out activities without needing or expecting to be paid for them) as well as food-water-energy nexus and irrigation landscape-based approaches. In terms of building resilience FFA can only go so far, and one respondent voiced scepticism that FFA alone is building rural resilience to shocks. However, in combination with the complementary programmes outlined above, evidence presented in this evaluation suggests important resilience-related outcomes and impact.

64. FFA provided a gateway for participants in some districts into the Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience (PROSPER) programme (part of the Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Change in Malawi (BRACC) programme funded largely by FCDO, originally scheduled for 2019–23), an integrated resilience programme that layered, linked and sequenced activities focused on resilience building, moving away from the model of 'handouts'. This also enhanced the coordination between FFA and other elements of programming, including targeting and avoiding duplication of efforts. However, the PROSPER programme activities have been significantly reduced under FCDO aid cuts (2021).

Is the 2019-developed Theory of Change plausible for FFA resilience assets?

65. The FFA ToC (Annex 3.1) has proved to be plausible in its emphasis on productive asset creation combined with provision of short-term food and cash assistance to trigger longer-term resilience planning and action by households and communities, allowing for progressive adaptation to the threats of dry spells, floods and strong winds. With increased knowledge and skills, household and community members were able to reduce hunger periods and diversify food and income sources through effective utilization of assets

created and to recover from shocks with minimal WFP and/or other external support[21] (Strong evidence of FFA significant contribution).

66. The RIMA model provides strong evidence that the realization of the project objectives results in progress towards resilience. Three of the four resilience pillars, (ASTs, AC and SSNs) are very strongly associated with the overall resilience scores calculated from the model. The fourth pillar, ABS, is also positively associated with the overall resilience score but is not statistically significant at the 5 percent level. This indicates that, within this context, activities which are working to actively strengthen these pillars are likely to result in improved overall resilience across multiple dimensions. When considering the individual correlations between the resilience pillars and the resilience outcomes, all are significantly positive at the 5 percent significance level, and nearly all are significantly positive at the 0.1 percent significance level (See RIMA Methodology in Annex 7.2 and additional analysis in Annex 14).

67. FFA beneficiaries in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe all demonstrate that effective use of short-term food and cash assistance, combined with relevant training in asset creation, climate services and local institutional training, was critical in improving the quality of assets at household and community levels (FGDs and PRAs). This led to increased diversification of livelihood options for vulnerable and at-risk households, increased ability to recover from the impacts of shocks, and improved knowledge and capacity to withstand future shocks, leading to improvements in household and community well-being (Strong evidence).

68. Consistent with the FFA ToC, beneficiaries were able to transition from recipients of food and cash to drivers of multiple asset creation interventions at household and community levels. Household assets that effectively contributed to this transition were identified as:

- Soil and water conservation, woodlots and tree planting, riverbank protection systems that ensured that individual, households and community assets were protected from floods and strong winds
- Internal savings and loan schemes that strengthened the social and financial capital of individuals and households and strengthened local capacity to invest in assets such as small livestock, agricultural implements and inputs
- More enhanced backyard nutrition gardens (FGDs and PRAs).

69. Training in asset creation and climate adaptation in the context of shocks and climate change has been a key enabler of the transition process towards productive asset creation. Households and communities engaged in the PRAs and FGDs were able to demonstrate how training in asset creation and access to information on climate services helped them to participate in the planning, implementation, monitoring and effective maintenance and management of critical assets for improving their livelihoods and well-being (Strong evidence). In TA Makhuwira, Nantus Village, the VDC Chairperson emphasised that '*We keep a database of all the productive assets in our community such as trees planted, vertiver grass planted, soil and water conservation structures, fishponds, roads rehabilitated, as any deterioration and/or loss of these assets will have a negative impact on our lives and livelihoods. In 2019, we were able to count all the trees that were washed away by the floods in that year and were able to restore double the number in preparation for future shocks*. Communities in all three districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe are keen to benefit from more investment assets, such as sustainable solar-powered irrigation systems, agricultural value chains and market access and early warning systems for protection against future shocks and new threats such as the fall armyworm.

70. The quality of institutional relationships involving multi-sector social and technical services in community organization, agriculture, natural resources management, disaster risk management, local civic protection and risk management, as well as local governance structures and systems, all contribute to FFA's successful implementation. These linkages have been critical in supporting the short-term food and cash assistance and the transition process towards longer-term resilience initiatives, playing monitoring and

[21] Across all three districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe, WFP and partner staff reported that the use of the watershed approach was combined with an integrated package of interventions of food, cash, markets, climate services, nutrition, soil and water conservation, and linking these with extension services contributed to reduction of hunger periods, resulting in increased demand for support from beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Self-scaling-up initiatives through knowledge and skills gained have been observed in the monitoring visits by WFP and partner staff.

coordination roles beyond the direct assistance by the programme towards self-sustained interventions. This component of the ToC is critical for local community empowerment, ongoing community and institutional learning, continued innovations in extension and technical services and in the management and coordination of shock-responsive interventions across key sectors informing policy and decision making on resilience and disaster risk management at national level (Strong evidence; KIIs).

71. The increased ability to recover and withstand future shocks by vulnerable communities is a critical component of the ToC and communities acknowledge that this process takes much longer – based on their own experiences – and requires effective participation by household members into the different resilience building activities (FGDs and PRAs). There are always limitations to the recovery process – imposed by the availability and quality of labour in the household, access to land and agricultural inputs, severity and frequency of shocks affecting the community, and impact of new threats such as the fall armyworm – which undermine the progress towards sustained recovery and capacity to withstand future shocks. In TA Chiwalo, for example, FFA beneficiaries indicated that in a village group head (VGH) with 1470 people, about 600 (about 41 percent) remained without any livestock and with poor quality shelter and living standards – hence a need to scale up current interventions by government and other stakeholders beyond the FFA support. Only about 500 people (34 percent) could be considered 'better off' as shown by the possession of livestock such as goats and chickens, at least two meals a day, an improved and well-maintained homestead and ownership of, at least, a bicycle. In the same community, a fully recovered, self-sufficient and resilient household should have a mix of livestock (goats, chicken and cattle), have three meals a day, an iron roof with burnt bricks, a motor bike, an ox cart, produce surplus food for marketing and show evidence of improved well-being for family members and with all children accessing better quality education.

72. Despite the positive recovery and progressive reduction of the hunger gap by FFA beneficiaries and non-participating households through spillover effects of project interventions, sustained well-being and resilience have continuously been affected by recurring shocks, and especially the impact of dry spells in dry regions such as Chikwawa and Nsanje. In these districts, resilience levels have remained low despite their participation in long-term asset creation initiatives. Some activities, such as tree planting and woodlots, have been affected and disrupted by the long dry spells, while floods have also washed away some of the assets before reaching maturity, creating a double–barrelled challenge for such communities.[22] This was a recurring issue for discussion during the mapping of shocks in the PRA exercises across the three districts, especially in the past five years in Malawi.

Key findings and conclusions – Question 1. Relevance: How relevant is FFA as the foundation for WFP resilience programming in Malawi?

- FFA has proved to be a key foundation for the design and implementation of integrated resilience initiatives. Multi-sector collaboration and inclusive community planning ensured local ownership, and relevance of activities created a strong foundation for an integrated approach at community and district levels.
- Immediate food requirements (during shocks – floods and dry spells) were extensively met, reducing the number of individuals, households and communities resorting to negative coping mechanisms to meet their food, income and resilience needs. However, there is some evidence that damaging coping strategies remain, and it can be difficult for households to be resilient – bounce back and adapt – after a shock or stressor, due to their low starting point.
- The types of assets created empowered individuals, households and communities to select activities that were relevant to their situation.
- The FFA ToC is plausible in its emphasis on productive asset creation combined with the provision of short-term food and cash assistance to trigger longer-term resilience planning and action by households

[22] This situation of frequent disruptions has led to increased demand for linking watershed management interventions with more targeted irrigation initiatives to protect the gains made in the FFA interventions in all eight PRAs and eight FGDs with both men and women beneficiaries in the project.

and communities. Evidence supports the main change pathways, offering further insights into integrated resilience programming, and assumptions still hold.

- The programme was able to align its targeting to the magnitude of the shocks and to reach out to more beneficiaries in the five years of the programme.
- A catchment/watershed management approach has been instrumental in exploring the effectiveness and impact of natural resource-based assets within the communities and in leveraging the potential sustainable livestock production.

2.2 EFFECTIVENESS: TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE THE TARGETED OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, AND STRATEGIC RESULTS BEEN ACHIEVED? [EQ2]

To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes, and strategic results been achieved? [SEQ4]

73. To assess the extent to which outputs, outcomes and strategic results have been achieved, as well as the factors influencing the achievements and/or non-achievement, the conceptual framework (Annex 3) was used to guide the analysis, as well as the key indicators in the logframe (Annex 5), to assess the level of progress achieved. The framework helps to assess effectiveness of the FFA results through a closer analysis of whether it was implemented as intended (Pillar 2), the suitability of the design (Pillar 1), and the extent to which internal and external factors limited or enhanced the achievement of the strategic results.

74. Planned versus Actual Beneficiaries: Based on the 2015–18 Standard Project Reports (SPRs), Table 7 shows the total number of beneficiary households targeted under the FFA interventions from 2015 to 2018.

Table 7: Planned versus actual beneficiaries for FFA (2015–19)

Year	Beneficiary category	Planned			Actual			% Actual vs Planned		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2015	Total participants	1470	1530	3000	3736	3950	7657	254.1%	258.2%	256.2%
	Total Beneficiaries	8019	8481	16500	19674	20807	40841	245.3%	245.3%	245.3%
2016	Total Participants	7511	7943	15454	7100	7499	14549	94.5%	93.8%	94.1%
	Total Beneficiaries	41310	43690	85000	38394	40329	78723	92.9%	92.3%	92.6%
2017	Total Participants	24300	25700	50000	64482	67114	131596	265.4%	261.1%	263.2%
	Total Beneficiaries	133650	141350	275000	351757	372022	723779	263.2%	263.2%	263.2%
2018	Total Participants	71803	74733	146536	84715	88172	172887	118.0%	118.0%	118.0%
	Total Beneficiaries	391689	414257	805946	453073	479173	932246	115.7%	115.7%	115.7%
2019	Total Beneficiaries:	140,931	144,931	285,862	185,179	190,438	375,617	131.4%	131.4%	131.4%

	Food Transfers									
	Total Beneficiaries: Cash-based transfers	261,728	269,159	530,887	223,795	230,150	453,945	85.5%	85.5%	85.5%

Source: SPRs 2015–18; Malawi Annual Country Report 2019. NB 2019 breakdown of beneficiaries and participants comparable to previous years not available to evaluation team.

75. **Activities and Outputs**: The core FFA interventions focus on community-based integrated natural resources management, technical support to local partners, integrated watershed management and community infrastructure development, complemented by integrated risk management and improved climate services. The main activities carried out under FFA focus on the combination of asset creation, food and cash transfers, training, insurance coverage, use of smart agricultural technologies and local institutional strengthening. Capacity building is provided both for the assets' operation and maintenance and in broader skills areas – such as use of climate information, agricultural techniques, financial management, business and marketing skills. The outputs produced between 2015 and 2019 relate largely to road rehabilitation and maintenance, construction of community and family gardens, farmer training, tree seedling production, and gully reclamation structures. All planned and achieved outputs are detailed in Annex 4 using WFP internal data and external evaluation data. Table 8 shows planned compared with actual transfers of food and cash during the implementation period.

Table 8: Planned vs actual transfers of food and cash (2016–18)

Year	Modality	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs Planned
2016	Food MT	274,166	228,812	83.5%
	Cash US$	31,261,055	9,697,653	31.0%
	Voucher	444,633	..	..
2017	Food MT	201,194	210,829	104.8%
	Cash US$	32,847,221	10,002,812	30.5%
	Voucher	..	8,540,436	..
2018	Food MT	73,314	28,643	39.1%
	Cash US$	25,741,067	16,112,453	62.6%
	Voucher	..	404,599	..
2019	Food MT	21,213	12,159	57.3%
	Cash US$	26,188,756	9,116,172	34.8%
	Voucher	..	..	..

Source: SPRs 2016–18; Malawi Annual Country Report 2019

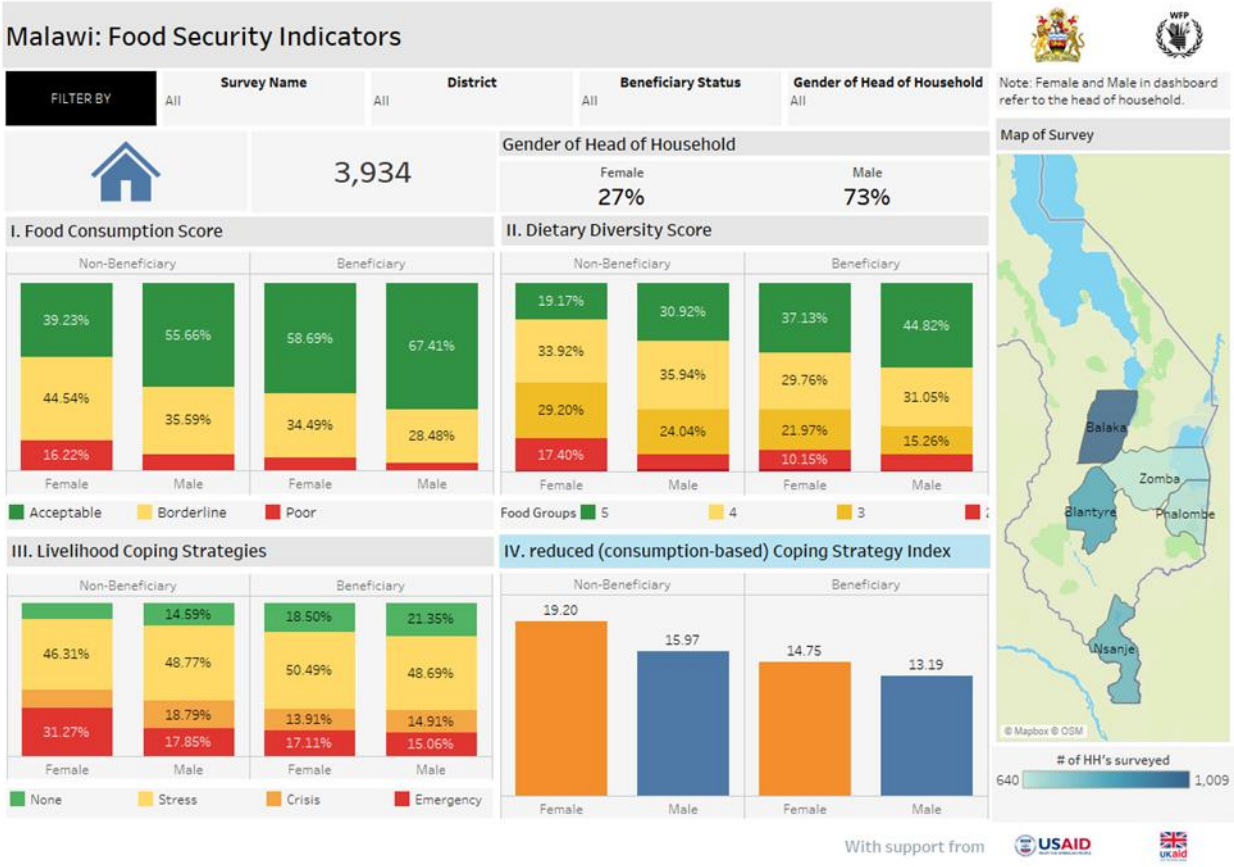
76. **Outcomes:** Over the five years of implementation, the major outcome areas were improved coping strategies and improved food security. Monitoring data also suggest improvement in the quantity and quality of community assets created through WFP support in partnership with other agencies in Malawi (Asset Impact Monitoring System (AIMS) 2017). By 2017, over 76 percent households targeted with FFA had reduced their use of negative coping mechanisms. In particular, R4 risk management strategies have supported households to increase their resilience to shocks, as shown by the Livelihood Coping Strategies Index, which indicates a drop of 40 percent in negative coping strategies (WFP 2018).[23] According to WFP baseline and outcome monitoring data, dietary diversity improvements occurred simultaneously with improved food consumption, increasingly contributing to building of resilience capacity at local level. Outcome monitoring data for 2016–19 shows that WFP FFA beneficiary households have higher food consumption scores (FCS) than non-beneficiary households (39.23 percent and 59.66 percent of non-beneficiary households headed by women and those headed by men respectively having a food consumption score of 'acceptable', compared to 58.69 percent of beneficiary households headed by women and 57.41 percent of beneficiary households headed by men). The dietary diversity patterns were slowed down by unexpected natural events such as dry spells and floods, which created threats for local resilience building initiatives. WFP beneficiary households experienced slightly better dietary diversity in terms of the number of food groups consumed (seven-day recall period), but for both groups – beneficiary and non-beneficiary – over the period 2016–19, as of 2019 less than 25 percent of those surveyed were consuming five or more food groups (outcome monitoring data).

77. **Gender Balance:** On all key indicators, the progress of households headed by women lagged behind that of households headed by men. On the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), WFP beneficiary households are resorting to slightly fewer negative coping strategies than non-beneficiary households consistently across the years 2016–19, with households headed by men overall resorting to fewer negative coping strategies than households headed by women. As the outcome monitoring data for FCS reported above shows, far fewer households headed by women met an acceptable FCS than households headed by men. This is echoed in the dietary diversity indicators: male-headed non-beneficiary households reporting consuming across five food groups was 30.92 percent, compared with 19.17 percent of households headed by women, while for beneficiary households 44.82 percent households headed by men – compared with 37.13 percent of households headed by women – reported consuming from five food groups. The same patterns can be seen in the coping strategy indices (rCSI and Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) – see Figure 3 below). This reflects the deep-rooted constraints women face in accessing assets and economic opportunities, which further worsens their vulnerability to shocks. As a result, from 2019 WFP began adopting a gender-transformative approach to respond to the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys. The gendered food security gaps in Malawi can be a result of gaps in resource access, use and intensity of utilization. For example, although women need access to land, this is often granted without the

[23] WFP R4 Update. April 2018.

means to maximise use of the resources at their disposal (skills, knowledge, training, credit and insurance) which could help in bridging the existing gender gaps. WFP has been focusing on understanding gaps in management of resources within households, understanding who controls what resources and understanding why women are not participating in programmes.

Figure 3: Malawi food security indicators (source: WFP monitoring data)



78. **FFA pillars and Resilience Outcomes:** *Using the imputed resilience scores from the RIMA-II model* there is seen to be an extremely high degree of variability in the resilience across the five districts surveyed. Generally, very high levels of resilience across all components of the model are seen in Balaka District and in Mwanbo TA in Zomba. Low levels of resilience are seen in the model within Nsanje and Chikwawa Districts and the Chikowi TA in Zomba. Phalombe District has mixed results for resilience, with stronger resilience seen within the AC pillar and the food consumption outcome, but weaker results across all other resilience metrics. This scenario is consistent with evidence from the qualitative discussions held with FFA beneficiaries in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe.

What were the main factors (internal and external) influencing the achievement and non-achievement of the FFA objectives? [SEQ4]

79. Qualitative evidence sheds light on factors underlying achievement of results. Nsanje and Chikwawa have been hit by both frequent dry spells and floods in the past five years, with Nsanje being the worst affected. In Nsanje, some of the floods destroyed household and community assets, and the situation was worsened by destruction caused by the fall armyworm, which so far has no clear solutions. The frequent dry spells tend to limit the effectiveness of some key interventions, such as tree planting and soil and conservation works, as the rainfall occurs during such a short period. Catchment management activities in Nsanje and Chikwawa also tend to be negatively affected by poor management practices, including high levels of deforestation, in the Shire Highlands (especially in Cholo and Blantyre), sometimes leading to excessive flooding that destroys individual, household, and community assets, thereby undermining the resilience of communities in these districts. Recovery efforts in these districts have been disrupted by the high frequency of dry spells and floods over the past five years, and this highlights the need for broader and more coordinated climate-resilient interventions.

How did WFP actions affect the context of gender inequality? [SEQ5, 5a & 5b]

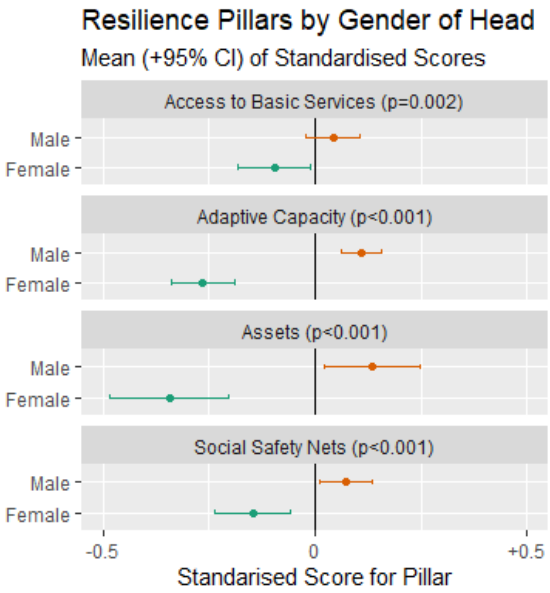
80. Based on the RIMA model resilience scores, the resilience of households headed by women was significantly lower than that of households headed by men ($p<0.001$).

81. Overall, 39 percent of households headed by women were in the lowest resilience score quintile, compared to just 12 percent of households headed by men.

82. This result is consistent across all locations included in the survey (no evidence for an interaction between TA and household gender; p = 0.195). In both of the two districts with the lowest resilience, Chikwawa and Nsanje, there were zero households headed by women in the highest resilience quintile, compared to 12 percent of the households headed by men in Chikwawa and 6 percent of the households headed by men in Nsanje.

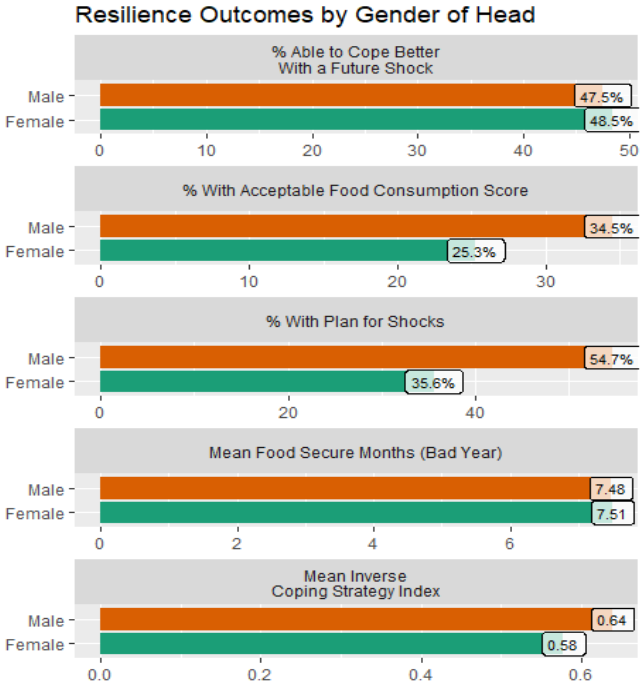
83. Households headed by women scored significantly lower than households headed by men across all four resilience pillars, with the largest differences being within the AC and AST pillars. Most of these patterns within the pillars were fairly consistent across all TAs, with the exception of the SSN pillar. Households headed by men and those headed by women had very similar scores within this pillar for six of the 10 traditional authorities surveyed: both TAs within Balaka and Phalombe, Chikowi TA (Zomba) and Mbenje TA (Nsanje).

Figure 4: Resilience pillars by sex of household head



Households headed by women only scored significantly worse than households headed by men within the SSN pillar in Mwambo TA (Zomba), Tengani TA (Nsanje) and both TAs in Chikwawa. This would suggest that support for households headed by women must extend beyond SSNs if real improvements in resilience are to be achieved.

Figure 5: Resilience outcomes by sex of household head



84. There were highly significant differences in the resilience outcomes used in the RIMA model by the gender of the household head for the FCS, the rCSI and whether the household stated they had a plan in place to deal with future shocks. There were no differences between households headed by men and households headed by women in their perceived ability to deal with future shocks or the number of food secure months expected in a bad year. The largest difference came with the plan to deal with shocks – with 55 percent of households headed by men stating they have a plan to deal with shocks, but only 36 percent households headed by women.

85. The only variable where the difference by gender varied significantly by location was the plan to deal with future shocks. Here there was no significant effect by gender of household head within six of the TAs. The TAs where there was a significant difference corresponds fairly closely to the interaction between gender and TA for the SSN pillar: Mwambo TA (Zomba) and both TAs in Chikwawa. Unlike the SSN interaction, there was a significant difference for the plan within Kalembo TA (Balaka) but no significant difference within Tengani TA (Nsanje).

86. The qualitative data helps to shed light on these differences. Gender disparities in Malawi – triggered by gaps in land rights, unequal access to education for boys and girls in environments with resource limitations, GBV and high child marriage rates and high incidences of IPV – are well documented (WFP, 2019, CSP 2019-2023).

87. Despite the targeting of vulnerable women, boys and girls in the FFA programme, this evaluation finds that the social, cultural and economic dynamics affecting empowerment of women and households headed by women continue to affect their social status and capacity to influence decision making and resource allocation processes that can transform existing gender relationships. The participation of women in productive asset initiatives created an opportunity for women to share their capabilities. But their selection to decision making positions and leadership in project committees has not changed the power structures within the communities. Men tend to control even the resources and income generated through women-focused activities such as backyard gardening, VSL schemes, and the ownership and management of livestock, pointing to a need to take account of intra-household dynamics in control over resources[24] (Strong evidence).

88. Gender inequality in the programme is affected by social norms and socially-proscribed roles and power relations. From the FGDs conducted with the FFA beneficiaries in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe, several factors affect gender inequality in the context of the programme. First is the notion of ascribed gender roles of women and men in relation to the planning and implementation of FFA activities. There is significant evidence from the FGDs that while expansion of roles for women was visible in the areas of community leadership structures, project management structures and local-level committees, this did not transform the power relationships and decision-making roles of women. In rare cases where women were chairpersons of committees, the most likely scenario is that the man would be a vice chair and control the decision-making process, except where the group or committee is predominantly female in the case of VSL. Here decision making tends to be controlled by the women but the use of income from the VSL is often still controlled by men.

89. Another critical gender-contextual dimension that emerged from the FGDs relates to how the multiple opportunities and assets created through the FFA programme may have also led to the over-burdening of women. While opportunities were created for men and women to work equitably on productive asset creation initiatives, it was women who consistently worked in soil and water conservation, afforestation and irrigation, and were predominantly involved in regular maintenance of these assets while still being expected to play their traditional and domestic roles (Strong evidence from the eight PRAs and FGDs with FFA beneficiaries). Working on project activities takes up much of the time needed for domestic chores and attending to household duties. Their workload has become an increasing source of concern, as one participant in a focus group discussion pointed out: '*The women as key FFA beneficiaries do a lot of community work for the common good, yet they receive very little money (MK 14,400). They perform major roles in the home and in the community, and they are the ones helping to maintain the household and community assets for the benefit of community members. They are also even more disadvantaged because they are excluded from any other benefits in the community project by their virtue of being beneficiaries of FFA'.*

90. Despite the challenges of fully integrating transformative gender approaches into FFA and integrated resilience programming, women's representation in leadership and management roles for effective community asset management has been increasing. The FFA programme has created multiple entry points strengthening gender equality work and women's empowerment initiatives, building on the existing asset

[24] This trend was mentioned in all eight PRAs and eight FGDs conducted with men and women beneficiaries regardless of the patriarchal and matrilineal context of the community. For example, in Phalombe, a predominately matrilineal society, men were reported to dominate decision processes relating to asset management and control of productive resources. In both Chikwawa and Nsanje, it was reported that even if women are occupying positions in management committees, they tend to rely on the men for decision making.

base, in which women have been playing a significant role, and on women-driven interventions in the areas of nutrition and backyard gardens, VSL, small livestock keeping and marketing and maintenance of key assets. The continued participation by women has contributed to the visibility, credibility and enhanced sustainability of assets created by the FFA programme.[25] The VSL initiatives have also led to increased purchase and ownership of assets by women and other vulnerable groups, enabling the diversification of livelihood opportunities for communities affected by climate-induced shocks in the operational environment (Strong evidence).

91. Systems for planning, coordination and implementation are important for ensuring local ownership and relevance: FFA beneficiaries and community leaders who participated in the PRAs and FGDs acknowledge that the design and layering of the different interventions was informed by community participatory planning processes involving the different key service sectors, local community structures and institutions as well as communities themselves at TA and village levels. From the perspective of district stakeholders, the processes of multi-sector collaboration and inclusive community planning ensured local ownership and relevance of activities (for example planning, community mobilization, agriculture and natural resources, forestry, fisheries, irrigation and disaster risk management initiatives) that can be implemented by communities with support from different technical sectors. This created a strong foundation for an integrated approach at community and district levels. In practice, all activities identified in the participatory planning process have some link with government technical services. The emphasis on land, agriculture and natural resource-based activities means there are closer synergies with relevant government departments on land, agriculture and Natural Resource Management (NRM). Community-based activities such as VSL are linked with community development services, who help with group formation, training and capacity building, monitoring and management of group dynamics and growth of the VSL.

92. The coordination of the implementation of FFA and resilience interventions reflects a collaboration between ADCs and VDCs, supported by local-level technical committees, in agriculture, civic protection, asset management and project management. The participation of all these structures in the participatory community-based planning process has enabled them to understand their roles and responsibilities in the planning and development process without engaging in conflicts. However, in some cases there is discomfort in having project-specific committees, as local community and traditional structures tend to feel marginalized when project management committees control activity implementation processes,[26] as they work with very tight deadlines to deliver their targets without following all the required implementation protocols by the community leadership structures. Added to this institutional landscape are what some NGO partners call 'Village Agents', who act as vehicles for effective delivery of services and assistance programmes at village level.The Village Agents are viewed positively, as they connect well with implementation partners in facilitating mobilization of communities for VSL and they support group formation processes and coordination of VSL initiatives at local level. Their value-added role was well explained in Phalombe, where they are viewed as equally important as the lead farmers who play a key role in farmer-to-farmer learning and training.

Which assets, or combination of assets, contributed the most and least towards the achievement of FFA outcomes? [SEQ6]

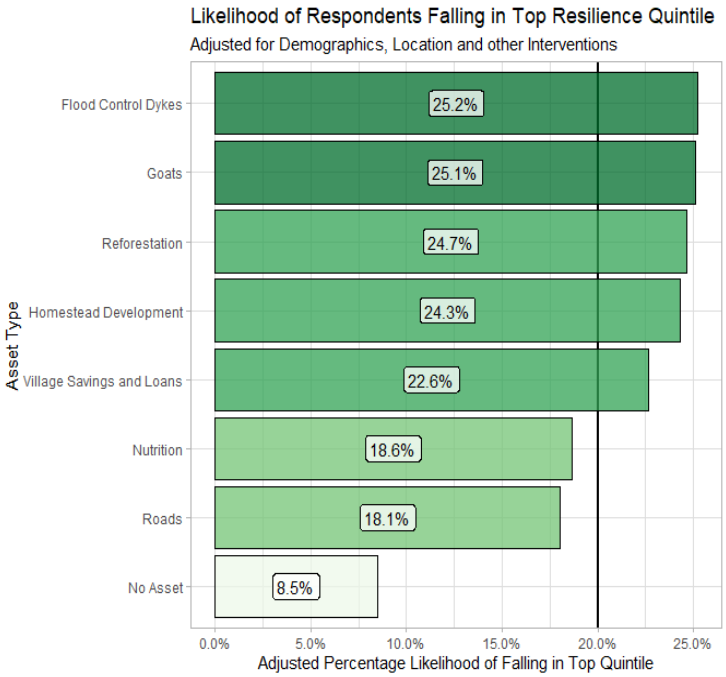
[25] While this was strongly mentioned in the PRAs and FGDs with FFA beneficiaries, women were observed in TA Chiwaro, Phalombe District, coming from maintaining the community woodlots by the evaluation team.

[26] The issue of potential creation of parallel structures through project committees that do not integrate local community leadership was raised in all 8 FGDs with community leaders – mainly ADC, VDC and VCPC members.

93. Overall resilience scores from the RIMA model were significantly higher for households in villages where any assets were created compared to those without any asset creation. The likelihood of a household being classified within the top resilience quintile from within a village which received no assets was 8.5 percent.

94. Considering the seven asset types which were implemented in at least five of the surveyed villages, the marginal effect of each asset type was positive, suggesting a cumulative effect of increasing different types of assets.

Figure 6: Likelihood of respondents being in top resilience



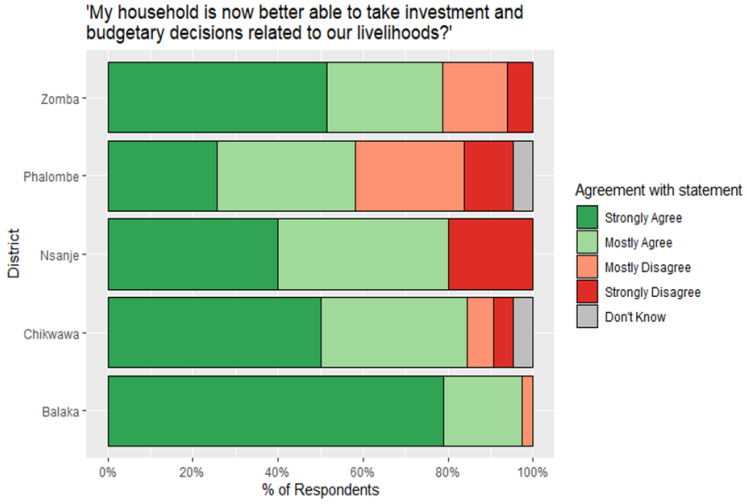
95. Four of the assets produced statistically significantly higher resilience scores at the 5 percent significance level, as compared to the villages which did not have those assets but did have other assets produced. These were flood control dykes, goats, reforestation, and homestead development. The most frequently cited homestead development activities identified as significant assets in all FGDs were improved shelter roofed with iron sheets, backyard gardens for improved household nutrition and having an improved stove in the household. Beneficiaries with all these assets were ranked in the well-off group during wealth ranking exercises during the PRA process in all the sites visited.

96. The qualitative assessments in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe identify the most appropriate asset contributions to desired resilience outcomes. These were mainly flood control measures, reforestation and community woodlots based on the principle of integrated watershed management approach, VSL schemes, backyard gardens for nutrition and community-based irrigation. The different asset categories highlight the need to maximise the use of complementary approaches in sustainable watershed/catchment management practices, livestock pass-on schemes, solar-powered irrigation schemes, VSL capacity building and livelihood diversification initiatives.

Are households and targeted communities using the knowledge acquired through farmer field schools, demonstrations, and/or other FFA asset-based training? [SEQ7]

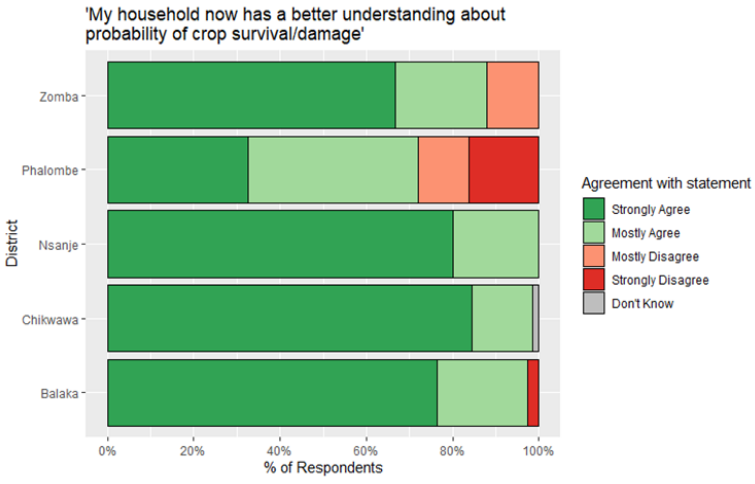
97. Following participatory community-based planning processes, relevant technical areas of training are identified through the multi-sectoral coordination agency at district level. In Chikwawa and Nsanje several priorities for training and capacity building were identified, including mapping and understanding of shocks, forestry planning and management, food for asset creation, irrigation, agro-forestry, soil and water conservation, tree planting, nutrition and backyard gardening, crop insurance, road maintenance and management, gender training and sensitization, climate change and climate services, training in Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA), farmer led-demonstration and convening learning platforms. As more components of resilience were added, beneficiaries were trained in smallholder agricultural marketing, post-harvest management, access to markets, sustainable cooperatives.

Figure 7: Extent to which PICSA training relates to improved ability to make livelihoods-related budgetary and investment decisions: households headed by men and households headed by women



98. The use of the knowledge gained across the training ('knowledge into use') has been evidenced through: various training reports produced by the partners; high levels of participation in the creation and management of relevant assets; evidence of reforestation and flood control interventions by the community; use of diversified crop varieties in the field; increased market and trade opportunities; and farmer-to-farmer training and collaboration on how to establish institutional and support linkages with other programmes and organizations. The training is usually delivered through the multi-stakeholder approach with the guidance of district councils. Survey data directly relates participation in PICSA training to better understanding, with 90 percent of participants indicating improved understanding of the probability of crop survival/damage (Figure 7) and 80 percent of participants indicating improved ability to make budgetary and investment decisions related to livelihoods (Figure 8). It is notable that the uptake of PICSA training is not significantly different between households headed by men and households headed by women, suggesting that the programme includes more households headed by women relative to their share of the sample/ population.

Figure 8: Extent to which PICSA training relates to better household understanding of probability of crop survival/damage: households headed by men and households headed by women



99. The key challenges regarding use of knowledge gained relate to: limited access to inputs, as these are sometimes over-priced by agro-dealers; early marriages, linked to some women abandoning training; migration into neighbouring countries without using the knowledge gained; COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings for meetings and training; limited access to Android as well as ordinary phones for farms to

access latest information and service for agriculture before onset of rains; training in GBV prevention and monitoring; and training on how to handle shocks and cope within a challenging environment.

Key findings and conclusions – Question 2. Effectiveness. To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes, and strategic results been achieved?

- FFA achieved planned outputs over the course of implementation, with some overreaching of targets and some flexible rescheduling of activities in response to contextual factors such as pipeline delays.
- The integrated approach to resilience building, which saw the connection of FFA to two pilot project initiatives – R4 and GFCS – and the IRMP, resulted in significant food security outcomes during the implementation period, setting a strong foundation for increased household food consumption and diversification.
- FFA also led to improved quality of assets at household and community level, increased ability to recover from the impacts of shocks, improved knowledge and capacity to withstand future shocks and improved household and community well-being.
- Overall resilience scores from the RIMA model were significantly higher for households in villages where any assets were created compared to those without any asset creation.
- The resilience of households headed by women was significantly lower than that of households headed by men. Households headed by women had significantly lower food consumption scores and Coping Strategy Index scores.
- FFA has created multiple entry points for strengthening GEWE. The number of women in leadership positions increased. Women's participation has not changed power structures within communities, with men retaining control of resources and income generated through women-focused activities.

2.3 EFFICIENCY: TO WHAT EXTENT WAS FFA IMPLEMENTED EFFICIENTLY? [EQ3]

100. **Context:** 2015 was a time of unprecedented humanitarian need in Malawi, with devastating floods and dry spells culminating in the driest planting season (October–December 2015) in 35 years. Coupled with the difficult macroeconomic environment and poor previous growing season, the situation escalated into the country's worst food insecurity in a decade. Impacts extended into 2016 and 2017. To address chronic food insecurity, WFP scaled up FFA activities under PRRO 200692 to build the resilience of 44,000 participants in four districts in 2015. There was a need for significantly higher levels of resources to respond to the unprecedented levels of acute food insecurity, as well as to maintain and scale up ongoing safety net and development programmes, which led to budget revisions in 2016.

101. Given the challenging context, WFP was able to respond efficiently, on the whole, to meet increased demands on FFA. To respond to scale-up of operations and increased demand for resources from 2016, WFP increased its staffing capacity from 155 to 261, to quickly roll out activities during the emergency response period, creating a recruitment roster and training an internal core interview panel to streamline processes and increase recruitment efficiency (SPR 2016).

102. Improvements in organizational performance were also made wherever possible to ensure value for money, for example pooling demand for Internet services, use of vehicles and other joint common services with other UN agencies, reducing travel costs for staff between Lilongwe and Blantyre, and minimising vehicle costs by renting local vehicles as needed, which enabled WFP to maintain the necessary wide-scale field presence to run and monitor operations at a lower cost (SPR 2016).

103. Programme efficiency benefits from complementary activities: During the 2017 El Niño response WFP worked with partners to link beneficiaries with a range of low-tech, low-risk projects and complementary assistance. FFA was complemented by two pilot initiatives, R4 and GFCS. By 2017, the synergies across complementary initiatives had enhanced outcomes and potential impacts of the FFA programme through improved risk management, improved household wealth status, increased adoption of appropriate varieties after receiving weather and climate information and forecasts, and reduced loss through access to insurance, business training services and post-harvest management skills (SPR 2017).

Were all activities under FFA implemented on time? Was an adequate number of tools/ resources provided? (timeliness, quality, relevance, efficient utilization) [SEQ8&9]

104. Lack of timeliness in the delivery of commodities was experienced across the different FFA districts, often due to 'pipeline' problems – out of WFP control – which adversely affected procurement. Where NFIs (such as seeds, hand tools, agricultural equipment pumps, etc.) were not available, for example, this delayed implementation. Some delays in payment of beneficiaries affected their motivation to participate in FFA activities – pointing to the need to sensitise about the intrinsic value of the activities. However, in a context of chronic food insecurity, meeting food needs means participants may have no choice but to prioritise seeking out work elsewhere (for example piecework) over working on programme activities.

105. The qualitative data reveals some persistent delays in the payment of beneficiaries for FFA activities which could run up to three months for the project. This impacted negatively on the beneficiaries who, anticipating payment of cash transfers due to them, were forced to take out high-interest loans that reduced the net value of the cash transfers when they were finally paid. Beneficiaries' narratives indicate that one would be required to pay twice as much as they borrowed from these loans, such that if one borrowed MK 5,000 they would pay MK 10,000. Thus, when the money comes in, they end up with only MK 4,400. There is a need to improve on efficiency, including beneficiary payments.

106. A review of the SPR and monitoring reports provides evidence of widespread delays due to a variety of reasons across the implementation period, not always within WFP control. The reports also detail actions taken to mitigate and overcome delays:

- According to the 2015 Balaka monitoring report the programme was unable to deliver in-kind food assistance in April, which contributed to distributing less food than planned. Pipeline problems meant that just 113 out of 1696 Balaka households managed to access vegetable oil. None of the 1696 households accessed vegetable oil in July due to pipeline problems. However, flexibility in carrying funding over from previous years (e.g., 2014 to 2015) meant WFP was able to scale up FFA activities and overreach on planned beneficiaries (e.g. 245 percent of planned beneficiaries in 2015 in Balaka, Zomba, Karonga and Phalombe) to address chronic food insecurity.
- The SPR 2017 report notes that not all assets were created as planned in 2017, owing to the unavailability of some of the NFIs (seeds/hand tools, agricultural equipment/mobility/pumps etc.) and activities were pushed back to 2018. While implementation appears to have been successful and timely in Chikwawa, district monitoring reports describe a number of delays elsewhere:
    - Phalombe: delivery of NFI and some delayed distribution.
    - Nsanje: Delays in completing irrigation schemes affecting completion of fishponds due to the contractor in Nsanje (May 2017); delays in distribution of work materials in most interventions; some missed payments to beneficiaries and delays in rectifying this.
    - Machinga: delays in procurement of the NFIs meant some activities were not completed by December 2017, i.e. tree planting. The gaps from the existing plans were to be covered during the extension period (January and February 2018).
    - Mangochi: NFIs were received and distributed as per plan, although there was a delay due to an initial failure of the suppliers to deliver the items in the required quantities. Delay in the cash distribution affected some planned works, as some beneficiaries opted to temporarily stop working or participate until they received the outstanding cash transfers. Participants reported being happy with the project and the training being conducted, but there are demands that food should be brought in time from WFP.
- In 2018, delays in procurement and distribution of NFIs affected the start of activities. Delays in receipt of cash and food entitlements affected motivation of beneficiaries. For example: delayed cash and food resulting in some beneficiaries being reluctant to work on (Chikwawa; Mangochi); delays in payments when people did not receive their phone on time (Chikwawa); beneficiaries dissatisfied with Airtel as the distributer of funds and source of the delays (Mangochi); delays in procurement and starting activities – one month late – due to budget negotiations (Machinga). There were also incidences of failure of communities to meet targets for activities (Balaka). Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities were not carried out in Phalombe due to lack of resources – materials for creation of assets – and delays in food distribution. Inadequate materials for watering group gardens were also reported in Mangochi: beneficiaries were advised to mulch their vegetable beds, which successfully reduced water losses (Mangochi 2018).

- 2019 also saw delayed distributions of incentives. Beneficiaries were yet to receive their November and December 2018 incentives, hence they were reluctant to continue working (Chikwawa 2019; Mangochi 2019 narrative reports); delayed cash and food transfers affected the community's morale to work, as they experienced food insecurity (Phalombe December 2019 narrative report). A major challenge throughout the project cycle has been delays in start-up of the activities, which exerted considerable pressure regarding timely delivery, especially if implementers wanted to make any necessary adjustments (Nsanje 2019 narrative report). Competition for labour with farm activities resulted in reduced commitment towards FFA activities (Zomba 2019 narrative report). Late onset of rains also delayed tree planting. Beneficiaries had not received entitlements for November and December, leading to reluctance to participate in asset creation while they sought piecework to meet food needs (Chikwawa 2019 narrative report).

What factors affected the efficiency of the programme? [SEQ10]

107. A number of challenges to efficiency can be identified. WFP operational flexibility means it was able to adapt to some extent to meet increased needs. For example, when cash transfer values go above the funds available (e.g., 2018), WFP programmes for high transfer values, which allows for fluctuations to be absorbed within the grant ranges; WFP also fundraises to meet gaps, and leverages internal resources. Where there may be underperformance under key FFA and integrated resilience activities and savings, seasons permitting, WFP shifts activities from one quarter to the next for their completion.

108. Funding constraints occurred at numerous points: The review of SPRs identifies funding constraints at various points throughout implementation, affecting the availability and timeliness regarding the distribution of in-kind food assistance as well as cash-based transfers, which WFP mitigated in various ways (see above). Activities across all operations experienced ration cuts throughout 2016 for various commodities, when contributions took up to four months to be received. Access to internal advance financing (2016) allowed for the start-up of procurement and project activities: '*Overall, WFP received donor approval to access advance financing 45 times in 2016, which resulted in time gains by as much as two months*' (SPR 2016). The year 2018 saw a decline in available financial resources following the big emergency of 2017 that had required more funding than usual. Only 40 percent of the requirements for the year were met, leading to operational challenges. FFA was extended in duration during the lean season, with the provision of additional transfers (Annex 4.1 and Table 7 above).

109. Rapid scale-up poses monitoring challenges: In project review meetings, post-2014 implementation, WFP noted challenges in tracking of progress, monitoring and reporting. From 2016 WFP increased monitoring and evaluation (M&E) coordination and reporting to ensure availability of evidence-based results to inform programming. However, the increased scale of implementation had knock-on effects on monitoring. For example: '*Huge caseload against number of resources (motorbikes and cars) has made monitoring a much daunting task […] There has been a relapse in monitoring and following targets due to pressure of work where the same field facilitators have also been supporting the scale-up GVHs. Need for more support team and resources and timely engagement of additional facilitators*' (Balaka Monitoring Report 2018).

Key findings and conclusions – Question 3. Efficiency: To what extent was FFA implemented efficiently?

- WFP was able to respond efficiently to meet increased demands on FFA and the scale-up of activities after 2016, for example by internal and external fundraising, rapidly increasing staffing and improving overall organizational efficiency.
- Synergies across complementary initiatives maximised outcomes and potential impacts of the FFA programme.
- Evidence of widespread delays across the different FFA districts, such as late delivery of commodities due to 'pipeline' problems, throughout the implementation period. These were often not within WFP control.
- WFP operational flexibility means it was able to adapt to some extent to meet challenges, through fundraising, leveraging internal resources, and shifting activities from one quarter to the next.

- Delays in payments to FFA participants affected motivation to participate in FFA activities and impacted negatively on the beneficiaries, in some cases leading to reliance on high-interest loans eroding the value of cash transfers once they were paid.

2.4 IMPACT: TO WHAT DEGREE HAVE THE PROJECT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES CONTRIBUTED TO PROGRESS TOWARDS RESILIENCE? [EQ4]

To what extent, and how, has FFA been useful before, during or after a shock? [SEQ11]

110. The evaluation provides strong evidence that FFA, through its carefully layered and adapted interventions, is useful in preparing the households before, during and after shocks (Strong evidence). This is supported by quantitative and qualitative data. The communities generally perceive a resilient household as one that has livestock, fruits, food, vegetables, their children attend school, and it has no labour constraints. To an extent FFA has helped increase assets, which has helped households from resorting to negative coping mechanisms during shocks. By the end of 2019, beneficiaries had improved food security, especially during the six months between July and December when FFA was in session. However, the most challenging months for hunger are January to March, at the height of the lean season. Therefore, the hunger gap is reduced for most families during the months covered by FFA, but the months when the hunger situation tends to be worse fall outside the FFA schedule.

111. RIMA results present strong evidence that strengthening resilience 'pillars' leads to strengthening resilience 'outcomes' and project components. After adjusting for demographic and location factors there were no significant differences in the resilience scores between households who reported that they had faced recent major shocks, since the start of 2020, and those who did not report major shocks since the start of 2020. This suggests that no impact on food consumption could be detected based on the recent occurrence of a shock, suggesting that households receiving assistance had the capacity to exercise resilience in the face of shocks. However, the perception of what is a shock will vary from household to household, and in relation to previous climatic shocks experienced within the region there were no major shocks occurring recently within the project areas. Therefore, until widespread and major shocks are experienced, it is only possible to show hypothetical evidence of increased resilience to shocks.

112. Soil and water conservation assets helped the preparedness of the communities to shocks such as dry spells/floods, mitigated dry spells and helped them increase yields; deep trenches redirected water away from households and gardens, thereby protecting the crops and household assets during floods (Strong evidence from PRAs and FGDs with FFA beneficiaries across the three districts).

113. The households have, to an extent, invested some of the money from cash transfers into VSL, and some have bought livestock which have helped to cushion them during shocks, to avoid resorting to negative coping mechanisms. This was emphasized in all the PRAs and FGDs in Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts.[27]

114. There has been spillover of WFP interventions to non-beneficiaries for almost all the assets, especially vegetable gardens, VSL, water and soil conservation structures, planting trees, and sanitation facilities.[28]

115. There is evidence that women, girls, men and boys have been impacted. Women had economic empowerment both as beneficiaries of cash transfers and as VSL members, they had the backyard vegetable gardens, and they benefited from involvement in irrigation farming, which facilitated their gender

[27] For example, in Nantus GVH, in TA Makhuwira (Chikwawa District), it was reported that most people who received cash transfers managed to invest in savings and loan schemes, purchasing of goats and flood protection, especially following heavy rainfall and flooding in 2019.

[28] In both Chikwawa and Nsanje, non-participating households were reported to have immediately adopted soil and water conservation, tree planting, and planting of vetiver grass around their cropping fields after seeing the impact of these interventions from the FFA beneficiaries. Besides through the watershed management approach, some protection measures had to be implemented, even on the land of non-beneficiaries.

role as primary providers of food.[29] Men benefited from the money from the cash transfers, which enabled them to perform their socially ascribed roles as bread winners providing for their family's food requirements, with knock-on benefits for male-headed households. It was pointed out in all the PRAs and FGDs conducted in Nsanje District that men during FFA had no reason to migrate out of the community to risk migrant unskilled jobs in Mozambique. This contributed to a reduction in the labour constraints that the migration of men normally causes to the women who stay behind. Boys and girls benefited as secondary beneficiaries: when food was made available by their parents it improved their school attendance and prevented early marriages (that girls are vulnerable to due to the desperation caused by hunger and poverty). There were no explicit interventions targeted for girls and boys.

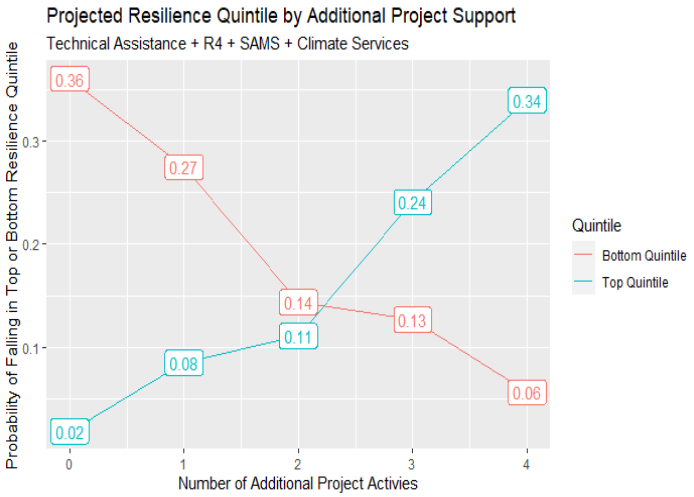
116. In summary, households have improved their short-term and long-term food requirements; but, based on their own narratives, they still cannot afford to eat three times a day, and the reason they cite is inadequate food and/or money. There was consensus among all the qualitative respondents that they would prefer FFA to be extended from six months to nine months – to cover these problematic months – or reschedule FFA to start in October and end in March. On the other hand, there is confidence by community members and their leaders that expanding irrigation coverage would actually help to close the hunger gap and put the beneficiaries on a path of real transformation.

What mechanisms did the community use to react to these shocks? [SEQ12]

117. Several FFA activities were used to cope with shocks experienced over the last four years. These included activities such as receiving food or cash transfers, the assets, savings and insurance, among others. Figure 9 shows the proportion of households indicating which were the most important element of the FFA activities to help them deal with shocks.

118. The food or cash for work modality in the community was widely cited as the most important element of dealing with the shocks, particularly in Phalombe (where households were more likely to be matrilineal) where over 80 percent of households cited this as the most useful FFA activity for them. Making use of agricultural techniques promoted by the project was also a widely reported coping mechanism, particularly in Balaka, where this was seen as more useful than the food or cash for work. In the remaining districts there was a fairly even mix of responses between preferences for the cash transfers and the agricultural training/support. Use of the assets created was also important in dealing with the shocks. Other important coping mechanisms included savings, insurance and engagement in community activities.

Figure 9: Projected resilience quintile by additional project support



119. KIIs with implementers highlighted that insurance products are 'too technical' for community members to understand and local expertise is limited on the products. Implementers have relied on WFP partners to sensitise farmers on insurance (in general, insurance penetration in Malawi is only 3 percent) but farmers are confused about how the insurance mechanisms and calculations work in practice. As a result, they have found that insurance works better if the premium is paid by WFP to the insurance company, then deducted from the payment for the farmers' labour, rather than dealing directly with farmers. However, this would represent just a short-term fix and, in a context of government aiming to move people away from

[29] The most frequently cited benefit for boys and girls was availability of food in the home and access to education for both boys and girls, especially in Chikwawa and Nsanje, where acute hunger would prevent them from going to school and girls would be married off early for families to survive.

assistance and dependence on support, an effective route to sensitization and building farmers' understanding and buy-in is essential. Related to this, providers believed insurance products need to be considered within WFP integrated package (linked to R4, climate services, etc.). Given the high levels of poverty in Malawi, farmers would be unable to pay 100 percent of the insurance on their own without WFP (or other donor) assistance.

120. Where beneficiary households received all four of the additional project support activities, they had a predicted probability of 0.34 of being within the top resilience quintile, and a probability of just 0.06 of being in the bottom resilience quintile. Households receiving none of the additional project activities had a probability of just 0.02 of being in the top resilience quintile and a probability of 0.36 of being in the bottom resilience quintile (Figure 10).

121. The mechanisms by which the interventions are related to the resilience pillars and the resilience outcomes are all very different (Table 9).

Table 9: Project support activities association with resilience pillars

	Access to Basic Services	Adaptive Capacity	Assets	Social Security Nets
Technical Assistance	NS	NS	NS	NS
R4	NS	*	NS	***
SAMS	NS	*	*	NS
Climate Services	*	NS	NS	***

NS = p>0.05; *: p<0.05; **: p<0.01; *** p<0.001

122. The R4 intervention is significantly associated with higher scores in the AC and SSN pillars. The SAMS intervention is significantly associated with high scores for AC and ASTs. The climate services intervention was significantly associated with higher scores for the ABS and the SSN pillars. There was no significant link between the technical assistance modality and any of the resilience pillars.

123. When considering the resilience outcomes, each of the five variables included in the RIMA model was significantly related to different sets of the interventions. The food consumption scores were significantly higher where respondents received technical assistance and R4; the food secure months in a bad year were significantly linked to R4; ability to cope with future shocks was significantly linked to technical assistance, R4 and SAMS; having a plan to deal with future shocks was significantly linked to R4, SAMS and climate services; the Coping Strategy Index was significantly linked to SAMS and climate services (Table 10).

Table 10: Project support activities and resilience outcomes

	Food consumption score	Food secure months (bad year)	Cope with future shocks	Plan for future shocks	Coping Strategy Index
Technical Assistance	*	NS	*	NS	NS
R4	*	*	*	***	***
SAMS	NS	NS	***	**	*
Climate Services	NS	NS	**	**	***

NS = p>0.05; *: p<0.05; **: p<0.01; *** p<0.001

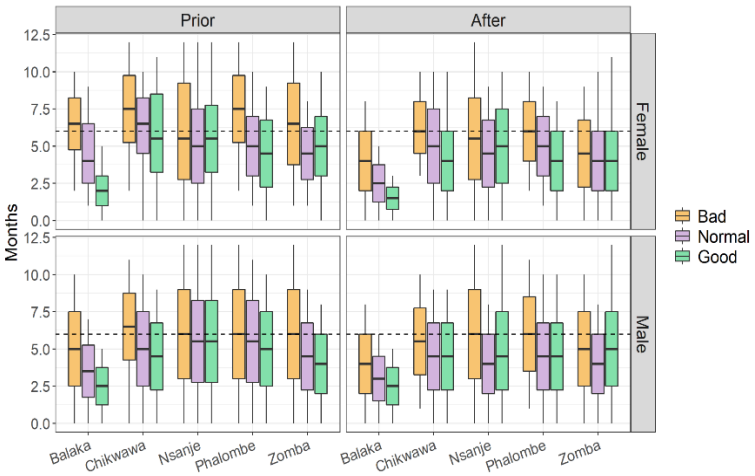
How did the FFA Programme change the lives and livelihoods of the direct project beneficiaries? [SEQ13]

124. Overall, qualitative data from the eight PRAs and eight FGDs with men and women beneficiaries shows that the combination of short-term food and cash transfers with longer-term resilience interventions resulted in improved assets and infrastructure that led to improved food availability, income generation and more household assets controlled by women, such as small livestock. The improvements were largely attributed to the FFA package that enabled household members to diversify their sources of food and income and, in some cases, to practice winter farming, especially following periods of flooding and also as a result of the watershed management approach which raised the water table (PRAs and FGDs in Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts).

125. This is backed up by the quantitative data: the number of food deficit months before and after the introduction of the FFA for the three different types of years (bad, normal and good) showed a general decline for most of the districts. The median numbers of food deficit months before and after are shown in Figure 11.

126. The median number of food gap months for households headed by women in Balaka, declined across the three different types of year. For example, in a bad year, the number of food insecure months was about six. In the bad year but after the introduction of FFA, the number of months dropped to about four. In the households headed by men for Balaka District, there is a similar pattern. There is a general decline across all districts following the introduction of the FFA.

Figure 10: Distribution of food deficit months categorised by normal, bad and good months before and after FFA intervention



127. Training has further increased knowledge in different ways. For example, most households agreed they had a better understanding of crop survival and damage as a result of the programme. Likewise, most households were in agreement (either strongly or mostly) that their households were now able to take investment and budgetary decisions related to their livelihoods (discussed above).

What are the unintended effects of FFA on targeted individuals, households and communities and potential spill over effects? [SEQ14]

128. Evidence gathered through FGDs suggests that individuals, households and communities were mainly positively affected with spillover or 'unintended' effects of the project. Based on the PRAs and FGDs across the three districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe, spillover effects were created through the replication of community-level interventions (afforestation, soil and water conservation) at household level and increased adoption by non-beneficiaries after seeing considerable benefits from the FFA interventions. This phenomenon is generally positive, as the productive asset creation principle has been informing the resilient response to shocks by the communities in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe Districts. The trend seems similar in other districts, based on the implementation progress reports by WFP partners.

129. VSL promotion has also created some significant positive unintended effects through accelerating investment by women in livestock assets across all districts visited by the evaluation team, as evidenced by stories of change by (mostly) women in the FGDs with FFA beneficiaries in the three districts (Strong evidence of impact). This could be a key tipping point in shaping future gender relationships at household level, where such assets were previously the business of men in the community. One of the key positive dimensions of this development is women being viewed by community leaders as asset holders with capabilities to generate and diversify their income and market base.[30]

[30] In both Chikwawa and Nsanje, the FGDs with community leaders and the mixed men and women FGD beneficiaries group highlighted the progress being made by women in acquiring livestock and other productive assets, which is slowly changing the perception of their roles at household level as the roles have become more collaborative and mutually supportive following their exposure to gender through the programme and government awareness programmes.

130. While women have been participating alongside men in the productive asset creation and maintenance initiatives, an observed unintended impact has been the increased burden on women, as they still have to perform their domestic chores at home after working in the afforestation, soil and water conservation and community asset creation initiatives (discussed above). Men are not willing to participate in the domestic chores of women, as per social and cultural norms, and this creates a disproportionate burden for women and girls that is harmful to their health and well-being. This is a potential barrier for the empowerment of women. The issue of increased workload on women needs to be properly investigated.

What was the impact on gender (men, women, girls and boys), the social networks and fabric of community and power balance of households and communities of the targeted population? [SEQ15]

131. The FFA programme's diverse range of activities over the period 2015 to 2019 has had varied impacts on men, women, girls and boys from a gender equity and quality perspective. The short-term interventions through food and cash transfers helped to ensure access to food by all members of the targeted households. In TA Tengani, Nsanje District, it was pointed out that women tend to be more psychologically affected if there is a shortage of food in the household, and they were quick to respond to productive asset creation interventions that created opportunities for reducing the hunger gap within the household.

132. Watershed management has improved water access, with widespread benefits. The depletion and drying up of water sources such as rivers and boreholes, which has been happening frequently in areas such as Chikwawa and Nsanje, is caused by prolonged and unpredictable dry spells. This often impacts negatively on women and children, who have to walk long distances to fetch water. The watershed management approach that anchored the FFA programme proved to be of immense benefit to men through easy access to water for livestock and irrigation, and to women through access to water for domestic and productive use, as well as ensuring the maintenance of good sanitation and hygiene practices within households and communities (Strong evidence from PRAs and FGDs with FFA beneficiaries across all three districts).

133. Despite the prevailing sociocultural norms, the FFA interventions challenged traditional work norms and habits through building household and community solidarity networks and partnerships through shared responsibilities in the planning and management of asset creation interventions at household and community levels, creating a mutually supportive environment for gender equity and equality. Men and women worked alongside each other in flood protection interventions and in social and water conservation activities, which helped build confidence in the capabilities of women by the local leadership and in households. Consequently, women who participated in the PRAs and FGDs in the three districts indicated that they have been allowed to invest in livestock enterprises and other durable assets as part of their contribution to the resilience of the household. Despite these achievements, most women still reported that decision making power resides with the men, as per local culture, in terms of the use of income and disposal of the acquired assets. Continued effort is therefore needed to promote gender equity and equality in the FFA programme through exploring more gender-transformative programmes such as the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), which uses a gender-transformative approach for impactful gender-sensitive programming (Strong evidence).

How did the FFA Programme benefit the targeted communities as a whole? [SEQ16]

134. Evidence gathered from the PRAs suggest widespread benefits at individual, household and community levels. The PRAs conducted with men and women FFA beneficiaries across the three districts showed that individuals participating in FFA activities are benefiting from cash transfers to meet households' basic needs (improving yields), lives and property protection (afforestation, check dams and reforestation/riverbank protection) and asset building (livestock, houses). Individuals also understand that activities such as VSL (capital for small-scale businesses), roads rehabilitation, irrigation farming, soil and water conservation technologies and backyard gardens contribute to reduce impact of effects of shocks.

135. Households understand the role of FFA interventions (afforestation, planting trees, check dams, planting elephant grass) as a means to control floods and reduce the impact on their lives and property. The FFA packages contribute to the creation of household assets such as houses and livestock, mitigating the impact of shocks. Households have bought goats and constructed iron roofed houses from the cash

transfers.[31] Soil and water conservation interventions (manure making, swales, infiltration pits, agro-forestry) have improved soil fertility and moisture retention, hence enabling better yields for household food security.

136. At community level, FFA has enabled creation of community assets such as village forests for flood control, making communities and infrastructure safe. These are being well maintained through organised community structures, involving leadership structures at traditional authority and village levels. Road rehabilitation works have benefited all the community members through improved road networks in the area, hence enabling easy access to health services and easing mobility to markets. Catchment rehabilitation works such as soil and water conservation technologies have helped in recharging water resources – key for sustained irrigation and water points.

137. The flow of benefits from FFA interventions targets vulnerable and poor households able to provide labour for productive asset creation, with men, women, boys and girls benefiting directly and indirectly. All household members benefited from improvements in food security, nutrition, income diversification, access to water and better sanitation and hygienic services. It was clearly pointed out, in FGDs with both men and women, that women and girls benefited the most from the availability of food and reduced distances in accessing water. More significantly, girls and boys were able to continuously attend school owing to availability of food in the household, and early marriages – which used to be rampant during lean periods – have been averted. In the PRA discussions in Kaleso VGH, TA Tengani, Nsanje District, it was pointed out that the soil and water conservation, tree planting, road rehabilitation, check dams and pass-on schemes benefited men through: i) being able to provide for their families without having to migrate into neighbouring countries; ii) saving labour and costs through reducing impact of floods on houses and infrastructure; and iii) accumulating assets through pass-on initiatives. Men acquired the necessary knowledge and skills for ensuring broader food security and livelihood choices for their families to help to protect their families from recurrent shocks through their participation in FFA interventions. It was pointed out in all the FGDs conducted that where women had labour constraints in their contributions, men would usually come forward to support their wives.

138. At a broader community level, communities in districts such as Chikwawa and Nsanje made it clear in the PRAs and FGDs that they were able to cope with dry spells through planting early maturing and drought-tolerant crops and locally adapted crop varieties; winter cropping involving sweet potatoes, legumes and maize in wetland areas; use of VSL income for livestock pass-on schemes; and initiation of small businesses such as selling vegetables and fish vending. The construction of check dams and riverbank protection systems helped in reducing the impact of floods, significantly reducing loss of lives, property and essential assets in the community. For equitable impact, communities felt strongly that strong social protection mechanisms and empowerment initiatives would be needed for households with no labour, in particular those with people living with disabilities, HIV and AIDs, and the elderly. These groups were the most excluded in the FFA programme.

Do participants in FFA experience long-term benefits from the assets created through the project? What were some these benefits and how did they impact the community? [SEQ17]

139. Despite alluding to the increase in the frequency of dry spells, floods and the threat of the fall armyworm, men, women and local leaders focus groups were able to highlight some of the key long-term benefits generated through the productive asset creation focus of the programme. For example, investment in livestock asset creation, management and value chain development was triggered by the knowledge gained on the importance of assets in resilience building, to the extent that women now predominantly own the small livestock such as goats, chicken and pigs while men focus more on the bigger livestock such as cattle. Women use their cash transfers and earnings from VSL to purchase assets such as livestock as a longer-term investment to prepare for future shocks. Men and women participate actively in afforestation and restoration initiatives, as these assets help to control the impacts of floods and strong winds on their lives and livelihoods in the long-term.

[31] In all eight PRAs conducted across the three districts, the purchase of goods and roofing of houses using iron sheets were seen as key indicators of having bounced back from shock by both men and women participants.

140. There is also widespread use of soil and water conservation technologies by both FFA beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries after learning that they lead to moisture retention, which helps households and communities withstand prolonged dry spells and contributes to increased crop productivity and diversification, effectively reducing the hunger gap, especially in areas such as Chikwawa and Nsanje which experience frequent dry spells. Irrigation schemes are viewed as valuable assets for enhancing long-term resilience of communities and households if they are combined with components of value chain development, markets and support to local business enterprise development opportunities.

141. Some of the most visible long-term benefits that are still evident after the withdrawal of WFP support relate mainly to: livestock pass-on schemes (Nsanje and Chikwawa); village and loan schemes; mostly benefiting women, although a few men participate; and increased participation in winter farming by households to produce maize, tomatoes, leafy vegetables, okra, beans, onion, egg plants and sweet potatoes. In Nsanje, the community showed records of 350 households in TA Mbeje who were actively participating in winter farming. In the dry parts of Nsanje, maize has been replaced with planting of short season varieties of sorghum, although the use of poor quality and recycled seeds has been reducing yields. A more significant trend is where earnings from the VSL, mainly driven by women, are being used for productive asset creation, demonstrating that members of the community who were at the bottom of the local economic ladder are now able to create assets that benefit their households and communities in the longer term and improve the quality of their assets.

142. However, it was noted that the long-term benefits can quickly be eroded by new threats in the environment, such as the fall armyworm, which was mentioned in all FGDs held in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe. Communities and households are in danger of losing confidence in the long-term benefits created by the different assets if the fall armyworm challenge is not addressed urgently. As a starting point, an investigation into the extent of the negative impacts of the fall armyworm may be needed to explore local and external solutions to the challenge.

Will most FFA participants also benefit from the created/rehabilitated assets in the long run, including women and the most vulnerable households? [SEQ18]

143. The land and natural resource-based assets such as soil and water conservation, afforestation and woodlots, and irrigation schemes were mainly designed to create resilience to shocks such as dry spells, floods and strong winds through local adapted solutions and techniques for the benefit of vulnerable households and communities. The PRAs and FGDs across the three districts showed that these interventions contributed significantly to increased food availability, diversification of dietary patterns in households and increased income-earning streams. For example, through woodlots and afforestation initiatives, household and community members were able to venture into small businesses in honey production and marketing and other value chain opportunities. As a result of increased water availability, households were able to establish backyard gardens and conduct winter agriculture production initiatives, producing a range of high-value crops ensuring constant food supply into the household. This mainly benefited women and improved children's' diets. The multiple livelihood opportunities created through community-level assets on accessible private and public farmland enabled the replication of these initiatives at household level, creating multiple benefit pathways for the assets created. Evidence from PRAs and FGDs with men and women FFA participants also shows considerable replication by non-beneficiary households as they have witnessed the value of these assets at household and community levels.

144. The involvement and participation of women was emphasized throughout the planning and implementation cycles of the FFA programme to ensure that women and vulnerable groups would benefit from the assets created and rehabilitated by WFP. As a result, women were actively involved in the participatory planning process, and the choice of assets to be created and/or rehabilitated had the potential to contribute to the income, livelihoods and resilience needs of women and other vulnerable groups.[32]

145. In the FGDs it was clear that about 60 – 70 percent of the women are more involved in the maintenance of the assets, despite playing a peripheral role in the decision-making structures of the

[32] In all the FGDs held, it was reported that between 60 percent and 70 percent participation in FFA activities was by women, with the men dominating in the irrigation as well as soil and water conservation interventions.

different asset management groups and village-level structures, owing to traditional social and cultural norms still prevalent in the rural areas of Malawi. However, asset management groups have given women considerable social power to initiate saving and lending schemes as relationships of trust have been engendered through the groups (Strong evidence). The transition from social work groups to economic and financial savings groups is already an established pathway for the empowerment of women and vulnerable groups to pool their resources and invest in assets such as livestock for better preparedness to shocks and towards long-term resilience.

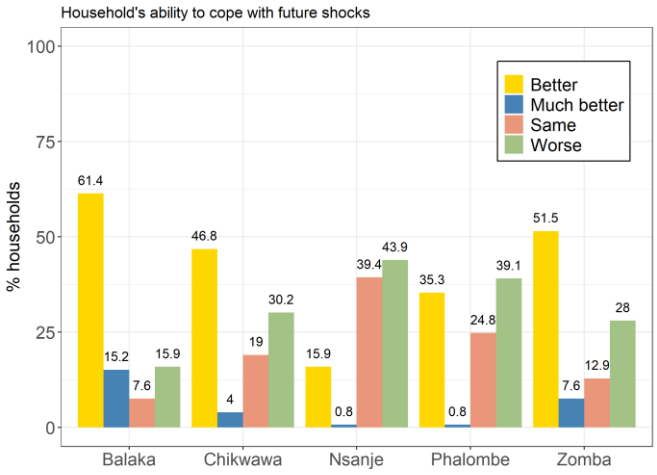
146. Communities acknowledge the huge demand generated at local level for increased coverage of WFP FFA activities through wider scaling-up processes to reach more groups and beneficiaries. However, the reported widespread adoption of similar activities by non-beneficiaries within the footprint areas of the project in the PRAs and FGDs across the three districts suggests that scaling up could be possible at minimal cost. When the productive asset creation approach is well conceived in a community, it has potential to be more self-spreading and may not leave anyone behind, as it creates multiple choices and pathways for livelihood recovery.

Do interviewed households think that FFA activities will increase their capacity to face future reoccurring natural shocks or support their recovery from future negative effects of natural shocks? [SEQ19]

147. Over the years, many shocks have been experienced, with dry spells and flooding identified as the main shocks. Among others, strong winds, pest outbreaks and extreme heat were also mentioned. Extreme heat mainly affected Nsanje District. The shock patterns from the household survey were also mirrored in the PRA shock calendars produced during the FGDs in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe (Annex 14 and Table 30).

148. The major concern raised within the communities related to the increased intensity and frequency of the shocks and the serious threat posed by the fall armyworm in the past five years, discussed above. Over the course of implementation, households and communities have been growing confident to implement measures that deal with dry spells and floods. For example, through afforestation and riverbank protection initiatives, communities expressed confidence in dealing with flood shocks in the three districts, except in TA Makhuwira, where tree plots established were reportedly washed away by the floods in 2019 (PRA in Nantusi VDC). This was a unique situation, caused by natural resource degradation in the Shire Highlands (Thylo and Blantyre) which negatively affected catchment interventions in lower areas of TA Makhuwira. Other key interventions enabling households and communities to face future shocks were solar-powered irrigation that depends on underground water; and the VSL schemes which enabled communities to access food during lean periods, with 70 percent of the participants investing in livestock as part of future preparedness planning and mitigation of future shocks.

Figure 11: Households' perceived ability to cope with another shock in the future by district



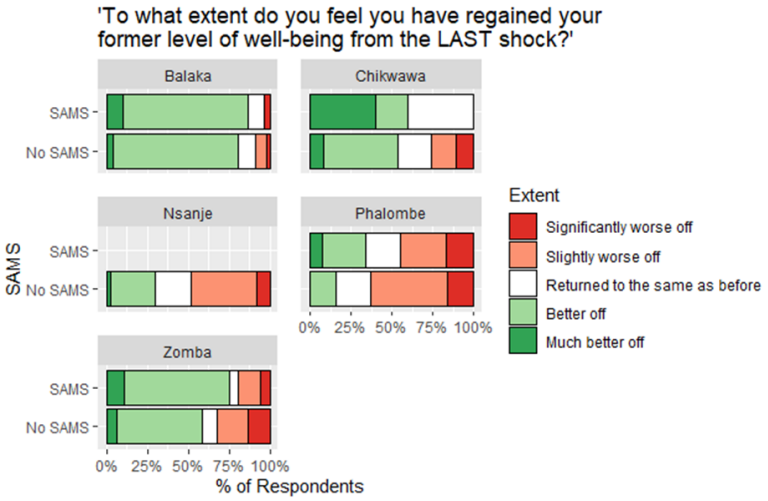
149. Post-intervention, there is an overall perception of better coping with shocks across the five districts. Nsanje had the worst ability to cope, followed by Phalombe and Chikwawa, mainly due to extensive dry spells and negative impacts of floods in the district (Figure 12).

150. Well-being was also assessed in terms of the modality received. Under SAMS, the majority of the households reported they were better off when asked whether they had returned to their former level of well-being from the last shock, while others had returned to the same level as before. Balaka District has the highest percentage of households reporting that they are better off (Figure 13).

151. The same pattern is observed under R4 and climate services modalities (see Annex 14).

152. Comparatively, more male-headed households had plans/strategies to deal with threats from current and future shocks. This was the highest in Balaka District (78 percent of households headed by men, compared to 61 percent of households headed by women), followed by Chikwawa (66 percent of households headed by men, compared to 25 percent of households headed by women) and Zomba (57 percent of households headed by men, compared to 33 percent of households headed by women). The only district without a substantial difference in the plans for a shock was Nsanje District – but the rate was equally low for both households headed by men (29 percent) and households headed by women (28 percent). Overall, 36 percent of households headed by women stated they had a plan to deal with shocks, compared to 55 percent of households headed by women.

Figure 12: Households' extent of returning to former level of well-being after last shock under SAMS



Key findings and conclusions – Question 4. Impact: To what degree have the project outputs and outcomes contributed to progress towards resilience?

- There is strong evidence that FFA is useful in preparing households for shocks before, during and after the shocks. RIMA results present strong evidence that strengthening resilience 'pillars' leads to strengthened resilience 'outcomes' and project components.
- Lack of decreasing resilience scores, and no difference in food consumption outcomes based on whether there has been a shock, indicate that the shocks are not damaging resilience, suggesting that households receiving assistance had the capacity to exercise resilience in the face of shocks.
- The number of food deficit months before and after the introduction of the FFA for the three different types of years (bad, normal and good) showed a general decline for most of the districts.
- Communities were able to cope with dry spells through climate smart agriculture, use of VSL income for livestock pass-on schemes and investment in small business such as selling vegetables and fish vending. The construction of check dams and riverbank protection systems helped in reducing the impact of floods, significantly reducing loss of lives, property and essential assets.
- Spillover effects were created through the replication of community-level interventions (afforestation, soil and water conservation) at household level and increased adoption by non-beneficiaries after seeing considerable benefits from the FFA interventions.

2.5 SUSTAINABILITY: TO WHAT EXTENT DOES FFA SUPPORT SUSTAINED RESILIENCE BEYOND THE LIFETIME OF WFP INTERVENTION? [EQ5]

What interventions have continued after ending project activities (especially in the absence of continued FFA payments to beneficiary households)? [SEQ22]

153. **There is continued progress in food security without cash and food transfers**: The PRAs conducted with the FFA participants showed that households have been able to diversify into sweet potato production, small livestock production and local income-earning businesses, resulting in the reduction of the number of hunger months from nine to an average five- to seven-month period without external support such as food aid and cash transfers. The soil and water conservation technologies have contributed to increased soil moisture retention during dry spells, leading to improved yields. However, with limited rainfall in some years, yields have remained stagnant in dry areas in districts such as Nsanje and Chikwawa, leading to high levels of unpredictability. The situation changes dramatically where households have combined soil and water conservation initiatives with activities such as VSL schemes. These complementary initiatives have enabled households to procure food, construct better houses and access capital for small-scale businesses. The VSL schemes have also enabled households to procure livestock as a key asset, especially in Nsanje and Chikwawa, as a self-initiated preparedness strategy.

154. **Sustained benefits from 'embeddedness' of improved assets:** Afforestation and restoration interventions are contributing to the control of floods through reduced erosion, siltation of rivers and strengthened riverbanks. This has contributed to saving lives and property in flood-prone areas. The PRAs across the two districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje show that the established woodlots/village forest areas are being used for natural resources-based enterprises such as beekeeping for honey production. Solar irrigation schemes are enabling households to produce crops during periods when they have been hit by prolonged dry spells and in the winter period; this is reducing the hunger gap and food insecurity. These interventions are likely to be sustained beyond the project lifespan as communities are experiencing positive benefits at household and community levels. The PRA exercises conducted in TA Makhuwira, Chiwalo and Jenala, where the WFP incentive support phased out in 2018, confirmed continued participation in catchment management activities by community members.

155. **Improved skills and confidence are underpinned by demonstrated benefits:** The technical training received through the FFA around the assets has transferred knowledge/skills and helped both men and women acquire new knowledge and skills and build confidence in building resilience for themselves and their families and communities. There is evidence of the effectiveness of the assets in retaining water in household gardens, which has also prompted non-beneficiaries to adopt the assets, especially in Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts (PRAs, FGDs). In addition, tree plantation initiatives have been scaled up and improved through the knowledge gained. Construction and maintenance of soil and water conservation assets have also increased, as well as accelerated development of backyard vegetable gardens. These represent self-driven initiatives that show encouraging signs of being continued into the future.

Which assets are most likely to be sustainable and why? [SEQ20]

156. **Assets are already proving to be resilient beyond the implementation period:** The productive asset creation process was participatory through the three-pronged approach (3PA), enabling the communities, local leadership structures and government to build consensus on the types of assets that would contribute to resilience of the communities to the most prevalent shocks in specific areas of intervention. Afforestation and riverbank protection interventions (tree and elephant grass planted along riverbanks) are proving to be resilient to flood in most areas, except in situations where the principles of proper catchment management have not been properly adhered to, such as in the case of TA Makhuwira in Chikwawa (discussed earlier in this report). Solar-powered irrigation schemes depending on underground water have proved to be resilient to the shock of prolonged dry spells, as farmers are able to irrigate their crops even during dry-spell years. However, the threat posed by the fall armyworm needs to be addressed urgently for households to remain committed to utilizing the assets for enhancing food security and enhanced dietary diversity.

157. **Choice is important – VSL schemes are reliable**: The capacity of households to combine different assets for income and livelihood diversification is a key enabler for sustainability as this ensures

households can access food and meet their livelihoods priorities based on the different assets they control. The proceeds from VSL schemes are proving to be more reliable in preparing households to respond to the shocks in Nsanje, Chikwawa and Phalombe.

What is the likelihood that asset tenure arrangements – developed in the frame of the projects – will last, enabling long-term access to and benefits from the rehabilitated/created assets among vulnerable households? [SEQ21]

158. **Solar-powered irrigation scheme management needs formal land agreements:** The land for irrigation is owned by individual community members, who voluntarily lend the land to community members. The arrangement is that during the rainy season the owners of the land use it for their household crop production, while during the winter season the land is given to the group to use for irrigation. However, since the land is continuously under cultivation, farmers agree to use various methods for replenishing soil fertility so that the productivity of the land is maintained.

159. The schemes have management committees responsible for day-to-day operations, to ensure that the schemes are well maintained and have a production plan. Members contribute annual fees for maintenance and other logistics. These arrangements are key to sustainability of the irrigation schemes. However, there is a need to have formal agreements between the scheme management committee and landowners to ensure land can be continuously available to scheme members.

160. **Customary land tenure affords surety of access:** With regards to afforestation, restoration and soil and water conservation technologies, communities have established communal woodlots/village forests and constructed swales, infiltration pits and deep trenches under the customary land tenure. This involves local leadership allocating land to the FFA beneficiaries for communal assets establishment or they agree with individuals who have land falling under identified catchment management areas. This ensures the land cannot be taken away by individuals with personal rights to the holder. In contrast, there have been cases in Phalombe, TA Chiwalo where landowners refused trees to be planted in their fields as they are not direct beneficiaries of FFA.

161. Landowners' buy-in and formal agreements are key to secure access to land: The FFA should engage community leadership and landowners for their buy-in into the project for the various interventions, to ensure created assets remain beneficial to the community. Most of the created assets are long-term and having formal agreements will be key for the security of tenure arrangements for the assets created by the community.

What factors affect sustainability and how can these be mitigated to increase chances? [SEQ23]

162. **Tenure arrangements pose a potential threat to sustainability:** Tenure arrangements that are community-based may not be sustainable, especially if they depend on project committees and/or on land controlled by individuals. There is a need to embed them in the decentralized management structures of the ADCs/VDCs. These structures need further capacity development to be able to ensure proper governance of land tenure arrangements that effectively support the effective management and sustainability of assets created by communities.[33] Without building a collective governance system for community assets, it would not be sustainable for the beneficiaries to be the only ones participating in maintaining the assets even after withdrawal of WFP, as some indicated that they are doing because they are expecting further support whenever it will be resumed. Such a scenario can lead to a crisis of expectations by community members, suggesting the need for a more robust exit strategy to properly support communities upon the end of project interventions.

To what extent did the target communities assume ownership of the project during and after implementation and why? [SEQ24]

163. **Community-based participatory planning supports ownership:** Targeted communities were all engaged through the CBPP process, which ensured their rapid inclusion in analysing their own context and

[33] The need for capacity building of the local structures was strongly expressed in the local leadership FGDs across the three districts, as well as the need to avoid the creation of parallel structures.

the shocks affecting them. Communities in the districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe demonstrated their understanding of the different shocks, the shock-responsive interventions and the benefits from these interventions, as they were able to develop shock calendars within their specific areas. There is also evidence on the engagement and involvement of local-level structures such as the ADCs, VDCs, Area Civic Protection Committees (ACPCs), VCPCs, Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs), Village Agricultural Committees (VACs), Area Stakeholder Panels (ASPs), irrigation scheme committees and project management committees. Within these committees, there is evidence in some areas of the active participation of young men and women, especially in the irrigation and project management committees, as shown in the eight FGD meetings held across the three districts. It was also acknowledged that, due to early marriages that are prevalent in some communities, younger women tend to be more predominant among the women who are participating in the various FFA interventions.

164. **Collaborative processes support the inclusion of community priorities in planning and implementation:** The types of assets being prioritised by local communities and their support institutions include catchment management, solar-powered irrigation scheme development, VSL schemes and energy-efficient stoves to protect excessive use of forest resources. Communities work with the technical support of government and various stakeholders, including World Vision, CARE Malawi, Red Cross, CADECOM, Oxfam, GOAL Malawi, Concern Worldwide, ADRA, Action Aid and the Hunger Project, who provide demand-driven support services by the communities. Most of these organizations have prioritized areas of need by the community especially in support of livestock services, catchment rehabilitation and management, solar-powered irrigation, VSL, climate smart agriculture, soil and water management, conservation agriculture and agro-forestry, which create multiple opportunities for synergies and collaboration in response to the community centered interventions. Through the evolving integrated resilience approach by WFP, such collaborative practices are already evident in the multi-sector district planning systems that have also been strengthened through WFP support which include the adaptation funding. This commitment to continued institutional learning ensures communities own the planning and implementation process for long-term sustainability of their interventions.[34]

Will the FFA activities increase households' capacity to face the next reoccurring natural shocks or support their recovery from future negative effects of natural shocks? [SEQ25]

165. **Building resilience takes time; collective, community-wide efforts are key:** Through the FGDs across all three districts, households and community leaders were aware that strengthening household and community resilience takes many years, building assets needed to prepare for and effectively mitigate the impacts of future shocks. At the same time communities were clear that, through collective efforts in responding to shocks, it would be possible to face recurring shocks through a combination of strategies: land and natural resource-based assets development and rehabilitation, improved agricultural practices, VSL, livestock development, targeted infrastructure development (especially roads and irrigation schemes), local institutional capacity building and investment in social capital development by communities in the development of their areas. The ability to absorb and mitigate future shocks will also require ongoing scaling up of existing asset interventions to benefit more community members, collaborative pooling of resources by government and development partners, expanding the areas under irrigation, the timely implementation of seasonal-based assets such as soil and water conservation to make them function better, and well-layered interventions based on an in-depth understanding of the shock trends and emerging new threats, such as the fall armyworm. The fall armyworm has the potential to undermine the capacity of communities to cope with future shocks if it is not addressed soon.

166. **Households and communities have preparedness plans:** In the context of the multiple shocks and risks communities face, PRAs and FGDs with FFA beneficiaries show some evidence of preparedness plans from household level to community level. Some of the plans include increased mobilization of communities in catchment management activities through local leadership, especially intensifying afforestation and soil and water conservation initiatives, diversification of agricultural initiatives in the rain and winter seasons, participation in solar-powered irrigation initiatives, enrolling into the savings and loan schemes, investment

[34] The integrated resilience approach was emphasised as critical for the success of FFA interventions by the key informants interviewed at local and national levels as it ensures good coordination among the different stakeholders.

in livestock pass-on schemes and engaging in enterprise development such as beekeeping, small livestock keeping and backyard gardening (Strong evidence).

In what ways and to what extent did the FFA programme contribute to the agency or autonomy of households headed by women? [SEQ26]

167. **Some evidence of power, autonomy and opportunities for women, despite women's work burdens increasing:** While the social and economic status of women in both patrilineal communities (such as Chikwawa and Nsanje) and matrilineal communities (Phalombe) remain low due to local norms and practices, the FFA programme has made significant inroads into empowering households headed by women to become more autonomous in addressing their food, nutrition and asset base, thereby improving their social and economic well-being. The number of households headed by women has increased greatly in districts such Nsanje and Phalombe at the border with Mozambique, where men spend most of their time searching for income-earning opportunities, creating labour constraints within their household. This also creates multiple burdens for women remaining behind, who make daily decisions on the income, food and dietary requirements of the family (Strong evidence).

168. The women's focus groups in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe acknowledged that through interventions that were aimed at reducing the food gap in the household and diversifying access to diverse food products, women have been empowered to make decisions on food production and consumption needs of the household and to participate in sustainable food production initiatives, involving soil and water conservation, manure making, backyard gardening and ownership of livestock assets which can be converted into cash to meet diverse household needs. Complementary interventions such as improved stoves and VSL give women, and especially households headed by women, the autonomy to invest in key agricultural and livestock assets for improving their well-being in the community. There is evidence that women have started to better coordinate their activities through self-organized economic savings and investment groups as a vehicle for self-empowerment and asset building for their future resilience.[35]

169. **Benefits are eroded by perpetuation of damaging social norms, but some transformation is evident:** With increased control over food production, asset creation and decision-making processes related to their well-being, women, and especially households headed by women, have been empowered to drive their own social and economic transformation, which has tended to improve joint decision making with men at household level (Strong evidence). However, due to entrenched social cultural norms, men still exercise control over income and use of some of the assets, even if they are working away from the household for most of the time. This has often undermined the socioeconomic status of women and the autonomy of the shared decision making over income and use of assets within the household. But in some communities, with vibrant women's networks and savings groups, women are beginning to influence joint decision making and control over use of resources created through their own efforts and investments, with priorities toward household food security and economic well-being of all family members. Women made it clear in the FGDs that the FFA is putting women in the driving seat in ensuring family reintegration, as men are increasingly joining their women in productive asset creation initiatives, which is creating better social cohesion and equity for greater resilience at household level rather than relying on piecework in neighbouring countries.

To what extent did youth within the community assume ownership of the project during and after implementation? [SEQ30]

170. The participation of youth in the FFA programme varied with the prevailing household labour situation, the extent of early marriages and the creation of deliberate opportunities for youth engagement and participation in the programme. In the more risk-prone districts such as Chikwawa and Nsanje, the FGDs highlighted that household survival was a collective effort by all members of the household, and out-of-school youth would be involved in all the household duties and activities to prepare them for adult life. In this situation, their participation is embedded in a range of activities within the household. If the adult member(s) of the household is/are not fit to work in the programme, the youth tend to take their place.

[35] For example, during the PRAs and FGDs across the three districts, women indicated that they are now able not only to create savings and lending groups on their own but also to plan for a diverse range of recovery strategies, such as winter farming, sesame production, backyard gardens for vegetables, growing maize across Shire River and planting reeds.

This form of youth participation is the most prevalent. The main benefits of this form of participation were highlighted as: effective transfer of life skills to youth, as they learn best from the parents; and the labour support to elderly men and women, so that household participation in the programme can be maintained (PRAs and FGDs with FFA beneficiaries).

171. In both Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts, some of the participants indicated in the PRAs and FGDs that there were still youths through early marriages who were keen to participate in FFA activities as they were transforming their lives. The key argument was that, as young families, they had mostly school-going children who needed food, clothing, school fees and better-quality care. They felt their ownership of the programme was strong and would continue actively participating and passing on the knowledge and skills to other household members (FGDs with men and women FFA beneficiaries). In addition to the above avenues for youth participation, it was observed in the PRAs and FGDs across all three districts that the watershed management approach, irrigation and the VSL were beginning to attract interest from the youth within the communities, as they presented an opportunity for their systematic engagement and participation. As one community leader observed in the FGD meeting in GVH-Chiwalo in Phalombe, '*The youth are out there in the community and are ready to serve when given the appropriate knowledge skills*. This implies that youths still need to be fully engaged in all the FFA interventions if they are to make a significant contribution into the project. The youths are an important group for targeting in the FFA programme, which can contribute to life skills development, ensuring future success and sustainability of the programme after implementation. While youths are participating in the various forms outlined above, their role is not visible or appreciated fully within communities. Youths should be given an equal opportunity to participate in all the FFA activities in order to be able to fully assess their attitude and response to the FFA programme.

Key findings and conclusions – Question 5. Sustainability: To what extent does FFA support sustained resilience beyond the lifetime of WFP intervention?

- There is evidence of self-driven scaled-up initiatives in tree plantations, improved through the knowledge gained under FFA, increased construction and maintenance of soil and water conservation assets and accelerated development of backyard vegetable gardens. This has been further strengthened by the flexibility in the combination of assets that households and communities decide to focus on based on benefits created in practice.
- PRA exercises conducted in TA Makhuwira, Chiwalo and Jenala, where the WFP incentive support phased out in 2018, confirmed the continued participation in catchment management activities by community members.
- Tenure arrangements, especially if they depend on project committees and on land controlled by individuals, pose challenges to sustainability. Activities are more sustainable on communal land.
- Collaborative practices, strengthened through WFP support including FFA, are evident in multi-sector district planning systems. This commitment to continued institutional learning supports community ownership of the planning and implementation process for long-term sustainability of their interventions.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

172. Based on the findings presented in the previous section, an overall assessment that responds to the EQs is provided below. This is followed by nine key recommendations of how WFP can take action to build on the lessons learned.

3.1 OVERALL ASSESSMENT/CONCLUSIONS

173. The key findings of the evaluation team are summarised below, structured according to the main EQs. There is strong evidence to support each finding, with FFA making significant, important or critical contributions to the outcomes, based on a synthesis of qualitative and quantitative evidence.

174. The evaluation finds that FFA is overall a good, flexible tool that has had a significant positive effect on the lives of the people participating in the programme. Evidence suggests it is a strong and effective programme that is reasonably well integrated within the broader system for social protection within Malawi, playing a key role as one of the main providers – outside of government – of cash related to asset development. With regards to FFA as a foundation for resilience, the programme can be considered to be successful and the FFA ToC is fit for purpose.

How relevant is FFA as the foundation for WFP resilience programming in Malawi? (Relevance)

175. FFA has proved to be a key foundation for designing and implementing integrated resilience initiatives. Multi-sector collaboration and inclusive community planning ensured local ownership, and the relevance of activities created a strong base for an integrated approach at community and district levels. The programme was able to align its targeting relative to the magnitude of the shocks experienced over the course of implementation, and therefore reached out to more beneficiaries than originally intended in the five years of the programme.

176. Immediate food requirements (during shocks – floods and dry spells) were extensively met, reducing the number of individuals, households, and communities resorting to negative coping mechanisms to meet their food, income and resilience needs. The types of assets created empowered individuals, households, and communities to select activities that were relevant to their situation. Catchment/watershed management approaches have been instrumental in ensuring the effectiveness and impact of natural resource-based assets within the communities and in leveraging the potential of sustainable livestock production.

177. FFA has a proven strong commitment to differentiated analysis and understanding of the needs and priorities of women, men, boys and girls in the targeting of interventions. The FFA objectives addressed constraints faced by marginalized men, women, boys and girls through designing integrated initiatives that enabled these vulnerable groups to benefit from tangible and intangible assets, based on sound gender analysis.

178. Cash and food transfers are seen as important bridging mechanisms by programme participants, in the face of food insecurity, while assets created and/or rehabilitated are believed to be appropriate to the long-term development goals of the different groups participating in the programme. That said, the link between short- and long-term objectives is not always grasped by participants. For example, the shift towards the PROSPER programme watershed payments – reportedly markedly lower than payments under FFA – was viewed negatively by participants rather than seen to be part of an evolution away from handouts, with a tendency to undervalue the investment in productive assets in and of itself.[36]

[36] As part of WFP membership of the PROSPER consortium of the BRACC programme, beginning in 2019, FFA participants were selected into the PROSPER programme, of which asset-building formed one intervention of many designed to be layered and linked together to strengthen resilience. https://www.resilience.mw/project/prosper

179. With increased knowledge and skills provided by the programme, household and community members were able to reduce hunger periods and diversify food and income sources through effectively utilizing assets created, and to recover from shocks with minimal WFP and/or other external support. Savings and lending schemes specifically targeting women triggered further investments in asset creation through purchase of livestock (goats, pigs and poultry) and establishment of backyard gardens, leading to diversification of income and nutrition sources at household level.

180. Evidence from the qualitative work shows that gender dynamics and existing social norms and practices impact on the well-being and resilience of men, women, boys and girls and the quality of outcomes for the different groups. For example, power relationships and social norms governing the use of assets and income affect who benefits from the positive outcomes of the interventions. The crucial role of a gender-transformative approach should be fundamental to the ToC.

181. There is also some evidence of unequal power relations limiting the choices open to participants, who sometimes felt they had to take actions they believed not to be in their favour (for example choice of agro-dealer, contractors disregarding community knowledge when siting pumps). Some beneficiaries argued that cash transfers are effective only when there is food in the market and in an environment with no price distortions. Evidence also suggests that businesses tend to increase prices when they know cash transfers have been made, rendering the amount being paid in cash inadequate in meeting participant needs. This trend was reported across the districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe whenever the government grain agency, Admark, ran out of grain stock. However, the complaint was more pronounced in Nsanje, TA Mbeje, where food shortages tend to be acute due to frequent dry spells and floods. The lack of power experienced by participants is combined with lack of understanding of or access to appropriate grievance mechanisms to raise issues with the implementation agencies.

182. Despite the positive recovery and progressive reduction in the hunger gap by both FFA beneficiaries and non-participating households, through spillover effects of project interventions, sustained well-being and resilience have continuously been affected by recurring shocks, particularly the impact of dry spells in Chikwawa and Nsanje. Households' low base in terms of poverty and asset levels makes recovery from shocks and stressors, and the ability to cope and be resilient in the future, challenging. There is also some evidence of people still resorting to damaging coping strategies in the face of shocks and stressors, suggesting that FFA does not go quite far enough. There is therefore a need to scale up current interventions by government and other stakeholders beyond the FFA support.

183. Overall, the ToC assumptions remain valid. Lessons learned during the period 2015–19 need to be documented to improve the main issues of operational efficiency, feedback mechanisms, and partner and community accountability, to better enable broader ownership of the FFA interventions by communities and different socioeconomic groups.

To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes and strategic results been achieved? (Effectiveness)

184. FFA achieved planned outputs over the course of implementation, with some overreaching of targets in terms of number of beneficiaries reached and some flexible rescheduling of activities in response to contextual factors such as pipeline delays.

185. Evidence suggests that there has been considerable value in situating FFA within a more integrated way of working by aligning and complementing FFA with other WFP resilience-focused programmes, for example weather/crop insurance and SAMS. The integrated approach to resilience building resulted in significant food security outcomes during the implementation period, as evidenced by the RIMA analysis, setting a strong foundation for increased household food consumption and diversification.

186. FFA also led to improved asset quality at household and community levels, increased ability to recover from the impacts of shocks, improved knowledge and capacity to withstand future shocks and improved household and community well-being. The RIMA model provides strong evidence that the realization of the project objectives results in progress towards resilience. Overall resilience scores from the RIMA model were significantly higher for households in villages where any assets were created, compared to those without any asset creation. RIMA scores also suggest a cumulative effect from increasing different types of assets. The different asset categories highlight the need to maximise the use of complementary approaches

in sustainable watershed/catchment management practices, livestock pass-on schemes, solar-powered irrigation schemes, VSL capacity building and livelihood diversification initiatives.

187. While FFA has created multiple entry points for strengthening GEWE, there were clear gender differences in resilience outcomes in the RIMA model: the resilience of households headed by women was significantly lower than that of male-headed households. FHHs had significantly lower food consumption scores and Coping Strategy Index scores. The number of women in leadership project management positions has increased under FFA, and participation levels now range from 50 percent to 60 percent compared to leadership participation in community structures, which averages around 30 percent, except in matrilineal communities where women occupy some community leadership positions. But women's participation has not changed power structures within communities, with men retaining control of resources and income generated through women-focused activities. The exercise of power and decision making in these societies remains controlled by men.

188. Despite the targeting of vulnerable women, boys and girls in the FFA programme, this evaluation finds that the social, cultural and economic dynamics affecting the empowerment of women and households headed by women continue to affect their social status and capacity to influence decision making and resource allocation processes that can transform existing gender relationships. The participation of women in productive asset initiatives created an opportunity for women to share their capabilities, but their selection to decision making positions and leadership in project committees has not changed the power structures within the communities. Men continue to control resources and income generated through women-focused activities such as backyard gardening, VSL schemes and the ownership and management of livestock, pointing to a need to take account of intra-household dynamics in control over resources.

189. FFA has no inbuilt mechanisms for dealing with new threats and/or shocks such as fall armyworm, posing a significant threat to the sustainability of agricultural interventions.

To what extent was FFA implemented efficiently? (Efficiency)

190. WFP was able to respond efficiently to meet increased demands on FFA in response to shocks and stressors and the scale-up of activities after 2016, through internal and external fundraising, rapidly increasing staffing and improving overall organizational efficiency. Synergies across complementary initiatives maximised outcomes and potential impacts of the FFA programme.

191. There is evidence of widespread delays across the different FFA districts, such as late delivery of commodities due to 'pipeline' problems, throughout the implementation period. These were often not within WFP control. Delays in payments to FFA participants affected motivation to participate in FFA activities, eroded trust in the programme and impacted negatively on the beneficiaries. In some cases, this led to participants relying on high-interest loans, thus eroding the value of cash transfers once they were paid.

192. WFP operational flexibility means it was able to adapt to some extent to meet challenges, through fundraising, leveraging internal resources, shifting activities from one quarter to the next, and being flexible in choice of modality (cash or food)

To what degree have the project outputs and outcomes contributed to progress towards resilience? (Impact)

193. There is strong evidence that FFA is useful in preparing households before, during, and aftershocks. This is supported by quantitative and qualitative data. The communities generally perceive a resilient household as one that has livestock, fruits, food, vegetables, their children attend school, and it has no labour constraints. To an extent FFA has helped increase assets, which has prevented some households from resorting to negative coping mechanisms during shocks.

194. RIMA results present strong evidence that strengthening resilience 'pillars' leads to strengthened resilience 'outcomes' and project components. The number of food deficit months before and after the introduction of the FFA for the three different types of years (bad, normal and good) showed a general decline for most of the districts. Beneficiaries had improved food security, especially during the six months between July and December when FFA was in session. However, the most challenging months for hunger are January to March. Therefore, the hunger gap is reduced for most families during the months covered by

FFA and into the initial month of the lean period, creating some gaps in the period outside the FFA schedule.

195. Households have improved their short-term and long-term food requirements; but, based on their own narratives, they still cannot afford to eat three times a day, and the reason they cite is inadequate food and/or money.

196. Communities were able to cope with dry spells through climate smart agriculture, use of VSL income for livestock pass-on schemes and investment in small businesses such as selling vegetables and fish vending. The construction of check dams and riverbank protection systems helped in reducing the impact of floods, significantly reducing loss of lives, property and essential assets. Spillover effects were created through replication of community-level interventions (afforestation, soil and water conservation) at household level and increased adoption by non-beneficiaries after seeing considerable benefits from the FFA interventions.

197. It is notable that the uptake of PICSA training in households headed by men and households headed by women is roughly the same proportion (29 percent of households headed by men in the sample, compared to 26 percent of households headed by women). Higher adoption of new farming techniques from PICSA and new livelihood options follow on from this. This suggests that the programme is supporting the participation of households headed by women well, bearing in mind previous findings on programme activities potentially increasing the burden of work on women.[37]

198. Men and women worked alongside each other in flood protection interventions and in social and water conservation activities, which helped build confidence in the capabilities of women by the local leadership and in households. Consequently, women have been allowed to invest in livestock enterprises and other durable assets as part of their contribution to the resilience of the household. Despite these achievements, most women still reported that decision making power resides with men, as per local sociocultural norms, in terms of use of income and disposal of the acquired assets.

199. The frequent dry spells limit the effectiveness of some key interventions such as tree planting and soil and conservation works, as the rainfall only occurs in a very short period. Poor management practices in other regions have negative knock-on effects on catchment management activities in Nsanje and Chikwawa, causing excessive flooding that destroys individual, household and community assets, thereby undermining the resilience of communities in these districts. The recovery efforts in these districts have also been disrupted by the high frequency of dry spells and floods over the past five years, highlighting the need for broader and coordinated climate-resilient interventions.

To what extent does FFA support resilience beyond the lifetime of WFP intervention? (Sustainability)

200. There is evidence of community and household-driven scaled-up initiatives in tree plantations, improved through the knowledge gained under FFA, increased construction and maintenance of soil and water conservation assets and accelerated development of backyard vegetable gardens. There is also evidence of continued participation in catchment management activities by community members in TAs where the WFP incentive support phased out in 2018.

201. Community-based tenure arrangements, especially if they depend on project committees and on land controlled by individuals, pose challenges to sustainability. Activities tend to be more sustainable on communal land.

202. Collaborative practices, strengthened through WFP support including FFA, are evident in multi-sector district planning systems. Commitment to continued institutional learning supports community ownership of the planning and implementation process for long-term sustainability of the interventions.

203. Long-term benefits can quickly be eroded by new threats in the environment, such as fall armyworm. Communities and households are in danger of losing confidence in the long-term benefits created by the different assets if the fall armyworm challenge is not addressed urgently. As a starting point, an

[37] https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370(20)30030-4/fulltext#articleInformation

investigation into the extent of the negative impacts of the fall armyworm may be needed to explore local and external solutions to the challenge.

204. Evidence suggests considerable demand at local level for increased coverage of WFP FFA activities through wider scaling-up processes to reach more groups and beneficiaries. However, the widespread adoption of similar activities by non-beneficiaries within the footprint areas of the project suggests that scaling up could be possible at minimal cost. When the productive asset creation approach is well conceived in a community, it has the potential to be more 'self-spreading' and may not leave anyone behind, as it creates multiple choices and pathways for livelihood recovery.

205. Strengthening household and community resilience takes many years, building assets needed to prepare for and effectively mitigate the impact of future shocks. Communities believe that, through collective efforts in responding to shocks, it would be possible to face recurring shocks through land and natural resource-based assets development and rehabilitation, improved agricultural practices, VSL, livestock development, targeted infrastructure development (especially roads and irrigation schemes), local institutional capacity building and investment in social capital development by communities in the development of their areas. This points to the importance of layering interventions and capitalising on the synergies and complementary activities through integrating with other programmes, as FFA has done.

206. The ability to absorb and mitigate future shocks will also require ongoing scaling up of existing asset interventions to benefit more community members, collaborative pooling of resources by government and development partners, expanding area under irrigation, timely implementation of seasonal-based assets such as soil and water conservation to make them function better, and well-layered interventions based on understanding of the shock trends and emerging new threats.

207. Women, and especially households headed by women, have been supported to drive gender equity and challenge social cultural norms through promoting their own social and economic transformation, through increased food production, asset creation and decision-making processes related to their well-being through FFA. However, due to entrenched social cultural norms, men still exercise control over income and use of some of the assets created through women's initiatives. This has often undermined the socioeconomic status of women and the autonomy of their decision making over income and use of assets within the household and threatens sustainability of the benefits of the programme. Networks and social support evolving from participation in VSL strengthen women's positions and ability to exercise agency over the resources and assets they have created, with positive knock-on effects on household food security and economic well-being of all family members. More opportunities generated by the programme in productive asset creation initiatives means that fewer men are migrating for piecework in neighbouring countries, which women in FGDs reported as strengthening gender equity and household-level resilience.

208. However, there is significant evidence from the FGDs that, while roles for women have expanded in community leadership structures, project management structures and local-level committees, this did not transform power relationships and decision-making roles of women. In addition, programmes focusing on targeting women may also overburden women: working on project activities takes up much of the time needed for domestic chores and attending to household duties. Their workload has become an increasing source of concern. Programmes need to take into account intra-household dynamics, and ultimately to be working towards gender-transformative and systemic change, which is a much longer-term process.

209. The inclusion of youth in FFA and integrated resilience programmes has been weak and is critical for future sustainability, especially in added-value interventions in climate services, markets and value chain development.

3.2 LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES

Key lessons for WFP learned from the evaluation are:

210. WFP operational flexibility allows it to respond swiftly to needs of communities in the face of shocks and stressors, providing crucial support to protect gains from the programme. Timing of FFA activities in the context of the high frequency of shocks and threats is critical for empowerment, continuity and sustainability. FFA plays a fundamental role in meeting essential, basic needs and is especially responsive in the face of shocks and stressors while building important assets for strengthening resilience.

211. The catchment management approach enables FFA and resilience interventions to be informed by the local context and ecosystem opportunities that are more integrated and holistic in terms of balancing environmental management, conservation and climate change while promoting sustainable livelihoods, resilience and well-being of vulnerable communities. This contributes to the realization of key SDGs.

212. RIMA scores suggest a cumulative effect from increasing different types of asset. The different asset categories highlight the need to maximise the use of complementary approaches in sustainable watershed/catchment management practices, livestock pass-on schemes, solar-powered irrigation schemes, VSL capacity building and livelihood diversification initiatives.

213. In a context of deep structural inequalities, FFA has worked well in mainstreaming and integrating gender considerations throughout its operations, achieving some notable positive outcomes for both women and men. However, social, cultural and economic dynamics affecting empowerment of women and f households headed by women continue to affect their social status and capacity to influence decision making and resource allocation processes that could potentially transform existing gender relationships. Men continue to control resources and income generated through women-focused activities such as backyard gardening, VSL schemes and the ownership and management of livestock, pointing to a need to take account of intra-household dynamics in control over resources.

214. Successful local implementation needs strategic engagement and empowerment of local-level governance, and community coordination structures are critical for them to fully support FFA and longer-term resilience interventions. Multi-sector collaboration and inclusive community planning ensures local ownership: the multi-sector institutionalization of CBPP has been a key driver for the success of FFA and integrated resilience programming in the context of recurring shocks affecting at risk communities in Malawi. CBPP is an effective planning tool for informing stakeholder participation and ensuring commitment to integrated resilience programming. CBPP has led to shared visioning, better collaboration and complementarity and strong partnerships by key stakeholders in delivering FFA and resilience activities.

215. Layering FFA with complementary resilience building initiatives reaps rewards in terms of positive outcomes: there is considerable value in situating FFA within a more integrated way of working by aligning and complementing FFA with other WFP resilience-focused programmes, for example with R4 and SAMS.

216. Households' low base in terms of poverty and asset levels makes recovery from shocks and stressors, and the ability to cope and be resilient in the future, challenging. There is also some evidence of people still resorting to damaging coping strategies in the face of shocks and stressors, suggesting that FFA does not go quite far enough. There is therefore a need to scale up current FFA interventions and those of government and other stakeholders beyond the FFA support.

217. Delays in procurement and distribution of NFIs (delaying the work) and incentives erode trust in the programme, not to mention welfare implications. Timeliness is key: making payments on time incentivises people to continue to contribute to the programme because they are able to meet their food needs, which understandably take priority over community asset building. This is especially important bearing in mind the tendency for the hunger gap to extend a further three months beyond FFA's annual six-month implementation timeframe.

218. There was some call in the national-level interviews for deepening the FFA approach with respect to resilience building. However, the programme fulfils an essential and fundamental role in a context where households start from a very low base in terms of well-being indicators and asset holdings, coupled with a high degree of risk of and vulnerability to climate-related shocks and stresses. It is important in ensuring people do not drop even further back in the face of shocks and stresses. The key is remembering FFA's pillar as a 'foundation for resilience'. Rather than being too ambitious and over-expecting with respect to resilience from FFA itself, the evaluation suggests that combining FFA with other resilience building work within (or external to) WFP – such as SAMS – as an integrated resilience programming approach is a fruitful route to strengthening resilience capacities at intermediate or higher levels. The District Irrigation Officer for Nsanje also indicated that government is mobilising other partners to strengthen irrigation initiatives as well as livestock programmes to complement the FFA initiatives.

219. While there have been some negative unintended consequences arising from the programme – for example, the reported increased work burdens of women (which has implications for the ability to

participate in training, and therefore knock-on effects on uptake by women) – the evaluation finds that such unintended consequences, rather than being a function of operational shortcomings, arise from deep structural issues in the Malawian context, notably sociocultural norms related to gender, as well as land tenure and barriers to market access.

3.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of this evaluation, the recommendations of the evaluation team are outlined below. The target group for each recommendation is clearly identified. The recommendations are structured by type: operational or structural.

Operational recommendations can be addressed in the short term by WFP:

220. **Recommendation 1:** Given the mismatch between the FFA programme schedule and the timing of the 'hungry gap', WFP should explore possibilities for extending payment schedules to cover the critical lean months of January–March, making any decisions to shift payments in collaboration with participants. WFP needs to weigh up the trade-offs inherent in meeting food needs later at the expense of providing funds for the timely purchase of productive inputs, such as improved seeds and fertiliser. They should also bear in mind the feasibility of deferring payments before the roll-out digital transfers, and the potential knock-on effects on VSL. Expanding irrigation coverage may also help to close the hunger gap and put the beneficiaries on a path of real transformation, notwithstanding the need to first address land ownership issues.

221. **Recommendation 2:** FFA should explore additional ways for dealing with new threats and/or shocks, such as fall armyworm, posing a significant threat to the sustainability of agricultural interventions working with UN and other development partners. WFP should continue linking with other programmes providing support and training in effective and accessible solutions/treatments, including extra work on prevention and treatment in the fields and continuing to include coverage in the area yield index insurance. This is especially pressing given the recent significant reduction in PROSPER programme activities, where support was provided to FFA participants in PROSPER districts in farmer field schools.

222. **Recommendation 3:** There is a need for an agency to be an intermediary in implementing weather insurance in communities. WFP should play this role – as underwriter and 'honest broker', linked to implementation of the R4 insurance component – given the context of barriers to market access and lack of experience, knowledge or understanding by participants of insurance as a mechanism to manage risk. While broader financial system change is ultimately needed, in order to effect take-up of insurance while it is in this nascent stage of development this bridging role is crucial.

223. **Recommendation 4:** WFP needs to address unequal power relations between participants and programme staff and other stakeholders, such as private sector actors, that may result in programme participants acting in ways they believe to be to their detriment, for example purchasing too-expensive equipment and inputs. This can be achieved through careful monitoring of partners (COVID-19 restrictions permitting), establishing and communicating an efficient and effective grievance mechanism system, and clear communication of participants' obligations under the programme. Faster transition to e-payments and promoting financial and digital inclusions would help to address this, as well as problems such as delays in cash payments, resulting in more impactful FFA implementation.

224. **Strategic recommendations** refer to longer-term engagement in effecting structural change in the broader landscape on Malawi, working with national government and other stakeholders, including donors, development partners, district government and private sector.

225. **Recommendation 5:** The evaluation shows that households headed by women continue to lag behind male-headed households in terms of outcomes. Addressing strategic and structural barriers to GEWE requires challenging the social, cultural and power relations in both patriarchal and matrilineal communities in which the social and economic status of women remains subordinate to that of men at household and community levels. As a long-term stakeholder in Malawi's development, WFP needs to continue to embed gender equity and women's empowerment throughout its programming.

226. **Recommendation 6:** WFP should work with appropriate government departments and other key stakeholders in Malawi in relation to land tenure arrangements, given the importance of communal land

for successful community asset creation and the challenges posed by using private land for public goods. This entails, over the longer term, exploring opportunities to contribute to debates and national policy fora.

227. **Recommendation 7:** Barriers to market access and lack of market development pose threats to longer-term resilience of FFA participants. WFP should continue to work in an integrated way with programmes such as R4 and SAMS to enhance market engagement and support. FFA should align in particular with resilience building programmes with a strong market focus, working towards market system change both to allow for increased competition in input markets, so as to offer choice to smallholder farmers, and to develop potential markets for outputs (farm and non-farm). This could also entail partnering at different levels with the private sector (both SMEs and large enterprises), for example playing an intermediary role with agro-dealers and private sector inputs/PHL solution providers. This may also include further alignment to programmes that provide adaptation support: sustainable solar-powered irrigation systems, agricultural value chains and market access, as well as early warning systems for protection against future shocks and new threats such as the fall armyworm.

228. **Recommendation 8:** Integrating with other resilience building programmes appears to be a fruitful strategy, building off the foundational role played by FFA acting as a springboard for participants into other resilience-strengthening activities. WFP should continue to integrate with other programmes, strengthening and building synergies, as this increases the impact of FFA.

229. **Recommendation 9:** FFA offers a number of key lessons learned in implementing programmes to contribute towards strengthening adaptation and resilience that can be shared, not only across WFP programming in Malawi at CO level but also nationally and regionally: i) meeting basic needs is a fundamental foundation for building adaptation and resilience in the Malawi context and others like it; ii) aligning and integrating with other programmes greatly complements and augments the impact of FFA, especially through linking and layering multiple activities to address short, medium and long-term resilience needs. Resilience scores are higher for increasing numbers of assets; iii) structural causes of vulnerability continue to undermine outcomes for women, and particularly households headed by women, compared to male-headed households, and programmes need to continue to both consider the impact of programme activities on women's work burdens and also programme in a gender-transformative way; iv) CBPP is an effective planning tool for stakeholder participation and ensuring commitment to integrated resilience programming. This has contributed to shared visioning, better collaboration and complementarity of activities, and strong partnerships by key stakeholders in delivering FFA and resilience interventions.

#	Recommendation	Recommendation grouping (3 options): By type By theme Short/medium/ long-term	Responsibility (one lead office/entity)	Other contributing entities (if applicable)	Priority: High/medium	By when
1	**Recommendation 1:** Given the mismatch between the FFA programme schedule and the timing of the 'hungry gap', WFP should explore possibilities for extending payment schedules to cover the critical lean months of January–March, making any decisions to shift payments in collaboration with participants. WFP needs to weigh up the trade-offs inherent in meeting food needs later at the expense of providing funds for the timely purchase of productive inputs, such as improved seeds and fertiliser. They should also bear in mind the feasibility of deferring payments before the roll-out digital transfers, and the potential knock-on effects on VSL. Expanding irrigation coverage may also help to close the hunger gap and put the beneficiaries on a path of real transformation, notwithstanding the need to first address land ownership issues.	Operational recommendation; medium-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit, Food for Assets (FFA) Team	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit; Head of Programmes; Government of Malawi's Adaptation Fund; Ministry of Agriculture	Medium priority	June 2022 in line with next FFA implementation cycle
2	**Recommendation 2:** FFA should explore additional ways for dealing with new threats and/or shocks, such as fall armyworm, posing a significant threat to the sustainability of agricultural interventions working with UN and other development partners. WFP should continue linking with other programmes providing support and training in effective and accessible solutions/treatments, including extra work	Operational recommendation; medium-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit, Food for Assets (FFA) Team; Head of Programmes	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit; Head of Programmes; Government of Malawi's Adaptation Fund; Ministry of Agriculture	Medium priority	June 2022 in line with next FFA implementation cycle

	on prevention and treatment in the fields and continuing to include coverage in the area yield index insurance.					
3	**Recommendation 3**: There is a need for an agency to be an intermediary in implementing weather insurance in communities. WFP should play this role – as underwriter and 'honest broker', linked to implementation of the R4 insurance component – given the context of barriers to market access and lack of experience, knowledge or understanding by participants of insurance as a mechanism to manage risk.	Operational recommendation; Short-to-medium-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit, Climate Services Team; Head of Programmes	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit; Head of Programmes; Government of Malawi's Adaptation Fund; Ministry of Agriculture; DCCMS; African Risk Capacity (guidance only)	High priority	December 2021 within current 2021 FFA cycle
4	**Recommendation 4**: WFP needs to address unequal power relations between participants and programme staff and other stakeholders, such as private sector actors, that may result in programme participants acting in ways they believe to be to their detriment, for example purchasing too-expensive equipment and inputs. This can be achieved through careful monitoring of partners (COVID-19 restrictions permitting), establishing and communicating an efficient and effective grievance mechanism system, and clear communication of participants' obligations under the programme. Faster transition to e-payments and promoting financial and digital inclusions would help to address this, as well as problems such as delays in cash payments, resulting in more impactful FFA implementation.	Operational recommendation; Medium-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit, SAMS Unit, Gender and Protection Unit, Cash-Based Transfers Team, VAM/M&E Units; Head of Programmes; RBJ Gender Advisor	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit; Head of Programmes; Government of Malawi's Adaptation Fund; Ministry of Local Government; Extension Officers; District Councils	High priority	December 2022
5	**Recommendation 5:** The evaluation shows that households headed by women continue to lag behind male-headed households in terms of outcomes. Addressing strategic and structural barriers to GEWE	Strategic recommendation; medium-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit; Gender and	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit; Head of Programmes;	High priority	December 2022

	requires challenging the social, cultural and power relations in both patriarchal and matrilineal communities in which the social and economic status of women remains subordinate to that of men at household and community levels. As a long-term stakeholder in Malawi's development, WFP needs to continue to embed gender equity and women's empowerment throughout its programming.		Protection Unit, M&E Unit; Head of Programmes; RBJ Gender Advisor	Government of Malawi's Ministry of Local Government; Extension Officers; District Councils; Ministry of Gender; Ministry of Economic Development; Ministry of Lands		
6	**Recommendation 6:** WFP should work with appropriate government departments and other key stakeholders in Malawi in relation to land tenure arrangements, given the importance of communal land for successful community asset creation and the challenges posed by using private land for public goods. This entails, over the longer term, exploring opportunities to contribute to debates and national policy fora.	Strategic recommendation; long-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit; Gender and Protection Unit; Head of Programmes; Country Office Senior Management	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit; Head of Programmes; Government of Malawi's Ministry of Local Government; Extension Officers; District Councils; Ministry of Gender; Ministry of Economic Development; Ministry of Lands; UN Resident Coordinator's Office	Medium Priority	December 2023
7	**Recommendation 7:** Barriers to market access and lack of market development pose threats to longer-term resilience of FFA participants. WFP should continue to work in an integrated way with programmes such as R4 and SAMS to enhance market engagement and support. FFA should align in particular with resilience building programmes with a strong market focus, working towards market system change both to allow for increased competition in input markets, so as to offer choice to smallholder farmers, and to develop potential markets for outputs	Strategic recommendation; Medium-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit, SAMS Unit, Gender and Protection Unit, Cash-Based Transfers Team, VAM/M&E Units; Head of Programmes; RBJ Resilience	Head of Programmes; Government of Malawi's Adaptation Fund; Ministry of Local Government; Supply Chain Unit—Food Systems Team	Medium priority	December 2023

	(farm and non-farm). This could also entail partnering at different levels with the private sector (both SMEs and large enterprises), for example playing an intermediary role with agro-dealers and private sector inputs/PHL solution providers. This may also include further alignment to programmes that provide adaptation support: sustainable solar-powered irrigation systems, agricultural value chains and market access, as well as early warning systems for protection against future shocks and new threats such as the fall armyworm.		Technical Advisor(s)			
8	**Recommendation 8:** Integrating with other resilience building programmes appears to be a fruitful strategy, building off the foundational role played by FFA acting as a springboard for participants into other resilience-strengthening activities. WFP should continue to integrate with other programmes, strengthening and building synergies, as this increases the impact of FFA.	Strategic recommendation; Short-to-medium-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit; RBJ Resilience Technical Advisor(s); Country Office Head of Programmes; Country Office Senior Management	Head of Programmes; Government of Malawi's Adaptation Fund; Ministry of Local Government; RBJ Country Capacity Strengthening Regional Advisor; PROSPER; NGOs/other stakeholders working in integrated resilience sphere	High priority	December 2023
9	**Recommendation 9:** FFA offers a number of key lessons learned in implementing programmes to contribute towards strengthening adaptation and resilience that can be shared, not only across WFP programming in Malawi at CO level but also nationally and regionally: i) meeting basic needs is a fundamental foundation for building adaptation and resilience in the Malawi context and others like it	Strategic recommendation; medium-term goal	WFP Malawi Integrated Resilience Unit, RBJ Resilience Technical Advisor(s); Country Office Head of Programmes; Country Office Strategic Objective	Head of Programmes; Government of Malawi's Adaptation Fund; Ministry of Local Government; RBJ Country Capacity Strengthening Regional Advisor; Country Office Senior Management	Medium priority	December 2023

	ii) aligning and integrating with other programmes greatly complements and augments the impact of FFA, especially through linking and layering multiple activities to address short, medium and long-term resilience needs. Resilience scores are higher for increasing numbers of assets iii) structural causes of vulnerability continue to undermine outcomes for women, and particularly households headed by women, compared to male-headed households, and programmes need to continue to both consider the impact of programme activities on women's work burdens and also programme in a gender-transformative way iv) CBPP is an effective planning tool for stakeholder participation and ensuring commitment to integrated resilience programming. This has contributed to shared visioning, better collaboration and complementarity of activities, and strong partnerships by key stakeholders in delivering FFA and resilience interventions		(SO) Managers; Country Office Gender and Protection Officer; RBJ Gender Advisor; RBJ Resilience Technical Advisor(s)			

4. Annexes

Annex 1. Summary Terms of Reference

Evaluation of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) Evaluation in the Context of Malawi (2015-2019)
Commissioned by: WFP Malawi Country Office

Introduction

1. The Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities implemented by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Malawi is one of its cornerstone programmes. WFP Malawi has implemented FFA in ten districts across Southern Malawi, each district with a myriad of complementary activities. The main donors for the WFP's supported resilience activities include USAID (covering 7 districts) and DFID (covering 4 districts). Since 2014, WFP Malawi has been developing an integrated resilience programming approach based on a graduation model out of food insecurity through risk management strategies, climate adaptation, and market-based opportunities. The multi-year action theory of change posits that improvements in access to productive assets, skills and knowledge, gradually combined with an integrated risk-management package (financial savings, credit, insurance scheme, climate services) and technical assistance, along with access to structured markets for produce and basic services, will help vulnerable households and communities to improve resilience, reduce risk, and effectively participate in the food system.[38] While food assistance for assets (FFA) remains the base/foundation on which the different complementary efforts are provided, the approach seeks to incrementally link these efforts by sequencing, phasing in, scaling up and layering (combining) interventions.[38]

Reasons for, and objectives of, the evaluation

2. The evaluation will serve two purposes:
   a. **Operational:** To inform WFP's ongoing programmatic implementation.
   b. **Strategic:** To guide WFP's new approach of creating more integrated programmes.

3. The evaluation will be useful for the WFP Malawi Country Office, as it will centre around two key pillars:
   a. **Operational:** Understanding the WFP FFA project in the overall context of resilience building that WFP and other partners are implementing across the country while detailing the impact, successes, areas for improvement, and unintended results of the WFP-specific interventions.
   b. **Strategic:** Noting, as part of the key recommendations, potential linkages and entry points for integration amongst WFP Malawi's other core programmes but also with potential linkages and complementarities with activities implemented by other stakeholders including the government as noted in the CSP.

4. This evaluation comes at a critical moment, as WFP Malawi is currently undergoing its first year of implementation of a five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2019-2023) in which building resilience is a core part of WFP's strategy in Malawi. The findings will therefore be used by WFP and its partners to inform the implementation of the CSP. This evaluation will take place during the first few months of WFP Malawi's second year of CSP implementation, making it the ideal time to glean lessons learned from implementation to date as well as make changes in-line with its updated programmatic strategy.

Objectives

5. **Accountability:** The evaluation will assess and report on the performance and results of FFA activities and its role as the foundation of resilience, thus meeting internal and external accountability requirements.

[38] Béné et al (2019): Strategic Evaluation of WFP Support for Enhanced Resilience

6. **Learning:** To promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons, the evaluation will determine the reasons why certain results occurred or not, to draw lessons, derive good practices and pointers for learning that can be taken by the key stakeholders including WFP, NGO partners, the government and donors.

Stakeholders, users and potential use of the evaluation

7. A number of stakeholders both inside and outside of WFP have interests in the results of the evaluation, and some of these will be asked to play a role in the evaluation process. A preliminary analysis is available detailing the key stakeholders, their interest in the evaluation, and their potential uses of the findings. This stakeholder mapping should be deepened by the Evaluation Team as part of the *Inception Phase*.

8. WFP is committed to ensuring Accountability to Affected Populations; Gender Equality; Women's Empowerment; and Protection Standards. Key to each of these cross-cutting priorities is ensuring meaningful participation of persons of all diversities (women, men, girls, boys, persons with disabilities, elderly and persons with other diversities including ethnic and linguistic) in the presence and operations of WFP. This includes ensuring their participation in the full programme cycle including this evaluation.

9. The results of this evaluation will be used for a myriad of purposes - most importantly to inform the current design of WFP's FFA activities and potential scale-up to ensure inclusivity of various groups and overall effectiveness. Given that the evaluation will be available roughly 1.5 years into WFP Malawi's five-year CSP, the results will allow for immediate shifts in programming, where necessary. Once finalised, the results will be made available to WFP programme and management staff, donors, other development partners operating in the resilience sphere, and the government.

Subject of the evaluation

10. This evaluation is to serve as an activity-evaluation, looking at WFP's FFA activities under its PRRO as well as current CSP project. Productive Asset creation is integral to WFP's strategy in Malawi, which is focused on building resilience towards graduation from food insecurity.[39] FFA is a multi-year programme designed to support communities in reducing their vulnerability to disasters and chronic food insecurity through the creation and maintenance of productive household and community assets.

11. **Objectives:** Within the PRRO (2014-2019),[40] the objectives of FFA were to:
- Support the restoration of livelihoods and improve household and community resilience through the creation of productive assets under government-led complementary partnerships.
- Reduce disaster risks and enhance resilience of households vulnerable to lean-season food shortages.

12. **Project Outcomes:** The intended outcomes were to achieve:
- Adequate food consumption reached or maintained over assistance period for targeted households.
- Improved access to assets and/or basic services, including community and market infrastructure.
- Improved access to livelihood assets has contributed to enhanced resilience and reduced risks from disaster and shocks faced by targeted food-insecure communities and households.
- Risk reduction capacity of country, communities and institutions strengthened.

Evaluation approach

Scope:

13. **Timeframe:** The evaluation will cover the period 2015-2019, building on the findings of the 2016 mid-term evaluation of the PRRO and the 2019 IRMP mid-term evaluation.

14. **Evaluation Period:** WFP Malawi expects this evaluation to take place during the first half of 2020.

15. **Geographical coverage:** ten districts where FFA is being, or has been, implemented. While WFP would like the Evaluation to centre on those districts where its FFA programmes continue, any lessons learned from implementation in Karonga and Dedza Districts should be included.

[39] For details see page 19 of the CSP (2019-2023) document

[40] Refer to the 2016 mid-term Evaluation of the PRRO for an assessment of the progress towards these objectives

16. **Target group:** FFA beneficiary households and other households in the community stood to benefit (either directly or from copying) the asset(s) created within their community. WFP seeks to understand not only the effects of the assets on its targeted beneficiaries but the larger effects (if any) that each asset/activity had on the community.

17. **Activities:** all FFA activities and complementary activities will be assessed in as far as their design and implementation affects the achievements of FFA objectives or vice-versa.

18. **Focus:**

- Effects and results of the FFA project on community resilience (not solely for project beneficiaries) and sustainability against shocks and risks.
- FFA programme design and implementation will be considered.
- Analysis of whether the targeting against the evaluation criteria was achieved will be included.
- Appropriateness and performance of the FFA modality, both in-kind and CBT.
- Impact on livelihoods and economic improvement of the targeted group, particularly focusing on how the lives of targeted beneficiaries are changed (So what? What's the end game?).
- Potential opportunities for scale-up.
- Potential linkages to other WFP programmes as well potential linkages between WFP Programmes and other key players/stakeholders in Malawi, including the Government of Malawi.

Evaluation criteria and questions

Criteria	Evaluation questions
Relevance	1. In the context of Malawi, how relevant is FFA as the foundation for designing and implementing integrated resilience programmes? 2. To what extent are the objectives of FFA in line with the needs of women, men, boys and girls from different marginalised groups? 3. To what extent is the design of FFA linked/complementary with other resilience activities in Malawi, by WFP and other actors? 4. Is the 2019-developped Theory of Change plausible for FFA resilience assets?
Effectiveness	5. To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes, and strategic results been achieved? What were the main factors (internal and external) influencing the achievement and non-achievement of the FFA objectives and what challenges were faced in the programme? 6. Which assets contributed the most and least towards the achievement of FFA outcomes and why?
Efficiency	7. Were all activities under FFA implemented on time? If not, what were the challenges for the delays (e.g., seasonal rains, etc.)? 8. Were an adequate number of tools/resources provided? Were they provided in a timely manner? Were the tools/resources appropriate (quality and relevance) for the task at hand (correct tools for the geographical location, task, etc.)? Were resources utilised efficiently (e.g., appropriate operational methods, staffing, etc.)? 9. What factors affected the efficiency of the programme? Note that this section – when detailed in the evaluation matrix – will include reviewing the participants selection system, the cost efficiency of FFA versus CFA, and the value of transfers versus local wages.
Impact	10. Are households and targeted communities using the knowledge acquired through farmer field schools, demonstration, and/or other FFA asset-based trainings?

Criteria	Evaluation questions
	11. To what degree have the project outputs and outcomes contributed or are likely to contribute to progress towards more resilient communities?[41] 12. What are the unintended [positive/negative] effects of FFA on targeted individuals, households and communities (spill over effects?) 13. How and to what extent have the different project activities of the FFA had an impact on gender (men, women, girls, and boys), the social networks and fabric of community and power balance of households and communities of the targeted population? Has the project had specific impacts on gender equity? 14. How did the FFA Programme change the lives and livelihoods of the direct project beneficiaries? Were there differences observed on the change in the lives and livelihoods in men versus women participants? 15. How did the FFA Programme benefit the targeted communities as a whole? 16. Do participants in FFA experience long-term benefits from the assets created through the project? What were some of the long-term benefits and how did they impact the community?
Sustainability	17. Which assets are most likely to be sustainable and why? 18. What is the likelihood that the results of the FFA programme will be sustainable after the termination of external assistance? 19. In reviewing the continuity of interventions after the project (especially in the absence of continued FFA payments to beneficiary households) and given the existing linkages with government and local structures, what interventions have continued after ending project activities? 20. What factors affect sustainability and how can these be mitigated to increase chances? 21. To what extent did the target communities assume ownership of the project during and after implementation?
Gender Dimensions	22. To what extent is FFA design based on a sound gender analysis and to what extent is the design and implementation gender-sensitive? 23. Did women hold (and continue to maintain) leadership roles within communities regarding asset management? What did this mean/what impact did this have on the FFA programme? 24. How did WFP's actions affect the context of gender inequality? Did WFP's work (1) improve the lives of women, girls and gender diverse people? (2) maintain existing gender inequalities; (3) worsen the circumstances for women, girls and gender diverse people?
Women's and Youth Empowerment and Dimensions	25. To what extent did women within the community assume ownership of the project during and after implementation? 26. To what extent did women within the community report feeling engaged throughout the project? 27. To what extent did youth within the community assume ownership of the project during and after implementation?

[41] As measured by communities ability to cope during a shock triangulated with the perception of people of their own resilience.

Criteria	Evaluation questions
	28. To what extent did youth within the community report feeling engaged throughout the project?

Evaluability assessment and data availability

19. In line with the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), the Malawi M&E system is designed to operate at the programme (integrated resilience) level rather than the project/activity (FFA) level. The organic way in which the integrated resilience programme has evolved and expanded over time, involving multiple donors and projects, has created challenges for M&E. Efforts are ongoing within the CO to streamline the M&E framework and indicators to ensure that resilience is being looked at from diverse vantage points.

20. The Evaluation Team will have access to:
- Relevant policy and programme documents both from WFP and Government of Malawi.
- Programme monitoring reports and data sets which include:
  - FFA Baselines and expansions/follow-up for 2016, 2017, and 2018
  - Comprehensive Country Strategic Plan Resilience and Recovery baseline data + Summary Report from September 2019
  - FFA post-distribution monitoring (PDM) reports for 2016-2018
  - Summary reports illustrating differences between 2017 and 2018 data
  - R4-specific monitoring and follow-ups for 2017 to 2019
- Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) reports.
- Information from other UN agencies, cooperating partners and other key actors.
- Past evaluation reports including 2016 PRRO and 2019 IRMP mid-term evaluation.

21. Concerning the quality of data and information, the Evaluation Team should:
- Assess data availability and reliability as part of the inception phase expanding on the information provided in this section. This assessment will inform the evaluation data collection strategy.
- Systematically check accuracy, consistency and validity of collected data and information and acknowledge any limitations/caveats in drawing conclusions using the data.

Methodology

22. The evaluation will use a mixed methods approach. The methodology will be based on an analysis of the logic of the use of FFA within an integrated approach to building resilience. It is proposed that the methodology explore application of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), and/or contribution analysis.

23. The overall methodology will be developed by the Evaluation Team during the inception phase and:
- Employ the relevant evaluation criteria with appropriate focus.
- Demonstrate impartiality and lack of biases by relying on a cross-section of information sources (stakeholder groups, including beneficiaries, etc).
- Transparently select/sample field visit sites to demonstrate impartiality.
- Use mixed methods (quantitative, qualitative, participatory etc) to ensure triangulation of both methods and information through a variety of means.
- Apply an evaluation matrix geared towards addressing the key evaluation questions taking into account the data availability challenges, the budget and timing constraints.
- Ensure women, girls, men and boys from different stakeholder groups participate and that their different voices are heard and used through key informant interview and focus group discussions.
- Mainstream gender equality.
- Mainstream women's empowerment.
- Use the FFA Theory of Change created in September 2019 as well as WFP's Corporate TOC on FFA to further inform the research questions.

24. The evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations must reflect gender analysis and the report should provide lessons/challenges/recommendations for conducting gender-responsive evaluations in the future. It is crucial that the conducted analysis discusses the extent to which women, men, girls, and boys were treated fairly according to their respective needs. In regards to human rights, the evaluation should take into account the various aspects as relevant to FFA including land access, water access, and resource equity amongst household participants.

Quality assurance and quality assessment

25. WFP's Decentralised Evaluation Quality Assurance System (DEQAS) defines the quality standards expected for this evaluation and sets out processes with in-built steps for Quality Assurance, Templates for evaluation products and Checklists for their review.

26. The Evaluation Team will be required to ensure the quality of data (validity, consistency and accuracy) throughout the analytical and reporting phases. The Evaluation Team should be assured of the accessibility of all relevant documentation within the provisions of the directive on disclosure of information. This is available in WFP's Directive CP2010/001 on Information Disclosure. The final evaluation report will be subjected to a post hoc quality assessment by an independent entity through a process that is managed by OEV. The overall rating category of the reports will be made public via www.wfp.org alongside the evaluation reports.

Phases and deliverables

27. The evaluation will proceed through five phases as follows:

Preparation phase: The Evaluation Manager will conduct background research and consultation to frame the evaluation; finalise provisions for impartiality and independence; quality assure, consult and finalise the terms of reference; select the Evaluation Team and finalise the budget; prepare the document of library and draft a communication and learning plan.
Deliverables: Approved ToR and Evaluation team (individual consultants or firm contract)

Inception phase: The purpose of this phase is to ensure that the evaluators have a good grasp of the expectations for the evaluation as outlined in the approved ToR in order to prepare a clear plan for conducting it. The phase will include orientation of the Evaluation Team, desk review of secondary data by the evaluators, initial interaction with the main stakeholders; deeper discussions on the methodological approach and review of the programme design and implementation approach; and detailed design of evaluation, including evaluation matrix, methodology, data collection tools and field work schedule.
Deliverable: Inception Report with methodology, evaluation matrix, data collection tools, field schedule; and comments matrix detailing how the Evaluation Team dealt with stakeholder comments

Field work phase: The fieldwork will include visits to project sites and primary and secondary data collection from stakeholders. A debriefing/ presentation of preliminary findings will be done at the end the field work or as soon as initial data analysis.
Deliverable: PowerPoint Exit Briefing/ Presentation of Preliminary Findings

Reporting phase: After analysing the data, the Evaluation team will draft the evaluation report. It will be submitted to the Evaluation Manager for quality assurance. Stakeholders will be invited to provide comments, which will be recorded in a matrix by the Evaluation Manager and provided to the Evaluation Team for their considerations before the report is finalised.
Deliverables: Evaluation report

Dissemination and follow-up phase: The final approved evaluation report will be published on the WFP public website and shared with relevant stakeholders. The CO management will respond to the evaluation recommendations by providing actions that will be taken to address each recommendation and estimated timelines for taking those actions. Findings will be disseminated and lessons will be incorporated into other relevant lessons learnt sharing systems and processes.
Deliverable: Management Responses & Published Evaluation report; other products as required

Organisation of the evaluation and ethics

Evaluation conduct

28. The evaluators, who will be hired following appropriate WFP procedures, will conduct the evaluation under the direction of the Team Leader and in close communication with WFP Evaluation Manager. The evaluators will not have been involved in the design or implementation of the subject of evaluation or have any other conflicts of interest. Further, they will act impartially and respect the code of conduct of the evaluation profession.

Team composition and competencies

29. The Evaluation Team (composed of male and female members) is expected to include three evaluators,[42] with familiarity of/to Malawi rural development context and understanding of the resilience/climate change/adaptation concepts, programming and implementation in general, and specifically knowledge and understanding of design and implementation of FFA. The team should have appropriate skills to assess gender dimensions of the subject as specified in the scope, approach and methodology sections. At least one team member should have WFP evaluation experience.

30. The team will be multi-disciplinary, bringing an appropriate balance of expertise and knowledge in:

- Resilience/climate change/adaptation programming; in-depth understanding of resilience programmes, implemented within a low income country context and understanding of food security.
- Rural development concepts and programming with a deep understanding of the matriarchal issues present in southern Malawian districts.
- Knowledge of developmental evaluation methods and techniques, including an understanding of data collection, evaluation methodologies and design, strong qualitative and quantitative research skills (*highly desirable that team has capacity to explore application of QCA and/or contribution analysis*).
- Fully conversant with the principles and working methods of project cycle management.
- Gender expertise/good knowledge of gender issues and gender integration analysis.
- Strong analytical and communication skills and evaluation experience.

31. All team members should have strong qualitative and quantitative analytical and communication skills, with a Team Leader having over ten years of evaluation experience and familiarity with Malawi.

32. The report will be in English, and all WFP meetings will be conducted in English. However, beneficiaries primarily speak different local languages (predominately Chichewa), and this should be planned for.

Ethical considerations

33. WFP's evaluations must conform to WFP and UNEG ethical standards and norms. The evaluators undertaking the evaluation are responsible for safeguarding and ensuring ethics at all stages of the evaluation cycle (preparation and design, data collection, data analysis, reporting and dissemination). This should include, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of participants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results do no harm to participants or their communities. Informed consent and contact with vulnerable groups - data collection training must include research ethics including how to ensure that all participants are fully informed about the nature and purpose of the evaluation and their involvement. Only participants who have given informed written or verbal consent should be involved in the evaluation.

34. Evaluators are responsible for managing any potential ethical risks and issues and must put in place in consultation with the Evaluation Manager, processes and systems to identify, report and resolve any ethical issues that might arise during the implementation of the evaluation.

Evaluation management and governance arrangements

35. The Governance mechanisms for the evaluation comprise of:

- **Evaluation Manager**: who is not be part of the day-to-day implementation of the programme.
- **Evaluation Committee**: support Evaluation Manager in managing the evaluation and make key decisions

[42] Whether 2 or 3 depends on ability to find evaluator who combine methodological skills as well as subject matter expertise

- **Evaluation Reference Group**: provide subject matter expertise in advisory capacity.

Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders

36. The **Malawi Country Office Management (Director or Deputy Director)** will:
    - Assign an Evaluation Manager: Maribeth Black, Head of Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).
    - Compose the internal Evaluation Committee and the Evaluation Reference Group (see below).
    - Approve the final ToR, inception and evaluation reports.
    - Ensure the independence and impartiality of the evaluation at all stages, including establishment of an Evaluation Committee and a Reference Group (see below and TN on Independence and Impartiality).
    - Participate in discussions with the Evaluation Team on the evaluation design and the evaluation subject, its performance and results with the Evaluation Manager and the Evaluation Team
    - Organise and participate in debriefings, with internal and external stakeholders
    - Oversee dissemination and follow-up, including preparation of a Management Response to the evaluation recommendations.

37. The **Evaluation Manager**, once appointed, will:
    - Manage the evaluation process through all phases including finalising these ToR.
    - Ensure quality assurance mechanisms are operational.
    - Consolidate and share comments on draft ToR, inception and evaluation reports with evaluators.
    - Ensure, as required, use of quality assurance mechanisms (checklists, quality support).
    - Ensure that the team has access to all documentation and information necessary to the evaluation; facilitate the team's contacts with local stakeholders; set up meetings, field visits; provide logistic support during the fieldwork; and arrange for translation, if required.
    - Organise security briefings for the Evaluation Team and provide any materials as required.

38. The **Evaluation Committee** will provide input to evaluation process and comment on evaluation products

39. The **Evaluation Reference Group** will review and comment on the draft evaluation products and act as key informants in order to further safeguard against bias and influence.

40. The **Regional Bureau** will:
    - Advise the Evaluation Manager and provide support to the evaluation process where appropriate.
    - Participate in discussions with the Evaluation Team on the evaluation subject and design as required.
    - Provide comments on the draft ToR, inception and evaluation reports
    - Support the evaluation Management Response and track implementation of the recommendations.

41. Relevant **WFP Headquarters divisions** will:
    - Discuss WFP strategies, policies or systems in their area of responsibility and subject of evaluation.
    - Comment on the evaluation ToR, inception and evaluation reports, as required.

42. **Other Stakeholders (government, NGOs, UN agencies)** will review and comment on draft evaluation products and attend stakeholder sessions.

43. **Beneficiaries (smallholder farming households)** will be consulted during the evaluation process and their inputs will be critical to assessing the level of implementation of activities and achievement of results.

44. The **Office of Evaluation (OEV),** through the Regional Evaluation Officer, will advise the Evaluation Manager and provide support to the evaluation process when required.

Annex 2. Stakeholder Matrix

Stakeholder	Interest in evaluation	Involvement in evaluation and likely use	Who (specifically for the evaluation)
1.1 Internal (WFP) stakeholders			
Malawi Country Office	- Learning from experience to inform decision-making on future FFA programme. - Review progress on FFA as a key priority in the CSP. - Understanding of good practices emerging. - Enhance accountability for results and external accountability to beneficiaries in the country. - Assessing performance of partners and results being achieved.	- Commissioning the Evaluation. - Managing the evaluation process. - Key WFP Malawi staff as key informants. - Discussion of field logistics and provision of information. - Discussions on existing data, preliminary findings and recommendations. **Potential Use:** To inform CO CSP implementation decisions.	Head of VAM, M&E
Regional Bureau (RB) Johannesburg	**Regional Evaluation Officer** - Provides oversight, technical guidance and support. - Provides an independent and impartial account on performance. - Supports CO/RB in ensuring quality, credibility and usefulness of the evaluation. **RB Programme Team** - Understanding how implementation is progressing, lessons learnt and how the lessons can be applied to other countries.	**Regional Evaluation Officer** - Tracking progress in the evaluation process. - EM is a core member of the Evaluation Committee and provides technical support throughout the process. - Review of draft inception reports, evaluation reports and providing regular feedback. **RB Programme Team**	Regional Evaluation Officer Resilience Unit Programme Staff (as Members of Evaluation Reference Group)

		- As members of ERG, provide inputs and comments on draft reports, evaluation report. - Key informants during the evaluation process. - Reviewing evaluation products and providing feedback. **Potential Use:** The results to be used to provide support to the CO and may share learning and good practices from the evaluation with other country offices.	
WFP HQ	**WFP HQ Technical Units** - Issuing and overseeing the roll-out normative guidance on corporate programme themes, activities and key overarching policies and strategies. - Understanding how well the evaluation process was designed using appropriate normative guidelines. - Understanding the results achieved and how lessons generated can be applied globally as part of organization-wide learning.	- Relevant HQ to be consulted during the evaluation process whenever appropriate. - Relevant technical people to have an opportunity to review and comment on draft evaluation products. **Potential Use:** Results may be used to revise and refine guidelines in future and to enhance organizational learning processes.	Relevant HQ Technical Units and Resources.
Office of Evaluation (OEV)	**OEV** - Ensures that the decentralised evaluation process delivers quality, credible and useful evaluation products. - Ensures respect for provisions for impartiality as well as roles and	**OEV** - Provides and facilitates access to independent quality support services to the evaluation. - Ensures access to the help desk.	OEV Technical Support Staff.

	accountabilities. Stakeholders in the decentralised evaluation process.	**Potential Use:** Results may be integrated in the Annual Evaluation Report of the Organization. Results may also be used for future synthesis of evidence.	
WFP Executive Board	**Executive Board** - Expects to be informed about the effectiveness of WFP programmes.	**Potential Use:** Evaluation results will not be presented to the Board but findings may feed into thematic and/or regional synthesis and corporate learning processes.	
External stakeholders			
Individual Beneficiaries (women, men, girls and boys) and communities	**Beneficiaries (Women's groups, community groups, households and individuals)** - As final recipients of food assistance, beneficiaries play a key role in ensuring WFP support is appropriate and effective. - Beneficiaries also interested in understanding how to improve effectiveness WFP-supported programme activities in response to the differentiated needs of women, men, girls and boys of different age groups.	- Provide practical insights on relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of WFP FFA activities. - Validation of equitable participation in planning and generation of program results. - Perspectives on the participation of women, men, girls and boys in monitoring and evaluation processes. **Potential use:** Beneficiaries will use the evaluation process as an opportunity to provide their views on the design and implementation of FFA activities.	Beneficiaries representatives from FFA activities and related interventions involving men and women together and separately as FGDs in at least 20% of the FFA sites.
Malawi Government (Mainly Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, Ministry of Disaster and Relief	**Government Departments, Programmes and Line Ministries** Responsible for design and overseeing implementation of policies, strategies and plans for sustainable agriculture and food security, ensuring zero hunger, resilience of communities, sustainable natural resources management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.	- Government officials are members of the ERG to ensure they are systematically engaged in providing inputs to the evaluation process and having a voice in the future direction of the programme.	Strategic Technical Counterparts and Contact Persons on Zero Hunger, Resilience, Nutrition and Gender.

Management, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development)	- Ensuring WFP activities in the country align with government priorities, harmonise with actions of other partners and are meeting expected results. - Understanding issues of capacity development, handover, impact and sustainability.	- Participation of government partners as key informants in interviews to be conducted by ET. **Potential Use:** Findings, conclusions and recommendations may be used when reviewing the support provided by WFP towards progress in the implementation of the Malawi resilience strategy and other relevant national programmes.	
District-Based Stakeholders	**Local Authority Representatives and Workers in the FFA Districts, District-Level Government Officials, Agricultural Extension Workers, Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) Leadership Members, Traditional Authority leaders and Chiefs, Leaders from Women's Groups, CBOs, Smallholder Savings and Loans (SVLs) and Locally Based Cooperating Partner Staff.** - Expect to be consulted in the planning and during the evaluation especially pertaining to field process. - Expect to be interviewed to provide feedback on the progress of the project and opportunities for scaling up. - Understanding issues for capacity building, handover, impact and sustainability.	- District stakeholders to be consulted during field work as part of the evaluation. - Voices of the district-level stakeholders to inform how implementation took place as well as providing district-level perspectives for sustainability and impact of FFA activities.	Strategic Focal Persons representing all stakeholders detailed in this district-level stakeholder mapping.
UN Country Team	**UN Country Governance and Thematic Focal Points** - Experts harmonised actions for realization of government developmental objectives and contribute to the national resilience strategy.	- The relevant focal points in the UN Team in Malawi will be invited to be members of the Evaluation Reference Group. - They will be interviewed as key informants and invited for presentation of preliminary findings.	UN Country Team Focal and Contact Points.

	- Ensuring that WFP programmes are effective in contributing to the UN concerted efforts in supporting Malawi development. - UNDP and FAO as partners that contribute to the realization of the government objectives on climate services and early warning.	- They will be given an opportunity to comment on the draft evaluation products including Inception Report and evaluation report. **Potential Use:** Evaluation results may be used as inputs when reviewing progress towards implementation of the Malawi resilience strategy to which WFP contributes through its FFA and other resilience activities.	
NGOs and Other Partners (Word Vision United Purpose, Concern World Wide, Farm Radio Trust Foundation for Irrigation and Sustainable Development, CARE Malawi, Find your Fleet, Plan International, CUMO, University of Reading, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR))	**FFA Implementation Partners and Local Collaboration Partners** - Understanding their achievements as WFP's partners in implementation of some FFA activities as well as their own interventions related to resilience. - Understanding how the results of the evaluation might affect future implementation modalities, strategic orientations and partnership arrangements.	- The NGO partners will be invited to be members of the evaluation reference group. - They will be interviewed as key informants and invited for presentation of preliminary findings. - They will also be given opportunity to comment on the draft evaluation products including Inception Report and evaluation report. **Potential Use:** Evaluation findings may be used to inform their future proposals to WFP and/or their overall approach to partnering with WFP for enhanced resilience.	Directors of Partner NGOs and Programme Focal Persons.
Main FFA Donors (USAID, Japan, FCDO, Germany)	- These donors are interested in knowing whether the resources it provided to WFP were utilised as planned, whether the results agreed funding agreements have been achieved and what lessons are emerging. - Learn about future collaboration opportunities.	- They will be kept updated during this evaluation process through existing channels of donor engagement. - Key staff will be interviewed as key informants. - The final evaluation report will be shared with them.	Donor Contact Persons.

		Potential Use: They will use the results as part of accountability to their taxpayers.	
Donors to other complementary activities (Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Flemish Government)	- These donors are funding related interventions in Malawi and are therefore interested in seeing how the results of the FFA complement the programmes that they are funding.	- They will be kept updated during the evaluation process through existing channels of donor engagement. - Key staff will be interviewed as key informants. - The final evaluation report will be shared with them. **Potential Use:** They may use these results to inform funding decisions.	Complementary Donor Focal Persons.
Private Sector (National Insurance Company) (NICO)	- As stated in the CSP (see page 25), WFP has an interest in forging and strengthening partnerships with private sector. - For example, the Integrated Risk Management Programme links FFA beneficiaries to insurance. - Their interest is in assessing how well this link is working towards enhanced resilience of households for WFP and partners involved.	As appropriate, these will be interviewed as key informant interviews (or information they may have provided during the IRMP evaluation used). **Potential Use:** They may use the results of this evaluation to enhance their collaboration.	Private Sector Focal Persons.

Annex 3. Evaluation Approach - Pillars of Assessment and FFA

Annex 3.1: Theory of Change

45. The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- Accountability: The evaluation aims to assess and report on the performance and results of FFA activities and its role as the foundation of resilience for women, men, girls and boys and other vulnerable groups.
- Learning: To promote learning, feedback and knowledge sharing through results and lessons, the evaluation aims to determine the reasons why certain results did or did not occur (and for which groups), in order to draw lessons and derive good practice and pointers for learning that can be taken by WFP, NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) partners, the government and donors.

46. The Evaluation Contribution and Performance 'stories' have been grouped into four pillars of assessment. Figure 14 illustrates how these pillars come together in our evaluation design, indicating the data sources and analytical models. A mixed-methods approach will be used across these assessments. FFA's contribution to resilience can best be understood through a rich qualitative exploration of asset-based interventions, using in-depth participatory discussions with communities at risk of food insecurity exacerbated by shock and stressors (Pillar 4). These discussions will focus on how communities use the interventions for resilience purposes. We will strengthen this contribution story by evidencing the results of FFA (Pillar 3), many of which are directly linked to typical resilience indicators (See Resilience Measurement below). The qualitative discussion is likely to unearth other results, such as social bonding and knowledge utilization (EQ 10) and the attributes of ownership (EQs 32 and 34), that typically are important for resilience but not captured in WFP routine monitoring.

47. To understand whether the results of FFA in Malawi are an accurate representation of the intervention's potential contribution, the ET will assess whether it was implemented as intended (Pillar 2), based on a suitable design for Malawi (Pillar 1), and to what extent internal or external factors limited or enhanced the results (all pillars).

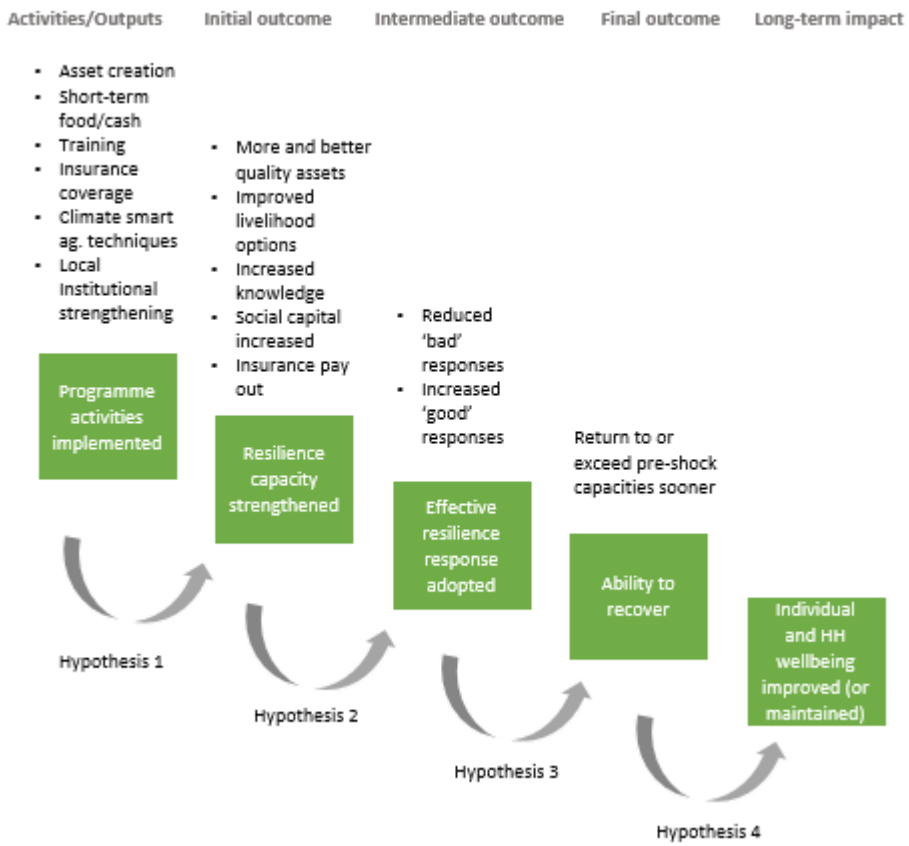
Figure 13: Pillars of Assessment in the Evaluation of FFA Malawi

Theory-based evaluation of FFA's resilience contribution

48. The ET will use a theory-based evaluation to assess and explain what change has happened and how it came about. It will assess the links and assumptions in FFA's Theory of Change (which represents the transition between Pillars 2–4 in Figure 14 above). Figure 15 (below) outlines the major steps in the process and demonstrates how the ET will sequence FFA's results into an understanding of its contribution to resilience.

Figure 14: High-level Theory of Change for enhancing resilience, adapted to WFP Malawi[43]

43 Adapted from Béné, C., Frankenberger, T., & Nelson, S. (2015) Design, monitoring and evaluation of resilience interventions: conceptual and empirical considerations. IDS Working Paper 459, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, p.23.



49. At Hypothesis 1, we expect to see that, in communities where FFA activities have been delivered as planned (tested in Pillar 2), recipient groups report improved capitals in areas directly linked to project activities (for example: that reforestation activities are leading to greater tree coverage and reduced soil erosion; that livelihood training is leading to new sources of income).

50. At Hypothesis 2, we expect that those communities where the project has been successful in increasing resilience capacities report being better able to deal with shocks in the immediate term, by employing fewer 'negative' coping strategies (e.g. productive asset selling) and more 'positive' coping strategies (reciprocal support, drawing on insurance, increased use of positive agricultural techniques).

51. At Hypothesis 3, we expect to see that better responses to shock reduced the impact on households' short- to mid-term development, and such households should report being able to return more quickly to pre-shock levels of assets and capital.

52. At Hypothesis 4, we expect to see that those households that returned to their pre-shock conditions sooner have maintained or improved their long-term food security.

Annex 4. Resources and Outputs

Annex 4.1: Resource requirements and funding realization

Year	Budget	Secured Funds (US$)	Complimentary Resources	Implications and/or Mitigation Strategies
2015	CO Budget was US$ 219,493,144, of which US$ 139,777,214 was for food and related costs and US$ 45,705,165 was for cash-based transfers and related costs.	Confirmed budget for food and related costs as well as cash & voucher was US$ 83,739,273. US$ 52,996,482 was secured.	Government of Malawi and other UN agencies responded positively to collaborating with WFP.	There was also a significant devaluation of the US$ in 2015 which created some challenges and fluctuations in costs.
2016	WFP needed US$ 280 million to respond to high levels of food insecurity and support ongoing safety net and development programmes.	US$ 23 million was raised for cash-based transfer programming in 2016 to cover the 2016 and 2017 needs.	El Nino Preparedness Budget was US$ 285,288 (Regional Preparedness). Government cash and in-kind contributions amounted to US$ 112 million.	WFP CO had received support from 27 donors by end of 2016 (including 8 from the private sector). WFP strengthened mechanisms for better alignment with Government programmes to leverage complementary support and financing.
2017	Overall country budget was US$ 262 million.	CO secured US$ 66.4 million (25% of projected budget).	Government cash and in-kind contribution was US$ 100 million. Funding for capacity strengthening which was not available in previous years amounted to US$ 2.1 million to strengthen integrated programming. Gender Equality funding to the tune of US$ 35.72 million for period 2017–2019 – this saw increased capacity strengthening of partners and community structures on gender and protection.	Benefited from use of carry-over funds from 2016 as the CO received 25% of its project requirement in 2017. WFP strengthened collaborative approach to resource mobilization with UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and NGO partners (One UN Mechanism approach) – an approach which informed 2018 CO Strategy.
2018	Work was executed within the PRRO 200692 budgeting framework (2014–2018) with a total approved budget of US$ 653.8 million.	40% of Annual Country Budget.	Governments of US, Germany, the FCDO, Japan, Iceland, Switzerland and Flanders, UN-Pooled Funds and private donors supported the CO operations for 2018. Government was highly supportive through cash and in-kind donations. WFP worked closely with line ministries.	2018 witnessed a huge budget decline due to the emergency crisis in 2017. Only 40% of annual country budget was met. WFP forged linkages with government and other UN agencies.
2019	US$ 44,566,224	US$ 32,144,255	WFP maintained its highly collaborative approach with Government, UN agencies and private sector.	60% funding received for FFA activities. Beneficiary coverage was reduced to 155,000 (of 167,000 planned).

Annex 4.2: Planned versus Actual Outputs FFA

Number	Output	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
1	Kilometres (km) of feeder roads rehabilitated and maintained			118	75	1,296	1,450	980	909		
2	Metres (m) of terraces constructed					9,360,662	9,252,100				
3	Number of community gardens constructed (gardens)					422	432	194	3,162	360	439
4	Number of family gardens established (gardens)					116,316	98,530			109,611	128,067
5	Number of new nurseries established (nursery)			34	34	180	824				
6	Square (m^2) of new nurseries established							370,000	369,039		
7	Number of people/farmers trained (individual)					26,651	26,340			56,706	42,503
8	Number of staff trained in rainwater harvesting and management techniques (individual)					51	51				
9	Number of woodlots established in WFP-assisted schools			148	142						
10	Hectares (ha) of agricultural land benefiting from new irrigation schemes (including irrigation canal construction, specific protection measures, embankments)			69	57					24	29

11	Hectares of community woodlots			14,156	7853					768	261
12	Hectares of cultivated land treated with both physical soil and water conservation measures and biological stabilisation or agro-forestry techniques	500	377	1,563	2,384						
13	Hectares of cultivated land treated and conserved with physical soil and water conservation measures only							15,680	19,781		
14	Hectares of degraded hillsides and marginal areas rehabilitated with physical soil and biological soil and water conservation measures, planted with trees and protected			272	228						
15	Hectares of vegetables planted			3,217	3,207						
16	Hectares of land bought under construction									2,225	2,225
17	Kilometres of gullies reclaimed			184	34					177	62
18	Number of boreholes for agriculture or livestock created										
19	Lengths (km) of irrigated canals constructed			1	1					2	0.20
20	Kilometres of irrigation canals rehabilitated									5	0
21	Linear metres (m) of flood protection dykes constructed							7,831,801	12,268,717	2,300	253

22	Number of animal shelters constructed									772	773
23	Number of local goat houses constructed			684	359						
24	Number of community groups formed and registered	48	38	30	30						
25	Number of compost pits created			82,866	47,365						
26	Number of excavated community water ponds for livestock uses constructed (3000–15000 cbmt)			15	5						
27	Number of fish ponds constructed (FFA) and maintained (self-help)	8	12	9	8					7	0
28	Number of fish fingerlings distributed									28,000	0
29	Number of hives distributed			446	219					1,203	968
30	Number of households who receive fuel-efficient stoves			1,301	774						
31	Number of livestock watering points built/restored			24	7						
32	Number of community members trained in asset management and sustainability	1,000	1,284								
33	Number of people trained in environmental protection			9,356	8,682			468	468		
34	Number of people trained in project management			225	225			3,009	4,337		
35	Number of people trained in engineering skills							1,831	17,822		
36	Number of people trained in livelihood technologies							32,732	17,094		

37	Number of people trained in health, nutrition and health lifestyles	21	21					16,217	16,347		
38	Number of shallow wells constructed			12	12						
39	Number of tree seedlings produced (tree seedlings)	178,000	132,000	15,521,660	10,325,953	8,911,742	8,371,893	9,226,561	8,387,059	5,546,914	6,894,670
40	Quantity of tree seedlings produced provided to individual households			6,953,560	3,761,789						
41	Number of water control structures constructed (unit)					488,082	488,082				
42	Number of beekeeping equipment items constructed (item)					549	398				
43	Volume (m^3) of check dams and gully reclamation structures (soil sedimentation dams) constructed			92	17	178,683	139,616	296,573	322,502	526,768	455,047
44	Volume (m^3) of compost produced					1,167,843	866,162				
45	Volume (m^3) of water harvesting system constructed					227,274	227,274	490,201	515,513		
46	Number of wells, shallow wells constructed for irrigation/livestock use (>50 cbmt)							269	295		
47	Number of people insured through micro-insurance schemes (female)									26,928	26,928
48	Number of people insured through micro-insurance schemes (male)									10,963	10,963

Annex 5. Logical Framework

	Indicators	MOV	Assumptions
Impact	Contributes to MGD III 'Significant progress realised towards a competitive, productive and resilient nation by 2023'.		
	3 impact indicators: • % people requiring food & cash assistance. • % change HH DDS. • % HH with improved household Resilience Capacity Index (based on RIMA).	• HIS surveys (NSO, MFEPD) • OM surveys	Reduction in scale and negative impacts of recurrent disasters
Outcome 1	Vulnerable populations including smallholder farmers from districts targeted by resilience interventions improved (or stabilised) food and nutrition security situation by the end of the assistance period.		
	8 outcome indicators: • FS Index (CARI). • FCS disaggregated by HH. • FCS (nutrition). • CSI (food & livelihoods). • Food Expenditure Share (FES). • % change in HH expenditure. • minimum acceptable diet (children 6–23 months). • % reduction of HH experiencing food deficit reduction by at least 2 months.	• OM Surveys[44]	Reduction in scale and negative impacts of recurrent disasters
Output 1.1	Food, nutritional products, non-food items and/or cash transfers distributed in sufficient quantity and quality and in a timely manner to targeted beneficiaries.		
	4 output indicators: • # of women, men, girls and boys receiving food assistance disaggregated, as % of planned. • quantity of food assistance distributed disaggregated by type as % of planned. • total amount of cash transferred to beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and beneficiary category, as % of planned. • quantity of NFIs distributed, disaggregated by type, as % of planned.	• Distribution Records	Food and/or cash-based transfers during lean season or an early recovery phase contribute to maintaining nutrition levels over the short term through avoiding negative food and livelihood coping strategies.

[44] These are Outcome Monitoring Surveys usually conducted twice a year, during post-harvest season (May/June) and in the lean season (December).

Outcome 2	Vulnerable populations in targeted districts have enhanced resilience to weather-related shocks and diversified livelihoods by the end of the assistance period.		
	20 outcome indicators: % changes improvements in: • income. • income sources. • crop diversity. • asset base. • capacity to manage climate shocks and risks. • capacity to purchase insurance with cash. • HH savings, accessing integrated risk management strategies. • access to WatSan facilities. • hectares of land rehabilitated. • forest protection/regeneration. • watershed rehabilitation. • natural forest protection. • biomass production. • increased use of climate information for decision-making. • asset creation through self-help efforts. • use of IWM by non-FFA villages. • replication of technologies and improved practices by non-FFA HH. • increased fruit and orchard production. • access to small stock. • improved livestock feeds and assets built, restored and maintained.	• OM Surveys	Political and security conditions are conducive to develop FFA/Asset creation capacities at national and decentralised levels (district and sub-district levels).
Output 2.1	Community-based integrated natural resources management promoted in target areas.		
	9 NRM output indicators: • live fences created. • community woodlots established. • tree seedlings produced. • improved beehives distributed. • fuel-efficient stoves distributed, fabricated and used locally. • % change in biomass production. • developed and functional bylaws. • forested areas integrated with IGAs (honey production).	• Partner reports	NRM and land tenure issues and access rights allow women and vulnerable groups access and benefits from assets.

	• depth of water tables raised.		
Output 2.2	Technical capacity of implementation partners, WFP staff and communities enhanced.		
	5 output capacity building indicators: • % activities meeting technical standards. • # of partner staff trained in integrated asset creation. • sites with results-oriented watershed plans. • % of demo and learning sites for experience sharing. • % districts receiving relevant technical materials.	• Partner Reports	Effective coordination and technical exchange mechanisms are in place.
Output 2.3	Integrated Watershed Management approach and technologies harmonised and adapted.		
	4 IWM output indicators: • #technologies screened, tested and harmonised. • % stakeholders adopting and adapting harmonised approaches and technologies. • # of partnership and collaboration modalities with UN agencies and other agencies. • # of best practices documented and shared.	• Partner Reports	Mechanisms for stakeholder coordination and mutual collaboration are functional.
Output 2.4	Community infrastructures improved (water sources and road).		
	8 community infrastructure output indicators: • community access roads constructed and/or rehabilitated. • river crossings/bridges constructed. • # villages with community access roads. • # of HH accessing socio-economic services. • # of villages accessing markets. • % villages with additional water sources. • % of HH with water access for vegetables, garden, livestock and/or fish farming. • # of fish ponds constructed.	• Partner reports	Different types of community and household assets can be created or rehabilitated through FFA.
Output 2.5	Targeted smallholder farmers access an integrated package of risk management tools and services to increase productivity and income.		
	12 risk management output indicators: • # of people insured. • households with payoffs. • value of payments. • total value of premiums. • total sum insured. • HH membership of formal & informal schemes. • value of HH savings.	• Partner Reports	Communities and Smallholder Farmers (SHFs) understand the importance of investing in risk management.

	• HH trained. • HH accessing credit. • HH with access to a vegetable garden. • HH with access to fruit trees. • # of constructed latrines.		
Output 2.6	Targeted population with access to climate services at household, community and national levels.		
	5 climate services output indicators: • # of delivery channels to communities for climate services. • HH trained to access and use climate services. • HH receiving climate services disaggregated by source. • # of intermediaries trained to access, interpret and communicate climate information to HH. • # of information advisory types (e.g. nutrition, wash, crop, livestock, off-farm livelihoods, markets).	• Partner Reports	
Outcome 3	Increased smallholder production and sales of agricultural products and food at national and local levels for farmers.		
	7 agriculture production and market access outcome indicators: • % change in annual crop production. • % default rate of WFP SHF procurement contracts. • % M/F farmers selling through farmer aggregation system. • rate of post-harvest losses. • % HH accessing markets. • % HH with increased livestock production. • food purchased from aggregation systems by SMF as % of national and local purchases.	• WFP Records • OM Surveys	No major shocks and disasters occur to disrupt agricultural production activities.
Output 3.1	Agricultural production and productivity enhanced for smallholder farmers participating in resilience interventions.		
	11 output indicators in relation to: • contour ridges constructed. • hectares (ha) cultivated using improved SWC techniques. • ha cultivated with soil stabilisation measures (e.g. vertiver). • post-harvest facilities constructed. • SHFs qualifying for P4P. • gullies reclaimed. • volumes of dams constructed. • volume of composts produced. • canals constructed. • land area under irrigation.	• Partner Reports	No major shocks and disasters occur to disrupt agricultural production activities.

	• flood control dykes constructed.		
Outcome 4	National policies and programmes are informed on innovative approaches to resilience building and shock-sensitive social protection systems.		
	# of national policies and programmes influenced by WFP resilience programming.	• Programme reports	Government recognises WFP as a relevant partner in identified domains requiring policy support.
Output 4.1	Development of national policies on innovative approaches to resilience building and shock-sensitive social protection supported.		
	#of policies supported with WFP contribution.	• Programme reports	Government recognises WFP as a relevant partner in identified domains requiring policy support.

Annex 6. Evaluation Matrix

53. NOTE: Due to time constraints in carrying out the data collection in the context of COVID-19 restrictions, the ET prioritised the evaluation sub questions to be used to support answering the higher-level EQs. Priority questions are shaded blue light green and secondary questions light orange, focusing on those most able to demonstrate impact and effectiveness of the programme. Unshaded sub-EQs were those considered to be of lowest priority ("nice to have" but not essential)

Evaluation question 1: How relevant is FFA as the foundation for WFP resilience programming in Malawi?							Criteria: Relevance
ET No.	Sub questions	Measure/Indicators	Main sources of data/information	Data collection methods	Data Analysis Method	Triangulation	Evidence availability / reliability
1	To what extent does FFA allow or hinder WFP in designing and implementing integrated programmes?	Indications that FFA has been linked to other WFP initiatives and created successful outcomes versus indications that integration caused detriment to FFA's or the wider CO's capacity, intervention integrity, results or reputation	Staff perspectives CO and Activity budgets CSP Design CRF results Integrated Resilience Strategy 2018 Standard Project Reports	CO Key Informant interviews Document review	Thematic and Performance	RBJ and HQ KIIs Partner KIIS	Good
2	To what extent are the objectives of FFA in line with the needs of women, men, boys and girls from different marginalized groups?	Short-term objective: extent to which immediate access to food / cash at a time of shock is required by each group Long-term objective: extent to which assets created or rehabilitated are appropriate to the long-term development goals of each group plus their surrounding	Community HH or Phone Survey National and Local Government sources	PRA HH OR Phone Survey KII	Thematic	Other evaluations and academic reviews of FFA objectives	Good

		geographic, livelihood, climatic, ecosystem and other contexts.					
2a	To what extent is FFA design based on a sound gender analysis and to what extent is the design and implementation gender-sensitive?	Level of consideration given to access, participation, utilisation, and conversion (ability to convert FFA outputs into more longer-term goals) characteristics of different gender groups, taking into consideration their existing social and household norms.	CSP and FFA design documents Resilience Gender Enquiry Stream Report 2017	Document review	Thematic	CO KIIs and PRA	Good
3	To what extent is the design of FFA linked/complementary with other resilience activities in Malawi?	Level of coherence between FFA's objectives and interventions in relation to those of major government and donor programmes. Indications that FFA has been linked to non-WFP initiatives and created successful outcomes without detriment to the capacity, intervention integrity, results or reputation of FFA, the integrated activities, or the wider CO and partner.	1. Other resilience implementers in Malawi 2. FFA design docs / implementation reports	KIIs with government, donors, and NGOs Doc Review	Thematic	Across interviews	Good

OA	Is the 2019-developed Theory of Change plausible for FFA resilience assets?	Extent to which FFA results under Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability, demonstrate progress through ToC pathways, taking in to consideration extent to which FFA was delivered as intended. Extent to which assumptions in the ToC remain valid: were experienced in the programme, were overcome or presented insurmountable blockers in the context; whether new assumptions are needed.	Combination of all sources used for all other EQs	Combination of all methods for other EQs	Contribution Analysis	Across data, PRA interviews, and staff feedback	

Evaluation question 2: To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes, and strategic results been achieved?							Criteria: Effectiveness
No.	Sub questions	Measure / Indicator	Main Sources of Data	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method	Triangulation	Evidence availability / reliability
4	To what extent have the targeted outputs, outcomes, and strategic results been achieved? What were the main factors (internal and external) influencing the achievement and non-achievement of the FFA objectives?	Food Security Outcome Indicators Socio-economic indicators Indicators on agricultural production Indicators of financial access Access to climate information	COMET HH or Phone Survey	HH OR Phone Survey.	Performance and Thematic	Annual / SPR Reports	Reasonable
5	How did WFP actions affect the context of gender inequality? (1) improved the lives of women, girls and gender diverse people? (2) maintained existing gender inequalities; (3) worsen the circumstances for women, girls and gender diverse people?	Indications that FFA led to improvements, reductions or no-change in the following: 1) Access to and utilisation of support; 2) Decision making / Leadership capacity; 3) Social perception of role; 4) Asset ownership; 5) Time and energy commitments; 6) Social networks; 7) Self-reported effects	Community perspectives	PRA	Thematic	SPR Reports IRMP report Resilience Gender Enquiry Stream Report 2017	Not routinely collected. Requires primary
5a	Did women hold (and continue to maintain) leadership roles within communities regarding asset management? What did this mean/what impact did this have on the FFA programme?	# Women on management committees versus # roles % of female committee members who feel	Committee membership lists FGD	FGD	Count and Thematic	Standard Project Reports	

		listened to and able to influence decisions Indications that women's involvement led to tangible or intangible different in process or outputs of FFA					
5b	To what extent did women within the community feel engaged throughout the project?	Indications that female Non-committee members who feel consultive and active in following processes >> targeting >> asset selection >> modality decisions >>work terms >> asset >> development >> training >> M&E >> others	Women's perspectives	FGD	Thematic	PRA	
6	Which assets, or combination of assets, contributed the most and least towards the achievement of FFA outcomes	Assets / Combinations with low / high scores in Food Security Outcome Indicators Socio-economic indicators Indicators on agricultural production Indicators of financial access Access to climate information	COMET HH or Phone Survey	HH OR Phone Survey.	Disaggregated results data by asset type/combination	PRA	N/A
7	Are households and targeted communities using the knowledge acquired through farmer field schools,	Evidence of FFA -provided knowledge in use on farms, assets, and other areas.	Community	PRA	Observational and Thematic	HH or Phone Survey	

	demonstration, and/or other FFA asset-based trainings?						

Evaluation Question 3: To what extent was FFA implemented efficiently?							Criteria: Efficiency
No.	Sub questions	Measure / Indicator	Main Sources of Data	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method	Triangulation	Evidence availability / reliability
8	Were all activities under FFA implemented on time? If not, what were the challenges for the delays?	Planned versus actual implementation times, allowing for adjustments that increase or mitigate threats to effectiveness	PDM / FFA Monitoring reports Field staff, local government, and community perspectives	Document review KII	Performance and Thematic	KII with CO staff	Good
9	Were an adequate number of tools/resources provided? Were they provided in a timely manner? Were the tools/resources appropriate (quality and relevance) for the task at hand (correct tools for the geographical location, task, etc.)? Were resources utilised efficiently (e.g., appropriate operational methods, staffing, etc.)?	# of tools versus # of planned workers # and type of tools versus # type of planned work Type of tool versus task and context Level of work and # staff versus task output Cost efficiency of FFA versus CFA Value of transfers versus local wages. Community satisfaction with targeting procedures	Participant Selection Systems	Document review	Performance	FFA Manual	Low
10	What factors affected the efficiency of the programme?	Factors that may have slowed the programme or increased its costs	CO, Field staff, local government, implementing partners and community perspectives	KII with Sources of Data	Thematic	FFA Monitoring reports	Reasonable

			FFA Monitoring reports				

Evaluation Question 4: To what degree have the project outputs and outcomes contributed to progress towards resilience?							Criteria: Impact
No.	Sub questions	Measure / Indicator	Main Sources of Data	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method	Triangulation	Evidence availability / reliability
11	To what extent, and how, has FFA been useful before, during or after a shock?	Proportion of households in the FFA community increased, declined, or stayed the same since the start of FFA, over the last four years WITH experience of shock Proportion of households in the FFA community increased, declined, or stayed the same since the start of FFA, over the last four years WITHOUT experience of shock	Household and community perspectives	HH Survey HH OR Phone, Doc Reviews	timeline analysis	Qualitative analysis of HH data with documentary reviews	Good
12	What mechanisms did the community use to react to these shocks?	Proportion of households successfully using appropriate coping mechanisms to	Community perspectives, FFA Evaluations and Asset Tracking Reports,	PRA/KIIs	Thematic	PRA with KIIs	Good

		shocks over the last 4 years	Community Asset Monitoring Reports				
13	How did the FFA Programme change the lives and livelihoods of the direct project beneficiaries? Were there differences observed on the change in the lives and livelihoods in men versus women participants?	Proportion of households in the FFA with changes in nutrition status, zero hunger gap and diversified livelihood options. Proportion of men and women FFA beneficiaries demonstrating food self-sufficiency, nutrition, zero hunger and diversified livelihood choices	Community perspectives, Baseline Reports, FFA monitoring reports, Asset tracking reports, Impact monitoring reports, Gender assessments and Monitoring Reports	PRA, Document reviews, KIIs, HH OR Phone Survey.	Nutrition and Livelihood/Poverty Analysis, Gender disaggregation analysis	Household survey data with monitoring assessments and VAC Assessments	Good
14	What are the unintended [positive/negative] effects of FFA on targeted individuals, households and communities (spill over effects?)	Indications of individuals, households and community members positively and/or negatively affected by spill-over unintended effects of the project.	FFA monitoring and evaluation reports, Impact monitoring reports	Document Reviews, KIIs, FGDs with asset groups/committees	Thematic	Comparing data from PRA/KII and documentary assessments	Low
15	How and to what extent have the different project activities of the FFA had an impact on gender (men, women, girls, and boys), the social networks and fabric of community and power	Proportion of men, women, girls and boys reporting positive impacts on gender equity and equality over the 4 years of the project.	FFA Monitoring and evaluation reports, Impact monitoring reports, Gender assessment and monitoring reports, Asset Tracking	PRA (Community Asset Appraisal)	Gender Disaggregated analysis of impacts	PRA with documentation assessments	Good

	balance of households and communities of the targeted population? Has the project had specific impacts on gender equity?		reports by age and gender				
16	How did the FFA Programme benefit the targeted communities as a whole? Who in the community is benefiting the most from WFP activities and who the least? Who is not benefiting from the FFA activities but should be and why?	Evidence of community members participating and recognizing benefits in knowledge, assets and empowerment through different activities/cycles of the project.	Community and sub-group perspectives. Training and capacity building reports, FFA monitoring and evaluation reports, Beneficiary Tracking Reports, Asset tracking Reports	PRA, FFA Monitoring Reports	Thematic	PRA with KII and documentary assessments	Good
17	Do participants in FFA experience long-term benefits from the assets created through the project? What were some of the long-term benefits and how did they impact the community?	Evidence of FFA participants benefiting from assets created by the project disaggregated by gender. Evidence of benefits and impacts created by different types of assets at community level.	Asset tracking reports, FFA monitoring reports	PRA (Community Asset Appraisal)	Gender Disaggregated analysis of impacts	PRA with FFA monitoring reports	Low
18	Will most FFA participants also benefit from the created/rehabilitated assets in the long-run, including women and the most vulnerable households? If no, what is the	Proportion of women and other vulnerable groups with evidence of created and/or rehabilitated assets that are contributing to	FFA Monitoring Reports, Asset Tracking Reports	PRA (Community Asset Appraisal)	Gender Disaggregated analysis of impacts	PRA with FFA monitoring reports with documentary assessments	Low

	indicative proportion of FFA participants who will not benefit from selected productive assets (looking in particular at farmland, irrigation schemes, tree plots)?	income, livelihoods and resilience to shocks and unpredictable events/and or phenomenon. Proportion of eligible FFA participants excluded from targeted productive assets benefits					
19	Do interviewed households think that FFA activities will increase their capacity to face future reoccurring natural shocks (dry spells/floods) or support their recovery from future negative effects of natural shocks (dry spells/floods)? If yes, in what ways will it do so? If not, what are the reasons these activities would not support recovery or increase their capacity to face next shocks?	Proportion of surveyed HH with positive confidence and capacity to deal with future shocks. Percentage HH with dry spell and/or flood recovery systems and strategies.	HH or Phone Survey, FFA Monitoring Reports	HH OR Phone Survey., PRA (Community Asset Appraisal)	Disaggregated results data by asset type/combination	HH data with PRA and documentary assessments	Good

Evaluation Question 4: To what extent does FFA support sustained resilience beyond the lifetime of WFP intervention?							Criteria: Sustainability
No.	Sub questions	Measure / Indicator	Main Sources of Data	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method	Triangulation	Evidence availability / reliability
20	Which assets are most likely to be sustainable and why?	Types of assets that are mature and are functional beyond period of the project. Community capacity for management of assets created by the project beyond project period. Type of assets successfully used to trigger self-help initiatives by community members.	FFA Monitoring Reports, Asset Tracking Reports	PRA (Community Asset Appraisal)	Thematic	PRA with KII	Good
21	What is the likelihood that asset tenure arrangements - developed in the frame of the projects - will last, enabling long-term access to and benefits from the rehabilitated/created assets among vulnerable households?	Proportion of vulnerable men, women and youths benefiting from existing and new asset tenure arrangements. Tenure stability/security during and after the implementation of the project. Existence of tenure agreements that are mutually signed, extended or enforced.	Asset Management Committees, FFA Monitoring Reports	PRA, KII, Doc Reviews	Thematic, gender disaggregated analysis	PRA with KII and documentary assessments	Good

22	In reviewing the continuity of interventions after the project and given the existing linkages with government and local structures, what interventions have continued after ending project activities (especially in the absence of continued FFA payments to beneficiary households)?	Evidence of interventions continuity in targeted communities through existing linkages and relationships. Evidence of success by local government and other local stakeholders	KII with documentary assessments	Documentary Review, KII	Sustainability Analysis	Outcome Monitoring Reports, FFA Monitoring Reports	Low
23	What factors affect sustainability and how can these be mitigated to increase chances?	Evidence on knowledge of sustainability mechanisms/drivers for FFA initiatives,	FFA Monitoring Reports, Asset Tracking Reports	KIIs with Doc reviews	Thematic	KII with documentary assessments	Good
24	To what extent did the target communities assume ownership of the project during and after implementation and why?	Evidence of community knowledge (men, women, young people, and vulnerable groups) of different types of assets, their benefits, maintenance and management requirements.	FFA Monitoring Reports, Asset Tracking Reports,	PRAs, KIIs, Doc Reviews	Thematic, gender disaggregated analysis	KII data triangulated with PRAs.	Good
25	Will the FFA activities increase households' capacity to face next reoccurring natural shocks or support their recovery from future negative effects of the natural shocks (dry spells/floods)? In what ways will it do so? If not, what are the	Evidence of households with assets that have matured to absorb/mitigate impacts of current and future shocks. Evidence of households with clear preparedness plans/strategies for	FFA Monitoring Reports, Asset Tracking Reports	KIIs, HH OR Phone Survey., PRA, Doc Reviews	Performance	KII data triangulated with documentary assessments	Good

	reasons these activities would not support recovery or increase your capacity to face next dry spell?	mitigating threats and for accelerating recovery.					
26	In what ways and to what extent did the FFA programme contribute to the agency or autonomy of households headed by women?	Evidence of FHH with self-sustaining strategies for food, nutrition and asset diversification. Evidence of FHH that increased decision making power regarding their food, nutrition and livelihood security	HH survey reports, FFA Monitoring Reports	KIIs, Doc review	Thematic and disaggregated gender analysis	KII data triangulated with documentary assessments	Good
27	Who, in the household, maintains household-level agricultural assets? Does it vary depending on the type of asset? What are the maintenance arrangements around household-level agricultural assets? Have these maintenance arrangements been formalized in some way, and if yes, how? What is the likelihood that asset maintenance arrangements will be followed as defined? Can you explain why?	Evidence of equitable use and access to agricultural assets within households. Evidence of defined ownership and maintenance of agricultural assets within the household. Evidence on extent to which household ownership and maintenance arrangements are working (including understanding the strengths and weaknesses by household members)	FFA Monitoring Reports, Asset Tracking Reports	KIIs, Doc Review	Disaggregated results data by asset type/combination	KII data triangulated with documentary assessments	Low

28	Who, within the community, maintains community-level agricultural assets? Does it vary depending on the type of asset? What are the maintenance arrangements around community-level agricultural assets? Who maintains these assets within the community? Have these maintenance arrangements been formalized in some sort, and if yes, how? What is the likelihood that asset maintenance arrangements will be followed as defined? Can you explain why?	Evidence of equitable use (men, women, vulnerable members) and access to agricultural assets within target communities). Evidence of defined ownership and maintenance of agricultural assets within asset groups and other community management structures. Evidence on extent to which defined community ownership and maintenance arrangements and roles and responsibilities are working (including understanding the strengths and weaknesses by asset management committees members)	FFA Monitoring Reports, Asset Tracking Reports	PRAs, KIIs, Doc Reviews	Thematic, gender disaggregated analysis	PRA triangulated with KII and documentary review findings	Good
29	To what extent did women within the community assume ownership of the project during and after implementation? To what degree did the project (through specific asset tenure arrangements) help increasing ownership of/access to specific	Evidence of women with decision-making roles and responsibilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of project processes and interventions. Evidence of increased asset ownership and/access to assets for women and	FFA Monitoring Reports, Asset Tracking Reports	KIIs, PRAs	Gender Disaggregated analysis of impacts	PRA data triangulated with KIIs.	Good

	assets among women and vulnerable groups?	identified vulnerable groups. Extent of women involvement in the development of different asset tenure arrangements for women and vulnerable groups.					
30	To what extent did youth within the community assume ownership of the project during and after implementation?	Evidence of youth by age and gender with decision-making roles and responsibilities in the planning and implementation process	FFA Monitoring Reports	KIIs, PRAs	Disaggregated results data by asset type/combination	PRA data triangulated with KIIs.	Low

Annex 7. Methodology and Data Collection Tools

Annex 7.1: Primary Data Collection

54. **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) with communities at risk of shocks.** Speaking with people who have or could be involved in FFA is the principal means by which the evaluation team will understand how the asset, modality, implementation model and other characteristics of the intervention contribute to resilience. PRA techniques are designed to encourage engagement of people whose experience is crucial to the research. The team will use PRA to explore the following:

- The types of shocks communities face and the impact they have (especially on women and typically marginalised groups).
- Levels of understanding regarding anticipated shocks, especially awareness of climate change.
- How communities deal with shocks (their coping mechanisms).
- Components and levels of 1) subjective resilience; 2) vulnerability.
- How the components of FFA have supported, or could support their coping mechanisms.
- Feedback on the implementation of FFA.
- Factors in the community that may affect the implementation of FFA.

55. The ET will hold PRA sessions in a sample of the 10 FFA districts. In each area the team will speak to gender-mixed and separate groups. They will also distinguish between those who 1) participate in the asset building, 2) are involved in asset management groups, and 3) do not participate in FFA but may benefit from the ration share and/or use of the asset.

56. A sensitive, ethical, and non-harmful sex- and age-disaggregated PRA methodology has been developed, and strict training and guidelines will be issued to all ET members undertaking community-based research methodologies. As per Itad's Child Protection standards, no child under the age of 15 shall be interviewed for this evaluation. All questions will be reviewed with the CO to ensure the principle of 'Do No Harm' is strictly adhered to.

57. Focus Groups Discussion. Topics that do not require the same level of contextual interaction as the shock analysis will be treated using FGDs of 6–12 people. These will be appropriate for discussing the work norms and management of FFA. Similarly, to the PRA, in each area the team will speak to gender-mixed and separate groups and the same ethical considerations will be followed.

58. Household survey. The household survey will be used to generate quantitative information on FFA's results and resilience contribution between 2015-2019. It will also act as the baseline for the CO's future resilience activities in the 5 sampled districts. The root of the household survey is built from the RIMA-II survey, used by the CO in Malawi in 2019. This repeats modules used in other FFA outcome surveys over the period, e.g. Food Consumption Score, Dietary Diversity Score, and Household and Community Assets modules. Modules of RIMA-II have been adapted to allow them to directly test the use of FFA in relation to shocks, and to add selected components from other resilience assessments used by USAID and DFID.

59. As the survey is intended as a baseline, we will also test aspects considered to be relevant for resilience but not directly linked to the FFA Theory of Change. In finalising the HH tool, therefore, we have:

- Added Questions on Subjective Resilience (EQ 11).
- Added selected questions on 'positive' coping strategies, such as Self-Efficacy and Social Capitals.
- Adjusted questions to examine the role of the intervention.
- Adjusted the recall periods.

60. Based on the guidance accompanying the Terms of Reference, we have planned for a survey of 660 households in 10 districts. This will be distributed to the population compositions in the 5 selected districts before the survey. Itad's partner, Jimat Consult, will conduct the survey under the direction of our team

leader. The draft HH tool is presented in Annex 7.5, and will be further refined using the latest corporate guidance from WFP HQ on resilience measurement.

61. The ET will finalise a codebook for the HH survey when the tool is finalised.

62. At the submission of the latest IR draft, the ET and the CO are conducting two strands of planning for the HH survey: 1) in-person collection; and 2) telephone interviewing. A decision over which form to use will be taken closer to the data collection period (see Section 5.6).

63. Semi-structured key informant interviews (KII). KIIs are relevant for all EQs, but especially those related to the relevance and performance of FFA. The stakeholder analysis has been used to identify positions from WFP CO and field staff, national and local government authorities, local community representatives, donors and CSO representatives (especially implementation partners).

64. Interview protocols are presented in Annex 7.3. The tools have been designed to ensure systematic coverage of topics by team members consulting with stakeholders, possibly at different times, while retaining the flexibility to pursue unforeseen avenues of enquiry as they arise in the evaluation.

Secondary data

65. The ET has performed a review of internal and external documentation to familiarise itself with the organizational context and WFP hypotheses for the connection between FFA resilience. The Evaluation Manager (EM) and ET have developed and populated a document library for the evaluation, which contains WFP organizational material relevant to this evaluation (e.g. policies, reporting frameworks, ToC, programme guidance) as well as data from past studies. RBJ and the CO have collated all data on FFA between 2015–2019 into Tableau, which will be used to interrogate and present data over the evaluation period.

66. In the Evaluation Phase, the ET will continue to use secondary data to contextualise its assessment and answer the EQs.

Annex 7.2: RIMA Model Methodology

Overview

67. FAO's RIMA-II methodology was utilized on this dataset to produce a statistical model capable of calculating imputed resilience scores for each household in the survey. This is based on a structural equation model from which 'resilience' is seen as an intermediate variable which is predicted by resilience 'pillars' and is a predictor towards resilience outcomes.

68. The 'pillars' are defined following RIMA-II methodology as Access to Basic Services (ABS), Adaptive Capacity (AC), Social Safety Nets (SSN) and Assets (AST). Each of these four pillars is the result of conducting a factor analysis to reduce the dimensionality of relevant variables collected in the household survey. These pillars and variables within are referred to as formative and can be seen as analogous to explanatory variables in conventional regression terminology.

69. The 'outcomes' were chosen to capture a broad definition of different aspects of resilience, looking both at the current situation and hypotheticals for how the household would be able to deal with shocks in the future.

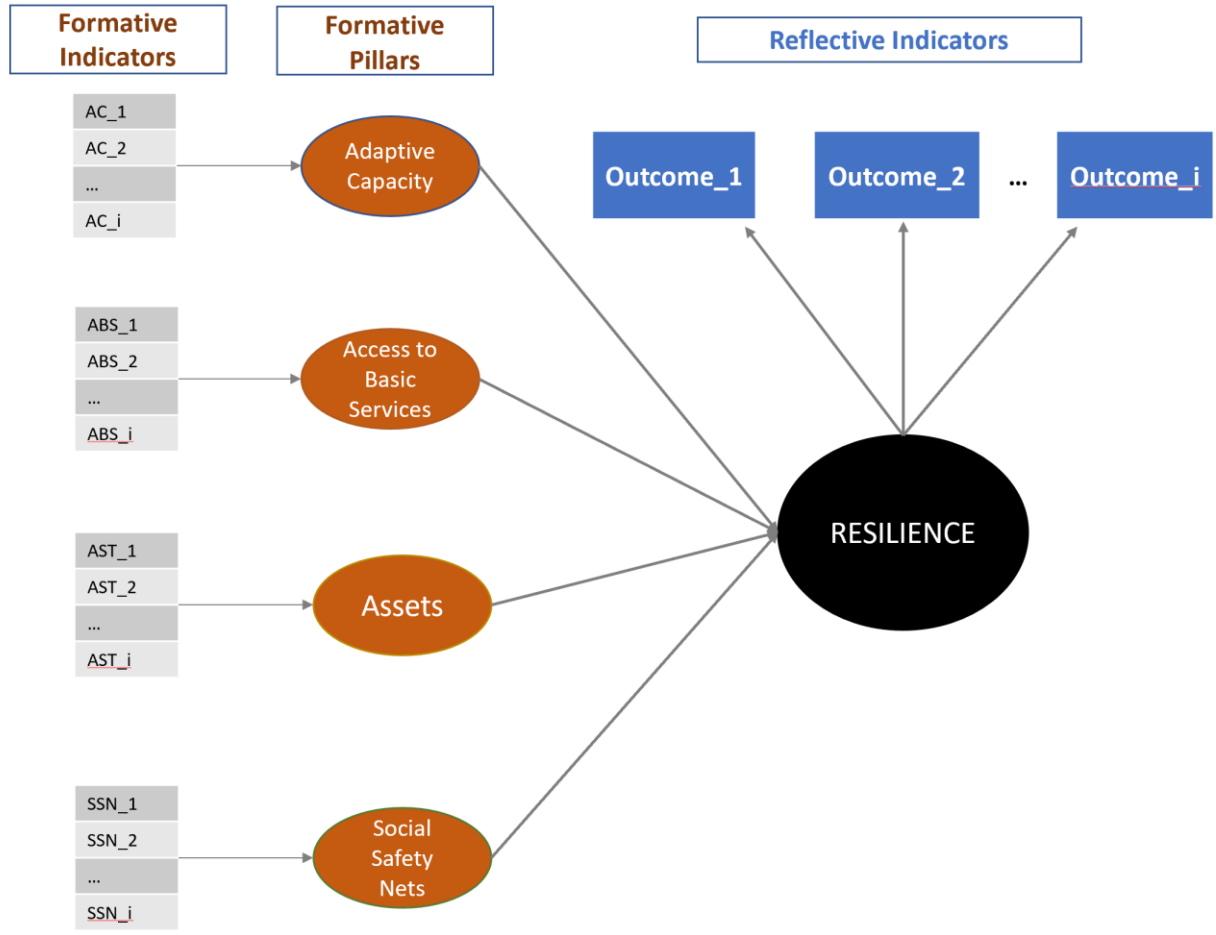


Figure 15: General form of RIMA-II resilience model

Formative Pillars

70. FAO's RIMA-II methodology was utilized on this dataset to produce a statistical model capable of calculating imputed resilience scores for each household in the survey. This is based on a structural equation model from which 'resilience' is seen as an intermediate variable which is predicted by resilience 'pillars' and is a predictor towards resilience outcomes.

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pillars and variables within are referred to as formative and can be seen as analogous to explanatory variables in conventional regression terminology.

72. The 'outcomes' were chosen to capture a broad definition of different aspects of resilience, looking both at the current situation and hypotheticals for how the household would be able to deal with shocks in the future.

73. The objective when determining which variables should be included in this factor analysis was to find a set of variables theoretically linked to the key components of the pillar, which were positively correlated with each other and sufficiently independent of each other.

74. Conducting the factor analysis on positively correlated but independent variables attempts to ensure that the factor analysis reduces the dimensions in such a way that the key essence of the pillar is highlighted, rather than other relationships between the variables or having the pillar dominated by a set of highly correlated variables. The variables included as pillars were chosen through an iterative process, starting with the variables used in the previous RIMA analysis conducted on data from Malawi,45F[45] and reviewing the variables collected in the survey. Variables were modified from the previous RIMA analysis where there were seen to be substantial overlaps in the variables within a pillar, or where certain aspects of the pillar could be accentuated through using new variables.

75. All variables were standardized to have mean 0 and standard deviation (SD) 1 prior to inclusion in the factor analysis. For continuous variables with skewed distributions, such as land, livestock and expenditure, transformations were made using logarithms or square roots, in cases with large numbers of zeros. For count variables with a small number of outlying higher values, counts were truncated to prevent these values having undue influence. The theoretical direction of each variable was also affirmed so that increasingly positive values reflected the increasing theoretical contribution to the pillar.

76. Definitions of the final variables used are found below.

[45] Lascano Galarza, L., & Ximena, M. (2019) Resilience to food insecurity: theory and empirical evidence from international food assistance programmes in Malawi. https://ideas.repec.org/p/ags/aesc19/289674.html

Table 11: Formative pillar variable definitions

Pillar	Variable	Type	Definition
Access to Basic Services	*Access to Loans*	Binary	Household believes they would be able to access loans in event of shock.
	Housing Structure	Score: 0–3	Cumulative score of binaries for improved materials for roof, walls and floor of house.
	WASH	Score: 0–2	Cumulative score of binaries for improved drinking water and sanitation facilities.
	Savings	Binary	Household has reported any (>0) value in savings.
Adaptive Capacity	*Agricultural Training*	Binary	'A member of my household received training in agricultural techniques in past five years'.
	Number of Income Sources	Count: 0–6	Number of different income sources identified from list of six: Crop sales, animal sales, labour, remittances, employment, other.
	Proportion of Adults	Numeric	Number of adults (>18)/total household size.
	Education of Head	Score: 1–5	Ordinal variable coded as 1= Never attended school; 2 = Primary (STD 1–4); 3 = Primary (STD 5–8); 4 = Secondary (Form 1–2); 5 = Secondary (3–4) or higher.
Social Safety Nets	*Extra Interventions Accessed*	Score: 0–3	Other than FFA, the number of different interventions identified as being participated in from past five years, regardless of provider. Truncated at 3 to prevent influence of outliers.
	Number of Support Sources	Count: 0–2	Number of different support sources identified as able to provide assistance in event of shock. Truncated at 2 to prevent influence of outliers.
	Crop Insurance	Binary	Whether household currently has crop insurance.
Assets	*Livestock (TLU)*	Numeric	Livestock owned by household in tropical livestock units. Square root transformed due to large number of 0s and to prevent influence of outliers.
	Total Land Owned	Numeric	Total land owned in acres. Log transformed to prevent influence of outliers.
	Land Under Conservation Ag.	Numeric	Total land used for conservation agriculture in past season in acres. Log transformed to prevent influence of outliers.
	Domestic Assets	Count: 0–7	Cumulative sum of binaries for ownership of any: Blankets, Lamps, Cell Phones, Radio, Mattress, Bicycle, Motorbike.
	Agricultural Assets	Count: 0–7	Cumulative sum of binaries for ownership of any: Wheelbarrow, Sickle, Panga, Hoe, Pickaxe, Plough, Chisel.
	Agricultural Expenditure	Numeric	Sum of annual expenditure on seeds, fertilizers and manure. Log transformed to prevent influence of outliers.

77. The factor analysis process provided scores for each of the four pillars, which were weighted averages of the included variables with all coefficients positive and sufficiently non-zero to be contributing to the

pillar values. Summaries of the factor analysis loadings, and the summary statistics of the variables prior to transformation or standardization, are shown in the table below.

Table 12: Variable loadings from factor analysis

Pillar	Variable	Factor Analysis Loading	Mean (SD) or Percentage
	Access Loans	+0.16	40.0%
	Housing Structure	+0.40	1.3 (0.9)
	WASH	+0.28	0.9 (0.6)
Access to Basic Services	*Savings*	+0.28	24.0%
	Agricultural Training	+0.17	69.5%
	Number of Income Sources	+0.39	2.3 (1.1)
	Proportion of Adults	+0.15	0.4 (0.2)
Adaptive Capacity	*Education of Head*	+0.39	2.9 (1.2)
	Extra Interventions Accessed	+0.50	1.9 (1.1)
	Number of Support Sources	+0.21	0.5 (0.8)
Social Safety Nets	*Crop Insurance*	+0.45	31.3%
	Livestock (TLU)	+0.56	0.2 (0.4)
	Total Land Owned	+0.35	2.0 (2.4)
	Land Under Conservation Ag.	+0.20	0.8 (2.3)
	Domestic Assets	+0.73	3.2 (1.5)
	Agricultural Assets	+0.65	2.6 (1.2)
Assets	*Agricultural Expenditure*	+0.43	14,070 (19,670)

78. All four pillars were positively correlated with each other, but only to a moderate degree, providing strength to the theoretical basis of the model. The small to moderate, but significant, correlations suggest that four variables are demonstrating independent but related aspects of resilience. If there were strong correlations, then this would imply the pillars are not independent; if there were non-significant or negative correlations then this would imply that the pillars are not all showing aspects of the same phenomenon.

Table 13: Correlation between pillars

	ABS	SSN	AC	AST
Access to Basic Services (ABS)	1.000			
Social Safety Nets (SSN)	0.100 *	1.000		
Adaptive Capacity (AC)	0.161 ***	0.356 ***	1.000	
Assets (AST)	0.338 ***	0.261 ***	0.368 ***	1.000

*** = p<0.001; ** = p<0.01; * = p<0.05; NS=p>0.05

Resilience Proxy Outcomes

79. Five outcome variables (also referred to as reflective indicators in RIMA II[Error! Bookmark not defined.]) were c hosen for inclusion in the resilience analysis. These can be thought of as proxies for different aspects of resilience.

1. Food consumption score – calculated using the standard WFP methodology.

2. How many months the household would be food secure months in a bad year. Inverted from the survey question (about food insecure months) to provide all outcome variables operating in the same direction.

3. Reduced Coping Strategy Index – scaled between 0 and 1, and then inverted to provide all outcome variables operating in the same direction.

4. The perceived ability of a household to deal with a major shock equivalent to the last major shock they experienced. This is taken from an ordinal survey question which has codes:

a. 1: 'Worse than previous major shock'

b. 2: 'Same as previous major shock'

c. 3: 'A little better previous major shock'

d. 4: 'Much better than previous major shock'

5. Whether the household had a plan to deal with a major shock occurring.

80. These resilience proxy variables capture both the current situation (through the FCS and CSI, which reflect on the last seven days before the interview), the current level of preparedness for a shock (through the shock plan variable), and the hypothetical degree to which the household could cope with future shocks or future bad cropping years.

81. This differs from the previous RIMA model fitted for the Malawi context, which had only two, extremely strongly correlated variables used: food consumption and food expenditure. By using a range of variables covering different aspects of resilience, the intention was to have a more robust and rounded understanding of resilience, particularly in relation to future shocks, compared to an understanding of current food consumption patterns.

82. Summary statistics for the variables are shown in the table below. All variables were standardized to have mean 0 and standard deviation 1 before included in the model.

Table 14: Summary statistics for resilience outcome variables

Variable	Mean	SD
Food Consumption Score	36.29	15.36
Food Secure Months (Bad Year)	7.49	2.62
Inverse CSI	0.62	0.26
Ability to Cope with Future Shocks	2.22	0.96
Plan for Future Shocks	49.01	50.03

83. All five variables had small to moderate positive correlations with each other. Nine of the 10 pairwise correlations were statistically significant at the 5 percent level.

84. The significant, but small to moderate positive correlations, between these variables adds weight to the theoretical basis of the model. The lack of strong correlations suggests all five variables are showing largely independent aspects of resilience. The positive significant correlations suggest that it is plausible for all the variables to be contributing towards the same phenomenon.

Table 15: Correlation between resilience outcome variables

	FCS	FSM	CSI	Cope	Plan
Food Consumption Score (FCS)	1.000				
Food Secure Months (FSM): Bad Year	0.227 ***	1.000			
Inverse CSI (CSI)	0.324 ***	0.275 ***	1.000		
Ability to Cope with Future Shocks (Cope)	0.299 ***	0.125 **	0.053 NS	1.000	
Plan for Future Shocks (Plan)	0.372 ***	0.129 ***	0.192 ***	0.299 ***	1.000

85. Figure 17 shows the correlations between the formative pillars and the resilience outcome variables. All pairwise correlations are positive and statistically significant at the 5 percent significant level, with nearly all correlations all significant at the 0.1 percent significance level.

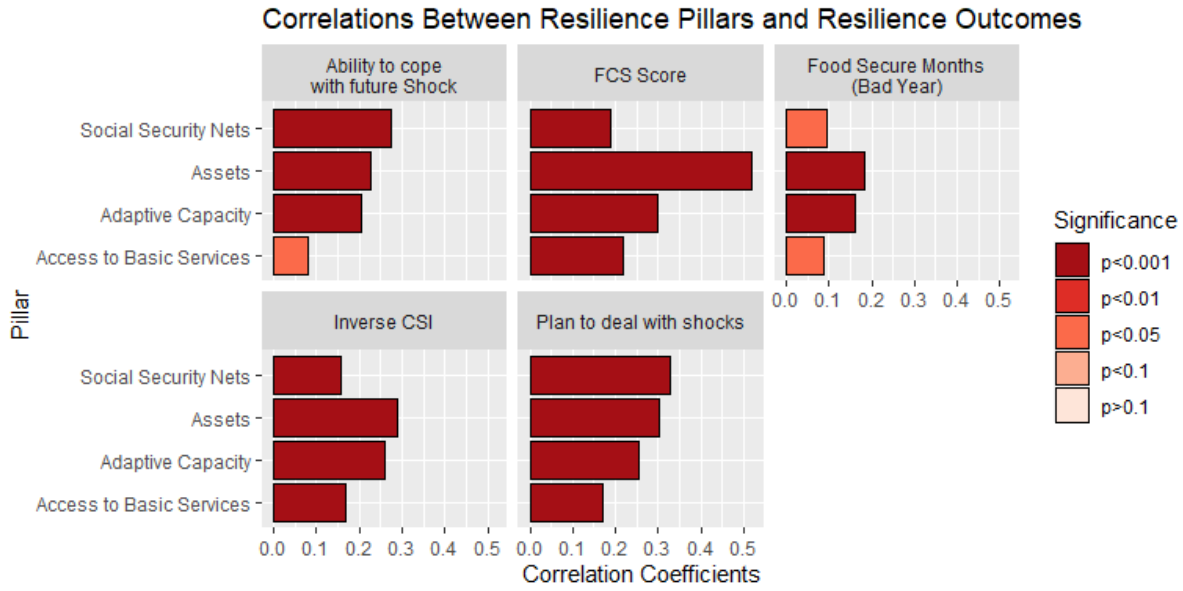


Figure 16: Correlation between formative pillars and reflective outcomes

Model

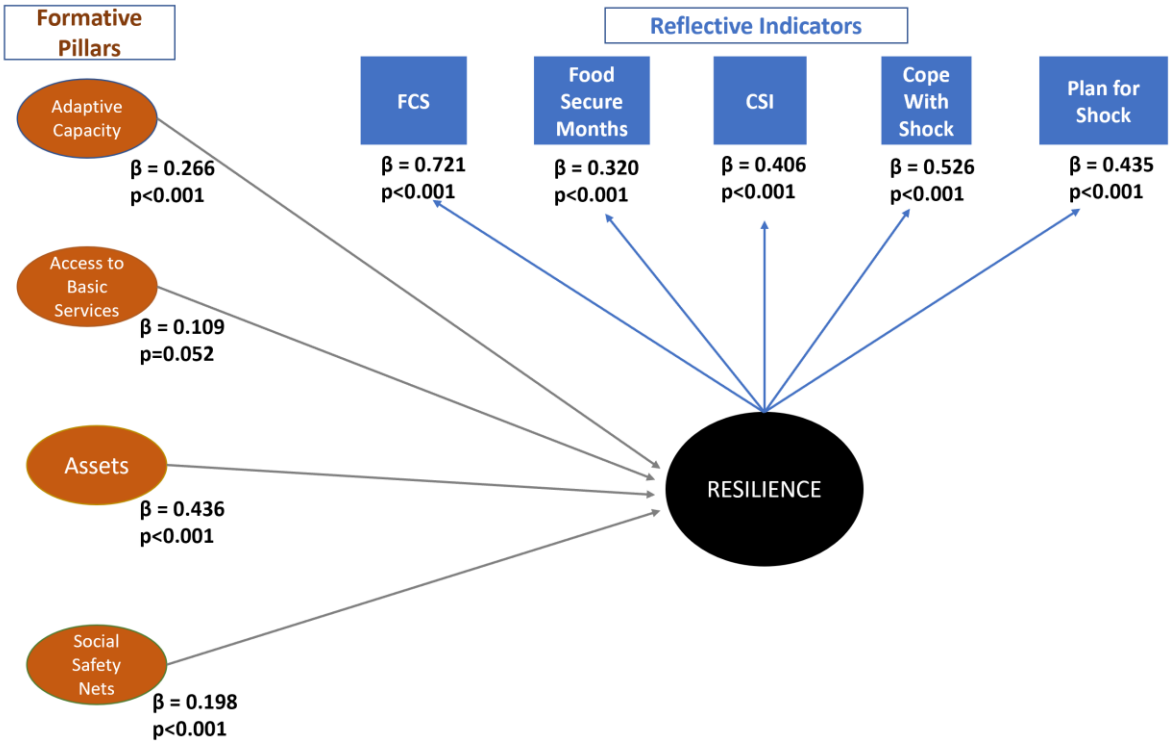


Figure 17: RIMA model coefficients

86. The RIMA model was fitted using the lavaan package in R. Results from the model are shown in the diagram above and the tables below.

87. All of the resilience outcome variables are found to provide highly significantly contributions to the model, further reinforcing the theoretical basis that these variables are displaying different aspects of resilience, as configured by this combination of formative and reflective indicators. The food consumption score provides the largest overall contribution to the resilience model, the plan for future shocks the second-largest contribution.

Table 16: RIMA MIMIC model coefficients (link from resilience to outcomes)

Variable	Estimate	SE	Z	p-value	Standardised Estimate
Food Consumption Score	1.000	NA	NA	NA	0.721
Food Secure Months (Bad Year)	0.444	0.064	6.961	<0.001	0.320
Inverse CSI	0.604	0.065	9.257	<0.001	0.435
Ability to Cope with Future Shocks	0.562	0.065	8.678	<0.001	0.405
Plan for Future Shocks	0.729	0.067	10.903	<0.001	0.526

88. Model estimates are shown in relation to the most significant individual variable, food consumption score.

89. Three of the four pillars are found to have highly significant associations with the imputed resilience scores, with p-values <0.001. The fourth pillar, ABS, is not significant at the 5 percent level; however, the model coefficient still contributes 15 percent to the total variability which is explained by the pillars, and the p-value of 0.052 is only marginally non-significant. The assets pillar is by far the largest contributor of the

four, although all four pillars do make non-zero contributions. This variable accounts for over 60 percent of the variability explained in the resilience variable by the pillars.

Table 17: RIMA MIMIC model coefficients (link from pillars to resilience)

Variable	Estimate	SE	Z	p-value	Standardised Estimate
Access to Basic Services	0.109	0.056	1.943	0.052	0.151
Social Safety Nets	0.198	0.049	4.073	<0.001	0.275
Adaptive Capacity	0.266	0.059	4.547	<0.001	0.369
Assets	0.436	0.040	11.006	<0.001	0.605

Resilience Scores

90. The table and figure below show the large amounts of variability in overall resilience captured by the resilience score imputed from the RIMA model.

91. Among the bottom resilience quintile, the lowest 20 percent of resilience scores: 0 percent of respondents had an acceptable food consumption score; only 7 percent had a plan to deal with shocks; only 28 percent felt they could deal better with shocks in the future; and the average food secure months in a bad year was six months.

92. Among the top resilience quintile, the highest 20 percent of resilience scores: 87 percent of respondents had an acceptable food consumption score; 89 percent had a plan to deal with shocks; 83 percent felt they could deal better with shocks in the future; and the average food secure months in a bad year was nine months.

93. **Figure 20**: Formative pillars by resilience quintile also shows how the assets pillar is the most important differentiator across the resilience scores, with the largest and most consistent differences across the resilience quintiles.

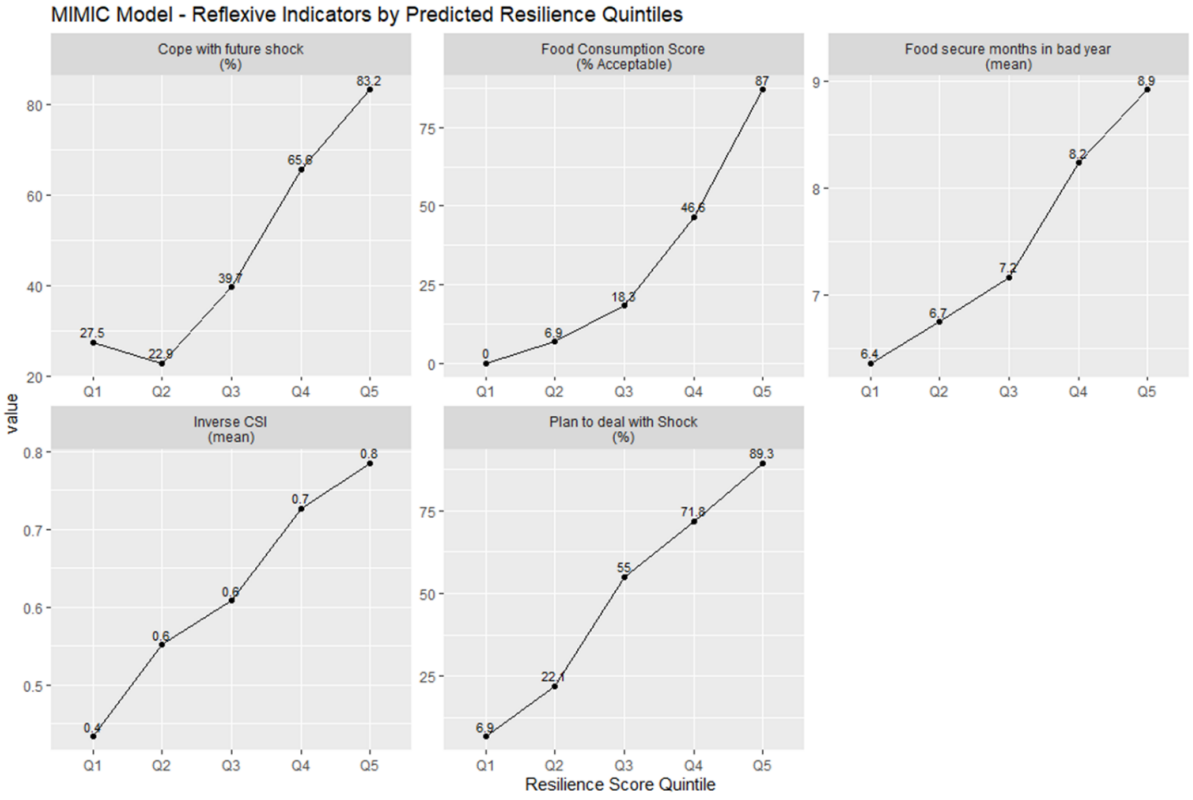


Figure 18: Reflective indicators across resilience score quintiles

Table 18: Reflective indicator outcomes by quintiles of resilience score

Pillar	Resilience Quintile				
	Q1 (Bottom 20%)	*Q2*	*Q3 (Middle 20%)*	*Q4*	*Q5 (Top 20%)*
Mean Food Consumption Score	20.5	29.1	33.6	42.0	56.3
Food Secure Months (Bad year)	6.4	6.8	7.2	8.2	8.9
Inverse CSI	0.43	0.55	0.61	0.73	0.79
Ability to Cope with Future Shocks	1.79	1.77	2.07	2.52	2.95
Plan for Future Shocks	6.9%	22.1%	55.0%	71.8%	89.3%

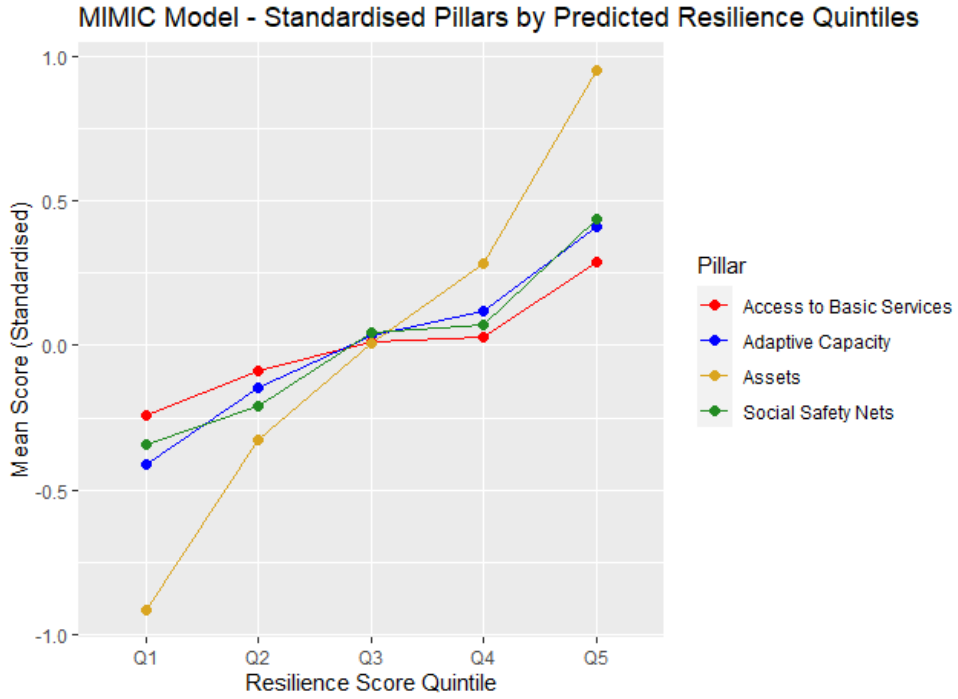


Figure 19: Formative pillars by resilience quintile

Models

94. In order to determine factors associated with resilience, models were built: first to establish which demographic factors were associated with resilience; then, using the factors which were significantly related to the resilience as covariates, adjusting for these factors to assess the impact of project activities and shocks.

Model 1 – Demographic Factors

95. Model 1 was a multilevel regression model, with resilience score as the outcome variable and random effects for village. There were five explanatory variables to explain possible demographic relationships with resilience: gender of head of household, marital status of head of household, age of head of household, whether the household had any children under two, and the traditional authority where the household was located. The interaction between gender and marital status was also considered.

Table 19: Model 1 p-values

Variable	Definition	p-value from Model 1
Gender of head of household	Binary	p<0.001***
Marital status of head	Binary (Currently married vs not currently married)	p=0.359
Gender * marital Status	Interaction	p=0.658
Age of head	<30; 31-50; 51-70; 70+	p=0.894
Presence of children under 2	Binary	p=0.671
Traditional authority	10 TAs from survey	p<0.001***

96. Gender of head of household and traditional authority were both highly significant explanatory variables. None of the other variables had any evidence of a relationship with the resilience score. The random effect for village also explained a highly significant proportion of the total remaining residual variability, (9 percent of the variance; p<0.001).

97. Traditional authority, rather than district, was used primarily due to the results in Zomba district, which had very different results between the two traditional authorities present. Results were fairly similar between the two TAs within each district for the remaining four districts.

Table 20: Resilience quintiles by district

District	TA	% in Top Resilience Quintile	% in Bottom Resilience Quintile
Balaka	*Kachenga*	46%	6%
	Kalembi	*38%*	*3%*
Chikawa	*Makhwira*	*6%*	*24%*
	Ngabu	*12%*	*27%*
Nsanje	*Mbenje*	*3%*	*33%*
	Tengani	*5%*	*35%*
Phalombe	*Chiwalo*	*19%*	*21%*
	Jenala	*24%*	*11%*
Zomba	*Chikowi*	*11%*	*32%*
	Mwambo	*36%*	*9%*

Table 21: Resilience quintiles by head of household

Gender of Head	Resilience Quintile				
	Q1 (Bottom 20%)	*Q2*	*Q3 (Middle 20%)*	*Q4*	*Q5 (Top 20%)*

Female Head	38.7%	21.6%	14.4%	16.5%	8.8%
Male Head	12.1%	19.3%	22.3%	21.5%	24.7%

98. Coefficients from the reduced model, including only gender of head and traditional authority, are shown below.

Coefficient	Estimate	Standard Error	p-value
Intercept	0.178	0.122	0.158
Gender = Male	0.350	0.047	<0.001
TA = Balaka/Kalembo	-0.043	0.165	0.796
TA = Chikawa: Makhwira	-0.618	0.165	0.001
TA = Chikawa: Ngabu	-0.587	0.166	0.002
TA = Nsanje: Mbenje	-0.837	0.165	<0.001
TA = Nsanje: Tengani	-0.691	0.166	<0.001
TA = Phalombe: Chiwalo	-0.411	0.165	0.022
TA = Phalombe: Jenala	-0.334	0.165	0.056
TA = Zomba: Chikowi	-0.581	0.166	0.003
TA = Zomba: Mwambo	-0.133	0.165	0.431

Model 2 – Project Interventions

99. Model 2 looked to isolate the effectiveness of different programme interventions using a multilevel model with resilience score as the outcome variable and random effects for traditional authority (TA) and village nested within traditional authority. Binaries were used for the participation of households in the SAMS, R4 and climate services interventions, and for whether the village was fell under the technical assistance modality. No terms were included for the involvement in 'food for assets' or 'cash for assets'; given that the data comprised almost solely of beneficiaries of these programmes, the model would not be able to determine whether they had an impact.

100. The binaries for SAMS, R4 and climate services interventions were all statistically significant, with very similar effect sizes in relation to the resilience score. The binary variable for technical assistance was not significant at the 5 percent significance level; however, the model coefficient was of a similar size to that of the other interventions. Because this was a village-level variable rather than a household-level variable, the standard error was larger and the statistical power to be able to detect an effect was reduced.

101. The village-level random effects contributed significantly to the remaining variability – 8 percent of total variability was explained at village level. After accounting for the village-level differences and the different intervention patterns, which were very different between traditional authorities, the random effect for technical assistance did not explain a significant proportion of the total variability (only 5 percent of total variability at TA level).

Table 22: Model 2 coefficients

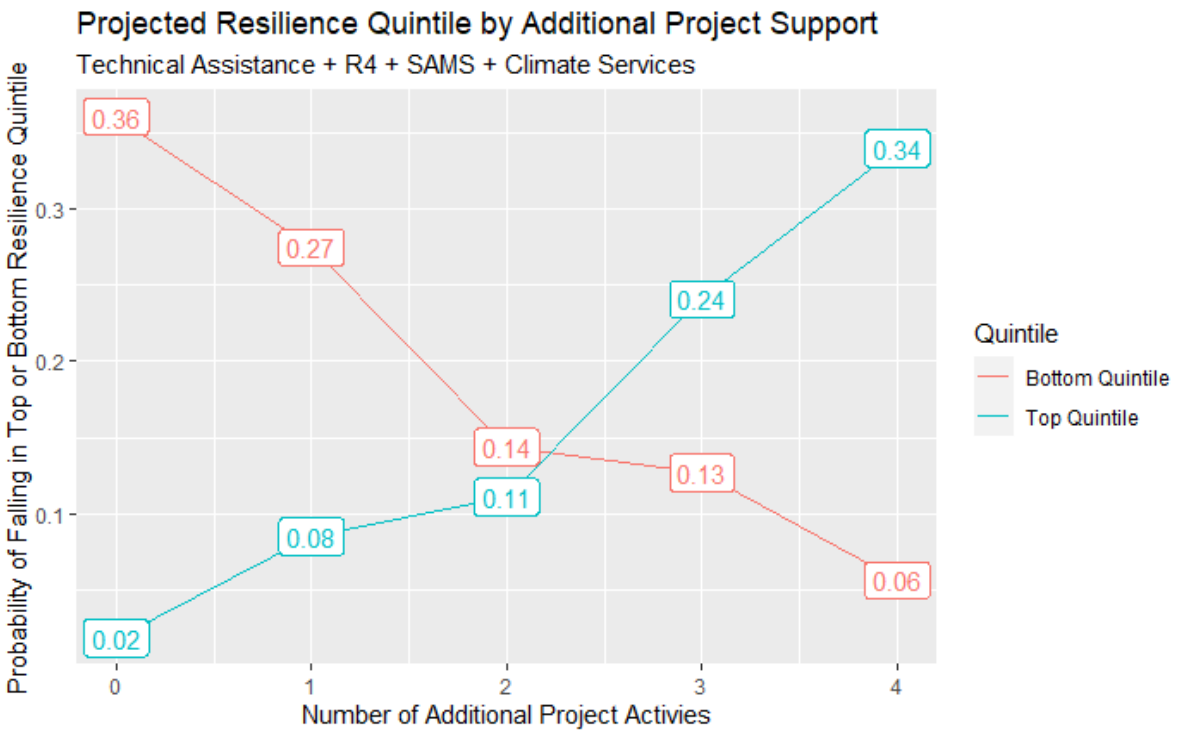
Coefficient	Estimate	Standard Error	p-value
Intercept	-0.556	0.087	<0.001
Gender=Male	0.322	0.046	<0.001

SAMS	0.197	0.062	0.002
R4	0.188	0.065	0.004
Climate Services	0.166	0.055	0.002
Technical Assistance	0.186	0.100	0.079

102. Because of the cross-sectional nature of the dataset we cannot firmly conclude that any statistical findings are due purely to the project activities, but positive correlations from these statistical models provide one form of evidence when isolating the differences in the current situation between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of each of the additional project activities.

103. There was no evidence that the effectiveness of these interventions varied by the gender of the head of household.

Table 23: Likelihood of achieving high or low relative resilience based on increased project activities

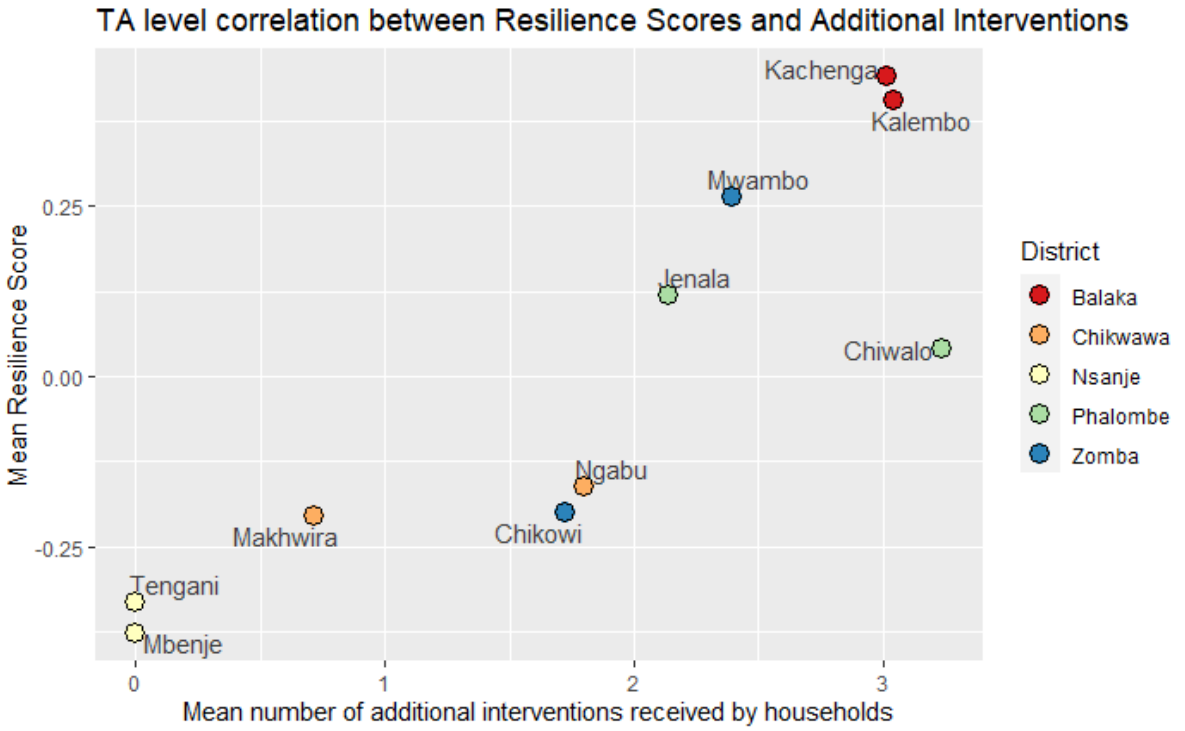


104. Where beneficiary households received all four of the additional project support activities, they had a predicted probability of 0.34 of being within the top resilience quintile and a probability of just 0.06 of being in the bottom resilience quintile. Households receiving none of the additional project activities had a probability of just 0.02 of being in the top resilience quintile and a probability of 0.36 of being in the bottom resilience quintile.

105. Accounting for the level of additional inputs from the FFA programme accounts for nearly all of the TA and district-level variability – there is an extremely strong correlation at TA level between those areas receiving additional support mechanisms and those areas with high resilience scores.

106. Based on the surveyed villages within Balaka District, where the resilience scores were the highest, respondents benefited from an average of three of these additional interventions. In Nsanje District, where the resilience scores were the lowest, respondents benefited from an average of zero of these additional interventions – i.e. solely receiving food or cash for assets. Given this high level of geographical correlation, care should be taken when concluding whether increased results in the resilience score can be concluded to be a result of geographical patterns or project activities. However, the statistical model determines the

effect of the interventions to be a better explanatory variable for the differences in resilience as compared to the location.



107. Although the overall effect of the interventions against the resilience score was approximately the same size for all four additional interventions, the mechanisms by which they are related to the resilience pillars and the resilience outcomes are all very different. This may help to explain why the overall model is independently isolating the effectiveness of each of the interventions.

108. Additional models, with the same structure as model 2, were fitted using each of the formative pillars and reflective resilience outcome variables as the dependent variable, to indicate which components of resilience are linked to the different intervention types.

Table 24: Significance of interventions in relation to resilience pillars

	Access to Basic Services	Adaptive Capacity	Assets	Social Security Nets
Technical Assistance	NS	NS	NS	NS
R4	NS	*	NS	***
SAMS	NS	*	*	NS
Climate Services	*	NS	NS	***

NS = p>0.05; *: p<0.05; **: p<0.01; *** p<0.001. Green: +ve, Red : -ve

109. The R4 intervention is significantly associated with higher scores in the AC and SSN pillars. The SAMS intervention is significantly associated with high scores for AC and ASTs. The climate services intervention was significantly associated with higher scores for the ABS and the SSN pillars.

110. There was no significant link between the technical assistance modality and any of the resilience pillars.

Table 25: Significance of interventions in relation to resilience outcomes

	Food consumption score	Food secure months (bad year)	Cope with future shocks	Plan for future shocks	Coping strategy index
Technical Assistance	*	NS	*	NS	NS
R4	*	*	*	***	***
SAMS	NS	NS	***	**	*
Climate Services	NS	NS	**	**	***

NS = p>0.05; *: p<0.05; **: p<0.01; *** p<0.001 Green: +ve, Red : -ve

111. When considering the resilience outcomes, each of the five variables included in the RIMA model was significantly related to different sets of the interventions. The food consumption scores were significantly higher where respondents received technical assistance and R4; the food secure months in a bad year were significantly linked to R4; ability to cope with future shocks was significantly linked to technical assistance, R4 and SAMS; having a plan to deal with future shocks was significantly linked to R4, SAMS and climate services; and the Coping Strategy Index was significantly linked to SAMS and climate services.

112. This analysis does also extract negative relationships between some of the project activities and the outcomes: climate services with the ability to cope with future shocks; and R4 with the Coping Strategy Index.

Modelset 3 – Asset Types

113. A series of models was fitted to determine which, if any, of the different asset types included within the technical assistance modality were the most beneficial at increasing resilience. The eight most commonly occurring asset types from among the surveyed villages were considered in these models. Note that many of the village survey responses included only a generic description of the activities – 'FFA Asset Creation' – which may potentially bias the results, depending on what was meant by this generic category within each village.

114. Given the large number of different types of asset being created, and the limited number of villages included in the data, these asset types were considered one by one into a model following the same structure as model 2, but replacing the technical assistance variable with a three-level categorical variable:

i. Received Asset X

ii. Received Assets (but not Asset X)

iii. Received No Assets

115. The key coefficient to consider in these models is the contrast between level I and level II – i.e. was Asset X associated with improved resilience scores in comparison to other assets?

116. Note: no adjustment for multiple testing was conducted in these models.

Table 26: Modelset 3 coefficients and p-values

Model	Asset	N (Villages)	Coefficient (I vs II)	p-value
3.1	Goat pass-on	5	0.246	0.068
3.2	Reforestation	10	0.239	0.028
3.3	Homestead development	6	0.230	0.043
3.4	Insurance	5	0.054	0.661
3.5	Nutrition	7	0.053	0.615

3.6	Community Access Roads	7	0.064	0.558
3.7	Village Savings and Loans	7	0.179	0.121
3.8	Flood Control Dykes	6	0.274	0.021

117. Villages with the reforestation, homestead development and flood control dyke assets were all associated with increased resilience as compared to villages where other assets were created.

Annex 7.3: Interview Protocol

Common introductory remarks to position the interview

1. WFP Country Office Malawi has commissioned an evaluation to understand the resilience contribution of its Food Assistance for Asset interventions in the operation period from 2015 to 2019. Over that period, FFA has been implemented on its own and connected to other interventions. You may have heard of the programme names it has been integrated with:

Programme name	Brief descriptor
R4	Combined packages addressing risk
IRMP	Climate information services
SAMS	Market and livelihood support

2. The evaluation team is reviewing FFA from four different areas: its relevance to the context and people of Malawi; its efficiency and effectiveness; the impact it has had, especially in helping people deal with shocks and stressors; and its sustainability.

3. We do not expect FFA to be the only contributor to people's resilience in Malawi, but we'd like to know how it fits in, in relation to people's coping strategies, government objectives, and other programmes focused on the same objective.

4. This interview will focus on your experience in relation to FFA. Could you please indicate: your exact position and responsibilities; how long you have been in this position; and if you have been employed in another unit (s) in [Organization]?

	CO			Partners				Subnational		
Interview Question	**CD**	**Mgmt**	**M&E**	**Gov't**	**UN**	**CSO**	**Donors**	**FP**	**Gov't**	**CSO**
EQ 1: Relevance										
In your opinion, what are the essential components of a package that can enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable people in Malawi [or sub-geography]?	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Do you see FFA having a place in this package? If No, why not?	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
If Yes, could you describe how you see the role of FFA in relation to other activities?	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
What do you consider to be the added value of having FFA as part of a combination of activities? What does it allow to happen that otherwise would not?	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
What do you consider to be the drawbacks of having FFA as part of a combination of activities? What effects do/would these have?	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Is WFP's FFA work aligned with national resilience policies/frameworks?	x	x		x	x	x	x			
To what extent is/should FFA be integrated into national systems (at central or local levels)?	x			x	x	x	x		x	x
Are WFP programming modalities able to allow adaptation of FFA to different contexts in Malawi, and to meet the differentiated needs of men and women?	x	x				x		x		
How is the 3-Pronged Approach to programming being used in relation to FFA? What are the advantages of this? Are there any disadvantages of programming in this way?		x	x		x			x	x	x
To what extent has the IRM "toolbox" encouraged or hindered the integration of FFA with other interventions?	x	x	x							
To what extent does donor support and funding enable or inhibit WFP's FFA programming and its integration?	x					x	x			
EQ 2: Efficiency										

In your experience, how often is the delivery of FFA sufficient to meet its objectives? What have been its major strengths and weaknesses? What effect do these have?	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Is the CO able to collect useful information on FFA? Does this change when it is delivered as part of a "programme package"?		x	x					x		
EQ 3 and EQ 4: Effectiveness and Impact										
To what extent have you observed the results of FFA at community level?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
[If a reasonable level of observation…] For which groups does FFA work well for? Why? For whom does it not work for, why? PROBE: Gender, age, poverty level, education, shock context		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Are you able to identify which assets, or combination, are the most effective?	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
EQ 5: Sustainability										
To what extent have you observed the results of FFA after the project closed? [If none, skip to last question]	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Which assets have / haven't continued after the close of the project?	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x
What factors affect sustainability? [Probe using Sustainability Criteria]	x	x	x	x		x				
To what extent did the target communities assume ownership of the project during and after implementation and why?						x		x	x	x
What is the likelihood that asset tenure arrangements will last? Do they help increase ownership of/access to specific assets among women and vulnerable groups?				x		x		x	x	x
Who, in the household, maintains household-level agricultural assets? Does it vary depending on the type of asset? What mechanisms are used?		x				x		x	x	x
Who, within the community, maintains community-level agricultural assets? Does it vary depending on the type of asset? What mechanisms are used?		x				x		x	x	x
To what extent did women within the community assume ownership of the project during and after implementation?		x				x		x	x	x
To what extent did youth within the community assume ownership of the project during and after implementation?		x				x		x	x	x
Closing: Could you offer suggestions that may enhance the contribution FFA makes towards people's ability to deal with shocks and stressors?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Annex 7.4: Participatory Rural Appraisal Tools

Objectives

- Identify the types of shocks communities face and the impact they have (especially on women, men, girls and boys, and typically marginalised groups); gather evidence on how selected communities understand the risks, stressors and vulnerabilities they face.
- Based on this, identify how communities typically deal with shocks (their coping mechanisms).
- Understand the role of FFA plays in response to shock.
- Identify additional aspects of resilience not covered in any concepts or documentation of resilience practitioners and academics.

Note: This tool must be used differently in the following circumstances:

1. Where a community is a beneficiary of WFP or other support on resilience then the questions should:
    a. Be worded retrospectively, e.g. 'What threats did the community face? Do they still exist? How are they different?'
    b. Explore the role that the support played. Separate questions should be asked about each of the components of FFA, e.g.
        i. The food/cash support.
        ii. The asset.
        iii. Any training.
        iv. Each supplementary activity – e.g. Saving Groups, Climate Information services.
2. Where a community is not a WFP beneficiary, questions about types of support should be open, but the interviewer should prompt for the types of support WFP can provide.
3. In mixed groups, greater probing for particular social exclusions that may affect the resilience of marginalised groups should be limited and saved for gender-separated groups.
4. Where a community is living outside of their threat context (e.g. Internally Displaced People), questions must:
    a. refer to the original context to explore the threat.
    b. neutrally explore the role that migration played as a coping mechanism (an interesting question is whether the group consider migration positive or negative).
    c. establish whether there are new threats that communities now face.
    d. probe, from multiple points of view, what 'resilience' means for these groups – e.g. is it a return to their original context or is it integration into current context?

General methodological tips

- Consider in advance how you plan to depict the community map and the resources needed – pens, paper, local resources.
- Plan two different focus groups (one mixed and one women only) and inform the person arranging the meeting of this in advance.
- Upon arrival to the community, ask if any traditional or community authority is present and, if so, respectfully thank him or her for welcoming us to their community.
- Ensure that leaders of community structures are present among the focus group participants. In Malawi, Community Champions are often expected to mobilise communities to work on the assets, to ensure that the community is taking part in the "Community Action Plan" implementation after a CBPP process (Community-Based Participatory Planning, one of the elements of the 3-Pronged Approach) and coordinate with the NGO partner to monitor the progress of the activities.
- If you are alone, use an audio-recorder (asking permission first). After the introduction, invite WFP and NGO personnel to leave the gathering and explain to the community that this is the way it is done everywhere and it doesn't mean that we distrust them.
- Ask if there is someone among the participants who speaks your language and check from time to time that the translation is accurate (without hurting the translator feelings).

- Engage in friendly communication and establish a horizontal dialogue (avoid savant language that can intimidate people to talk, maintain a dress code, etc.)
- *** Continuously ask whether women's experiences are different to men's, and how. Also ask older and younger persons whether/how their experiences are different. In mixed groups, encourage women's participation if men dominate the discussion. *****

Opening

- Thank the group for their participation and explain what their contribution will be used for – i.e. the evaluation's purpose.
- Recognise the time the group has given you, acknowledging that they could be doing many other things and that some may have travelled far to be here.
- Provide a brief outline of the session: Mapping >> Discussion about shocks >> How people deal with these >> the role of the FFA (beneficiaries only) >> thoughts of the future >> open session for the group to talk freely and ask questions to you.
- Explain that there are no wrong answers and that we are very interested in hearing differing points of view, and that we are interested in the achievements but also in the areas of improvement.
- Ask permission to audio-record and to take pictures.

Basic Mapping

Step 1: Ask for a volunteer to create a map of the surrounding area. Mention that this person will draw the items suggested by the group but is not responsible for it. We don't need to create a beautiful image, just something to reflect our surroundings.

Step 2: Ask the volunteer to mark the two most significant features of the area. Consider:

- Rivers, lakes
- Roads
- Buildings
- Topographical features

Step 3: Ask the group if they agree with the features and their relationship to each other (make amendments accordingly).

Step 4: Ask the group to suggest other features, and ask the volunteer to depict them on the map. Continue until the group is satisfied.

Step 5: Ask the group to locate the assets developed by FFA and ask the volunteer to draw.

Step 6: Ask the group who would feel comfortable to depict 1) their household and 2) the fields they use on the map. Ask the volunteer to do so for those willing.

Shock calendar

Step 7: Ask for another volunteer to create a timeline. It should be someone with a good memory, although the image will be simpler.

Step 8: Ask the volunteer to draw a long line. Write '2020' at the very end of the line, and mark '2019' and '2015' in relative positions. Leave space for pre-2015.

Step 9: Ask the group to nominate major events over this period [Focus on positive events if possible] – for instance, weddings, infrastructure construction, particularly good harvests, elections. When you have at least one event in each year, step back and ask the community if they broadly agree on the events and when they happened.

Step 10: Ask the group to identify the main negative events that have influenced their livelihoods over this period and to point to when they happened. [Note: these should be events experienced by the community or a portion of it, rather than a single household (i.e. a family sickness). If there are no events during the period, ask about negative events pre-2015.]

Step 11: Step back and ask the group if they agree on the list.

Step 12: Return to the map. Take each negative event in reverse chronological order and ask the group to identify which parts of the area were immediately affected. Ask the volunteer to depict this on the map.

Step 13: Then ask the group to identify 1–3 that had the greatest impact on their livelihoods.

Step 14: Starting with the event that had the greatest impact, ask the group the following questions in relation to their first event:

Questions:

- What effect did this event have on the community?
- Which people where most affected by the event? Why? [Prompt for Men/women/age/HH dependency ratio/sickness/disability/employment]
- How did people deal with this event? [Take each in turn:]

	How sufficient do they consider their actions were?
Ways of knowing a threat is coming	
Changes made in advance to reduce the impact	
Changes made during the shock	
Ways of building back after a shock	

- [FOR EXISTING WFP BENEFICIARIES ONLY] Thinking about the types of support you have received; What is the contribution of the specific components of WFP resilience programming in helping you to deal with this threat?

	How sufficient do they consider their actions were?
Ways of knowing a threat is coming	
Changes made in advance to reduce the impact	
Changes made during the shock	
Ways of building back after a shock	

- When FFA's support came to your areas, was everyone who needed it able to access it?
    a. If Yes, how what this ensured?
    b. If No, which people missed out? [Prompt for Men/women/age/HH dependency ratio/sickness/disability/employment]
- Is there something that can be done differently to improve FFA's contribution to the ability to deal with shocks?
- Are some of the needs being met by other organizations (e.g. the government, other projects)?
- Taking WFP + Non-WFP interventions together, what needs are being met sufficiently, what partially and what not at all?

Step 15: If the **second event** is sufficiently different to the **first,** repeat the questions for the second event.

Step 16: Ask the group how able they feel to deal with similar events in the future.

- Which events are they most concerned about? Why?
- Which people in the area are they most concerned for? Why?

Step 17: What aspects of the future are the group most hopeful about? Why?

Step 18: Mention that you have asked all your questions, and now will:

Open session

1) listen and take a note of anything the group would like to add.

2) answer any questions the group has about the process. (Note: some questions will be relevant to WFP and not the ET. In this case, the ET member should take a note of the questions and at the close of the session ask the WFP representative whether he/she is able to answer now or provide a follow-up process)

Closing

Thank the group for their participation and explain again what their contribution has been for – i.e. the evaluation's purpose.

Annex 7.5: Household Survey

Available separately.

Annex 8. Stakeholders Interviewed

No.	**STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWS IN MALAWI**			
1	*Name*	*Title*	*Institution*	*Location/District*
2	Penjani Banda	Project Officer	WFP	Nsanje
3	Blessings Lungu	District Coordinator	WFP	Phalombe
4	Patrick Makonde	Project Officer	YONECO	Chikwawa
5	Mark Allan	Disctrict Coordinator	World Vision	Chikwawa
6	Admson Phiri	Land Resources Conservation Officer	Phalombe District Agriculture Office	Phalombe
7	Florence Harawa	Disaster Officer	Phalombe District Disaster Office	Phalombe
8	Mr Banda	Community Development Officer	Phalombe District Council	Phalombe
9	Maxwell Saps		CARE Malawi	Nsanje
10	Chimwemwe Nyasulu		CARE Malawi	Nsanje
11	Chikondi	Project Coordinator	CARE Malawi	Nsanje
12	Donald Ghambi	Director of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources	Chikwawa district Council	Chikwawa
13	Vitumbiko Jere	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	WFP	Phalombe
14	Sellah Champhamtengo	Project Officer	WFP	Phalombe
15	Wallace Giva	Programme Coordinator	WFP	Phalombe
16	James Banda	Irrigation Officer	Nsanje District Council	Nsanje
17	Rogder Kanyimbiri	Crops Officer	Chikwawa district Council	Chikwawa
18	Mr Magalasi	Disaster Officer	Chikwawa district Council	Chikwawa
19	Yasin Mtesha Mbewe	District Forest Officer	Phalombe District Council	Phalombe
20	Moses Jemitale	FFA Coordinator	WFP-CO	Lilongwe
21	Cathy Durore		WFP-CO	Lilongwe
22	Abubeker		WFP-CO	Lilongwe
			WFP-CO	Lilongwe

PRA PARTICIPANTS WORLD FOOD PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

Traditional Authority: Mbenje_GVH:Kaleso				
No.	**Name**	**Sex**	**Village**	**Phone**
1	Emmanuel White	M	Brighton	
2	Evason William	M	Samuel	
3	Richard Tembo	M	Kalenso	
4	Marko Petro	M	Mission	
5	Marko Enerst	M	Machado	
6	Jane Mawindo	F	Brighton	
7	Felix Kampira	M	Samuel	
8	Esther Dinyero	F	Gamba	
9	Magret Siliva	F	Gamba	
10	Jessy Afonso	F	Kadamera	

11	Esther Matchipisa	F	Alufandika	
12	Vitolina Zhuwaki	F	Chamba Chauka	
13	David Paul	M	Thom	
14	Mathews Ndadya	M	Samuel	
15	Bethea Bokosi	F	Alaina	
16	Joyce Stanford	F	Nyasalande	
17	Nolifa Maxwell	F	Alufandika	
18	Safaleni Lamiya	F	Thom	
19	Joyce Alufandika	F	Mitoni	
20	Gradesi Theniford	F	Samuel	
21	Evelyn Nyalugwe	F	Alufandika	
Traditional Authority: Tengani_GVH:Chikhawo				
No.	**Name**	**Sex**	**Village**	**Phone**
1	Bornface Fanuwelo	M	Leven	
2	Yotamu Jonathan	M	Leven	
3	Wasiback Jonathan	M	Beka	
4	Doreen Harry	F	Jimu	
5	Aline Bingala	F	Bithi 2	
6	Chrissy Edward	F	Bithi 2	
7	Ayisa Abraham	F	Stonken	
8	Vincent Dave	F	Vizhalona	
9	Chrissy Miliyasi	F	Leven	
10	Mary Maclean	F	Chikhao	
11	Chrissy Zalimba	F	Vizhalona	
12	Stellia Khambala	F	Leven	
13	Esther Neshinali	F	Leven	
14	Stafford Mose	M	Chavi	
15	Labeka Fly	F	Chikhao 3	
16	Prisca Nyang'ombe	F	Andiseni	
17	Loza Gusitinyu	F	Chikhao	
18	Meke Chisaka	M	Vizhalona	
19	Taelo Theniford	M	Chikhao 2	
20	Michael Jemas	M	Chikhao 2	
21	Linly Tchapo	F	Chavi	
Traditional Authority: Jenala_VDC:Tamani				
No.	**Name**	**Sex**	**Village**	**Phone**
1	Evason Sitima	M	Mwelikhomo	
2	Eunice Joseph	F	M'mina	
3	Margret Sungani	F	M'mina	
4	Alinafe Samava	F	Komihela	
5	Phraseburg Mang'au	M	Mwambeni	
6	Rose Makono	F	Komihera	
7	Cathreen Mpoliweke	F	Khancha	
8	Agnes Livasoni	F	Nahowo	
9	Agnes Chimimba	F	Tawanga	
10	Monica Michael	F	Mwambeni	
11	Ruben Kanthalo	M	Tawanga	
12	Fanny Fulayelo	F	Tawanga	
13	Chrissy Matiyasi	F	Namatikha	
14	Agnes Bokosi	F		
15	AlexMisoma	M		
16	Andrew Sungani	M		

17	Biton Sitenala	M		
18	Patrick Chidule	M		
19	Frank Damiano	M		
20	Laken Mphongo	M		
21	Richard Benito	M		
22	Rodrick Katumwe	M		
23	William Siyani	M		
24	Tereza Ligomba	F		
25	Paulo Tchale	M		
26	Suzeni Musasa	F		
27	Chrissie Monjeza	F	Nahuwo	
Traditional Authority: Makhuwira_VDC:Jawa				
No.	**Name**	**Sex**	**Village**	**Phone**
1	Amon Sagwati	M	M'bweza	
2	Fraction Yohane	M	Hedala	
3	Ellen Matimati	F	Jeke	
4	Pilirani Chonzi	F	Zyuwawu	
5	Esther Harry	F	M'chacha	
6	Mary Chonzi	F	Ebesta	
7	Mary Kaliza	F	Masamba	
8	Sofiya Zyuwaki	F	Masamba	
9	Christina Limited	F	Hedara	
10	Chrissy Peter	F	Jeke	
11	Nesi Marewa	F	Zuze	
12	Malita Alfred	F	Gubu	
13	Ndalonganji Nason	F	Minthanje	
14	Mary Tsamwana	F	Banzi	
15	Magret Bizeck	F	Gubu	
16	Ganizani Scotch	M	Mikolosi	
17	Steven Kamfosi	M	Mchacha 18	
18	Jacob Mthamangira	M	M'bweza	
19	Benito Raphael	M	Mbembeduka	
20	Raphael Hanji	M	Minthanje	
21	Maxson Kaphesi	M	Mlembedzeka	
22	Moses Zilozyo	M	Minthanje	
Traditional Authority: Chiwalo_GVH:Chilawi				
No.	**Name**	**Sex**	**Village**	**Phone**
1	Austin Chalemba	M	Gwadira	
2	Markford Nikoloma	M	Gwadira	
3	Master Halle	M	Helema	
4	William Saiti	M	Mwinyera	
5	Ides Grant	F	Helema	
6	Elube Nanthalo	F	Helema	
7	Mary Kapendama	F	Kolowiko	
8	Goodson Wanyanya	M	Makhuvi	
9	Magret Kolokosa	F	Kolowiko	
10	Wyson Chikopa	M	Ndala	
11	Roda Rita	F	Kapama	
12	Felesta Waizeni	F	Jamu	
13	Racheal Kachingwe	F	Aliyekha	
14	Alex Kazembe	M	Chinami	
15	Raphael Chikopa	M	Chinami	

	Charles Milopo	M	Kapama	
Traditional Authority: Ngabu_VDC:Mantusi				
No.	**Name**	**Sex**	**Village**	**Phone**
1	Angela Willard	F	Machokola	
2	Vailet Dickson	F	Machokola	
3	Befiya Antonyo	F	Machokola	
4	Galero Matiasi	M	Kadyamwano	
5	Eliza Peterson	F	Kadyamwano	
6	Lupenga Tymon	M	Kadyamwano	
7	Wiseman Mejason	M	Kadyamwano	
8	Bishop Zakiyo	M	Kadyamwano	
9	Braziliyo Juwe	M	Kadyamwano	
CP__CARE MALAWI				
Name	Organisation	Position	Phone	
Jacob Kakhuta	CARE	Irrigation Engineer		
Maxwell Super	CARE	M & E		

Participants to the FFA Focus Group Discussions (Leadership Structures – VDC &VCPC)

Chikondi Chimtolo	CARE	SFA Coordinator		
Pilirani Miseleni	CARE	Gender Coordinator		
Magdalene Chiponde	CARE	Agronomy Coordinator		
District: Nsanje GVH Nembe, TA Mbenje				
Name of Participant		Position	Sex (M/F)	Contact
1	Sellina Lucious	VCPC Member	F	
2	Grace Peter	VCPC member	F	
3	Margeret Chinyanga	VDC member	F	
4	Eliza Khonje	VDC member	F	
5	Vision Vinti	Chair VDC	M	
6	Jessica Biserck	Vice chair VDC	F	
7	Samuel Pepa	VCPC member	M	
8	Esther Mkandama	VCPC member	F	
9	Frank Visenti	Secretary VDC	M	
10	Calosi Kabalawekha	Vice Secretary VCPC	M	
11	James Lombola	Vice Chair VCPC	M	
12	Lingstone Chikoti	VDC member	M	
District: Nsanje GVH Bithi, TA Tengani				
1	Limbani Kapesi	VCPC Chair	M	
2	Gladys Getsemani	Chair VDC Chikhau VDC	F	
3	Charles Cholinga	VCPC member	M	
4	Michael Peterson	VCD Member	M	
5	Isaac Mereka	Secretary VCPC	M	
6	Patricia Kapalamula	Treasurer VDC	F	
7	Phineus Valeya	Secretary VDC	M	
8	Tenious Jumi	VDC Member	M	
9	Cecelia Wyson	VCPC member	F	
10	Doreen Macksoni	Secretary VDC	F	
11	Gladys James	Chair VDC Biti VDC	F	
12	Lingston Makunga	VDC Chair Biti	M	
13	Isaac Mereka	Secretary VCPC Biti	M	
14	Estere Medisoni	Vice Chair VCPC Chikhau	F	

District: Nsanje GVH Kaleso, TA Tengani				
1	Emmanuel White	Chair VCPC	M	
2	Evason Willium	Member VDC	M	
3	Richard Tembo	Member VDC	M	
4	Magret Siliwa	Member VDC	F	
5	Maliko Petulo	Member VCPC	M	
6	Vitolina Juwaki	VCPC member	F	
7	Elina Ubadia	Treasurer VCPC	F	
8	Estere matchipisa	Member VCPC	F	
9	Esther Dinyero	Member VCPC	F	
10	Jessie Alfonso	Secretary VCPC	F	
11	Maliko Ernest	Member VDC	M	
12	David Paulosi	Member VDC	M	
13	Mathews Navaya	VCPC secretary	M	
District: Phalombe GVH Chinani, TA Chiwalo				
1	Mike Botomani	Secretary VDC	M	
2	Chakupusa Kachingwe	Vice chair VCPC	M	
3	Gibson Mose	Secretary VDC	M	
4	Bennet Abraham	Member VDC	M	
5	Jonathan Bizwell	VDC member	M	
6	Nickson Solomba	VDC member	M	
7	Nickson Lita	VCPC member	M	
8	Ellen Ndaona	VCPC member	F	
9	Margaret Mapiri	VDC Member	F	
10	Frank Kachebe	VDC member	M	
11	Wonderful Dinasiyaya	VCPC member	M	
12	Funny Master	Vice Secretary VCPC	F	
13	Flazwell Naphanda	VCPC member	M	
14	Dyson Sindriki	VDC member	M	
District Phalombe: GHV/ Sub TA Tamani, TA Jenala				
1	Cecelia Masala	VDC Chair	F	
2	Gift Madyero	VDC	M	
3	Saizi Chikometsa	VDC member	M	
4	Brenda Duncan	Vice Secretary VCPC	F	
5	Malita Michael	Vice chair VCPC	F	
6	Lazarus London	Treasurer VDC	M	
7	Winford Isa	VCPC Member	M	
8	Elia Chiopsa	VDC member	M	
9	Christopher Masanjala	Chair VCPC	M	
10	Kelvin Burton	VCPC member	M	
District: Chikwawa GVH Jana TA Makhuwira?				
1	Lymon Member		M	
2	Liston Ganyu		M	
3	Chakwiya Chilemba		M	
4	Grant Nedson		M	
5	Juma Batison		M	
6	Philemoni Pamtunda		M	
7	Ayami Mweche		M	
8	Linesi Chilengwe		F	
9	Helesoni Nedi		M	
10	Friday Tsoka		M	
11	Raphael Nzeka		M	
12	Fred Koloviko		M	
13	Estere Khaula		F	

14	Mary House		F	
15	Alefa Chiutsi		F	
16	Mega Sedakala		M	
District Chikwawa, TA Makhuwira?				
1	Tobias Petulo		M	
2	Lymon Memba		M	
3	Austin Chiutsi		M	
4	Ethel Livison		F	
5	Patricia Kafukiza		F	
6	Edwin Nkhoma		M	
7	Josephy Tebulo		M	
8	Mopolo Stoki		M	
9	Bineti Botomani		M	
10	Leymos Matiki		M	
11	Hastings Robert		M	
12	Lozino Patelo		F	
District: Chikwawa, GHV Saopa TA				
1	Hariat Misongwe		M	
2	John Nelio		M	
3	Fannel Vito		M	
4	Matiya Marko		M	
5	Magret Kalenso		F	
6	Bitia Lightwell		F	
7	Sineya Filimoni		F	
8	Dorothy Rightwell		F	
9	Samuel White		M	

Annex 9.1. Documents Gathered

Document type	Comment/titles & dates of documents received	Received - Y/N (N/A)	Link to Evaluation Matrix
Project-related Documents (if applicable)			
Appraisal mission report			
Project document (including Logical Framework in Annex)	Malawi Resilience Results Framework	Y	Impact and outcome indicator assessments
Standard Project Reports	SPR, 2015, SPRs 2016, SPR 2017, SPR, 2018	Y	Outcome assessments
Budget Revisions			
Note for the record (NFR) from Programme Review Committee meeting (for original intervention and budget revisions if any)			
Approved Excel budget (for original intervention and budget revisions if any)			
Intervention/Project Plan (breakdown of beneficiary figures and food requirements by region/activity/month and partners)	In SPR Reports (2015, 2017) – No SPR reports for 2016, 2018 and 2019	Y	Progress on outcome indicators
Other			
Country Office Strategic Documents (if applicable)			
Country Strategy Document (if any)	Malawi Country Strategic Plan – 2019–2023 Malawi Annual Country Report 2019	Y (downloaded)	Outcome assessment in relation to CSP targets (FFA)
Other			
Assessment Reports [if applicable]			
Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessments	FFA Baseline Report (2016): Phalombe, Karonga, Zomba, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Blantyre September 2017 FFA Expansion Baseline	Y	Food security, resilience and asset indicators FCS, DDS, food crops consumed, incomes and expenditures

Crop and Food Security Assessments (FAO/WFP)	MVAC Malawi Report – Food Security Survey 2018	Y	National food security indicators for assessing relevance and impact
Emergency Food Security Assessments	Mapping of Resilience Interventions in Malawi	Y	Maps HH participating in resilience interventions by district
Food Security Monitoring System Bulletins			
Market Assessments and Bulletins			
Joint Assessment Missions (UNHCR/WFP)			
Inter-Agency Assessments	Partnership of WFP and New York University to look at Graduation Parameters for Resilience Interventions		
Rapid needs assessments and Baselines	Integrated Resilience Programme 2019, Baseline Report (September 2019) R4 Baseline (2018) Zomba and Blantyre R4 Malawi Baseline Report (Blantyre and Zomba Districts (July 2017)) (Missing Annex 2 on Outcome Indicator Dashboard) R4 Baseline Report, September 2018 (Balaka, Blantyre, Dezda, Machinga, Nsanje and Palomba districts) R4 May Baseline and December Follow-up 2017 (Balaka and Zomba) FFA Baseline (2016) Report: Phalombe, Karonga, Zomba, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Blantyre) Resilience Indicators May 2015–May 2017 for evolution of R4 Beneficiaries: Results of RIMA-II Analysis (looking at access to basic services, asset creation and social safety nets (SSN))	Y	FCSs, DDS, food security strategies, expenditure and income, assets, credit, savings, assets Broader indicators in relation to asset creation, insurance, savings and credit, agronomic practices and seed varieties, markets and climate services Tracking food security indicators, shocks and coping strategies, income and expenditure, loans and savings
Resilience survey questionnaires	FFA PDM (Post-Distribution Monitoring) survey (2016) FFA Survey (June 2018) FFA Expansion Baseline (2017)	Y	Assessment of baseline versus outcome indicators

	FFA Expansion Follow-Up (2017) FFA Survey (June 2018) FFA Original Follow-up (2017) R4 Baseline Survey (2017) R4 Follow-Up (2017) R4 Outcome Survey 2017 Ver 2 Resilience Baseline (2018) Resilience Outcome Survey (2019)		
Cash and voucher feasibility studies			
Other			
Monitoring & Reporting (if applicable)			
M&E Plan	Programme Monitoring reports and data sets: FFA baselines and expansions follow-ups 2016, 2017 and 2018 Country Strategic Plan Resilience and Recovery Baseline Data and Summary Report from September 2019. FFA Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Reports for 2016–2019		
Country Situation Report (SITREP)			
Country Executive Brief			
Food Distribution and Post-distribution Monitoring Reports	PDM Reports (June 2018) – Resilience Baseline Report (December 2017–June 2018 (10 Districts))	Y	Food security, expenditure, livelihood, income and asset ownership indicators
Monthly Monitoring Reports	Balaka FFA July 2015 Narrative (Concern Universal)	Y	Productive asset creation
Beneficiary Verification Reports	Partner Monitoring Reports (See monthly reports from Cooperating Partner Section)	Y	Effectiveness, Impact and Sustainability Assessment

Donor-specific reports	2017 Q1 WFP Report to DFID WFP Q1 Report for DFID Malawi (January–March 2018) 2018 Q2 WFP Narrative Report for DFID Malawi, July 2018–September 2018 2018 Q3 WFP Output Progress Report to DFID Malawi FFP/EFSP programme Performance End of Project Report (30/09/2016–29/09/2017)	Y	Useful outcome indicator assessment tables for assessing effectiveness, efficiency and impact
Other Monitoring and Performance Reports	Dedza End of Project Narrative (October 2015 to April 2016) Biannual Programme Performance Report (April–September 2018) Biannual Programme Performance report – WFP Malawi (October 2017–March 2018) FFP/EFSP Programme Performance End of Project Report (30th September 2016–29th September 2017 (Dedza, Zomba and Mangochi)) Phalombe UN Joint Resilience Project (UN agency implemented): WFP/FAO, UNICEF, UNDP and an NGO Consortium (CADECOM, ADRA-Malawi, Save the Children) (September 2016–April 2017)	Y	Indicator achievements for April to Sept 2018 (and stories of change – linked to impact) Outcome analysis/useful indicator assessment tables)
Output Monitoring Reports (if applicable)			
Actual and Planned beneficiaries by activity and district/location by year	SPR 2015 (1st January–31st December 2015) SPR 2016 (Cluster Coordination in Response to Floods in Malawi) SPR 2016 (Augmentation of WFP Support to SADC and Member States in response to the El Nino drought)		Useful comparisons of actual and planned beneficiaries

	SPR 2016 (EP–RBJ–Regional EL NINO Preparedness for Southern Africa) SPR 2017 (1st January–31st December 2017) SPR 2017 – Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi SPR 2018, Country Programme, WFP SPR 2018, Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi FFA Output Tables for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019		
Men vs. Women beneficiaries by activity and district/location by year	SPR 2015 (1st January–31st December 2015) SPR 2016 (Cluster Coordination in Response to Floods in Malawi) SPR 2016 (Augmentation of WFP Support to SADC and Member States in response to the El Nino drought) SPR 2016 (EP–RBJ–Regional EL NINO Preparedness for Southern Africa) SPR 2017 (1st January–31st December 2017) SPR 2017 – Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi SPR 2018, Country Programme, WFP SPR 2018, Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi FFA Output Tables for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019		Useful for gender analysis and disaggregation
Beneficiaries by age group			
Actual and Planned tonnage distributed by activity by year	SPR 2015 (1st January–31st December 2015) SPR 2016 (Cluster Coordination in Response to Floods in Malawi) SPR 2016 (Augmentation of WFP Support to SADC and Member States in response to the El Nino drought)		Useful for efficiency and effectiveness assessment

	SPR 2016 (EP–RBJ–Regional EL NINO Preparedness for Southern Africa) SPR 2017 (1st January–31st December 2017) SPR 2017 – Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi SPR 2018, Country Programme, WFP SPR 2018, Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi FFA Output Tables for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019		
Commodity type by activity	SPR 2015 (1st January–31st December 2015) SPR 2016 (Cluster Coordination in Response to Floods in Malawi) SPR 2016 (Augmentation of WFP Support to SADC and Member States in response to the El Nino drought) SPR 2016 (EP–RBJ–Regional EL NINO Preparedness for Southern Africa) SPR 2017 (1st January–31st December 2017) SPR 2017 – Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi SPR 2018, Country Programme, WFP SPR 2018, Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi FFA Output Tables for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019		Useful for efficiency and effectiveness assessment
Actual and Planned cash/voucher requirements (US$) by activity by year	SPR 2015 (1st January–31st December 2015) SPR 2016 (Cluster Coordination in Response to Floods in Malawi) SPR 2016 (Augmentation of WFP Support to SADC and Member States in response to the El Nino drought) SPR 2016 (EP–RBJ–Regional EL NINO Preparedness for Southern Africa)		Useful for efficiency and effectiveness assessment

	SPR 2017 (1st January–31st December 2017) SPR 2017 – Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi SPR 2018, Country Programme, WFP SPR 2018, Food Assistance to Refugees in Malawi FFA Output Tables for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019		
Outcome Monitoring Reports			
Outcome Analysis Reports	Resilience Outcome Monitoring Report (December 2017–June 2018) (August 2018) (Outcome Indicator Dashboard missing in the Annex) Integrated Resilience Program 2019 (September 2019) covering FFA, R4, integrated resource management and climate services, SAMS, BMZ (Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga, Mangochi, Phalombe, Nsanje and Zomba) (Annexes Missing) June 2018 Versus December 2017 Results (Beneficiary and Non-Beneficiary Assessment in terms of food production choices (maize, groundnuts, cow peas and cotton))	Y	Outcome indicator analysis, beneficiary and non-beneficiary analysis Food security, resilience and asset scores
USAID Analysis	FFA Charts – Tableau FFA Talking Points (Food Consumption, Dietary Diversity, Reduced Coping Strategies Index, Livelihoods Coping Strategies Index) FFA Charts (Food Consumption Scores/Beneficiary and Non-Beneficiary Analysis) Data characteristics and Malawi FFA Datasets LCSI Categories (Stress, Crisis)	Y	Useful for resilience measurement and analysis of impacts
Operational Documents (if applicable)			

Organogram for main office and sub-offices			
Activity Guidelines	Technical Note: Key Aspects when evaluating FFA	Y	Key issues of focus in FFA evaluation
Mission Reports			
Pipeline overview for the period covered by the evaluation			
Logistics capacity assessment			
Partners (if applicable)			
Monthly Reports from Cooperating Partners	Balaka FFA July 2015 Narrative (Concern Universal) Implementation Implementation Partner (IP) Report (December 2017 Action Against Hunger) IP Report (FFA) – World Vision (Zomba District, December 2017, Monthly Report) (BMZ Nutrition Component) IP Report (FFA) Plan International (Machinga District) (2017) IP Report (FFA) Emmanuel International, Mangochi District (2017) Implementation Narrative Report (FFA) for Mangochi, Concern Worldwide (CWW) 2017 IP Report (FFA), ActionAid, Nsanje District, May 2017 IP Report (FFA) ADRA, Phalombe District, December 2017) IP Report (FFA) World Vision International, Chikwawa District IP Report (FFA) ADRA, Phalombe District (September 2018)	Y	Yield analysis, crops harvested Effectiveness (multi-sector approach, training and capacity building) Nutrition-Sensitive Asset Creation) Multi-sector PACs Useful for Efficiency and Effectiveness Assessment

	IP Report (FFA) United Purpose/Universal Concern, Balaka District, 1st September–30th September 2018) IP Report (FFA), Plan International (Machinga District), September 2018 IP Report (FFA) Concern Worldwide, Sept 2018, Monthly Report IP Report (FFA) Mangochi (IP not stated) Monthly Report, 2018 IP Report (FFA) Mangochi, Sept 2018 (IP not stated) IP Report (FFA) Plan International, Monthly Report, 2018 IP Report (FFA) World Vision International, Chikwawa District, Monthly Report		
Annual Reports from Cooperating Partners			
List of partners (Government, NGOs, UN agencies) by location/ activity/ role/ tonnage handled	NGO Partners – Most are listed above. They include World Vision International, Plan International, Concern Worldwide, United Purpose (former Universal Concern), ADRA, Action Aid, Emmanuel International) Government Partners: (Mainly Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, Ministry of Disaster and Relief Management, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development) UN agencies: FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP		
Field-level agreements (FLAs), Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)			
Cluster/Coordination Meetings (if applicable)			
Logistics/Food Security/nutrition cluster documents			

NFRs of coordination meetings			
Other			
Evaluations/Reviews			
Evaluations/reviews of past or ongoing operations/interventions	Midline Review Evaluation of R4 participants from 2015–2017, Draft Version (26/03/2018) (However, Annex 1a on Outcome Baseline Report (2015), Annex 1b on Outcome Monitoring Report 2017, Annex 2 on Report on FGD 2017 and Annex 3, Report on RIMA-II Analysis missing) WFP (2019) Strategic Evaluation of WFP Support for Enhanced Resilience, Evaluation Report, Volume I WFP (2019) Strategic Evaluation of WFP Support for Enhanced Resilience, Evaluation Report, Volume II	Y	Resilience & food security outcome indicators
Resource Mobilisation (if applicable)			
Resource Situation	Available in SPR and ACR		
Contribution statistics by month			
Resource mobilisation strategy			
NFRs Donor meetings			
Maps (if applicable)			
Map of the intervention	In ToR, WFP, Evaluation of FFA in the Context of Malawi (2015–2019)		
Logistics Map			
Food/Cash/Voucher Distribution Location Map			
Food Security Map			
Other Documents Collected by the Team (including external ones) (if applicable)			
Context data and information (UN Programmes in Malawi)	FAO Malawi Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2014–2017		Malawi Context data

Government and Policy Frameworks/Strategies	Government of Malawi National Resilience Strategy (2018–2030) National Agricultural Policy, 2016 (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development) National Statistics Office (2018) Malawi Population and Housing Census Preliminary Report, December 2018	Downloaded	Policy alignment and Sustainability Analysis
Other relevant reports	MVAC Malawi El Nino Food Security Survey, July 2018 Government of Malawi (2019) Floods Response Plan and Appeal (March–May 2019)	Downloaded	Policy alignment and Sustainability Analysis
Specify			

Annex 9.2: Documents Reviewed

Document type	Comment/titles & dates of documents received
Project document (including Logical Framework in Annex)	Malawi Resilience Results Framework
Standard Project Reports	SPRs 2016, SPR 2017, SPR, 2018
Country Strategy Document (if any)	Malawi Country Strategic Plan – 2019–2023 Malawi Annual Country Report 2019
Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessments	FFA Baseline Report (2016): Phalombe, Karonga, Zomba, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Blantyre September 2017 FFA Expansion Baseline
Crop and Food Security Assessments (FAO/WFP)	MVAC Malawi Report – Food Security Survey 2018
Emergency Food Security Assessments	Mapping of Resilience Interventions in Malawi
Rapid needs assessments and Baselines	Integrated Resilience Programme 2019, Baseline Report (September 2019) R4 Baseline (2018) Zomba and Blantyre R4 Malawi Baseline Report (Blantyre and Zomba Districts (July 2017) (Missing Annex 2 on Outcome Indicator Dashboard) R4 Baseline Report, September 2018 (Balaka, Blantyre, Dezda, Machinga, Nsanje and Palomba districts) R4 May Baseline and December Follow-up 2017 (Balaka and Zomba) FFA Baseline (2016) Report: Phalombe, Karonga, Zomba, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Blantyre) Resilience Indicators May 2015–May 2017 for evolution of R4 Beneficiaries: Results of RIMA-II Analysis (looking at access to basic services, asset creation and social safety nets (SSN))
Resilience survey questionnaires	FFA PDM (Post-Distribution Monitoring) survey (2016) FFA Survey (June 2018) FFA Expansion Baseline (2017) FFA Expansion Follow-Up (2017) FFA Survey (June 2018) FFA Original Follow-up (2017) R4 Baseline Survey (2017) R4 Follow-Up (2017) R4 Outcome Survey 2017 Ver 2 Resilience Baseline (2018) Resilience Outcome Survey (2019)

Food Distribution and Post-distribution Monitoring Reports	PDM Reports (June 2018) – Resilience Baseline Report (December 2017–June 2018 (10 Districts))
Monthly Monitoring Reports	Balaka FFA July 2015 Narrative (Concern Universal)
Beneficiary Verification Reports	Partner Monitoring Reports (See monthly reports from Cooperating Partner Section)
Donor-specific reports	2017 Q1 WFP Report to DFID WFP Q1 Report for DFID Malawi (January–March 2018) 2018 Q2 WFP Narrative Report for DFID Malawi, July 2018–September 2018 2018 Q3 WFP Output Progress Report to DFID Malawi FFP/EFSP programme Performance End of Project Report (30/09/2016–29/09/2017)
Other Monitoring and Performance Reports	Dedza End of Project Narrative (October 2015 to April 2016) Biannual Programme Performance Report (April–September 2018) Biannual Programme Performance report – WFP Malawi (October 2017–March 2018) FFP/EFSP Programme Performance End of Project Report (30th September 2016–29th September 2017 (Dedza, Zomba and Mangochi)) Phalombe UN Joint Resilience Project (UN agency implemented): WFP/FAO, UNICEF, UNDP and an NGO Consortium (CADECOM, ADRA-Malawi, Save the Children) (September 2016–April 2017)
Outcome Analysis Reports	Resilience Outcome Monitoring Report (December 2017–June 2018) (August 2018) (Outcome Indicator Dashboard missing in the Annex) Integrated Resilience Program 2019 (September 2019) covering FFA, R4, integrated resource management and climate services, SAMS, BMZ (Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga, Mangochi, Phalombe, Nsanje and Zomba) (Annexes Missing) June 2018 Versus December 2017 Results (Beneficiary and Non-Beneficiary Assessment in terms of food production choices (maize, groundnuts, cow peas and cotton))
USAID Analysis	FFA Charts – Tableau FFA Talking Points (Food Consumption, Dietary Diversity, Reduced Coping Strategies Index, Livelihoods Coping Strategies Index) FFA Charts (Food Consumption Scores/Beneficiary and Non-Beneficiary Analysis) Data characteristics and Malawi FFA Datasets LCSI Categories (Stress, Crisis)
Activity Guidelines	Technical Note: Key Aspects when evaluating FFA
Monthly Reports from Cooperating Partners	Balaka FFA July 2015 Narrative (Concern Universal) Implementation

	Implementation Partner (IP) Report (December 2017 Action Against Hunger) IP Report (FFA) – World Vision (Zomba District, December 2017, Monthly Report) (BMZ Nutrition Component) IP Report (FFA) Plan International (Machinga District) (2017) IP Report (FFA) Emmanuel International, Mangochi District (2017) Implementation Narrative Report (FFA) for Mangochi, Concern Worldwide (CWW) 2017 IP Report (FFA), ActionAid, Nsanje District, May 2017 IP Report (FFA) ADRA, Phalombe District, December 2017) IP Report (FFA) World Vision International, Chikwawa District IP Report (FFA) ADRA, Phalombe District (September 2018) IP Report (FFA) United Purpose/Universal Concern, Balaka District, 1st September–30th September 2018) IP Report (FFA), Plan International (Machinga District), September 2018 IP Report (FFA) Concern Worldwide, Sept 2018, Monthly Report IP Report (FFA) Mangochi (IP not stated) Monthly Report, 2018 IP Report (FFA) Mangochi, Sept 2018 (IP not stated) IP Report (FFA) Plan International, Monthly Report, 2018 IP Report (FFA) World Vision International, Chikwawa District, Monthly Report
Evaluations/reviews of past or ongoing operations/interventions	Midline Review Evaluation of R4 participants from 2015–2017, Draft Version (26/03/2018) (However, Annex 1a on Outcome Baseline Report (2015), Annex 1b on Outcome Monitoring Report 2017, Annex 2 on Report on FGD 2017 and Annex 3, Report on RIMA-II Analysis missing) WFP (2019) Strategic Evaluation of WFP Support for Enhanced Resilience, Evaluation Report, Volume I WFP (2019) Strategic Evaluation of WFP Support for Enhanced Resilience, Evaluation Report, Volume II
Government and Policy Frameworks/Strategies	Government of Malawi National Resilience Strategy (2018–2030) National Agricultural Policy, 2016 (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development) National Statistics Office (2018) Malawi Population and Housing Census Preliminary Report, December 2018
Other relevant reports	MVAC Malawi El Nino Food Security Survey, July 2018 Government of Malawi (2019) Floods Response Plan and Appeal (March–May 2019)

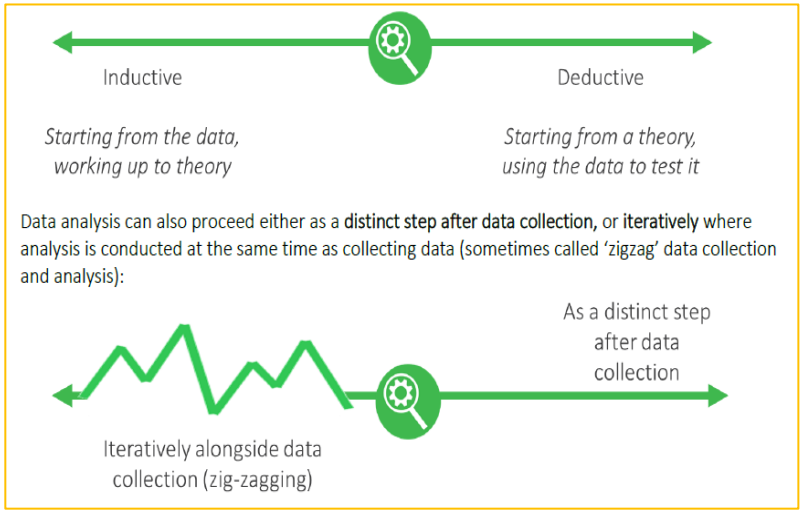
Annex 10. Qualitative Data Analysis Process

Annex 10.1: Analytical Approach

118. There are few well-established and widely accepted rules for the analysis of qualitative data, but the team will follow broad guidelines and techniques. We will avoid separating data analysis from data collection. As data is collected, researchers gain a better understanding of the project, the theory, the context, important issues and actors, which can be used to refine interview and focus group questions, add or drop stakeholders from the sampling framework, and adjust the level of effort directed towards different lines of enquiry. This is easiest when the researchers collecting the data are also the ones undertaking the analysis, allowing the analysis to begin in the field, feeding into adjustments to the sample and field guides.

119. An iterative approach allows the ET to present and feedback initial findings at an exit debriefing at the Country Office, and hence this approach will be favoured. There are various formal approaches to qualitative data analysis from the qualitative research tradition. Content analyses may focus on meaning and interpretations, overlapping with thematic analysis. One key distinction is that content analysis is often applied to semi-quantify data, by measuring the frequency of categories, themes, or other features in the data and using this as a proxy for their significance.

Figure 20: Analytical processes



120. Matrices with defined rows and columns allow data to be arranged coherently and concisely to permit careful comparisons, detections of differences, and identification of patterns, themes and trends. They can be helpful to compare data from different participants on a particular theme of interest (e.g. a factor that you think is important to success), giving an 'at a glance' comparison of experiences, feelings, actions, outcomes or processes. We will adapt existing matrices for data compilation during the inception phase, so that data collected from the field can begin to be populated for preliminary analysis during the fieldwork phase and then triangulation during the report writing phase of the evaluation (see below).

Figure 21: Data sources and evidence tools examples

List of cases (individuals, sites)		What do participants think or feel about x?
List of cases (individuals, sites)	Outcome	Factor that might have an influence on the outcome (e.g. key barrier or enabler)

121. Focus on Gender: The question 'for whom' will be used to create a nuanced account, and all analysis of FFA's influence on resilience will consider multiple perspectives within these – age, religion, education and social status also have a bearing on women's resilience. Confirming and exploring the findings of the evaluation requires representation of marginalised groups. This process has to be iterative during the FGDs due to the lack of access the team will have to these men and women afterwards.

122. Triangulation of evidence, and weighing up FFA's Contribution and Performance stories, involves the process of bringing together multiple pieces of data to understand the 'whole'. This is therefore discussed

particularly in relation to triangulation and drawing out insights from across WFP and survey data, reports or evaluations, and the PRA, to answer the EQs.

123. Triangulation is useful in cross-checking and corroborating findings and also to gain a deeper and more complete understanding of an issue. The strength of evidence can be understood as a relationship between three things:

124. Empirical evidence – tangible, observable phenomena: for example, the testimony of interview respondents, the content of programme documentation, statistical data, minutes of meetings, media products.

125. Findings, or hypotheses – statements about the existence of something – for example, the impact of a programme, or how and why an observed change happened. These statements might or might not be true, but they are not directly observable.

126. The evaluator's confidence in the findings – how confident the researcher is that the finding is true, based on the empirical evidence. New evidence can increase or decrease confidence in the findings, by different degrees (Figure 23 below).

Figure 22: Weighing the strength of evidence

		Extent of FFA's contribution resilience capacities			
		Critical contribution	**Important contribution**	**Some contribution**	**No contribution**
Strength of evidence	**Strong evidence**	Very confident that FFA made a critical contribution to resilience capacities.	Very confident that FFA made an important contribution to resilience capacities.	Very confident that FFA made some contribution to resilience capacities, alongside other factors, but was not the most important cause.	Very confident that FFA's contribution to resilience capacities was negligible.
	Some evidence	More confident than not that FFA made a critical contribution to resilience capacities.	More confident than not that FFA made an important contribution to resilience capacities.	More confident than not that FFA made some contribution to resilience capacities, alongside other factors, but was not the most important cause.	More confident than not that FFA contribution to resilience capacities was negligible.
	Limited evidence	Insufficient evidence to support a contribution judgement.			

Annex 10.2: Qualitative Coverage

127. The qualitative assessment was based on the same districts and TAs covered by the household survey assessment but covered the three districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe. Table 27 shows the districts, the TAs and Villages covered.

Table 27 Qualitative interview summary

DISTRICT	***TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY***	***GROUP VILLAGE HEADMAN***	***VDC***	***Female***	***Male***	***Total***
CHIKWAWA	NGABU	SAOPA	CHITUWI	4	5	9
	MANKHWIRA	NANTUSI	NANTUSI	5	7	12
		JANA	JANA	4	12	16
	Sub total			***13***	***24***	***37***
NSANJE	TENGANI	CHIKHAWO	CHIKHAWO	6	8	14
	MBENJE	MNEMBE	MNEMBE	6	6	12
		KALESO	KALESO	6	7	13
	Sub total			***18***	***21***	***39***
PHALOMBE	CHIWALO	CHINANI	CHINANI	3	11	14
	JENALA	TAMANI	TAMANI	3	7	10
	Sub total			***6***	***18***	***24***
	Total			***37***	***63***	***100***

	Grand Total			***117***	***137***	***254***

Annex 10.3: Timeline, Field Mission Schedule and PRA Site Selection

Day	Date	Field Team leader	Supporting Team Members	Proposed Site Visits	Targeted Respondents/ Participants	Tools to be Applied	Logistics and Organization
1	16-03-2021	Absolom Masendeke	N/A	Lilongwe (Check-in with WFP Evaluation Manager and Focal Persons)	Maribeth WFP Focal Persons	Briefing Exchange	Arrange Check-in Meeting with Eva Manager
2	17-03-2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Chikwava District Visit to TA 1 • 3 TA KIIs • 2 PRAs • 3 FDGs	WFP Beneficiaries	PRA, FGD, KII	Arrange 3 KIIs in TA1 of Chikwava District. Mobilise 2 PRA groups with mixed participants and 3 FGD meetings with asset groups (beneficiaries).
3	18.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Chikwava District Visit to TA 2 • 3 TA KIIs • 2 PRAs • 3 FDGs	WFP Beneficiaries	PRA, FGD, KII	Arrange 3 KIIs in TA2 of Chikwava District. Mobilise 2 PRA groups with mixed participants and 3 FGD meetings with asset groups (beneficiaries).
4	19.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Chikwava District	District Level KIIs • District Authority • District Extension Officer • Key Stakeholder	KII	Arrange meetings with district KIIs in Nsanze District.
5.	20-21.03.21	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Reflect on PRA, FGDs and KII Meetings in Nsanje District and Field Report. On Sunday travel to Nsanje District.			

6.	20.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Nsanje District	WFP Beneficiaries	PRA, FGD, KII	Arrange 3 KIIs in TA1 of Chikwava District. Mobilise 2 PRA groups with mixed participants and 3 FGD meetings with asset groups (beneficiaries).
6	22.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Nsanje District	WFP Benefiaries	PRA, FGD, KII	Arrange 3 KIIs in TA2 of Nsanje District. Mobilise 2 PRA groups with mixed participants and 3 FGD meetings with asset groups (beneficiaries).
7	23.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Nsanje District	District Level KIIs • District Authority • District Extension Officer • Key Stakeholder	KIIs	Arrange meetings with district KIIs in Nsanze District up to 12 and travel to next District in Phalombe
8	24.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Phalombe District	District Level KIIs • District Authority • District Extension Officer • Key Stakeholder	PRA, FGD, KII	Arrange 3 KIIs in TA1 of Phalombe District. Mobilise 2 PRA groups with mixed participants and 3 FGD meetings with asset groups (beneficiaries).

9	25.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Phalombe District	District Level KIIs • District Authority • District Extension Officer • Key Stakeholder	PRA, FGD, KII	Arrange 3 KIIs in TA2 of Palombe District. Mobilise 2 PRA groups with mixed participants and 3 FGD meetings with asset groups (beneficiaries).
10	26.03.2021 to 27.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Reflect on PRA, FGDs and KII Meetings in Nsanje District and Field Report. On Sunday travel to Nsanje District.			
11	28.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Phalombe District	District Level KIIs • District Authority • District Extension Officer • Key Stakeholder	KIIs	Arrange KIIs at District Level in Phalombe District
12	29.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	2 Local Facilitators	Travel to Lilongwe	N/A	N/A	N/A
13	30.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	N/A	Lilongwe	Lilongwe Level KIIs	KIIs	Arrange KIIs at National Level (esp with complementary interventions)
14	31.03.2021	Absolom Masendeke	N/A	Lilongwe	Overall reflection and debriefing with WFP		
15	01.04.2021	Absolom Masendeke	NA	End of Mission and Travel back to Harare			

128. CO's preference of activities to be considered for purposive sampling of PRA Target Sites

Core activities	**Complementary activities**
Forestation (tree nursery establishment, tree planting, natural tree regeneration, apiculture, energy-efficient cook stoves promotion)	Integrated homestead activities (construction of toilet platforms, rehabilitation of toilets, installation of hand-washing facility, backyard gardens, procurement of energy-efficient stoves, etc.)
Land resources management: gully control (check dams), swale construction, manure making and application, deep trench construction, soil stabilisation (vetiver production, live fencing)	Crop production (grafting/budding of fruit trees, drought-tolerant crops promotion, demonstration plots)
Community access road construction and rehabilitation (including construction of scour checks)	Livestock production (goat production)
Construction of multipurpose ponds (fish and livestock)	Crop insurance in selected areas (Balaka, Zomba, Phalombe and Chikwawa)
Irrigation farming (establishment of irrigation schemes and provision of treadle pumps)	Village Savings and Loan Scheme
Shallow well construction	Smallholder Marketing Services

129. Targeted Districts and TAs for PRA (based on sites selected for household survey)

District	**Traditional Authority**	**Reference**	**Key Stressor (s)**
Phalombe	Jenala	TA 1 – P	Dry spells
	Nazombe	TA 2 – P	Dry spells
Nsanje	Tengani	TA1 – N	Floods
	Mbenje	TA2 - N	Floods
Chikwawa	Ngabu	TA 1 – C	Dry spells
	Makhwira	TA 2 – C	Dry spells

Annex 11. Itad's Approach to Quality Assurance

	What?	How?	Who?
Stage 1: Quality of the evaluation process	Ensure the best evaluation design, within resource constraints	When preparing the bid, and again during the inception phase, our QAs provide advice on how best to tailor the evaluation design to the budget and time resources available.	QA and Bid lead Project Director
	Selection of the most appropriate and robust methodology and tools	During the inception phase, TL and ET will refine the methodology, using the inception missions to test data-collection instruments, taking a gender-sensitive approach and with adherence to our ethical standards. Our QA will then review them and assure their quality.	Team Leader, QA
	Realistic planning	The Project Director, together with the Project Officer, will periodically review the evaluation budget and workplan, making sure that delivery is within budget and planning for next phases realistically.	Project Director, Project Officer
	Timely delivery	The evaluation design (sampling strategy and sample size for KIIs, PRA, FGDs, depth of analysis, etc.) will be tailored to ensure delivery within deadlines. The Project Director, together with the TL, will periodically review the evaluation workplan, making sure that delivery is on track and planning for next phases realistically.	Team Leader, Project Director
	Adherence to DEQAS ethical standards, UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System	Our team members are highly experienced evaluators with several years of expertise in this field. They uphold the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and Code of Conduct for Evaluation and are fully committed to respect them. In particular, they will: • be independent, express their opinion in a free manner and avoid conflict of interest. • protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. We will provide maximum notice, minimise demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. We will respect respondents' right to pull out of interviews at any time. We will respect people's right to provide information in confidence and ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source (through data management, analysis, reporting and dissemination). • be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders.	All team members, TL, QA

Stage 2: Quality of the end product	Challenging the deliverables	This is a key QA function. The QA will challenge reports, checking adherence to ToRs, a credible evidence base, a logical and clear flow from evidence to findings, conclusions and recommendations. Ensure recommendations are actionable and owners have been identified. Ensure an adequate Executive Summary that clearly and succinctly captures the context, key findings and recommendations of the report.	Itad QA
	Making sure they are written in clear language and contain no typos or grammar mistakes	One of our professional proofreaders will be proofreading all the deliverables.	Proofreader
	Making sure that deliverables are properly edited	The proofreader will also carefully edit deliverables that will be shared with external stakeholders to ensure that they are in the right format and properly formatted.	Proofreader
Stage 3: Improving quality ex-post	Securing feedback on quality of the project and the team from Client	Throughout the project, the team will be seeking feedback from WFP on quality of delivery. Upon project completion, the Project Director will be seeking feedback on how to improve our services.	Project Director, Client
	Closing the feedback loop – acting on feedback	Upon completion, the project will undergo an internal Project Review and findings will be translated in concrete actions and lessons learnt for the future.	Itad Leadership

Annex 12. Integration of Gender in Evaluation

Selected aspects of the evaluation	Associated issues (sample)	Examples on how the evaluation addresses this dimension
Stakeholder Analysis	A diverse group of stakeholders identified from the stakeholder analysis, including women, men, girls and boys.	These groups are recognised in the stakeholder analysis along with details of their engagement.
Evaluation Questions	Evaluation questions addressing gender equality are included.	Questions regarding cross-cutting issues are in many cases already included, implicitly or explicitly, in the main questions of the evaluation criteria. In order to facilitate assessments of cross-cutting issues, key questions have been included explicitly (as specific sub-questions; as sources of data & as collection methods; as a result of triangulation and/or as judgement criteria).
Method	The evaluation employs a mixed-method approach appropriate to addressing gender equality. The evaluation method favours triangulation of the information obtained.	The approach includes methods that purposefully seek to understand women's experience, and has built on the points raised by past evaluation regarding women's access to FFA and global evaluations focused more broadly on women's experience of FFA. The ET's approach seeks to test and update these. Triangulation of information will include cross-checking of different sources of information and data and cross-checking evidence from different components.
Collection and Analysis of Data	Findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation are informed by: i) elements of diversity encountered in each specific context; ii) the diversity of views and perspectives of all categories of stakeholders.	The evaluation employs a participatory approach throughout the data collection, analysis and reporting phases, and has considered fora in which women may be more/less safe in providing information. The question 'for whom' will be used to create a nuanced account, and all analysis of FFA's influence on resilience will consider multiple perspectives within these – age, religion, education and social status also have a bearing on women's resilience.

Sources: Adapted from 'A summary checklist for a human rights and gender equality evaluation process' in UNEG (2012) "Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation – Towards UNEG Guidance" available at: http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/980 and 'Evaluation of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth 2008-2015' available at: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/Adolescents_and_Youth_evaluation_v2.pdf

Annex 13. Ethical Procedures and Potential Limitations of the Evaluation

Annex 13.1: Ethical Procedures

130. This Statement of Ethical Principles sets a standard to which all Itad staff, consultants and partners aspire when working on Itad-managed evaluations. Itad evaluators operate in accordance with international human rights conventions and covenants to which the United Kingdom is a signatory, regardless of local country standards. They will also take account of local and national laws.

131. Itad takes responsibility for identifying the need for, and securing any necessary, ethics approval for each study. This may be from national or local ethics committees in countries in which the study will be undertaken, or from other stakeholder institutions with formal ethics approval systems.

132. The conduct of all those working on Itad-managed evaluations is characterised by the following general principles and values. In the inception period of the evaluation, we will detail further how these principles will be applied, taking account of the nature of the assignment and the local context.

- **Principle 1: Independence and impartiality of the researchers**

133. Itad evaluators are independent and impartial. Any conflicts of interest or partiality will be made explicit.

- **Principle 2: Avoiding harm**

134. Itad evaluators will ensure that the basic human rights of individuals and groups with whom they interact are protected. This is particularly important with regard to vulnerable people.

- **Principle 3: Child protection**

135. Itad follows the code of conduct established by Save the Children (2003), which covers awareness of child abuse, minimising risks to children, and reporting and responding where concerns arise about possible abuse.

136. Itad evaluators will obtain informed consent from parents or caregivers and from children themselves. Children will not be required to participate.

- **Principle 4: Treatment of participants**

137. Itad evaluators are aware of differences in culture, local customs, religious beliefs and practices, personal interaction and gender roles, disability, age and ethnicity, and will be mindful of the potential implications of these differences when planning, carrying out and reporting on evaluations.

- **Principle 5: Voluntary participation**

138. Participation in research and evaluation should be voluntary and free from external pressure. Information should not be withheld from prospective participants that might affect their willingness to participate. All participants have a right to withdraw from research/evaluation and withdraw any data concerning them at any point without fear of penalty.

- **Principle 6: Informed consent**

139. Itad evaluators will inform participants how information and data obtained will be used, processed, shared and disposed of, prior to obtaining consent.

- **Principle 7: Ensuring confidentiality**

140. Itad evaluators will respect people's right to provide information in confidence and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. They will also inform participants about the scope and limits of confidentiality.

- **Principle 8: Data security**

141. Itad is registered under the UK Data Protection Act 1998 and has a Data Protection Policy which includes procedures on data retention and confidentiality. Itad evaluators will guard confidential material and personal information by the proper use of passwords and other security measures. Itad evaluators have an obligation to protect data and systems by following up-to-date recommendations to avoid damage from viruses and other malicious programs. Additionally, there is a duty to state how data will be stored, backed up, shared, archived and (if necessary) disposed.

- **Principle 9: Sharing of findings**

142. Itad evaluators are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.

Annex 13.2: Potential Limitations and Mitigation

Potential Limitation	Description	Mitigation
Lack of control group in household survey	It was not a possible to devise a feasible strategy within the maximum possible sample size for identifying a valid comparison population given the targeting of the WFP interventions, as any possible comparisons would have had to be made to populations with very different socio-economic, demographic and/or climate shock histories.	Throughout the quantitative survey many of the key questions were addressed both to the household's current situation and to the time before the interventions began. In relation to specific major shocks households were also asked to reflect on how well they had coped with shocks in the past, and how they perceived their situation would be different should an identical shock happen again. This allowed a temporal comparison of the impact of the FFA programme from among the beneficiary population. There are limitations in this approach with recall bias to historic questions, given the long time period since the start of programme activities, and with the hypothetical nature of the responses to questions asking about future events
Travel restrictions due to COVID-19	national and regional – but not international – travel was possible for data collection.	The ET consulted UK medical advisors on data collection plans and received general advice on considerations for the survey population, length, and conduct which were discussed with the CO. Further and more specific advice for the survey areas was sought from both UK and Malawian medical advisors. Itad's Security and Travel Team reviewed and approved Jimat's health and safety procedures for COVID-19. The team leader and Jimat conducted the PRA and HH survey, and national experts were found to replace the European-based Resilience and Gender Evaluators. All face-to-face meetings were held outside, using social distancing measures, and all field teams were equipped with face masks and hygiene equipment. The Europe-based members were in daily contact with the TL during this period.
Time constraints due to covid-19	i) the full set of sub-EQS could not be covered within the scope of the evaluation.	The ET prioritised key sub questions over others in order to ensure full coverage of all the evaluation questions. These are highlighted in the matrix in Annex 6. However, the depth of discussion meant that in practice all areas of interest arose in interviews and where relevant these findings are reported.
	ii) scale-back of qualitative coverage to 3 districts only, prioritising depth over breadth.	Findings might be less generalisable compared to a wider sample. However, as the objective of the qualitative enquiry is to generate in-depth insights the ET feels that prioritising depth over breadth responds better to the priorities of the evaluation,

		and is mitigated by the broader coverage of the quantitative survey.

Annex 14. Data Analysis Supplement

Annex 14.1: Household Demographics and Descriptive Statistics

Table 28 Household characteristics

	Gender of HH head			
	Female (N=194)	Male (N=461)	Total (N=655)	p-value⌘
Household characteristics				
Age				0.87
N	194	461	655	
Median (IQR)	42 (32, 53)	41 (33, 51)	41 (33, 52)	
Education				< 0.01
N	194	461	655	
Never	57 (29.38)	46 (9.98)	103 (15.73)	
Primary	114 (58.76)	282 (61.17)	396 (60.46)	
Secondary	23 (11.86)	132 (28.63)	155 (23.66)	
Tertiary	0 (0.00)	1 (0.22)	1 (0.15)	
Marital status				< 0.01
N	194	461	655	
Divorced	44 (22.68)	1 (0.22)	45 (6.87)	
Married - monogamous	54 (27.84)	427 (92.62)	481 (73.44)	
Married - polygamous	7 (3.61)	26 (5.64)	33 (5.04)	
Separated	22 (11.34)	4 (0.87)	26 (3.97)	
Single	4 (2.06)	1 (0.22)	5 (0.76)	
Widow/widower	63 (32.47)	2 (0.43)	65 (9.92)	
Household size				< 0.01
N	194	461	655	
Median (IQR)	5 (4, 6)	6 (5, 7)	6 (4, 7)	
Total land (acres)				< 0.01
N	194	461	655	
Median (IQR)	1.00 (1.00, 2.00)	1.50 (1.00, 2.50)	1.50 (1.00, 2.00)	
WFP Interventions				
FFA				
N	194	461	655	

Yes	194 (100.00)	461 (100.00)	655 (100.00)	
R4				0.11
N	194	461	655	
No	136 (70.10)	292 (63.34)	428 (65.34)	
Yes	58 (29.90)	169 (36.66)	227 (34.66)	
Climate services				< 0.01
N	194	461	655	
No	110 (56.70)	181 (39.26)	291 (44.43)	
Yes	84 (43.30)	280 (60.74)	364 (55.57)	
SAMS				0.07
N	194	461	655	
No	149 (76.80)	321 (69.63)	470 (71.76)	
Yes	45 (23.20)	140 (30.37)	185 (28.24)	
Transfer modality for area				
Food				0.16
N	194	461	655	
No	51 (26.29)	147 (31.89)	198 (30.23)	
Yes	143 (73.71)	314 (68.11)	457 (69.77)	
Cash				1
N	194	461	655	
No	5 (2.58)	12 (2.60)	17 (2.60)	
Yes	189 (97.42)	449 (97.40)	638 (97.40)	
Technical assistance				< 0.01
N	194	461	655	
No	122 (62.89)	229 (49.67)	351 (53.59)	
Yes	72 (37.11)	232 (50.33)	304 (46.41)	
Insurance				0.05
N	194	461	655	
No	144 (74.23)	306 (66.38)	450 (68.70)	
Yes	50 (25.77)	155 (33.62)	205 (31.30)	
Pisca training				0.57
N	194	461	655	
No	143 (73.71)	329 (71.37)	472 (72.06)	
Yes	51 (26.29)	132 (28.63)	183 (27.94)	

⌘ Fisher's Exact tests were used to test the association between categorical variables. Wilcoxon Rank Sum and Kruskal Wallis tests were used to test the equality of continuous variables across two and more than two groups respectively.

143. In total, 194 households headed by women were selected compared to 461 households headed by men. The median age of the household head was 42 and 41 for the households headed by women and

men respectively and there was no statistical difference in the ages between the two genders (p=0.87). A majority of respondents had a primary school level education (59 percent for women and 61 percent for men). Overall, 15.73 percent of respondents had no education at all and this was higher among households headed by women (29.38 percent). In general, there was a difference in the education status between households headed by women and household headed by men ($p < 0.01$).

144. Both households headed by women and households headed by men received WFP interventions. For R4 and SAMS, there was no difference between the genders (p=0.11 and p=0.07) respectively. However, there was a difference in the access to climate services as 60.74 of households headed by men received the intervention compared to 43.30 percent of households headed by women. This was found to be statistically different ($p < 0.01$). Both household types also received food, cash and technical assistance. However, there was a noted difference in the access to technical assistance with households headed by men faring better (50.33 percent) compared to 31.11 percent for households headed by women. Similar access to Pisca training and insurance were observed between the two types of households.

145. The picture at the district level is shown in Table 29 below. The median ages are the same across the 5 districts ($p = 0.60$). There are notable differences in the education status between the districts. For interventions, Nsanje reported only FFP while the other districts registered all the four interventions (FFA, R4, SAMS and Climate services). All the districts received food, cash or technical assistance part of the WFP interventions with noted difference between the districts ($p < 0.01$ for both food and technical assistance) except in cash (p=0.15). Pisca training and insurance were also provided for all the districts.

Table 29: Household characteristics across the five districts

	Balaka (N=132)	Chikwawa (N=126)	Nsanje (N=132)	Phalombe (N=133)	Zomba (N=132)	Total (N=655)	p-value ⌘
Household characteristics							
Age							0.6
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
Median (IQR)	42.00 (33.75, 50.00)	40.50 (32.00, 51.00)	40.00 (32.00, 58.00)	40.00 (33.00, 51.00)	44.00 (35.00, 54.00)	41.00 (33.00, 52.00)	
Education							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
Never	19 (14.39)	13 (10.32)	37 (28.03)	13 (9.77)	21 (15.91)	103 (15.73)	
Primary	84 (63.64)	76 (60.32)	69 (52.27)	93 (69.92)	74 (56.06)	396 (60.46)	
Secondary	28 (21.21)	37 (29.37)	26 (19.70)	27 (20.30)	37 (28.03)	155 (23.66)	
Tertiary	1 (0.76)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.15)	
Marital status							0.05
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
Divorced	14 (10.61)	6 (4.76)	5 (3.79)	8 (6.02)	12 (9.09)	45 (6.87)	
Married - monogamous	103 (78.03)	90 (71.43)	96 (72.73)	101 (75.94)	91 (68.94)	481 (73.44)	
Married - polygamous	1 (0.76)	11 (8.73)	7 (5.30)	8 (6.02)	6 (4.55)	33 (5.04)	
Separated	4 (3.03)	2 (1.59)	5 (3.79)	7 (5.26)	8 (6.06)	26 (3.97)	
Single	0 (0.00)	1 (0.79)	3 (2.27)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.76)	5 (0.76)	
Widow/widower	10 (7.58)	16 (12.70)	16 (12.12)	9 (6.77)	14 (10.61)	65 (9.92)	
Household size							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	

Median (IQR)	6.00 (4.00, 7.00)	5.00 (4.00, 7.00)	6.00 (5.00, 8.00)	6.00 (4.00, 7.00)	5.00 (4.00, 6.00)	6.00 (4.00, 7.00)	
Total land (acres)							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
Median (IQR)	2.00 (1.50, 3.00)	1.00 (0.50, 2.00)	1.50 (1.00, 2.00)	1.50 (1.00, 2.00)	1.00 (0.75, 2.00)	1.50 (1.00, 2.00)	
WFP interventions							
FFA							
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
Yes	132 (100.00)	126 (100.00)	132 (100.00)	133 (100.00)	132 (100.00)	655 (100.00)	
R4							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
No	2 (1.52)	116 (92.06)	132 (100.00)	101 (75.94)	77 (58.33)	428 (65.34)	
Yes	130 (98.48)	10 (7.94)	0 (0.00)	32 (24.06)	55 (41.67)	227 (34.66)	
Climate services							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
No	24 (18.18)	46 (36.51)	132 (100.00)	32 (24.06)	57 (43.18)	291 (44.43)	
Yes	108 (81.82)	80 (63.49)	0 (0.00)	101 (75.94)	75 (56.82)	364 (55.57)	
SAMS							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
No	102 (77.27)	121 (96.03)	132 (100.00)	19 (14.29)	96 (72.73)	470 (71.76)	
Yes	30 (22.73)	5 (3.97)	0 (0.00)	114 (85.71)	36 (27.27)	185 (28.24)	
Transfer modality							
Food							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
No	117 (88.64)	33 (26.19)	29 (21.97)	1 (0.75)	18 (13.64)	198 (30.23)	

Yes	15 (11.36)	93 (73.81)	103 (78.03)	132 (99.25)	114 (86.36)	457 (69.77)	
Cash							0.15
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
No	0 (0.00)	4 (3.17)	6 (4.55)	3 (2.26)	4 (3.03)	17 (2.60)	
Yes	132 (100.00)	122 (96.83)	126 (95.45)	130 (97.74)	128 (96.97)	638 (97.40)	
Technical assistance							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
No	109 (82.58)	69 (54.76)	105 (79.55)	5 (3.76)	63 (47.73)	351 (53.59)	
Yes	23 (17.42)	57 (45.24)	27 (20.45)	128 (96.24)	69 (52.27)	304 (46.41)	
Insurance							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
No	54 (40.91)	105 (83.33)	65 (49.24)	109 (81.95)	117 (88.64)	450 (68.70)	
Yes	78 (59.09)	21 (16.67)	67 (50.76)	24 (18.05)	15 (11.36)	205 (31.30)	
Pisca training							< 0.01
N	132	126	132	133	132	655	
No	94 (71.21)	62 (49.21)	127 (96.21)	90 (67.67)	99 (75.00)	472 (72.06)	
Yes	38 (28.79)	64 (50.79)	5 (3.79)	43 (32.33)	33 (25.00)	183 (27.94)	

⌘ Fisher's Exact tests were used to test the association between categorical variables. Wilcoxon Rank Sum and Kruskal Wallis tests were used to test the equality of continuous variables across two and more than two groups respectively.

Annex 14.2: Supplementary Tables and Figures

Section 2.4 SEQ19

146. The major shocks which led to the introduction of WFP include the following:

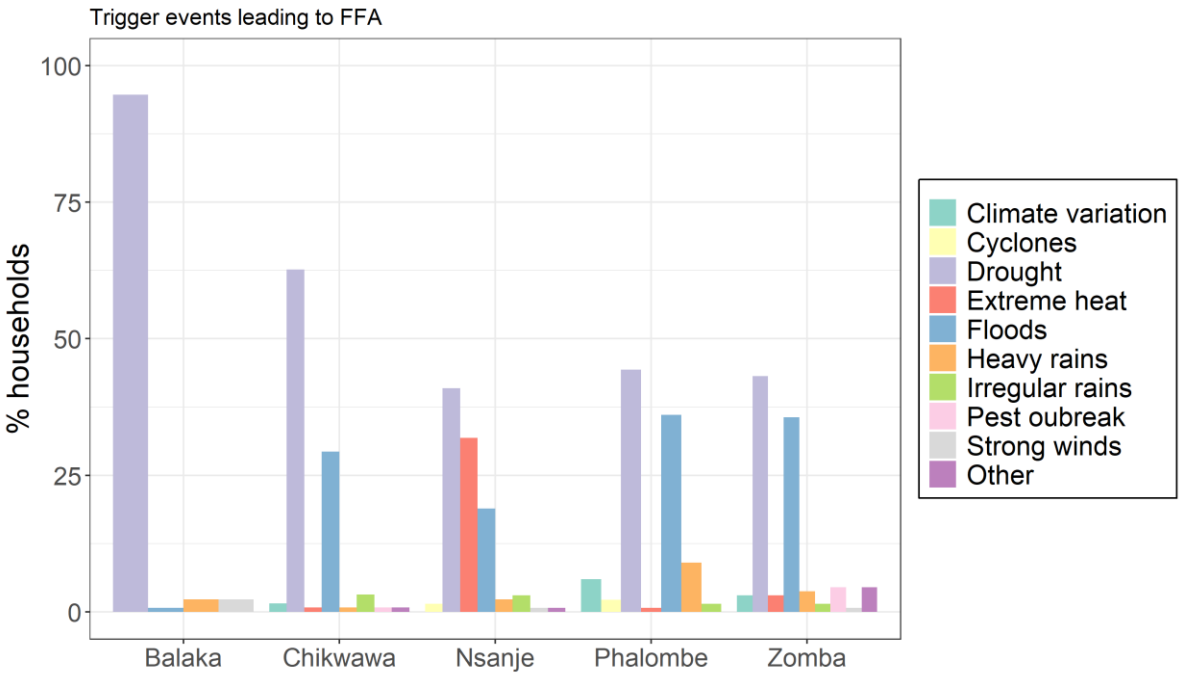


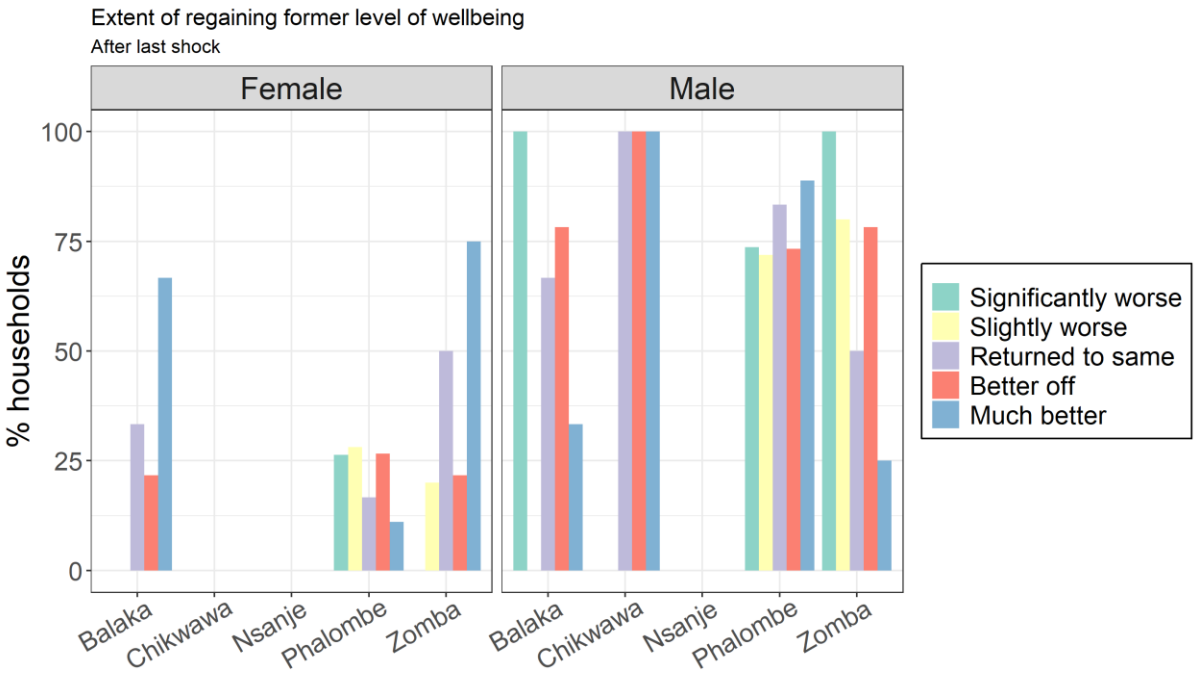
Fig A14.1: FFA-triggering shocks by district

SEQ19

Table 30: Reports of shocks by year from qualitative interviews

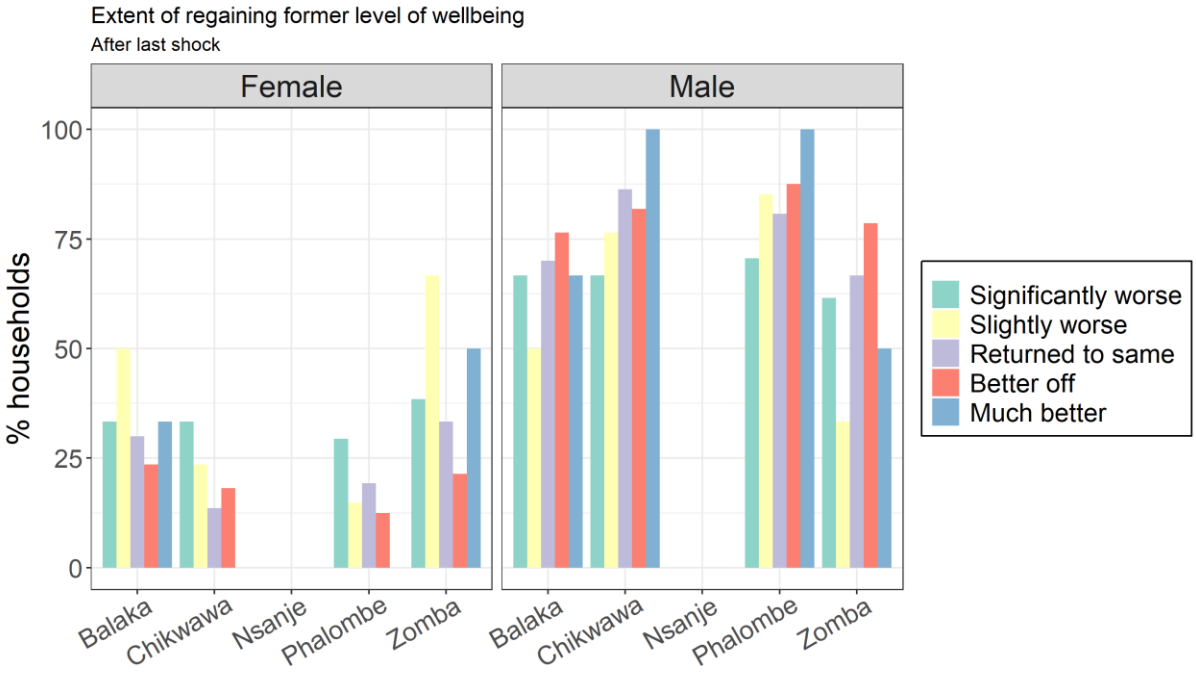
District	*Traditional*	*Shock*	*Year of Occurrence*					
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Chikwawa	Ngabu	Dry spells	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Flood						
		Fall army worm	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Strong winds						
		Earthquake						
	Makhuwira	Dry spells	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Flood	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Fall army worm	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Strong winds		√	√	√	√	√
		Earthquake						
Nsanje	Tengani	Dry spells	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Flood	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Fall army worm	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Strong winds						
		Earthquake			√	√		
	Mbenje	Dry spells	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Flood	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Fall army worm	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Strong winds						
		Earthquake			√	√		
Phalombe	Chiwalo	Dry spells	√			√	√	√
		Flood	√	√	√		√	
		Fall army worm	√	√	√	√	√	√
		Strong winds						
		Earthquake						

	Jenala	Dry spells		√	√	√		√
		Flood	√			√		√
		Fall army worm			√	√	√	√
		Strong winds						
		Earthquake						

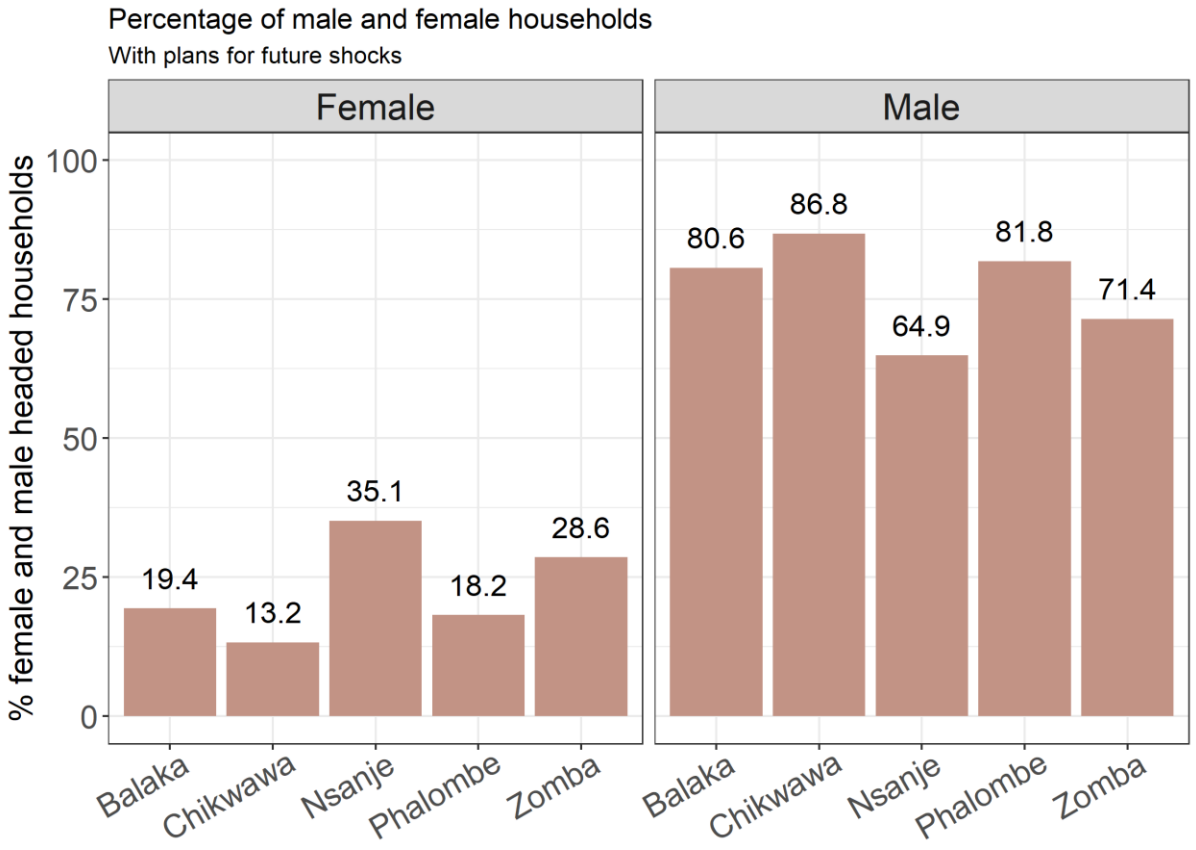


FigA14.2: Proportion of households headed by men and households headed by women that received SAMS showing the extent of returning to former level of well-being after last shock

147. For households that received climate services modality, a similar pattern also emerges



FigA14.3: Proportion of households headed by men and households headed by women that received climate services showing the extent of returning to former level of well-being after last shock



FigA14.4: Proportion of households headed by men and households headed by women with plans for future shocks

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Acronyms

3PA	Three-Pronged Approach
ABS	Access to Basic Services
AC	Adaptive Capacity
ACPC	Area Civic Protection Committee
ADC	Area Development Committee
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AIMS	Asset Impact Monitoring System
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ASP	Area Stakeholder Panel
AST	Asset
BRACC	Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Change in Malawi
CADECOM	Catholic Development Commission in Malawi
CARE	Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe
CBPP	Community-Based Participatory Planning
CICOD	Circle for Integrated Community Development
CISP	International Committee for the Development of People
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSI	Coping Strategy Index
CO	Country Office
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
CUMO	Concern Universal Microfinance Operations
DAPP	Development Aid from People to People
DEC	Disaster Emergency Committee
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DoDMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DRMP	Disaster Risk Management Policy
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EM	Evaluation Manager
EQ	Evaluation Question
ET	Evaluation Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK)
FCG	Focus Group Discussion
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FES	Food Expenditure Share

FFA	Food Assistance for Assets
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FHH	Female-Headed Household
FLA	Field-Level Agreement
FOCCAD	Foundation for Community and Capacity Development
FODS	Farmer Organization Development Strategy
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GoM	The Government of Malawi
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HH	Household
HQ	Headquarters
ICA	Integrated Context Analysis
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IP	Implementation Partner
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IRMP	Integrated Risk Management and Climate Services Programme
ITC	Information Technology and Communication
KII	Key Informant Interview
LCSI	Livelihood Coping Strategy Index
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCFS	Malawi Contract Farming Strategy
MGDS	Malawi Growth Development Strategy
MNSSP II	Malawi National Social Support Programme II
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
NAP	National Agricultural Plan
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NCCIP	National Climate Change Investment Plan
NCCMP	National Climate Change Management Policy
NFI	Non-Food Item
NFLRS	National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy

NFR	Note for the Record
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGP	National Gender Policy
NICO	National Insurance Company
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRS	National Resilience Strategy
NWMP	National Water Development Programme
NYP	National Youth Policy
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
OEV	Office of Evaluation
PDM	Post-Distribution Monitoring
PICSA	Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture
PHL	Post-Harvest Losses
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PROSPER	Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
QA	Quality Assurance
R4	R4 Rural Resilience Initiative
RB	Regional Bureau
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
RIMA	Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis
SAMS	Smallholder Agriculture Market Support
SD	Standard Deviation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEQ	Sub-Evaluation Question
SHF	Smallholder Farmer
SLP	Seasonal Livelihood Programming
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
SOLDEV	Synod of Livingstonia Development Department
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSN	Social Safety Net
SPR	Standard Project Report
TA	Traditional Area
TL	Team Leader
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference

UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Village Agricultural Committee
VCPC	Village Civic Protection Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
VGH	Village Group Head
VNRMC	Village Natural Resource Management Committee
VSL	Village Savings and Loans
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

World Food Programme

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