



**ECRAS Annual Report
2016/17**

Project Name & Number:	Enhancing Community Resilience and Sustainability (ECRAS) in Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts
Name of Lead Organization:	CARE International
Names of Other Consortia Organizations:	Plan International International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
Project Start & End Dates	Start: 01 July 2016 End: 30 June 2019
Reporting Period:	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Operational Areas:	Operational Districts: Chiredzi & Mwenezi Operational Wards: Chiredzi, Wards (1-11, 13-15, 22,23 and 25) Mwenezi, Wards (1-12)
Project Budget:	\$3 956 491.92
Total expenditure this Year:	1,001,780.24
Total expenditure to date:	1,001,780.24
LOP Total Direct beneficiaries (M/F):	47 000 individuals (24 440 females and 22 660 male)

1. Executive summary

The CARE led consortium has been one of the three consortiums implementing partners for the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) UNDP and government of Zimbabwe programme for the July 2016 to June 2017 year. The consortium has been implementing the Enhancing Community Resilience and Sustainability (ECRAS) project in Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts of Masvingo province. The most common hazards for the two districts have been observed to be droughts and mid-season dry spells, crop and livestock pests and diseases resulting poor maize harvests, high cattle poverty death in the province and smallholder farmers getting very low prices for their cattle. Low lying wards in the two districts are prone to flooding. The 2016/17 agricultural season has been an exception. It was characterized by excessive rains which resulted in water logging, leaching and flooding. Potential crop yield was also negatively affected by breaks of armored cricket and fall armyworm. Flooding due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Dineo resulted in loss of both human and livestock, washing away of some crop fields and damage to property such as houses, school and clinic buildings and destruction of bridges and roads. The cash crisis affecting the country has adversely affected some project interventions especially Village Savings and Lending (VSL). Some groups especially in Chiredzi have embraced use of Ecocash, in their savings and lending, in respond to the cash crisis.

The ECRAS project facilitated the development and implementation of Disaster Risk Management Plans in all the 29 project wards (17 Chiredzi and 12 Mwenezi) which contributed in flood prone wards being able to reduce human and livestock and property loses as a result of Tropical Cyclone Dineo. Implementation of all project activities, such as establishment of Village Savings and Lending, creation of social funds, the promotion of climate smart agriculture and market linkages are well on track. The ECRAS life of project (LOP) budget amounted to USD3, 297,077 inclusive of the crisis modifier component. The expenditure for year one amounted to USD 1,001,780.24 against projection of USD1,013,267.58 culminating in year one burn of 82%.

2. Project Context

In line with Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) overall objective, the Enhancing Community Resilience and Sustainability (ECRAS) in Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts project is aimed at ensuring that the targeted communities are food and income secure and are able to withstand shocks and stresses. The major hazards in the two districts include droughts mid-season dry spells, floods, crop/ livestock pests and diseases and unstable markets. The project will contribute towards Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation (ZimAsset) Food Security and Nutrition and Social Services and Poverty Eradication clusters. Secondly, the project strong component on Community Based Adaptation (CBA) is strongly contributing towards Zimbabwe Climate Change Response Strategy Pillar I on Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management.

The 2016/17 agricultural season has been more favorable in terms of rainfall amount and distribution for both Chiredzi and Mwenezi positively impacting on crop and livestock production. Rainfall amounts received in all the wards during the quarter were above expectation as rainfall received during the period January to March exceeded that received in the previous months of the 2016/17 farming season. The cumulative rainfall for Mwenezi for the 2016/17 season almost doubled from below 400mm in 2015/16 season to 790mm in the 2016/2017 season. However, the excess rain came with a number of challenges. The Cyclone Dineo induced heavy rains caused flooding of rivers with most roads becoming inaccessible across the two districts. In ward 5 of Mwenezi, the Chingami Bridge linking to the ward center was washed away and accessibility was a challenge. Schools like Lundi High, Nikita High, Dine Primary and Secondary, and Bubi Primary had infrastructure destroyed. Bordering the Chiredzi district are the large Limpopo and Save Rivers which remained heavily flooded leaving some low lying areas and flood plains along these major rivers such as Puzani and Chilembeni along Limpopo River in Sengwe zone immersed in the flood waters. This resulted in considerable damage and collapse of some pole and dagga dwellings and structures. A total of 91 households and 8 schools in Chiredzi were affected while 91 households and 18 schools in Mwenezi were damaged by storms and strong winds. In Mwenezi, ward 5, a total of 51 households had their crop fields (averaging 11 hectares) washed away. A total of 4 bridges were also washed away in both districts. Four cattle were swept away by the flooded Runde River at Chilonga in Ward 7 of Chiredzi district on 27 February 2017. Although the flooding did not result in the evacuation of livestock or people, it caused significant damage to the landscape with large portions of agricultural land being washed away.

The political environment was conducive for implementation of project activities throughout the project year in both Chiredzi and Mwenezi from the provincial down to the village level. The economic environment was characterized by cash shortage which started manifesting itself in the public domain through long bank queues around March 2016 and the government responded by advocating for the use of plastic money, cutting down of individual and cooperate bank daily withdrawal limits and introducing bond notes in November 2016. However, these measures failed to address the challenge with the situation continuing unabated up to end of the project year under review. Resultantly, almost all the mobile cash transfer kiosks/tuck shops in the project operational areas either closed shop or in a few cases remained operational at very subdued level. A few shops at some business centres servicing ECRAS targeted communities responded by introducing swipe machines and a big number of shops in the project communities started accepting payments through mobile cash service providers mainly Ecocash and the project continued to encouraging community members to embrace mobile money platforms and plastic money.

The project has been tracking prices for agricultural commodities in the 29 project operational wards on a monthly basis since September 2016.

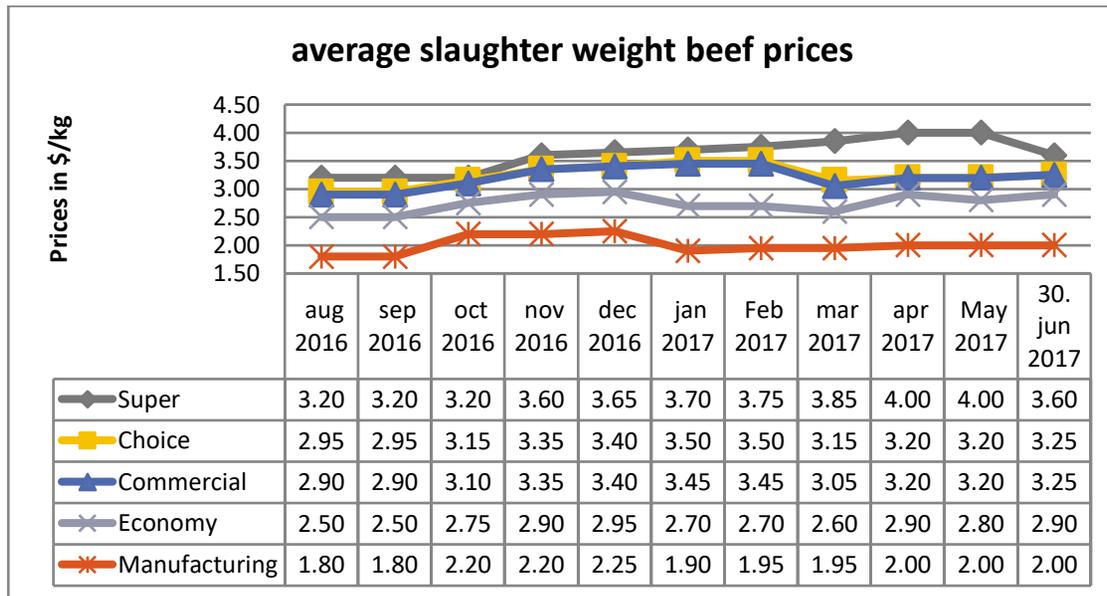


Figure 1 average slaughter prices for beef per kg

The average beef prices for super grade peaked to \$4,00 in April and May before declining to \$3.60 in June 2017. For the other grades namely commercial, choice, economy and manufacture, the average prices ranged between \$2.00 and \$3.25. Farmers were selling goats at an average of \$25 to \$40 per animal.

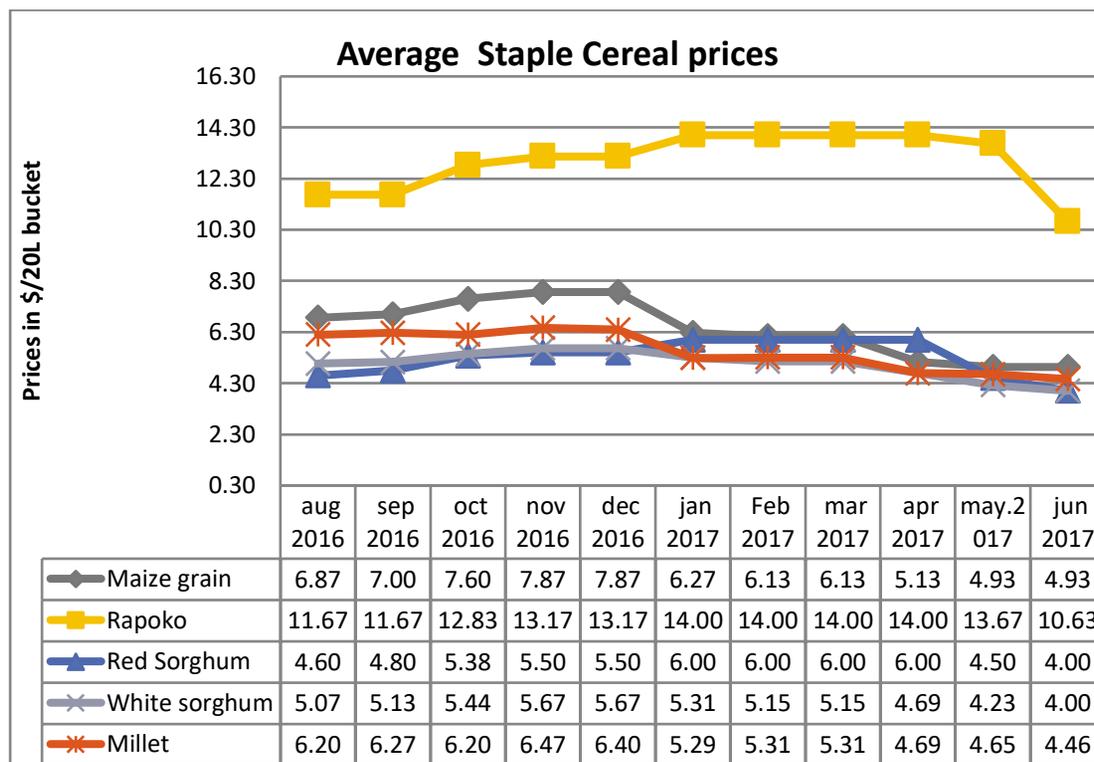


Figure 2 average prices for cereal commodities

Prices for all cereal and non-cereals commodities declined during the quarter as illustrated in figure 2&3, the drop was due to improved supplies as farmers started harvesting following the better rains that were received in the districts. The price changes were communicated to the community members to make sure farmers are not exploited by opportunistic buyers who distort market information, as it emboldens them not to accept any price below the market value. It also enlightens farmers on the right time to push their produce into the market to gate the maximum benefit from their crop yield and livestock. For example, the general advisory to farmers was to hold on their harvest until market prices are favorable. The project is aggressively promoting grain banks to ensure communities can store their grain in community grain bank and withdrew during the lean season (January to March), when the grain will be scarce and the prices will be favorable in both the formal and informal markets.

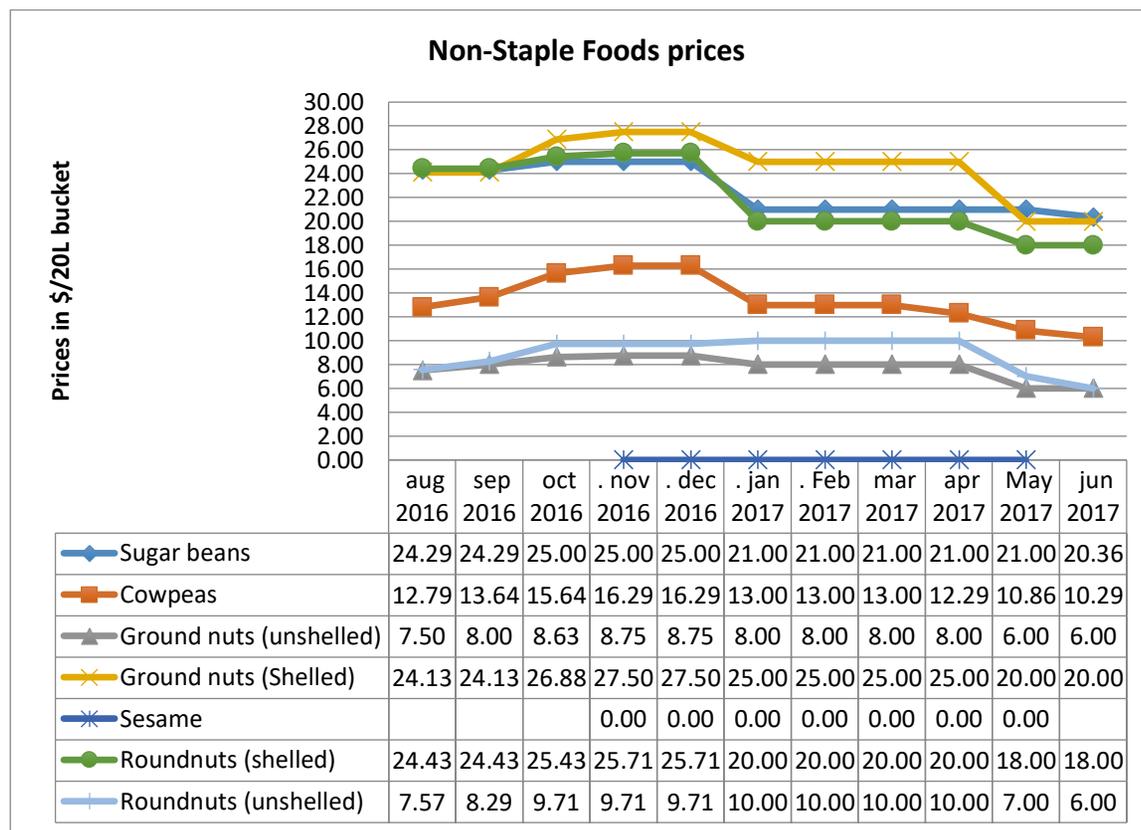


Figure 3 Average prices for non-cereal commodities

The project mapped all the NGOs working in the two districts, showing the ward coverage, intervention and population targeted by different efforts. An NGO forum was established to allow the local authorities to coordinate the development activities implemented by different actors in the two districts. This has allowed for the identification of synergetic linkages and collaboration across development players. The NGO forum was also instituted to reduce chances of different NGO interventions undermining each other. For example MDTC and CARE were exchanging notes on approaches which saw them having joint staff and extension workers trainings in disaster risk reduction and livestock management, to avoid reinvention of the wheel and jointly address capacity gaps amongst both the extension staff and the NGO workers in the district. They also joined hands during registration of beneficiaries to avoid duplication of efforts. There was a Heifer International project in Mwenezi which supported farmers in the production of cowpeas and the platform ensured that the participating farmers are linked to the off-takers, Sidella working with the ECRAS project. Some of the FAO subsidised stock feed

beneficiary communities in Mwenezi were linked to the ECRAS Village Savings and lending groups to enhance their financial inclusion, literacy and management and multiply the impact of short term project on the communities. In Chiredzi, Plan International and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) were working together to ensure that the short term project implemented by IRC feeds into the ZRB- ECRAS long term project.

The ECRAS project seeks to directly reach 47 000 beneficiaries (translating to around 9 700 households) from 29 wards (12 wards in Mwenezi and 17 wards in Chiredzi). By the end of year 1 the project had directly reached 6107 (54% female, 16% youth) individuals and 800 model households who provided learning hubs for an average of 10 follow-on farmers per model household. .

Evidence generated through Contextual analysis, Multi Hazard Risk Analysis, Value Chain Analysis (VCA), Community Adaption Action Planning, Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP), community social safety nets assessment and beneficiary registration helped to inform project implementation, the design of crisis modifier activities and the plans for remaining quarters of the project lifespan.

3. Project Objectives

ECRAS aims to enhance Chiredzi and Mwenezi household and community resilience by improving their absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities through achievement of three outcomes:

Outcome 1: Household and community capacities and assets built to deal with economic and climate related shocks and stresses

Outcome 1 outputs

- ❖ Disaster Risk Management structures and systems strengthened
- ❖ Community Safety Nets established and/or strengthened
- ❖ Crop, livestock and agro-forestry production improved
- ❖ Markets viability and inclusivity improved (financial, input and output markets)
- ❖ Uptake of low cost sustainable productive water technologies promoted

Outcome 2: Economic and climate related drivers of risk reduced in targeted communities

- ❖ Local seasonal plans developed and advisories disseminated
- ❖ Communities manage restoration of degraded land and reducing pastoral droughts

Outcome 3: Leaders and service providers improved in creation of an enabling environment for resilient livelihoods

- ❖ Provision of resilience building social, agriculture and water services delivery addressing poverty and building resilience

4. Progress Against Deliverables and Timescales

4.1 Summary of Project status

How would you describe the status of project progress in relation to the original time-scale? (Mark with an “X” in the appropriate box)	
a. This project is on track against its deliverables and original timescale	X
b. This project is off track but expected to be back on track in the next reporting period	
c. This project is off track and not expected to be back on track in the next reporting period	

4.2 Project Components Highlights on Implementation Progress by Expected Results/Components

SECTION A: MAIN PROJECT

Expected Result 1: Household and community capacities and assets built to deal with economic and climate related shocks and stresses

Participatory community vulnerability and capacity analysis, structures established

During the year, the project trained a total of 29 ward based extension staff and (12 Males and 5 Females) from Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts, on Community Based Disaster Risk Management. The training was aimed at enhancing their capacity to cascade the training to 29 wards in both districts. Two mobile WhatsApp platforms were established for early warning and sharing of information on imminent hazards and disasters that might befall communities and the necessary advisories. Below is part of the information that was shared by group members from the Meteorological department through these WhatsApp platforms.

Extension staff in turn trained 1530 (491 Males, 1039 Females) participants in all the 29 wards (17 Chiredzi, 12 Mwenezi). These trainings led to the development of 29 Disaster Risk Management Committees (100% target achievement) which subsequently developed disaster risk management plans for all the 29 communities. DRR committees working with Agricultural Extension Officers were actively involved in disseminating early warning information on Tropical Cyclone Dineo which affected most parts of Southern Africa and in particular a total of 4 wards in Mwenezi (1,3,5,9) and 6 wards (1,2,6,7,14,15) in Chiredzi.

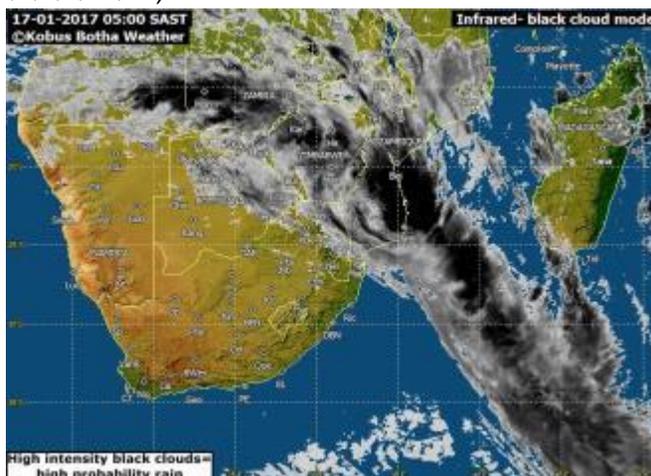


Figure 4: Flood related information shared on Whatsapp by extension staff when the cyclone Dineo was being predicted

Communities in both Districts received advisories which resulted in some of them relocating to higher ground for example Chilonga community in ward 6 and 7 of Chiredzi and ward 1 along Runde River in Mwenezi. This reduced human, livestock and property losses.

The implementation of disaster risk management plans commenced during the year for all 29 wards with activities such as gully reclamation and management of rills created by heavy rains in major roads linking to service delivery areas, institution of early warning systems. Farmers in ward 3 of Mwenezi district established banner grass and vetiver nurseries while some farmers planted star grass on areas susceptible to soil erosion, taking advantage of the wet conditions during the 2016/2017 season. Chiredzi and Mwenezi communities rehabilitated roads and reclaimed rills and gullies that were formed caused by increased surface run-off due to prolonged rainfall. The communities were stabilizing gullies through stone pitching and planting of vertivar grass. This was done in 4 wards (1, 3, 5 and 6) of Mwenezi district and wards (2, 4, 7 and 25) of Chiredzi district. Chiredzi ward 4 communities rehabilitated a bridge using stones as they felt that it was weakened by the heavy rains. Communities in Chilonga, ward 7 mobilised resources to rehabilitate a gully that was threatening the Chilonga Irrigation pump. In ward 6 of Mwenezi, the communities with the assistance from the District Development Fund (DDF) repaired two bridges along Gwamatenga- Sengejira road. Rehabilitation of gullies helped farmers to reduce the risks that they faced through

livestock loss as goats, cattle and donkeys fracture legs as they attempt to cross the gullies hence sustain their development gains for an improved livelihood. Road and bridge rehabilitation improved transportation of goods and people as well as improved access to markets.



Mwenezi Ward 5 villagers reclaiming a gully

Figure 5: Farmer planting vertiver and banner grass in nurseries and areas susceptible to erosion (L) and Mwenezi Ward 5 villagers reclaiming a gully (r)

1.1. Activity Result: Community Safety Nets established and/or strengthened

Form and support VS&L groups and provide training on methodology

A total of 130 VS &L groups (48 in Chiredzi and 82 in Mwenezi) were formed. This represents a 33% achievement towards the Life of Project target of 400 groups. The annual target set was 140 groups and therefore 93% was achieved. The Groups by 30 June had an average portfolio value of \$242 Mwenezi and \$897 Chiredzi according to the quarterly assessment conducted in the 4th quarter. Unlike the traditional VSAL, where the participants would use the proceeds to buy groceries and kitchen utensils, the project is guiding the VSAL group members to invest in livestock in line with the project's minimum livestock ownership thresholds- 5 cow weaner, 10 doe and 20 hen system for resilience building. The logic behind this being that, if household invest in groceries, Christmas parties and kitchen utensil, the

investment will end there but investment in livestock and small businesses will multiply the impact of their savings and investments (through increased income and diversified livelihoods)and build the resilience of households against both idiosyncratic and covariate shocks. The VSAL groups have since started using their savings to procure farming equipment, livestock (cattle, goats, pigs and indigenous chickens), and starting small businesses; in line with project thrust on accumulation of productive assets.

Three VSAL groups that shared out have purchased livestock. In line with resilience building, Monica Chiregwa, a VS&L participant from Tafara group in ward I purchased a cow which she sold to Koala abattoirs. She used proceeds to repay the loan borrowed from the group and has since ventured into broiler production after purchasing 50 birds which will help in diversifying her sources of income. Some farmers used money borrowed from their groups to construct fowl runs and finishing of their commitment fee balances for the indigenous chicken contract farming. Hluvuko group members in ward 3 Chiredzi indicated that besides savings, they have been lending money and they are operating individual small business and the profits made are used to invest in livestock production. Three members of the group purchased goats using their share out/ loans.



Figure 6: Ben O'hanlon the Programme Officer for Plan UK office chats with Lorraine a VS&L group member. Lorraine used the loans she got from the Hluvuko group to stock up the shop and start the business.

In Mwenezi, ward 4, 4 groups managed to purchase goats and 5 groups in ward 2 purchased indigenous chickens from their VSAL proceeds respectively. The group members were urged to work towards the ECRAS supported livestock threshold of 5 cow weaner system, 10 doe unit and 20 hen system. Figure 7 below shows Mrs Madzvamuse a VS&L member from Vimbai group in Chimbudzi village, ward 4 purchase a goat in June 2017.



Figure 7: To the left is Mrs Annamary Mutawa – On a journey towards 10 doe unit, to the right Mr Alfonse Francis - showing off hens purchased through VSL

Facilitate establishment and functionality of social funds/grain banks

A total of 64 VS&L groups established social funds against an annual target of 130 (49%) achievement. Despite cash challenges, members contribute one dollar per month towards this fund. In Chiredzi 34 groups assessed during the month of June had contributed a total of \$852 and R844 towards their social fund and the funds were for funeral assistance, hospital bills, and other emergencies depending on the group constitution. In ward 9 of Chiredzi the VSAL groups used the money to register for group funeral policy with Nyaradzo (a registered funeral service provider). This further enhanced the communities' absorptive capacity to deal with stresses and shocks by minimizing sale of assets in the event of deaths or emergencies.

1.3. Activity Result: Crop, livestock and agro-forestry production improved

Advise communities on contextual climate smart agriculture approaches based on evidence

The year saw extension staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development (MAMID) being trained in climate smart agriculture. A total of 101 participants were trained in both districts, 60 from Chiredzi (41 males and 19 female) and 41 from Mwenezi (18 males and 23 females). The training oriented extension staff on the crop-livestock farming system and productive water technologies.

Set-up and Monitor Demonstration Plots

Model households established demonstration plots where various crops were planted. All the 800 households were supported with inputs packages that included Macia, Okashana, velvet bean, forage sorghum, sesame seed and fertilizers. Fifty per cent (400) of the model households planted a hectare of sesame for income security under contract with Sidella Trading. The remaining 50% established demonstration plots with sorghum, millet, velvet bean, forage sorghum and sesame. Seed multiplication demonstration plots were also established by 80 farmers (48 and 32 farmers in Chiredzi and Mwenezi respectively). These demonstration plots acted as learning centres where follow on farmers would learn.

Field monitoring visits to the demonstration plots were carried out in all wards of Chiredzi and Mwenezi between January and June in all the targeted wards. Farmers were winding-up their harvesting of cereal crops and pulses and velvet bean. The yields produced by the participating in the diverse crops promoted by the project will be shared in the next year's report. Figure 8 below shows 2 of the fields monitored during the month of March



Figure 8: Monitoring of demonstration plots by ECRAS field staff and extension staff in Chiredzi velvet bean (l) and Mwenezi sesame crop by a model farmer and extension officer(r)

Training of farmers on Stover Preservation

Trainings on fodder preservation emphasizing on silage and hay making were carried out in Mwenezi and total of 235 farmers (94 male and 141 female) were trained across 12 wards against a target of 334 model households. Livestock poverty deaths increase during the hot and dry months of August to October and this makes fodder preservation crucial for livestock survival. Farmers were encouraged to harvest green grass, preserve green stover which was cut into small pieces and bulked. This method is cost effective as silage making is through fermentation of the green stover tied up in a black poly-utherane bag. Demonstrations and trainings were done at model household plots and follow-on farmers participated in the trainings.

Establish fish ponds in irrigation schemes

The project is building resilience of farmers by capacitating them in aqua-culture which will widen their sources of income through sales and also provide a source of dietary diversity hence improved nutrition. A total of 81 farmers (34 male and 47 Female) attended meetings for the operationalization of fish farming Farmers came up with their own implementation plan for the construction of the fish ponds. The fish ponds were pegged during the fourth quarter and excavation of core trenches commenced. The installation of outlet valve, water testing and fingerling stocking will be done in the fifth quarter.

Field Learning Days

A total of 24 ward based and 2 district field days were conducted in Chiredzi and Mwenezi during the year. The field days were attended by 2517 farmers (1385 female and 1132 male). Table 1, below, summarises the attendance and shows that more female farmers participated in the field days in Mwenezi, but more men participated in the field training days in Chiredzi.

Table 1: Summary of participants at field days

District	Number of Field days conducted	Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
Mwenezi	11	505	770	1275
Chiredzi	13	509	470	979
District Field Day Mwenezi	1	76	94	170
District Field Day Chiredzi	1	42	51	93
Total	26	1132	1385	2517

During the field training days and in view of the droughts, speakers reiterated on the need to embrace the production of drought tolerant, improved high yielding small grains varieties. Field days proved to be a learning forum as facilitators took the forum to explain the ECRAS model of a resilient household that is centered on market driven small grains production using conservation agriculture techniques and improved livestock production through fodder crop production. Farmers who attended the field days expressed their interest to adopt the approach of multiple drought tolerant crop plots in the following season.



Figure 9: ICRISAT Country Representative, Assistant DA and ECRAS Team Leader presenting prizes to farmers at the district field day in ward 5 of Mwenezi

Conduct a survey to ascertain major post-harvest losses in Chiredzi and Mwenezi

A household-post-harvest management survey targeting a total of 240 households was conducted in Chiredzi and Mwenezi during the year. The survey sought to assess knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) on post-harvest handling management, soil fertility management and use of climate related information. In each district the survey targeted 120 households in 4 randomly sampled wards interviewing 30 households per ward which were sampled from two villages. A workshop was conducted in June 2017 for purposes of sharing the survey findings with the extension staff and it revealed that there was a need for enhanced post-harvest training as farmers had little knowledge. Moving forward, there is a great need for the adoption of improved storage structures such as improved silos (locally made, metal silos) and hermetic bags: The survey revealed that women need to be freed in terms of the labour they provide after harvest and therefore a need for labour saving technologies to address this. AGRITEX was acknowledged through the survey for its active role in public extension and this will help sustain the efforts to enhance resilience in Chiredzi and Mwenezi. Extension officers were also highlighted as the chief sources of seasonal climatic forecast information thereby strengthening the role of Participatory Scenario Planning in climate risk management.

Training on Poultry husbandry, housing, nutrition, disease control and farming as a business.

Two training of trainers workshops were conducted following the registration of farmers for indigenous chicken production (one in Chiredzi on 20-22 February 2017 and one in Mwenezi district on 13-14 of March). Twenty nine ward based LPD, Veterinary and AGRITEX staff (22 male and 7 female) participated in the training in Chiredzi and 36 extension staff (22 male and 14 female) participated in Mwenezi. The objective of the TOT was to capacitate the ward based Extension staff with the requisite knowledge on poultry production, management and farming as business principles so that they cascade the training to farmers in their respective wards. A total of 356 farmers (100 males and 256 females) were trained in Chiredzi and in Mwenezi, a total of 448 farmers were trained (171 male and 277 female). The farmers were trained in principles of poultry husbandry focusing on poultry housing, feeding and nutrition, poultry diseases and disease control. Farmers were also trained in Farming as a business, Farm business cycle, farm business budgeting and profitability, as well as record keeping. The training was tailored to prepare farmers for the commercial production of indigenous chickens, which made them construct their own fowl runs under the supervision of the Department of Livestock Development (LPD).

Model Household M and E training

A total of 676 model households (387 males and 289 females) were trained in basic Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and record keeping. Trainings were done in all the 29 wards of Mwenezi and Chiredzi with the extension officers facilitating the trainings. The objective of the training was to establish a common understanding of what a model household is, their various roles and responsibilities as well as their role in the community based M&E.



Figure 10: left, Extension workers carrying out M&E training at Mupinga School in ward 4 of Chiredzi and right and ward 12, Mwenezi district

Communities plan grazing and rangeland management

HLLM (Holistic Land and Livestock Management) & Land Assessment

Two TOT workshops on Holistic Land and Livestock Management (HLLM) were held in Chiredzi and Mwenezi district. The training targeted LPD, Vet, Agritex and ECRAS field staff. In Mwenezi the workshop was attended by 41 participants (27 male and 14 female) and in Chiredzi district it was attended by 47 participants (33 Male and 14 female). The ToT workshop was facilitated by LPD Masvingo Provincial Staff, LPD Chivi District staff as well as Livestock Specialists from Matopos Research Institute. The ToT workshop fused research and extension and was meant to capacitate both the ward based extension officers from the MAMID departments and ECRAS project staff to cascade HLLM to communities so that they have the aptitude and skills to conserve biodiversity and rangeland resources as well as healing degraded areas using livestock.

Land assessment for implementation of HLLM was carried out in ward 3, 5, 9, 11 and 12 of Mwenezi with the support of the Provincial LPD head. Two (2) villages showed interest in participating in HLLM and two (2) paddocks were identified in Chirongo village; ward 3 (50ha) and ward 5 Machingo village (10ha) as the most appropriate areas to pilot HLLM. In ward 5, a total of 262 cattle were mobilised and are ready for the piloting of HLLM. The villages have a total number of 285 households with an estimated average cattle herd of 2500. HLLM Committees were established in wards (3, 5, 11, 9, and 12) to spear head the piloting of the activity. Scaling up of this activity will be conducted in year two during the off season. In Chiredzi sensitisations were done successfully in 13 wards. A total of 568 farmers (309 male and 259 female) attended the sensitization meetings. It emerged that some wards had shortage of land and HLLM would lead to competing needs for the land. The meetings resolved that every ward will come up with a sample village to pilot HLLM in year two during the off season.



Figure 11: The HLLM Chiredzi workshop and participants going through outdoor demonstration and the LPD Provincial head during HLLM land assessment in ward 8, Mwenezi.

1.4. Activity Result: Markets viability and inclusivity improved (financial, input and output markets)

Value Chain Training

A Value chain Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted during the year for CARE, PLAN, ICRISAT, AGRITEX and Livestock Production Development (LPD) staff from both Chiredzi and Mwenezi. The training was meant to share knowledge and understanding of the value chain approach, capacitate staff and stakeholders to conduct value chain analysis and to enhance project staff understanding of the integration of gender issues in value chains. The ToT was attended by 24 (16 male and 8 female) participants. After the training session, teams were formed to conduct a value chain analysis. The value chain analysis informed the projects of the suitable value chains to promote and the gaps in the value chains which needed to be addressed. Market linkages were then established basing on the findings and recommendations of the value chain analysis report.

Market linkages with the private sector

The project planned to engage 6 private sector companies for input and output market and 3 financial institutions for financial inclusion. Three companies were successfully engaged for input and output market. Sidella Trading was engaged as an off taker for sesame. 873 farmers (257 Chiredzi, 616 Mwenezi) were contracted for sesame production. The crop was however affected by floods and harvest is expected to be lower than originally envisioned. Sale of sesame will commence in quarter 5 (August) at sixty cents per kilogram. The

securing of this market will improve income of the farmers and their absorptive capacity to deal with shocks and stresses. National Organic Produce was engaged for indigenous chickens and 763 out of a targeted 1000 farmers were registered under the indigenous chicken production scheme which provides Boschveld chicks, feeds and feeding equipment financed by Metbank. The Boschveld strain is drought tolerant and resistant to most poultry diseases hence the project is promoting it as part of the climate smart agriculture practices. Masvingo Food Commodities was engaged as an off-taker for sugar-beans under the 'Crisis Modifier'. 635 farmers grew sugar beans under irrigation and marketing of the sugar beans is expected in the next quarter. These linkages were established thorough a series of meetings between the project, private sector and the farmers. In the negotiating processes farmers were given a platform to share their views and expectations. These engagements also revealed that the private sector is increasingly realizing the huge potential of the small holder farmers as a lucrative and sustainable market.

Out of the 3 financial institutions engaged, Metbank opened accounts for all 763 farmers registered under the under the National Organic Produce chicken scheme and in the 5th quarter will finance the inputs (chicks, feed, vaccines and feeding equipment) under a loan facility of \$395 per farmer. As at 30 June 2017, 473 out of the 763 farmers had paid up the required commitment fee of \$100 and loan disbursements were expected to start in July 2017.

The project also made use of eco cash; a mobile money transfer system to facilitate the Cash for Assets payments of 250 beneficiaries under the Crisis Modifier Small weir construction activity. This facility saw 75 beneficiaries (42 of which were women.) who had no cellphone sim cards and cellphones purchase sim cards at a subsidized price of 25 cents per sim card; courtesy of Econet Wireless. The project also engaged CBZ bank to provide an input loan facility to sugar beans farmers in irrigation schemes and support to VSL groups. The bank will commence this activity to interested farmers in the following season. However the VSL groups visited did not show interest as they highlighted that the bank's products were not attractive to them as they had a low interest rate and exclude those over 65 years of age.

These activities improved the financial inclusion of marginalized rural communities and this resonates with the Government of Zimbabwe's strategy for financial inclusivity under the Zim Asset.



Figure 12: Mr Rindai Tsvairai Agritex and head CBZ Bank assessing sugar bean crop at Musaverima irrigation scheme Mwenezi ward 3 (L) and Account opening by Metbank in ward 3 Chiredzi (R)

1.5. Activity Result: Uptake of low cost sustainable productive water technologies promoted

Assessment of community /household established low cost water harvesting infrastructure was done during the 5th quarter. Different water harvesting options were identified, ranging from run-off water harvesting from rock outcrops, from roof-tops and from existing water chains. The project will support, promote and build on the identified structures to promote water harvesting at household and community level. Spontaneous adoption of the technologies will also be promoted through extensive exchange visits of community members from different wards to feasible sites where water harvesting was initiated by individual households using their own resources. The actual construction of the structures will commence in the 5th quarter.

Expected Result 2: Economic and climate related drivers of risk reduced in targeted communities.

2.1. Activity Result: Local seasonal plans developed and advisories disseminated

Facilitate the development of community adaptation plans

Ward level CAAP trainings were conducted in all the 12 wards of Mwenezi district and 17 wards of Chiredzi district. The purpose of the ward CAAP trainings was to build common understanding of climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity of different local level institutions and communities. A total of 2417 ward representatives (791 male and 1626 female) attended CAAP meetings in Mwenezi

district and 2430 (950 male and 1 480 female) ward representatives attended in Chiredzi district. CAAP trainings cascaded to ward and village level and ward based community based adaptation plans were produced for all the 17 and 12 ECRAS operational wards for Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts respectively. Among the strategies highlighted in the community adaptation plans in both districts were cattle pen fattening, improving small livestock production such as indigenous chickens and goats, production of sorghum and millet, and VSALs. Aquaculture, horticulture, water harvesting and conservation agriculture (CA) were also identified as priorities in the strategies. The plans were mainly to be sponsored by the community with indications that they wanted to be supported through market linkages, trainings and linkages to financial institutions. The value chains identified by the communities during the CAAP development guided the project in the identification of value chains to promote.

Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) Workshops

During the 2016/17 season, 2 Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) trainings were conducted (one in each district). The district level PSP trainings were attended by a total of 34 (23 male and 11 female) participants in Mwenezi and 39 (32 male and 7 female) in Chiredzi. Present were various government departments that are critical in PSP such as DAs office, Meteorological Services Department, lead farmers, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development (MAMID), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and the Public Service Commission. The PSP training emphasized the importance of climate information, based on forecasted scenarios, in planning for the farming season as this is critical for farmers' adaptation to climate change. The PSP training produced plans for three different scenarios of Normal, Above Normal and Below Normal rainfall as well as a set of advisories for the coming season for each District. The indigenous forecast and the scientific forecast were fused together to produce a hybrid forecast for the 2 districts as shown in Table 5 below Plans for normal to above normal were prioritized and advisories were developed and shared with farmers. Monitoring and Evaluation structures for PSP were formed and communication plans were created for each district.

Table 2: Mwenezi and Chiredzi PSP hybrid forecast 2016/17 season

Mwenezi				Chiredzi			
Indicator	Above normal	Normal	Below normal	Indicator	Above normal	Normal	Below normal
Indigenous/ Local forecast	25%	75%	0%	Indigenous/ Local forecast	25%	75%	0%
Met forecast October to	35%	40%	25%	Met forecast October to	35%	40%	25%

November				November			
Met Forecast January to December	25%	40%	35%	Met Forecast January to December	25%	40%	35%
Average/ Hybrid forecast for Mwenezi	28%	52%	20%	Average/ Hybrid forecast for Chiredzi	28%	52%	20%

Monitoring uptake and implementation of advisories

Information on rainfall forecasts, advice on crops to grow and hazards likely to be faced has been flowing from the Meteorological Services Department, extension staff at district level to community based extension workers through WhatsApp. The two platforms that were created for sharing and dissemination of advisories have been actively involving project and extension staff in the 2016/17 season. PSP and Disaster risk management were closely linked and the platforms have seen participants sharing relevant hazard and disaster related information. The immediate outcome has been the widespread sharing of particularly weather related information and appropriate advisories, especially with respect to expected rains, likelihood of flooding and safety of both humans and livestock in the event of flooding. Extension staff on the mobile platform was very active in sharing area specific information on the weather situation, crop situation and pests and diseases in their areas, leading to informed decision making by the responsible authorities. Graphic images of flooded rivers, rain water swept bridges and waterlogged fields were shared on the platform to provide early warning to the concerned parties. Extension staff cascaded the information to farmers. Below are some snapshots from the Chiredzi and Mwenezi PSP whatsapp platforms.

2.2



As highlighted in Activity result 1.1 communities in both districts were actively involved in gully and rill reclamation, planting of vetiver and star grass to manage and restore degraded land. A total of 8 gullies were reclaimed (4 Chiredzi, 4 Mwenezi). Communities in Mwenezi established vetiver nurseries and planted star grass in areas more susceptible to soil erosion.

Expected Result 3: Leaders and service providers improved in creation of an enabling environment for resilient livelihoods

3.1. Activity Result: Provision of resilience building social, agriculture and water services delivery addressing poverty and building resilience

Develop and roll out a community scorecard for improved service delivery

A TOT workshop on Community Score Card (CSC) was held during the year. The training targeted stakeholders (MAMID, Ministry of Youth, EMA, Ministry of Women Affairs, RDCs, and Local Government) from Chiredzi and Mwenezi Districts and ECRAS staff from CARE, ICRISAT and Plan. Fifty (55) participants (31 male and 14 female) attended the training. The trained staff was responsible for sensitising and training the communities on the score card process.

A total of 17 sensitisation meetings were held in Chiredzi District; one in each ward. Following the sensitisation roll out was done in ward 22 as a pilot (25% achievement) out of the planned 4 score card sessions. A total of 57 (24 males, 33 females) community members from all ECRAS interventions participated and MAMID, ECRAS and Chiredzi Rural District Council were scored. Farmers appreciated the score card process and highlighted that this will provide them with the opportunity to bring out issues that inform service delivery. One major issue brought out was that the project supported farmers with Macia Sorghum when they preferred SV4 and other red sorghum varieties. This activity will be scaled up in year two. Mwenezi did not conduct any scorecard activity during the year out of the planned 3 scoring sessions due to competing activities. The activity will be conducted in the second year.

SECTION B: CRISIS MODIFIER

Expected Result 4: Improved water sources

4.1. Activity Result: Installation of solar pumping system at boreholes

The District Development Fund and the ECRAS team identified 2 borehole sites in Mwenezi for the installation of solar pumping systems. The 2 boreholes Chembudzi in ward 5 and Mvurahaiperi in ward 10 were capacity tested and both had an average yield of 4.32 cubic metres per hour. This indicates that they have the capacity to yield water perennially and farmers are assured of sufficient water for household use and livestock drinking. Capacity testing was done to determine borehole suitability for installation of solar pumps and data collected will determine the actual pump sizes. The engagement of contractors to install the solar pumping systems was done during the year with actual installation planned for the first month of quarter 5. Beneficiaries and local leadership were sensitized about multiple use of these high yielding boreholes and were prepared to offer land for the establishment of nutritional gardens and livestock water troughs. In Chiredzi, the DDF also identified two high yielding boreholes which will be equipped with solar pumps and a contractor had been engaged to do capacity testing.

4.2. Activity Result: Rehabilitation of boreholes

During the period under review the project engaged the District Water and Sanitation Subcommittee (DWSSC) to finalize on the boreholes to be rehabilitated, plans and modalities to be done. Spare parts were procured for 25 Boreholes which will be rehabilitated in Chiredzi wards 6 & 8 and in Mwenezi spares for the rehabilitation of 16 boreholes were also procured and distributed to the sites. The savings realized in the procurement of spares for Chiredzi were channeled towards procurement of spares for rehabilitation of boreholes in wards 7, 9, 10 and 11 as it was realized that these wards also faced critical water challenges.

The repair and rehabilitation of boreholes commenced in the last month of the year in Mwenezi district and all the 14 (88% target achievement) boreholes were rehabilitated. Monitoring of this exercise was done with the support of the District Development Fund.



Figure 14: Marinda clinic borehole (l) after rehabilitation and children in Manjonjo village ward 7 Mwenezi (r) happily get drinking water from the rehabilitated borehole

Each of the 14 rehabilitated boreholes serves an average of 250 people (36 Households) and the rehabilitation of these boreholes has improved access to clean water and sanitation. Households are now able to set up nutrition gardens as the distance to the water source is reduced. This contributes to increased communities adaptive capacity given that, during the dry season boreholes are a sustainable water source as compared to open sources which quickly dry up.

Construction of water troughs

From the 14 rehabilitated boreholes in Mwenezi, 11 water points were identified as in need of water troughs. Construction will be done during the first quarter of year two. Water troughs will help reduce the livestock trekking distance especially in the dry months starting in August and thus reduce the possibilities of deteriorating body condition especially for cattle.

4.3. Activity Result: Establishment of low cost water harvesting structures

Awareness meetings on low cost water harvesting were conducted in both districts. The sensitization meetings focused on identifying those farmers already implementing some water harvesting activities but requiring additional support. The project is emphasizing on voluntary action by the farmers so that the support rendered will fit within the farmer's priorities to enhance sustainability. In Chiredzi, the Mechanisation Department was assessing and identifying sites for low cost water harvesting structures at the time of report writing. Five designs for low cost water harvesting structures have been produced.

4.4. Activity Result: Weir construction

Construction of the weir commenced early June following training of local builders and it is projected that the weir will be completed by end of September 2009. During the year, the communities of ward 2 and ward 3 of Mwenezi who are direct beneficiaries of the Muzezegwa Weir were sensitized on the scope of the work to be conducted. A total of 250(100%) community members (87 male and 169 female) were registered to work at the site, they will be paid through Ecocash a mobile money transfer platform.

Payment through Ecocash will contribute to financial inclusion of the community members, improvement in financial literacy rates, technological advancement and also farmers will avert the liquidity crisis affecting the country. The project also aims to improve livelihood options for the communities through cash for asset arrangement. The community has also received vital technical skills through the building training workshop conducted for the workers. A total of 14 men and 1 woman were trained.

By the end of the year, processing of the cash for asset payment through Ecocash had been processed with expectations that farmers would receive their money in the first week of fifth quarter. The small weir has a capacity of 24 750 cubic meters. The main use of this

water is for livestock watering as well as gardening. A minimum of 7151 cattle and 7 villages will benefit from this weir. The weir will regulate floods therefore is a disaster risk management asset.



FIGURE 15: Construction taking place at Mzezegwa dam site in Mwenezi

Expected Result 5: Improved food security

5.1. Activity Result: Cash crop production

Sugar Bean Contract Farming

The ECRAS project through the Crisis modifier aims to help the participating households to build their income generation capacity compromised by the El Nino induced droughts in the past 2 seasons. The project is supporting the production of sugar beans in irrigation schemes on a contract farming arrangement basis where farmers were supplied with inputs and the cost will be recovered during selling. Irrigation scheme farmer registrations were done at 7 irrigation schemes in Chiredzi, 4 irrigation schemes and 2 gardens in Mwenezi. Table

6 shows the beneficiary breakdown by irrigation scheme:

Table 3: Sugar bean farmer registrations

Mwenezi				Chiredzi			
Name of garden/irrigation	# registered	# male	# female	Irrigation scheme	# registered	# male	# female
Musaverima	110	50	60	Ward I farmers	13	11	2
Dinhe	82	47	35	Dendere	44	23	21
Chikupwi	34	8	26	Rupangwana	34	12	22
Manhumamwe	49	15	34	Mokambe	55	24	31
Cheshanga	10	3	7	Magogogwe	81	8	73
Batanai	12	2	8	Nyangambe	99	60	39
				Malikango	47	12	35
			0	Ward 3 A	37	23	14
Totals	297	125	170		410	173	237

Sugar bean and fertilizer distributions were done in 4 irrigation schemes and 2 small gardens in Mwenezi. Each farmer received 10 kg of sugar bean seed, 50kg Compound D and 50kg Ammonium Nitrate (AN) fertilizer. A total of 251 farmers (180 female farmers and 71 male) and 384 (181 male and 203 female) received inputs in Mwenezi and Chiredzi district respectively. Local boarding schools have also been identified as potential off-takers of sugar beans from farmers. These schools include Malipati, Berejena and Mwenezi High school in addition to the traditional Probrands, Jasbro, Tabacha and Masvingo Food Commodities.



Figure 16: Farmer signing for her inputs at Musaverema irrigation in ward 3 Mwenezi & model household Emma Mtandadzi and other farmers all smiles after receiving their inputs

5.2. Activity Result: Fodder production

Uptake of fodder production in irrigation schemes was low as farmers prioritised cash crops. Soon after crop harvest farmers usually let their livestock graze on the green stover and some of it is cut and stored for feeding later as dry stover during the dry season. The nutritive value of the green and dry stover is about 3% protein against an animal requirement of 12% yet through improved processes of silage making and urea treatment the same low quality stover of 3% can be raised to 13% within a month. It is against this background that the project is promoting fodder treatment and production with the objective to improve livestock productivity and reduce poverty deaths using the locally available resources and affordable external additives. Farmer trainings on silage making were conducted in Chiredzi and Mwenezi and reached out to 401 farmers (208 male and 193 female). Trainings on silage making were a priority during this quarter when green stover is still readily available.



Figure 17: Silage making in ward 22 of Chiredzi

The project supported farmers with inputs (compound D fertilizer, urea fertilizer, molasses, polythene bags and velvet bean seed) to cascade trainings to farmers. Table 8 the farmers trained in Mwenezi.

Table 4: List of wards silage making trainings that were conducted in Mwenezi & Chiredzi

District	Male	Female	Total
Mwenezi	97	104	201
Chiredzi	111	89	200
Total	208	193	401

5. High Frequency Monitoring System Update

The ECRAS project started collecting data for micro-level high frequency monitoring from January 2017 after the Bulawayo ZRBF bi annual review meeting held in December 2016. However, the project had already started monthly price tracking for crops and cattle which are part of the HFM micro-level indicators in August 2016. The M&E team conducted training sessions for extension staff aimed at building the capacity of extension staff in the electronic data collection of data related to micro-level indicators which are used to trigger Crisis

Modifier activities. A total of 27 participants attended the training in Chiredzi and 24 in Mwenezi. The HFM will provide early warning and early action to reduce the impact of climate induced shocks in place. High frequency monitoring has proved to be very beneficial as the data is received timeously to inform on reports and the operating environment. Data was received for the three months of the quarter and shared with UNDP.

6. Cross Cutting Issues -Including Gender Integration in resilience building

Gender Integration Training

The second quarter of implementation saw two gender integration trainings (one in Mwenezi and one in Chiredzi) being conducted. In Chiredzi the gender integration training was attended by 44 participants (28 Male and 16 Female) and in Mwenezi the training was attended by 48 participants (23 male and 25 female). The trained officers were mandated to cascade gender trainings to the community and to integrate gender issues when implementing projects in the community.

Generally ward and village trainings and meetings starting time was set after 10 am to allow women to travel after completing other household chores in the morning. It was noted during the ward CAAP meetings and all other trainings conducted at district level (for both), ward and village level in Mwenezi that there were more male than female participants resulting in gender bias. In Chiredzi the ward and village level CAAP meetings participants were mainly women as most men work in South Africa. It was also observed that local leadership positions were dominated by males. As the CAAP trainings progressed the team encouraged local leaders to involve more women during the village level CAAP. During the value chain workshop, participants discussed setbacks constraining women participation in value chains and how they need to be addressed. These included access and control of resources for women, decision making, gender roles, cultural beliefs and low literacy levels for females. During the indigenous chicken production awareness activities in Chiredzi and Mwenezi 66% of the farmers who attended the meetings were females. This is in line with the ECRAS gender strategy where the project seeks to promote participation of women in value chain activities. The participation of women will ensure that the proceeds from the intervention benefits the whole family especially women and children since women are generally more responsible in routine household responsibilities than their male counterparts.

7. Monitoring & Learning Update

The key monitoring activities carried out during year one of the ECRAS project included registration of 4 800 B1 and B2 smallholder and 800 model households farmers interested in participating in resilience building initiatives and contextual analysis in quarter one, Multi hazard risk assessment and value chain assessments in quarter two. A project participatory MEAL structure starting from Model household to the district level was set up and ward level government extension the members representing all the 17 rural wards for Mwenezi, 17

Chiredzi project wards, 4 project field officers and 4 district representatives were trained in basic record keeping to help model farmers embrace farming as a business, monitoring and evaluation which included electronic data collection for government extension staff. The project tracked prices of beef, goats, maize grain and mealie meal and small grains from August 2016 to June 2017 monthly in the operational areas. Sentinel model household monitoring assessments were carried quarterly except for quarter one. In addition, an assessment of community social safety nets was carried out in quarter 3 of the year under review with quarterly assessments specific to Village Savings and Lending (VSL) being carried out in the last two quarters of the year. ECRAS field staff carried routine monitoring and support field visits with each field personnel responsible for an average of 3 wards. ZRBF PMU with DFID representatives had joint visit to the two ECRAS districts in quarter 2 while the EU Ambassador visited Chiredzi during the last quarter of the year under review. Lastly the project had district quarterly review meetings which brought together the different project stakeholders reflect on implementation progress, challenges and emerging lessons. The ECRAS project developed an electronic project database for improved data management and reporting.

Beneficiary registration

Beneficiary registration for the 2016/17 agricultural season was completed within the first month of quarter two. A total of 4 836 B1 and B2 (2830 and 2006 for Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts respectively) households were registered against a target of 4 800. A total of 2382 (49.32 %) of the households were female headed whilst 2448 (50.68 %) were male headed. The project aimed to have at least 50% of the beneficiaries being women with 30% of the registered households being female headed. According to the 2012 census, 40% and 32.8% of the households in Mwenezi and Chiredzi districts respectively were female headed. The proportion of female headed households to the total ECRAS beneficiaries was higher than the national average proportion because the project was deliberately encouraging the enrolment of females into the project. Female participation in rural program is critical because they contribute to productive activities such as smallholder farming yet there have been traditional tendencies to underestimate their economic roles and to undercount their participation.

Contextual analysis findings

All the 29 ECRAS operational wards were observed to be in agro-ecological regions IV and V with only 5 of the wards (wards 1 to 5 of Mwenezi) being in Natural Region IV. More than eighty percent of the B1 and B2 farmers owned cattle and indigenous chickens and all relied on rain fed agriculture which made them prone to droughts and mid-season dry spells, crops and livestock price spikes, crops and livestock pests and diseases with risk of livestock diseases being worsened by proximity to wildlife areas. Prioritized hazards for Mwenezi were droughts, floods, economic hardships and high temperatures while for Chiredzi hazards identified included droughts, veld fires, human wild life conflict, livestock diseases (foot and mouth), crop pests, floods and HIV and AIDS.

In both districts the CPU was very functional at district level despite serious resource constraint while at ward level functionality was mainly restricted to communal wards in Chiredzi. Village level structures needed revival in both districts.

Value chain analysis

Assessments done for beef, goat, indigenous chickens, red and white sorghum, sesame and pearl millet value chains revealed that in both Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts the value chains were characterised by production constraints for farmers (technical knowledge gaps, limited access to inputs), poor flow of information among value chain players, lack of farmer organization, few buyers and side-marketing by farmers and lack of trust for commodities produced under contract farming arrangements. It was observed that there was potential for increased production for small grains and indigenous chickens to satisfy the unmet/growing demand for healthy food.

Multi hazard risk assessment

In conformity with the contextual analysis, drought was consistently ranked by the communities as the top priority hazard in all the sampled ECRAS wards in Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts. Results of statistical analyses of long-term monthly rainfall data for Buffalo Range Station in Chiredzi as well as satellite data confirmed high frequency of occurrence of meteorological and agricultural droughts throughout the two districts. This implies high exposure of the communities in the ECRAS wards to drought.

At household level, heat waves, livestock diseases, strong destructive winds, and floods ranked among top five hazards but their relative ranking differed across the ten sampled wards. Long-term daily maximum temperature for the month of October indicated high exposure of communities in Chiredzi to heat waves especially during the hot dry season. The high prevalence of livestock diseases of economic importance to households such as foot and mouth disease (FMD) was also revealed and mapped throughout the ECRAS wards. The probability of flooding was also found to be high (>50%) for riparian communities in wards 1, 3, 5, 6, and 25 of Chiredzi. In Mwenezi, communities in wards 3, 5, 7 and 9 were exposed to a higher flood risk than those in non-riparian wards. The result for the multi-hazard risk assessment indicated that wards 13, 14, 15 and 22 of Chiredzi had the highest multi-hazard risk owing to high poverty prevalence. By contrast ward 6 had the lowest overall risk. For Mwenezi, wards 5 and 8 stood out as facing extremely high multi-hazard risk followed by wards 2, 7 and 9, which were classified in the very high multi-hazard risk category.

Mission Visits

The period under review saw teams from DFID, UNDP, European Union and MAMID visiting the ECRAS project. These visits were distributed across the quarters and provided vital feedback from the funders of the project as well as ZRBF management. They provided a platform for the beneficiaries to tell their stories on how the project impacts them. Major feedback from these visits was as follows:

- That there is need for cross learning between the ZRBF consortiums and other related development programs. – EU delegation

- That ECRAS is an inspiring project with the possibility of improving the lives of people in the communities of Chiredzi and Mwenezi.- Shaughn McArthur CARE Advocacy Manager
 - The project should invest more in establishing grain banks since this year was a bumper harvest- EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe
- Generally the project benefitted from these visits and the support from the funders. Implementation of recommendations has already begun.



FIGURE 26: EU Mission Visit to Chiredzi: Visit to a Village Savings and lending Group Chiredzi Ward and DFID, UNDP delegation in Mwenezi ward 5- Marumbwa homestead, during one of the field visit in February 2017

8. A Human Story (Maximum a Page)

The choice that changed my life

For Solomon Salani (aged 34) from Mungoni village in ward 6 of Chiredzi district, farming meant tilling the land, putting seed in the soil, waiting for the rains, weeding and harvesting. The type of seeds planted or the type of harvesting structures did not really matter a lot, as long as he would get something at the end of the day, to feed his family with. As long as there was somewhere to keep his cattle, goats and poultry during the night, he was content, regardless of whether they were proper or not. The household owned 15 head of cattle, 35 goats and 35 poultry (indigenous chickens, guinea fowls and ducks).

“My farming life changed for the better towards end of 2016 when the ECRAS project was introduced in my area and I decided to give it a try. When the project was launched I was initially reluctant to participate. However, when the people who had registered at first dropped out I together with my

wife decided participate in the project activities” said the married father of two (a girl aged 6 years and a one year boy. Mr Salani received Okashana seed, Sorghum SV4 variety and cow pea seed, each enough for 0.1ha.

“Through attending ECRAS organized trainings, I have learnt that using retained seed over and over again, does not give me as much yield as I would get from certified seed. I have also learnt that it is not only about the size of land that one grows crops to produce enough for household consumption and for the market, it is about good agronomic practices such as correct timing, spacing, weed and pest control, use of good seed and growing the correct crop suitable for the area. Little did I know that with intensive farming, one would get very high yields”, said the visibly excited model farmer. Mr Salani illustrated that for him the biggest change brought about by the project was the knowledge he gained as he harvested 30kgs of Okashana (0.3t/hectare), 150kgs of sorghum SV4 (1.5t/hectare), and 20kgs of cowpeas(0.2t/hectare) from the 0.1ha demo plot for each of the crops. On average he would get 0.25t/hectare for sorghum translating to 500 % yield increase.

The model farmer was also highly appreciative of the knowledge gained through ECRAS organized trainings and meetings on production of forage sorghum, velvet bean and banner grass for livestock feed and silage making through urea treatment. The farmer went to treat crop stover with urea for feeding his cattle.

“During the dry season I used to have challenges of feed for my livestock but this time around, as a better skilled farmer, I will not allow my livestock to lose condition or die because of lack feed and because of urea treatment my cattle will feed on more nutritious stover. Maintaining my cattle in good body condition will make me realize more income”, explained Mr Salani. The farmer constructed improved housing for his cattle, goats and indigenous chickens as a result of the ECRAS project activities and indicated that he was sharing the acquired knowledge with 12 other farmers who closely worked with him.



According to Mr Salani participation in ECRAS project activities made he realize the importance of involving his wife in all activities, to give her room to make decisions and do projects she was good at. He also highlighted that gender discussions facilitated by the project made him change his negative perception on sending a girl child to school.

“through the WhatsApp platforms that we created as farmers with the help of our extension worker, we are able to disseminate different types of information such as weather updates and possible markets from different products which help us in dealing with shocks that we are exposed as smallholder farmers”.

Mr Salani’s closing remarks revealed his close collaboration with AGRITEX, *“In conclusion, I would really want to thank the ECRAS team from my ward, the extension staff, most importantly, Mr. Chipuri, for all the effort he is putting to make me become a better farmer”.*

9. Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

The 2016/17 agricultural season was characterized by excessive rains which resulted water logging leading leaching. Potential crop yield was also negatively affected by breaks of armored cricket and fall armyworm. Flooding due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Dineo resulted in loss of both human and livestock, washing away of some crop fields and damage to property such as houses, school and clinic buildings and destruction of bridges and roads.

The cash crisis affecting the country has adversely affected some project interventions especially Village Savings and Lending (VSL). Some groups especially in Chiredzi have embraced use of Ecocash in respond to the cash crisis.

Sugar beans and fodder crop production under the crisis modifier targets have been affected by irregular water supplies in some of the targeted irrigation schemes as a result of breaking down of pumping systems and inadequate unplanted plots as farmers used up their land following delays in supply of inputs.

Lessons learnt

- Interactions with farmers through farmer field visits revealed that the aspect of fodder production is fairly new to farmers and farmers are very keen on taking it up. Most of the farmers lost livestock during the dry seasons due to hunger and the promotion of fodder production will address real threats for livestock management in the targeted communities.
- The Look and Learn Visit to Zaka revealed that farmers can be empowered through trainings such as farming as a business so that they identify the market before producing commodities. This approach ensures that the farmers produce commodities with ready market and required standards in line with the value chain concept.
- Learning visits play a significant role in developing the capacity of farmers as they learn by seeing. It also helps farmers to anticipate some of the challenges they could face in implementing a certain intervention. The learning visit to Chisumbanje Green World Poultry production group helped to prepare farmers in Chiredzi for the same and increased their enthusiasm to participate. As a result the all the farmers who went on that visit completed their fowl run construction as well as payment of commitment fees ahead of many other farmers and have been ready to receive their first batch of inputs to start the project.
- Some crops at the demonstration plots particularly sorghum were attacked by the fall armyworm and it was encouraging to note that farmers had through their own means sought solutions and sprayed with Cabaryl and used other non-chemical ways to control the new pest such as hand picking, use of sand.

- The germination of the late planted sesame crop in some areas was compromised by the excessive rains. The project will advise farmers to procure inputs for subsequent farming seasons before the onset of the season so that planting and germination do not coincide with heavy rains.
- While the project engaged farmers on the sesame value chain, very little focus was given to post harvest infrastructure. However, at the pre-harvest monitoring exercise conducted revealed that the majority of farmers did not have proper post-harvest handling and storage infrastructure and were therefore likely going to suffer some losses as a result of that. The project therefore needs to improve and act with speed to address such issues and in the coming season, preparations for post-harvest will be done early on in the project as other project activities are being done.

10. Key Partnerships and Inter-Agency Collaboration

NGO Forum Meetings

The project supported 4 NGO forum meetings in Chiredzi and Mwenezi during the year where different organizations operating in Mwenezi and Chiredzi, government stakeholders and chiefs (in Mwenezi), met and discussed the progress made during the quarter and shared planned activities. NGOs were encouraged to work with traditional leaders and co-ordinate and share platforms together at ward level. Further emphasis was made on the need to work with government institutions in their jurisdictional areas through notification and involvement of the relevant government department when implementing partners go out to implement in the field. This is critical as it allow for buy in of projects, accountability, transparency and sustainability. In Chiredzi, the District Administrator who is the Chairperson of the forum highlighted that NGOs should have clear and well defined exit strategies, citing the International Rescue Committee as an example which has projects ending in the next quarter. Implementing partners with related activities on livestock intervention should take up the responsibility of learning from IRC and continue with the same efforts for sustainability.

District Quarterly Review Meetings

Quarterly review meetings were held in Chiredzi and Mwenezi during the year. These were attended by representatives from MAMID, President's office, Ministries of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, SMEs and Women affairs. Project staff shared progress made in the quarters of implementation and plans for the following quarters. In Mwenezi, It was proposed that in the subsequent quarterly review meetings, AGRITEX supervisors will present for their respective wards rather than project staff presenting progress. This is expected to enhance sustainability as the stakeholders take ownership of all the projects that are going on in their respective wards. It was also recommended that ward based extension officers be supported with fuel for those who have motorbikes so that they monitor their projects effectively. In Chiredzi, discussions were around the sharing of the immediate changes that had been noticed amongst farmers

which was not happening currently. It emerged that the extension staff are not fully equipped with water harvesting knowledge and what is expected of them and as such did not give the farmers full information as the assessment team expected. As such there was need for continuous engagement during the Implementation of the Crisis Modifier activities.

11. First Year Financial Performance

Consortium project	Authorized Budget Quarter	by Actual Project Expenditure by Quarter	% of Actual
			Expenditure by Quarter
Q 1	Pre-financed	Pre-financed	Pre-financed
Q2	423,248.00	423,248.00	100%
Q3	590,019.58	478,839.03	81%
Q4	111,180.55	99,693.21	90%
Annual	1,013,267.58	1,001,780.24	98%

12. Planned Major Upcoming Activities

A. MAIN COMPONENT
Disaster Risk Management structures and systems strengthened
Context analysis and stakeholder mobilization
Multi hazard Risk Analysis
Participatory community vulnerability and capacity analysis, structures established
Community training on participatory HVCA & CBDRM
Community disaster management plans linked to district plans
Consolidation of Community Plans into District Plan
Assess response capacity and early warning systems
Monitoring of Disaster Risk Management implementation
Community Safety Nets established and/or strengthened
Form and support VSAL groups and provide training on methodology
Facilitate establishment and functionality of social funds/grain banks
Link service providers with communities
Facilitate service providers and community meetings
Monitoring of community safety nets
Crop, livestock and agro-forestry production improved

Establish farm-scale demonstration of resilient livelihoods (model households)
Establish hen systems for indigenous chickens
Establish 10 doe unit goat
Establish 5 cow weaner system for beef cattle linked to pen-fattening centres
Set up 1 hectare sorghum/millet production systems
Set up irrigation sorghum seed production
Establish integrated cropping system incorporating fodder, cash and nutritious crops
Capacitate youth buyers to contract irrigation schemes on sugar beans and horticulture
Establish fish ponds in irrigation schemes
Establish 1000L household aquaponics systems
Research the contribution to resilience of adopted farming systems (locally proven resilience models)
Co-develop suitable post-harvest management practices
Train farmers on post harvest management, storage and processing
Markets viability and inclusivity improved (financial, input and output markets)
Facilitate development of linkages with output and input markets and service providers with communities in clusters/groups - farmer trainings
Facilitate training of communities to produce market required products (Innovations Platform) - field days and shows

Train households on sustainable harvesting, processing and marketing of non-forest timber products
Monitor identified value chains
Uptake of low cost sustainable productive water technologies promoted
Develop and promote strategies for scale up of water technologies
Local seasonal plans developed and advisories disseminated
Facilitate the development of community adaptation plans
Carry out seasonal participatory scenario planning workshops
Facilitate development of advisories and link to service providers
Monitoring uptake and implementation of advisories
Communities manage restoration of degraded land and reducing pastoral droughts
Trainings on holistic livestock and land management approaches
Trainings in CA, agro-forestry, intercropping and micro dosing
Trainings on community led natural resources management
Provision of resilience building social, agriculture and water services delivery addressing poverty and building resilience
Resuscitate/establish community development institutions and structures
Integrate community development plans in district plans
Integrate seasonal advisories with service provider outreach strategies and dissemination using

mobile messaging platforms
participatory monitoring functionality of development/governance structures and institutions
Roll out community score card for improved service delivery
Train community facilitators for community dialogue platforms - gender & youth champions training
Training of youth champions
Training of gender champions
Establish dialogue platforms between communities and service providers - gender dialogue platforms
Monitor community dialogue platforms for social accountability issues
B. CRISIS MODIFIER
Cash crop and fodder crop production
Low cost water harvesting technologies
Establishment of low cost water harvesting facilities
Small weir
Boreholes rehabilitation
Cattle drinking troughs construction
Installations of solar pumping system

13. ANNEXES

ANNEX I: 2016/17 Approved Project Annual Work Plan (Original)

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1.1 Disaster Risk Management structures functional Baseline: TBA Indicators: 1. Multi-hazard risk analysis report produced 2. 30 community disaster risk management plans established	1.1.1 Context analysis and stakeholder mobilisation					CARE	UNDP		15,795
	1.1.2 Multi-Hazard Risk Analysis - Household Livelihood Security Assessment (HLSA) and Risk analysis for disaster risk management – GTZ					CARE	UNDP		26,825
	1.1.3 Participatory community vulnerability and capacity analysis, structures established					CARE	UNDP		7,700
	1.1.4 Community disaster management plans linked to district plans					CARE	UNDP		7,600
	1.1.5 Assess response capacity and early warning systems					CARE	UNDP		3,500
	1.1.6 Monitoring of Disaster Risk Management implementation					CARE and PLAN	UNDP		3,150
Output 1.2 Community Safety Nets established, functional Baseline: TBA Indicators: 1. 400 social funds	1.2.1 Form and support VSAL groups and provide training on methodology					CARE	UNDP		10,425
	1.2.2 Facilitate establishment and functionality of social funds/grain banks					CARE	UNDP		900

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
<i>established and functional</i>	1.2.3 Assess available micro-insurance products (funeral, livestock)					CARE	UNDP		
	1.2.4 Link service providers with communities					CARE	UNDP		
	1.2.5 Monitoring of community safety nets					CARE and PLAN	UNDP		3,150
Output 2.1 Local seasonal plans developed and advisories disseminated <i>Baseline: TBA</i> <i>Indicators:</i> <i>1. Advisories disseminated timeously during the first season</i>	2.1.1 Facilitate the development of community adaptation plans					CARE	UNDP		
	2.1.2 Carry out seasonal participatory scenario planning workshops					CARE	UNDP		3,125
	2.1.3 Facilitate development of advisories and link to service providers					CARE	UNDP		200
	2.1.4 Monitoring uptake and implementation of advisories					CARE and PLAN	UNDP		3,150
Output 2.2 Improved crop, livestock and agro forestry production	2.2.1 Advise communities on contextual climate smart agriculture approaches based on evidence					ICRISAT	UNDP		12,400

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Baseline: TBA Indicators: 1. 400 households establish farm scale demonstrations in the first year	2.2.2 Train households on crop and livestock systems					ICRISAT	UNDP		105,439
	2.2.3 Communities plan grazing and rangeland management						UNDP		23,500
	2.2.4 Link communities with government and private sector relevant extension services						UNDP		4,500
	2.2.5 Research the contribution to resilience of adopted farming systems (locally proven resilience models)						UNDP		
	2.2.6 Assess post-harvest practices						UNDP		4,500
	2.2.7 Co-develop suitable post-harvest management practices						UNDP		32,412
	2.2.8 Monitoring model household performance and wider uptake/adoption at community level						UNDP		3,150
Output 2.3 Functional and stable, viable, and sustainable	2.3.1 Conduct value chain/market assessments for potential income generating activities in target areas					CARE	UNDP		8,500

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
inclusive markets (diversified livelihoods) <i>Baseline: TBA</i> <i>Indicators:</i> 1. 30 communities with functional innovation platforms	2.3.2 Facilitate development of linkages with output and input markets and service providers with communities in clusters/groups					CARE	UNDP		
	2.3.3 Facilitate training of communities to produce market required products (Innovations Platform)					CARE	UNDP		6,000
	2.3.4 Link farmers for training in sustainable harvesting, processing and marketing of non-forest timber products					CARE	UNDP		
	2.3.5 Monitor identified value chains					CARE and PLAN	UNDP		3,150
Output 2.4 Improved uptake of low cost sustainable productive water technologies <i>Baseline: TBA</i>	2.4.1 Assess and pilot viable productive water technologies in demonstration areas					ICRISAT	UNDP		27,000
	2.4.2 Develop and promote strategies for scale up of water technologies					ICRISAT	UNDP		10,000
	2.4.3 Monitoring performance and uptake of water technologies					ICRISAT, CARE and PLAN	UNDP		3,150

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 3.1 Improved social, agriculture and water service delivery addressing poverty and building resilience Baseline: TAB Indicators: 1. 30 environmental sub-committees and ward development committees (WADCO) functional	3.1.1 Resuscitate/ establish community development institutions and structures					PLAN	UNDP		9,450
	3.1.2 Integrate community development plans in district plans					PLAN	UNDP		2,250
	3.1.3 Integrate seasonal advisories with service provider outreach strategies and dissemination using mobile messaging platforms					PLAN	UNDP		200
	3.1.4 Participatory monitoring functionality of development/governance structures and institutions					PLAN and CARE	UNDP		3,150
Output 3.2 Communities engage duty bearers on provision of services Baseline: TBA Indicators: 1. 30 dialogue platforms convened at ward level	3.2.1 Develop and roll out a community scorecard for improved service delivery					PLAN	UNDP		13,500
	3.2.2 Train community facilitators for community dialogue platforms					PLAN	UNDP		
	3.2.3 Establish dialogue platforms between communities and service providers					PLAN	UNDP		600

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
	3.2.4 Monitor community dialogue platforms for social accountability issues					PLAN and CARE	UNDP		3,150
Start Up Activities	Partner Inception and staff training					CARE	UNDP		
	Planning meetings with DDC and DDRC					CARE	UNDP		
	Meetings with community leadership in targeted communities					CARE	UNDP		
	Develop M & E system, including database					CARE	UNDP		
	Carry out beneficiary selection, identification of model households (with typical village characteristics)					CARE	UNDP		
TOTAL									

ANNEX II: 2016/2017 Project Performance Indicator Tracking Table update

ANNUAL ZRBF GRANTEES INDICATORS PERFORMANCE TRACKING TABLE (FY 2016/17)

INDICATOR	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DISAGGREGATED BY	FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE (2016)	FY 2016/17		Cumulative Life of Project Target
						TARGET	RESULT	
# of women and men supported by ZRBF funded programmes to cope with the effects of climate change (Required)	Number	Gender and type of investment	Quarterly	Project database	0	4800	5605 Total: 800 (344 female and 456 male) Demonstration plot set 804 (271 male and 533 female) Mwenezi weir construction = 250 (169 female & 81 male) Mwenezi sugar beans inputs (180 females & 71 male)250 (Weir construction 3 500 (1 820 female and	9600

# of at risk communities (wards) with a disaster risk reduction (DRR) and/or integrated disaster reduction and adaptation in their strategy or action plan (Required)	Number	Geographic Location	Annual	Project quarterly reports	0	29	29 (Chiredzi 17 Mwenezi 12)	29
Percentage of farmers who used financial services (savings, agricultural credit, and/or agricultural insurance) in the past 12 months (Required if Applicable)	Percentage	Geographic Location	Annual	Project database	0	20	Chiredzi=16 Mwenezi=25	50
# of communities with disaster early warning and response (EVR) systems working effectively (Required)	Number	Geographic Location	Annual		0	29	Chiredzi=0 Mwenezi=0	29
Number of women and men receiving trainings in the ZRBF programme (Required)	Number	Gender training type. and	Quarterly	Project database	0	800	All trainings = 6 107 (2 754 male and 3 353 female) Village Savings and Lending = (252 male & 886 female), DRR Staff Training = (12 male & 7 female), DRR community training = (491 male & 548	9600

							female), Indigenous Chicken production ToT = (46 male & 21 female), Indigenous Chicken Production community = (266 male & 538 female), Holistic Land and Livestock Management = (47 male & 25 female), M&E and Social Contracting Training = (35 Male and 20 female), Community Score Card Training of Trainers = (30 male and 17 female) 744 male and 452 female staff, government stakeholders	
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							<p>and community members. Staff training on resilience programming (19 male & 11 female), CAAP &PSP Training (29 male & 11 female), Ward CAAP (259 male & 141 female), PSP workshop (50 male & 20 female), Value chain training (16 male & 8 female), Context climate smart agriculture (60 male & 41 female), VS&L training of trainers (45 male & 29 female), Gender integration (51 male & 40 female), DRR</p>	
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							(50 male & 26 female), training on demo set up (173 male & 135 female) , High Frequency Monitoring (33 Male & 21 female), Fodder Preservation (94 male and 141 female). Crisis Modifier Trainings: Sugar Bean Production Training (76 Male & 184 female), Builders Training (14 male & 1 female), Silage Making Training (208 male & 193 female)	
Number of households with access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation supported by ZRBF (Required if Applicable)	Number	Gender	Quarterly	RWIMS	0	12 250	3500 (1 820 female and 1680 male)	12 250

<p># of functional small scale productive infrastructures developed through ZRBF support (disaggregated by type) (Required if Applicable)</p>	<p>Number</p>	<p>Geographic Location, and Type of productive infrastructures</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Project database</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>690</p>	<p>14=Boreholes Mwenezi 286=Improved chickens housing (101 Mwenezi and 185 Chiredzi)</p>	<p>690</p>
<p># of women & men assisted through the activation of ZRBF Crisis Modifier mechanism (Required if Applicable)</p>	<p>Number</p>	<p>Geographic Location and Gender</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Project database</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>10 830</p>	<p>4385 Total: Mwenezi Borehole Rehabilitation 3500 (1 820 female and 1680 male) Mwenezi weir construction = 250 (169 female & 81 male) Mwenezi sugar beans inputs (180 females & 71 male), Chiredzi Sugar bean inputs (181 Male & 203 female)</p>	<p>16 030</p>

ANNEX III: 2016/2017 Project Risk Analysis Update

Risk	Rating	Impact	Situation during the year	Mitigatory measures
Unfavourable political environment	Low	High	The political environment in the operational areas has been conducive for implementation of project activities at both community and district levels.	No action needed
Significant increase in the number of hazards, shocks or stresses in the targeted areas (floods, lightning, gully formation, drowning and death of people)	High	High	The developmental gains were wiped away as people were affected by the incessant rains due to the La Nina and Tropical Cyclone Dineo which resulted in flooding. A total of 182 households and 26 schools in Chiredzi and Mwenezi were destroyed by the cyclonic rains received in February. Fields were affected by leaching with crops being washed away in some areas.	<p>The project promoted diversified income stream through participation in prioritized and suitable crop and livestock value chains. Provided model household with inputs on a cost recovery arrangement.</p> <p>Project applied and got funding for a crisis modifier component. The crisis modifier interventions have helped households and communities get on a recovery path from the effects of the previous 2014/15 and 2015/16 El Nino induced droughts due to improved portable and productive water, provision of sugar bean inputs (fertilizers and seed) on credit and cash income through assets for work component.</p> <p>Strengthened information dissemination systems by sending disaster related flood</p>

				information to ward based extension workers. Farmers were encouraged to move livestock to higher and drier ground to avoid drowning and food rot.
Unfavourable economic environment	Medium	High	The cash shortage crisis which had started manifesting itself through long queues at banks throughout the country before commencement of implementation for the ECRAS project (in early April 2016) continued worsening up to end of year one. Most mobile cash tuck shops in project operational areas closed while those that remained operational were hardly used. The number of point retailers with point of sale machines increased in both Mwenezi especially at Rutenga and in Neshuro. The Grain Marketing Board, which was buying cereals paid through RTGS	<p>Farmers were encouraged to embrace plastic money and mobile money wallet to wallet transactions. The Indigenous Chicken Contract agreement with National Organic Produce (formally Shamhu Hatcheries) resulted in more than 5 00 farmers opening bank accounts with METBANK enabling them to access POS services.</p> <p>The crisis modifier component resulted in 635 farmers accessing sugar bean production inputs under contract farming arrangements.</p>
Demotivated government extension staff and other key civil servants as a result of decreased remuneration	Low	High	The government did not reduce civil servants salary as initially hinted in early 2016. Extension staff has remained motivated.	No action required

<p>Unfavourable public ward level extension staff – farmer ratios</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The restructuring exercise by the government resulted in deterioration of the ward extension staff farmer ratio with one extension worker to as much as 3 000 for LPD.</p>	<p>The project made sure that MAMID staff were involved in all the project activities, from the planning of training to the implementation at farmers’ level to enhance their buy-in and commitment. Exchange visits for government extension staff to Shurugwi, Zaka and Chisumbanje were also arranged to allow them to learn from what other projects and government extension workers were doing. This was not only aimed at expediting the learning process but also to challenge them realize the power within themselves to influence resilience building in their respective areas of operation.</p> <p>The project facilitated training of model households in areas such as record keeping and climate smart agriculture and roped in other ward level government extension staff besides those from AGRITEX and LPD so that MAMID extension staff is not overwhelmed.</p>
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ANNEX IV. 2016/2017 Value for Money indicators Progress Update

ECONOMY			<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>YEAR 1</i>	<i>YEAR 2</i>	<i>YEAR 3</i>	<i>RAG SCORE</i>	<i>Assumptions/Notes</i>
VFM INDICATORS	Definition	Source of Data							
Program management costs	Proportion of program management cost versus overall project costs		25%	24%					Markets prices remain stable for program items
EFFICIENCY			<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>YEAR 1</i>	<i>YEAR 2</i>	<i>YEAR 3</i>		<i>Assumptions/Notes</i>
Cost per model household	Cost of setting up a model resilient rural household where other community members can learn from		TBD						Market prices remain stable
Cost of training each farmer	Cost of training each farmers		TBD						Market prices remain stable
Total									
EFFECTIVENESS			<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>YEAR 1</i>	<i>YEAR 2</i>	<i>YEAR 3</i>		<i>Assumptions/Notes</i>
Number of farmers that have adopted climate smart technologies	Number of farmer practicing the promotes soil and water conversation farming techniques to improve their yields under changing climatic		TBD						

	conditions								
Average yield per farmer adopting CSA technologies	Yield record will show the impact of climate smart technologies		TBD						
Total									
EQUITY			<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>YEAR 1</i>	<i>YEAR 2</i>	<i>YEAR 3</i>		<i>Assumptions/Notes</i>
Percentage of vulnerable groups targeted and reached.	Vulnerable groups include the youth, and women		TBD						
Change in income levels for youth participating in project activities	Income level of vulnerable groups are tracked throughout the project to measure how their wellness status is changing		TBD						
Total									
TOP THREE THINGS DONE TO IMPROVE VFM IN YEAR ONE									
<p>I. Electronic data collection - ECRAS project introduced use of electronic data collection using Kobo Collect during registrations, model households quarterly assessments as from the second quarter. The use of tablets reduced time needed for data cleaning as use of validation options in the Kobo collect software minimized entry errors, removed data entry and photocopying costs. A total of \$7956 was saved during year one as a result of use of electronic data collection (quarter 2 \$2050, quarter 3 \$2050. and \$3856 for quarter 4).</p>									

<p>2. Combining trainings - gender integration training and the climate smart TOT training - The combining of the two trainings resulted in the saving of \$3300 from accommodation and allowances for government stakeholder, \$870 bus fare, \$440 for vehicle running expenses and \$340 for project staff per-diems. The total amount that was saved from combining the two trainings was \$ 4950. - gender integration and context climate smart agriculture - resulted efficient time utilization travelling time was reduced for both participants and training facilitator. It was also found to be the best way of conducting gender related trainings as combing the two trainings also helped in the effective integration of gender issues examples were drawn from living project examples.</p>
<p>3.The trainings on Holistic Land and Livestock Management (HLLM), indigenous chicken production, pen fattening, sheep and goat production were combined. Combining the two trainings during the same week helped in reducing the travelling and transport costs for both the participants and the trainers. Because the trainings were not done separately both participants and trainers did not travel twice to and from the training venue in Chiredzi and Mwenezi. This led to savings of \$14410.</p>
<p>4.The Mwenezi District Review Meeting and Post-Harvest Assessment Validation workshop were combined. Combining the two meetings during the same week helped in reducing the transport costs for the MAMID District heads and Supervisors who participated in both meetings. The supervisors and heads did not have to travel twice to and from the venue in Mwenezi. This led to efficiency in terms of time and co-ordination of activities. \$104,00 was saved in transport and conference costs.</p>
<p>KEY COST DRIVERS</p>
<p>Training costs</p>
<p>Economy Savings Generated to be re-invested back into the project</p>
<p>Savings realised during the year were reinvested into the project</p>