



ECRP

Mid-term Evaluation

Submitted to DFID by LTS International Ltd, Le Groupe-conseil Baastel (Baastel), the Centre for Development Management (CDM) and Training Support Partners

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Acronyms

ACPC	Area Civil Protection Committee
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CARLA	Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods (LDCF-GEF Funded)
CBA	Cost-benefit Analysis
CEPA	Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy
CISONEC	Civil Society Network on Climate Change
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
CPC	Civil Protection Committee
CPC	Civil Protection Committee
DEC	District Executive Committee
DISCOVER	Developing Innovative Solutions with Communities to Overcome Vulnerability through Enhanced Resilience
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECRP	Enhancing Community Resilience Programme
EWS	Early Warning System
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GVH	Group Village Headman
IP	Implementing Partners
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MTE	Mid Term Evaluation
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - Development Assistance Committee
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PLHIV	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PMU	Programme Management Unit (a body within each NGO consortium)
RBM	Results-based Management
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures

TA	Traditional Authority
VCPC	Village Civil Protection Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
VfM	Value for Money
VSL	Village Savings and Loans
WALA	Wellness and Agriculture for Life Advancement
WFP	World Food Programme

Executive Summary

The executive summary will be provided with the final version of the report.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Programme Overview

The Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP), funded jointly by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), Irish Aid and the Norwegian Embassy, aims to contribute to a reduction in extreme poverty and hunger in Malawi. ECRP works towards this goal specifically by addressing the climate vulnerabilities that underlie current poverty and food insecurity levels, with the understanding that such vulnerabilities will become more critical as the future anticipated effects of climate change take place.

ECRP includes five major components that, taken together, will enhance resilience to climate change at the household, community and district levels. They include 1) local empowerment, 2) improved and resilient livelihoods, 3) improved coordination and information flow, 4) enhanced early warning response and 5) informed policy. ECRP undertakes this work in 11 vulnerable districts across Malawi with activities implemented through two consortia of local non-governmental organisations (NGOs): the Concern Universal-led “Discover Consortium” and the Christian Aid-led “ECRP Consortium.”

In addition, ECRP provides support to the Government of Malawi’s Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC). A Technical Agency, led by LTS International and in partnership with Baastel, CDM, and Training Support Partners, implements a joint, comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan for the programme.

1.2 Purpose of the Mid-term Evaluation

The ECRP Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) is intended to inform programme management, improve the quality and delivery of services, and highlight factors for improving the likelihood of achieving ECRP’s high-level results. Specifically, the MTE aims to:

- Assess the quality of ECRP’s design and implementation,
- Assess ECRP’s progress towards achieving results, including an update of all ECRP logframe indicators,
- Evaluate ECRP’s likelihood of achieving long-term goals,
- Determine the potential for ECRP to have a lasting impact both beyond the programme timeframe and beyond the programme’s direct beneficiaries,

- Examine ECRP's value for money (VfM) thus far, including assessing programme economy, programme cost-efficiency and programme cost effectiveness,
- Encourage self-evaluation at all levels of the programme, and
- Develop conclusions and recommendations to enhance ECRP's contribution to building community resilience.

1.3 Scope of the Mid-Term Evaluation

The MTE takes place two years after full implementation of ECRP interventions began and three years following inception. Data collection for the MTE took place from May to June 2014, and **the MTE analysis considers programme progress and performance from inception to date**. In certain cases where compiled data are required, the MTE uses ECRP reporting systems updated as of 31 March 2014.

The MTE is structured around the OECD-DAC criteria for evaluating development projects:

- **Relevance:** To what extent is ECRP's approach to the needs identified at the design stage still valid?
- **Effectiveness:** To what extent do ECRP interventions contribute to the expected results, and are these contributions cost-effective?
- **Efficiency:** Is the programme using an efficient approach towards delivering results?
- **Sustainability:** Are there positive indications that the program interventions will have a lasting influence beyond the programme end date?

In addition to drawing on a range of interviews, site visits, document reviews and focus groups to inform these broad questions, the MTE also employs a household sample survey to determine specific ECRP logframe indicators as well as a VfM study that informs effectiveness and efficiency topics in the evaluation.

Finally, the ECRP MTE is guided by the following overarching approaches to evaluation:

- **Focus on learning by doing:** The Technical Agency uses results-based management (RBM) principles, tools and indicators to increase the potential for learning and focus on progress towards results.
- **Collaborative approach:** The Technical Agency ensures a consultative approach with the various stakeholders, to the extent possible.
- **Independence and objectivity:** The Technical Agency is independent and objective, yet will involve and engage the implementing partners (IPs) in the process.

2. Methodology

2.1 Overview

Data collection for the MTE took place through three major components carried out in parallel. Throughout the MTE, findings from each individual component were used to inform the other components, and this report integrates conclusions and recommendations drawn from the totality of the three components. The components are:

1. **General MTE** – Drawing on stakeholder interviews, document review, beneficiary Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and site visits, this component evaluated programme relevance, effectiveness, potential for sustainability, and overall performance.
2. **Household Sample Survey** – Using a random sample of beneficiaries, this component was used to generate metrics for a number of ECRP logframe indicators.
3. **Value for Money** – Drawing on specific document reviews, FGDs, and cost-benefit analysis calculations, this component informed programme cost effectiveness and efficiency.

The total number of beneficiaries and stakeholders consulted for the different components of the ECRP MTE are summarized in Table 1 below. In addition, a complete list of all interviews and FGDs as well as the field plan is included in Annex A.

Table 1: Overview of beneficiaries and stakeholders consulted for the ECRP MTE.

	General MTE	VfM Study	Household Survey
Districts Covered	8 districts	3 districts	11 districts
Interviews held	14 IPs and stakeholder offices	Selected project staff at PMUs and in 3 districts	n/a
Beneficiaries consulted	301 participants in 22 FGDs	21 FGDs with 276 participants	2,221 completed household interviews
MTE Content	Relevance, effectiveness, sustainability and progress towards indicators	Effectiveness and efficiency	Progress towards specific logframe indicators

2.2 Method for the General MTE

Inception and Document Review

The General MTE established, in accordance with DFID, a matrix of evaluation questions, sub-questions and indicators designed to respond to the MTE purpose and following RBM principles. The evaluation matrix structures the content of this report, and it is included in Annex B. The MTE collected a variety of documents throughout the analysis including Consortia-level quarterly and annual reporting, examples of case studies and other relevant documentation encountered. A list of documents reviewed is included in Annex C.

Field Mission

The General MTE included a ten-day field mission to Malawi, from 26 May to 7 June 2014, in which the IP Consortia headquarters in Lilongwe were visited as well as 8 of the ECRP district. In each selected district, interviews were held with the local ECRP implementing NGO,¹ as well as beneficiary FGDs, typically in two different Group Village Headmen (GVH) areas per district. At each site visits were made to the degree possible to observe some of the interventions taking place. Finally, other stakeholders at the District level, such as Extension Officers, were interviewed when possible.

Data Analysis and Triangulation

Notes from the FGDs, stakeholder interviews and observations from site visits were compiled and compared against information from the VfM study and the household sample survey. Triangulation was used to cross-check findings for consistency, nuance and possible contradictions. The present report incorporates the findings from this analysis.

2.3 Method for the ECRP Household Sample Survey

The ECRP household sample survey for the MTE took place from late April to early June 2014. Timing for the sample was based on the need to avoid the election period in the summer of 2014, and thus the survey took place approximately two months earlier in the consumption year than the baseline survey, which was conducted in June/July 2012.

¹ Throughout the MTE Report, the two Consortia leads, Discover and Christian Aid, are referred to as the ECRP IPs, and the many NGOs that implement ECRP under each Consortium are referred to as the implementing NGOs.

The survey sampling frame was made from the IP data systems, which supplied a unique list of all beneficiary households in the programme. A panelled approach for the sample was originally tested but deemed logistically too difficult. In addition, using a comparison group of non-beneficiary households was also not feasible due to lack of an appropriate sampling frame.

The final sample framework of beneficiaries allows for comparison of indicators between baseline and mid-term, but with the drawback that change identified across the period is a function of three criteria:

1. Differences between the characteristics of beneficiary and other households at baseline (e.g. consortia selection of vulnerable households, female-headed households or other criteria).
2. Change occurring across all households in the period July 2012 to May 2014 attributable to factors other than to project activities (e.g. changes in market prices, quality of the harvest associated with rainfall patterns).
3. Change occurring only in beneficiary households associated with consortia activities.

In the sampling, the population was stratified based on consortia, district, and Traditional Authority. Group Village Headman (GVH) areas were used as primary sampling units, and households were sampled randomly from inside the selected GVHs. On completion of the survey, weights were calculated based on the probability of selection of each sampled household and the distribution of the target population by TA, district and consortium. A full description of the sampling method and analysis of the survey is included in Annex D.

2.4 Methods for the ECRP VfM Study

The VfM study followed DFID's "3 Es" framework (DFID, 2011) in that it assessed economy, and efficiency, and looked at cost-benefit ratios as a proxy for cost-effectiveness. The approach to each component is described in detail in the annexed VfM assessment and in brief below.

Economy analysis

Economy analysis asks whether the inputs procured for the programme are of an appropriate quality and are at the right price. Comparison was made between input costs of commonly procured items and a review of procurement approaches at the PMU level and in five implementing consortium members (COOPI, CADECOM, Heifer International, Goal Malawi and Action Aid).

Efficiency analysis

Efficiency analysis investigates the costs associated with turning inputs into outputs. It looks at outputs over which the programme has strong control, for example the number of beneficiaries trained or receiving inputs from the programme. The approach identified a set of feasible efficiency metrics, covering most areas of the programme. These were defined based on the output data which had been collected by the two consortia and the feasibility of isolating costs associated with these outputs. Whilst there were some differences in the way the data were compiled, the costs per output were calculated in a way which apportioned a share of the total programme costs to each activity and which enabled comparison between the two consortia and their members.

Cost-benefit analysis

In DFID's 3 'E's framework, cost effectiveness analysis is typically used to assess a range of interventions that can achieve a specific outcome. In the case of this programme, the outcomes are numerous, as are the interventions. Hence a cost benefit analysis is a more appropriate approach. Since there was insufficient time to conduct analysis on all the interventions under the programme, the cost-benefit analysis was conducted on a case study basis and focused on two interventions of the overall ECRP package. These were:

- Village Savings and Loans
- Crop Agricultural Package, which consisted of a seed multiplication programme for more drought tolerant seeds, conservation agriculture and post-harvest storage

The methodology developed for the study used a *social return on investment approach* to identify the full range of benefits (quantitative and qualitative) associated with the two interventions under different hazard conditions. Information about the benefits was captured from 21 Focus Group Discussions involving 276 participants (87 men and 189 women) across three districts (Salima, Kasungu, Nsanje) and 15 GVHs. This covered the operational areas of two Discover consortium members and three ECRP Consortium implementers. Partners were requested to organise groups with a mixture of men and women. In the case of the VSL focus group discussions, the larger number of female participants reflects the fact that this is an activity in which women make up the majority of the participants (over 80% in both consortia). Findings from FGDs were triangulated, as far as possible, from key informant interviews, with local staff and with a small number of interviews with lead farmers and village agents.

The information collected from the focus group discussions was used to generate a set of assumptions about the range of benefits from the programme per beneficiary. This was then combined with cost data from the analysis of expenditure as of 31 March 2014 and the beneficiary data from the same period, in order to generate cost-benefit ratios for interventions over a 10 year period, using a discount rate of 10%. Further details about the model used to generate the ratios is available in Annex 4 of the separate VFM report.

3. Preliminary Findings for the MTE

3.1 Relevance

3.1.1 Alignment of ECRP activities with local context

Main climate problems in Malawi and ECRP target districts

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) creates an annual food security forecast for the country each year in June, subsequently updated in November as the consumption year progresses. In the MVAC reports, erratic rainfall, dry spells and floods are the major agro-climatic factors driving food insecurity in the nation. They also illustrate that variability from year to year in terms of the extent and location of the population affected is high. In some years insecurity is spread across many districts while others it is concentrated in certain regions, and certain years have much higher total estimates of affected population than others.

In terms of political context, 2012 to 2014 was a period where Malawi faced a number of economic and governance challenges. The economic policies pursued by President Bingu Wa Mutharika negatively affected services in the country, and created a poor macro-economic climate that affected economic opportunities for households. Following his untimely death, macro-economic issues persisted under the Government of Joyce Banda and in 2014 the large-scale theft of public resources nicknamed the “cash-gate” scandal was uncovered. Donors lost trust in the Malawi Government and pulled out budget support, which has seriously affected the delivery of public services.

Main climate problems identified by stakeholders and beneficiaries

Stakeholder interviews and FGDs examined the climate challenges and hazards regularly experienced by ECRP’s target beneficiaries that affect their quality of life. Across the districts visited for the General MTE, by far the most common climate-related challenges included erratic rainfall, droughts, dry spells and floods, in line with national phenomena. In several districts, these hazards were experienced in the same location within the same year. The effects for local farmers include difficulty timing crops to the unpredictable rainy season, low yields due to drought and dry spell, and crops damaged or washed away by floods.

An additional effect of rainfall patterns in certain districts included water-borne illnesses during floods and crop pests that attack most often during dry spells. Low soil health, including erosion and low moisture/nutrient content, was also frequently mentioned.

Overall, FGDs, stakeholder interviews and documents reviewed confirmed that the most significant climate hazards affecting the programme's target area have remained the same, and the MTE did not find evidence that new challenges or challenges not addressed in the ECRP design were present.

Annex E provides a summary of evidence drawn from the analysis of MVAC data and focus group discussions conducted under the general MTE that document the climate hazards experienced in ECRP areas.

Ways in which ECRP activities address climate problems

FGDs and stakeholder interviews for the MTE confirmed that the ECRP interventions do address the relevant climate challenges facing ECRP's target beneficiaries. Beneficiaries readily explained the relationship between existing climate hazards and the way in which interventions can help to either mitigate or increase resilience to these. This included adaptation and mitigation strategies, such as using conservation agriculture and irrigation to protect/improve crop yields in low moisture conditions, using crop diversification and Village Savings and Loans (VSL) as positive coping mechanisms in case of crop failures, building assets through livestock and VSL, and mitigating floods and their effects through watershed protection and establishment of early warning systems (EWS).

In addition, FGD participants consistently reported that they participate in ECRP interventions because they would like to improve food security, well-being, and/or wealth for their households. In addition, some groups mentioned that they participate to learn new techniques and because they believe that the interventions proposed by the programme will help them.

Stakeholder interviews also felt ECRP interventions were well positioned to reduce poverty and food insecurity for beneficiaries. Certain stakeholders focused on building assets and income generation, mentioning in several cases that building market links for beneficiaries would be a promising way to ensure that farming livelihoods deliver improvements in household wealth. Other stakeholders found practices with particularly high participation and/or adoption, such as the VSL groups and conservation agriculture, to be promising in building resilience. There was consensus throughout interviews that a diversity of interventions is both beneficial and necessary in addressing ECRP's overall goals.

Scope of ECRP activities given levels of food insecurity

Following MVAC reporting summarized in Annex E, ECRP activities take place in those districts in Malawi where food insecurity is prevalent. In the 2012/13 year all but 2 ECRP districts were identified by MVAC as vulnerable to food insecurity, and in the 2012/14 year all 11 ECRP districts were identified.

In terms of ECRP’s reach, MVAC estimates for 2013/14 forecast a total of 895,611 vulnerable individuals across the 11 ECRP target districts. ECRP, on the other hand, reports reaching 327,243² direct beneficiaries in the target districts thus far, representing 37% of the estimated food insecure population. While this number does not reveal whether ECRP has reached those specific individuals considered food insecure following MVAC estimates, the breadth of ECRP activities can be considered large. In addition, the overall geographic extent of ECRP activities is substantial, as illustrated in Table 2 below, which presents the number of TAs, GVHs and villages where ECRP is active.

Finally, indirect beneficiaries, whose resilience may be increased through spill-over effects or potential results from ECRP’s mitigation, EWS and/or advocacy efforts, will give ECRP a larger potential scope of impact across the 11 districts.

Table 2: Number of districts, TAs, GVHs and villages across Malawi where the ECRP programme is active.

Geographic Distribution of Programme Activities			
	ECRP Consortium	Discover Consortium	Programme Total
Districts	7	5	11 ³
Traditional Authorities (TAs)	26	20	46
Group Village Headman areas(GVHs)	122	110	232
Villages	948	1149	2097

Source: Internal data provided by each Consortia.

3.1.2 Alignment of ECRP with Beneficiary Needs

Beneficiary FGDs gave recommendations and requests on ways the programme could better address their needs. The most common response included access to fertilizer, which is not surprising given soil challenges in the target areas. In addition, responses included increased training and technical assistance, more opportunity to participate in livestock and irrigation schemes, provision of tools that could make participation in certain interventions easier (for instance wheelbarrows to transport mulch for Conservation Agriculture or bicycles to facilitate EWS), and scaling up of overall activities to include more beneficiaries. In some cases beneficiaries also mentioned a need for works projects to protect against floods such as dredging rivers and building dikes.

² Direct beneficiaries by both Consortia from inception to date. Number calculated based on the Household Survey data and discussed in more detail under section relating to Outcome 1.

³Both Consortia have activities in Nsanje, making the total districts 11.

From the FGD discussions for the General MTE it appeared that ECRP interventions are addressing beneficiary needs, and needs completely outside of the ECRP scope of activities were rarely brought up.

3.1.3 Current risks, assumptions and opportunities

Changes in risks and assumptions

The MTE reviewed the current status of risks identified in consortia reporting as well as risks highlighted in stakeholder interviews with IPs and implementing NGOs. Detailed risk logs for the present year will be included in the Year 3 Consolidated Annual Report, and the MTE covers, instead, an overview of the most pertinent changes in risks since Inception, which are presented below.

- **Natural Disasters:** Natural disasters, including flood and drought, that create food insecurity occur in both consortia's target districts by nature of the ECRP programme. Both consortia report collaborating on emergency relief with the World Food Programme (WFP), and both report adopting a strategy in Y3 to engage the recipients of food aid in ECRP's wider interventions. Discover also noted increasing certain activities to support recovery from disasters (for example, support winter cropping to replace lost crops) but highlight the risks of beneficiary gains being lost to recurrent disasters. Emergency relief activities will need to be taken into consideration when attempting to attribute changes in the beneficiary population for ECRP to programme activities.
- **Currency fluctuation:** Both inflation and the exchange rate of the Malawi Kwacha have affected the programme. The fluctuating exchange rate has implications for the programme's budget – in some cases the budget increases due to the weakened Kwacha – and it also affects the price of key goods such as fuel. Both consortia note that these issues need close monitoring. Discover noted the impact of resultant fuel shortages on implementation which caused delays in Y1 and Y2 and highlighted the need for greater budget flexibility to adjust. It was also suggested that inflation rates may mean that beneficiary gains in assets or income may be lost as a result of lower purchasing power.
- **Overlap with other projects and programmes:** This risk has been particularly relevant for the ECRP Consortium in Y1 and Y2, though it continues to some degree in Y3 according to reporting. In some cases, ECRP pulled out of areas with overlap. In Nsanje, where there was overlap with WALA, ECRP decided to remain, and WALA has

recently finished.⁴ In Chikwawa, where there is overlap with CARLA, as of Y3Q2 DFID and ECRP continue communicating with CARLA about addressing overlap. Stakeholders in Mwanza and Mulanje also mentioned that they have needed to address overlap with other projects during implementation, and doing so led to delays in specific activities.

- **Management issues:** Issues related to staff turnover, and financial management have been tracked by both consortia. Discover noted that neither issue had a substantial impact on implementation. ECRP, however, felt this was a current risk. Staff turnover had been a particular problem in Nsanje. In response, the PMU had encouraged regular review of compensation packages. ECRP also provided additional financial management training to smaller implementing partners in order to offset the impact of poor financial manager as well as assigning a financial manager and grants officer to do spot checks to ensure quality of financial management of partners.
- **ECRP Assumptions:** In the course of the MTE, overall ECRP assumptions were not questioned; however, certain interviews with implementing NGOs highlighted that sustained government support at the district level should have been included as an assumption. This relates to coordinating NGO activities at the District Executive Committee (DEC) as well as working alongside pertinent District-level departments staff and extension services. The consequences of a lack of sustained commitment include issues with overlap, problems where different NGOs promote different practices for the same intervention, and difficulty gaining needed participation from extension workers.
- **Budget Restrictions:** Both consortia as well as implementing NGOs mentioned the budget regulations through ECRP whereby budgets must remain within 5% of the budget heading and 10% within each activity line. The ECRP Consortium mentioned that underspends exceeding 10% still occur with implementing NGOs, and their general efforts on financial management attempt to address this.

MTE interviews also revealed that these limitations are considered strict, at times limiting the programme's overall ability to react flexibly to changes in local conditions. For example, large fluctuations in fuel prices and other materials and fluctuating budgets based on the changing exchange rate all require flexibility on the part of the IPs and implementing NGOs; however, the strict budget rules reduce the possibilities to respond. In addition, interviews related to advocacy activities for the programme revealed that budget rules sometimes restrict implementing NGOs from conducting activities to seize on advocacy opportunities that arise.

⁴While the ECRP Consortium originally planned for a survey that would identify specific WALA households, the activity was delayed and subsequently deemed no longer relevant in discussions held for the MTE. The funds allocated to the survey will be moved to other M&E activities.

Finally, Discover PMU staff mentioned that the budget for the PMU was not clearly distinguished from the consortia's lead organisation, and the PMU budget would be clearer if it were separate.

Emerging risks

Interviews carried out for the MTE encountered a number of specific emerging risks.

- **Changes in the Daily Subsistence Allowance Rates:** This emerging risk was consistently mentioned in reporting for both consortia as well as throughout interviews with both consortia and their implementing NGOs. Programme stakeholders felt that the decision by the international donor community to pay for expenses but not provide allowance is negatively affecting participation of government workers in ECRP activities (the new rules came into effect towards the end of 2013). In multiple districts, NGOs cited that government workers have boycotted their events.

There was growing concern that the dwindling participation of government extension workers could threaten ECRP's sustainability and impact. In addition, certain interviewees mentioned that the new rules are not necessarily being applied uniformly by all NGOs in Malawi, which is leading to a loss of participants from projects that enforce the rule to projects that don't enforce the rule.

- **"Cash-gate" and its effect on development and macro-economic policy in Malawi:** A number of interview respondents highlighted that the suspension of some donor funds following the 'cash-gate' scandal will limit public spending on services, including the extension system which is an important source of support to ECRP programme activities, especially in the Discover consortium.
- **Delayed Payments in Year 3:** Both consortia and implementing NGOs mentioned that the budget delays at the beginning of Y3 led to delays in the delivery of planned programme activities. This is particularly problematic for time-sensitive activities such as seed provision.
- **Risks posed to MVAC:** According to MVAC interviews, MVAC last received funding in July 2013 for the July/September period. While the National Technical Advisor position plus one support position are paid for by ECRP, an additional four economist positions previously funded by the government have been lost. For the current consumption year, MVAC has not been able to carry out activities to create the 2014/2015 consumption year forecast, and MVAC will collaborate with the WFP to contribute to the latter's food insecurity estimates instead. According to interviews, discussions in June/July 2014 may lead to a government budget for MVAC; however, currently MVAC is heavily dependent on donors.

Emerging opportunities

A number of opportunities were mentioned by implementing NGOs in interviews. These tended to be specific to certain districts.

- **Capitalize on public private partnerships** to increase market support to farmers so that increased gains in farming production can translate to improved livelihoods.
- **Collaborate with new programmes**, such as the Shire River Basin Management Programme, to create synergies and avoid duplication as well as promote the ECRP approach to resilience-building.
- **Develop capacity** around mainstreaming climate change into development plans and using advocacy to connect Councillors to communities so needs in DRR and climate change can be voiced.

3.1.4 Conclusions and recommendations on relevance

Overall, the MTE finds that the ECRP approach and design remain valid and relevant given the current context encountered in the programme target areas. Stakeholder interviews, FGDs and document review confirmed the importance of addressing climate-related hazards through a suite of adaptive practices to build overall resilience. The MTE did not encounter new climate-related challenges, beneficiary needs, or other substantial contextual factors that would call into question ECRP's design and approach.

In terms of risks, the MTE found current risk reporting and management by IPs to be sufficient. The most substantial emerging risk, however, was the reduction in MVAC staff and activities due to funding cuts. The reduction has already prevented MVAC from carrying out its scheduled vulnerability assessment, and ECRP will need to directly address the way changes in MVAC capacity may require changes in the programme.

Finally, the overview of contextual factors conducted for the MTE highlights the need to take background factors into consideration when interpreting information for the MTE and in designing and interpreting information for the programme end evaluation. Background climate factors that regularly fluctuate are major drivers of wellbeing in the ECRP target areas, and the programme's final impact evaluation should plan ahead for ways that programme impacts could be teased apart from non-programme impacts.

3.2 Effectiveness

3.2.1 Overall quality of programme implementation

Community and stakeholder involvement in implementation

According to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for both consortia, implementing NGOs work at the District, TA, GVH and village level to introduce and organise interventions in the following way:

- **District Executive Committee (DEC)** – Both consortiums coordinate with the DEC to engage District-level government and Traditional Authorities and to avoid duplication with other NGOs.
- **TA and GVH** – Both consortiums also coordinate with the TA and GVH to introduce interventions and select specific GVHs and villages for programme activities.
- **Village** – At the village level, the Village Development Committee (VDC) is engaged to introduce an intervention, coordinate awareness building sessions and facilitate selection of beneficiaries. In the case of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the Village Civil Protection Committee (VCPC) is engaged, if one exists.

After introducing an intervention to a village, the project then holds awareness raising sessions and selects beneficiaries. In some cases, such as VSL, groups are asked to form with certain core criteria. In other cases, such as conservation agriculture and irrigation schemes, beneficiaries are encouraged to join based on their livelihood activities (i.e. do they farm). Also for certain interventions, lead farmers or agents are selected to work as volunteers with the programme and facilitate training to beneficiaries.

FGDs confirmed that implementing NGOs are following this general approach to introducing an intervention to a village and working alongside the VDC and/or the VCPC. In a minority of FGDs, there were criticisms of the VDCs and VCPCs with references to “politics” or self-interested decisions being made by the committees. In addition, in some cases the VDCs were not reported as active by the beneficiaries. These instances, though a minority, stress the need maintain contact at the local level to assure accountability, since these structures are a key connection between the programme and end beneficiaries.

Timeliness of delivery and progression of interventions

Delivery of programme activities by each consortium has shown progress over the period covered, and no major roadblocks to following programme work plans were mentioned in interviews. One exception was the note that the delayed budget for Y3Q1 did affect activities for that year. Tables 3 and 4⁵ present the progress each consortia has made towards reaching the targeted programme level of beneficiaries as well as internal targets assigned to delivery of each ECRP intervention. Data is presented as an indication of progress towards

⁵Both consortiums have slightly different methods of compiling these internal data on their activities, and they are not presented here as a comparison.

work plans and implementation, and specifics about each intervention are discussed later in this section.

The Discover Consortium set an ambitious target of reaching full scale in terms of total beneficiaries by June 2014, making their target particularly high. It appears, however, that the Consortium has had difficulty meeting this goal. Interviews did not provide a specific reason that directly addresses why this target was not reached. ECRP, on the other hand, has met its beneficiary target (both discussed more under section 3.3, Outcome 1). Secondly, both consortia show a degree of variability in the roll out of different interventions, with some interventions demonstrating high achievement of targets and others low. For Discover, interventions such as conservation agriculture (CA) and drought tolerant crops have proceeded faster than expected, while for ECRP VSL has proceeded ahead of schedule.

Table 3: Discover progress towards meeting intervention targets.

Intervention	Year 3 Target	Actual	% Target Achieved	% Women
Number of households reached by the program	62,500	18,797 ⁶	30%	
Drought tolerant crops	9,375	26,594	284%	53%
Conservation Agriculture	4,150	7,942	191%	46%
Energy efficient stoves	25,000	16,661	67%	-
Trees planted	4,000,000	2,353,263	59%	-
VSL	24,000	13,259	55%	83%
Irrigation	6,300	3,103	49%	-
Afforestation	27,500	11,887	43%	52%
Microsolar	27,500	5,110	19%	-
Post-Harvest Loss Management	-	6,116	-	57%
Seed systems	-	6,095	-	53%
Livestock	-	2,761	-	56%

Source: Data provided by the Discover Consortium via email.

⁶This number is drawn from the Consortia data tracking of unique households. It is different from the households reached as determined by the household sample survey.

Table 4: ECRP Consortium progress towards meeting intervention targets.

Intervention	Target (March 2014)	Actual	% Target achieved	% Women participants
Number of households reached by the program	31,939	39,940	125%	
Livestock	3,586	3,925	109%	37%
Conservation agriculture	22,341	17,476	78%	56%
VSL	34,385	26,667	78%	65%
Irrigation	7,417	5,456	74%	51%
Post-Harvest Management	34,695	21,998	63%	53%
Receive SMS weather Forecasts	34,859	20,831	60%	60%
Agroforestry	21,904	12,320	56%	56%
Low Carbon Technology	22,983	3,322	14%	59%

Source: Data provided by the ECRP Consortium by email.

Both consortia are considerably behind schedule with scaling up micro-solar interventions, accounting for why progress is low on the intervention for both. In addition, both consortia have cited delays in launching irrigation, corresponding to the low target achievement on that intervention for both. The number of people reached by livestock interventions has overachieved for both consortia, but its targets are relatively low compared to other interventions.

Establishment of functional M&E activities

A substantial assessment of the ECRP programme-wide monitoring and information system (MIS) was conducted in March 2014, just prior to the MTE. The M&E Agency conducted a summary assessment of the state of implementation of the MIS to ensure quality, validity and consistency in monitoring. The assessment included a field mission to IP headquarters as well as a sample of implementing NGOs. Details pertaining to monitoring drawn from the assessment were submitted to DFID in a report in May 2014,⁷ and this work was not duplicated for the MTE. The overarching conclusions from the MIS assessment are summarized below.

- The MIS is ready to be populated with data and is awaiting migration by the Discover consortia. Once this happens (it is currently underway) the MIS will have a portal for each consortium. Subsequently, the MIS IT expert will work to provide a portal for the M&E Agency to further streamline collection of regular reporting data.

⁷ See "Summary Assessment of the State of Implementation of the ECRP Monitoring System," submitted to DFID 15 May 2014.

- It was recommended that DFID support the development and implementation by both IPs of a light household assessment in 2015 to inform the remaining interim-year annual reporting cycle under the programme (October 2015). Plans should be made for this assessment methodology to be reviewed by the M&E Agency before its implementation.
- IPs should use the Annual Report format proposed by the M&E Agency to facilitate consolidation of data at the programme level and update the programme logical framework in their respective reports.
- At field level, most officers implementing M&E functions have limited expertise in M&E. The M&E agency and IPs need to ensure that M&E Officers have the requisite M&E capacity in respect of data collection, analysis and reporting.

During the MTE, the MIS was active and being used to pull numbers. IPs using the MIS mentioned that the system helps them to plan because they can identify beneficiary households based on certain criteria and target certain activities to them.

3.2.2 Programme targeting to beneficiaries

Evidence that intended beneficiaries are being reached

FGDs and interviews showed that the ECRP delivery to intended beneficiaries is being carried out according to the ECRP design and proposals. Several FGDs, on the other hand, did mention that ECRP interventions only reach a small number of villages within a GVH, creating tension for those villages not selected. Beneficiaries recommended scaling up activities to reach more villages within the GVHs.

Also of interest is the degree to which ECRP activities reach vulnerable communities and individuals within its target districts. Both ECRP consortia targeted GVHs and individuals considered to be particularly vulnerable to climate hazards in their programme proposals.⁸ ⁹GVH-level data that could confirm that ECRP activities do indeed take place in the most vulnerable areas within respective districts was not available. Other indications, however, do

⁸Concern Universal (September 2011) *Discover Narrative Proposal*, p21. "The project will be implemented in geographically concentrated areas where the available data at national, district and GVH level show that communities and individuals are most vulnerable to climate change variability. Extensive discussions have taken place with national government and District Councils to arrive at the 104 GVHs included in this project."

⁹ Christian Aid (August 2011) *ECRP Narrative Proposal*, p21. "All target locations were selected primarily due to being at high risk from disasters. Beneficiaries within selected districts were determined based on poverty levels and vulnerability. Working with community representatives, households were classified into 3 broad Wealth Group categories - very poor, poor and better off - based on broad categories including asset ownership such as land and livestock, average income and human resources such as household labour availability. Beneficiaries were selected from poor and very poor groups as these were identified as requiring the most support. A proportion of households from the better-off group were included for specific interventions such as VSL and enterprise development to enhance multiplier effects such as employment creation."

exist that support ECRP's targeting. For example, several of the consortia's targeted districts were identified for food aid distribution in 2013/2014.

Evidence that gender targets are being met

Both the ECRP and Discover consortia have included gender issues in programme design, intervention strategy, programme targets, and programme monitoring and evaluation, making the totality of ECRP's inclusion of gender well rounded and robust. In addition, both consortia are reaching targets that 30% of beneficiary households be female headed households (see Table 5 below).

Tables 3 and 4 above also show the degree to which both consortia engage women in specific interventions. For ECRP Consortium, in 7 out of 8 interventions more than half of participants are women. For Discover, more than half of participants are women in 6 out of 7 interventions. Women's participation is especially high in VSL, as to be expected, with 84% participants being women for Discover and 65% for ECRP.

FGDs carried out for the General MTE posed questions on the ways in which men and women approach programme interventions differently. Groups consistently mentioned that women participate more, often because they are more motivated to participate. Discussions did not reveal ways in which programme implementation has overlooked issues that are significant to women or that would hamper their participation. To the contrary, FGDs confirmed that many interventions are described as particularly useful by women, including cook stoves and VSL.

The MTE FGDs, however, did not have the appropriate time to explore the degree to which women's participation in the programme may lead to meaningful changes in their livelihoods such as status and decision-making. This subject could be looked at in the final programme evaluation.

Efforts to engage marginalised populations

Annual and quarterly reporting for the consortia, SOPs for the interventions and the consortia original proposals include analyses and strategies to make interventions inclusive of marginalised groups, highlighting gender and HIV/AIDS as specific cross-cutting issues.

Both consortia track the number of beneficiaries they reach that pertain to certain marginalised groups, presented in Table 5 below. For both consortia approximately 7% of beneficiaries are widows, and Discover reaches a high number, 12%, of people living with HIV/AIDS. Numbers pertaining to other groups, such as persons with disabilities and orphans, are relatively low.

Table 5: Marginalised groups reached by the two consortia (households).

Discover Consortium			ECRP Consortium		
Number of beneficiaries from marginalized groups	% of total beneficiaries		Number of beneficiaries from marginalized groups	% of total beneficiaries	
Female-headed	6,329	34%	Female-headed	15,128	38%
PLHIV	2,225	12%	Chronically ill	1,732	4%
Widows	1,301	7%	OVC	980	2%
Orphans	414	2%	Disability	874	2%
Disability	346	2%	Widow	2,598	6.5%
All beneficiaries	18,797		All beneficiaries	39,940	

Source: Data provided by consortiaby email.

3.2.3 Delivery, participation and adoption for interventions

Training provided for interventions

The programme uses a variety of methods to deliver training and technical assistance depending on the consortia and also depending on the intervention, and training protocols are described in the SOPs for each consortia. For VSL, typically village agents train groups, and the agents may receive incentives from the VSL group for their work. For farming, such as CA, irrigation and livestock, the implementing NGO either works with the Government Extension Service and/or identifies lead farmers to train who will then train other farmers.

FGDs across the districts visited made a number of statements about their perception of trainings received through the programme. It was equally common to hear positive comments that training was sufficient as it was to hear examples of interventions where training had been insufficient. The totality of FGDs appear to indicate that training for the interventions is of variable quality depending on the specific village. Some of the typical comments received include:¹⁰

- “For VSL the trainers come and call all the VSL groups for an area to come and meet in one place. It’s a problem.” (Salima)
- “The problem with training is that not everyone attends. They come and select just a few and ask them to go and teach others, but then they don’t.” (Balaka)

¹⁰Districts are shown next to the quotes here to illustrate that comments came from a variety of districts and not to imply that training is either working or not working in an entire district.

- “The lead farmers went for training but they only take one person, so if we trained as a group it would be better. We would like to all go and get training so we know what we are doing.” (Nsanje)
- “The time was not enough compared to the things we learned and so many things were squeezed in that little time hence we were not able to get the real idea.” (Mulanje)
- “There are 147 people in the irrigation scheme and 20 were trained. The ones trained said that they trained other people....but others say that there were no meetings and that they weren’t trained.” (Nsanje)
- “However, those of us in VSL group need some training. We need to be trained on how we can be running it. From the kick start we never have been followed up to see how we are doing.” (Dedza)

Examples of statements where training was working well:

- “COOPI came about 3 times a week if it is the peak season. They are quite active. When they come they actually visit the farms.” (Salima)
- “We have been trained and the training was enough. In livestock we were taught about breeding and we are able to do that. We also report to the right people if the animal is sick. We are able to know the signs of a sick goat.” (Kasungu)
- “There are also VSL agents who look after 18 groups, each group is visited twice a month.” (Mulanje)

Quality of Implementation

While overall FGDs spoke of positive interactions and support with implementing NGOs and positive experiences with interventions, there were a small number of complaints about the quality of certain interventions. In Salima, Balaka and Machinga FGDs mentioned that seeds that had been distributed to them for crop diversification arrived either late and/or rotted. They emphasized that if the seeds do not arrive in time for the growing season then it is a problem. In Nsanje, farmers mentioned that half of their goats died because they weren’t appropriate for the location.

FGDs in Machinga and Nsanje mentioned that they experienced problems with equipment for irrigation. In Nsanje the materials received to operate a system of treadle pumps were incompatible and farmers could not use them. These types of mistakes delay planting and compromise the effectiveness of interventions.

While the mentioned problems were not the majority of cases in the GVHs visited for the MTE, the discussions do reflect the need for beneficiaries to receive appropriate inputs at the appropriate time. In addition to the waste in costs, the disillusionment created for

beneficiaries could hamper future adoption and participation. Finally, high staff turnover was observed, particularly at Action Aid Nsanje, and the negative consequences of this on implementation of activities in terms of timeliness and quality was clear.

Handouts vs. No handouts approach

The General MTE encountered a number of conversations both with IPs, implementing NGOs and FGDs regarding the provision of fertiliser or other supplementary inputs to beneficiaries. This applied particularly to the promotion of conservation agriculture. The ECRP Consortium, in particular, has adopted a “no handouts” strategy where they use VSL not only as an entry point to communities but also as a way to generate the money needed to purchase the inputs necessary for implementing other projects. With Discover, while the consortium also aims for interventions to be successful without providing inputs, does give initial inputs for some interventions. Both consortia provide seeds and livestock, but with the expectation that these form part of a ‘pass-on’ approach.

The MTE received mixed feedback in relation to the no hand-outs approach. Some stakeholders felt that it was unfair to ask lead farmers, for instance, to volunteer without being given any incentive. Other stakeholders felt that because other NGOs provide inputs, not doing so places the programme at a disadvantage in recruiting beneficiaries or achieving impact. On the other hand, VSL participants regularly mentioned that they could use their VSL savings to purchase inputs like fertilizer and assets such as livestock.

The efficacy of the different approaches can be measured in terms of short-term gains in yield or assets or in the ability to reach the target beneficiaries. It does not appear to have limited the ability of the ECRP consortium to reach its beneficiary targets, but a more detailed analysis of the sustainability of interventions adopted under different conditions and the subsequent increases in yield or incomes could be a topic of study in the programme’s final evaluation.

Beneficiary experiences with the different ECRP interventions

Much of the FGDs were dedicated to discussing the way beneficiaries view the different interventions that they participate in and the benefits they see from these interventions. Annex F summarises the ensemble of beneficiary comments on interventions identifying benefits, challenges, synergies with other interventions and concerns for moving forward.

Overall, VSL and CA appear to be the most popular interventions, whether because they are promoted the most by IPs or because their benefits are appreciated by participants. **VSL groups** were viewed especially positively, with a large variety of benefits being mentioned consistently across many groups. Importantly, the majority of VSL groups report smooth functioning, and the primary challenge indicates that the intervention may be “running ahead” of the programme, with beneficiaries eager to understand how they can expand

business activities, increase savings amounts, graduate to larger finance activities and form new groups.

Conservation agriculture (which is applied with crop diversification although the two have been separated in the discussion to identify crop diversification without CA), received strong positive comments from beneficiaries in terms of its ability to protect yields in the face of moisture stress; however, the approach also produces a number of comments about negative experiences from farmers. The sum of FGDs regarding CA seem to indicate that while benefits are strong and interest is high, quality and intensity of training to ensure that farmers have the ability to resolve problems when they experience challenges with the approach is key.

Livestock was a particularly positive intervention, though its scale is small and the potential for rapid up-scaling of the pass-along is low. **Cook stoves** proved to be popular on the demand side, with participants describing high use of the stoves, but problematic on the supply side, with producers citing difficulties sourcing raw materials and transporting stoves to market. **Irrigation** is slightly inconclusive at this point since the schemes had started relatively recently and only a limited number of participants in the FGDs were part of an operational scheme. However, beneficiaries frequently expressed interest and appreciation of this intervention.

Disaster Risk Reduction, which most often included establishing plans through VCPCs and EWSs, was difficult to interpret. Most villages appeared to have a functioning VCPC and EWS, while in several villages it was not clear that it was working. **Afforestation/agroforestry** was also difficult to interpret since woodlots were still young, and the benefits of the intervention are mostly medium to long term.

Micro-solar and post-harvest management are not included in the tables below because there were very few, almost no participants in these interventions present in the FGDs (for micro-solar it seems likely that this reflected the low performance of the intervention), but for post-harvest management this could be because FGDs spoke about a large number of interventions and did not necessarily focus on this intervention in priority in making their points.

According to implementing NGO interviews, **micro-solar** presents consistent problems. In addition to challenges with providers – one provider liquidated and in other cases the provider is located far away – the products themselves are expensive and there were multiple examples where products arrived late or seemed faulty. For **post-harvest management**, certain NGOs described positive experiences while others mentioned that specific granary techniques were not appreciated by beneficiaries.

Finally, it is important to stress that most FGDs had started implementing interventions in either 2012 or 2013, meaning that their experience with the intervention was of one to two years maximum. With the MTE taking place at this time, it is important to temper the degree to which both successes and challenges with the interventions are indicative of the long term.

Combinations of interventions

Interviews with implementing NGOs and the FGDs across the operational areas of the two IPs highlighted that many stakeholders have confidence that multiple interventions targeted to households is beneficial in improving household resilience. In particular, as illustrated in Table 6, the ECRP Consortium has focused specifically on encouraging the adoption of multiple interventions by particular beneficiaries. Those implementing three or more interventions now make up 58% of the total group.

Table 6: Number of beneficiaries participating in multiple interventions.

ECRP Consortium: Number of Interventions per Beneficiary		
Number of Interventions	Households	Percent
One	8,966	22%
Two	7,927	20%
Three	7,710	19%
4 or more	15,337	39%
Total	39,940	100%

Source: ECRP internal data tracking provided by email

3.2.4 Is there evidence that ECRP activities have greater benefits than costs?

If benefits associated with ECRP activities are quantified, how do they compare with costs?

Two cost-benefit case studies were produced to investigate the benefits accruing to beneficiaries as a result of the investments made by the programme. Over a ten year period, assuming that the benefits identified in the case study sites are similar across the programme, then for every £1 invested in establishing village savings and loan groups, around £10 of benefits were generated for beneficiaries in the Discover sites, and £29 in the ECRP Consortium sites.

For a package of three interventions intended to increase incomes from crop production, each £1 invested generated a further £2.91 across the Discover programme and £3.17 across the ECRP programme. Assuming continued distribution of seed for a further year and a 60% success rate for the pass-on programme, the benefits could increase to £5.31 for

Discoverand £3.50 for the ECRP Consortium. Methods and assumptions are described in more detail in the Value for Money Assessment report produced as an annex to this report.

How does implementing interventions in combination affect costs and benefit ratios?

It is expected that implementing interventions in combination has reduced programme costs, as long as it is within the capacity of the small field teams to deliver the full package of interventions to a sufficient quality and that the costs of management are shared across the whole programme. However, the operational approach adopted by the particular implementing partner is likely to have an equally important impact on the cost. For example, in the case of some interventions, such as irrigation and DRR, there is a high degree of variation in costs per output which might suggest that more focused approaches delivered through a smaller and more specialised team could also drive down costs.

It is also evident that, assuming each intervention has a benefit in terms of income or food security, that the greater number of interventions reaching a beneficiary the greater the benefits to that intervention and that there may be multiplier effects associated with particular combinations. The following multiplier effects were identified within the focus group discussions conducted by the VfM team:

- VSL beneficiaries, noted the linked benefits if loans were used to procure additional agricultural inputs such as fertiliser. This further improves yield from improved seed. However, there are limits to the effectiveness of fertiliser on soils which have declining soil organic matter, therefore it is likely that incorporating mulching material into the soil will increase the effectiveness of this fertiliser over time.
- Conservation farming techniques have the capacity to multiply the benefits achieved from planting improved seed, especially under years with dry spells. If only seeds or only conservation farming were adopted, benefits would be reduced.
- Storage of seed in group granaries limited the likelihood of eating/selling OPV grain and improves the likelihood of 'pass-on'.
- As yields increase from improved seed, the total financial cost of post-harvest losses becomes greater as higher volumes of grain is stored for longer. If the percentage of grain lost during storage is reduced through improved storage techniques, then this will increase benefits as volumes of grain stored increase. If yields increase enough to enable some crops to be sold, post-harvest storage also strengthens the ability of households to benefit from higher prices later in the year. However these benefits were not mentioned by most ECRP beneficiaries who reported consuming most of their harvest.
- Whilst it was not investigated as part of this assessment, it is also likely that there are linked benefits between the livestock and crop programmes as availability of manure from livestock was cited as another potentially important factor in improving yields. However, this intervention is only reaching a relatively small number of households.

What are the specific characteristics, if identifiable, that make some activities and/or combination of activities more cost effective and provide better value for money than others?

It is hard to make a conclusive statement on the value for money of investments in the full range of interventions under ECRP, as the cost-benefit case study under the VFM component of the MTE was only produced for two interventions. However, the efficiency analysis examined the cost-per-output of most of the ECRP interventions.

A low cost per beneficiary is associated with those activities that do not require procurement of inputs, which include VSL, Conservation Agriculture and Post-Harvest Storage (under the ECRP Consortium). Whilst VSL delivers a large benefit per beneficiary for low investment, the benefits from conservation agriculture and post-harvest storage are more modest and, based on the outcomes of focus group discussions, appear more subject to variation in quality of implementation and adoption. However, the benefits of the two sets of interventions are complementary.

Interventions with a higher cost per beneficiary are those activities which are associated with high cost inputs, such as irrigation and livestock. However, without information about the benefits accruing to beneficiaries from participation in these activities, it is impossible to know whether the comparatively higher costs might reflect benefits that are even higher.

Training solar entrepreneurs is also substantially more expensive than producing low-cost stoves but the quality of benefits delivered by each of these activities varies significantly so without further analysis of benefits, it is not possible to make a direct comparison.

The strengthening of CPCs is also a relatively high cost activity, but if this translates to tangible improvements in services for communities, it has the potential to reach a much larger number of people than ECRP alone. Therefore, without further information about the quantifiable impacts on an individual it is hard to assess the cost-effectiveness of the DRR interventions.

3.2.5 Conclusion on Effectiveness

The MTE finds that the programme as a whole is successfully introducing interventions to communities in a way that follows the programme's approach to engaging local structures. Gender issues have been incorporated in the design, implementation and M&E of the programme. In addition, specific types of marginalised groups are considered in intervention design and tracked, though this component is not as robust as the approach to gender. The programme appears to appropriately target vulnerable districts, GVHs, and individuals, though specific localized data are not available to verify this.

In terms of timeliness and quality of interventions, both consortia have made progress towards their activity targets, albeit to varying degree. In some cases, delays in certain

interventions such as irrigation and solar were noted. In addition, it is notable that the Discover consortium has missed its target of direct beneficiaries by a large margin.

Regarding quality, while the overall MTE field visits saw high quality projects in place, in a small number of FGDs quality issues such as delayed or inappropriate provisions of inputs were noted. In addition, this included the quality of technical assistance, where in cases where training and support were inadequate, interventions functioned less or not at all, and beneficiaries were soured to the intervention.

A number of overarching conclusions regarding specific interventions were noted. VSL and CA are the stand out interventions with multiple ways of improving food security and wealth. Micro-solar appears to be grossly under-performing, and the MTE has identified it as an intervention that could either be scaled down or replaced by strengthening other interventions. Importantly, beneficiaries seem to be engaged in multiple interventions and experiencing synergies between them.

3.3 ECRP Results Achieved thus Far

This section specifically reviews the progress towards the ECRP Programme logical framework performance indicators, drawing on data from the household survey to assess progress towards higher level results. An updated logical framework will be produced as part of the MTE Final Report to further summarise this progress, after the discussion on this draft report and further analysis and data validation is conducted. The preliminary findings are thus presented below as one of the basis for the workshop discussions on July 10th in Lilongwe.

3.3.1 Progress towards impact

Impact: Reduction in extreme poverty and hunger in Malawi

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

Using the household sample survey, the MTE found that 86% of beneficiary households are in income poverty.¹¹ The results show that there has been no change in income poverty since baseline in 2012, when income poverty was also 86% (see Table 7).

National-level data shows an increase in poverty of 11.7% in the operational areas of both consortia. This suggest that programme beneficiary households may have fared better than

¹¹ Based on an exchange rate of 350 MWK to 1 USD (average exchange rate in 2013-4); poverty line used in calculation is MK 61,000 per equivalised person per year, which is the 2012 figure (40,000) multiplied by rural inflation to April 2014 from the Malawi National Statistics Office site.

average households in ECRP districts by sustaining a similar level of wealth in the period since the baseline was produced.

Table 7: Percentage of population living on or less than \$1.00 a day

Level of analysis	Sample segment	Baseline value, 2012	June 2014 Target	MTE (June 2014), Actual	Variance (A) Between planned and actual MTE values	Variance (B) between MTE and baseline values
At overall programme level	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in impact area)	86%	80%	86.0%	-6	0
	National Level data (2009 for baseline and 2012 for MTE)	39%	33%	50.7%	-18	-11.7
	Male headed households (MHH) in impact area	84%	78%	81.6%	-4	2.4
	Female headed households (FHH) in impact area	91%	85%	90.5%	-5	0.5
For Discover consortium	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in impact area)	85%	79%	84.2%	-5	0.8
	National Level data (2009)	39%	33%	50.7%	-18	-11.7
For ECRP consortium	Value from baseline survey analysis (All households in impact area)	87%	81%	87.9%	-7	-0.8
	National Level data (2009)	39%	33%	50.7%	-18	-11.7

When beneficiary households were asked whether they felt their income had increased over the past two years, 24% of beneficiaries reported a perceived increase in income, 20% reported a constant income while 57% reported a perceived decrease in income (see Table 8). These responses likely relate to the political, economic, and governance challenges faced by Malawi during the time period, as well as the climate challenges facing communities (described in section 3.1.1).

Table 8: Perceived changes in income in ECRP beneficiary households from baseline to MTE (2012 to 2014).

How income increased or decreased	Discover			ECRP			Programme		
	MHH	FHH	Overall	MHH	FHH	Overall	MHH	FHH	Overall
Increased greatly	4.0%	2.0%	3.0%	5.0%	4.0%	4.5%	5%	3%	4%
Increased	22.0%	13.0%	17.5%	29.0%	15.0%	22.0%	26%	14%	20%
Remained constant	26.0%	20.0%	23.0%	17.0%	18.0%	17.5%	22%	19%	20%
Decreased	36.0%	40.0%	38.0%	40.0%	48.0%	44.0%	38%	44%	41%
Decreased greatly	12.0%	26.0%	19.0%	9.0%	16.0%	12.5%	11%	21%	16%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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

The food insecure population in programme targeted districts decreased from the 2012/13 to 2013/2014 consumption years at the programme level and also for both consortia. At the same time, five districts have seen large increases in food insecurity, indicating substantial geographic variation. Also of importance, the 2012/13 and the 2013/14 consumption years had the highest and second highest, respectively, estimates of food insecurity in the past 7 years of MVAC reporting. Table 9 below details the forecast population affected by food insecurity in the ECRP districts.

Table 9: Projection of population affected by food insecurity in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 consumption years for programme districts.

District	2012/13 Consumption Year	2013/14 Consumption Year	Variance from 2012/13 to 2013/14	Variance(%) from 2012/13 to 2013/14
DISCOVER Consortium Districts	383,881	347,858	-36,023	-9%
ECRP Consortium Districts	713,987	547,753	-166,234	-23%
Balaka (Discover)	208,501	95,647	-112,854	-54%
Chikwawa (ECRP)	275,653	110,976	-164,677	-60%
Dedza (Discover)	70,406	56,262	-14,144	-20%
Karonga (Discover)	n/a	56,005	56,005	-
Kasungu (ECRP)	n/a	113,813	113,813	-

Machinga (ECRP)	20,556	114,234	93,678	456%
Mulanje (ECRP)	196,847	37,501	-159,346	-81%
Mwanza (ECRP)	1,404	71,358	69,954	4982%
Nsanje (Both)	105,012	81,154	-23,858	-23%
Salima (Discover)	52,468	99,367	46,899	89%
Thyolo (ECRP)	167,021	59,294	-107,727	-64%
Programme Districts	1,097,868	895,611	-202,257	-18%

Source: MVAC Annual Assessment Report, November 2013.

In addition to MVAC data, the Baseline and the Mid-term studies analysed the median months of food per household that remained at the time of the survey.¹² Table 10 below shows that at programme level, the median number of months that food stock would last was 2.0 months at baseline, with Districts such as Nsanje, Mulanje, Thyolo, Balaka and Mwanza registering the lowest food stores. At mid-term, the median increased to 3.0 months, therefore corroborating the improvement trend highlighted by the MVAC data. (This question was asked to households approximately two months earlier in the consumption year for the mid-term compared to the baseline.)

Table 10: Median months of food left per household

Programme District	2012 Baseline			2014 Mid-term		
	All HH	MHH	FHH	All HH	MHH	FHH
Overall programme	2	2.4	1.5	3	3.5	2.6
DISCOVER CONSORTIUM	2.2	2.7	1.7	2.9	3.2	2.6
Karonga	2.2	2.5	1.4	3	2.7	3.3
Salima	3.3	4.9	2.7	2.8	3.2	2.3
Dedza	3.5	4	2.5	4.5	5	4
Nsanje Discover	1	1	1	0.9	0.9	0.8
Balaka	1	1.1	0.7	3.6	4.4	2.8
ECRP CONSORTIUM	1.8	2	1.4	3.1	3.7	2.6
Kasungu	3.8	4.6	2.5	1.6	1.5	1.7
Machinga	2	2.5	1.1	5.1	5.9	4.2
Mwanza	1.4	1.6	0.9	2.1	2.5	1.6
Thyolo	1.6	1.7	1.4	5.2	5.8	4.5
Mulanje	0.5	0.4	0.5	4.3	5	3.6
Chikhwawa	2.9	2.7	3.3	2.2	3	1.4
Nsanje ECRP	0.5	0.5	0.3	1.5	2	1

¹² Calorie kilogram equivalents of stored crops, assuming household consumption of 2,100 calories/day/equivalised adult.

Impact Indicator 3: Number of direct beneficiaries that passed through at least 9 months with food from their own production

In addition, Table 11 shows that the percentage of households that had food for at least 9 months of the year has doubled from 15% to 31% at the programme level. MoreMHHs had food for at least 9 months than FHHs. However, the rate of food security improvement has been similar between the two household types with MHH increasing from 19% at baseline to 36% at mid-term, and FHH increasing from 11% to 27%.

The programme has nevertheless under-achieved the targets of 56% of all households having food for at least 9 months. The notable observation, however, is that the programme is moving in the right direction. The ECRP Consortium made slightly stronger progress towards this target than the Discover Consortium.

In addition, there are many other factors that are likely to influence this metric, in particular the Malawi Farm Input Subsidy Programme (some programme beneficiaries are recipients), and changing agro-climatic conditions across years and localized geographies.

Table 11: Number of direct beneficiaries that passed through at least 9 months with food from their own production.

	HH	Baseline value, 2012 (A)			June 2014 Target (additional beneficiaries) (B)			MTE (June 2014) Actual (C)			Variance btn planned and actual MTE values, (C-B)		
		% of HH	Ppl	HH	% HH	Ppl	HH	% of HH	Ppl	HH	% Change	Ppl	HH
Programme level	All HH	15%	90,550	18,480	56%	340,425	69,475	31%	105,849	19,037	-25%	-234,576	-50,438
	MHH	19%						36%					
	FHH	11%						27%					
Discover Consortium	All HH	16%	44,759	9,747	65%	194,025	39,597	28%	30,368	5,263	-37%	-163,657	-34,334
	MHH	20%						32%					
	FHH	12%						24%					
ECRP Consortium	All HH	15%	45,750	9,337	48%	146,400	29,878	35%	75,480	13,774	-14%	-70,920	-16,104
	MHH	19%						40%					
	FHH	11%						29%					

3.3.2 Progress towards Outcome

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

Outcome Indicator 1: Number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) benefiting from the programme

In total, the programme has reached 327,242 direct beneficiaries (individuals) from 58,721 households (Table 12). The planned target was for the programme to reach at mid-term 428,563 direct beneficiaries from 87,462 households. With this coverage the programme has only met 76% of the set target, or an underperformance of 24%. Out of the total individuals reached by the programme, the number of beneficiaries from FHH is 119,420, or 16% short of the planned target of 142,400. It is worth noting that the percentage of FHH of total beneficiary households has been exceeded by both consortia and the Programme.

Table 12: Number of direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) benefiting from the programme.

	Sample segment	Baseline 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual June 2014 (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)	
					Number	%
Programme	Number of direct beneficiaries reached (individuals)	0	428,563	327,242	-101,321	-24%
	Number of direct beneficiaries reached (households)		87,462	58,721	- 28,741	-33%
	Out of those reached, the number of beneficiaries from female headed households (individuals)	0	142,400	119,420	-22,980	-16%
Discover Consortium	Number of direct beneficiaries reached (individuals)	0	298,500	108,459	-190,041	-64%
	Number of direct beneficiaries reached (households)		60,918	18,797	-42,121	-69%
	Out of those reached, the number of beneficiaries from female headed households (individuals)	0	99,500	36,518	-62,982	-63%
ECRP Consortium	Number of direct beneficiaries reached (individuals)	0	130,000	218,784	88,784	68%
	Number of direct beneficiaries reached (households)		26,531	39,924	13,393	50%
	Out of those reached, the number of beneficiaries from female headed households (individuals)	0	42,900	82,901	40,001	93%
MVA	Old members	15	35	22	-13	-37%
	New members		8	6	-2	-25%
	District government officers		20	-	-20	0%

Comparing between consortia, the ECRP Consortium overachieved its target of reaching out to 130,000 and actually reached 218,784, representing an over-performance of 68%. To the contrary, the Discover Consortium underperformed on this indicator. The Discover target was that by mid-term all beneficiaries (298,500) would have been reached. However, only 108,459, were reached, representing an underperformance of 64%.

For MVAC, the performance up to 2012, was quite good, and its targets were on course to be met; however, this progress was curtailed with the budget freeze to the Malawi Government. Due to MVAC funding problems and limited implementation of activities, MVAC has also not met its targets.

The total number of **direct and indirect** beneficiaries targeted is 950,000. The programme has reached 865,206, representing an underachievement of 10% (Table 13). While Discover underachieved in terms of direct beneficiaries, it overachieved with indirect beneficiaries, which has also improved the overall performance of the whole programme on the indicator. The ECRP Consortium has underachieved on indirect beneficiaries, though the main reason for the under-performance could be related to the way data is collected in relation to this indicator.

Table 13: Total number of beneficiaries reached by the programme

Level of analysis	Sample segment	Baseline value 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014) (C)	Variance between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)	
					Number	%
Programme	Total number of beneficiaries-direct and indirect (individuals)	0	950,000	865,206	- 84,794	-9%
Discover Consortium	Total number of beneficiaries-direct and indirect (individuals)	0	450,000	526,603	76,603	17%
ECRP Consortium	Total number of beneficiaries-direct and indirect (individuals)	0	500,000	338,604	- 161,396	-32%
MVAC	Total number of beneficiaries-direct and indirect (individuals)-these are already included in the overall ECRP figures	0	200,000	200,000	-	0%

Outcome Indicator 2: Number of households that are resilient to climatic variability and change.

Sub-indicator 2.1: Change in the level of real household income for targeted direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by household headship)

The data presented in Table 14 below give median total household income in thousands of MK and in USD at the exchange that prevailed during the 2013/2014 reference period (about MK380 to \$1).

Table 14: Change in the level of real household income for targeted direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by household headship)

	HH	Currency	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		% change from baseline
						Number	Variance as % of targets	
Programme	All HH	MK	28,000	30,800	62,800	32,000	104%	124%
		USD	170	187	165	-22	-12%	-3%
	MHH	MK	34,000	37,400	77,000	39,600	106%	126%
		USD	206	227	203	-24	-11%	-1%
	FHH	MK	16,000	17,600	34,000	16,400	93%	113%
		USD	97	107	89	-17	-17%	-8%
Discover Consortium	All HH	MK	26,000	28,600	61,700	33,100	116%	137%
		USD	158	174	162	-11	-7%	3%
	MHH	MK	35,000	38,500	75,700	37,200	97%	116%
		USD	212	233	199	-34	-15%	-6%
	FHH	MK	16,000	17,600	34,000	16,400	93%	113%
		USD	97	107	89	-17	-17%	-8%
ECRP Consortium	All HH	MK	29000	31,900	65,200	33,300	104%	125%
		USD	176	194	172	-22	-11%	-2%
	MHH	MK	33600	36,960	85,100	48,140	130%	153%
		USD	203	223	224	1	0%	10%
	FHH	MK	16600	18,260	34,700	16,440	90%	109%
		USD	101	111	91	-20	-18%	-10%

Similar to the baseline exercise, the MTE collected household income data for the year 2013/2014 for all survey participants from all sources that the household used to earn income over the reference period (past 12 months).¹³ Results of the MTE household survey show that the target for the average annual real income for all ECRP Districts has been missed by a shortfall of 13%. In fact, the real household income has slightly decreased from \$170 to \$165. However, in Malawi Kwacha terms, the income has doubled from an average of MK 28,000 to about MK 62,800, representing an over-performance of 114%. Comparing between consortia, Discover has registered an increase in income in Kwacha of 127% compared to 114% for ECRP.

Sub-indicator 2.2: Change in the median capital asset value per targeted household (USD) disaggregated by household headship

Results from the MTE household survey show that the mean capital asset value amongst sampled households has significantly tripled from an average MK18,750 (about \$114) per household to MK60,300 (see Table 15 below). The mean capital asset value in Kwacha terms amongst Discover beneficiaries increased by 63% from MK25,100 (about \$152) to MK45,065. For the ECRP Consortium, the indicator increased by 128% from an average value of MK21,250 (about \$129) at baseline to MK53,339 now. There were strong gender differences between male-headed and female-headed households in that more increases in asset values were observed in the male-headed households.

¹³ These sources included, but were not limited to, crop production sales, livestock production sales, natural resources production sales, formal permanent employment, casual labour (*ganyu*), semi-skilled contract work, income generating activities, asset sales, land rentals, gifts/remittances, pensions and others. The methodology used to collect data was adapted from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Joint Task Force.

Table 15: Change in the median capital asset value per targeted household (USD) disaggregated by household headship

Level of analysis	Sample segment	Currency	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		% increase from baseline
						Number	Variance as % of targets	
Programme	All HH	MK	18,750	20,625	60,300	39,675	192%	222%
		USD	114	125	159	34	27%	39%
	MHH	MK	25,100	27,610	72,107	44,497	161%	187%
		USD	152	167	190	23	14%	25%
	FHH	MK	9,950	10,945	26,297	15,352	140%	164%
		USD	60	66	69	3	5%	15%
Discover Consortium	All HH	MK	25,100	27,610	45,065	17,455	63%	80%
		USD	152	167	119	-48	-29%	-22%
	MHH	MK	33,000	36,300	69,464	33,164	91%	110%
		USD	200	220	183	-37	-17%	-9%
	FHH	MK	13,050	14,355	20,666	6,311	44%	58%
		USD	79	87	54	-33	-38%	-32%
For ECRP consortium	All HH	MK	21,250	23,375	53,339	29,964	128%	151%
		USD	129	142	140	-2	-1%	9%
	MHH	MK	21,250	23,375	74,750	51,375	220%	252%
		USD	129	142	197	55	39%	53%
	FHH	MK	8,100	8,910	31,928	23,018	258%	294%
		USD	49	54	84	30	56%	71%

Table 16 below shows that all districts recorded increase in asset value. Focus group and key informant interviews reported that households were using VSL income to buy livestock such as goats and chickens for their domestic uses. Others were using VSL loans to buy stock for their businesses, while others were using harvests from crop diversification to buy households' assets. Together all these lead to increased value of assets owned by a particular household. The increase in asset values was also influenced by the devaluation of the Kwacha by 49% which was done by the Malawi Government in May 2013. In addition, inflation likely played a role in the increased values.

Table 16: Asset values (in MK and USD) by District

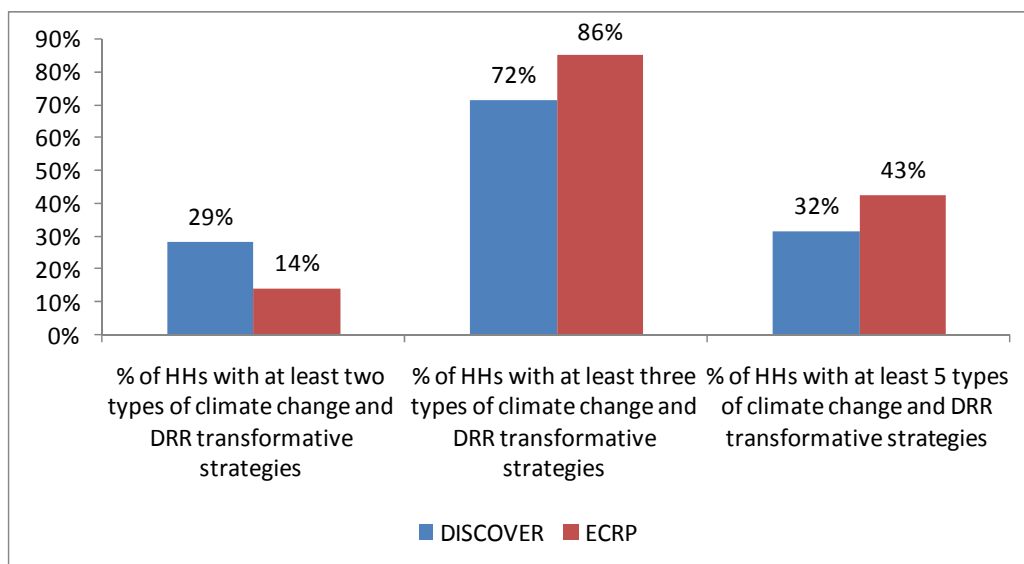
District	Baseline 2012			Mid-term review 2014		% Increase/Decrease	
	Household headship	MK Median Asset value	\$ Median Asset value	MK Median Asset value	\$ Median Asset value	MK	\$
Karonga	MHH	79,750	483	241,924	637	203%	32%
	FHH	27,000	164	116,600	307	332%	87%
	Total	62,450	378	179,262	472	187%	25%
Kasungu	MHH	35,500	215	88,635	233	150%	8%
	FHH	10,200	62	34,769	91	241%	48%
	Total	28,500	173	61,702	162	116%	-6%
Salima	MHH	29,100	176	70,972	187	144%	6%
	FHH	17,000	103	27,741	73	63%	-29%
	Total	25,400	154	49,356	130	94%	-16%
Dedza	MHH	23,000	139	52,644	139	129%	0%
	FHH	6,300	38	11,400	30	81%	-21%
	Total	16,000	97	32,022	84	100%	-13%
Machinga	MHH	17,910	109	75,000	197	319%	81%
	FHH	6,600	40	24,535	65	272%	61%
	Total	12,500	76	49,767	131	298%	72%
Mwanza	MHH	21,000	127	65,761	173	213%	36%
	FHH	2,400	15	47,481	125	1878%	733%
	Total	12,650	77	56,621	149	348%	94%
Thyolo	MHH	17,600	107	65,569	173	273%	61%
	FHH	6,600	40	14,779	39	124%	-3%
	Total	13,500	82	40,174	106	198%	29%
Mulanje	MHH	14,600	88	90,419	238	519%	170%
	FHH	5,600	34	24,500	64	338%	90%
	Total	11,500	70	57,459	151	400%	116%
Chikhwawa	MHH	19,200	116	63,603	167	231%	44%
	FHH	13,850	84	24,535	65	77%	-23%
	Total	17,900	108	44,069	116	146%	7%
Balaka	MHH	24,250	147	63,000	166	160%	13%
	FHH	10,115	61	14,547	38	44%	-37%
	Total	16,900	102	38,774	102	129%	0%
Nsanje Discover	MHH	21,450	130	18,714	49	-13%	-62%
	2 Female	6,800	41	13,880	37	104%	-11%
	Total	15,700	95	16,297	43	4%	-55%
Nsanje ECRP	MHH	21,450	130	66,771	176	211%	35%
	2 Female	6,800	41	33,629	88	395%	116%
	Total	15,700	95	50,200	132	220%	39%

District	Baseline 2012			Mid-term review 2014		% Increase/Decrease	
	Household headship	MK Median Asset value	\$ Median Asset value	MK Median Asset value	\$ Median Asset value	MK	\$
Total	MHH	25,100	152	72,107	190	187%	25%
	2 Female	9,950	60	26,297	69	164%	15%
	Total	18,750	114	49,202	129	162%	14%

Sub-indicator 2.3: Number of direct beneficiaries (% of targeted households) using a combination of at least three types of climate change and DRR transformative strategies

As already discussed, part of the programme strategy includes providing multiple adaptive practices to households to increase resilience. The figure below shows households that are using a number of these technologies in the ECRP Programme as a whole. Figure 1 below shows that a significant number of households are using three or more strategies, and the number is slightly higher for the ECRP Consortium, which emphasizes this approach building on VSL membership in most cases.

Figure 1: Percent of households practicing multiple climate change and DRR transformative strategies.



At baseline, slightly above half of the households (45.6%) surveyed practiced at least three of the above climate change and DRR transformative strategies. The MTE results in Table 17 below show an improvement from 45.6% to 78% of direct beneficiaries (% of targeted

households) using a combination of at least three types of strategies. These strategies are the main interventions of the programme. That being said, the programme still falls short of the target set for this outcome level performance indicator. This is essentially due the Discover consortium not reaching its target, while the ECRP consortium has surpassed its target.

Table 17: Number of direct beneficiaries (% of targeted households) using a combination of at least three types of climate change and DRR transformative strategies (solar, irrigation, livestock, Income Generating Activities (IGA), agro-forestry, conservation agriculture, drought/flood tolerant crops)

	Sample segment	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)	
					Number	%	Number	Number
Programme	Number of all people (individuals)	275,417	392,586	266,244	-126,342	-32%	-9,173	-3%
	Number of households	56,207	80,120	45,802	-34,318	-43%	-10,405	-19%
	% (of HHs)	45.60%	80%	78%			32%	
Discover Consortium	Number of all people (individuals)	125,967	236,937	78,090	-158,847	-67%	-47,877	-38%
	Number of households	25,507	48,355	13,534	-34,821	-72%	-11,973	-47%
	% (of HHs)	42.20%	80%	72%			30%	
ECRP Consortium	Number of all people (individuals)	149,450	156,502	188,154	31,652	20%	38,704	26%
	Number of households	30,500	31,939	34,335	2,396	8%	3,835	13%
	% (of HHs)	49%	80%	86%			37%	

Outcome Indicator 3: Number and type of DRM or climate change adaptation policies and programmes positively influenced by ECRP at national, district and local levels

The programme has surpassed by a large margin this target, and the new policies and programmes recorded in Table 18 are listed below. The ways in which they were targeted and informed by the programme are described in more detail under the closely related Output 5 discussion further below.

The MTE gathered information relating to five policies and one donor programme that were influenced by ECRP. They include:

1. The Draft National Climate Change Policy
2. The Draft National Disaster Risk Management Bill
3. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy
4. Budgetary allocations
5. The National Agriculture Policy and the National Energy Policy
6. The European Union Climate Change Programme

MVAC, through creation of food insecurity forecasts, has also supplied 3 programmes/policies with influential data:

1. Malawi Millennium Development Goals
2. Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
3. Cost of Hunger Project

Table 18: Number and type of DRM or climate change adaptation policies and programmes positively influenced by ECRP at national, District and local levels

Level of analysis	Sample segment	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)
At overall programme level	New or amended polices or programmes	0	5	9
Discover	New or amended polices or programmes	0	2	3
ECRP	New or amended polices or programmes	0	2	3
MVAC	Policies or programmes influenced	0	3	3

3.3.3 Progress towards outputs

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

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

This indicator moved from 20% of targeted households sensitised at baseline to 26% at mid-term at the programme level (Table 19). The indicator moved by 9% in Discover districts compared to 3% in ECRP districts. Even though the indicators has improved from baseline, the programme is far from meeting its 45% target.

Table 19: Percentage of targeted households that are sensitised to climate change and have knowledge of at least 3 solutions that enhance individual and community resilience to climate related disasters and variability

Level of analysis	Sample segment		Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)	
						Number	%	Number	%
At overall programme level	Knew at least 3 climate change solution	%	20%	45%	26%		-20%		6%
		HHS	24982						
Discover	Knew at least 3 climate change solution	%	16.0%	45%	25%	0	-44%		9%
		HHS	9868						
ECRP	Knew at least 3 climate change solution	%	23.0%	45%	26%		-19%		3%
		HHS	14091						

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

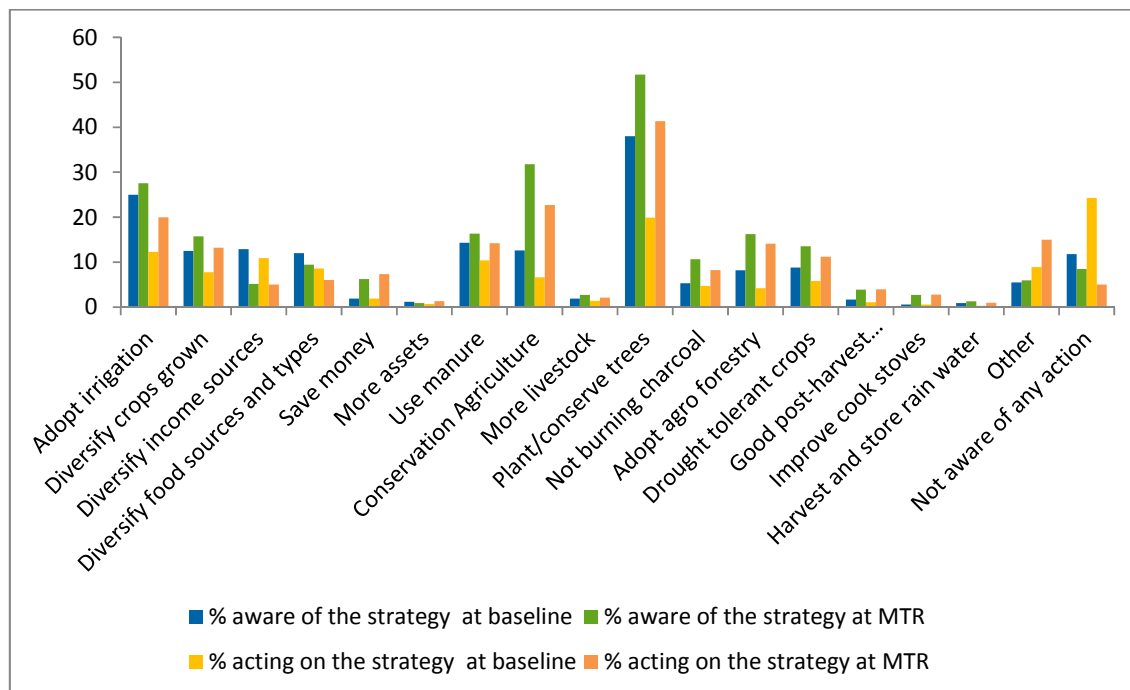
Table 20 shows the percentages of households that knew about a particular adaptation strategy and those who had acted on it or were using it at June 2014. Figure 2 shows the comparison between 2013 and the baseline. This shows a lag between awareness of a particular climate change adaptation strategy and its actual use by the same households.

Table 20: MTE values for Output Sub-indicator 1.1.3 (Percentage of targeted households that are aware of individual climate adaption strategies and take action on them)

Adaptation strategy	Overall programme		Discover		ECRP	
	% aware of the strategy	% acting on the strategy	% aware of the strategy	% acting on the strategy	% aware of the strategy	% acting on the strategy
Diversify income sources	5.2	5.0	2.9	3.7	7.2	6.3
Diversify food sources	9.4	6.0	8.4	6.4	10.4	5.7
Diversify crops grown	15.8	13.2	15.6	13.4	16.0	13.0
Adopt irrigation	27.6	20.0	25.3	16.6	29.7	23.1
Save money	6.3	7.3	5.2	6.5	7.2	8.1
Have more assets	0.9	1.3	1.3	2.0	0.5	0.7
Use manure	16.3	14.2	11.6	10.1	20.7	18.1
Use CA	31.8	22.7	30.1	20.6	33.4	24.7
Have more livestock	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.0	3.4	2.2
Plant/manage trees	51.7	41.4	53.5	42.1	50.1	40.7
Do not burn charcoal	10.7	8.2	11.0	8.6	10.3	7.9
Adopt agroforestry	16.2	14.1	12.9	9.4	19.3	18.4
Grow drought tolerant crops	13.5	11.2	6.9	7.3	19.6	14.9
Adopt good post-harvest management	3.9	4.0	4.7	5.4	3.2	2.6
Use improved cook stoves	2.7	2.8	4.5	4.9	1.1	0.9
Harvest rain water	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.4	1.8	1.5
Not aware of any action	8.5	15.0	10.0	17.8	7.1	12.4
Others	5.9	5.0	8.2	6.1	3.8	4.1

Figure 2 shows that in general terms, there is an increase in both awareness and adoption of climate adaptation strategies amongst programme beneficiaries. For example, the percentage of beneficiaries who know about irrigation increased from 25% at baseline to 28% at MTE. The percentage of those who were acting on irrigation rose from 12% at baseline to 20%. Similar trends were observed for other climate adaption strategies. The most known and adopted strategies are planting and management of trees, irrigation, conservation agriculture, use of manure, crop and income diversification, agro-forestry and growing of drought tolerant crops.

Figure 2: Percentage of households that are aware and take action on adaptation strategies at baseline and midterm



The data also reveals that some 11.8% of all household surveyed reported at baseline that they had no knowledge of adaptation strategies. This figure is now reduced to 8.5% at MTE, indicating an increase in the general awareness of the targeted population on climate change adaptation strategies.

Although the level of adoption indicates movement in a positive direction, the baseline and MTE household surveys show that there is a gap between what the households knew ought to be done to avert climate related problems and what they were actually doing.

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

For the ECRP programme, Districts and GVH are deemed to have a fully functional EWS if they had the following elements of a EWS already in place: satellite mapping, mobile phone technology, river gauges, evacuation plans, trialled exercises and well equipped evacuation sites. If one of these elements was missing, the EWS was considered as partially functional only. While both consortia have made large strides since baseline levels (Table 21), which were either very low or non-existent, so far the programme has slightly underachieved by 20% its target of creating fully functional EWS in 10 districts. The gap is wider at the GVH level, where only 57 GVHs have fully functional EWS out of the 133 GVHs target for the programme (-57%). The trend is essentially similar for both consortia.

Table 21: Number of Districts and targeted GVH with a fully functional EWS

Level of analysis	Sample segment		Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)	
						Number	%	Number	%
At overall programme level	Fully functional EWS	Districts	0	10	8	-2	-20%	4	800%
		GVHs	10	133	57	-76	-57%	47	470%
Discover	Fully functional EWS	Districts	0	5	4	-1	-20%	4	400%
		GVHs	10	75	37	-38	-51%	27	270%
ECRP	Fully functional EWS	Districts	0	6	4	-2	-33%	4	600%
		GVHs	0	58	20	-38	-66%	20	20000%

Output Sub Indicator 1.3: Number of Districts and targeted GVH with functional CPC

The programme defined a functional CPC as one having the following components in place: i) meets as per required; ii) has a contingency plan; iii) its contingency plan is costed out; and iv) the plan is reviewed annually. CPCs that failed to meet one of these criteria, but could meet at least one, were considered only partially functional. So far 8 out of a planned 9 districts have developed their up-to-date costed contingency plans, while 95 GVHs out of the planned 130 GVHs have such costed contingency plans, representing a performance rate of 73% (Table 22). Discover surpassed targets at the district level, while the ECRP Consortium had a better performance in supporting the development of such plans at the GVH level. Interviews with programme staff revealed great variance in terms of plans that are costed vs plans that actually are budgeted for, with very few in the latter category. The notable exceptions were at the district level in Dedza and Salima where the programme supported the District Councils to mobilise resources for implementing the district contingency plans.

Table 22: Number of Districts and targeted GVH with functional CPC

Level of analysis	Sample segment	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)
					Number	%	Number
Programme	Districts	3	9	8	-1	-11%	5
	GVHs	6	130	95	-35	-27%	89
Discover	Districts	0	3	5	2	67%	5
	GVHs	0	80	44	-36	-45%	44
ECRP	Districts	3	6	3	-3	-50%	0
	GVHs	6	50	51	1	2%	45

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

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

This indicator encompasses a central tenant to the programme approach: the more techniques a particular household participates in and adopts, the more likely their farming system, and by implications, their livelihoods, will be resilient. Climate Smart Agriculture techniques include conservation agriculture techniques, irrigation, agro-forestry, drought-tolerant crop variety and type of crops, post-harvest management practices, watershed management and water harvesting.

The MTE found that the number of households (and individuals) using a combination of climate smart agriculture techniques per growing season increased from 51% at baseline to 59% during the midterm evaluation (Table 23). The increase in adoption is higher in Discover districts (increased from 42% to 54%) compared to ECRP districts (increased from 58% to 64%). This is nonetheless an underperformance in view of the set targets for this indicator, as highlighted by the table below and suggest that the target at MTE was too ambitious in view of the timelag suffered in ramping up programme activities, especially in the first year of implementation, as had already been noted as a risk by the One Year Review prepared by the M&E Agency.

Table 23: Number of households (and individuals) directly benefitting from the programme that use a combination of climate smart agriculture techniques per growing season

Level of analysis	Sample segment	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)	
					Number	%	Number	%
At overall programme level	Households	61,810	82,000	63,262	-18,738	-23%	1,452	2%
	Individuals	302,867	401,800	355,851	-45,949	-11%	52,984	17%
	%	51%	67%	59%				
Discover	Households	25,708	42,000	28,101	-13,899	-33%	2,393	9%
	Individuals	125,967	205,800	162,145	-43,655	-21%	36,178	29%
	%	42%	69%	54%				
ECRP	Households	36,102	40,000	35,348	-4,652	-12%	-754	-2%
	Individuals	176,900	196,000	193,706	-2,294	-1%	16,806	10%
	%	58%	64%	64%				

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

Overall, the percentage of households actually adopting low carbon energy techniques is low and has been consistently behind targets by 50 to 70% (Table 24). This is to be expected following interviews that cited problems with the interventions roll out and the references already made by the IPs in their progress reporting to DFID. The benefits and challenges of interventions are discussed under section 3.2. Of note is Discover's overachievement of cook stoves adoption by households by 20%, which suggest a more effective roll out scheme that both consortia could build on in the future.

Table 24: Number of households (and individuals) directly benefitting from the programme that are adopting low carbon energy techniques (including solar, cook stoves, afforestation)

	Sample segment		Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (additional) B	MTE Actual (June 2014, C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)	
						Number	%	Number	%
At overall programme level	Using efficient stoves	Households	1,294	23,100	11,641	-11,459	-50%	10,347	800%
	%	Households	1		11%				
	Number	Individuals	63340	113190	66,313	-46,877	-41%	2,973	5%
	Using solar for lighting	Households	3,834	29,150	6,827	-22,323	-77%	2,993	78%
	%	Households	3		6%				
	Number	Individuals		142835	38760	-104,075	-73%	38,760	-
	Practice afforestation	Households	17,326	37,000	13,648	-23,352	-63%	-3,678	-21%
	%	Households	14		13%				
	Number	Individuals	3,281	181,300	76,022	-105,278	-58%	72,741	2217%
Discover	Using efficient stoves	Households	670	7000	8691	1,691	24%	8,021	1197%
	%	Households	1.1		17%				
	Number	Individuals			50,148	50,148	-	50,148	-
	Using solar for lighting	Households	1827	20000	4,656	-15,344	-77%	2,829	155%
	%	Households	3		9%				
Number	Individuals	8955		26,865	26,865	-	17,910	200%	

	Sample segment		Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (additional) B	MTE Actual (June 2014, C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)	
						Number	%	Number	%
	Practice afforestation	Households	49203	20000	4,242	-15,758	-79%	-44,961	-91%
	%	Households	6.9		8%				
	Number	Individuals	20594		24,477	24,477	-	3,883	19%
ECRP	Using efficient stoves	Households	124	3100	2,950	-150	-5%	2,826	2279%
	%	Households	0.2	5	5%				
	Number	Individuals	610		16,165	16,165	-	15,555	2550%
	Using solar for lighting	Households	124	9150	2,171	-6,979	-76%	2,047	1651%
	%	Households	2	15	3.90%				
	Number	Individuals	6100		11,895	11,895	-	5,795	95%
	Practice afforestation	Households	9461	17000	9,406	-7,594	-45%	-55	-1%
	%	Households	15.2		16.90%				
	Number	Individuals	46359		51,545	51,545	-	5,186	11%

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

During the baseline only 45.8% of households in the 11 Districts covered confirmed that there was a Village Savings and Loan (VSL) scheme in their village. At midterm, this increased to 98%, indicating an overwhelming spread of VSLs amongst beneficiary communities. In terms of households' participation in VSL, the MTE data also shows a sharp increase. At baseline only 15.5% of the households had a family member in a VSL. The percentage of households with a member participating in VSLs has now increased to 71%. The MIS data from IPs show that an additional 1216 VSL groups have been formed, with a total membership of about 24,300 members, of which 71% are women (Table 25).

In terms of performance, the programme aimed to mobilise 52,205 additional people into VSL by June 2014 in the targeted areas. However it has only managed 24,308 people, 71% of who are women. This represents 47% of its targets. From the household survey, the percentage of households with a member participating in VSLs is 56% for Discover compared with 85% in the ECRP Consortium targeted areas. This suggests, as was noted during the FGDs, that not only is the ECRP Consortium putting greater focus on this intervention is its strategy, but also the approach it promotes to VSL is more effective in reaching out to beneficiaries and ensuring uptake.

Table 25: Number of direct beneficiaries (and groups) participating in Village Savings and Loans Schemes (disaggregated by gender)-household survey

	Sample segment		Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B) (additional beneficiaries)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C) (additional beneficiaries)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)	
						Number	%
At overall programme level	Beneficiaries reporting VSL in their village	Number	263,133	+52,205	+24,308	-27,897	47%
		% of total beneficiaries	44%				
	Beneficiaries with at least a member participating in the VSL (HH survey and MIS)	Number	81,700				
		% of total beneficiaries	14%		71%		
		% of total beneficiaries from FHH	Na	80%			
VSL groups	3,268		+ 1,216				
Discover	Beneficiaries reporting VSL in their village	Number	129,848			- 16,000	0%
		% of total beneficiaries	44%		56%		
	Beneficiaries with at least a member participating in the VSL (HH survey and MIS)	Number	29,850	+16,000	+13,259	-2,741	83%
		% of total beneficiaries	10%				
		VSL groups (estimate of 20 members/group)	1,194		+663		
ECRP	Beneficiaries reporting VSL in their village	Number	133,285	-	-	-	
		% of total beneficiaries	44%			-	
	Beneficiaries with at least a member participating in the VSL (HH survey and MIS)	Number	51,850	+36,205	+11,049	25,156	31%
		% of total beneficiaries	17%		85%		
		VSL groups	Na		+553		

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

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

An e-survey received 24 complete responses from MVAC and CISONEC members. The results show that in Y2 of the ECRP programme 5 out of 26 respondents received a publication from ECRP (20%), and 7 out of 26 respondents received a publication in Y3 (27%). Respondents only reported receiving one publication in both cases. Response rates for the survey were low, despite repeated survey reminders. This potentially reflects the difficulties that MVAC is experiencing, and members were potentially less likely to take the time to respond. This is also reflective of the fact that CEPA's production of policy briefs and lesson learning papers is only now starting, as the programme builds momentum from its experimentation. At the time of the MTE, CEPA confirmed being in the process of finalising a number of case studies for wider dissemination in the near future.

A similar survey conducted in Y2 by the M&E Agency had reported that 54% of recipients were satisfied with the content of the publications, and 31% were very satisfied (for a total of 85% satisfied or above). While this was 9% below the very ambitious target for that year of 94% of respondent expected to be satisfied or above, the portion of highly satisfied respondents was higher than expected by a noticeable margin of 6%, suggesting an improvement in the quality of the CEPA/ECRP publications vis-à-vis its audiences.

Output Indicator 3.2: Number of multi-stakeholder (MS) platforms at national, District and community level that ECRP IPs participate in

The programme has surpassed its targets in terms of number of platforms in which ECRP partners participate by 538% (Table 26).

ECRP partners have been involved in various multi-stakeholders forums at national, district and community level. At national level they participate in government, donor and civil society forums around the climate change, food security, agriculture and budget processes. Through PMUs and CEPA they have been actively involved in advocacy on many policy issues that affect or are linked to the programme. At district level, the programme is a member of the District Executive Committee, District Environmental Sub-committees and other networks and subcommittees committees relevant to the programme. At community level, implementing NGOs participate in community related implementation and advocacy activities with various service providers/duty bearers.

Table 26: Number of multi-stakeholder (MS) platforms at national, District and community level that ECRP IPs participate in

Level of analysis	Sample segment	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)
					Number	%	Number
At overall programme level	MS Platforms (panels and, DEC meetings per District per year)	3	24	153	129	538%	150
Discover	MS Platforms (panels and, DEC meetings per District per year)	2	20	135	115	575%	133
ECRP	MS Platforms (panels and, DEC meetings per District per year)	1	4	18	14	350%	17
MVAC	MS Platforms (panels and, DEC meetings per District per year)	2	4	No data	Na	Na	Na

Output 4: A strengthened early warning system for climate related hazards

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

The M&E Agency, in liaison with DFID and MVAC, and in recognition of the current funding challenges MVAC is facing, designed and implemented an MVAC members and users survey to track progress on timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy of the information that is generated by MVAC. Table 27 below shows that the percentage of users/members who felt that MVAC information was timely has fallen from 75% to 47%. This is an even more drastic shift when Year 2 Consolidated progress report findings are taken into account. Indeed, as of October 2013, 100% of reports were produced in a timely fashion as MVAC annual vulnerability assessment was published in June 2013, with an update in October 2013, as per schedule.

The downslide in timeliness over the last year is primarily due to the problem of funding that MVAC has experienced over the reference period, which has made MVAC take longer to implement its activities. However, the percentage of those that consider MVAC information to be comprehensive has increased from 50% to 72%, primarily as a result of improved capacity over the past 2 years, prior to the funding cuts. That being said, the percentage of respondents that consider the information is accurate has decreased from 75% to 56%.

Table 27: Timeliness, comprehensiveness and accuracy of information generated by MVAC and other stakeholders (NGOs) and CPCs on Early Warning)





Level of analysis	Sample segment	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)
					Number	%	Number
At overall programme level	Timeliness, % of partners who consider MVAC info as timely	75	No data	47	NA	NA	- 28
	Comprehensiveness, % of partners who consider MVAC info as comprehensive	50	No data	72	NA	NA	22
	Accuracy, % of partners who consider MVAC info as accurate	75	No data	56	NA	NA	-19

Output Indicator 4.2: Enhanced MVAC capacity for vulnerability assessment analysis and reporting on acute and chronic vulnerability

The reduction in MVAC staff and activities due to funding cuts had negative effect on this performance indicator as well. The funding gap has in fact prevented MVAC from carrying out its scheduled vulnerability assessment in 2014 and the related training of its staff and new members.

Despite this negative context, the results of the e-survey conducted by the M&E Agency in May-June 2014 show that 95% of e-survey respondents felt that recommendations in the existing MVAC vulnerability assessments are relevant or very relevant as presented in Figure3 below. This level of satisfaction of respondents is in line with the target for this indicator, despite the negative context surrounding MVAC activities this year.

Figure3: Overall, how would you rate the relevance of the recommendations from the MVAC vulnerability assessments given your needs and priorities?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Not Relevant		0.0%	0
Somewhat Relevant		4.8%	1
Relevant		33.3%	7
Very Relevant		61.9%	13
Total Responses			21

In addition, the MTE results show that the percentage of users who fully took MVAC recommendations into account in their programmes shot from 24% at baseline to 85%. This happened between 2012 and 2013 and suggests a renewed confidence in MVAC findings. It should be noted that MVAC had steady funds from DFID during the period and was regularly in touch with its stakeholders. Those who did not take MVAC recommendations into use fell from 24% to 6%.

Table 28: Level of uptake of recommendations from MVAC vulnerability assessment and analysis outputs by its users

Level of analysis	Sample segment	Baseline value, 2012 (A)	June 2014 Target (B)	MTE Actual (June 2014), (C)	Variance 1 Between planned and actual MTE values (C-B)		Variance 2 between MTE and baseline Values (C-A)
					Number	%	Number
At overall programme level	% of users who fully took recommendations into account	24	35	85	50	143%	61
	% of users who partially took recommendations into account	53	3	13	10	333%	-40
	% of users who did not take recommendations into account	24	3	6	3	100%	-18

The drivers of the indicator have remained the same. Respondents highlighted that the MVAC recommendations provide good guidance as they usually point to the current and future food security conditions and vulnerabilities of the households, which provide useful input for future programming by different organisations and for policy making. It is seen as a credible source of information in general, building on information from the field. Some respondents also reported that MVAC data is also not used because of political pressure. Sometimes areas that are not assessed by MVAC as vulnerable are included because of political pressure. Some respondents also pointed out that this being said, the timing of providing assistance following MVAC reports does not necessarily tally with the situation on the ground. Many people suffer and by the time assistance reaches them, they would have had suffered and be stretched to the limit. The numbers of people at risk needs to be updated from time to time taking into account the situation on the ground. The sometimes

perceived politicised nature of the MVAC recommendations was also noted by another respondent. In addition, the new driver to MVAC is the funding freeze that donors have imposed on the Malawi Government budget support. Hence, MVAC is less operational since last year and has to depend on ad-hoc donors who fund activity-based type of programmes.

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

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

The MTE gathered information relating to five policies and one donor programme that were targeted and provided information by the ECRP programme. They include:

1. **Draft National Climate Change Policy:** Specific elements in the Draft policy built on CEPA content on climate change financing, awareness, education and human resources development, and adaptation and mitigation.
2. **Draft National Disaster Risk Management Bill:** CEPA was part of successful advocacy pushes to have specific social inclusion, governance and financing mechanisms included in the Bill.
3. **National Disaster Risk Management Policy:** CEPA has successfully pushed to have the Policy approved, and it is currently in final comments in the Cabinet.
4. **Budgetary allocations:** CEPA has contributed to budgetary allocations at the national and District level in the domains of climate change, DRM and CA, Small Scale irrigation and livestock, forestry and energy
5. **National Agriculture Policy and the National Energy Policy:** CEPA is currently finalizing positions for these two Policies.
6. **European Union Climate Change Programme:** ECRP/Discover has inputted in the design of the proposed EU supported climate change programme through among others consultations and field visits.

In addition, stakeholders mentioned that USAID's Development Food Assistance Programme (DFAP) is replicating the ECRP model, though not the interventions.

Finally, MVAC data are used as a foundation in the Malawi Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Reporting. In addition, the Cost of Hunger Project, which is calculating the economic cost that African governments lose to hunger, has used MVAC data. Finally the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) has relied on MVAC data. MVAC therefore provided data to three national policy/programmatic processes.

MVAC also reports on direct interaction at government levels. In 2013, for the first time MVAC was invited to attend a cabinet meeting and was asked to explain MVAC's numbers to the President and Cabinet.

In total, just at the national level, the ECRP programme as a whole therefore surpassed its targets of 7 policies/programmes by 2, for a total of at least 9 policies programmes.

To this number, one must also account for implementing NGOs work at the District level to assist Civil Protection Committees in creating Civil Protection Plans, implementing those plans and advocating that government fund the plans. Successes include:

- **Salima** – COOPI has worked at the District with the Civil Protection Committee to create a District Contingency Plan. The plan is now costed by the government, and COOPI has worked with Goal Malawi in Nsanje and Concern Universal in Balaka to shares lessons learned.
- **Machinga** – Emmanuel International is working with the District in the Five Year Development Plan. They have successfully pushed to have a budget line for DRM. In addition, the District Contingency Plan will be costed by the government moving forward.

In other districts it was common for implementing NGOs to state that while the District Contingency Plans exist, and are of good quality, they are not costed and it is a challenge to have them funded in budgets. The process of sharing lessons learned from locations in the programme where these activities are working well should be continued.

3.3.4 Conclusion on ECRP progress towards results

Analysis of the household survey data confirms that ECRP, even at this early mid-term stage, had a positive **impact** on food security for the targeted households and that programme beneficiary households may have fared better than average households in ECRP districts by sustaining wealth over the period of economic hardship experienced by the country as a whole between 2013 and 2014. That being said, the ECRP programme falls short, at this stage of programme implementation, of the ambitious targets it had set for itself on the three impact level performance indicators.

At the **outcome** level, all performance indicators and sub-indicators (number of direct and indirect beneficiaries; real household income; median capital asset values; percentage of households using a combination of climate change and DRR transformative strategies; and, the number of policies/programmes influenced) have moved positively since baseline, confirming the contribution of ECRP and its strategies in building resilience. The programme has performed extremely well on policy influence to leverage further change in Malawi to address resilience, in particular through the efforts of CEPA. Movement on the other

performance indicators and sub-indicators has however not been as strong as expected, primarily because of the underperformance of the Discover consortium on these. Indeed, ECRP has surpassed its targets for both household median capital asset values and promoting a combination of climate change and DRR strategies. Discover has lagged behind its targets in terms of direct beneficiary reach, while overachieving its targets on indirect beneficiaries. These findings at midpoint through implementation suggest that the ECRP Consortium programme implementation strategy and delivery approach is more effective in building resilience of its targeted beneficiaries and that there is thus ample room from cross-learning between consortia on this positive experience.

At the **Output** level, the analysis of the data shows that there has been notable progress on **Output 1** at the programme level by both consortia. However, progress on this output which is focussed on building awareness of individuals and institutional capacities of the community vis-à-vis climate change challenges has not been as strong as expected at mid-term. On awareness raising specifically, data from the household survey suggest that while both consortia have delivered awareness raising activities, the internalisation of this knowledge by all beneficiaries still lags behind. With respect to the contingency plans, the challenge ahead is in mobilizing resources to make the plans fully operational in case of disaster.

The data from the household survey points out to significant progress on **Output 2** which is focused on the core interventions under the ECRP programme, with the exception of low carbon energy techniques which lag behind for a variety of reasons discussed in section 3.2 of the report. That being said, the adoption rate for a combination of climate smart agricultural techniques continue to lags below MTE target as does participation from beneficiaries in VSL. Ample opportunity exists here as well for cross-learning between consortia, building on the successes of each consortium, notably with respect to cook stove for Discover and VSL for the ECRP Consortium.

On **Output 3** which is focussed on information sharing, now that the programme is reaching mid-term, documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned is expected to gather steam in the second half of the programme, with various products now in development by CEPA. The programme has in parallel surpassed expectations in terms of developing and participating in multi-stakeholder platforms at both the national and decentralised level.

On **Output 4** (focussed on the strengthening of an Early Warning System for climate related hazards), MVAC has operated in a difficult general political and funding context for government bodies over the past year, explaining the downslide in the timeliness and accuracy of its assessment reports in 2014. This happened after showing significant improvement in performance at this level in 2013 when donor support was fully operational.

Following this capacity building support, the relevance of MVAC work and its recommendations continue to be appreciated by users, despite this downturn in 2014. It is hoped that the capacity built over 2013 will be maintained and further renewed through secondary funding sources that MVAC is now in the process of accessing (namely WFP).

To conclude, performance on **Output 5** which is focused on targeting and providing information on ECRP experiences and innovations to policies and programmes has been beyond expectations at mid-term point, largely thanks to the efforts of CEPA. Such efforts will continue to grow in the second half of the programme as lessons learned become available and more widely shared in Malawi.

3.4 Efficiency

3.4.1 Is the programme ensuring economy in procuring inputs?

Does the programme have appropriate financial management procedures in place to ensure economy?

Both the consortia have procurement systems which meet DFID requirements and are being effectively applied. The value for money team interviewed a range of programme and administrative staff in five field offices and in the two programme management units to generate evidence of this. In addition, the Financial and Management reviews conducted in years one and two of the programme show that there are also appropriate systems in place to authorise expenditure and produce financial reports which allow both programme managers to monitor expenditure against budget.

There is a range in the percentages of indirect costs being claimed between and within the consortia (from 4.66% in Concern Universal to 8.49% from Care). The reason for this variation remains unexplained and may offer scope for cost-saving if standard percentages are not being appropriately applied. See the annexed Value for Money Assessment for tables of these rates.

Is the programme ensuring economy in procuring inputs?

The highest single value items procured by the programme were vehicles. Initially, quotations were requested for second hand vehicles. However, the available vehicles did not meet the programme requirements and did not offer significant cost-savings in comparison to newer vehicles. Securing duty free status also enabled more cost-effective procurement of imported goods such as computers and vehicles, with unit costs remaining within the budget. In this case, the programme management units of the two offices were responsible for procurement on behalf of the members. The prices achieved were within budget and the vehicles procured have been fit for purpose.

Other commonly procured programme inputs are purchased by consortium member or by their local implementing partner individually. As expected, there are variations in unit costs as timings, locations and specifications have also varied. Whilst some variation of unit costs is within the ranges that could be expected to occur, the variation in some unit prices for OPV maize seed and female goats are sufficiently large that it suggests there may be scope for closer follow up and price benchmarking to ensure that all partners are securing inputs of an appropriate quality and price.

What level of quality and what level of price are project inputs obtained at (e.g. staff, consultants, capital)?

More detailed information about the unit prices of project inputs are available in the Value for Money Assessment report. On the whole, these are within the range of the prices which are acceptable for the national context with some outliers. For example, the prices paid for 1kg of OPV maize ranged from MKW 175 (Self Help Africa) to MKW 1000k (Goal Malawi). This difference suggests potentially large differences in quality and justifies follow-up. Similarly, the prices paid for a female goat ranged from MKW 9,100 (COOPI) to MKW 28,800 (CADECOM), which also suggests either big differences in quality of inputs procured or an opportunity to improve value for money in some procurements.

As well as a wide range of unit prices, there were also more quality issues raised in relation to seeds and livestock in comparison to other areas of the programme. In Year 2, seed was provided late in many which significantly reduced the benefits to farmers for its use. In addition, beneficiaries noted issues with poor germination and rotted seed being supplied. Livestock survival rates also vary depending on procurement approaches, with one particularly high death rate being noted in Goal Malawi's operational area in Nsanje. As well as improved information sharing around unit prices, there may also be scope for further investigation and discussion on approaches to procurement in relation to seed and livestock. If there is scope to analyse more data and extract lessons relating to approaches to managing disease risk, poor seed germination or livestock survival, then this could be useful to both consortia and their members.

3.4.2 Is the programme cost-efficient in delivering outputs?

What are the costs associated with commonly delivered outputs?

There are variations between and within consortia for the costs of strengthening civil protection committees, developing DRR plans and delivering early warning messages. There are also differences within the members of the two consortia on crop diversification, it is not clear if these are driven by unit cost differences, quality of seed or implementation approaches. There are also differences in the approaches to post-harvest management, with COOPI's investment in physical structures pushing costs up in Discover, without much clarity of the benefits associated with these structures. Both consortia are more expensive than

planned in training solar entrepreneurs and Discover is particularly expensive here. On the other hand, ECRP is substantially more expensive per livestock beneficiary than Discover and this merits investigation.

Irrigation is an area of particular concern from an efficiency standpoint. The costs incurred per hectare by most of the members of the two consortia are much higher than international benchmarks and there is a wide variation in costs, with ECRP Consortium being more expensive on average and Concern Universal (Discover) being substantially lower than other Discover implementers. This warrants further review, including investigation of whether the benefits to farmers from all the schemes constructed justify the level of investment.

How does the cost-efficiency of delivery approaches vary?

The ECRP Consortium has spent a smaller percentage of its total budget and reached a substantially higher proportion of its targeted beneficiaries than the Discover Consortium. This meant that the cost per beneficiary reached by the programme varies between the two consortia.

Table 29: Expected and achieved cost per beneficiary

Description	Discover Expected	Discover achieved to date	ECRP Expected	ECRP achieved to date
Cost per beneficiary (direct only)	£29	£45	£33	£22
Cost per beneficiary accessing a combination of three CC and DRR strategies	-	£60	-	£25

Table 29 Source: *Discover*: Project Proposal and Budget; Cumulative Expenditure as of 31 March 2014; total beneficiary numbers provided to the evaluation team by email. For Discover, these are calculated by multiplying the number of unique individuals involved by 5.8 (average household size) according to household survey. *ECRP*: Project Proposal; Cumulative expenditure as of 31 March 2014; total beneficiary numbers provided to the evaluation team by email. For ECRP, these are calculated by multiplying the number of unique individuals involved in the programme by 5.5 (average household size) according to household survey.

ECRP has also reached a higher percentage of beneficiaries with multiple interventions, assuming that this achieves greater improvements in resilience, it is suggested that the ECRP delivery approach is increasing household resilience for a lower cost. However, there is variation between and within consortia in relation to the cost of delivering particular outputs demonstrating that there is still scope for sharing learning between the two consortia.

What are the costs associated with commonly delivered outputs?

There are variations between and within the members of the two consortia in relation to the cost per output for the different interventions under the programme. In particular, the

differences identified in costs for DRR interventions, irrigation, livestock, post-harvest storage and training solar entrepreneurs warrant further attention from programme managers. A table summarising the difference in costs between the two consortia are below, but more detailed analysis is available in the Value for Money Assessment report.

Table 30: Summary of costs per output between consortia

Description	Discover expected	Discover achieved to date	ECRP expected	ECRP achieved to date
Cost per CPC strengthened	£797	£2,632	-	£3,869
Cost per member of VSL	£97 (for all entrepreneurship and access to finance)	£21	£37	£18
Cost per beneficiary accessing drought tolerant seeds	£55 (for all crop and livestock interventions)	£26	-	£27
Cost per household benefitting from support on post-harvest management	£169	£184	£16	£15
Cost per household using conservation agriculture	£19	£22	£15	£17
Cost per hectare under conservation agriculture	-	£161	-	£274
Cost per hectare under irrigation	£1,406	£1,051	-	£5,064
Cost per farmer participating in irrigation		£245		£191
Cost per livestock beneficiary	£55 (for all crop and livestock interventions)	£165		£375
Cost per solar entrepreneur trained	£1404	£2510	£76 (all low carbon)	£852
Cost per fuel-efficient stove produced		£16		£18
Cost per household using fuel-efficient stoves		£31	£76 (all low carbon)	£25

Benchmarking information is not available for many of the outputs associated with ECRP. However, for Village Savings and Lending, a review of the literature suggests that costs are similar. The ECRP has costs of approximately \$30 per person, as compared with an average of \$23 across the 31 countries under the Savings Groups Information Exchange. For irrigation, however, the literature suggests that small-scale schemes generally have capital

costs of less than £500 per hectare, whereas the cost for Discover are £1,051 per hectare and £5,064 for ECRP.

3.5 Sustainability

3.5.1 Indication that interventions and results are sustainable

Signs of sustained adoption of interventions

Overall the MTE feels that it is early to comment on adoption and sustained adoption for interventions. Most beneficiary groups in FGDs for the General MTE had started activities in 2012. While VSL launch appears to take place relatively quickly, for other interventions such as CA, livestock, and afforestation, more time is needed for both adoption and to see benefits. In some cases, participants need to see an intervention implemented for the entire calendar year to learn the technique and see first benefits. In addition, the benefits to soil health or flood mitigation from activities like conservation agriculture and afforestation take several years to materialise.

The MTE does note several elements of implementation that will be useful to track. The expansion of CA to larger areas of farms by farmers is one example, and the degree to which groups such as livestock pass-along schemes, seed multiplication schemes, and even VSL groups will continue through multiple iterations. The sections above demonstrate positive successes in delivering interventions to communities and positive signs of appreciation of interventions by beneficiaries. The task of linking early participation to long-term adoption has yet to be done, and should form an important part of the second half of the programme.

Potential for replication and scaling up

MTE interviews and FGDs included a few early references to scaling up of certain interventions. Implementing NGOs mentioned that some VSL groups are forming on their own, and there were also occasion references to farmers applying CA on their own. In addition, multiple implementing NGOs mentioned that they are approached by beneficiaries who would like to participate in specific interventions.

Stakeholders interviewed had consistent reports on which interventions had the most potential to be scaled up or replicated. Often tied to the interventions that see the most adoption, these included CA and crop diversification and VSL. The interventions with the least potential to scale up were Micro-solar and cook stoves, due to the supply side problems with these.

Sharing Lessons Learned

The MTE made extensive inquiries into the degree to which lessons learned were being shared within and across consortia in the programme. There were a number of promising indications, for instance certain implementing NGOs would indicate that had been taught about the success of an intervention elsewhere, such as district DRR advocacy by COOPI or the making cook stoves by Concern Universal. In addition, CEPA has been regularly collecting case studies from the consortia and disseminating these to a wide audience.

The MTE did not, however, find examples of a systematic collection and distribution of lessons learned within the programme or to outside audiences. While this is understandable since the programme has been focused on implementation, and the lessons learned being drawn are recent, the programme's mid-point is an appropriate time to shift attention across implementing NGOs, IPs and CEPA towards ensuring that lessons learned are collected, consolidated and disseminated.

3.5.2 Conclusions on Sustainability

Current indications of sustainability of programme interventions revolve around high levels of participation and positive feed-back from beneficiaries about the benefits of certain interventions. CA, VSL and crop diversification are all mentioned by implementing NGOs and beneficiaries alike as interventions that will likely be continued by beneficiaries.

In addition, the MTE notes that the design of many of the programme interventions includes efforts to build the foundation for sustainability. This includes the ECRP no-handouts approach, which avoids beneficiaries abandoning promoted adaptive measure when inputs are no longer available, and pass-along schemes interventions like livestock and crop diversification. In addition, work in DRR to create sustainable community entities to manage EWS and engage with local and district level institutions is also a positive step.

Interventions, however, remain in early stages for the MTE to comment on observed replication and scaling up. Efforts at measuring and enhancing replication and scaling up will undoubtedly become a strong piece of programme implementation in the second half of the programme.

Finally, CEPA has undertaken a number of advocacy efforts to influence district and national policy as well as coordinating certain types of information sharing. MVAC has contributed to policies as well, though this contribution is not guaranteed moving forward given budget cuts.

4. Preliminary Conclusions

4.1 Relevance

In reviewing the programme's continued relevance, the MTE confirms that the ECRP overall design, understanding of local context and application given events in the first three years of the programme all remain valid and relevant. Neither documents reviewed, nor interviews and FGDs conducted revealed substantial contextual factors that would render the ECRP approach less valid.

Dry spells, drought, erratic rainfall and floods remain the largest climate-related hazards affecting beneficiaries. In addition to multiple hazards affecting the same location, these hazards also vary across space and from one year to the next, making background levels of food insecurity in Malawi variable. These fluctuations need to be considered when interpreting results progress as well as in planning for a final impact evaluation that addresses attribution.

FGDs participants and stakeholders alike spoke about the ECRP interventions in a way that confirmed programme participants were still confident in the overall logic of how the interventions address food security, poverty levels and resilience in the target districts. In particular, the ECRP strategy of offering multiple interventions was seen as positive. However, given the changing risk context, the IPs requested understanding from DIFD that a degree of flexibility in budgets helps the IPs to adjust to these changes.

The MTE identified specific new emerging risks. This included the perception that changes in the DSA rates would hamper participation by government workers, which would affect implementation.

Finally, MVAC has experienced a significant setback as government support has been pulled reducing MVAC staff to a level too weak to conduct the regular MVAC Assessment Reports. The risk is already having an impact on MVAC's ability to contribute to the programme, and it will need to be taken into consideration in programme planning.

4.2 Effectiveness

ECRP works through the DEC, TAs, GVHs and the VDCs and VCPCs to introduce interventions in communities and recruit participants, who often self-select based on motivation or who identify vulnerable community members as a group. Specifically, ECRP reaches its target number of female-headed households, and both consortia see a large number of

interventions where the majority of participants are women. The programme works with other types of marginalised groups, though without the same emphasis as that placed on addressing gender.

Programme interventions for both consortia appeared to be on-time following workplans; however, attainment of target numbers for beneficiaries participating in certain interventions was variable. Interventions such as VSL and CA had overachievement of participants, while interventions such as irrigation were well under. Importantly, while the ECRP Consortium has surpassed its target for total number of direct beneficiaries reached, the Discover Consortium has underachieved its target substantially.

In addition, the MTE collected a large volume of beneficiary comments on specific interventions. Overall, CA and VSL as well as crop diversification were highly praised by beneficiaries. Another very strong positive result from the FGDs was the degree to which beneficiaries are already acting on the synergies of multiple interventions, with VSL playing a strong role. Summaries of the programme interventions include:

- **Crop diversification** sees high adoption and beneficiaries consistently name it as one of their top 3 interventions. It is frequently implemented as part of CA. Sustainability of seed multiplication is an important next step.
- **VSL** is possibly the most popular intervention for beneficiaries. Many diverse benefits are regularly mentioned, and it has synergies with multiple other interventions. VSL is in need of a path moving forward given its popularity and fast growth.
- **CA** is one of the most popular interventions frequently listed as a favourite by beneficiaries. However, quality training is important to avoid misapplication and resulting disappointment with the technique.
- Benefits are reportedly strong for functional **irrigation** schemes, but only a small number of participants were present in FGDs.
- **Cook stoves** see high demand and meaningful improvements in quality of life especially for women; however, production and marketing of the stoves is a challenge.
- **Livestock** is highly appreciated by beneficiaries. At present, the number of participants remains small, and the pass-along takes time to expand.
- For **DRR**, many FGDs cite established procedures for disasters; however, implementation of plans is variable.
- Participants cite positive experiences with **afforestation/agroforestry**; however, with most trees planted in 2012, it is early to comment on benefits.

- **Post-harvest management** has mixed results. Whilst some beneficiaries are able to articulate improvements in storage techniques as a result of training by the programme and are storing seed in group granaries. Others, are not able to describe changes since the programme began and note that the granaries are inappropriate for their needs.
- **Micro solar** is marred in difficulties. It should be considered in a pilot stage with lessons learnt drawn from the programme; however, the programme should focus attention towards other interventions.

4.3 Progress towards results

Analysis of the household survey data confirms that ECRP had a positive **impact** on food security for the targeted households. Programme beneficiary households may have fared better than average households in ECRP districts by sustaining wealth over the period of economic hardship experience by the country as a whole between 2013 and 2014. That being said, the ECRP programme falls short, at this stage of programme implementation, of the ambitious targets it had set for itself on the three impact level performance indicators.

At the **Outcome** level, all performance indicators and sub-indicators (number of direct and indirect beneficiaries; real household income; median capital asset values; percentage of households using a combination of climate change and DRR transformative strategies; and, the number of policies/programmes influenced) have moved positively since baseline, confirming the contribution of ECRP and its strategies in building resilience. The programme has performed well on policy influence to leverage further change in Malawi to address resilience. Movement on the other performance indicators and sub-indicators has however not been as strong as expected, primarily because of the underperformance of the Discover consortium on these. Whilst, ECRP has surpassed its targets for both household median capital asset values and promoting a combination of climate change and DRR strategies. Discover has not been able to reach its direct beneficiary targets. These findings suggest that the ECRP Consortium programme implementation strategy and delivery approach is more effective in building resilience of its targeted household level beneficiaries and that there is, therefore, room for cross-learning between consortia on this positive experience.

At the **Output** level, the analysis of the data shows that there has been notable progress on **Output 1** at the programme level by both consortia. However, progress on this output which is focussed on building awareness of individuals and institutional capacities of the community vis-à-vis climate change challenges has not been as strong as expected at mid-term. On awareness raising specifically, data from the household survey suggest that while both consortia have delivered awareness raising activities, the internalisation of this knowledge by all beneficiaries has taken time. With respect to the contingency plans, the

challenge ahead is in mobilizing resources to make the plans fully operational in case of disaster.

The data from the household survey points to significant progress on **Output 2** which is focused on the core interventions under the ECRP programme, with the exception of low carbon energy techniques. However, the adoption rate for a combination of climate smart agricultural techniques continue to lags below MTE target as does participation from beneficiaries in VSL. Opportunities exist for cross-learning between consortia, building on the successes of each consortium, notably with respect to cook stove for Discover and VSL for the ECRP Consortium.

On **Output 3** which is focussed on information sharing, now that the programme is reaching mid-term, documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned is expected to gather steam in the second half of the programme, with various products now in development by CEPA. The programme has in parallel surpassed expectations in terms of developing and participating in multi-stakeholder platforms at both the national and decentralised level.

On **Output 4** (focussed on the strengthening of an Early Warning System for climate related hazards), MVAC has operated in a difficult general political and funding context for government bodies over the past year, explaining the downslide in the timeliness and accuracy of its assessment reports in 2014. This happened after showing significant improvement in performance at this level in 2013 when donor support was fully operational. Following this capacity building support, the relevance of MVAC work and its recommendations continue to be appreciated by users, despite this downturn in 2014. It is hoped that the capacity built over 2013 will be maintained and further renewed through secondary funding sources that MVAC is now in the process of accessing (namely WFP).

To conclude, performance on **Output 5** which is focused on targeting and providing information on ECRP experiences and innovations to policies and programmes has been beyond expectations at mid-term point, largely thanks to the efforts of CEPA. Such efforts will continue to grow in the second half of the programme as lessons learned become available and more widely shared in Malawi.

4.4 Efficiency

There is evidence that the procurement systems meet DFID requirements and are being effectively applied across both consortia. Whilst, some variation is within the ranges that could be expected to occur from different timings, locations and approaches to procurement, the variation in unit prices for OPV maize seed and female goats warrant further explanation and closer follow up in future. There may be scope to make procurement savings without incurring additional cost through the recruitment of additional procurement

staff. For example, sharing procurement plans or benchmarked unit costs may generate valuable savings.

In terms of delivering outputs, the ECRP Consortium has spent a smaller percentage of its total budget and reached a substantially higher proportion of its total targeted beneficiaries. It is therefore reaching each beneficiary at a lower cost than Discover. The ECRP Consortium has also focused more explicitly on ensuring that each beneficiary adopts multiple interventions and has a higher proportion of beneficiaries in this category. However, at the output level there are specific interventions where Discover is delivering particular outputs at lower cost, for example in irrigation and livestock programming. ECRP also has areas where lower-cost delivery is being done, for example in relation to post-harvest storage and training solar entrepreneurs. There are therefore opportunities to share lessons learned between the two consortia.

With respect to the **cost-benefit analysis**, the case studies produced for both VSL and the Crop Package show that the benefits to farmers exceed the costs of implementation over a ten year period. In the case of the Village Savings and Lending, if the benefits from the case study sites are similar across the programme, then for every £1 invested, around £10 of benefits were generated in the Discover sites, and £29 in the ECRP sites. These benefits could increase to £34 in the ECRP Consortium if the village agents manage to set up four more groups for each of the remaining years of the programme. This analysis was not completed for Discover as village agents in Discover sites did not feel confident to establish new groups without further support from CUMO.

For the crop package, the benefits are more modest, with each £1 invested generating a further £2.91 across the Discover programme and £3.17 across the ECRP Consortium programme. Assuming continued distribution of seed for a further year and a 60% success rate for the pass-on programme, the benefits increase to £5.31 for Discover and £3.50 for the ECRP Consortium.

4.5 Sustainability

The MTE falls at a time in the programme where it is both early to make definitive comments on sustainability, however the MTE noted a number of signals that sustainability has been well planned for in the programme. For example, the adoption of low-input approaches such as VSL and conservation agriculture and the training of agents and lead farmers who can support replication are strong signals of sustainability. In addition, the 'pass-on' schemes for seeds and livestock, and the strengthening of local institutions, such as DRR structures, also offer opportunities for sustainability but the full impact of these will become evident later in the programme.

5. Preliminary Recommendations

In light of the analysis provided and preliminary conclusions in this report, the MTE makes the following preliminary recommendations:

1. ECRP Programme needs to adjust its expectations of MVAC given the current status of the committee's operations due to changes to its core funding.
2. DFID should retain in sight the understanding that budget flexibility assists IPs in reacting to monetary and economic changes, and budget restrictions should achieve balance between assuring quality management and facilitating adaptive implementation.
3. The final evaluation can be used as an opportunity to study the degree to which ECRP actually targets the most vulnerable GVHs in its districts as well as vulnerable individuals in the communities. In addition, a sub-study on the no-handouts approach should be carried out.
4. Discover's difficulties reaching target beneficiaries need to be assessed for causes, and plans for augmenting the number of direct beneficiaries relatively quickly need to be established.
5. The MTE emphasizes that sustained vigilance on provision of quality, appropriate, and timely inputs and training to farmers is paramount to ensure participation in interventions and increase the chances of achieving outcomes and impacts.
6. Given the underperformance of micro-solar, the programme should consider shifting focus away from this intervention and dedicating resources to other interventions.
7. In terms of interventions, a number of recommendations are made:
 - Create a road map for advancing VSL, including increasing shares and providing more sophisticated business training;
 - Guarantee that farmers have technical support when applying CA;
 - Consider scaling up the livestock intervention;
 - Revisit the way cook stoves are made and marketed and adjust strategy according to best practices.
8. Renewed efforts are required by both IPs to increase performance on the awareness raising and capacity building component of the programme, with a focus on the application of this knowledge by households and individuals and the mobilization of resources to make EWS and contingency plans fully operational at both the district and GVH levels.

9. Further efforts are required by both consortia to push for adoption of climate smart agricultural techniques and VSL. Discover could learn from the VSL implementation approach piloted by the ECRP consortium, while the latter could build on the positive experience of Discover with cook stoves.
10. The ECRP partners should continue to build on their success in targeting and providing information to programmes and policies in Malawi, with the aim of achieving policy influence. In the second half of the programme, the efforts must now be geared towards documenting and sharing more widely the lessons and successes achieved with ECRP innovations over the first half of the programme, to further strengthen this leveraging effect of the programme at both the national and district levels and across consortia.
11. The final evaluation should re-visit the economy and efficiency analysis, produce an update on the VfM indicators proposed in this report and complete cost-benefit analysis on a wider range of interventions. Some, or all of these can also be adopted by the two consortia in interim reporting but, with the exception of the overall programme cost per beneficiary metric, it may not be time efficient to produce reports against these metrics more frequently. The final version of this report will include more detail on the agreed approach, agreed during the workshop in July.
12. IPs should attempt to understand the degree to which sustainability mechanisms built into interventions, such as pass-along schemes, are functioning and include these in their regular reporting.
13. Well in anticipation of the final ECRP impact evaluation, the M&E Agent should work with IPs to identify appropriate sampling approaches that can improve attribution of impacts to the programme's activities rather than the agro-climatic conditions.

Annex A: General MTE Mission

Table 1: Focus Group Discussions conducted for the General MTE.

District and Implementing Partner	Number of Beneficiaries Consulted		
	Women	Men	All
Total number of FGDs held			22
Balaka, Concern Universal	43	17	60
Dedza, Concern Universal	20	17	37
Kasungu, Heifer	23	2	25
Machinga, Emmanuel International	21	14	35
Mulanje, CARD	24	13	37
Mwanza, ADRA	13	15	28
Nsanje, ActionAid	10	21	31
Nsanje, GOAL Malawi	10	17	27
Salima, COOPI	10	11	21
Grand Total	174	127	301

Table 2: Stakeholders interviewed for the General MTE.

	Name	Organization	Position	District
1	Gift	COOP	Agriculture Officer	Salima
2	Calogero	COOP	Project Manager	Salima
3	Fyness	CUMO	FSO	Balaka
4	Langster	CU	Field Facilitator	Balaka
5	Yamungu Botha	CU	Project Manager	Balaka
6	Francesco Munde	CU	Field Facilitator	Machinga
7	Chisomo Mapemba	EIM	Field Officer	Machinga
8	Findi	EIM		Machinga
9	James Misomali	EIM	Field Officer	Machinga
10	Pamella Likoswe	EIM	Field Officer	Machinga
11	Yamikani Dakalira	CEPA	Programme Officer	Blantyre
12	William Chadza	CEPA	Executive Director	Blantyre
13	Dorothy Tembo	CEPA	Programme Officer	Blantyre

14	Humphreys Magalasi	Nsanje -DC	DRR Officer	Nsanje
15	John Namalomba	AAIM	Project Officer	Nsanje
16	Sangwani Kaonga	AAIM	Project Accountant	Nsanje
17	Blessings Fala	AAIM	Project Officer	Nsanje
18	Lee Ngirazie	AAIM-ECRP	Project Coordinator	Nsanje
19	Cimwemwe Mwafongo	AAIM-ECRP	Project Officer	Nsanje
20	Dez Kachitedze	CARE Malawi	Learning, monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Kasungu
21	Joseph Msiska	Government District Council	DESK officer	Kasungu
22	Blackson Kumwera	Concern Universal	Field Facilitator	Dedza
23	Zione Vyazyi	Government District Council	DRR officer	Dedza
24	Grey Sajawa	ADRA Manza	Project Officer	Mwanza
25	Linda Lamya	ADRA Manza	Field Officer	Mwanza
26	Ediiga Chihana	Government District Council	DPD	Mwanza
27	Grant Mzembe	CARD	Team Leader	Mulanje
28	Ephraim Joseph	Government District Council	Assistant Irrigation Officer	Mulanje
29	Suzgo Gondwe	Government District Council	Environmental District Officer	Mulanje

Table 3: Mission schedule for the General MTE.

Date	Day	Team A (Alain Lafontaine) and Team B (Bright Sibale)
25-May	Sunday	Alain arrives, planning meeting with Bright
26 May, Morning from 8:30am	Monday	MTE Entry Meeting at Discover
26 May, afternoon from 2pm	Monday	MTE Entry Meeting at ECRP
27 May, morning from 8:30am	Tuesday	MTE Entry Meeting at DFID
27 May, afternoon from 1:30 pm	Tuesday	Meeting with Irish AID
27 May,	Tuesday	Meeting with MVAC

afternoon from 3pm			
27 May, afternoon from 5pm	Tuesday	Travel to Salima	
28 May, whole day	Wednesday	Data collection in Salima, joint team	
28 May, team splits	Wednesday	Team A (Bright Sibale)	Team B (Alain Lafontaine)
		Travel to Balaka	Travel to Kasungu
29 May	Thursday	Data collection in Balaka	Data collection in Kasungu, later travel to Dedza
30 May	Friday	Data collection in Machinga, later travel to Blantyre	Data collection in Dedza
31 st May	Saturday	Team Meeting in Blantyre	
1 June	Sunday	Team Meeting in Blantyre and writing notes, Team B travels to Nsanje	
2 June	Monday	Data collection in Nsanje, Discover	Data collection in Mwanza,
3 June	Tuesday	Data collection in Nsanje, ECRP, travel to Blantyre	Data collection in Mulanje
4 June	Wednesday	Team Meeting in Blantyre, travel to Lilongwe	
5 June, morning from 8:30am	Thursday	de-Briefing meeting with ECRP	
5 June, morning from 10:30am	Thursday	de-Briefing meeting with Discover	
5 June, afternoon from 2pm	Thursday	de-Briefing meeting with DFID	
6 June, morning 9am	Friday	Team meeting at CDM to review and plan	

Annex B: Evaluation Matrix

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
Relevance: To what extent is ECRP's approach to the needs identified at the design stage still valid?				
How relevant are the ECRP intervention strategies and activities with respect to climate resilience problems and beneficiary needs in the target programme areas?	Are interventions targeted to the main climate resilience problems in programme areas?	Types of interventions	Desk review Direct observation	Consortium reports Field sites sampled
		Main climate resilience problems in the community	Desk review Direct observation Interviews Focus groups	MVAC reports Field sites sampled Consortium management, IP staff, local stakeholders Beneficiary groups of men and women
	Are interventions strategic in the way they address and seek to change existing levels of resilience?	Logical connection between chosen interventions/combinations and improved resilience	Assessment	Programme documents, Consortium reports
		Stakeholder assessment of the logical connection between interventions and improvements in resilience	Interviews	Consortia management, IP staff, local stakeholders
	How relevant are ECRP activities with respect to community needs in the programme areas?	Activities supported in programme intervention zones and number of participants	Desk review	Consortia reports
			Survey sample	HH Survey data

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
			Interviews	IP staff
		Needs expressed by participating communities and identified in survey data	Focus groups	Beneficiary groups of men and women
			Survey sample	HH Survey data
	Is the scope appropriate in view of the scale of the problem being addressed?	Scope of activity in terms of number of households and coverage of intervention	Survey sample	HH Survey data
		Total population affected by problem	Desk review	MVAC Reports
			Survey sample	HH Survey data
Are ECRP assumptions about approach and context still valid?	Have any of the foreseen risks in the ToC or unforeseen risks materialised?	Evidence of change in assumption or risk environment, starting with the ToC list	Desk review	Consortia reports
			Interviews	Consortia management, Government Ministries, ECRP donors
			Direct observation	Field visits to a sample of interventions
	In what way does the programme manage and mitigate risks?	List of risks identified in previous programme reporting	Desk review	Consortia reports
		Examples of ways in which identified risks were mitigated for and effects of mitigation	Desk review	Consortia reports
			Interviews	Consortia management, IP staff
			Direct observation	Field visits to a sample of interventions
Have new opportunities or constraints emerged that the ECRP needs to consider?	What are the new opportunities that have emerged, if any, to assist in tackling resilience to climate change and	List of new opportunities	Interviews	Consortia management, IP staff, ECRP donors
		New needs expressed by communities	Focus groups	Beneficiary groups of men and women

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
	vulnerability?			
	What are the new unforeseen risks or constraints that have materialised to address resilience to climate change and variability?	List of new risks/constraints	Desk review Interviews Focus groups	Risk logs from Consortia Consortia management, IP staff, ECRP donors Beneficiary groups of men and women
Effectiveness: To what extent do ECRP interventions contribute to the expected results?				
What was the quality of implementation for the first two years?	How were local communities and stakeholders involved in implementation of interventions?	Actual role of local communities in implementation	Interviews Focus groups	IP staff, local stakeholders Beneficiary groups of men and women
	How timely was the delivery of the planned activities in view of the set workplans?	Actual level of activities realised over the time period	Desk review Interviews Focus groups	Activity and progress reports Consortia management, IP staff, local stakeholders Beneficiary groups of men and women
		Planned level of activities over the time period	Desk review	Workplans
	Are M&E activities being conducted and used in a way that benefits the programme, and are any adjustments needed?	M&E activities carried out	Desk review Interviews	Progress reports from IPs and Technical Agency Consortia management, IP staff
		Examples of ways in which M&E results have been incorporated into programme decisions	Interviews Direct	Consortia management, IP staff M&E Technical Agency staff

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
			observation	
		Stakeholder assessment of needed adjustments to the M&E plan	Interviews	Consortia management, IP staff
Is there evidence that ECRP activities are reaching target beneficiaries?	How many vulnerable individuals in rural Malawi does the project reach?	Level of beneficiary participation and number of beneficiaries	Desk review	MVAC Reports
	To what degree does ECRP reach marginalized individuals such as women and/or individuals from female-headed households?	Level of participation of women in activities	Survey sample	HH survey data
		Achievement of gender disaggregated outputs	Interviews	IP staff
		Examples of ways in which the project reaches other marginalized groups such as orphan headed households, the elderly, and ill	Focus groups	Beneficiary groups of women
			Survey sample	HH survey data
Is there evidence that ECRP activities are either appropriate or inappropriate given the existing resources and capacities of programme beneficiaries?	What barriers to adoption of ECRP technology packages are seen by stakeholders and beneficiaries, and how does the programme address these?	Examples of impediments, if any, to adoption of ECRP activities	Survey sample	HH survey data
		Adoption/practice rates of technologies	Interviews	IP staff, local stakeholders
		Examples of ways in which the programme attempts to reduce or remove barriers to adoption	Focus groups	Beneficiary groups of men and women
	Was adequate information and technical assistance provided to the beneficiaries to allow the effective use of the new	Type of information provided	Interviews	IP staff, local stakeholders
			Focus groups	Beneficiary groups of men and women
		Medium used for information	Interviews	IP staff
		Timing of the information and	Interviews	IP staff

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
	technology packages?	technical assistance provision		
		Assessment by beneficiaries of quality of information and assistance provided	Focus groups	Beneficiary groups of men and women
What results have the ECRP interventions achieved as of the MTE?	What progress has the ECRP made towards its programme-level indicators?	Current value and change in the status of output indicators compared to baseline levels and milestones for all 5 ECRP programme level outputs	Document review	Consortia reports, MVAC reports, CEPA reports
			Survey sample	HH survey data
			E-survey	Professionals working in resilience and food security in Malawi
			Document review	Consortia reports
	Current value and change in the status of outcome level indicators compared to baseline levels and milestones	Survey sample	HH survey data	
	Current value and change in the status of impact level indicators compared to baseline levels and milestones	Survey sample	HH survey data	
	Examples and assessment of links between outputs achieved thus far and outcomes and impact	Interviews	Consortia management	
What indications exist that outputs are contributing to programme goals?		Assessments of changes in food security and links to programme activities	Document review Interviews	MVAC reports Consortia management staff
			Survey sample	HH survey data
		Assessments of changes in poverty and links to programme activities	Document review	National poverty statistics, if available (IHS)

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
			Interviews	Consortia management staff
			Survey sample	HH survey data
		Assessments of changes in resilience to climate change and links to programme activities	Interviews	Consortia management staff
			Survey sample	HH survey data
Is there evidence that ECRP activities have greater benefits than costs?	If benefits associated with ECRP activities are quantified, how do they compare with costs?	\$ expenditure by intervention and by district	Analysis of cost data	Financial reports produced by consortia
		\$ value of quantified benefits of interventions triangulated across sites	Focus Group Discussions	Community response to case study questions
			Survey sample	HH survey data
	How does implementing interventions in combination affect costs and benefit ratios?	Sensitivity analysis	Analysis of cost data	Financial reports produced by consortia
			Focus Group Discussions	Community response to case study questions
			Survey sample	HH survey data
	What are the specific characteristics, if identifiable, that make some activities and/or combination of activities more cost effective and provide better value for money than others?	Stakeholder identification of potential reasons for differences in cost effectiveness across activities and combination of activities	Interviews	Field staff, Consortia management

Efficiency: Is the project using a cost-effective and efficient approach towards delivering results?

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
Is the programme ensuring economy in procuring inputs?	Does the programme have appropriate financial management procedures in place to ensure economy?	Existence of robust procedures for recruitment, procurement and grant management	Analysis of project documentation Interviews with IPs	IP documentation and responses to interview questions
	What level of quality and what level of price are project inputs obtained at (e.g. staff, consultants, capital)?	Inputs purchased	Sampling from project expenditure data	IP documentation and responses to interview questions
		Cost per input	Interviews with IPs	
Is the programme cost-efficient in delivering outputs?	What are the costs associated with commonly delivered outputs?	Comparable outputs delivered	Sampling from project expenditure and reporting data	IP documentation and responses to interview questions
		Cost per output for different delivery approaches		
	How does the cost-efficiency of delivery approaches vary?	Assessment of reasons for differences	Interviews with IPs	
Sustainability: Are there positive indications that the program interventions will have a lasting influence beyond the program end date?				
Does the programme demonstrate positive signs that activities and results will be continued beyond the programme end-date?	What level of adoption is seen amongst target beneficiaries for proposed activities?	Target adoption levels of ECRP resilience strategies	Document review	Programme planning documents
		Number of beneficiaries adopting different ECRP resilience strategies	Survey sample	HH survey data
		Assessment by stakeholders of adoption levels of different resilience strategies	Interviews	Consortia management, IP staff, local stakeholders

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
	Are there examples of policies or plans influenced by the programme that have been put into place?	Identified plans and policies	Document review Interviews	Available plans and policies Consortia management staff, ECRP donors, Government Ministries
		Assessment of the current (or estimate of the future) level of use of plans and policies	Interviews	Consortia management staff, ECRP donors, Government Ministries
	Is there evidence that information created through the programme is being used and will be mainstreamed into policy?	Examples of reports or learning papers produced by the programme	Document review Interviews	Available learning papers Consortia management staff, ECRP donors, Government Ministries
		Examples of use of reports/learning papers by decision-makers and planners	Interviews	Consortia management staff, ECRP donors, Government Ministries
Does the project demonstrate positive indications that activities and results will be extended beyond the current programme target groups/areas?	What evidence is there of the potential to replicate and/or scale up particular activities or approaches to building resilient livelihoods?	Examples of activities that have been replicated or scaled up	Interviews	Consortia management staff, ECRP donors, Government Ministries
		Assessment of potential to replicate and/or scale up activities	Interviews	Consortia management staff, ECRP donors, Government Ministries
	Which of the interventions are the best candidates for scaling up and/or replication and why?	Assessment of projects with best potential for scaling-up and/or replication	Interviews	IP staff, local stakeholders
		Stakeholder identification of potential characteristics that make an activity a better candidate for scaling-up and/or replication in Malawi	Interviews	IP staff, local stakeholders
	On the basis of the whole analysis above, is the PMF	The answer to this question will be based on the analysis of the	Assessment	

Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators	Collection	Data Source
	still valid, and does it require adjustments to be more reflective of the programme performance goals moving forward?	responses to the other questions, as part of the conclusion and recommendation section of the report		

Annex C: Documents Reviewed

General MTE

- Quarterly and Annual Consortia Reports
- Standard Operating Procedures for both Consortia
- MVAC Assessment reports from 2011 – 2014
- CEPA Case Studies and Bulletins
- Imani Consultants (April 2014) An Enterprise Development and Marketing Study in Discover Districts. Malawi.

Value for Money Study

- Internal documents provided by the two consortia including:
 - Discover: 29/07/11 Budget
 - Discover Cumulative Expenditure as of 31 March 2014
 - ECRP: Revised Budget – March 27th 2013
 - ECRP: Cumulative expenditure as of 31 March 2014
 - Discover & ECRP Fixed Asset Registers
 - Internal Audit report provided by Discover
 - Sample of procurement analysis provided by Discover and ECRP
 - Schedule of unit costs provided by Discover and ECRP
 - Cumulative beneficiary data as at 31 March 2014 provided by Discover and ECRP
- Plus the following references cited in the report:

Cabot Venton, C. and Siedenbug, J. (2010) Investing in Communities. The benefits and costs of building resilience for food security in Malawi. Tearfund, UK.

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LTS International, Baastel and CDM (2013) Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP) Year One Review.

LTS International, Baastel and CDM (2014a) Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP) Year Two Review.

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Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, University of Arizona and Innovations for Poverty Action (2013) Final Impact Evaluation of the Savings for Change Program in Mali, Commissioned by Oxfam America and Freedom from Hunger, Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Perry, E. (1997) Low Cost Irrigation for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa, Appropriate Technology International, Washington D.C. Available online at:
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/w7314e/w7314e0o.htm>

Savings Groups Information Exchange website. Available at:
<http://savingsgroups.com/home> Accessed on June 27, 2014

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Annex D: Household Survey

Methodology

In order to measure change a panel approach was considered, i.e. returning to the households interviewed at baseline to measure change July 2012 to May 2014 directly. This would have had the advantage of removing sampling variation from any estimates of change, but at the cost of a smaller and hard to predict N for beneficiary households within the baseline sample.

A field trial in Salima demonstrated that such an approach was not practical since many baseline households proved hard to trace. It was therefore decided to draw a new sample from the lists of beneficiary households provided by the implementing partners.

The possibility of including a sub-sample of non-beneficiary households was also considered. The advantage of such an approach is that it would allow direct comparison between beneficiaries and others at the same point in time, as opposed to comparisons between the baseline and mid-term samples. However such an approach was considered to have three major drawbacks. (1) Any potential for comparison would depend on the range of sampling variation associated with the sample size. Given a total N of approximately 2,000 across 11 districts, and with one district (Nsanje) divided between two consortia, the N at district level would be too small to allow any but very substantial differences to be identified at any level below that of each consortium. (2) While a sampling frame was available for beneficiary households, based on the lists held by the consortia, no such list was available for non-beneficiary households. In advance of the field work it would not have been possible either to identify GVHs where sufficient non-beneficiary households to sample were available, or to identify other sample points where non beneficiary households might be drawn. (3) There were considerable difficulties in the Baseline survey in reconciling information on census areas, which had been used in the sample clustering design, with the location and number of households in the field. Accordingly the sampling strategy was revised for the mid-term survey.

Given that results for beneficiaries disaggregated by sex of household head and other criteria at district level were needed, it was decided that it would be better to include only beneficiary households in the mid term survey. This would still allow comparison of indicators between baseline and mid-term, but with the drawback that change identified across the period would be a function of three criteria:

1. Differences between the characteristics of beneficiary and other households at baseline. (e.g. consortia selection of vulnerable HH, female headed households or other criteria).

2. Change occurring across all households in the period July 2012 to May 2014 attributable to factors other than to project activities. (e.g. changes in market prices, quality of the harvest associated with rainfall patterns)
3. Change occurring only in beneficiary households associated with consortia activities.

While fieldwork for the baseline survey took place in late June and early July in 2012, the proximity of elections meant that it was necessary to conduct the mid-term two months earlier in late April and early June. This should be taken into account in analysis of the results, insofar as we might expect household stocks of food or cash to be different.

Lists of beneficiary households supplied by the consortia were first edited to remove multiple entries of households. This gave beneficiary household totals as shown in table 1 at district and TA level.

A sample design aims to trade off randomisation against fieldwork costs through the use of clustering. Rather than drawing a simple probability sample across the whole target population, the latter is first divided into primary sampling units (PSUs) which are geographically based. A random sample of these units, or clusters, is made. In the selected PSUs a further random sample is drawn. By reducing the number of PSUs in the survey, fieldwork costs are reduced, allowing a larger sample to be drawn, but at the cost of some increases in standard error caused by the smaller variance within PSUs than that occurring across them. The efficiency of the sample design can also be increased by stratification, when there are known characteristics of the target population which can be used. If sampling is carried out within strata, this minimises any reduction in variance on the stratification variable by ensuring that its distribution across the target population is replicated in the sample. Thus while clustering tends to reduce variance, stratification can increase it. Stratification can also be undertaken at the post survey stage through weighting of the achieved sample units on any characteristic of the sample for which information on the target population is available.

The consortia household listings contained information on the District, TA and GVH of households. Accordingly the sample was stratified by Consortia (2) District (11 districts) and TA (42), with a minimum target sample size for each Consortium of 1000 households, for each District of 120 households and each TA of 40 households. Districts and TAs vary greatly in size in terms of both the number of beneficiary households and resident population (as estimated by the 2008 census: the latest date for which population estimates at TA level are available). The number of beneficiary households in each District varied from 2095 (Mwanza) to 27,967 (Dedza) and in each TA from 185 (Ngabu) to 27,967 (Kachindamoto). TA estimated resident population (2008 data) varied from 6,000 (Msosa) to 177,000 (Msamala). Accordingly the sampling fraction in each TA was varied to accommodate the need for a

minimum sample size in each cluster. The GVH was used as the PSU. Rather than a purely random selection of GVH's, an attempt was first made to identify GVH's with villages where fieldwork for the baseline survey had taken place. This produced a small number of GVHs. Further GVH's were randomly selected within each TA proportional to the number of beneficiary households within them (i.e the probability of selection was weighted to the target beneficiary household population size). Once a GVH was selected, households were randomly sampled. In addition, a further reserve sample of households was made in each GVH, in case it proved difficult to locate or identify households and replacements needed to be sought.

On completion of the survey, weights were calculated based on the probability of selection of each sampled household and the distribution of the target population by TA, district and consortium.

It should be noted that the absolute size of the population of beneficiary households, and the ratio of that population to the estimated 2008 resident population varies by district and consortium. This means that the application of the correct weight is needed to make statements about beneficiary households in individual districts (when comparing across districts), individual consortia (when comparing between consortia) and for the project as a whole. Table 2 shows the relevant comparisons.

Confidence intervals and estimated standard errors.

Standard errors depend upon the sample size for the unit of analysis (e.g. District, Consortia etc) and the variance of the characteristic in the population as estimated by its variance in the sample. As an indication of the relative size of standard errors the table below shows the sample estimate for the age in years of heads of household, and for the proportion of households owning a bicycle.

Standard errors can be used to calculate confidence intervals for sample estimates. A 95% confidence interval can be interpreted as meaning the proportion of times that repeatedly drawn random samples would include the unknown value of the true population parameter within the interval. This can be used as an approximation to, but is not the same as, the statement 'the probability that the interval based on the sample estimate contains the true population value'. The latter statement is an approximation since the true probability of the population parameter lying within a sample confidence interval for any individual sample must be either 1 or 0. The $P=0.95$ refers to our *level of confidence* that our sample is one of the samples for which $P = 1$.

Examples of standard errors and confidence intervals for mean age of Head of HH and % HH owning a bicycle are illustrated in Table 3.

Table 1 achieved sample by Consortia, District and TA.

	District	TA	HH listing N	Completed MR interviews (N)
ECRP	Chikwawa	101 Chapananga	453	40
		102 Kasisi	323	40
		103 Makhuwira	745	40
		104 Masache	1157	40
		105 Ngabu	880	41
		106 Ngowe	346	41
	Kasungu	201 Kaluluma	2693	61
		202 Kapelula	325	23
		203 Simlemba	1445	45
		204 Wimbe	2881	72
	Machinga	301 Chikweo	1831	88
		302 Ngokwe	735	45
	Mulanje	401 Chikumbu	704	45
		402 Mabuka	863	44
		403 Mthiramanja	578	45
	Mwanza	501 Govati	586	44
		502 Kanduku	1261	43
		503 Nthache	248	44
	Thyolo	701 Mbawera	1790	68
		702 Nsabwe	941	65
	Nsanje	601 Malemia	931	44
		602 Ndamera	1018	44
		603 Ngabu	185	45
	Discover	Nsanje	604 Chimombo	897
Discover 605 Makoko			1343	51
		606 Tengani	7873	99
Dedza		801 Kachindamoto	27967	222
Salima		901 Maganga	4532	52
		902 Msosa	2959	49
		903 Mwanza	1966	50
		904 Ndindi	5857	42
		905 Pemba	3503	73
Karongo		1001 Kyungu	8693	55
		1002 Mwakaboko	1008	39
		1003 Mwirang'ombe	2716	40
		1004 Wasambo	5647	69
Balaka		1101 Msamala	4091	68
		1102 STA Chanthunya	2230	78
	1103 STA Nkaya	2653	74	
		Total	106854	2221

Table 2 Beneficiary HH, Estimated 2008 population, sampled HH and persons resident in sampled HH.

District	Beneficiary households (000)	Estimated 2008 population in TAs where project operates (000)	Achieved sample in mid term survey (N)	Persons in sampled HH (N)
Chikwawa	3.9	407	242	1270
Kasungu	7.3	196	201	1090
Machinga	2.6	80	133	743
Mulanje	2.1	269	134	718
Mwanza	2.1	109	131	731
Thyolo	2.7	75	133	744
Nsanje ECRP	2.1	56	132	825
	22.8	1192	1,106	6121
Nsanje Discover	7.9	52	204	1231
Dedza	28.0	94	222	1256
Salima	18.8	134	266	1589
Karonga	19.1	168	203	1148
Balaka	9.0	277	220	1236
	82.8	725	1115	6460

Table 3 Examples of survey standard errors and confidence intervals for survey estimates.

	Sample estimate of mean age in years	Standard error in years	95% confidence interval +/-
Chikwawa	44.60	1.02	1.99
Kasungu	44.27	1.03	2.03
Machinga	42.11	1.31	2.57
Mulanje	46.40	1.35	2.65
Mwanza	43.53	1.15	2.26
Nsanje Discover	48.31	1.06	2.09
Nsanje ECRP	45.37	1.52	2.98
Thyolo	45.53	1.22	2.40
Dedza	44.75	1.02	1.99
Salima	45.70	0.95	1.85
Karonga	45.17	0.94	1.85
Balaka	47.09	1.09	2.14
All DISCOVER	46.17	0.45	0.89
All ECRP	44.54	0.46	0.90
Total project	45.36	0.32	0.63

	Sample estimate of % HH owning a bicycle	Standard error in % points	95% confidence interval +/-
Chikwawa	64.0	3.1	6.1
Kasungu	47.8	3.5	6.9
Machinga	77.4	3.6	7.1
Mulanje	67.2	4.1	8.0
Mwanza	46.6	4.4	8.6
Nsanje Discover	33.3	3.3	6.5
Nsanje ECRP	57.6	4.3	8.5
Thyolo	36.8	4.2	8.2
Dedza	51.8	3.4	6.6
Salima	44.0	3.0	6.0
Karonga	67.0	3.3	6.5
Balaka	56.8	3.3	6.6
All DISCOVER	50.3	1.5	2.9
All ECRP	57.0	1.5	2.9
Total project	53.6	1.1	2.1

Annex E: Climate hazards experienced in ECRP areas

Table 1: Summary of the causes and extent of food insecurity in Malawi for each consumption year¹⁴ of ECRP implementation according to MVAC annual forecasts.¹⁵

Population affected	Agro-climatic causes	Other related causes
April 2011 – March 2012		
Nationwide:10 districts identified; 201,850 people affected ECRP Programme Areas:4 districts identified; 97,030 people affected	While the 2010/11 rains began well, in most of the country they became erratic and/or gave way to dry spells from January to early March during the crucial growing phase for many crops. Southern districts were most affected.	Increased transport costs made delivery of food from surplus regions to deficit regions more difficult.
April 2012 – March 2013		
Nationwide: 16 districts identified; 1,972,993 people affected ECRP Programme Areas: 9 districts identified; 1,097,868 people affected	Late onset of planting rains, erratic rains and prolonged dry spells created low crop yields and corresponding food insecurity.	Low cash crop production and sales, increase in prices for food and non-food essential items, large geographic extent within districts of areas affected and devaluation of local currency compounded shortages.
April 2013 – March 2014		
Nationwide:24 districts identified; 1,855,183 people affected ECRP Programme Areas:11 districts identified; 895,611 people affected	Long dry spells during critical growing stages, floods affecting large areas and early cessation of rainfall created low crop production.	Low availability of inputs and general increase in costs of living compounded insecurity.

¹⁴ The main harvest season in Malawi is generally from April to August. Household food supply is typically highest from April to June and lowest from January to March. The consumption year is considered April/March.

¹⁵ MVAC (July 2011) *Vulnerability Forecast, April 2011 to March 2012*, vol. 7, no. 1. Lilongwe, Malawi; MVAC (October 2011) *Vulnerability Update, October 2011*, vol. 7, no. 2. Lilongwe, Malawi; MVAC. (October 2012) *National Food Security Forecast October 2012 Update*. vol. 8, no. 2, Lilongwe, Malawi; MVAC. (November 2013) *National Food Security Forecast November 2013 Update*. Vol. 9, no. 2, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Table 2: Compilation of typical comments received in FGDs regarding climate-related challenges per District visited.¹⁶

District	Climate-related challenges mentioned
Balaka	<p>Drought, dry spell, erratic rainfall, flooding, water-borne illness</p> <p><i>"Sometimes rains come early and leave early; sometimes they come late and leave late; sometimes there is too much and it leads to flooding. Water logging from too much rain can be a problem."</i></p>
Dedza	<p>Drought, dry spell, erratic rainfall</p> <p><i>"We have been experiencing unreliable rainfall patterns. The rains start late and stop early."</i></p>
Kasungu	<p>Erratic rainfall, floods, drought, dry spell</p> <p><i>"We have been experiencing unreliable rainfall patterns which has affected the production of crops. We have also been experiencing heavy rainfall which destroyed the crops and fertilizer was washed away. Heavy rainfall was experienced last year 2013 which we feel that this year there will be food shortages in some households."</i></p>
Machinga	<p>Drought, dry spells, floods, strong winds, high temperatures, water-borne illness</p> <p><i>"We are affected by both floods and drought. Last year first we had drought. The rains began as usual in October, but then there was a drought from October to December. We had planted maize in October but it was destroyed. We planted again in December, but it rained too much and these too were destroyed."</i></p>
Mulanje	<p>Drought, dry spell, pests, erratic rainfall</p> <p><i>"[Problems are] delayed and low rainfall because rains start late and stop faster. For instance, rains used to start in November, but now it comes around December and even January sometimes."</i></p>
Nsanje	<p>Drought, floods, dry spell, cholera, pests, strong winds</p> <p><i>"Here the problem is with dry spells. Sometimes the rains start well but then they end early and we don't harvest much. Flooding is also a problem. We may have floods and dry spells in the same year."</i></p>
Salima	<p>Drought, dry spells, flooding, erratic rainfall, strong winds, army worms</p> <p><i>"The rains start early and we don't think that they are the planting rains; we aren't ready to start planting, we don't have the seeds, inputs, etc. We plant a few weeks later but it is too late. If the rains stop then we don't get anything."</i></p>

Source: FGDs conducted for the General MTE.

¹⁶ Quotes throughout the MTE Report are drawn from notes taken in the field. Stakeholder interviews were conducted in English, while FGDs were conducted in Chichewa and quotes therefore represent translations.

Annex F: Summary of beneficiary comments on ECRP interventions

Table 1: Summary of FGD comments collected during the General MTE on Crop Diversification, VSL and CA.

	Crop Diversification	Village Savings and Loans	Conservation Agriculture
Summary	Crop diversification sees high adoption and beneficiaries consistently name it as one of their top 3 interventions. It is frequently implemented as part of CA. Sustainability of seed multiplication is an important next step.	VSL is possibly the most popular intervention for beneficiaries. Many diverse benefits are regularly mentioned, and it has synergies with multiple other interventions. VSL is in need of a path moving forward given its popularity and fast growth.	CA is one of the most popular interventions frequently listed as a favorite by beneficiaries; however, CA also poses a number of complications. Quality training is important to avoid misapplication and resulting disappointment with the technique.
Increase in food security	A strong majority of participants saw an increase in food supply and nutritional diversity at the household.	Most all participants saw an increase in food security since VSL funds help purchase farming inputs and buy food.	Most beneficiaries saw an increase in food supply through yields, though some add that the increases are modest.
Increase in income	Some participants saw an increase in income, either from selling crops or avoiding expenses on food.	A strong majority saw an increase in income through savings and small business activities.	Direct increase in income is modest, but many participants save money by avoiding paying for <i>ganyu</i> .
Other benefits and examples of positive comments	<p>Potential to improve soil health; improvements in diet; and a general enjoyment of the types of food.</p> <p>"These crops help us in so many ways. For example, chickpeas gives us relish, retains soil fertility, and we can sell and use the proceeds to buy salt, soap, clothes and other things."</p>	<p>Paying school fees; purchasing inputs, livestock, household items; paying for house construction; use in times of emergency; and funding small business activities.</p> <p>"After sharing money from the VSL I bought fertilizer which I used in vegetable farming and I got a lot of money from that."</p>	<p>Yields are protected in low moisture conditions; effort in the fields is reduced during certain times of the growing calendar; and potential to improve long-term soil health.</p> <p>"Yes it's too involving at the beginning and takes a long time to fill the farm with maize</p>

	(Dedza). "In the past we used to grow crops to go to market and sell but we didn't know what to do with the money. Now we sell and put the money in the VSL and then use it in October/November when we need to buy inputs." (Machinga)	(Kasungu) "When we have an emergency we go there and it doesn't even take time to get money; it is very convenient. We even use the money to buy clothes for our children and ourselves. To pay for school fees." (Nsanje)	residues. But if you are done with thatyou are able to attend other activities since you don't need much effort on the farm and also there is always enough moisture." (Mulanje) "We save money, we do other jobs instead of being on the farm. We do business with the saved time." (Nsanje)
Challenges	Several groups cited problems with delivery whereby seeds arrived too late to plant or they were diseased and not viable.	There was one case of fraud and a small number of groups where training was not provided. Participants frequently ask for increase contribution sizes and training for business.	A number of things can go wrong with CA including water logging, weed growth, competing uses for crop residues, difficulty transporting residues to fields, and lack of fertilizer to apply.
Synergies with other interventions	CA – Nitrogen fixing crops are included in seeds. Cook stoves – pigeon pea stalks are used for fuel. VSL – The VSL is used to store money earned from crop sales	CA – Use dividends to purchase farming inputs such as fertilizer and seed. Livestock/Cook stoves – Store money from sale or use dividends for initial money to purchase. DRR – Draw on dividends in times of need as a positive coping strategy.	Livestock – Manure is a strong complement to CA. Crop Diversification – A component to CA. DRR – CA offers a degree of protection from dry spell and drought; VSL – Funds can be used to buy seeds and fertilizer.
Moving forward	Understand in detail to what degree the seed multiplication and pass-along is functioning.	Strategies for graduating beneficiaries need to be developed. Beneficiaries make strong demands for additional entrepreneurial training as they increase their businesses.	Scaling up of CA to cover increased hectarage should be understood, and attention should be paid to quality of training services, since the technique can malfunction if improperly applied.

Table 2: Summary of FGD comments collected during the General MTE on irrigation, cook stoves and livestock.

	Irrigation	Cook Stoves	Livestock
Summary	Adoption and benefits are strong for functional irrigation schemes. Only a small number of participants were present in FGDs.	Cook stoves see high demand and meaningful improvements in quality of life especially for women; however, production and marketing of the stoves is a challenge.	Livestock is highly appreciated by beneficiaries. At present, the number of participants remains small, and the pass-along takes time to expand.
Increase in food security	For functioning schemes a strong majority of participants saw benefits to food security.	No direct improvements reported.	Some beneficiaries report improved food security through use of manure as fertilizer.
Increase in income	For functioning schemes most participants saw increases in income.	No direct improvements. Indirectly a strong majority of participants cite saving money through decreased purchase of firewood.	Some beneficiaries report increased income from selling livestock, though it is early to know the extent.
Other benefits and examples of positive comments	<p>Irrigation (and winter cropping) can provide a crucial coping mechanism for farmers who lose crops to floods in the rainy season.</p> <p>“This type of farming has helped in reducing hunger in my household and also irrigation farming has helped me in paying school fees for my children with the use of the money I gained after selling the crops” (Dedza)</p> <p>“We grow tomato and other vegetables in this irrigation scheme. The crops planted in the irrigation scheme are bought with the money from VSL.” (Mulanje)</p>	<p>Women using the stoves report frequent use and satisfaction with reduced smoke and improved cooking times. Participants interviewed spend less time searching for wood and less money purchasing wood.</p> <p>“We use it to cook the morning meal, then boil water for washing, then to cook lunch and then to cook supper....in the morning we cook, heat up the stove, cook porridge and then greens. Then we do this in the afternoon and evening.” (Machinga)</p> <p>“In the past we were spending about 4 hours in the mountain fetching firewood and now we only spend about 2 hours.” (Dedza)</p>	<p>A source of manure is the most common benefit explained by participants, followed by uses such as milk. Beneficiaries in general appear to value owning livestock and they enjoy the intervention.</p> <p>“If we don’t have money we just have to sell one goat for food, fees and fertiliser;” “With manure from these goats we are able to harvest more;” and “The goats give us nutritious milk than other types of animals.” (Kasungu)</p>

	Irrigation	Cook Stoves	Livestock
Challenges	Some schemes were not functional because of delays in intervention delivery. In addition, irrigation is not applicable for all farmers.	Many users report that the stove breaks and they don't find new stoves for sale. Producers have difficulty sourcing clay and finding continued markets in nearby areas to sell the stoves.	The pass-along takes time to expand each year as the goats need time to grow. One example of quality problems was encountered where over half of the animals died of illness.
Synergies with other interventions	DRR – Irrigation can allow farmers who have lost crops to harvest in the winter season. VSL – Money earned from sale of crops can be used to pay shares.	Crop diversification – Pigeon pea stalks can be used as fuel. VSL – Savings can be used to purchase the stove.	CA – Very strong synergies as manure can be used for fertilizer VSL – Dividends can be used to purchase livestock or sale of livestock can be used to pay shares.
Moving forward	Full roll-out and functioning management of the schemes needs to be ensured.	While demand is high, an improved system of producing and marketing the stoves needs to be established.	Scaling up of the intervention should be considered; quality needs to be assured in sourcing animals.

Table 3: Summary of FGD comments collected during the General MTE on DRR and Aforestation/agroforestry.

	DRR EWS	Aforestation/Agroforestry
Summary	Many FGDs cite established procedures for disasters; however, implementation of plans is variable.	Participants cite positive experiences; however, with most trees planted in 2012, it is early to comment on benefits.
Benefits	<p>Some beneficiaries cite that they feel more protected.</p> <p>Multiple FGDs described instances where an EWS system was triggered and they responded according to plan.</p> <p>“There is also EWS committee, its one committee with DRR. They send us weather messages for example rainfall and other problems. Then we use a whistle telling people to be prepared. For instance, last year we did the same to let people know that rain is coming so they should be prepared.” (Mulanje)</p>	<p>Food security and income improvements are indirect.</p> <p>Some projects that began before ECRP have wood that beneficiaries use for fuel and construction. Farmers report improvement in soil quality from mulching leaves and reduced soil erosion.</p> <p>“We started in 2012. For food it is helping us a lot because the leaves that fall help the soil and contribute to food production. Also those who plant trees around houses their houses are protected from the wind. For the meantime we don’t sell anything from the trees.” (Machinga)</p>
Challenges	<p>The quality of VCPC groups appears inconsistent.</p> <p>“When disasters come there isn’t an easy flow of information from one house to another in part because of transportation. Either if the VCPCs had a phone or if they were given bicycles it would be better” (Machinga)</p> <p>Several FGDs report that they follow procedures to report on damages to the district but never receive replies.</p>	<p>It is mostly too early to see the long-term benefits such as flood mitigation, though early maturing seeds have often been selected which will speed up this process.</p>
Synergies with other interventions	Indirect synergies with all interventions	DRR – flood mitigation.