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**IDEAL**

# Njira DFAP Final Performance Evaluation Presentation

TANGO International



# Meet our Presenters

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# Introduction

# Njira Context

## **Southern districts: Balaka and Machinga**

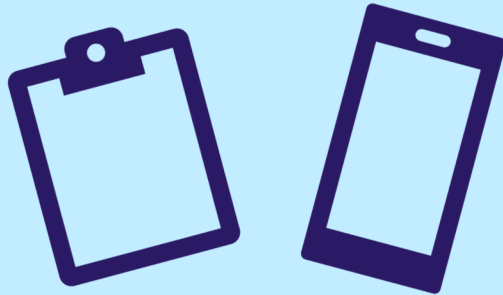
- Resource-poor, cash-poor, subject to seasonal food insecurity (lean season)
- Most dependent on rainfed agriculture, day labor
- Tiny farm size, poor soil fertility, deforestation
- Persistence of shocks: flooding, dry spells and drought, fall armyworm devastation
  - *Only one “normal year” in the 2017 season*
- High vulnerability and malnutrition (CU5)
- HH struggle to provide an adequate diet year-round

# Methods

## Quantitative Survey

July 24 – Aug 4, 2019

- Population-based survey
- 630 households
- 20% of sample self-identified as participants



## Qualitative Study

Oct 13 – 31, 2019

- Both targeted districts
- Purposive sample
- 42 FGDs w/ 465 participants (352 F, 113 M)
- 42 KIIs w/ project participants (6 F, 36 M)
- Desk review
- Field observations
- *NB: Project had ended*

# Notes on population-based sample design

## FFP performance evaluations use PBS design

- Statistically random sample drawn from general population in project area
- Includes participants and non-participants but does not stratify to permit statistically valid comparisons
- Measures two points in time: BL and EL. Cannot show trend; indicators can fluctuate over LOA. Some indicators more/less sensitive to context.
- **Cannot attribute results to the project**

## Sample designed to be representative of entire area

- Njira sample: approx. 20% project participants
- PBS does not have a control group

Limitations: Project participants self-identify; may be beneficiaries but are not aware, esp for systems-level interventions (e.g., DRR)

Mixed methods: qualitative data and project monitoring data



**Purpose 1:**  
Increased income  
from agricultural  
and non-  
agricultural  
activities

# Purpose 1: Increased income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities

## Sustainable, nutrition-friendly agricultural production

**Producer groups:** > 31,000 beneficiaries

**PBS results: lower adoption rate for some practices at endline than baseline at population level**

- adoption of sustainable agric. technologies (crops, livestock, NRM)
- use of improved storage practices
- use of financial services
- participation in value chain activities
- household expenditures

*However -*



# Purpose 1: Increased income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities

## Annual project monitoring data show results at project level

Njira worked with >30,000 farming households:

- 80% adopted hybrid seeds, cultural practices (crop spacing), soil fertility and management (mulching)
- >3,000 practiced improved post-harvest and storage technologies
- Irrigation schemes covered 225 ha (102% target)
- Livestock pass-along exceeded targets:
  - Goat ownership: BL 0.7 animals >>EL 14
  - Chicken ownership: BL 2.5 birds >> EL 25



# Purpose 1: Increased income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities

## Qualitative findings reflect beneficiary gains

Widespread adoption of low-cost, climate-smart agricultural innovations >>now standard practices

- Improved seed
- Plant spacing in maize
- Mulch (esp. HH gardens, irrigated plots)
- Expanded access to irrigated land
- Orange-fleshed sweet potato (from FAO)



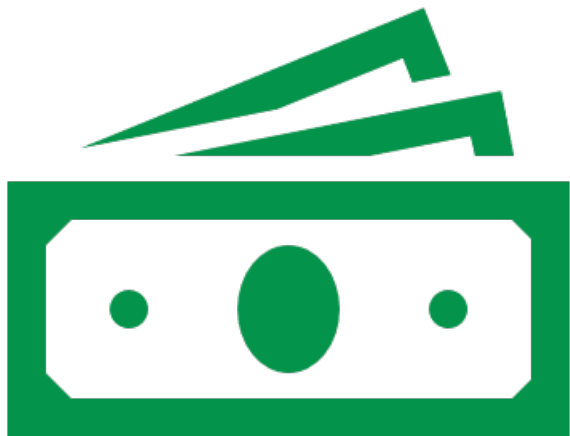
# Purpose 1: Increased income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities



## More Qualitative Findings

- Increased crop diversity and crop yield
- More dietary diversity: “six groups”
- Raised water table and soil moisture from NRM (Purpose 3)
- Irrigation valued, though limited due to proximity of water source, treadle pumps (move water but not fast or far)
- Irrigation groups collecting fees, making repairs

# Purpose 1: Increased income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities



## Women's Empowerment/Village Savings & Loan

- >1,500 groups supported; >33,000 participants
- WE/VSL the main/most available loan source in capital-scarce communities
- Major source of household income
- Loan utilization 70% (exceeded target)
- Earnings from annual distribution used for home improvement, school fees, asset acquisition, improving diet

# Purpose 1: Increased income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities

## Value Chain Activities

### Quantitative results

% farmers practicing VC activities:

#### PBS

- 67.8% BL >> 28.4% EL
- Similar results for M and F farmers

#### Annual monitoring data

- Nearly 7,500 farmers practicing VC activities (surpassing target)

> half activities related to marketing

WE/VSL had greatest impact on income due to interest; 30-50% return on deposits

#### Pigeon pea (cash-crop)

- Farmers already familiar (esp Machinga)
- Production OK (variable rains) but limited success due to collapse of export market 2015-16
- Little interest from large-scale buyers in Malawi; could not negotiate favorable prices in local markets

# Purpose 1: Increased income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities

## **Livestock Pass-along: *successes***

- Farmers multiplied herds/flocks
- Improved diets (meat, eggs)
- Sold eggs, animals in lean times
- >13,000 HH improved livestock techniques
- Livestock vaccinations increased significantly
- 51 Community Animal Health Workers active in project villages

## **Livestock Pass-along: *challenges***

- Some did not understand the activity
- Pigeons and humans eat the same grain >> competition during lean season
- Community Animal Health Workers received veterinary kits late; delayed services

# Purpose 1: Increased income from agricultural and non-agricultural activities

## Overall P1 Strengths

- Increased revenue from irrigated crops, sales of livestock and livestock products
- Monetary gains marginal, but small gains important to poor participants

## Overall P1 Challenges

- Unanticipated shocks, including inadequate rainfall, pests, flooding
- Market uncertainties
- Lack of cash and employment



**Purpose 2:**  
Improved health  
and nutrition of  
pregnant and  
lactating women  
and children  
under five



# Purpose 2: Improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and CU5

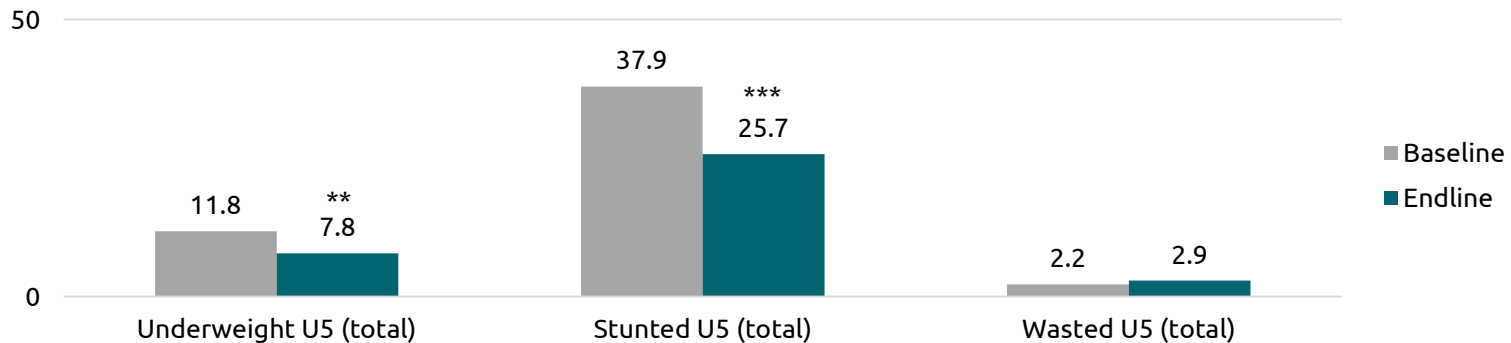
## Main Activities

- Rations – pregnant and lactating women and CU5
- Training – dietary practices, diversified diet, child feeding and care practices, MUAC
- Care groups (453)
- Fathers' groups (80) – nutrition and health care training
- Couples' workshops – gender roles/relations
- Layering w/ P1 (34% overlap) of beneficiaries – home gardens, cooking demos

# Purpose 2: Improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and CU5

## PBS results:

- Decrease in CU5 underweight
- Decrease in CU5 stunting
- Consistent with national trend
- PBS not powered to show changes at participant level



ns = not significant, + p<0.1, \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001

# Purpose 2: Improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and CU5

## Dietary Diversity

- PCI data: 37.5% of children 6-23 months had consumed 4 or more of the 7 food groups
  - Balaka 48% vs Machinga 24%
- In both districts, boys fared better than girls
- Qualitative study: improved understanding of value of OFSP



## WASH

- Improved hygiene practices were understood to further reduce outbreaks of cholera and diarrhea

# Purpose 2: Improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and CU5

## Qualitative Findings: *successes*

- Cascade approach effective
- Well-absorbed messages:
  - Diet diversity, preparing nutritious food, breastfeeding, weaning foods, child hygiene
- Significant reduction in referrals to Nutrition Rehabilitation Units

## Qualitative Findings: *challenges*

- Use of fuel-efficient stoves questionable

Chronic food insecurity threatens gains in nutrition in lean periods, crises



# Purpose 2: Improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and CU5

## Growth Monitoring

- High coverage
- High workload: services delinked from project, shifted to MoH
- Project staff + MoH continued collaborating on counselling



## Antenatal care

- Counselling thought to contribute to ANC attendance
- PBS: no BL-EL change; ~ 50% women had 4+ ANC visits

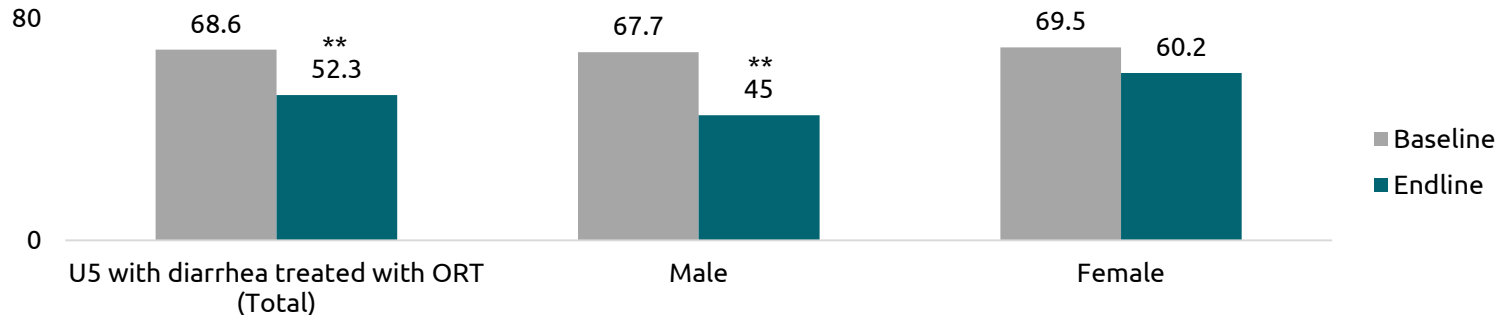
# Purpose 2: Improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and CU5

## Exclusive breastfeeding

- PBS: Large, significant change for boys: 60% - 79%; none for girls (~70%)
- Consistent with PCI data
- Exposure to messaging may have contributed to increase for boys

## Diarrhea and ORT

- PBS: no BL-EL change
- PBS: Use of ORT: big decrease, esp for boys
- Messaging – or economic situation?



ns = not significant, + p<0.1, \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001

# Purpose 2: Improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and CU5

## Water Point Committees (619)

- Membership primarily F; gave women higher status
- Maintained infrastructure: borehole, fencing, safe run-off
- One member trained as a mechanic: fee-for-service
- Good prospects for sustainability

## WASH PBS Findings

- Improved access to drinking water: 51.7% BL >> 65.6% EL
- Less use of sanitation facilities: 56.5% BL >> 38.8% EL
  - Consistent w/PCI 2018 data

## Many still lack access to clean water

- Congestion at boreholes >> use of unimproved sources
- PBS: 21% treated water; bleaching most common

# Purpose 2: Improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and CU5

## Strengths

### Community-Led Total Sanitation

- Village mapping of HH w/ toilets
- Transect walks through the bush to identify defecation sites
- Education via care groups, home visits, neighbors
- Cholera not seen for many years

## Challenges

- Poor quality latrine construction
- Latrines collapse during rainy season; replaced yearly
- Tippy taps highly regarded but rarely seen
- 70 Njira communities achieved ODF but gains easily reversed





**Purpose 3:**  
Improved capacity  
to prepare for,  
manage, and  
respond to shocks

# Purpose 3: Improved capacity to prepare for, manage, and respond to shocks

## Village Civil Protection Committees (80)

- VCPCs exist per GoM policy; Njira worked with existing + new
- Trained in disaster planning and response, disaster management and disaster contingency plans

### More equipped for:

- Flooding, run-off, storms
- Examples of using EWS and rain and river line gauges to alert residents of floods and move them to safety

### Less equipped for:

- Drought
- Fall armyworm

# Purpose 3: Improved capacity to prepare for, manage, and respond to shocks

## Institutional support of DRM structures, risk reduction practices

- Worked with GoM district disaster officer, land resource officer, forestry officer, and GVH and VDC counterparts
- DRR manuals developed and distributed to all levels
- System for identifying and mapping disaster hotspots and disseminating disaster-related information at GVH *Ubwino* centers
- Strengthened visibility of communities before GoM
- New community access to external actors and institutions and their benefits

# Purpose 3: Improved capacity to prepare for, manage, and respond to shocks

## Watershed Committees for NRM

- Training: watershed management principles, technical support, supervision by project staff
- Some overlap with VCPCs; work in tandem
- Reforestation work supported by Food for Assets (beans and oil)

## Achievements

- Water and soil conservation works in >7,500 ha in 20 watersheds
- >2,100 ha reforested
- Near elimination of damage from surface run-off
- Retention of moisture behind hillside structures
- Dramatic increases in maize yield in protected areas
- Reforestation
- Villages created nurseries to grow seedlings

*Results not uniform: in some villages, committees were inactive; work stopped when FFA stopped*

# Purpose 3: Improved capacity to prepare for, manage, and respond to shocks

## Enhanced community empowerment in managing disasters

- Mobilization of collective action
- 13 of 20 watershed committees continue to function without project inputs and assistance, but with GoM technical assistance
- Post-project, committees continue to expand soil and water management structures
- Pride in community problem-solving

***“Njira gave us the knowledge and the skills; the future is now in our hands.”***



Photo Credit: Jonathan Hyams / Save the Children

## Gender

# Gender

## Project Design

- Gender analysis in Y1 to define priorities
- Targeting designed for men and women to share in activities
- Emphasis on status/role of women in public and in the HH

## Results

- Significant female participation in leadership roles (including lead farmers) across all three purposes
- % men who say they make decisions about child & health decisions jointly w/ women increased: 42% BL to 62% EL
- Men more confident escorting their wives to antenatal clinics or taking their children to growth monitoring sessions



## Project Accomplishments



# What worked?

## **Theory of change: layering**

- Achieved between P1 + P2, and P1 +P3

## **Partnership with GoM counterparts**

- In planning, management, and implementation
- Extensionists, technical staff, HSAs, ministry staff in health and disaster management
- Key for exit strategy

## **Community empowerment and ownership**

- Irrigation, water point management, watershed management



Photo Credit: Harrison Thane/Save the Children

## Recommendations

# Recommendations

**R1. The layering approach adopted by Njira should be an integral part of future FFP programming – with some adjustments.**

- ✓ Reduce # of beneficiaries; intensify layering at HH level
- ✓ Reduce # activities

**R2. Expand strategies to enable greater “spill-over” effects of project interventions.**

- ✓ Need strategy to spread impact to larger population
- ✓ *Learning village* model

**R3. Village savings and loans associations should be promoted as participant-owned financial institutions.**

- ✓ Important in a cash-poor environment to increase community liquidity and accumulate lending capital for larger investments
- ✓ Integrate into wider financial networks

# Recommendations

**R4. Future projects should expand the innovation strategies on low-cost and low-technology techniques as the principal mechanisms for technology change.**

- ✓ Need appropriate practices for the cash-constrained
- ✓ e.g., improved seeds, cultivation and intercropping

**R5. The design of FFP agri-business programs should emphasize the appropriateness of the program to farm-level realities and capacities.**

- ✓ Low literacy is common; need tailored, repeated information and orientation
- ✓ Consider national, regional, local market context

# Recommendations

**R6. For future projects, add a transition year after the end of the project to assure and document sustainability.**

- ✓ Technical, not material assistance
- ✓ Support and accompany local institutions; help with problem-solving

**R7. Devise within FFP a new strategy for the evaluation of program results.**

- ✓ PBS allows capture of the indirect project benefits that obtain in the wider population in the project area
  - ✓ However, cannot attribute results to project
- ✓ Explore additional quantitative methodologies to enable statements about attribution of observed changes to project activities



## Q&A Session



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