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CARE Zimbabwe Takunda FY22 Annual Results

FY22 Narrative Report

Reporting Fiscal Year	FY 2022
Recipient Organization/Name	CARE
Geographic Area (e.g., country)	Zimbabwe
Award Number	72DFFP20CA00007
Activity Name	Takunda
Activity Start Date	October 1, 2020
Activity End Date	September 30, 2025
Submission Date	10/31/2022; Resubmitted 12/12/2022
List of AR Documents Uploaded	Annual Results Narrative Humanitarian Stories Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) IPTT Indicator Data Collection Method Descriptions
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
BVIP	Blair Improved Ventilated Pit Latrines
CAPS	Community Action Plans
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
FFBS	Farmers' Field and Business School
FY	Fiscal Year
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCVCA	Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis
HH	Household
MT	Metric Ton
PaBS	Participant Based Annual Survey
TOC	Theory of Change
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Annexes

Annex 1: Detailed Implementation Plan Update

Annex 2: Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Annex 3: Indicator Data Collection Methods Descriptions

Annex 3a. Participant-Based Survey Report

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1 Executive Summary

Takunda is a resilience food security activity implemented by a consortium and is led by CARE in four districts in Masvingo and Manicaland provinces of Zimbabwe. Takunda's goal is to achieve sustainable equitable and resilient food and nutrition security in Zaka, Mutare, Chivi and Buhera Districts. The activity is designed to engage communities in finding workable solutions to challenges that affect their livelihood efforts. Specifically, the program works to strengthen the resilience of participant Households (HH) and targets 301,636 vulnerable and poor rural HH. The program embraces an all family targeting with each age group and gender to improve their own agency as well as collectively contribute to HH resilience outcomes. Takunda engages power structures and social norms to improve the enabling environment and inclusivity for all, especially youth and women. In Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), the program reached: 3,881 youth aged 15-29 (male 1135; female 2746); 6,190 adult males; 40,448 adult females; 4,725 boys and 5,112 girls aged 2 -14; and 29,548 children under the age of two (14,559 boys, 14,989 girls). A reduction in the prevalence of malnutrition cases was recorded amongst children under five years. Youth participating in Life Skills and Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) interventions had their confidence boost because of being engaged in income generating activities which enhanced their incomes. Adult men and women increasingly adopted climate-smart agricultural practices by taking up resilience designs.

2 Operational Context

Participants experienced a poor agricultural season characterized by erratic rains, a high rate of inflation, and animal deaths due to the Theileriosis disease. Drought continued to affect the four operational districts of Takunda as they experienced high temperatures, low rainfall and poor harvests which carried over from the previous farming season. Adverse weather conditions resulted in below-average cereal out-turn for the 2021/2022 agriculture season ¹. Many HH in Takunda's operational districts reported a reduction in food access and consumption among all age groups. The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC,2022)² reported poor to borderline food consumption patterns by 71 percent and 64 percent of HH in Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces respectively. Specifically, 43 percent of HH in Mutare, 59 percent in Buhera, 27 percent in Chivi, and 56 percent in Zaka have poor food consumption patterns (ZimVAC, 2022)³. The impact of these challenges proved more severe on women and girls based on discussions with participants, including increased time poverty for women/girls who spent more time looking for water and

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/gIEWS-country-brief-zimbabwe-03-october-2022>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-vulnerability-assessment-committee-zimvac-2022-rural-livelihoods-assessment-report>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-vulnerability-assessment-committee-zimvac-2022-rural-livelihoods-assessment-report>

food. Mitigating strategies adopted in the operational areas included tapping into remittances from relatives, harvesting and selling wild fruits, engaging in casual work, illegal artisanal gold panning especially by youth, and cutting down on meal frequency and size. Poor grazing and limited water availability in all the four districts negatively affected livestock body conditions, which in turn compounded the outbreak of Theileriosis, ultimately leading to a loss of 2,173 cattle and reduced animal draught power for planting in Mutare District between January and March 2022.

Food commodity price inflation continued to rise, reaching an estimated figure of 353 percent in August 2022.⁴ High inflation contributed to rising food and energy prices, low disposable income, and high interest rates. Fuel prices increased from US\$1.35 in 2021 to US\$1.71 in 2022, negatively impacting commodity prices in the market. Food prices for commodities such as cooking oil rose from US\$4 to US\$7 per two liters, and maize meal from US\$0.5/kg in September 2021 to US\$0.7/kg in September 2022. Increased commodity prices contributed to Zimbabwe being the second most negatively affected country in the world in terms of food price inflation.⁵

Manicaland Province, which hosts two of Takunda's operational districts, experienced a measles outbreak during the reporting period, with UNICEF identifying the province as having the highest disease burden with 52.5 percent of reported cases and the highest case fatality of 9.8 percent.⁶ A total of 6,500 reported cases and 704 deaths had occurred as of early September according to reported cases. A myriad of factors caused the outbreak including Routine immunization and outreach dropped significantly during the Covid-19 pandemic due to lockdowns and school closures, health care workers were mandated to focus exclusively on Covid-19 prevention and people stayed away from health centers out of fear.⁷ Many members of the apostolic sect were heavily affected in the southern wards of Buhera and many Takunda participants failed to attend program activities because their children were sick from measles. Additionally, Takunda's health and nutrition interventions paused for two weeks in September 2022 as community health workers from the project participated in a government-led measles vaccination program.

Even though COVID-19 and its restrictions reduced significantly, the pandemic affected the Community Visioning rollout process as well as other community activities such as latrine promotion. The program still adapted to do Community Visioning in smaller groups, although the frequency of holding meetings reduced. This continued in many locations until February 2022 and caused delays in program implementation. The political situation largely remained calm throughout the year across Takunda's operational districts. Increased political gatherings occurred by participating political parties within Takunda operational areas during the second half of the year in preparation for the forthcoming 2023 general elections. Both the

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/gIEWS-country-brief-zimbabwe-03-october-2022>

⁵ <https://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zim-food-price-inflation-ranks-2nd-globally-wb/>

⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/press-releases/unicef-concerned-about-impact-measles-outbreak>

⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/24/health/measles-outbreak-zimbabwe.html>

political leadership and technocrats in the operational areas appreciate the activities of Takunda and continue to be consulted and updated of progress.

3 Theory of Change

Takunda's Theory of Change (TOC) has remained largely valid during the first two years of programming. The program introduced adjustments following the Refine and Implement process and in tracking progress in the FY22 implementation. Takunda used qualitative and quantitative data from studies, routine monitoring, and annual survey to revisit assumptions, verify causal pathways and inform evidence-based decision-making, strategy options, and adaptation. Triangulation of information from different sources resulted in modifications to the Takunda's Theory of Change, the LogFrame, and implementation strategies as detailed below:

The design and TOC did not explicitly mention support for livestock production in Takunda. However, data collected showed that animal health and production are key priorities for communities who experienced livestock deaths due to the high costs of dipping chemicals, poor extension, and poor animal nutrition. Therefore, the program adopted the intention to promote livestock production and animal health. This in turn led to the addition of a new TOC output (1.1.2.1.3) within the TOC. In FY23, Takunda will engage a research organization, The International Crops Research Institute (ICRISAT), to promote the prevention and control of livestock diseases and improve animal nutrition through fodder production and community livestock feed formulation.

Takunda dropped activities related to the production of sanitary pads. Although menstrual hygiene is a key area, Takunda is not able to promote locally produced reusable sanitary pads. Findings indicated this would pose challenges related to the quality of material, washing, ironing, and drying space. [To ensure access to sanitary pads for women and girls. Takunda will use its community groups to sensitize households especially men to allocate resources for purchase of sanitary pads which are already available in local markets at the cost of USD1 per pack of 10 and considered affordable by local communities.](#) The program will leverage other activities to promote awareness (output 2.2.2.1.1) for HH members who make decisions on the use of cash at the level (output 1.1.2.1.7) to support the purchase of sanitary ware.

Output 1.1.2.1.5 was revised to make the production of nutritious crops and livestock more explicit. Takunda is working with farmers and input suppliers to promote nutritious climate-suitable crops such as sorghum, finger millet and cowpeas, locally produced enriched porridges, and improved food preservation technologies to ensure year-round access to food.

Results from studies and routine monitoring concur that the savings from Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) are too low. This challenges the notion that program participants will use VSLA savings to invest in agriculture, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, and education as well as expand livelihood and activities. Takunda will continue to build on VSLAs as a base to capital accumulation for participants while building capacity of participants in business skills to identify and manage profitable businesses; and facilitate linkages to formal financial services. Additionally, a new output 1.1.2.2.4 was added in the TOC.

Study findings showed men as key decision-makers in value chain selection, highlighting inequitable decision-making as a hinderance to adoption of nutrition and WASH practices. In response, Takunda incorporated equitable decision-making through gender dialogue sessions on women's economic empowerment in the TOC (output 1.1.2.1.7).

A new output (1.1.3.1.6) was added in the TOC to enhance linkages to the private sector for support in agriculture and non-agriculture enterprises. Data from refine and implement studies namely [Community Visioning](#), [Agriculture Value Chains](#), and [Off-farm studies](#) showed limited private sector engagement for livelihood development. Specifically, off-farm livelihoods are the least developed though communities are engaged in a wide range of informal off-farm and non-farm income sources. Takunda is working to strengthen this pathway by engaging appropriate value chain actors and partners for on-farm and off-farm/non-farm-value chains and building the capacity of producers and small firms for effective engagement with lead firms. As an off-shoot to the Refine and Implement conversations, the USAID/Harare Mission organized technical support for Takunda and Amalima Loko to further review their off-farm livelihood strategies to enhance impact. The technical support is planned for November 2022.

Takunda promotes improved agriculture production and productivity, purchase, and supplementary food rations to increase nutritious food at HH level. HH income is only used to purchase nutritious foods when household production is insufficient. The FY22 Participant Based Annual Survey (PaBS) results show that all HH produced their own food even though it might not have been sufficient to last until the next season. Takunda proposes to stop tracking purchasing of nutritious food at household level and continue to track income, agriculture production, and supplementary feeding.

Takunda modified the gender pathways where Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention, mitigation, and response are now explicit in the TOC. The program added a new output (2.1.1.1.5) and began collaborating with external factors such as Musasa, Victim Friendly Unit, Victim Friendly Court, Childline, Legal Resources Foundation, and Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association. The change occurred due to the Gender Analysis findings that showed GBV and child marriage as rampant

across all four target districts. Takunda prioritizes GBV prevention and mitigation using the Social Action and Analysis (SAA)⁸ and male engagement methodologies, with strengthened partnership and collaboration on GBV response. The Takunda program design had men as the only structure for the gender champion position. This was insufficient to push for social norm change therefore female gender champions were enrolled to complement efforts of male champions as well as promote women empowerment in their safe spaces. Takunda conducted a SAA training to 2252 (955M:1297 F) gender champions to facilitate community level conversations, address and challenge harmful norms that hinder achievement of nutrition outcomes. Participants included leaders of fathers' groups, neighbor-women and elderly women leaders, Village Health Workers, Child Protection committee members, and traditional and religious leaders. In FY22, male champion leaders reached 8,313 men's fora participants with SAA messaging. Takunda prioritizes community GBV sessions before other modules, with the understanding that addressing GBV prevention and mitigation first will help address harmful norms that hinder equitable participation.

The program modified output 2.2.2.3.1 to enhance the capacity of water user committees to ensure appropriate operations and maintenance and obtain water quality testing. The Refine and Implement [water point inventory study](#) findings revealed that 35 percent of water points in Takunda's targeted areas are nonfunctional. Further analysis revealed that 36 of 401 Takunda clusters have no access to safe drinking water within their boundaries. Feedback from water user committees indicated limited to no capacity to carry out bacteriological and chemical water quality testing leading them to rely on inconsistent government services. The new output will result in improved access to water and sanitation at HH level.

At design stage, staff involved in designing the Takunda program made the following assumptions

- Local government will continue to provide funding for WASH policies, strategies, and decentralized structures (A12).

⁸ Social Analysis and Action (SAA) is a participatory approach to facilitate gender and social norm transformation across program outcome areas. It is a facilitated process through which individuals and communities come together to explore and challenge the social norms, beliefs and practices that shape their lives. Communities reflect to create understanding of norms, behaviors and practices related to gender and sexuality influencing food security and nutrition outcomes. Sessions usually last an average of 1.5 hours and are conducted monthly, riding on Takunda established safe spaces of men only, women only, youth only groups and/or at times mixed groups. Once a norm is identified, the community proposes solutions and a community driven action plan to support change in individual attitudes and social norm towards greater equality at household and community levels. Where multiple behaviors or practices are discussed, the communities prioritize to start with the easy to do or small doable actions as they move towards tackling the most complex behaviors like equitable sharing of inheritance.

- Structures and mechanisms for coordination/ planning will remain operational (A14).
- Structures and arrangements for coordination/planning remain operational (A20).

However, findings from studies and routine monitoring showed that most existing ward level committees⁹ did not have the level of functionality the program assumed they had which could be built upon. Additionally, most of the community groups, local service providers, and platforms formed by past programs stopped functioning when the program ended. The assumptions are not therefore valid, resulting in their deletion from the TOC. *The program will engage with these committees for their oversight functions. To promote sustained service delivery the program will develop service providers at village and cluster level to provide the services identified as necessary.*

To improve platforms for coordination, learning, and decision-making at the district and ward levels, Takunda is working collaboratively with the government to identify opportunities to engage with government platforms relevant such as the ward food and nutrition security committees on program implementation and post-implementation outcome management.

Lastly, Takunda is proposing to drop indicator 112- C38: *Percent of participants who acted based on early warning information they received in the past 12 months* as the definition and activities are like those of indicator 111 - PM11: *Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG assistance.*

In that same vein, Takunda proposes to drop Indicator 54 - C15: *Percent of HH not producing own food who purchase nutritious foods in the past 30 days* since there are no targeted HH that are not producing food.

4 Implementation Performance Successes

Takunda program implementation saw a significant increase in FY22 following the completion of the key Refine and Implement activities as well as the completion of census and community visioning activities in non-randomized control study communities. Program staff engaged communities in mobilization activities to introduce program activities and implementation modalities. These mobilization and sensitization activities used the outputs of the community visioning process as an entry point to further refine and align program activities to community aspirations and needs.

⁹ Only 7 of 92 Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees were found actively engaged without program support.

In many communities, the program found that participants have already participated in some activities such as VSLA, Care Groups and Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS). Within these communities, program staff conducted a rapid needs assessment to identify areas of support and strengthening so that program activities focused on the most relevant priority areas identified by participants. This process helped reduce the content and time required in community trainings and resulted in better engagement with participants. Some of the key issues that emerged in these assessments included farmers support in marketing outputs and in market linkages. Additionally, many women knew basic childcare and feeding practices, however they were not practicing them because of lack of “permission”/support from key influencers, namely spouses and mothers-in-law. Communities already received sufficient information on weather forecast for rains, cyclones and flooding but lacked some of the technologies needed to deal with increasing droughts and erratic rain patterns. The program therefore adapted its trainings and modules to focus on these and other emergent issues.

Overall, the program achieved about 79 percent (66 of 83) of its planned interventions and activities. Furthermore, based on the participant-based survey and routine monitoring, 20 of 69 indicators reported over 90 percent achievement of targeted outcomes; 14 of 69 indicators reported a modest 50 percent -to 90 percent achievement, and 35 of 69 reported below 50 percent achievement of target. Overall, the reason for below target achievement included a poor rainy season that impacted agricultural productivity, a delayed start in some activities as the program negotiated for service providers and government Memorandum of Understanding for activities such as Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) training, and the required sequencing of activities such as Community Visioning and Census before starting implementation. Further details on achievement and deviations are provided in the sections below and in Annexes listed in page iv.

Takunda reviewed its progress in FY22 and is requesting USAID/BHA to approve some amendments to targets as included in Annex 6 – Updated FY23. The amendments are driven by several factors among them, presence of existing groups that reduces targets, program design estimates that projected higher than actual numbers such as children and pregnant and lactating women.

4.1 Community Engagement

The alignment of Takunda activities with community aspirations identified through the community visioning enabled collective prioritization of community aspirations and needs and inclusive participation and representation of marginalized groups such as women, youths, and the elderly, that are expected to be a promising practice for increased ownership and sustainability. In all communities, Takunda facilitated the development of Community Action Plans (CAPs) which the program considered instrumental in informing interventions about community aspirations, capabilities,

resources, and opportunities for partnership. The Community Score Card® (CSC) approach, a participatory social accountability approach enabling community members to develop and continually monitor CAPs progress and the delivery of public service started through a series of training workshops and awareness-raising meetings with the community and public service providers. Community Score Card (CSC) training that targeted District Development Coordinator (DDC) office, District Food and Nutrition Security Committees (DFNSCs), and District Medical Officers from all four operational districts was an entry point for structured interface meetings with public service providers. The meetings were used to establish monitoring parameters for activities in Purpose 1 (extension services), and Purpose 2 (water and health services).

Through community visioning, Takunda participants identified challenges in water production, use, and consumption as a top priority. To address these challenges, Takunda embarked on building farmers' capacity to construct resilient designs in their fields to harvest rainwater, improve soil fertility, drill boreholes and, where the terrain was suitable, construct weirs and dams. Participants, especially youth, highlighted the need for technical, vocational, and entrepreneurship skills and this [differed](#) between males and females. Females preferred courses such as events management, cosmetology, and catering while males preferred computer skills, welding, motor mechanic, and carpentry.

In response to this, Takunda rolled out technical and vocational skills, employability, entrepreneurship, and life skills training programs to address youth employability and income generation. Farmers identified the need to access markets and finance for investment, and the program worked with farmers to build market awareness and ensure they have access to information, and input/ output markets for increased income. Women, especially those with young children, identified the need for support in achieving appropriate breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices and access to nutritious foods. With that, Takunda is working with the women together with grandmothers and husbands (men) through the Care Group promoting production of affordable, nutrient-dense products for local marketing. Additionally, this engagement of fathers and grandmothers using the care group has led to more positive behaviors around improved exclusive breast feeding and dietary diversity for children under two years.

One noteworthy impact of the Community Visioning process was the positive attitude shift from the initial participants apathy to very proactive attitudes and actions with Takunda continued engagement and a realization that the process will develop their capacities to take charge of their own development activities. In Ringai Village, Mutare District Ward 12, farmers identified a potential market for horticulture produce from a local Diamond Mining company. In Buhera Ward 15, Cluster 8, youth asked for a chick from each of their parents and are developing a poultry business following a life skills training. Due to their proactivity, the youth ([Mavambo youth group](#)) received a piece of land to produce vegetables for sale on a communal plot. [The](#)

Mavambo youth group, comprising of 12 participants (4 Males 8 females) started a poultry rearing business using fowl run from one of its members, with plans to establish a collectively owned fowl run. The group later approached their village head seeking land for expanding their project as well as integrating poultry with activities such as horticulture. They were allocated 5,000 square meters land for use in horticulture and vegetable growing. After receiving life skills, this group and other youth groups will be trained in entrepreneurship and business management to enhance business skills.

The community visioning process also enhanced social cohesion, community ownership, and progress toward sustainability for these interventions. It provided a platform for men, women, young people, and persons with disability to contribute their needs and priorities to the CAPs. Subsequent rollout of the plans reflects the different aspirations of community groups. Considerable social capital in the operational area exists with cordial relationships between local leaders, councilors, and participants. Takunda enjoys high community participation in most of its activities as communities are also aware of what Takunda offers as a partner to their own development.

As Takunda completes the CAP process in the Randomized Control Trial (RCT) sites, the program plans to shift to community-based monitoring and evaluation in FY23. The program plans to provide this platform for communities to review, update and track progress of its CAPs and other development priorities. The program also plans to use the platform to review commitments made by Takunda and others in supporting community development and for other programs as a starting point for negotiating community priorities.

4.2 Income and livelihoods

4.2.1 Agriculture based livelihoods

Many rural HH rely on agriculture as a primary source for food and income. Zimbabwe is facing the impact of climate change largely manifesting in erratic rainfall patterns, cyclones and plant and animal diseases. To mitigate these, Takunda works with farmers to improve the production and productivity of crops and livestock by addressing these challenges in addition to macro-economic challenges and geopolitical issues affecting agriculture such as War in Ukraine which has resulted in sharp increase in agricultural inputs such as top-dressing fertilizer which rose from USD\$32 last year to USD\$65 this season. This will limit farmers access to such critical inputs needed for improving agricultural production. Takunda will therefore emphasize and encourage use of organic manure and fertilizers by farmers through the resilience design approach. In FY22, agricultural production did not increase as planned due to a poor season. The percent of women and men reporting a minimum increase of USD \$20 per month was six percent (145 of 2,421) at sampled HH and

most crops reported an average 0.17 Metric Tons (MT) per hectare compared to a targeted 0.5 MT per hectare.

The FFBS Model, Takunda's main platform for agricultural promotion activities, started during the reporting period. In FFBS, farmers come together to learn, implement, and discuss and resolve production, marketing, and social challenges. [The FFBS model is implemented following a seasonal calendar and focused on soil and water conservation and input purchase. In early FY23 the focus will shift to social issues such nutrition, gender dialogues, post-harvest processing and marketing.](#) A total of 253 out of a target of 240 FFBS groups were established with a total membership of 9,284 (2,888 males and 6,396 females). Women in rural areas are the key participants or players in farming since most men will be in towns and or outside the country for employment. Women are the ones who mostly take care of children and they take farming more seriously as a livelihood more than men. For Takunda, participation of more women in FFBS is a good step towards women empowerment that will likely make HH more food secure. [Takunda will continue to use SAA to influence and promote the participation of women and youth in leadership positions including FFBS decision making spaces like chairpersonship, FFBS Facilitators and lead farmers.](#) Farmers are interested in and very much appreciate the FFBS approach, explaining the over-achievement of group establishment.

To foster and build sustainability of FFBS interventions, Takunda trained 123 FFBS Facilitators (55 males and 68 females) as local service providers to lead FFBS learning. The FFBS Facilitators' training also built the capacity of local service providers to be effective behavior change agents by increasing their awareness of the determinants of the behaviors they promote. Examples include positive attitude, good leadership skills. FFBS groups also taught facilitators on how to effectively facilitate group and home visit sessions using short reference guides translated into the local language.

The FFBS groups have been meeting to discuss issues that affect their crop and livestock productivity this year. The platforms present an opportunity for SAA¹⁰ integration to challenge gender norms around inequitable participation and decision-making in agriculture activities, for example discussions on which crop to plant on specific pieces of land. This is made possible by the direction Takunda takes to identify and train a gender champion for each established FFBS group. The group approach is favored by the private sector as they prefer to work with organized farmers.

Following community visioning conversations and rapid needs assessments with groups before trainings, farmers identified marketing challenges as a big concern. In response to this the program focused on supporting farmers to increase access to

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markets by identifying input and offtake companies that can extend their services to rural farms. For example, ARDA Seeds engaged by Takunda contracted four community seed multiplication groups in the Marange Irrigation Scheme for sunflower seed production. Takunda sensitized the groups earlier on what it means for them to enter contract farming with a private company. Additionally, ARDA Seeds representatives had an engagement meeting with interested farmers to explain and agree on the sunflower contractual obligations well before signing of the contract. A total of 67 farmers ¹¹(41 males and 26 females) received seeds and fertilizers. Each farmer received 5kg sunflower seed and 250 kg compound D fertilizer to give a total of 210 kg and 10.5 tons of seeds and fertilizer, respectively. Farmers' access to improved agricultural inputs therefore increased through Takunda.

Takunda prepared a Pesticide Safer Use Action Plan during the reporting period to ensure that any pesticides are used in a manner that protects human health and the environment. The current mitigation measures against chemicals exposure in place are the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). Guided by the EMMP, Takunda will promote Integrated Pest Management to minimize use of pesticides and will also train farmers on proper use of pesticides. Takunda will promote use of personal protective equipment (PPE) among farmers (including women) using pesticides and will discourage the use of Restricted Use Pesticides. The activity will also screen and not promote income generating activities (IGAs) that use hazardous chemicals and/ or generate hazardous waste. The program prepared this plan towards the end of FY22 and plans to implement it in FY23.

4.2.2 Non-Agricultural based Livelihoods

Communities in rural Zimbabwe increasingly turn to non-farm and off-farm income sources to augment incomes from their crops and livestock production activities. Takunda's work in the Refine and Implement year reaffirmed this as a necessary area of support for participant HH. To achieve this, the program focused on youth and began life skills and the vocational skills training program. The latter included both the center based TVET skills outreach program, as well as master craftsmen apprenticeships to increase youth's knowledge and skills for self and wage employment.

4.2.3 Life Skills

Life skills¹² also referred to as soft skills, are a set of abilities, attitudes and socio-emotional competencies that enable individuals to learn, make informed decisions and exercise rights to lead a healthy and productive life and subsequently become agents of change. Life skills promote mental well-being and competence in young

¹¹ The 67 farmers are in government-supported irrigation schemes where plot holding favors more men than females.

¹² <https://www.unicef.org/azerbaijan/media/1541/file/basic%20life%20skills.pdf>

people as they face the realities of life (UNICEF). Takunda offered life skills training for youth participants; and post-training reflections and monitoring visits revealed enhanced personal competencies in youth. A total of 17.6 percent (289 of 1641) of youth participants scored at least 80 percent on the post-training assessment. Trained participants started



Photo 1: James Masimba (Takunda Youth Officer) kneeling far right together with some members of Mavambo poultry project. September 19, 2022. CARE ©2022

engaging in income-generating activities, community voluntary work, savings groups, and improved self-care, leading to testimonies by some community members on reduced incidences of domestic GBV, increased income, and enhanced youth participation in community development and environmental management initiatives. For example, in Buhera, a group of 12 youth (eight females, four males) started a broiler (chicken) production and selling project following life skills training. Group members mobilized two chickens each and started the project with 24 chickens, a batch that made the group realize a gross profit of US\$192.00. This encouraged several other youth groups in the area to follow suit.

4.2.4 Technical and Vocational Education Training

Takunda's TVET interventions targeted young men and women, including persons with disabilities and women of reproductive age, to acquire vocational skills that support income-generating activities. Takunda supported the enrollment of 296 students (167 males and 129 females) in TVET centers for vocational skills development.

By the end of FY22, 144 out of 296 Students (81 males and 63 females) have internships with various institutions and spaces are sought for the additional students. The program enabled students to enroll in courses of their choice, such as hotel and catering, clothing and technology, bricklaying, solar installation, motor mechanics, hairdressing, and metal fabrication. Welding and building students trained on health and safety are provided



Photo 2: OCTOBER 03, 2022: Junior Chitando (21), from Ward 20, paints onto a window frame during her internship at Prime Steel in Jerera, Zaka District. Junior chose the metal fabrication course because of the opportunities she saw for steel frames and roofing in her locality. CARE ©2022

with the following PPE: safety shoes, work suits and helmets. Two students from the Marange-based cohort (one male and one female) are people living with disabilities. Marange vocational training center also enrolled eleven mothers with children under the age of two as day scholars, creating space for them to pursue their ambitions alongside family care and HH work. The training center provided a special room for children of breastfeeding mothers. The room is also used by mothers during breastfeeding time. One training staff is assigned to take care of the children while mothers are attending lessons. In addition to a breastfeeding hour for lactating mothers, the start and end time of lessons was flexible, responding to the specific needs and schedules of student mothers. The Magamba training center also facilitated a job internship for a lactating mother at Hande High School in Buhera. The internship was located close to home given the woman's husband supported her participation so long as it was not far from home.

Monitoring and support visit testimonials indicate that the Marange cohort one catering team secured a market for cakes within the local community. To date, they sold cakes, pies, and samosas to the tune of USD \$155 over the span of two months, and they used the income gained to purchase ingredients. The International Youth Day held on the 14th of September 2022 in Mutare District opened a window of opportunity for students to exhibit and share their work. Following the event, the catering team generated an additional USD \$33.00, and one dressmaking student received orders for uniforms and other clothes through interaction with others.

The TVET program has created an enabling environment for positive youth development as guardians have felt motivated to support the empowerment of young people to improve their livelihoods and promote community development. Dorcas Mositeri, a parent in ward 20 in Buhera, stated; *"I am grateful to Takunda for the work they are doing to improve the life of our children. I really wanted my child to enroll in a vocational college, but I could not afford the fees. I am hopeful that the*

TVET opportunity will equip young people with skills that will open room for informal and formal employment.”

4.2.5 VSLA

Takunda identifies VSLAs as a starting point to building a culture of saving and accumulating capital. Program participants within most groups deemed VSLAs important to save money to start and expand Income Generating Activities. This led to a rethink on the focus of VSLAs as an entry point for income generation and not just savings and capital accumulation. Many VSLA participants noted interest in starting with small loans of USD \$5 -\$10 per borrower per loan for petty trading. Those holding on to their savings for long periods (i.e., deemed more than a week) convert it to physical assets including mostly poultry and goats to safeguard against value loss.

By the end of FY22, the program highlighted USD \$42,448.00 mobilized in savings each month, and loans issued to the tune of USD \$97,336.00 (US\$16,582 taken by men and USD80,754 taken by women). The program is building capacity of groups to start or grow their businesses through financial literacy and entrepreneurship training to increase the appetite for women to invest in larger portfolios in proportion to the value of savings. Established VSLA groups and or members already started asset acquisition, both productive and non-productive. A total of 126 participants (30M; 96F) bought goats and indigenous chickens worth a total of US\$4,177.00 (US\$874.00 for men and USD \$3,303.00 for women). In total, the program organized 7,600 (Male=1,391; Female= 6,209) persons into VSLA groups in FY22.

4.3 Nutrition and Health

4.3.1 Maternal Child Health and Nutrition

Takunda's program is designed to improve child and maternal health status through behavior change, that results in optimal feeding and care practices. Takunda is using the Care Group Model¹³ as the primary platform to promote optimal nutrition, health, and WASH practices, in addition to the promotion of nutritious food production, the supplementary feeding program, and the use of clean water.

¹³ Perry, H., et al., *Care Groups I: An Innovative Community-Based Strategy for Improving Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health in Resource-Constrained Settings*. Global Health: Science and Practice, 2015. 3(3): pp. 358-369.

Following the Zimbabwe government public health model for nutrition promotion, Takunda trained 471 lead mothers and 191 Village Health Workers (17 males and 174 females) to organize mothers, fathers¹⁴, and elderly women¹⁵ into Care Groups. Trained Lead Mothers and Village Health Workers organized 11,111 caregivers of children under two years of age; 7,894 elderly women; and 8,313 men in fathers' groups to form Expanded Care Groups.¹⁶ These groups were instrumental in promoting behavior change in the community towards improved child and maternal care and feeding practices. In Zaka ward 14, a group of mothers with children under two years of age said that they found it easier to adopt behavior change with the support of their mothers-in-law and husbands who were now part of Expanded Care Groups and were learning by participating in groups with their respective peers. In Zaka ward 29, a grandmother shared that the training taught her the dangers of giving her newborn grandchildren porridge, a practice she has abandoned. She is now a firm advocate for exclusive breastfeeding in the community. Care Groups focused on two diet related behaviors during the reporting period, namely dietary diversity and minimum feeding frequency for children aged 2 – 23 months.



Photo 3: September 2022: Tashinga Care Group Monthly Meeting Ward 11 Cluster 2, Mututsa village. Buhera CARE ©2022

Implementing the localized production of enriched porridges was not done in FY22 due to the COVID 19 pandemic which delayed rolling out of Takunda project activities. In addition, the implementation was dependent on other prerequisite processes that included Enriched Porridges studies, establishment of groups (FFBS, Care groups) identification of EP groups/individuals and supporting them to produce required raw materials. Takunda will implement the activity in FY23.

Supplementary Feeding Participants received bi-monthly rations of 10kg CSB+ and 1.8 kg Vegetable Oil. Takunda distributed 1,520MT CSB+ and 273.546MT Veg Oil bi-monthly rations against a planned 2,741MT CSB+ and 493.301MT Veg Oil. During the pre-distribution address Takunda sensitized project participants on various Takunda interventions. Pre-distribution addresses were also used to raise

¹⁴ Some of them are not yet fathers, they are free to join if they are adult men (above 18 years).

¹⁵ Elderly women include those outside the WRA bracket, starting from 50 years, also includes non-grandmothers

¹⁶ Expanded Care Groups (including Lead Mothers, Fathers and Grandmothers) when formed, strengthened, and operational contributes to increased technical capacity of communities to foment social norm shifting. (Sources: ENSURE program reports; and NAZ-UNICEF Mid-term review of the Care Group Report.)

community awareness on health and nutrition related behaviors such as appropriate breastfeeding, appropriate complementary feeding, WASH behaviors and proper disposal of waste including that created through the SFP.

The PaBS results conducted in August 2022 indicated improvements in terms of dietary diversity for both women participating in nutrition sensitive agriculture and children 6-23 months. The results showed Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) for Women at 50 percent of sampled women surveyed (96 of 191) against a target of 27 percent. The commonly consumed food groups are grains, oils, dark green vegetables, and fruits. Results indicated that the program achieved 38 percent of sampled children had MDD (87 of 230) against a target of 15 percent. The results also showed that 28 percent of sampled children had a minimum meal frequency (65 of 230) against a target of 20 percent. The results also showed that 28 percent of sampled children had a minimum meal frequency (65 of 230) against a target of 20 percent. It is worth noting that these results do not indicate an increase in food consumption, but rather diversification of the foods eaten. In fact, the poor agricultural season negatively impacted food consumption for most HH, with many of them reporting to Takunda staff that they reduced portions and the number of meals consumed.

The middle upper arm circumference screening recorded a decrease in the number of children under five years identified with acute malnutrition. The cases decreased from 306 (237MAM, 69SAM) cases during the second quarter (January- March 2022) to 110 (79MAM, 31SAM) cases during the third quarter (April -June 2022) and 61 (31MAM, 30SAM) cases in the period July to September 2022. Those found to be malnourished we referred to community clinics for treatment. Most community clinics have the supplies for treating children who are referred besides some pipeline breaks that happen time to time.

Notably, most children reporting acute malnutrition were from Apostolic sect communities, constituting about 20 percent of the wards where Takunda operates. [The main concern with the referral is apostolic faith households who do not take up the referral.](#) In FY23, Takunda will engage leaders of apostolic groups jointly with the government to demystify perceptions they may have about health and nutrition interventions to improve their participation in all Takunda activities aimed at increasing HH income and building resilience to repeated shocks.

4.3.2 *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene*

Takunda participants identified access to improved sanitation facilities and clean drinking water as a priority s during the community visioning process. Takunda mobilized participant communities through the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach.¹⁷ Takunda trained latrine builders who will act as both promoters of latrine

¹⁷ Community Led Total Sanitation is demand-driven, behavior change approach to expanding sanitation access through a facilitator using a series of activities/approaches to "trigger" community members to be motivated to build latrines/toilets at their homes. It is an approach that encourages an entire community to plan to achieve an environment free-from defecation outside toilets/latrines.

construction with the Sanitation Action Groups and as the masons in latrine construction.

Takunda achieved a significant increase in the construction of sanitation and hygiene-enabling facilities. A total achievement of 465 latrines constructed have been attributed to active Sanitation Action Groups and village heads spearheading construction. Additionally, in some areas in Buhera and Zaka, participants tapped into their VSLA savings to enable latrine construction. Mapfumo village in Zaka District built and rehabilitated 17 latrines since triggering¹⁸ in May 2022, with only three HH remaining. Before triggering, the program noted only five standard latrines in Mapfumo village. In Mutare District, triggering took place in Chitsa Village in ward 12 in August and the community has agreed through a constitution to reach Open Defecation Free status by December 2022. Chitsa village head is vibrant and engages in door-to-door monitoring visits to promote latrine promotion.

Besides latrines, Takunda promoted activities to improve safe disposal of domestic waste that included rubbish pits, double pot racks for washing and drying dishes, and handwashing facilities next to latrines. According to the PaBS, 37 percent against a target of 20 percent of HH are safely disposing rubbish through rubbish pits and 44 percent against a target of 25 percent of HH are using pot racks.

Takunda prepared an Integrated Waste Management Plan which is meant to ensure that all waste generated through Takunda operations are managed in a sustainable manner.



Semende village and the homestead owner, proud to offer her family of nine access to basic sanitation. Revai is a member of Rujeko community health club and the element of self-reliance in her community is evidenced by an increased number of recommendations for toilets

Even with noted progress in latrine construction, some HH identified¹⁹ a few barriers to latrine construction including a lack of money for construction, absence of trained builders, poor quality materials, as well as distance to major centers where materials could be obtained. A lack of appreciation of the importance of sanitation and hygiene practices, was also noted during conversation with community members. The project aims to address these barriers through mainstreaming WASH behaviors promotion

¹⁸ A community level meeting where communities are supported to identify places of excretion, how the feces gain access to food and water systems and calculate the quantities of human feces in their vicinity. This process is geared at building urgency for construction of improved latrines for human waste disposal.

¹⁹ Data from Qualitative Inquiry Planning Sheets and the Human Centered Design Study.

across all the behavior change groups Takunda is establishing - FFBS, VSLAs, Care Groups, Disaster Risk Reduction /Disaster Risk Management groups, etc.

Takunda and PRO-WASH are collaborating to conduct a Human Centered Design Study. The study has identified gaps associated with a lack of understanding of key features of the Blair Improved Ventilated Pit Latrines (BVIP). Additionally, there is weak promotion of the BVIP by government Environmental Health Technicians. The study has also identified opportunities for partnering with the private sector in latrine construction and using latrine builders as latrine promoters and not just construction contractors. In the next phase of the study, the create phase, Takunda will implement the four recommendations from the hear phase, focusing on behavior change communication, building the capacity of latrine builders and Sanitation Action Groups, and partnering with the private sector to promote BVIP.

The program-initiated drilling for 19 multi-user boreholes to support access to clean drinking water, livestock watering, and gardening. The program identified these sites through community visioning and will build on these community engagement processes to strengthen or establish water user committees to lead on operations and maintenance. Takunda complied with its Water Quality Assurance Plan through training relevant staff on water quality testing protocols and identifying the sampling equipment and testing services which are currently undergoing the procurement process as the program awaits completion of the drilled boreholes. Water testing is scheduled for all completed boreholes before water use.



Photo 5: September 21, 2022: A high-yielding borehole is being drilled in Ward 16, Mutare District. The borehole is set to supply water for multiple uses, including domestic, irrigation/ production, and livestock watering. CARE ©2022

4.4 Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience Building

Takunda participant HH are faced with multiple shocks and stressors that impact their ability to meet their livelihood aspirations. To help cushion against these shocks Takunda first helped HHs in analyzing the major risks they face during community visioning and gendered climate vulnerability assessments. Based on that assessment, Takunda implemented activities to mitigate the impact of shocks and adopt adaptive measures. The table below summarizes the main shocks and interventions carried out by Takunda in response.

Table 1: Summary of key stressors and shocks faced by Takunda Participants

	Shock/Stressor	Mitigating Interventions
1	Erratic Rainfall and low soil fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and water conservation through resilience designs (RD). • Construction of weirs and dams to support irrigated agriculture. • Establishment of multi-user boreholes that support livestock, gardening, and domestic water needs. • Promotion of short maturing crop varieties. • Weather and other hazard early warning interventions and scenario planning.
2	Cyclones	Increased early warning through community level disaster risk management and participatory scenario planning
3	Market and Economic shocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the FFBS model, Takunda is increasing access to markets, collective marketing, and local input markets. • Participants are engaged in savings for diversified incomes and asset accumulation.
4	Animal diseases	Takunda is engaging the department of livestock services and contracted a research organization (ICRISAT) to identify lasting solutions to the “January disease” (Theileriosis)

The following section highlights key progress made in the intervention to address erratic rainfall patterns and low soil fertility, cyclones, and market and economic shocks and stressors. Responses to animal diseases are elaborated in section 4.2 Income and Livelihoods.

4.4.1 Resilience Designs for Smallholder Farmers

Takunda identified the need to support farmers with the knowledge and skills to cultivate crops amidst low soil fertility and erratic rains. To ensure appropriateness, the program used the 2021/2022 agriculture season to test a soil and water conservation approach known as Resilience Designs and Permagardens in 22 HH across the four program districts. The pilot sites were representative of the entire community (in terms of conditions and existing issues), and characterized by degraded lands (poor soil fertility, soil erosion, poor vegetation cover, limited access to water and pastures, etc.) with potential to show impact. Through the RD Approach, Takunda sought to address the climatic, environmental, and economic shocks and stressors, holistically, for the purposes of improving food and nutrition production systems at household level, using the resources readily available in the respective areas. The results indicated a notable increase in yields for cereal and horticulture crops compared to the previous years when the same plots were under conventional farming, despite the dry spells experienced during the farming season.

For example, one farmer observed a 0.4 metric ton increase in maize yield from 0.5 ha.

Winnet Masiya of Ward 11 in Mutare District, at one point said, *“I have never harvested such yield with the little investment in my life...this has not only improved my family food security, but my husband Cephas is now a changed and motivated man who can now spend the whole day at home which never happened before”*. In addition, one family’s husband and wife (Cephas and Winnet of Ward 11 in Mutare District) explained how they are constantly visited by neighbors who are amazed at the agricultural yields they harvested from the dead level contours they constructed and new ways they prepared their planting basins to capture rainwater effectively and allow it to infiltrate the soil.²⁰

Siphatisiwe Godhini of Ward 14, Zaka District, said, *“There is no household with such a harvest like mine in this entire ward. This is despite the prolonged seasonal dry spells which hit the entire Zaka District, I still harvested”*. Both families in Mutare and Zaka Districts doubled the food harvested from their fields with the water harvesting structures during dry spells. Another RD participant from Zaka managed to grow 34 different species of vegetables, fruit trees, and other field crops and harvested 18 by 50-kilogram bags (0.9 MT) of maize from the two RD plots (0.5 Hectares); compared to 10 by 50-kilogram bags (0.5 MT) from the previous season on the same plots.



MAY 24, 2022: During a resilience design monitoring visit, TINASHE PEDZAI laid out the different types of legumes he harvested from bio-swales installed at his homestead. The bio-swale was used to harvest rainwater allowing it to sink- prolonging soil moisture. CARE ©2022

From August 2022, based on the successful pilot Takunda embarked on a process of scaling up the model to 5,792 farming HH. By the end of FY22, the program had trained 1,390 farmers constituting 411 men and 979 women, with a total of 279 farmers adopting the RD approach on their own farms. Increased adoption is expected as the next rainy season progresses, and benefits are witnessed from neighboring farmers.

²⁰ A dead level contour is a channel dug in the field with a zero gradient or slopes, so that water does not flow but is harnessed and stored in the channel.

4.5 Disaster Risk Management

To help communities better prepare for droughts and cyclones, the program engaged participant HH in disaster risk management. This covered identification of shocks, sources of early warning information and potential mitigation actions that communities could take.



The program conducted 50 ward level Gendered Climate

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (GCVCA) reaching 5,359 males and 8,915 females. Takunda also completed natural resource management training in 39 wards reaching 2,000 participants (846 males, and 1154 females). Following the GCVCA trainings, there was a marked increase in coordination of the Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) and local leadership. This includes the implementation of collective actions by the communities due to GCVCA training. Some of the communities leading in collective community actions, include Zaka District, Ward 29, Cluster 5, which, under the leadership of trained DMC and focal point persons, contributed money and bought 30 bags of cement worth approximately US\$300 on their own to repair three access footbridges. The bridges enhanced access to important services like the only borehole in this cluster where villagers previously had difficulty reaching even with labor-saving scotch carts.

Following Takunda-facilitated community sensitization and training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, a voluntary disaster risk reduction mobilization drove a community in ward 15 of Buhera to rehabilitate 4km of an access road and a masonry strip central to three villages in cluster 21. The 1.5m wide masonry strip, meant to stabilize the soil around the main crossing point as part of the road rehabilitation works, was constructed across one of the sections along the main access road to facilitate access by local people and vehicles. The community prioritized the rehabilitation of the 4km Sengejira-Ndongwe road for purposes of enhancing access by the respective communities. Road rehabilitation works included cutting and clearing of encroaching vegetation on both sides of the road to ensure good visibility, cleaning of the road drainage systems as well as patching potholes on the road. Dry stone pitching was also done to avoid the proliferation of gullies along and across the access road. For four years, the communities around this area could not easily access crucial services like clinics, schools, and markets due to inaccessibility. School children were the most vulnerable to drowning during the rainy season since they had to cross the flooded river if they wanted to attend school. Repairing the road and the bridge. This can be attributed to the contribution of the GCVCA training that triggered HHs to value collective action and contribute financially or through physical labor in repairing community assets. Takunda reached

89 percent (14,274 of 16,000) planned participants with trainings in disaster preparedness and 40 percent (16 of 40) of communities trained on disaster risk management implemented Disaster Risk Management initiatives.

4.5.1 Creation of infrastructure to support agriculture production

As part of its resilience-building strategy, Takunda supports the establishment of infrastructure such as weirs and solar-powered boreholes as multiple-use systems for HH use, irrigated agriculture, and livestock watering. In FY22, following the approval with conditions, the program commenced construction of a weir in Zaka ward 29 and completed environmental assessments on an additional seven sites. Takunda put in place required mechanisms, including environmental safeguards for the approved weir construction. Additionally, Takunda prepared a site-specific Environment Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) in collaboration with the community to ensure the protection of the environment against any negative impact. Takunda conducted a full Environmental Assessment for five weir sites and two stream-water harvesting sites in August 2022 and awaits USAID/BHA approval for them to move forward.

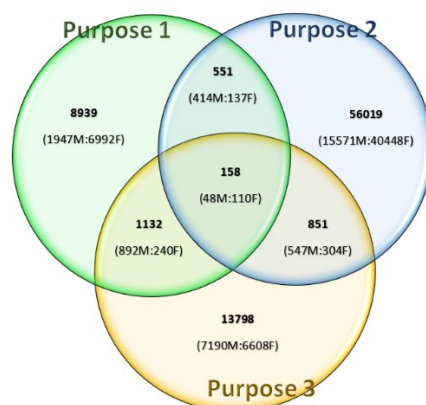
Takunda conducted staff training focusing on:

- Environmental monitoring systems, including USAID environmental compliance requirements and the EMMP Toolkit in August 2022. The program trained nineteen staff members (13M, 6F).
- Rollout of EMMP training at district level. At the time of reporting, 19 staff members (10M, 8F) from Buhera District had been trained. Staff in the remaining three districts are expected to be trained by the end of October 2022.
- Training commodity staff on environmental compliance issues about warehouses and commodities. The program trained a total of 30 members (13M,17F).

Takunda has also prepared an environmental integration strategy and relevant environmental messages to be incorporated into various interventions. These are presented at various trainings including for Care Groups, latrine builders, and Sanitation Action Groups in two districts.

There is a positive move towards enhancing the sustainability of project interventions as especially noticed in Zaka District, where the construction of the Mambwende-Tsvazvivi weir is underway, and the community elected a woman secretary to the Project Implementation Committee. This provides a valuable precedent for offering opportunities to women to take key leadership positions and empower them through training and mentoring.

5 FY22 Takunda Unique Direct Participants by Purpose



6 Lessons Learned

During FY22, the program identified several key lessons that either strengthened the implementation approach, led to adaptations, or significantly changed the approach and process of defined interventions. Key lessons and actions taken are described in the table below.

Table 2: Summary of Takunda Lessons and Adaptations in FY22

Learning	Actions Taken
For meaningful impact, it is important to focus on establishing strong groups that can meet frequently and conduct behavior change sessions as planned. This can only be achieved with adequate monitoring and support from Takunda's Field Officers, and by focusing on the quality of groups – rather than the quantity of groups - established.	The program slowed down on expansion of new groups to ensure adequate focus on achieving deeper engagement and maturity of already established groups. Additionally, the program identified existing groups formed by other programs and offered training on gap areas.
Centre - based boarding TVET model excluded lactating young mothers as the institutions do not have facilities to cater to this group.	Takunda will therefore prioritize such young women in other models such as the Skills Outreach Program and Master craftsmen or local apprenticeship models and will scale this up in the next financial year.
Better coordination and integration of Care Groups, VSLAs, Community Health Clubs and Gender Champions interventions, layered on FFBS which is a group of interest for many project participants, reduced time poverty and triggered community interest as proven by high community participation during meetings.	This integrated model is now fully incorporated into the program.
Look-and-learn visits to completed and functioning community or individual projects such as RD	Identifying and engaging with model program participants who

Learning	Actions Taken
demonstration plots and infrastructural sites facilitates a clearer conceptual understanding of envisioned end products.	become agents of change and learning is growing across the program.
Even though implemented in a context where participants are used to handouts, some HH are moving forward with program-initiated interventions without program support such as youth going to TVET centers and mobilizing their own resources to send their peers to TVETs because of being exposed to the Takunda facilitated interventions.	This ownership of one's development is creating a new dynamic where communities are expecting less and doing more. Program staff are watching for such potential and shifting resources elsewhere to nurture these initiatives.

7 Capacity Development

Takunda in collaboration with local stakeholders and program participants identified some community local service providers that will remain in communities post program and continue to deliver services provided by Takunda. Most of the service provision activities just got underway with pilots and initial testing and training at the end of FY22. Table 3 below summarizes different community local service providers identified and the progress done on strengthening them during the reporting period.

Table 3: Summary of Local Service Providers Strengthened/Developed by Takunda in FY22.

	Local Service Provider (LSP)	Status/Progress to date
1	FFBS Facilitators 123 (55 Male, 68 Female)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified FFBS Facilitators and trained them in managerial and technical capacities Linked the FFBS Facilitators with local and community leaders.
2	VSLA - Village Agent-Pilot 20 Village Agents (2 Male, 18 Female) - Fee for Service Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of pilot areas completed in the operational areas. Selection and training of ten (8 Female, 2 Male) Village Agents completed. The training of Village Agents included sessions on basic facilitation skills and the importance of LSP's role in supporting participants beyond the activity life.
3	Community Led Monitoring and Evaluation (CLM&E) Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takunda piloted the Community Led Monitoring and Evaluation system in three districts (i.e., Zaka, Chivi and Buhera) with 25 committee members (12 Male, 13 Female) identified and trained with skills to develop indicators for action plans from their CAPs for monitoring and evaluation. The program linked identified Community led monitoring and evaluation committee members to program participants, local stakeholders, and community leaders. Village heads and other community participants also participated during the trainings for continuous support,

	Local Service Provider (LSP)	Status/Progress to date
		strengthening community project ownership and sustainability.
4	Lead Mothers and Lead Elderly Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 863 Lead Mothers and 468 Lead Elderly Women selected from 40 wards across Takunda operational districts. Identified Lead Mothers and Lead Elderly Women trained in the Care Group approach.
5	Latrine Builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33 community latrine builders (27 Male, 6 Female) identified from Buhera District. Builders trained on siting and construction of sanitation facilities.
6	Gender Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takunda facilitated the selection of 2,255 Gender Champions (955 Male, 1,300 Female) from operational districts. Takunda trained the identified Gender Champions on SAA approach, GBV prevention and mitigation, and male engagement.
7	Disaster Management Committees (DMCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program established 50 of the 92 targeted DMCs with the active participation of communities during the selection process of committee members.

Apart from the highlighted capacity strengthening interventions, Takunda also exposed all the identified community local service providers to Make Me a Change Agent methodology for building effective behavior change agents.

Takunda's sustainability exit strategy is premised on a gradual process that leverages the continuity of LSPs' delivery of services beyond the life of the award. LSPs will be identified and strengthened by Takunda and other actors to ensure they have adequate knowledge, skills, and practices required to successfully supply and have their services demanded by the participants. In year four, Takunda staff will take a supportive supervision role, coaching, monitoring, and mentorship of LSPs and solidify linkages with different actors such as the private sector and other extension services for continued access to support, materials, technical assistance, supervision, resources, and new and refresher training activities beyond the life of the award and phase out in year 5 where transitioning will be done with the LSP envisioned to take full ownership.

8 Market, Local, Regional, and International Procurement and Modality Actuals

Not applicable.

9 Other Performance Challenges

Delayed approval of the Scoping Statement (SS) led to delayed implementation of cash for assets activities.

10 Resilience Food Security Activities Responding to Emergency Needs

The Takunda Program did not respond to any emergency needs in its current operating areas. However, the program developed a crisis modifier triggering framework with its FY23 Pipeline and Resources Estimates Proposal which it will trigger in FY23 based on needs and context.

11 Confirmation

By submitting this annual report, CARE confirms that it has met all reporting and notification requirements for the reporting FY22 as stipulated in its award.