



Takunda

CARE

US Agency for International Development

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)



A young mother holds a teas spoon of porridge to her son's mouth as he tastes the new porridge recipe in Mutare Rural, Zimbabwe. © Kumbirayi Gwamanda / TAKUNDA RFSA

Quarterly Program Performance Report

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
CAP	Community Action Plan
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management
CHC	Community Health Clubs
CLA	Collaboration Learning and Adaptation
CSB+	Corn-Soy Blend plus
CV	Community Vision
FDP	Food Distribution Point
FY	Fiscal Year
GCVCA	Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Climate Analysis
GEDI	Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
IDEAL	Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis, and Learning
IPC	Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Phase Classification
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMCA	Make Me Change Agent
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
MT	Metric Tonnes
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
PRO-WASH	Practices, Research and Operations in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
PYD	Positive Youth Development
R&I	Refine and Implement
RFSA	Resilience and Food Security Activity
SAA	Social Analysis and Action
SBC	Social Behavior Change
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
SCALE	Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment
STREAM	System for Tracking Evidence for Adaptive Management
TOT	Training of Trainer
TVET	Technical and Vocational Training
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
VHW	Village Health Workers
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WBA	Well-Being Analysis
WFNSC	Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committee
WWSSC	Ward Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee
WQAP	Water Quality Assurance Plan

1. INTRODUCTION AND OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Takunda is a five-year Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) funded by the United States Agency for International Development/ Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) and implemented by a consortium¹ primed by CARE in Zimbabwe. The program started in October 2020 and continued with implementation while concluding the Refine and Implement (R&I) phase. Takunda aims to achieve sustainable, equitable, and resilient food, nutrition, and income security. The RFSA takes place in the Buhera and Mutare Districts (in Manicaland Province), as well as the Chivi and Zaka Districts (in Masvingo Province).

1.1 Operational Context

The quarter under review saw a decrease in the prevalence of COVID-19, poor and erratic rainfalls and subsequent crop loss, continued food insecurity, and a deteriorating economic environment characterized by high fuel and basic commodities prices. Poor and erratic rainfall caused widespread crop loss in the country², including in the Takunda operational districts. Although COVID-19 cases are decreasing, the pandemic is still present. Takunda staff continued to uphold COVID-19 compliance procedures to protect themselves, and participants, from contracting and passing the disease.

The annual rate of inflation rose to 72.7% in March 2022,³ from 60.7% in January 2022.⁴ The inflation increase triggered a rise in the prices of fuel and basic goods, such as bread and other services, which in turn reduced their affordability. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission conducted parliamentary by-elections in Chivi and Mutare districts. The country and operational districts continued to experience a stable political climate with no reported political interference in program activities.

Zimbabwe experienced prolonged dryness resulting in widespread crop loss and maize write offs of more than 50% of the South-Eastern parts of the country, which included the Takunda districts.⁵ The abnormal dryness will lead to poor harvests. The reporting quarter coincided with the peak of lean season, resulting in an increase of food insecurity among vulnerable rural households.⁶ The Takunda program implementation areas experienced stressed (Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 2) and crisis level food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) for the reporting quarter, requiring humanitarian assistance.⁷

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

During the quarter, program staff worked on the Refine and Implement (R&I) year activities, which included finalizing and presenting culmination summaries from formative studies and

¹ The consortium members include Bulawayo Project Center, Environment Africa, FHI360, International Youth Foundation and Nutrition Action Zimbabwe

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-key-message-update-international-food-and-commodity-price-hikes-drive-sharp>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-key-message-update-international-food-and-commodity-price-hikes-drive-sharp>

⁴ <https://tradingeconomics.com/zimbabwe/inflation-rate-mom>

⁵ <https://m.reliefweb.int/report/3832833/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-key-message-update-international-food-and-commodity-price-hikes-drive-sharp>

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-key-message-update-international-food-and-commodity-price-hikes-drive-sharp>

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-key-message-update-international-food-and-commodity-price-hikes-drive-sharp>

sustainability plans to BHA. The studies largely confirmed Takunda’s original design while at the same time encouraged heightened focus in several key areas. Some focus areas identified included: livestock and nutritious food production; off farm livelihoods; access to finance; functionality of government structures at sub-district level and participant groups; water point operations and maintenance; gender-based violence and decision-making. The program has prioritized these refinement areas, among other interventions, for current and future implementation periods.

BHA approved all of the Takunda formative studies during the quarter and these include: Gender Analysis; Care Group/Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH); Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) functionality inventory; Agriculture Value Chain; Off-Farm Opportunities, Capacities, Financial and Labor Market Assessment; COVID-19 Assessment; Social Behavior Change (SBC) and Community Visioning (CV). All the above reports have been posted on the Development Experience Clearing House. and are readily available. After culmination discussions and approval of the studies, Takunda implemented the following: Care Groups; Farmer Field Business School (FFBS); Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA); Social Analysis and Action (SAA) and Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) trainings; ongoing Community Visioning (CV) activities; and a well-being analysis (WBA).

The program conducted a number of staff training of trainers (TOTs) in preparation for full-scale implementation after culmination discussions. These included a comprehensive five-day monitoring and evaluation (M&E) workshop targeting 21 program staff (10 Males, 11 Females), which aimed to strengthen the capacity of all M&E staff and technical leads on the Takunda M&E system. The other staff TOTs conducted were Social Analysis and Action, Gender Equity and Diversity, Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (GCVCA), and Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM).

Takunda completed the household census exercise in 399 clusters over the four districts. The program reached 72% of the community-identified households (Table 1). The households that Takunda failed to interview were absent even after repeated recalls. This exercise will resume in 90 more clusters after the baseline data collection exercise in the next quarter.

Table 1. Household census progress update as of March 25, 2022

District	Number of Wards Reached	Number of Clusters Reached	Villages Profiled	Households from Target Area	Resident HHs Interviewed	Non-Resident /Not Interested HHs	Resident HHs but not Interviewed	Census % Achievement (Resident & Non-Resident)
Buhera	22	97	462	35874	21142	2335	12397	65%
Chivi	23	94	449	23097	14707	1558	6832	70%
Mutare	24	100	216	36373	25323	3259	7791	79%
Zaka	23	108	773	28671	18767	2263	7641	73%

Totals	92	399	1900	124015	79939	9415	34661	72%
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The adaptation of the System for Tracking Evidence for Adaptive Management (STREAM) Information System to Takunda’s needs is still an ongoing process. To date, Takunda successfully deployed the Survey, Commodities, Distribution, Group Registrations, and Events modules that capture groups and training. Feedback from the MIS users is continuously incorporated for improvements to the system, as well as identification of training needs. Staff capacity building is an ongoing process, occurring mainly through online sessions to fill emerging knowledge gaps. More details on achievements are provided in the Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT), as shown in Annex 1.

The following section provides key achievements under each of the program purpose areas.

2.1 Agriculture and livelihoods

The key interventions included Village Savings and Loans Associations, preparatory private sector engagement activities, Farmer Field Business Schools, Technical and Vocational Education Training preparations, youth life skills development, and youth club mapping.

Village Savings and Loans Associations

Takunda trained 1179 participants (269 Males, 910 Females) from 91 new VSLA groups in the reporting period. The additions bring the total cumulative number of groups to 203 with a total membership of 2,014 (443 Males, 1571 Females). Of the participants trained to date, there are 309 young women and 94 young men below the age of 29 years. Due to social norms related to young voices and agency for example young women do not want to be in same group with their mothers-in-law. Being in the same group undermines their active contribution and the program is forming groups considering the different desires.

Through learning, the program is encouraging an increase of group sizes from an average of seven members per group to between 15 to 25 members. The increases, when feasible, aim to encourage pooling of larger financial resources. *The idea of increasing group size has been shared with new VSLA groups being established so that the program does not disturb or interfere with the running of existing groups. Participants self-select themselves into groups after training session on “Member-self screening” which gives them knowledge on screening themselves and potential members before forming groups of 15-25 members on their own without involvement of program staff.* Takunda noted that participants in some clusters are increasing savings from US\$3 to US\$5 to increase their fund portfolio. Saving for assets is also increasing as participants seek to accumulate tangible resources, especially goats and other small livestock. For the period under review, the participants saved a total of US\$8,171, while 440 participants (61 Males, 379 Female) got loans worth US\$17,853 (US\$2,728 Male, US\$15,125 Female). Participants received an average loan size of US\$25.78 per recipient. *Participants used loans to finance poultry production, vegetable vending, purchased seed and non-seed inputs for gardening, and buying and selling of snacks to sell at schools and other basic commodities.* To ensure quality implementation Takunda trained staff on objectives, process, and expectations.

The program is also conducting a study is aimed at providing learning for a combination of participation in VSLA plus other interventions, nutrition, farmer field business schools, reliance designs and only in VSAL. The program mobilized and sensitized the communities to participate in the pilot study pencilled in the next quarter.

Private Sector Engagement

Takunda held meetings with different private sector companies to appraise them of the program, as well as identify potential areas of future collaboration. Takunda noted that Zimbabwe Free Range Poultry Association (ZFRPA) promotes free-range poultry farming and marketing. Takunda held meetings with two mobile extension services providers: Viamo and Eco-farmer. Viamo specializes on digital marketing, behavior change communication, data collection, and feedback mechanisms. Ecofarmer provides services like bulk sms platforms, farming tips, soil testing (pH & full analysis), and tillage & logistics for farmers. Takunda will decide on the appropriate collaboration with Viamo and Eco-farmer by the next quarter. The determination will be based on the packages that the service provider offers and their appropriateness to the project participants needs.

Technical and Vocational Education Training

Takunda sensitized communities, local leadership, and government officials on several Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) components. The TVET components that were discussed included: the objectives; target groups; list of courses offered and duration; potential students' selection process; and enrolment for TVET courses. Takunda developed a TVET selection and assessment manual and held meetings with prospective TVET centers, namely Mushagashe in Masvingo province and Magamba and Marange in Manicaland province. Takunda selected sites based on adequacy of facilities, availability of desired courses by youth and different gender, course curriculum, as well as cost structure. The program has registered 518 (208 Male, 310 Female) students to undertake their preferred courses at the three TVET centers. Course offerings included, brick laying, hair dressing, carpentry, solar installation, hotel management, and catering.

Takunda also profiled 74 (29 Male, 45 Female) master craftsmen or trainers across all four districts. The profiled attributes of master crafts included: the ability to provide internship places; willingness to facilitate learning and sharing platforms for students from different vocational training centers like Zvishavane and Mushagashe; and previous experience in similar programs with other organizations. Some of the trainers were previously engaged with other local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Jekesa Pfungwa and CARITAS (in Zaka), offering various short courses ranging from business management, horticulture, baking and dress making, detergent making, cellphone repairs, carpentry, and welding, among others.

Farmer Field Business School (FFBS)

Takunda conducted an FFBS Training of Trainers (TOT) for 54 program staff (24 Male, 30 Female) and five government officials (3 Male, 2 Female), from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Local Government. The training equipped program staff with skills to train participants in establishing FFBS groups. The groups focus on learning and adoption of improved agricultural practices and technologies, as well as potential linkages to markets. The program also formed 53 FFBS groups with 1668 participants (417 Male, 975 Female), out of a target of 476 groups, through self-selection across the operational districts. About 17% of the total participants are youth (72 young males and 204 young females). Takunda, in collaboration with Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), participants and local leadership worked together to select 53 FFBS facilitators (23 Male, 30 Female). The FFBS groups identify learning demonstration sites, as well as their desired learning topics.

Youth and Life Skills and Positive Youth Development

Takunda conducted a Financial Literacy TOT aimed at building the skills and knowledge of Takunda staff on managing money effectively, i.e., planning, budgeting, saving, borrowing, and

investing. The Takunda program developed the curriculum through a participatory process, utilizing various Financial Literacy curricular including Old Mutual's Financial Literacy Curriculum; CARE's Financial Literacy Curriculum; Life Skills and Food Security Program (LFSP) manual; and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Small to Medium Enterprise and Community Development manual. At the end of the training, participants needed to understand the concepts of financial literacy, acquire the necessary skills to effectively deliver Financial Literacy trainings to Takunda participants, and respect overall program expectations on Financial Literacy. The program trained 53 program staff (20 Male, 33 Female) who have since started training youth on Life Skills. Takunda's Life skills package comprises 15 modules which cover personal development, problem solving, healthy lifestyles, workplace success, financial education, entrepreneurship, and service learning. The first session 'Getting Started' was offered to 75 (33 Male, 42 Female) out of a targeted 3060 young people. Takunda trained 38 Program Field Officers (18 Male, 20 Female) on positive youth development (PYD). PYD is an approach to the development of young people's competencies, skills, and abilities. The training aims to equip Takunda Officers with technical skills on youth engagement, participation, and agency, as well as integrating each into their implementation strategies.

Youth club mapping

Takunda completed the initial youth club mapping process, across all the operational districts, during the quarter. The process identified 646 youth spaces: 329 in-school spaces and 317 out-of-school spaces. The mapping results will help Takunda develop ward-specific action plans regarding the establishment of youth hubs in Takunda districts. The mapping exercise highlighted the need to collaborate with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MOPSE) to implement in-school youth health clubs and life skills trainings; strengthen the relationship with the Ministry of Youth Sports, Art and Culture, as well as collaboration with ward coordinators to strengthen youth hubs and identify youth champions; establish inclusive age specific youth hubs to appropriately target young people at various life stages and increase functionality of youth hub participatory verifications.

2.2 Nutrition and Health

Care Group

Takunda registered 786 Neighbor Women groups, 333 Lead Elderly Women groups, and 322 men's groups in 31 wards across the four districts in this reporting period. Cumulatively, the program has registered 1122 Neighbor Women groups, 583 Lead Elderly Women groups, and 520 men's groups. So far Takunda has covered 49 out of 92 wards with care group registrations. Although, the program has only registered 14263 (29.5%) of the targeted life of award 48320 pregnant women and/or women with children under 2 years in care groups, and 7388 (29.5%) of the targeted 25000 men for members. The underachievement is due to the household census and profiling, which act as precursors to Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), is still ongoing. Once completed the number of beneficiaries should increase. Takunda is conducting household census, profiling, and care group registration mop-up exercises to ensure complete coverage in all wards. However, the project has already surpassed its Funding Year (FY) 22 target for elderly women with 7470 (124%) of the targeted 5991 having been registered.

Takunda held planning meetings with Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees (WFNSC) in 5 wards of the Buhera district, 49 members (24 Male, 25 Female) attended. The meetings aim to build capacity within WFNSC on Care group activities so that they can support them. Takunda then trained 128 Village Health Workers (VHWs) (8 Male, 120 Female) 369 Lead Mothers, 203 Lead Elderly Women, and 213 Male Champions on Care Group methodology, in 22 of the 49 wards with complete Care group registrations. The trainings will continue in FY22

Q3 and include appropriate dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency. The program monitored 133 neighbor women groups with 1523 members. The main challenge to the adoption of appropriate dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency were food shortages. Takunda will promote income generating activities and agricultural productivity enhancing activities to ensure food access and availability, which will also help strengthen linkages among Takunda's health and nutrition activities and agriculture and livelihoods interventions.

Following the completion of the formative research, Takunda developed care group stories for all the behaviors being promoted through the Care Groups. These stories help care group participants identify barriers to behavior adoption and ways of addressing them. Takunda will use the standard UNICEF Infant and Young Children Feeding (IYCF) counseling cards and MOHCC Care Group training manual. Takunda will test and review the stories in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) before printing.

WASH

Takunda trained 131 participants (23 Male, 108 Female) on the Community Health Clubs (CHC) approach in the four districts. These consisted of 30 Village Health Workers (VHW), 93 Community Health Club Facilitators (CHCFs) government recommended structure, and 8 officials from MoHCC, Women Affairs, Ministry of Youth and local leadership. The CHC training is a two-day training covering 10 topics to capacitate participants on participatory health and hygiene education (PHHE) as provided for by government policy. Soon after the training, the CHCF and VHW (local services providers) will form health clubs in their respective villages. The Community Health Clubs will meet once a week and learn using a guided 10 PHHE sessions. The session are designed to raise community awareness on the importance of good hygiene practices and drive adoption of WASH promoted behaviors such as the construction of hygiene enabling facilities (toilet, pot racks, rubbish pits, and handwashing stations), safe disposal of feces, water treatment, storage and transportation practices, and household hygiene.

Commodities and Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP)

Takunda received 329.65 MT of 1,540 MT of corn-soy blend plus (CSB+) from FY22 Call forward commodities. The low tonnage received is because the commodities only arrived at Durban port in March 2022. The remaining commodities will be dispatched from Durban port in Q3. Heavy rains affected trucks in transit from Durban port to Mutare warehouse and 87 bags are under reconstitution. The program conducted bi-monthly distributions and a total of 27,906 participants (7,492 pregnant women, 2948 lactating women, 9090 female children 6-23 months and 8376 male children 6-23 months) received 276.375 MT CSB+ and 49.754 MT Vegetable Oil. This represents a 54% achievement against a targeted 51,352. The deficit is due to lower-than-expected numbers in the target group within the Takunda operational areas.

The program received approval from BHA to dispose of 2.870 MT CSB+ valued at \$2,758.47 contaminated by water in transit from Durban port in FY22Q1. With BHA approval, Takunda loaned Amalima Loko 370 MT CSB+ and 120MT Vegetable Oil. Amalima Loko will repay the loan after receipt of their August 2022 call forward. The justification for loaning the commodities was essentially Takunda was not able distribute all the commodities before the November 2022 Best Use by Date (BUBD). Distribution by the BUBD did not occur due to lower-than-expected numbers in the target group within the program operational areas. Takunda now projects to reach 40,000 participants in FY23 and reduce to 25,676 participants in FY24 as per agreement. A photo gallery that includes the SFP process can be found in Annex 5.

The MOHCC, with Village Health Workers (VHWs) working with Takunda staff, conducted screening for acute malnutrition. The groups screened using Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) for children 6–23 months, during SFP registrations and distributions. A total of 6,180 children under two (2981 Male, 3199 Female) participated in MUAC screening; 236 (90 Male, 146 Female) (3.8%) were found to have moderate acute malnutrition while 69 (27 Male, 42 Female) (1.1%) had severe acute malnutrition. Takunda referred all the children with acute malnutrition to the nearest health facility for management and treatment using Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF). About 75% of the malnourished children came from wards in Mutare district with higher proportions of the apostolic sect community, a religious group known for shunning health services. Takunda will collaborate with the Ministry of Health and Child Care to explore the possibility of distributing RUTF through VHWs to children from the apostolic communities with acute malnutrition. In addition, Takunda will also explore the roll out of family led MUAC approach starting with all wards with many apostolic sect members so that they monitor the MUAC of their children. Takunda and MOHCC also conducted cooking demonstrations during all SFP distributions.

To strengthen the programs' accountability systems, Takunda trained a total of 156 of 199 Food Distribution Committees constituting 515 members (8 Male, 507 Female). The training entailed handling and documentation of complaints and feedback from project participants at food distribution points. Takunda recorded a 56% reduction in issues recorded through the help desk. Of the 574 issues raised in this quarter, 301 are inclusion errors, 215 exclusion errors, whilst 58 included change of beneficiary details or status due to deaths, relocations, or miscarriages. The help desk team and Takunda staff closed the loop on 74% of the issues (428 out of 575 issues). The program will address the pending issues before the next distribution cycle by holding a public validation in the next quarter.

Takunda conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise on the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) component. The specific objectives of the PDM were to assess the distribution process for learning and program improvement. Takunda interviewed 267 SFP project participants across 25 Food Distribution Points (FDPs) using a semi-structured qualitative data collection tool. Below are some of the key highlights:

- Limited knowledge of Takunda interventions amongst SFP recipients. This may potentially limit participation in other activities. Through sensitization meetings conducted before distributions, Takunda will continue to share the Takunda Comprehensive Overview, emphasizing program integration.
- Standard scoops are available, but the scooping teams need supervision. Takunda will increase distribution monitoring, and calibration of scoops and encourage communities to bring more scoops to reduce errors of under or over scooping.
- SFP recipients requested at least three days notice to the distribution date and suggested the use of multiple channels e.g. local leaders, schools, clinics, etc. to increase coverage of the messages. Takunda noted this request and will plan for notifications three days before the distribution date.
- Six FDPs (a quarter of Takunda's FDPs) have recipients who travel 3 – 5 hours to the distribution point. Generally, there are no safety concerns except for one FDP in Buhera where recipients pass through a mountainous area to the FDP. Where possible Takunda will increase the number of FDPs to address security issues and long distances traveled to the FDP.
- Consumption patterns across all the districts indicate high levels of ration dilution. This explains why the food rations do not last for the expected period. Reasons given for ration dilution included the challenges of hunger being experienced within households due to

COVID-19 and low rainfall received this season, which has crippled their economic livelihoods and sources of income. Takunda will continue to emphasize the importance of feeding the index beneficiary only.

- VHWs helped in enforcing COVID-19 prevention measures across the districts. Although a significant portion adhered to COVID-19, there is a need to continue enforcing Covid-19 measures during distributions, particularly issues to do with social distancing due to large crowds at FDPs. Handwashing stations were available and in use across all the surveyed FDPs during distributions.
- The survey indicated that 100% of the FDPs had full community involvement in crowd control, monitoring of scooping, growth monitoring, and help desk management.

2.3 Resilience

Under this purpose, the program supported resilience design demonstration plots, conducted staff training in readiness for climate vulnerability and analysis, and assisted with community-based natural resource management.

Resilience Design

The Takunda program, with support from local agricultural extension offices, continued monitoring and mentoring 22 farmers (12 Male, 10 Female) hosting the Resilience Design demonstration plots in the four districts. Details of the Resilience Design Approach can be found at the footnote below.⁸

Farmers implementing Resilience Design faced some challenges, including delayed onset of the rainy season and dry spells, which affected the establishment and performance of their crops. A photo gallery that includes the Resilience Design is shown in Annex 5.

Community Disaster Risk Management-Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Climate Analysis

Takunda conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) on Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Climate Analysis (GCVCA) and Community based disaster Risk Management for 25 program staff (10 Male, 15 Female) The training builds staff capacities in analyzing communities' vulnerability to climate change, identifying options for building climate resilience, and developing of disaster preparedness plans. The training included a field based GCVCA tools testing session in Ward 12 of Chivi District. Twenty-nine (10 Male, 19 Female) community Disaster Risk Management focal persons and five officials (1 Male, 4 Female) from the Ward council, Environmental Management Agency, Rural District Council, AGRITEX and Forestry Commission participated in the sessions. Following the training, Takunda staff drafted rollout plans to train the communities and facilitate co-development of DRM plans.

Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) TOT

Takunda trained 14 program staff (9 Male, 5 Female) and two government staff from the Environmental Management Agency and Forestry Commission, on CBNRM. The objective of the training was to enhance staff skills in conducting Natural Resources Management (NRM)

⁸ <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/resource/permagarden-manuel-technique>

training for communities so that communities can protect, manage and safeguard natural resources. Takunda developed rollout plans for CBNRM and will integrate them into the GCVCA rollout program.

3 INTEGRATION AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Progress with R&I, Culmination and Start-Up Studies

Table 2 shows the progress with R&I, Culmination, and start-up studies.

Table 2. Progress with R&I, Culmination, and Priority Start-Up Studies

PRIORITY STUDY	STATUS AT END OF MARCH 2022
Initial Environmental Examination, Water Quality Assurance Plan (WQAP), and Fumigation Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP)	Takunda drafted the Scoping Statement for 16 proposed Weir dams and submitted it to BHA in January 2022. BHA approved Takunda's WQAP.
Enriched Porridge Study - assess the acceptability of the enriched porridges' willingness to pay by the targeted consumers and the affordability of the raw materials and the enriched porridges.	Data collection, analysis, and report writing. Draft report under internal review. The preliminary results indicated that the enriched porridges were acceptable, that both raw materials and the enriched porridges were affordable and the activity recommended a pilot project to produce the enriched porridges for household consumption and for sale.
Gender Analysis	Takunda shared and presented the culmination summary findings and proposed program refinements based on the learnings to BHA through Program Cycle Support in January 2022. Takunda successfully completed the Culmination Sessions attended by BHA, Program Cycle Support, and Staff from Consortium Partners.
Off-Farm Opportunities, Capacities, Financial and Labor Market Assessment	
SBC Formative Research Study	
Agricultural Value Chain Analysis	
COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	
CV Culmination Report	
VSLA Functionality Report	
Care Group, Water Point, Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committee (WFNSC), and Ward Water and Sanitation Sub-committee (WWSSC) Inventory Report	

3.2 Community Visioning

Takunda facilitated development of community actions and training for transformation for local leaders during the period under review. Takunda facilitated development of 91 Community Action Plans (CAPs) across the four districts as shown in Annex 2, bringing the cumulative community action plans to 337. Takunda continued to ensure inclusion and safe psychological spaces for program participants through disaggregating them into different population subgroups by sex, age, and physical ability. The community action plans have eased the layering and sequencing of Takunda interventions. In particular, the FFBS, Care Group, and VSLA models which are responding to some of the aspirations identified by communities across all the districts. Key community aspirations in all the districts that aligned with Takunda programming included: vocational training among the youths; improving health care services; water supplies for both domestic and productive use; community woodlots establishment; food and livelihoods security; income generating projects like poultry; small and big livestock production; and nutrition gardens. The community also prioritized public infrastructure development especially roads, bridges, clinics, schools, and dip tanks construction, which are outside Takunda's scope and will require other partners. For a photo gallery that includes the CV process, see Annex 5.

During the period under review, Takunda trained 135 participants (96 Male, 39 Female) on Training for Transformation in Buhera district. This consisted of 15 Takunda staff members who will act as trainers in their respective districts. The other 120 trainees are community leaders, including 32 village heads, 20 cluster secretaries, one councilor, one Headman, three Village Health Workers, five cluster chairpersons, and 28 community M&E committee members. The local leaders play a key role in driving community development projects. However, capacity gaps have seen most leaders failing to execute that role efficiently and effectively. In that regard, Takunda has initiated Training for Transformation for local leaders. The training is to equip local leaders to be self-reliant using local resources to drive their development activities, as well as see external support as a complement.

3.3 Gender, Youth and Social Dynamics

Takunda identified and enrolled 1,932 gender champions (786M : 1146F) in tandem with Care Group registration exercise to lead and facilitate community SAA reflections and dialogues. The project conducted a stakeholder mapping and held meetings with Gender Based Violence (GBV) response actors, organizations into disability programming, and community based apostolic faith organizations. The engagements aimed at establishing networks and collaborative modalities in relation to GBV referral mechanisms, inclusion of persons with disabilities, and apostolic faith communities, in Takunda. Takunda identified and held meetings with Musasa Project for GBV response, Jairos Jiri for disability inclusion and Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust for the engagement of apostolic faith.

Takunda conducted a Gender Equity Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) training for 1.5 days for 76 Takunda program staff (36 Male, 40 Female) to equip them with an understanding and appreciation of GEDI. During the quarter, Takunda conducted a Social Analysis and Action (SAA) training of trainers to 56 program staff (28 Male, 28 Female) to increase staff knowledge and facilitation skills of SAA project integration, to allow staff to reflect on their personal biases for personal transformation, as well as to understand monitoring social norm change, reporting, and documentation. One government official from the Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development and one staff from the USAID funded Zambuko project were also trained. The training included a practical field testing in Chivi district, where two separate sessions, one for men only and the other one for a mixed group were held to test and assess participants' facilitation skills on SAA. A total of 25 male program participants attended the men's fora group while the mixed group had 47 participants (29 Male, 18 Female) including Persons With Disability (PWD). The program participants appreciated the SAA as a promising approach to engage the communities towards the desired norm change. After the training, Takunda developed district-based SAA implementation action plans and the sensitization of district and community level district leadership on SAA have started.

Takunda collaborated with the Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises, Development (MOWACSMED), in commemorating the International Women's Day in Mutare and Buhera districts on the 9th and 10th of March 2022, under the theme "Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management." The event celebrated the engagement and empowerment of women in strengthening resilience to disaster risks. Takunda had the opportunity to showcase the role of women and men in climate adaptation through its Resilient Design initiative through participation and skills acquisition. The participants gave solidarity speeches and key messages on gross impacts of climate change on women and girls and the need to empower them towards resilient households and communities. A total of 673 participants (94 Male, 61 boys, 420 Female, 98 girls) attended the event. Takunda supported the commemorations with branding and visibility

materials (banners, T-shirts). The program gave T-shirts to Takunda community exhibitors, with some distributed to project participants through quiz sessions.

3.4 Social and Behavior Change

Takunda cascaded the Make Me a Change Agent training to 43 program staff (22 Male, 21 Female) in March 2022. The session covered an introduction to SBC, determinants of behavior, effective facilitation, and negotiated behavior change. Training participants practiced applying these new skills through interactive role-plays, with scenarios based on their recent experiences promoting the various Takunda interventions. Takunda conducted a pre and post-test to measure learning and overall achievement. Participants scored 75% in the pre-test and 85% in the post-test. Takunda developed and finalized the first draft of the SBC strategy during the quarter through a consultative process with Purpose managers and technical specialists to prioritize behaviors, target groups and activities under each Purpose area. Takunda prioritized the behaviors based on the program sustainability plan, previous experience of promoting the behaviors, and findings from the formative research. Before finalisation, Takunda will share the draft for review with key government officials from departments that Takunda is working with. Takunda started developing SBC materials for increasing knowledge of behaviors. These include the short FFBS guide for field facilitators, as well as MOHCC Care Group adapted Model Counseling cards and Storybooks for use by Lead Mothers in conducting behavior change sessions with women of childbearing age and primary caregivers of children under two years. Takunda will translate the SBC materials into Shona and pre-test before use.

3.5 Institutional Strengthening and Local Capacity Building

Takunda conducted review and planning meetings on care group approach with WFNSCs, reaching 49 (25 Male, 24 Female) members from five Wards and local leadership. The process of identifying master crafts for delivering training and internship opportunities for youth commenced during the reporting period. Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (GCVCA) sensitization meetings were held for district and ward-based stakeholders, to equip them with disaster management concepts. Takunda capitalized on community meetings to also sensitize community leaders on the CHC approach. The CHC approach specifically seeks to drive positive hygiene behavior change on handwashing, as well as spur the construction of latrines and other hygiene enabling facilities.

3.6 Environmental Compliance

Takunda finalized the Scoping Statement for 16 proposed Weir Dam sites to assess environmental issues with construction, and subsequently submitted it to BHA in January 2022 (See Table 2). Takunda drafted an Integrated Waste Management Plan for promoting sustainable waste management among Takunda staff and beneficiaries. The program capacitated its staff on sustainable environmental management and safeguarding through presentations at all relevant trainings and fora, including the Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS), Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment/Disaster Risk Management (GCVCA/DRM), Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM), and the Takunda Staff Launch.

3.7. Baseline Impact Evaluation Set up

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) developed and shared the baseline impact evaluation tool with Takunda. The program provided feedback to improve the tool. In the quarter, IPA and Takunda concluded on the TVET and Life skills micro-experiments designs. Takunda shared

the workplan for TVET students' recruitment with IPA with the intention to have IPA attend the recruitment interviews for familiarization with the process in the next quarter. IPA also submitted the MRCZ amendment for micro-experiment. In preparation for the listing exercise, Takunda assisted IPA with stakeholder introduction protocols across the four districts. The listing process reached 74% of the expected sample, across 207 villages.

3.8. Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

Takunda collaborated with several key stakeholders and programs during the quarter to ensure appropriate synergies, layering, sequencing of activities, and learning. Takunda continued collaboration with USAID funding mechanisms (Annex 4) (e.g., Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment (SCALE), Practices, Research and Operations in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (Pro-WASH), Advancing Nutrition, NASA, and LEAP III) and USAID funded partners (FARM) during the reporting quarter. Takunda, USAID staff with key government stakeholders, Steering committee members, District Food and Nutrition Security Council (DFNSC) members, Agritex and MoHCC members, as well as local farmers, conducted joint monitoring and support visits to Buhera, Mutare, Chivi and Zaka districts. The USAID and Takunda staff were monitoring Takunda CV, household profiling, SFP, Resilience Designs, Care groups. The staff also offered technical guidance, inspected SFP commodities in the warehouse, and disposed spoiled commodities. The Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation (CLA) Lead participated in two Strategic Learning and Knowledge Working Group meetings, co-hosted by Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis, and Learning (IDEAL), to learn and share knowledge and good practices with USAID-funded RFSA globally. Takunda collaborated with the Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Ministry of Local Government, and other partners in commemorating International Womens Day in Mutare district.

Under the leadership of the USAID Zimbabwe Economic Growth and Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience offices, Takunda staff engaged their technical peers to draft a program collaboration framework bringing together Takunda, [FARM](#) and Zambuko activities.

Takunda hosted a steering committee meeting attended by 12 staff drawn from partner directors, Takunda CoP, DCoP, CLA Lead, USAID, and CARE, to appraise them on Takunda implementation progress. The committee offers strategic guidance to the program and also visited VSLA, Care groups and Resilience Demonstration sites in Chivi, to learn of program participants' progress. Takunda convened a quarterly review and planning meeting for three days. A total of 36 participants drawn from the Takunda Technical Leadership team (CoP, DCoP, Leads, Managers, Advisors, Specialists and District Coordinators) attended the meeting. . During the quarter, Takunda hosted the program launch and orientation for all program and operations staff from Chivi and Zaka districts. The launch and reorientation aimed to:

- Reorient all Takunda staff on the redesigned Theory of Change, which included implementation strategies informed by studies.
- Harmonize processes and strategies - creating a coherent/consistent understanding of key processes and aspirations - (harmonization of processes set the tone for the Mid-Term evaluation coming in FY23 and should this be positive CARE tends to benefit with a 5-year extension as referenced in the Request for Application);
- Integrate program across all program purpose areas, building interventions for a coherent program.
- Clarify roles across consortium partners and Takunda staff members.
- Build teams - build necessary connections across program hierarchy and partners.

The launch was officially opened by Masvingo Provincial Development Coordinator, and well supported by USAID, the CARE Country Director, the Takunda Technical Leadership, and the Steering Committee.

3 SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT STRATEGY

Takunda presented the sustainability and exit plan during the culmination workshop discussions, as well as articulated key outcomes and behaviors to sustain. As part of the sustainability strategy, Takunda will identify, establish, strengthen, and work with local service providers who will remain in communities and serve as links between the villages, government, and private extension agents. Takunda continued training Care Group Leaders, Male Advocates, and Lead Elderly Women on the Care Group approach. The capacity building of these local service providers forms part of a solid foundation for the Takunda sustainability strategy. During implementation of the CV process in the communities, Takunda continued its emphasis on the fact that the program is working with and building on existing community structures and local systems.

4 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Takunda recruited four district-based M&E assistants to ensure the functionality of feedback and accountability mechanisms, verification, updating of beneficiary lists, and monitoring of the project interventions. In addition, the program recruited four district-based CV assistants to implement CV activities.

5 LESSONS LEARNED

- Better coordination and integration of FFBS, Care Group, VSLA, CHC, and Gender Champions registration activities reduced time poverty and triggered community interest, as proven by high community participation during meetings.
- Integrating community orientation and sensitization sessions of various Takunda interventions (FFBS, care group, TEVT, PTS and mapping of youth hubs) has helped in reducing time poverty. The linking of Takunda interventions to CVs and community produced CAPs is helping program participants to realize how the program is building on community aspirations and preferences.
- Some farmers around the Resilient Design demonstration plots continue to have individual look-and-learn visits to the plots. Takunda will need to identify and train these farmers on resilient designs as they upscale this approach.

6 PROGRAM ADAPTATION

Takunda adapted the following during the quarter:

- Takunda recruited monitoring and evaluation assistants and community visioning assistants to speed up the household profiling and community visioning processes. The two activities are the foundation of Takunda programming, and their timely completion enables the implementation of other interventions.
- Takunda R&I studies and culmination processed suggested a refinement and refocus of activities to include among others: Livestock and production of nutritious foods; off-Farm Livelihoods & Access to Finance; functionality of government at sub-district level and participant groups; water point operations and maintenance; gender-based violence; and decision making.

7 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Table 3. Plans for Quarter Three of Fiscal Year 2022

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Time Period
Continue with groups (FFBS, VSLA, Care Groups, Mens Fora, Disaster Management Committees, Natural Resources) formation and trainings	April -June 2022
Enrollment of youth on TVET and Life skills, marketing and business management training	April-May 2022
Private sector engagement and linkage to producer farmers	May-June 2022
Development of SBC strategy and materials	April – June 2022
Bi-monthly SFP distributions, (receipt of remaining second call forward from Durban port, Graduation and Registration of new SFP participants , Malnutrition Screening, Post Distribution Monitoring)	April – June 2022
Pilots and Studies: Rollout of Takunda pilot studies (VSLA Model pilots VSLA Only vs VSLA Plus, Fee for Service models, Agrodealer, ICT extension, Chomoka ICT based VSLA) Human Centered Design Study	April to September 2022 May to June 2022
Productive Assets Preparation (Environmental Assessment for Weir Dams, Feasibility assessments, initiating some works at some sites)	April to June 2022
Technical Support to Takunda by SCALE Resilience Designs Technical Facilitators for RD scale up-Field Visit	April – June 2022
Review and co-develop Community level Bylaws in collaboration with the Rural District Councils	April – June 2022
Gender outcome mapping, SAA rollout at district and community level, Gender Integration Strategy and Action plan	April – June 2022
Qualitative Inquiry for eight indicators	April – June 2022
Community Visioning and Training for Transformation to local leaders	April – June 2022
Zimbabwe RFSA national launch	May 2022
Takunda Technical Leadership Quarterly Review Meeting	April – June 2022

8 ANNEXES

Annex 1. CARE Zimbabwe _Takunda_FY22Q2_IPTT

The IPPTT is attached as a separate document.

Annex 2. Community Action Plans

DISTRICT	Y22Q1 Cumulative Community Action Plans Developed	Y22Q2 Targeted Community Action Plans	Y22Q2 Community Action Plans Developed	Y22Q2 % Achievement	Cumulative Community Action Plans Developed
Buhera	67	20	28	140	95
Chivi	66	31	8	26	74
Mutare	54	30	24	80	78
Zaka	59	30	31	103	90
TOTALS	246	111	91	82	337

Reasons for underachievement: Chivi and Mutare district cluster reach was affected by competing events such as agriculture input and food aid distribution. Takunda competing activities such as training of trainers also reduced staff for CV activities.

Annex 3. Summary of Areas of Engagement for Takunda with USAID Mechanisms and Partners During the Quarter

USAID / MECHANISM/PARTNER	BRIEF NOTES ON TAKUNDA ENGAGEMENT	PERIOD OF ENGAGEMENT
NASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geo-location of project/intention areas-Monitoring of watershed interventions areas (providing historical maps). • Natural Resource Management Systems- Vegetative Cover Information systems. • Providing an analysis model for the resilience of production systems. For example, adoption and scale-up of resilient designs for water recharge systems and agricultural technologies. • As an evaluation model/tool looking at the before and after situation. For example, Takunda proposed water retention structures and catchment management systems. • Takunda may also benefit from NASA on retrospective analysis of ENSURE interventions. In terms of seasonality and how the interventions fared through stressful moments. 	Life of Award
SCALE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCALE trained staff to build negotiation, facilitation, and communication skills using the Making Me a Change Agent model. This is because Takunda will engage in a lot of facilitation across all-purpose areas, and hence, a one-off training would help in standardization. • Agriculture and natural resources management through training on resilient designs for watershed/landscape, both micro and macro catchments, and technical backstopping during implementation. 	Year 1/2
Learning, Evaluation, and Analysis (LEAP III) Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEAP III technical support is mostly targeting Agriculture and Livelihoods pillar (Purpose 1). LEAP III provides technical support on financial viability or analysis of Takunda prioritized value chains for on, off, and non-farm. It may be useful to train staff on social and financial analysis of prioritized value chains. • Could identify areas of financial analysis for the enriched foods assessments. 	Year 1
Advancing Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in developing both a market-based model for producing enriched foods, as well as learning focused on promoting consumption of micronutrients in low-income settings. 	Year ½
PRO-WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Takunda staff on Make Me Change Agent (MMCA). 	Year ½
IDEAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting the monthly Strategic Learning and Knowledge Working Group for all RFSAs funded by BHA globally. The Takunda CLA Lead participated in two of these meetings. 	Year ½
USAID Local Mission Communication Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Takunda women staff were trained on storytelling through photography and ethical photography. 	FY22Q1
Feed the Future Zimbabwe Fostering Agribusiness for Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takunda and FARM held two collaborative meetings jointly with USAID and identified and prioritized Gender, Markets, Resilience and Governance as the areas to initially collaborate. • Takunda and FARM have produced and submitted to USAID the joint collaboration plan. 	

Markets Activity (FARM)		
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Annex 4. Takunda Humanitarian Stories

Attached as a separate document.

Annex 5. Takunda Photo Gallery

The Takunda Photo Gallery <https://bit.ly/3On0UnD> (and also as a separate Annex 6) depicts various themes from Takunda Program activities, including resilience designs, the community visioning process, household profiling, supplementary food distributions, and refinement studies. The ref studies encompass stories, challenges, aspirations, and lessons learned in Buhera, Mutare, Chivi, and Zaka districts.