



Takunda

care

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AARDS	Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
BVIP	Blair Ventilated Improved Pit
CAP	Community Action Plan
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management
CHC	Community Health Clubs
CLA	Collaboration Learning and Adaptation
CoP	Chief of Party
CSB+	Corn-Soy Blend plus
CU2	Children under two
CV	Community Vision
DCoP	Deputy Chief of Party
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DWSSC	District Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee
FARM	Fostering Agribusiness for Resilient Markets
FDPZ	Freedom for the Disabled People in Zimbabwe
FFBS	Farmer Field Business Schools
FNSC	Food and Nutrition Security Committee
FPP	Focal Point Person
FY	Fiscal Year
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GCVCA	Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Climate Analysis
GEDI	Gender Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
HCD	Human-Centered Design
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IMAM	Integrate Management of Acute Malnutrition
IPA	Innovation for Poverty Action
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
IWMP	Integrated Waste Management Plan
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
MT	Metric Tonnes
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NAZ	Nutrition Action Zimbabwe
PFNSC	Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committee
PHHE	Participatory Health and Hygiene
PMU	Program Management Unit
PREP	Pipeline and Resource Estimate Proposal
PRO-WASH	Practices, Research and Operations in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
RD	Resilience Design
RFSA	Resilience and Food Security Activity
SAA	Social Analysis and Action
SafPHHE	Sanitation Focused Participatory Health and Hygiene
SAG	Sanitation Action Groups

SBC	Social Behavior Change
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
SCALE	Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment
SCOPE	Strengthening the Competitiveness and Potential for Export
SUAP	Safer Use Action Plan
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
ZAVH	Zimbabwe Association for the Visually Handicapped
ZFRPA	Zimbabwe Free Range Poultry Association
ZimVAC	Zimbabwean Vulnerability Assessment Committee
ZWL	Zimbabwean Dollar

1 INTRODUCTION AND OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

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

1.1 Operational Context

A number of macro-economic challenges observed during the quarter under review have a negatively impacted on low-income households in Zimbabwe. Some of these include price increases in basic food commodities, fuel, and agricultural inputs which continue to exacerbate the situation.²The circumstances were further compounded by late April rainfall which damaged crops ready for harvest and/or those crops already harvested.³

Annual inflation continued an upward trajectory, increasing from 96.4% in April to 131.7% in May and 191.6%⁴ in June. This reduced the affordability of basic food commodities, fuel, and other services. Between April and May, fuel prices pegged in Zimbabwean Dollars (ZWL) experienced an average 76% price increase for both diesel and petrol, while food price inflation rose from 104% to 155% between April and May of 2022.⁵ Takunda's participants across the operational districts have also been affected; for example, in Village Savings and Lending Association's intervention, individual monthly savings per person reduced from US\$5 in the last quarter to US\$3 this quarter due to increasing food prices and rising inflation.

Takunda operational districts continued to experience a stable political climate with no reported political interference in program activities. COVID-19 infections remained minimal in Zimbabwe, with record recovery rates of up to 97% during the period under review⁶. Inadequate dietary intake remains high in Masvingo and Manicaland Provinces, including Takunda operational districts. The estimated prevalence of insufficient food consumption in Masvingo Province was 41%, and within a range of 30-40% in Manicaland Province.

Low food consumption remains high in Masvingo and Manicaland Provinces, including Takunda operational districts. The estimated prevalence of insufficient food consumption in Masvingo Province is very high at 41% of the population, while Manicaland Province is high within a range of 30-40% of the population.⁷ The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2022 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report shows high levels of acute malnutrition in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces, with Manicaland recording a high GAM of 10% while Masvingo recorded a GAM of 4%. The WHO threshold for public health emergencies is 5%.⁸

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-food-security-outlook-update-april-2022>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-food-security-outlook-update-april-2022>

⁴ <https://www.rbz.co.zw/index.php/research/markets/inflation>

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-food-security-and-markets-monitoring-may-2022>

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-food-security-outlook-update-april-2022>

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-food-security-and-markets-monitoring-may-2022>

⁸ https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/zimvac_2022_rural_livelihoods_assessment_report.pdf

2 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

Takunda increased traction in implementing activities that included the establishment and development of Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS), Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA), Care Group member registration and sensitization meetings, Village Health Worker trainings on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), screening for acute malnutrition and the pre-testing of Care Group materials. Staff conducted Supplementary Feeding - distributions, led community training on Gendered Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (GCVCA) and Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) in communities, and continued monitoring and mentoring Resilience Design (RD) demonstration plots. Takunda also conducted pre-assessment activities for potential weir/dam and borehole sites.

With support from BHA, Takunda trained 15 staff (9 Male, 6 Female) on resilience measurement. The Takunda Resilience Measurement Framework identifies three key categories worth tracking. These are shocks or disturbances prone in the operational areas, a set of capacities that Takunda will strengthen to enable individuals or households to cope with shocks in advance and well-being outcomes listed below:

- Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
- Food Consumption Score (FCS)
- Income Diversity
- Livelihood Coping Strategies (LICS)
- % Food Expenditure

Takunda also focused on program implementation quality through on-site activity monitoring, re-monitoring, verifications, and providing technical support at various levels of implementation. This involved observation of training sessions and feedback from participants on issues such as satisfaction with training venues, distance traveled to training, notification timelines, community and stakeholder participation, and satisfaction with the training content. During the period under review, the program conducted on-site monitoring visits in 24 wards across implementing districts. Program participants gave feedback through various platforms, including post distribution monitoring, Help Desk, Deloitte (toll-free), suggestion boxes, and random spot interviews. Takunda received two cases of appreciation for the supplementary feeding program through the Deloitte Tip Off Anonymous channel. In addition, Takunda received a total of 624 complaints/feedback disaggregated as 584 exclusion errors, 9 inclusion errors, and 31 new pregnancies seeking registration. The program conducted on-site registration to resolve exclusion errors and new registration and deleted inclusion errors. The Takunda qualitative achievements are shown on the Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) (Annex 1).

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

2.1 Agriculture and Livelihoods

Key interventions during this reporting period included the establishment of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS), private sector engagement, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) enrolment, and trainings in youth life skills and positive youth development.

Village Savings and Loans Associations

Takunda established 155 new groups with 2,462 participants (409 Male, 2,053 Female) in all the districts. Of these participants, 234 (61 Male, 173 Female) are youth. Takunda noted that young people want to take advantage of the experience and stability of elders hence opting for engaging in groups mixed with older generations. The youth have also shown limited interest to start their own VSLAs as they view them widely as an intervention for elders and particularly women. Cumulatively, Takunda has trained 4,476 participants (852 Male, 3624 Female) in VSLAs against a target of 16,000 for FY22. The major reason for the low achievement of the planned target is late start of VSLA trainings as Takunda began training participants in November 2021. Takunda only started training in November as it worked on finalizing the findings of the VSLA Inventory and functionality from the Refine and Implement period which was important to inform Takunda on the VSLA engagement strategy. The time taken on understanding the findings was important to ensure that Takunda does not duplicate or replicate efforts in areas where VSLA groups already existed. Based on the low figures for young men, Takunda will continue to push for their meaningful inclusion by working through the youth hub platform. Following the VSLA training, participants saved United States Dollar (USD) \$11,909.00 cumulatively. Although the range of savings per member stretched from USD \$1 to \$20. Established groups have already started showing signs of building resilience through the acquisition of assets (both productive and non-productive) with the money they save and borrow, as well as a share-out. A total of 126 participants (30 Male, 96 Female) have bought productive assets like goats and indigenous chickens worth a total of USD \$4,177.00 (\$874.00 for males and \$3,303.00 for females). Participants used 60% of the saved funds in non-agricultural Income Generating Activities (IGAs) which include brick molding and sewing.

Takunda conducted the VSLA pilot study focusing on two models, exclusive VSLA establishment and VSLA plus other interventions that include health and nutrition, WASH, agriculture, and resilience. The pilot created 20 groups (five per district) with a total membership of 355 individuals (58 Adult Males, 226 Adult Females, 64 young women, and 7 young men). The groups form a cohort for learning the efficacy of each model for further replication. Takunda conducted a baseline for all 20 groups as the reference point going forward for measurement during the study period. Members from the established groups under the pilot confirmed that VSLAs are providing them with access to loans to start and grow IGAs. Participants used loans taken in the first cycle to finance non-, on- and off-farm income-generating activities that include buying and selling different commodities such as snacks to sell at schools, vegetable vending, brick molding, and sewing. Takunda noted a linkage of group objectives to productive assets, mostly goats; and demonstrating that VSLA participation has the potential to economically empower households and lead to resilience building.

Private Sector Engagement

Takunda engaged Strengthening the Competitiveness and Potential for Export (SCOPE)⁹, an inclusive value chain project, and a potential Bambara nut off taker. Takunda and SCOPE jointly visited Buhera district and assessed Bambara nut yield potential and modalities for collective marketing after harvesting. Takunda with the support of the Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services (AARDS) Directorate mobilized Bambara nuts and farmers in wards 22, 23, 27, and 29 of the Buhera district. Farmers showed interest in working with the off taker. Some farmers in ward 22 indicated they still had their last season harvest. However, there is currently

⁹ A European Union funded project implemented by Welthungerhilfe

little of this product owing to low production in 2021/22 agricultural season. Other districts had a crop failure and currently do not have surplus Bambara nuts for sale. Zimbabwe Free Range Poultry Association (ZFRPA) and Coopers are waiting for groups structured and organized so that they start providing technical support where necessary. Takunda will organize value chain producer and marketing groups during the next reporting period and engage interested value chain actors for further collaborations and business partnerships. For the period under review, AARDS, and Seeds Private Limited started preparing to engage farmers interested in pursuing cowpeas, sorghum, and pearl millet production under contract arrangements.

Technical and Vocational Education Training

Takunda enrolled the first cohort of 223 students (126 Male, 97 Female) in two out of three selected TVET centres, Magamba (for Buhera District students) and Mushagashe (Chivi and Zaka students). Examples of courses being pursued include hotel and catering, dressmaking, brick and block laying, hairdressing, and carpentry. Takunda had initially planned to enrol participants at Marange (Mutare District); however, this was not possible as the enrolment of students was delayed due to the renovations to the centre currently taking place. Takunda used a robust process to select the participants with the support of government stakeholders and local leaders. The selection process included Takunda sensitizing participants in collaboration with local leaders, vocational career guidance, and counselling. Local ward-based government stakeholders also assisted Takunda staff in verifying required documents (e.g., school reports, referral letters, identity documents, or birth certificates). Takunda used an inclusive recruitment and enrolment process through the support and involvement of local leaders who identified disadvantaged young people from their communities. Takunda is supporting the young people with tuition, protective clothing for their trades, toiletries, and sanitary pads.

Takunda also conducted a rapid community market assessment in all operational districts. The assessment aimed to identify community business opportunities and key promising livelihood opportunities from the courses under Takunda TVET, constraints of existing businesses, and possibilities for creating new and upgrading existing youth micro-enterprises. The assessment noted a business gap in provision of school uniforms and high demand for solar products. Takunda also engaged with local entrepreneurs running hotel and catering, clothing technology, hairdressing, metal fabrication, building businesses, and solar installation. They showed interest in offering internship opportunities to TVET graduates. Takunda noted that most entrepreneurs are facing challenges in terms of markets, capital, and equipment. The full report will be ready in the last quarter of FY22.

Farmer Field Business School (FFBS)

Takunda established 143 new FFBS groups giving a cumulative total to date of 196 groups with 7,038 participants (2,323 Male, 4,715 Female). The established groups are at the formative stages of development and working to establish group rules. To enhance group leadership and governance skills, Takunda facilitated leadership training for 423 participants (93 Male, 330 Female). Cumulatively, FFBS group participants selected 174 FFBS Facilitators (82 Male, 92 Female). To ensure trainings offered were fit for purpose, Takunda conducted a training needs assessment to identify gaps for 68 FFBS groups. Key gaps identified included market literacy, business planning, strategies to increase crop yields, crop and livestock pests and disease management, post-harvest handling and storage, and local feed formulation. Takunda prioritized identified gaps and conducted a Market Literacy and Entrepreneurship Training of Trainers (ToT) attended by 33 program staff (14 Male, 19 Female), who will, in turn, train FFBS facilitators. Takunda also trained 416 participants (96 Male, 320 Female) on reducing post-harvest losses

and improving storage practices. Participants engaged in RD showed enthusiasm with the hope that the approach will help them curb the effects of climate change and recurrent drought in their area.

Agro-input Assessment Progress

The agro-input assessment aimed at making a comparative analysis of different local-based input supply channels and building on them to enhance improved access to productive inputs and technology. The assessment also focused on developing a tailor-made agro-input supply strategy that meets the context of the targeted participants. Program staff collected data in eight wards of Takunda operational areas (2 per district) and did a total of 101 interviews against a target of 112 with different key stakeholders, including farmers. Takunda conducted online training to discuss the rationale of the Agro-dealer study, methodology, and data collection tools for the assessment. Takunda interventions will be geared at increasing agricultural productivity through market systems and a value chain approach to build, develop and strengthen both input and output markets supply chains.

Preliminary findings from the assessment showed opportunities for developing partnerships through engaging private/public companies such as Major Family Savings (MFS) in Mutare, Agricultural Advisory, and Rural Development Services Directorate, Veterinary Services Department, Fivet Poultry, and Livestock Centre, and link them with farmers for business development services. Interviewed groups also showed interest in gaining more knowledge and skills in seed multiplication systems and processes to enhance their livelihoods.

Youth and Life Skills and Positive Youth Development

Takunda reached 437 young people (277 Female, 160 Male) through Life Skills training sessions across the four operational districts against a quarterly target of 1,530 (29%). To scale up and make way for the Life Skills experiment, Takunda has identified 92 ward trainers who will facilitate life skill sessions and mentor young people; the process is ongoing.

Post-session reflections revealed that young people benefitted from the life skills sessions and are applying concepts in their day-to-day living. For example, in Buhera, 12 youth (seven Female, five Male) trained in Life Skills started a poultry project and formed a savings group which made an initial saving of US\$40.00 during the reporting period. A second group of 11 youth (seven Female, four Male) secured land (0.2 Hectares) and are now in the enterprise of producing sugar beans and onions. Takunda will continue to mentor participants as they grow their small business initiatives. Lessons learned from life skills sessions have led to the development of a comprehensive youth model that defines a clear pathway that integrates life skills with other interventions FFBS, VSLA, TVETs, and IGAs.

2.2 Nutrition and Health

Under this purpose, the program supported Care Group registration and strengthening, supplementary feeding ration distributions, and WASH activities.

Care Group

For this quarter, Takunda registered 330 Neighbor Women groups, 225 Lead Elderly Women groups, and 196 Men's Groups in 14 wards across the four districts. Cumulatively the program has registered 1556 Neighbor Women, 808 Lead Elderly Women, and 716 Men's Forum members. So far, Takunda has covered 63 out of 92 wards with Care Group registrations. Takunda strengthened identified functional Care Groups through refresher trainings and monitoring events. The registration of Care Group participants, both Lead Mothers and Neighbor Women, remains low except for the Elderly Women groups, which have surpassed 100%. The

target for Lead Mothers and Neighbor women remains low because they were initially set too high at 48,320 Care Group participants (LOA) and were revised during the FY23 PREP to 37640 participants. Takunda will continue with the mop-up registration exercise to increase coverage.

Takunda pre-tested Care Group materials (counseling cards and story books) for use during monthly Care Group dialogues. The intent was to ensure that Care Group materials for negotiating behavior change are simple, easy to understand, and user-friendly. Further details are in the Social and Behavior Change (SBC) section of this report.

Care Group sensitization meetings for the Food and Nutrition Security Committees (FNSCs) at district and ward levels were conducted with community leaders with a focus on enhancing their capacity to support Care Group activities in their operational areas. Takunda sensitized and delved deeper into the Care group approach for four district FNSCs reaching 79 members (47 Male, 32 Female) and 12 ward FNSCs with 86 members (48 Male, 38 Female).

The program screened a total of 6,239 Children Under Two (CU2) years (3,258 Male, 2,981 Female) for malnutrition using the Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) metric, mainly during food distributions. The number of children screened is less than the number of children receiving Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) rations. The reason for this is that most mothers do not bring their children to the distributions for a variety of reasons such as the baby not feeling well or due to bad weather. Takunda will take advantage of the Care Group meetings to mobilize more women through messaging on the importance of bringing their children to the distribution points so that they are screened for malnutrition.

Active case finding during supplementary feeding distribution will help to facilitate early identification and treatment of children with acute malnutrition. Mutare district recorded high case rates of global acute malnutrition (GAM) compared to the other districts. 62% of all the GAM cases recorded this quarter came from Mutare district. For children under 2, the GAM rate was lower (1.8%) (MAM:1.2% and SAM 0.5%) during the quarter under review compared to FY22 Q2 (peak hunger period), which recorded a GAM of 4.9%.

WASH

Takunda trained 28 program staff (10 Male and 18 Female) in the Sanitation Focused Participatory Health and Hygiene (SafPHHE) training of trainers' workshop. The training aims at capacitating staff to trigger villages and train sanitation action groups. Takunda has triggered 48 villages and trained 48 Sanitation Action Groups (SAGs) reaching 402 group members (66 Female Youth, 46 Male Youth, 176 Female Adult and 114 Male Adult), in all operational districts following the SafPHHE ToT training. Triggering sessions disseminated gender messaging around equitable decision-making on income, roles and responsibilities during toilets construction and SAGs leadership for women and youth. The triggering process stimulated some interest and created demand for latrine construction and their use as participants realized the unhygienic status of their homes and general surroundings. Takunda staff have observed evidence of latrine construction work in progress with pit digging and brick molding in progress. Although some villages already have capable builders, Takunda identified training needs for latrine builders during the triggering process. Takunda will link, where possible, the builders' training to TVET intervention.

Takunda trained 384 Community Health Clubs (CHC) facilitators (324 Female, 60 Male) on the Participatory Health and Hygiene (PHHE) Approach. Trained CHC facilitators have managed to train 94 CHCs with 4,162 members (1,243 Male, 2,919 Female). One of the immediate, eminent

outputs of CHC is the construction of 68 Blair Ventilated Improved Pit latrines (BVIP) in two districts, 63 in Zaka (benefiting 376 latrine users-178 Male, 198 Female) and five in Mutare (benefiting 23 latrine users-11 male,12 female). Of the 68 BVIP, 13 are newly constructed, and 55 are upgraded pit latrines. The construction of BVIP latrines has improved access to basic sanitation and access to hygiene services for 399 people (189 Male, 210 Female).

Takunda partnered with the USAID-funded technical support program, PRO-WASH, to conduct action research on sustainable latrine construction and the use of Human Centered Design (HCD) for latrine construction approaches. PRO-WASH trained 31 participants (15 Female, 16 Male) in HCD study principles and various methods for collecting qualitative data by a PRO-WASH consultant. The trainer exposed participants to fieldwork and data gathering for the first phase of the HCD process (the HEAR phase). The participants collected data from rural Buhera and Zaka Districts, covering five villages of varying sanitation coverage. The study also explored the availability of sanitation supplies in six villages at two local growth points, Jerera (Zaka) and Murambinda (Buhera). The team conducted: four focus group discussions with separate activities for men and women; conducted seven transect walks; three interviews with local builders; six in-depth interviews with building suppliers; 11 interviews with government workers (mostly Environmental Health Technicians); conducted 17 household interviews and participated in two community triggering sessions.

Findings from the HCD study point to the need to ensure communities understand the BVIP latrine and how important it is to ensure all key features are in place before the utilization of the toilet. There is a need to train latrine builders as promoters of the BVIP latrine and help them form associations/networks to serve communities better. These and other identified issues will be further explored in the last quarter of FY22 during the CREATE phase of the HCD process.

2.2.1 Commodities

Takunda received the balance of the second Call Forward commodities, including 1,101 metric tons (MT) of corn-soya blend plus (CSB+). Takunda will also receive 280 MT of vegetable oil from the second call forward in the last quarter of FY22. Prolonged delays in the issuance of government support letters to facilitate import permit applications delayed the dispatch of commodities from Durban's port to country warehouses. Takunda had an in-transit loss of 0.475 MT CSB+ and rainfall damaged an additional 2.175 MT CSB+ between Durban and Zimbabwe. However, Takunda managed to recover the losses from third-party transporters. The application processes for the disposal of the 2.175 MT water damaged CSB+ are ongoing, and Takunda expects to dispose of the commodities in the last quarter of FY22.

Bi-monthly distributions conducted reached 32,953 participants (9,104 pregnant, 3,315 lactating, 10,700 female CU2 and 9,834 male CU2) representing 82% against a quarterly target of 40,000. Takunda anticipates reaching the targeted 40,000 participants in the last quarter of FY22. once the program reaches out to the remaining randomized controlled trial (RCT) treatment clusters released by IPA after the baseline. The participants received CSB+ 644.276 MT and Vegetable Oil 115.939 MT. Takunda distributed a total tonnage of 760.215 MT. In this quarter, Takunda dispatched CSB + 180 MT from the agreed loan of CSB+ 370 MT and 120 MT Vegetable oil to Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA). The balance of CSB+ 190 MT and 120 MT vegetable oil will be dispatched to CNFA in the last quarter of FY22.

2.3 Disaster Risk Reduction

The program engaged participants in RD demonstration plots, GCVCA, CBNRM, and conducted pre-assessment activities for potential weir/dam and borehole sites.

Resilience Designs

This period under review marked the end of the RD demonstration phase that targeted 22 farmer households. Despite the dry spells experienced during the farming season, participants observed notable changes in yields obtained from their RD plots and permagardens compared to previous years when the same plots were under conventional farming. For example, one RD participant from Zaka managed to grow 27 different species of vegetables, fruit trees, and other field crops and harvested 18 by 50 kilograms bags (0.9 metric tonnes) of maize from the two RD plots (0.5 Hectares); this compares to 10 by 50 kilograms bags (0.5 metric tonnes) from previous seasons on the same plot. During the pilot phase, farmers implemented RD to solve existing problems on their household plots with inadequate water supply, soil loss, and poor soil fertility, both in their crop fields and permagardens, and contribute to enhancing their livelihood options. Takunda will continue working with the targeted households on the improvement of the RD system through an incremental process.

Takunda, in partnership with SCALE, conducted monitoring, coaching, and mentoring visits to three RD sites at one site per each of three Takunda districts (Mutare, Chivi, and Zaka). The purpose of the visits was to support in closing some emerging gaps on how Takunda implemented the RD pilot phase and to help identify strategies to ensure an impactful scaling-up program. Following the field visit, Takunda, in partnership with SCALE, conducted a refresher training in Ward 12 of Chivi District for Takunda staff and farmers practicing RD in preparation for the upscaling phase. A total of 36 participants (19 Male, 17 Female) attended the training, with 11 being community members (four Male, seven Female) and five Agriculture Extension Officers (three Female, two Male). Takunda developed RD scaling strategy to guide the full implementation phase aimed at reaching 5,792 farmers in the 2022/23 agriculture season.

Community Disaster Risk Management

Takunda conducted GCVCA community trainings in all four districts. A total of 1,407 (608 Male, 799 Female) Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Focal Point Persons participated in the activity. The DRM Focal Point Persons further cascaded the training in their respective clusters, and the training cumulatively reached 5,644 participants (2,009 Male, 3635 Female). The community training culminated in the development of 25 DRM plans and corresponding 25 Disaster Management Committees in 25 wards comprising of 175 participants (96 male, 79 female). The plans captured the priorities and needs of women, men, and youth in terms of appropriate time for community activities considering the issue of time poverty. The committees will oversee the implementation of DRM Plans and will lead in the review of these plans on an annual basis.

Community-Based Natural Resources Management

Takunda initiated CBNRM training in communities with a total of 723 (394 Male, 329 Female) participants against a quarterly target of 1,932 (33%). The program facilitated the creation of 14 draft Natural Resources Management plans during the training. The communities identified issues of management resources and articulated their vision of good management practices and how to ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

Productive Asset Creation

Takunda conducted pre-assessment activities for potential weir/dam and borehole sites with support from the District Water and Sanitation Sub Committees (DWSSC) and as informed by the community visioning processes. Takunda identified 40 sites for borehole drilling across Takunda's operational areas. Borehole drilling and installation of the solar-powered pumping system are planned to start in the last quarter of FY22. Takunda also conducted a full technical feasibility assessment on five weir/dam sites identified during the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) process as having insignificant environmental impacts. Of these sites, only one site in Zaka (ward 29) passed the technical feasibility assessment, and construction will commence upon approval by BHA. Takunda conducted pre-screening on new potential weir/dam sites and identified 12 sites that will undergo full technical feasibility assessments in the last quarter of FY22. The nine sites deemed as having significant environmental impacts during the IEE process were not subjected to the pre-screening because they failed to meet the technical requirements due to shortcomings such as lack of solid foundations and high levels of siltation.

3 INTEGRATION AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Community Visioning

Takunda facilitated the development of Community Action Plans (CAPs) and piloted the establishment of community-led monitoring and evaluation system. Takunda facilitated the development of 58 CAPs across the four districts, as shown in annex 2, bringing the cumulative community action plans to 395. Takunda used various strategies to engage youths and people with disability them which include having meeting around local places they frequent a lot such as business centers. Some CV sessions were also conducted at convenient places that were agreed upon by youths and the local leadership. Takunda's community visioning process continued to ensure that its broad-based community participatory planning considers the diversity of genders, ages, and socio-economic groups within the area of operation. This enabled the identification of context-specific and locally led solutions upon which Takunda continues to layer its interventions. Takunda noted that the aspirations and priorities of the CAPs informed the weir/dams siting and selection of boreholes for repairs and maintenance, which enhances community ownership of the assets during and after construction.

Takunda also conducted four ward-level transformational leadership trainings (one in each district) for local leaders (traditional and influential) and Food and Nutrition Security members from district and ward. The training of trainers reached 35 Takunda field staff (22 Male, 13 Female) from the four districts. Local leaders, ward, and district FNCS members are drivers of change in communities. The trainings focused on this theory and strengthened local leaders' capacities to manage and drive local development initiatives developed during the CV process. The committees have realized their roles as development champions. In Chivi ward 14, the WFNSC chairperson created a WhatsApp group with Takunda district staff and all members including local leaders for coordination purposes. The training also resulted in the development of 23 village-level triggering plans for ward 14 in the Chivi District.

During the period under review, Takunda piloted the establishment of a community-led monitoring and evaluation system in ward 28 of Zaka using a Training of Trainers approach. Takunda trained a total of 97 participants (42 Male and 55 Female). Thirty-two participants (15 Male, 17 Female) were Takunda Field staff from the four districts. A ten-member committee (five Male and five Female) selected by the community to form the community-based Monitoring and Evaluation team participated in the training together with members from district FNCS (five Male, one Female) and

pilot ward FNSC members (three Male, two Female). Village heads and secretaries (14 Male and 30 Female) also participated in the training. The purpose of the training is to equip community-based monitoring and evaluation teams working in collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Security committees at the district and ward level and local leaders to be able to facilitate the set-up of a simple, manageable community-level monitoring system, including development of indicators for monitoring and evaluation guided by the CAP. The indicators are community driven and define development gains from the community's perspective. The trained team went on to develop monitoring and evaluation plans for the ward using community-defined indicators to track all development interventions in their ward. The community-led monitoring and evaluation training enhances community project ownership and sustainability and strengthens local systems.

3.2 Gender, Youth, and Social Dynamics

The identification and registration of community gender champions (Male and female) is an ongoing process. The gender champions are responsible for facilitating Social Analysis and Action (SAA) dialogue at community level to influence social and gender norm change. Given the complexity of the program, Takunda intentionally leveraged the maternal health and nutrition platforms (elderly women groups, neighbor women groups and men's fora) as entry points for the identification process. To date, Takunda has identified and registered a total of 1219 Male Champions and 10824 Men's Fora participants. Takunda acknowledges the role of female gender champions in promoting equitable behaviors and continues to catapult them into gender equality conversations, allowing them to own the process and push for equity and empowerment as women in their safe spaces (elderly women groups and neighbor women groups). Cumulatively, Takunda has identified and registered 1938 female gender champions and 21252 female member groups riding on elderly women and neighbor women platforms.

SAA district stakeholders' and community leadership sensitization meetings continue to take place, with 91 (48 Female, 43 Male) and 1558 (823 Male, 735 Female) participants reached, respectively. SAA trainings started with a demo session for 64 gender champions (52 Female, 12 Male). The demonstration took place in ward 16 of Mutare district with the objective to equip Takunda field staff with skill and knowledge on capacitating community gender champions. Takunda facilitators used theory and practice methodologies to instill an understanding of SAA and male engagement participatory tools. One ward-based government official from the Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MOWACSMED) participated in the workshop together with an identified facilitator from Freedom for the Disabled People in Zimbabwe (FDPZ), who assisted with facilitating a session on disability inclusion. The workshop provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge on transformative approaches to effective gender integration and social norm change with Fostering Agribusiness for Resilient Markets (FARM). Following the SAA /Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion staff training, the Mutare district team held a reflection session to assess progress on commitments made towards staff personal transformation. Takunda will continue doing reflective practice sessions to enhance social behavior among program staff.

Takunda committed to continue working with organizations on disability programming and, as such, leveraged the program launch and engaged the Zimbabwe Association for the Visually Handicapped (ZAVH) on disability inclusion. The aim is to continuously enhance the knowledge of the staff on disability integration during project implementation. The orientation program reached a total of 100 participants (52 Male, 48 Female), comprising staff from the Program Management Unit (PMU) and Manicaland province. The launch reinforced conversations on the Takunda Gender, Youth, and Social Dynamics integration strategy and action plan.

3.3 Social Behavior Change

Takunda shared the SBC strategy with Manicaland Provincial and District FNCSs for their review. Takunda also finalized the SBC Strategy and shared it with BHA for approval. The program pre-tested Care Group storybooks with five village health workers, 17 Lead Mothers, and seven Neighbor Women's Groups in the Chivi district. Participants suggested the improvement of Care Group storybooks in different areas that include being mindful about having accurate pictures, including health facilities that appear as mandating members of the apostolic sect to go to health centers. The program developed the facilitator Guide for all Takunda SBC group facilitators, using the Make Me a Change Agent Training principle, and translated the material into Shona. Takunda will also translate the FFBS facilitator guides into Shona before use.

3.4 Institutional Strengthening and Local Capacity Building

Takunda conducted meetings with DWSSCs on solar power selection processes across the four districts reaching 75 participants (47 Male, 28 Female). The program staff jointly participated with Agricultural Extension Officers and supported the participants during the formation and training of FFBS across the operational districts. Takunda also continued actively involving district government institutions as well as local structures such as village heads and councilors in the planning and implementation of activities to ensure that after the exit of the project, these institutions will ensure the sustainability of the interventions. For the period under review, Takunda conducted sensitization meetings and capacitated district and ward level FNCS members on program interventions. Takunda also conducted the GCVCA sensitization meetings for both district and ward-based stakeholders to equip them with disaster management concepts. Takunda continued sensitizing community leaders on the CHC approach that seeks to drive positive hygiene behavior change on handwashing as well as spur the construction of latrines and other hygiene enabling facilities.

3.5 Environmental Compliance

During the quarter, BHA approved Takunda's IEE, providing a solid basis for the implementation of environmental compliance activities. The program also drafted key documents that will guide environmental compliance and climate risk management, namely the Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP), Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) Toolkit, and the Agriculture and Livestock Safer Use Action Plan (SUAP). The program addressed the Environmental compliance requirements for weir construction through and finalized the Scoping Statement for Weirs.

3.6 Baseline Impact Evaluation Set up.

IPA concluded the Takunda's main baseline study data collection process in Chivi and Zaka districts, while in Buhera and Mutare, the process is still ongoing to allow Takunda to scale up implementation in completed areas. IPA informed Takunda that of the 36 clusters randomized, 19 are designated control and 17 are treatment. Plans to conduct Household Census and Community Visioning, which are base interventions, are in progress.

Takunda started the process of recruiting prospective students for the second cohort, targeting 600 participants who will form part of the TVET micro-experiment (300 treatment and 300 control). Randomization of the participants is at an individual level. Takunda targeted six wards per district for cohort two. CAPs developed during the CV process informed the selection of wards. The CAPs

in the selected wards prioritized the need for TVETs. Takunda and IPA interviewed 170 potential TVET participants in Chivi and selected 150 participants. The final randomization of 150 participants into treatment and control is set for the last quarter of FY22. A similar process will happen in Buhera, Mutare, and Zaka districts in the next quarter.

IPA and Takunda finalized and agreed to adopt randomization at the ward level for the Life skills Micro-experiment that will cover 87 wards. IPA and Takunda identified 43 wards as early cohort treatment while the remainder (44) are late cohort treatment. Takunda trained five wards as pilots to verify the training methodology and strategy before the micro-experiment resumed and scaled up into the early treatment wards.

3.7 Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

For the period under review, Takunda continued collaborating with several key stakeholders and programs to ensure appropriate synergies, layering, sequencing of activities, and learning. Takunda continued collaboration with USAID funding mechanisms Annex 3 - e.g., Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment (SCALE); Practices, Research and Operations in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (Pro-WASH); National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and USAID-funded partner FARM during the reporting quarter. Under the leadership of the USAID Zimbabwe's Economic Growth and Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience offices, Takunda staff also engaged their technical peers from FARM and Zambuko and presented the draft program to BHA. Four Takunda program staff (two Male and two Female) attended a Collaboration and Learning summit hosted by USAID in Victoria Falls.

Takunda and USAID staff visited two sites in Zaka (wards 14 and 29). In ward 14, the team observed and learned from a finished weir and operational irrigation project. The team visited ward 29 and conducted an environmental inspection of Takunda's proposed weir sites. The monitoring visit also contributed to the finalization of the Scoping Statements for Weirs.

Takunda hosted a steering committee meeting to brief them on Takunda's implementation progress; a total of 14 staff (nine Male, five Female) attended and consisted of: Takunda's CoP, DCoP, CLA Lead and CARE Deputy Director-Operations; senior staff from Takunda's partners; and USAID staff. The committee visited WASH, TVET, and PTS interventions in Buhera. Takunda also convened a 1-day quarterly review and 1.5 days of leadership development training attended by 34 participants (17 Male, 17 Female) drawn from the Takunda's Technical Leadership Team (i.e., CoP, DCoP, Leads, Managers, Advisors, Specialists, and District Coordinators).

During the quarter, Takunda hosted the program launch and orientation for all program and operations staff from Mutare and Buhera districts. The launch and reorientation aimed to:

- Reorient all Takunda staff on revised Theory of Change and implementation strategies informed by the Refine and Implement studies.
- Harmonization of processes and strategies - creating a coherent/consistent understanding of key processes and aspirations.
- Program integration across all program purpose areas and intervention for a coherent program;
- Role clarity across consortium partners and Takunda staff members; and
- Team building - build necessary connections across program hierarchy and partners.

Masvingo Secretary for Provincial Affairs officially opened the launch. USAID, CARE Deputy Director -Operations, Takunda Technical Leadership, and Steering Committee also supported the launch.

4 SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT STRATEGY

Takunda oriented 100 staff (52 Male, 48 Female) on the sustainability plan and exit strategy of the program during the program launch and orientation for all program and operations staff from Mutare and Buhera districts. The orientation session emphasized Takunda's sustainability strategy on the premise that it focuses on local service providers that will remain in communities and serve as links between villages and GoZ and private extension agents to ensure continued service provision. Takunda trained 44 participants comprising seven stakeholders (four Male, three Female) and 37 program staff (20 Male, 17 Female) on the community scorecard social accountability approach. The objective of the training was to enhance staff knowledge and skills of participants to facilitate the community score card and improve service provision. Training participants practiced applying these new skills through a practical, interactive session between service providers and service users at a health center. Takunda plans to roll out the community score card ¹⁰in all operational districts in the last quarter of FY22. The approach strengthens community-driven sustainability through service providers and users interacting and jointly making action plans to improve service delivery.

Takunda linked selected local service providers (Lead Mothers, FFBS Facilitators, CHC Facilitators, Disaster Management Committees) to participate in IGAs such as VSLA groups and FFBS for ongoing resources and motivation. Takunda also trained identified local service providers and started linking them to ward level stakeholders for continued support.

5 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

During the quarter under review, Takunda program staff prepared the financial year 2023 Pipeline and Resource Estimate Proposal (PREP) narrative and budget for BHA's approval. BHA reviewed the documents and Takunda addressed BHA's initial comments/questions.

CARE and Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ) had a collaborative partnership bilateral engagement meeting attended by ten staff (five Male, five Female). The CoP, DCoP, Finance Lead, Gender Lead, Acting CLA Lead participated from CARE along with the Executive Director, Finance Manager, Nutrition Specialist, and Gender Specialist from NAZ.

The Collaboration Learning and Adaptation Lead, Business Development Specialist, Agriculture Officer, and Program Driver resigned during the quarter under review. Takunda succeeded in recruiting the Knowledge Management and Learning Specialist and a Lead Engineer during the last quarter. The Knowledge Management and Learning Specialist will take responsibility for knowledge management, reporting, learning, and adaptive management and supporting the communication, visibility, and branding activities and processes; and strengthening collaborating, learning, and adaptation (CLA) processes and activities within the program. The Lead Engineer will be responsible for the development of all the infrastructure under the project, such as

¹⁰ The Community Score Card (CSC) is a human rights-based person driven two-way and ongoing participatory tool for assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation of services. The CSC approach brings together the demand side ("service user") and the supply side ("service provider") of a particular service or programme to jointly analyze issues underlying service delivery problems and find a common and shared way of addressing those issues.

dams/weirs, solar-powered piped water schemes, latrines, and rehabilitation of manually operated hand pumps. The recruitment process to replace the vacant posts is in progress.

6 LESSONS LEARNED

- Relying on the male champions alone (a recognized gender structure in the logical framework) to push for gender equality and women empowerment is inadequate; hence the project continues to identify and capacitate female gender champions to compliment the work of male champions hoping that this will maximize impact around transformative behavior change.
- Takunda acknowledges the need to close capacity gaps on disability inclusion and commits to continuously engaging organizations in disability programming during project implementation.
- Virtual platforms like WhatsApp are useful for the monitoring of Care Group activities and support provision to VHWs and Lead Mothers. If this is widely adopted it will increase the monitoring coverage and collection of data, complementing the routine physical monitoring events, especially when there are a lot of competing activities.

7 PROGRAM ADAPTATION

- Review of the FFBS manual to integrate with the SCALE supported RD approach.
- Recruitment of Data Capture Clerks to catch up with data capturing, which increased due to increased implementation of interventions.
- Project participants in VLSAs intensified asset-based savings as well as productive asset acquisition to cushion themselves against inflation.

8 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Table 3. Plans for Quarter four of Fiscal Year 2022

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	MONTH: 2022
Continue with groups (VSLA, Water User Committees, Gender Champions, FFBS, Disaster Management Committees) Formation and trainings	July–September 2022
Dialogues: Gender Social Analysis Action at community level, separate groups of Apostolic Faith men and women, Quarterly Joint Gender Dialogues and Care Group	July–September 2022
Technical Assistance Integration Workshop	August 2022
One-day meeting with Apostolic Sect leaders	August 2022
Staff Gender Equity Diversity and Inclusion sessions	July–September 2022
Rolling out the Participatory Score Card and Training for Transformation to local leaders in all Districts	July–September 2022
CV in Treatment Clusters	July -September 2022
SBC coaching and mentoring. Lunch and learning meetings (one per district)	August – September 2022
Surveys: QUIPS Monitoring, KAP Survey in all four districts	July-September 2022
Pilots and Studies: The rollout of Takunda pilot studies (VSLA Model pilots VSLA Only vs. VSLA Plus, Fee for Service models, Agro-dealer, ICT extension, Chomoka ICT-based VSLA), Human-Centered Design Study Piloting Community Led Monitoring and Evaluation in one ward per district	July–September 2022
SBC materials development: Finalization and printing of FFBS and Facilitation guides. Development and pre-testing of CBNRM facilitator guides	July-September 2022
Presentation of 67 DRM and CBNRM plans to Local Authorities	August-September 2022
CFA Feasibility studies to the four districts to come up with 20 weirs and 92 solar powered borehole sites	July – August 2022
CFA worker registration	July - August 2022
Staff M&E + System for Tracking Evidence for Adaptive Management (STREAM) MIS Training	July 2022

Participant Based Survey (PaBS)	August – September 2022
Resilience Measurement Survey (RMS)	August to September 2022

9 ANNEXES

Annex 1. CARE Zimbabwe _Takunda_FY22Q2_IPTT

The IPTT 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 % achievemen t	Cumulative Community Action Plans Developed
Buhera	95	0	0	100%	95
Chivi	74	18	18	100%	92
Mutare	78	23	23	100%	101
Zaka	90	17	17	100%	107
TOTALS	337	58	58	100%	395

Reasons for the 100% - All four districts have been able to achieve the set target for the cluster reach due to collaboration across program thematic areas.

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 intervention areas (providing historical maps). • Natural Resource Management Systems -Vegetative Cover Information systems. • Providing an analysis model for the resilience of production systems. For example, the 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 provided technical support on Agriculture and natural resources management through training, monitoring, and backstopping on resilient designs for watershed/landscape, both micro and macro catchments. • Conducted a practical refresher training in Ward 12 of Chivi District for Takunda staff and farmers practicing RD in preparation for the upscaling phase. • SCALE conducted refresher training for Takunda staff in preparation for the upscaling phase. 	Year 1/2
PRO-WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRO-WASH trained participants on HCD for Latrine Construction approaches. • Participants were exposed to fieldwork and data gathering for the first phase of the HCD process. 	Year ½
Feed the Future Zimbabwe Fostering Agribusiness for Resilient Markets Activity (FARM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takunda and FARM technical teams collaborated and discussed and reviewed areas in that USAID needed additional information. • Takunda and FARM held a collaborative meeting with USAID, where they presented the updated collaborative plan. 	

Annex 4. Takunda Humanitarian Stories

Attached is a separate document or <https://bit.ly/3zdhe50>

Annex 5. Takunda Photo Gallery

The Takunda Photo Gallery <https://bit.ly/3z9BqNG> (and as a separate Annex 6) depicts various themes from Takunda Program activities, including RD, village savings and loan association, supplementary food distributions, TVET student enrollment, FFBS borehole assessment, nutrition screening, post-harvest handling training sessions, challenges, aspirations, and lessons learned in Buhera, Mutare, Chivi, and Zaka districts.