

# DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS WITH COMMUNITIES TO OVERCOME VULNERABILITY THROUGH ENHANCED RESILIENCE (DISCOVER)



## QUARTERLY REPORT

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Submitted to:

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Joint Resilience Unit

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## ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACPC	Area Civil Protection Committee
AEC	Area Executive Committee
AEDC	Agriculture Extension Development Coordinator
AEDO	Agriculture Extension Development Officer
CA	Christian Aid
CC	Climate Change
CEPA	Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy
CISONECC	Civil Society Network on Climate Change
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
CPC	Civil Protection Committee
CU	Concern Universal
DC	District Commissioner
DCPC	District Civil Protection Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DIP	District Implementation Committee
DISCOVER	Developing Innovative Solutions with Communities to Overcome Vulnerability through Enhanced Resilience
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECRP	Enhancing Community Resilience Programme
EPA	Extension Planning Area
ER	Emissions Reduction
FISP	Farm Inputs Subsidy Programme
GVH	Group Village Headman
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRA	Malawi Revenue Authority
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NTCCC	National Technical Committee on Climate Change
PCANR	Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
PVCA	Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
SMC	Senior Management Committee
TA	Traditional Authority
VCPC	Village Civil Protection Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
VEM	Village Extension Multiplier
VSL	Village Savings and Loans
VSO	Volunteer Service Organization
WFP	World Food Programme

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 GENERAL INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.0 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES .....	4
3.0 SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS .....	5
4.0 Major Lessons learnt, Problems or Constraints.....	7
4.1 Lessons	7
4.2 Problems and constraints during the quarter	7
5.0 Management .....	8
5.1 Partner contracts	8
5.2 Senior Management Committee meeting	8
5.3 Procurement of capital equipment	8
5.4 Meetings with DFID	8
5.5 DFID visit to DISCOVER	8
6.0 MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER.....	8
7.0 Summary table of obtained results compared to defined objectives.....	10
8. UPDATED RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT.....	20

## **1.0 GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

April 2012 to June 2012 represented the first quarter of the implementation of project activities under the DISCOVER programme. The main purpose of this report is to present achievements of the project during the quarter, challenges faced and lessons learnt. During this period the primary objective was to conclude community mobilisation and continue with community organisation processes. One major activity that has been successfully concluded during the quarter and which provides a firm basis for the programme going forward is the baseline survey.

## **2.0 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES**

The goal of DISCOVER is to reduce the occurrence and recurrence of extreme poverty and hunger in Malawi. The project outcome is to achieve increased resilience of 62,500 households (298,500 people) in 104 GVHs (within 5 districts and 17 Traditional Authorities- TAs) to climate change vulnerability. The project has five key result areas as follows:

- 1.0 Capacity of local authorities, communities and individuals to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change strengthened: 104 fully functional Village CPCs, 17 Area CPCs and 5 District CPCs, 59,700 households made aware of their impacts on and solutions for enhanced individual and community resilience to climate change.
- 2.0 Capacity of communities and individuals to adapt their livelihoods to climate variability and the impacts of climate change and to manage disasters increased: 16,000 households with improved, diversified crops, 4,150 farmers practising Conservation Agriculture and greater dietary diversity in 29,000 households, 50,000 households using efficient stoves, 5.8 million trees raised, 27,000 individuals (with primary focus being on women based on lessons learnt that are less privileged in accessing such services) directly benefitting from VSL and microfinance services.
- 3.0 Information sharing between stakeholders on DRM and climate change adaptation strengthened: improved information shared which builds on evidence and practical experiences with 300,000 people reached with improved and relevant information.
- 4.0 The early warning system for climate related disasters strengthened (slow and rapid onset disasters): 55 communities covered by a community-based early warning system with trialled evacuation plans.
- 5.0 Contribute towards strengthened disaster risk reduction and climate policy and programmes and delivery structures of key Government Ministries and Departments: existence and use of community-based mechanisms for community engagement in policy and decision making processes, number and type of DISCOVER innovations that have been built into nationally endorsed

adaptation and DRM programmes, and number and type of policies, strategic plans and programmes that have been influenced or contributed to by the programme.

### **3.0 SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Major achievements of DISCOVER during the first quarter of Year Two include the following:

#### **Baseline survey**

DISCOVER project implemented a baseline survey jointly with ECRP (Christian Aid led consortium). The baseline survey was important as it provides quantitative baseline data that will be used to update indicators in the log frame and revise project milestones.

The DISCOVER project concluded the data collection exercise much earlier than the scheduled date because partners took an active role in the implementation of the baseline survey in their respective districts. The data entry process was initiated immediately as data was received from the Districts. Data entry was also concluded on 5<sup>th</sup> July which was the scheduled date according to the joint Monitoring and Evaluation plan. Data cleaning and analysis will be completed during the next quarter.

#### **Project awareness, community mobilisation and capacity assessment**

DISCOVER partners conducted meetings at various levels in their respective Districts to explain the context and design of the project. The capacity of various district level and community committees has been assessed in relation to their ability to implement Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change interventions. During the quarter project partners also initiated the review of various DRR and CC instruments/plans at district level. This process will be continued during the next quarter.

#### **Implementation of livelihoods and adaptation activities**

The DISCOVER project started implementing a selected number of livelihoods and climate change adaption activities during the quarter.

Beneficiary selection and household listing was initiated. A beneficiary database is being developed. 99 Village Extension agents have been identified in three districts. These will champion the dissemination of various extension messages in communities.

Irrigation is one of the key activities that will help mitigate the impact of food shortage in the targeted areas. The project conducted feasibility studies on 16 potential irrigation sites. The total area is 194 ha.

685 farmers showed willingness and have been registered to participate in Conservation Agriculture. This is 24% of the project target on number of farmers that will participate in Conservation Agriculture in DISCOVER.

Forty-six government staff have been trained in PD hearth and 6 community volunteers have been identified to promote PD hearth sessions in Balaka District. In Karonga District, 75 farmers were registered and trained on livestock management. The farmers will be provided with livestock during the next quarter.

The DISCOVER programme team has produced manual, posters and contracts in readiness for the stove production and marketing exercise. Twelve staff members have been trained in stove production. Soil samples from all District have been tested and all samples have passed the test. Stove production groups will be formed in these areas.

Twenty Village Saving and Loans groups have been formed and these have been trained in group dynamics. Fourteen micro solar entrepreneurs have been identified and at the end of the quarter, 45 micro solar lanterns had been sold to end users in the project area in Balaka District.

### **Learning and sharing**

The DISCOVER PMU has initiated linkages with universities to engage students in the project. Terms of Reference for student engagement were drafted during the quarter and these have been shared with Bunda College and Chancellor College. The project continues to be represented in national climate change, DRR and humanitarian forums.

CEPA has facilitated the creation of a database of all media practitioners that are engaged in climate change adaptation and DRR reporting. These practitioners have been trained in reporting in climate change and DRR issues.

DISCOVER has shared the PVCA report with VSO Malawi. VSO will include some information from the PVCA report in their newsletter.

### **Development of early warning systems**

The DISCOVER project has shared information with the Humanitarian Response secretariat and the next humanitarian update will include some information from DISCOVER project.

### **Policy dialogue and advocacy**

The DISCOVER project through CEPA engaged different partners on advocacy on climate change. Two dialogue sessions were conducted with parliamentarians on the 2012/2013 budget and how considerations have been made on climate change related sectors. Parliamentarians pledged to lobby government to consider allocating a separate vote for disaster in the budget. Disaster response in Malawi is delayed because there are no readily available resources for response in the department. CEPA has produced a paper on the National Climate Change policy. This paper seeks to input into the development of the National Climate Change policy. Work is underway at national level to develop the policy.

### **Next steps during the next quarter**

The next quarter will focus scaling up activities that have been initiated during the first quarter. Detailed activities are contained in the quarter two work plan (attached).

### **Challenges**

The major challenge during the quarter was the late disbursement of funds. DISCOVER received funds during the last month of the quarter. While partners tried to use their own resources to implement activities it was challenging for some partners to meet the cost of all activities planned for the quarter.

### **Major emergencies that occurred during the quarter**

No major emergencies occurred during the quarter. The current food shortage is a result of previous season's crop failure. It is reported that 1.6 million people in Malawi will face a food shortage starting from August 2012 and 27% of the affected population is from DISCOVER project districts. WFP, government and other development partners- including members of the DISCOVER consortium- are planning for a targeted emergency response starting from the month of August 2012.

## **4.0 Major Lessons learnt, Problems or Constraints**

### **4.1 Lessons**

The capacity of the lead NGO to support consortium partners with funding while funds were not received from the donor was a good arrangement. Although the support which Concern Universal was not adequate to meet all partners' needs it kept some activities running for example the completion of the baseline survey.

The past experience of Concern Universal in Balaka district with adoption of Conservation Agriculture is that the adoption has been low (only 5-7% for Balaka district, with about 10 years of technology promotion efforts) due to conflicting approaches by promoters of the technology. It has been evident that Government and NGO extension workers have been advocating different practices within the same concept of CA. This calls for immediate standardisation of operations in CA among all stakeholders. As an example Government has been promoting ridging at least in the first year of practicing CA, while NGOs have been promoting minimum soil disturbance at all times. With the Government approach most farmers have viewed CA as a labour intensive technology and therefore not worth adopting. In order to overcome the conflicting approaches and to scale up adoption of the technology, the project conducted trainings for extension staff operating in the target areas. The trainings acted as platforms where all actors agreed to follow a uniform approach.

### **4.2 Problems and constraints during the quarter**

4.2.1 Demands for allowances in Karonga district: most communities have been demanding payment of allowances whenever involved in project activities. Other NGOs pay allowances to community members in the district. This practice is against the Self Help Africa (and DISCOVER consortium) policy of non-payment of cash allowances to community members and as result low turnout is being experienced for some activities.

4.2.2 The process of beneficiary registration was delayed in Nsanje (TA Makoko) as there was some misunderstanding between GOAL-Malawi and the community structures and their committee members. The communities demanded unrealistic payments (MK3, 000 to each member) for the exercise. The position of GOAL-Malawi was that the members of the community structures could not be paid as the exercise was one of the roles for the structures as it was about development of the community they were serving. GOAL-Malawi and the AEC had to re-engage the

structures to bring more understanding with regards to the roles of the structures. The issue with TA Makoko was resolved and the registration exercise was finally done.

4.2.3 Late deployment of CUMO staff due to delays in staff commencing following the recruitment process in Nsanje district delayed implementation of the VSL initiative. GOAL-Malawi made follow-up with CUMO so that the process went smoothly once CUMO finally deployed the staff.

## **5.0 Management**

### **5.1 Partner contracts**

All DISCOVER partners signed their contracts with CU during the quarter.

### **5.2 Senior Management Committee meeting**

Two SMC meetings were conducted during the quarter. Among other issues, an internal consortium audit report was discussed and key actions were agreed. The impact of devaluation was also discussed from a broader economic perspective and how devaluation will affect the implementation of the project. Issues related to the current food shortage were discussed and priority activities that will help address impact of the food shortage were also agreed.

### **5.3 Procurement of capital equipment**

Procurement of capital equipment was concluded during the quarter. DISCOVER procured reconditioned vehicles from Nissan Aid-South Africa. Motorcycles were also cleared with MRA during the quarter and distributed among partners.

### **5.4 Meetings with DFID**

A meeting was arranged with DFID during the quarter to discuss management and coordination issues with the M&E agency (LTS). Major points raised have been addressed to some extent. The reporting schedule was also discussed and it was agreed that DISCOVER needs to submit a revised budget and workplan at the end of September 2012 in readiness for the start of the new financial year in October 2012. The reporting schedule has been adjusted in relation to changes in the project calendar.

### **5.5 DFID visit to DISCOVER**

DISCOVER facilitated a field visit for the Humanitarian Advisor for DFID to DISCOVER districts. As a result of the visit, he was able to appreciate the impact of the drought and devaluation on the livelihoods of people located in project districts. He had a chance to interface with communities and communities demonstrated activities they are currently implementing to address climate change challenges.

## **6.0 MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER**



Refer to attached work plan for the second quarter (July to September 2012).

## 7.0 Summary table of obtained results compared to defined objectives

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Capacity of local authorities, communities and individuals to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change strengthened through 104 fully functional Village Civil Protection Committees (VCPCs), 17 Area CPCs and 5 District CPCs and 59,700 households aware of their impacts on and solutions for enhanced individual and community resilience to climate change.</p>			
1.1	Assess the capacity of districts to implement climate change adaptation & DRM activities	A district capacity assessment tool was developed by DISCOVER partners in consultation with district level stakeholders in all district during the quarter. A capacity assessment of DCPC ACPCs and VCPCs was concluded in Dedza and Balaka districts. The capacity assessment exercise will be completed during the next quarter in the remaining districts of Karonga, Nsanje and Salima.	
1.2	Review the composition and responsibilities of DCPCs, ACPCs and VCPCs according to DoDMA regulations and provide training as appropriate	Assessment of existing DRR and climate change policy documents, plans and level of funding was initiated in Salima district during the quarter. The results of the assessment are presented in annex A. The assessment of the existence, composition and functionality of DCPC, ACPC, VCPC, ADC and VDC 5 ADC, 5 ACPC, and 22 VDCs was also conducted. In the remaining 4 districts, consultation meetings were conducted with key stakeholders and the assessment will be conducted during the next quarter.	

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
1.3	Develop, update and review District DRM Plan, District Cont. Plan and ACPCs and VCPC response Action Plans	A meeting was organised with the DCPC in Nsanje district to set the process of developing the district contingency plan. The process will be concluded during the next quarter. The process has been delayed to the next quarter in the other districts because information on risk scenarios has not been made available by the department of meteorological services. Contingency plans are developed after focusing on climate scenarios and related risks to the community. Discussions are underway to prepare for the process of updating the contingency plans in all districts.	
1.4	Development of Hazard Vulnerability Maps, GVH Maps and population Census Database	Salima district has concluded collecting data for 4 GVH areas. The revised population data will assist in creating a census database and development of Hazard Vulnerability Maps. All DISCOVER partners are in the final stages of documenting GVH populations as part of the broader project targeting process.	
1.5	Establishment of community based CPC managed storage facilities (cemented grain silos) to improve post-harvest storage and handling	This activity is being piloted in Salima district only. The lessons drawn from this pilot will lead to a scale-up of the activity in the other 4 districts. Nsanje district has initiated discussion with communities on how they can modify the technology to suit their needs. COOPI is documenting	Providing consultation as required.

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
		lessons on the pilot and will share these appropriately to all consortium members.	
<b>Output 2:</b> Capacity of communities and individuals to adapt their livelihoods to climate variability and the impacts of climate change and to manage disasters increased: 16,000 households with improved, diversified crops, 4,150 farmers practicing Conservation Agriculture and greater dietary diversity in 29,000 households, 50,000 households using efficient stoves, 5.8 million trees raised, 16 000 individuals (with primary focus being on women based on lessons learnt that are less privileged in accessing such services) directly benefitting from VSL and microfinance services			
2.1	Train focal persons/extension staff in targeting for crop production	GOAL Malawi organized a 3 day refresher course for AEDCs and AEDOs on Crop production, Extension Approaches and Climate Smart Agriculture practices from 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> June, 2012. The course was attended by 18 participants (5 women and 13 men) from Magoti, Mpatsa, Zunde and Nyachilenda EPAs including 2 GOAL staff. The main facilitators were from the District Agriculture Office.	
2.2	Identify and register beneficiaries/households for seed and planting materials inputs	The beneficiary selection criterion was developed and this criterion was used in the beneficiary identification and registration process. Nsanje district concluded identification and registration of beneficiaries. A database is being created. Salima district has census data for all communities and this will be used in targeting beneficiaries. Dedza, Balaka and Karonga will conclude the process during the next quarter.	
2.3	Identify VEMs through village meetings-open forum	DISCOVER started developing the community-based extension system during the quarter. To date 99 Village Extension	To date 99 VEMs have been identified in three districts

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
		Multipliers were identified in Dedza, Balaka and Nsanje districts. 12 VEMs were oriented on their roles in Nsanje district. All VEMs will be fully trained during the next quarter.	
2.4	Conduct detailed irrigation feasibility study	During the quarter, 16 potential sites for development of smallscale irrigation were identified in Salima (4), Dedza and Balaka (9) and Karonga (3). The total area is 194 ha. Goal appraised old irrigation sites in Nsanje that were supported through Irish Aid funding and would require rehabilitation and further development. Irrigation pre-feasibility and feasibility studies were completed in all districts. Annex B-CU feasibility report.	To date, 16 irrigation sites have been identified with a potential irrigable area of 194 ha.
2.5	Train extension staff in CA	A total of 50 extension staff were trained in CA in Dedza and Balaka districts.	
2.6	Identify farmers to participate in CA	A total of 685 farmers were identified to participate in CA. The project noticed an increased demand from farmers to participate in CA after conducting community meetings.	To date 685 farmers have been identified and have committed to participate in Conservation Agriculture technologies next planting season.
2.7	Train extension staff on PD Hearth	A total of 46 staff members were trained in PD Hearth and basic nutrition.	To date 46 project and government staff members have been trained in PD hearth in Dedza, Balaka and Nsanje districts,
2.8	Identification of PD Hearth Volunteers	6 Village Health Committees were re-oriented in Balaka district. Subsequently, 6 volunteers were identified to initiate PD	6 PD hearth volunteers have been identified to date.

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
		heart sessions in their areas.	
2.9	Improved management of existing livestock and provision of small livestock and community-based livestock breeding in 2,000 households	75 (19 males, 56 females) households were selected to receive livestock in Karonga district. All have been trained in goat management and kraal construction.	75 beneficiaries have been trained to date in livestock management in Karonga district.
2.10	Develop communication and training materials for promotion of Improved Cook stove	15,000 Climate Change and Carbon Finance user manuals and 20,000 Emissions Reduction (ER) contracts have been designed, printed and submitted for printing. Manuals for producers using the (i) bucket mould and (ii) an innovative paddle mould have been designed and sent for printing. A manual on energy efficient kilns has been drafted and is in the process of being finalised.	2 manuals, ER contract in both English and Chichewa, stove promotion poster have been produced (Annex C)
2.11	Training of project and government staff in stove production	Twelve (5 females and 7 males) staff members from DISCOVER agencies received the training in stove production.	
2.12	Clay identification and testing	Clay samples were collected from all DISCOVER districts and were tested by existing stove making groups in Balaka district. All samples passed the quality test and were found to be suitable for stove production. Stove production groups will be formed and trained during the next quarter in all districts.	
2.13	Conduct community awareness meetings on Village Savings and Loans	Twenty awareness meetings were conducted in Salima district. This activity will be continued in other districts during the next quarter.	

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
2.14	Form Village Savings and Loans groups	25 VS & L groups were established in Salima during the quarter.	25 VS&L groups have been formed to date
2.15	Training of VS&L groups	25 VS & L groups received training in group dynamics	
2.16	Raise awareness on potential entrepreneurs for microsolar business	The project conducted awareness meetings on microsolar as a business option for 115 CUMO clients and stove promoters in Balaka and Salima districts.	
2.17	Identifying microlar entrepreneurs	14 entrepreneurs who are also stove promoters were identified in Balaka district.	
2.18	Training of entrepreneurs	14 micro solar entrepreneurs received training on micro entrepreneurship during the quarter	
2.19	Initiate sales of micro solar lanterns	45 microsolar lanterns had been sold to end users in Balaka during the quarter. Microsolar is being piloted in Salima and Balaka districts. There are indications that demand for micro solar lanterns is high in rural areas and the model of using stove promoters as microsolar distribution agents is working well.	45 microsolar lanterns were sold to end users during the first quarter.
<b>Output 3:</b> Information sharing between stakeholders on DRM and climate change adaptation strengthened: improved information shared which builds on evidence and practical experiences with 300,000 people reached with improved and relevant information.			
3.1	Develop ToR and plan for engagement of University Interns in the project	Terms of Reference for engagement of University students have been developed and shared with University authorities.	
3.2	Participate and influence National Climate Change Technical Committee, Humanitarian Response committee, CISONEC, MVAC	The project has been represented in NCCTC meetings, Humanitarian Response meetings and MVAC meetings. DISCOVER has is also participating in the review of	

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
		<p>progress on the Hyogo framework, preparations for International Disaster Commemoration Day. DISCOVER is member of various Humanitarian Response Cluster committees.</p> <p>CEPA took part in the CISONNECC, NTCCC and CA task force meetings. Key issues in the Technical Committee were on development of the national climate change policy. CEPA was also represented in the green revolution policy dialogue where papers on FISP, GBI were presented.</p>	
3.3	Participate in District CPC meetings and any meetings in DRR and Climate Change	<p>Concern Universal participated in DRM coordination meeting in Dedza and Balaka districts during the quarter. Goal-Malawi participated in DCPC meeting in Nsanje. The meeting reviewed composition of DCPC to incorporate all stakeholders involved in climate change mitigation activities and initiate the process of district contingency plan preparation.</p>	
3.4	Participate and influence National Climate Change Technical Committee, Humanitarian Response committee, CISONNEC, MVAC	<p>Concern Universal attended a meeting in Balaka where the vulnerability report for Balaka was shared. Concern Universal has been invited by WFP to submit a full proposal to participate in targeted food distribution in 4 districts including Balaka and Dedza.</p>	
3.5	Develop and maintain roster of media practitioners engaged in climate change	<p>A roster was developed with 23 media practitioners from both print and electronic</p>	



Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
	adaptation and disaster risk reduction reporting	media houses. The roster was uploaded on CEPA's website ( <a href="http://www.cepa.org.mw">www.cepa.org.mw</a> ). A review meeting with selected trained media practitioners was conducted on how they can increase their level of community engagement.	
<b>Output 4:</b> The early warning system for climate related disasters strengthened (slow and rapid onset disasters): 55 communities covered by a community-based early warning system with trialed evacuation plans			
4.1	Document key early warning signs for flood and drought prone areas	The Participatory Vulnerability Assessment report has documented early warning signs for all districts. In Nsanje district, the project staff attended Household Economy Assessment training organised by Concern Worldwide.	
<b>Output 5:</b> Contribute towards strengthened disaster risk reduction and climate policy and programmes and delivery structures of key Government Ministries and Departments: existence and use of community-based mechanisms for community engagement in policy and decision making processes, number and type of DISCOVER innovations that have been built into nationally endorsed adaptation and DRM programmes.			
5.1	Facilitate identification of issues requiring policy response from the communities in the 5 districts, including adherence to environmental impact assessments for major developments.	This activity was concluded during the start-up phase and the draft report was shared with DFID.	
5.2	Orient and train project staff on advocacy skills	17 DISCOVER partner staff members were trained in advocacy during a one day workshop. During the training the partners identified opportunities within their plans to mainstream advocacy issues within their plans.	

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
5.2	Facilitate dialogue sessions between and amongst legislature, policy makers, decision makers and local community representatives	Two dialogue sessions were conducted largely with legislature on National Budget review and a reflection on how Climate Change has been considered in all sectors.	
5.3	Conduct Budget Analysis on conservation agriculture, localized renewable energy provision, climate change and DRM.	Following the presentation of the 2012/3 national budget in the national assembly, an analysis was conducted on allocation to conservation agriculture, localized renewable energy provision, climate change and DRM. The findings indicated that the allocations have remained constant and reduced in some line ministries. District analysis was also done on the district plans, but findings showed that interventions relating to climate change adaptation are not prioritised in the district level planning process .	
5.4	Conduct lobbying meetings with PCANR, Parliamentary committee on Budget and Finance, treasury, OPC, MoAFS, Dept of Land Resources and members of parliament from disaster prone areas	This started with an awareness meeting for the members of parliament on the upcoming budget analysis. After the budget analysis, the results were presented to the members of parliament from the projects areas, line ministries and other stakeholders. The members of parliament pledged to initiate debate in parliament for government to consider having a separate vote on disaster management.	
5.5	Prepare and publish position paper for National Climate Change Policy	Based on the review of key policies and legislation related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk management a draft position paper titled: <i>Towards</i>	

Ref #	Activity	Achievements for the quarter	Cumulative achievements to date
		<p><i>Development of Climate Change Policy in Malawi</i> was developed. Key elements being proposed include: Governance and coordination of climate change; awareness and education; finance; human resources management; adaptation and mitigation; and civil society. The position paper also proposes the institutional framework for policy implementation.</p>	

## 8. UPDATED RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

UPDATED RISKS AND MITIGATION MATRIX (APRIL TO JUNE 2011)				
	RISK, DESCRIPTION AND MITIGATION	Probability	Impact	Progress to date
1	<p><b>Differences arise in the consortium that can compromise achievement of project objectives-</b> This will be mitigated through i.) formal MoUs setting out roles and responsibilities to clarify expectations and ways of working prior to project start-up. ii.) regular Senior Management Committee meetings (every 6 weeks) which provide the opportunity to raise grievances and issues at an early stage- this Committee means that all partners have an equal stake in project decision-making processes iii.) the initial consortium establishment phase which showed that all 4 partners have shared objectives and similar implementation methodologies</p>	Low	High	<p>Due to the devaluation of the local currency, DISCOVER partners asked the lead organization (CU) to consider giving them a GBP contract. This proposal was accepted by the lead agency as it was seen to be reasonable. All DISCOVER partners have signed a GBP contract. This approach has also increased the level of trust among DISCOVER partners.</p>
2	<p><b>Occurrence of significant natural hazards during the start up years-</b> DISCOVER will work in those areas which are most prone to hazards and these would have greatest impact on communities at the beginning of the project before activities have increased resilience. This will be mitigated by focusing on comprehensive hazard mapping and risk assessment during the inception and start-up phases so that priority can be given to the immediate implementation of activities in</p>	High	High	<p>4 of the 5 DISCOVER districts face an acute food shortage. Coupled by the twin impacts of devaluation and low productivity and reduced prices of cotton, coping strategies are stressed especially in areas like Balaka and Nsanje.</p> <p>The situation may compromise the implementation of the project as communities will prioritise on activities that will bring food to the household in short term than engaging in activities that seem to have long term benefits. DISCOVER project is fast tracking the implementation of irrigation projects in these areas so</p>

	those areas deemed of greatest risk to immediate natural hazards.			that communities will be able to harvest some crops in the middle of the food shortage and be able to cope. Concern Universal has been invited by WFP to submit proposal for targeted food distribution in 2 of the 4 districts. This will be a complementary effort to address the situation.
3	<b>Non-availability of fuel-</b> The national fuel supply pipeline has improved over the last three months. Fuel is available at the pump although there are insignificant shortages at times	Low	Medium	The fuel supply situation has improved greatly over the past three months. Project activities are being implemented as scheduled.
4	<b>Sustained commitment of District Councils to work alongside project activities and include activities in the District Implementation Plans (DIPs)-</b> Mitigated by close working with all DCs and, in implementation phase, by ensuring that DISCOVER activities are listed as an integral part of core government business at district level.	Low	High	All DISCOVER partners maintain a healthy relationship with District council partners. DISCOVER activities are being included in District Implementation Plans. Support provided to District Councils to review their plans make our approach attractive
5	<b>Community commitment to actively lead implementation of the project-</b> Mitigated through use of participatory methods, a clear understanding that communities are in the lead and the presentation of a wide range of activities so that communities select the most appropriate set to meet their needs.	Low	High	There is continued consultation and engagement with communities on implementation of interventions. Communities are allowed to participate in decision making regarding design and implementation of project interventions.
6	<b>Sufficient local market for produce and businesses-</b> Mitigated through extensive market surveys and advice as part of the entrepreneurship training package to ensure sufficient market exists before production. CU	Low	Medium	Plans are underway to form and train producer and marketing groups

	will use its extensive network of connections to identify appropriate markets elsewhere in Malawi for certain types of agricultural produce.			
7	<b>Transfer of government extension staff-</b> The project will lobby with relevant line ministries at the district level to avoid frequent transfers which cause unnecessary disruption and create capacity gaps. Project field staff will use their facilitation skills to fill any gaps in the case of major retrenchment.	High	Mediun	No major staff transfers were experienced during the quarter
8	<b>Political interference-</b> Politicians can influence communities not to participate in development activities because they would do everything for them. This affects community participation on the implementation of activities and ownership and eventual sustainability of the interventions. Our experience has shown that the likelihood of political interference is low if communities and all stakeholders are sensitised, at project inception, of their roles and responsibilities, rights and obligations and the project design and implementation approach.	Low	Medium	DISCOVER has had an opportunity to engage with politicians from all DISCOVER districts through a meeting organised by CEPA. The project concept was explained and politicians requested for a more active engagement in the implementation of the project. There is support and good will from politicians to support the project in all districts.
9	<b>Shifting and conflicting priorities of national government and line ministries-</b> The project will work at national level to advocate for the importance of DRM work, utilising research and policy briefs to make these points. By integrating activities within District Implementation Plans the project will ensure that its work is seen as an important	Low	Medium	DISCOVER is currently developing an advocacy strategy through CEPA. DISCOVER will continue monitoring government priorities so that DISCOVER continues to be an integrated project that is relevant to support government needs.

	part of core District business which should be supported by relevant line ministries.			
10	<b>Weak market supply of construction materials e.g. cement-</b> Mitigated through procurement of such materials in bulk and storing them in consortium members' warehouses in order to smooth irregularities in supply.	High	Medium	Concern Universal as the lead agency is reviewing its procurement policies and procedures. These will be shared with all DISCOVER partners once the review is completed.
11	<b>Poor quality work by implementing partners and consortium members-</b> Mitigated through the use of highly qualified technical experts with an active oversight role. Regular project meetings to assess progress of various partners in terms of technical capability and availability of wider technical support from all consortium partners (above and beyond that which is included directly in the proposal) which can be called on if necessary.	Low	High	The DISCOVER has now developed quality standards for all interventions. Implementation of the project is being aligned through development of a harmonised workplan. PMU staff regularly visit partners to see the quality of work on the ground. The project Monitoring and Evaluation system is being finalised.