

# KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AN OUTCOME ASSESSMENT OF PRO-RESILIENCE ACTION IN SOUTHERN MALAWI

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## Presented by:

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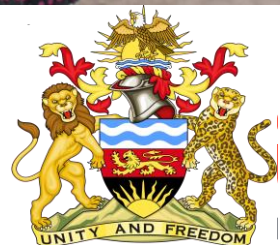
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# AGENDA

1. Overview of United Purpose
2. Overview of the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP)
3. Overview of Pro-ACT project
4. Annual Survey Objectives
5. Annual Survey Design
  - Overview
  - Key Questions and Method of Analysis
6. Key Findings and Recommendations
7. Conclusion



# OVERVIEW OF UNITED PURPOSE

- Leader in community-led development and grassroots innovation to tackle poverty and inequality, by enabling people to improve their own lives for the longer term
- UP works in 17 countries across Southern Africa, West Africa, Asia, and Brazil
- UP has implemented several Cash+ interventions providing complementary services to Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) beneficiaries
- Work in Malawi focuses on four broad strategic areas:

## Livelihoods and Food Security

Food and Nutrition Security, Incomes and Assets, Organizational and Community Capacity, Sustainable Land use and Management

## WASH and Healthier Lives

Equitable access to safe drinking water & sanitation, Health behavioural change and practice (Hygiene and Sanitation, Nutrition, SRH/HIV-AIDS)

## Sustainable Energy

Access to sustainable energy (household, institutional and productive), markets for sustainable energy, carbon finance & reinvestment models

## Gender equality

Women Economic Empowerment; female leadership, decision making power, & voice; GBV behavioural change

# THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME IN MALAWI

## Programme

The SCTP provides unconditional cash transfers to almost 300,000 ultra-poor and labour-constrained households

## Implementer

The Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare

## Goal

To provide consumption support to the Malawi's poorest in order to build resilience to food insecurity

## Timeline

From 2006 – present

## Target group

Programme beneficiaries must be labour-constrained and ultra-poor

# THE ACTION: PRO-ACT FUTURE

## Programme

Pro-Resilience Action: Building Resilience to Food and Nutrition Security (Pro-ACT) Malawi is funded by the EU

## Implementer

The programme is implemented by two consortia. The FUTURE consortia is led by United Purpose (UP)

## Goal

Reduce food and nutrition insecurity of 65,000 SCTP beneficiaries in the 7 targeted districts

## Timeline

2017 – 2020

## Target group

SCTP participants

# ANNUAL SURVEY OBJECTIVES

- The UP-led consortium comprising United Purpose, Save the Children and Concern Worldwide assessed whether Cash+ Interventions enable greater resilience of the project participants taking part in the following activities: Livestock production, Irrigation, Village Savings and Loans (VSLs) groups, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Natural Resources Management (NRM), Crop Diversification, Nutrition, Cash Top-Up and Adult Literacy.
- The survey sought to determine the changes that have occurred since the project inception with regards to food security, general livelihood improvements and resilience of ultra-poor households and communities to climate change and its related effects.
- The findings/recommendations of the survey should guide the implementation of the remaining activities under the current project, be incorporated into the SoSuRe project and inform other stakeholders in the design of future CASH+ interventions.

# SURVEY OVERVIEW

## Study Sites

Mulanje (3 T/As), Nsanje (2 T/As) and Zomba (2 T/As)

## Timeline

August – September 2020

## Sample Size

417 Households

## Tools used

Household Survey (417), Key Informant Interviews (16) and Focus Group Discussions (7)

# KEY QUESTIONS EXPLORED AND METHODS OF ANALYSIS

Three broad questions were used to guide the assessment as follows;

1. Do CASH+ interventions enable greater resilience and dietary diversity than just cash distributions in Southern Malawi?
2. To what extent have the outcomes and outputs been achieved in relation to the performance indicators?
3. What areas of the programme need improvement?

Data from a household survey was analyzed using SPSS and Excel, while data from FGDs and KIIs was analyzed in Excel/Word using content/theme-based analysis method

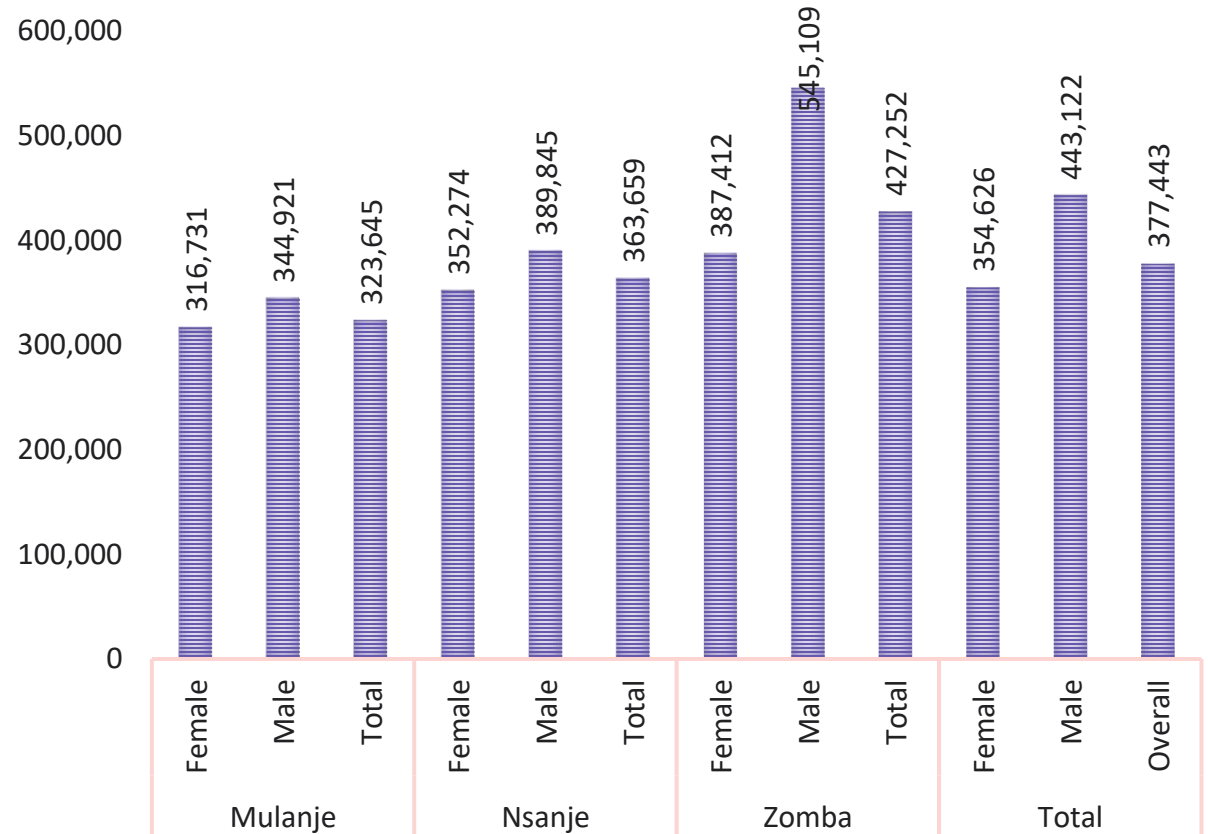


# KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



# HOUSEHOLD ASSET INDEX

- **MK377,443** average HH Asset Index as compared to **MK249,924** at baseline, representing an overall 51% increase ( $p < 0.05$ )
- Zomba registered a higher HH asset index of MK427,252 followed by Nsanje (MK363,659) and Mulanje (MK323,645).
- Generally male-headed households continued to have an edge over female-headed households across all the districts

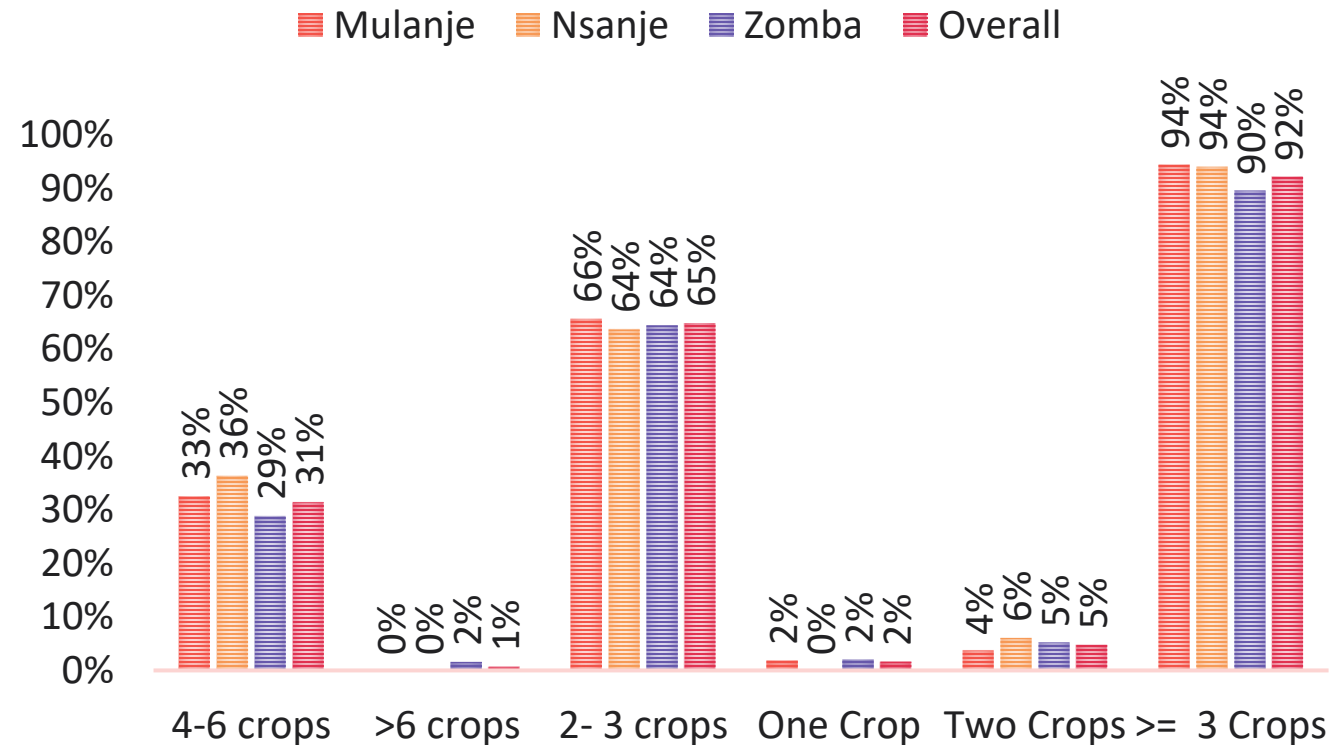


Projects of this nature should focus on increasing incomes of households to enable them to acquire more valuable productive assets that can easily be disposed of during shocks and stresses.



# CROP DIVERSIFICATION

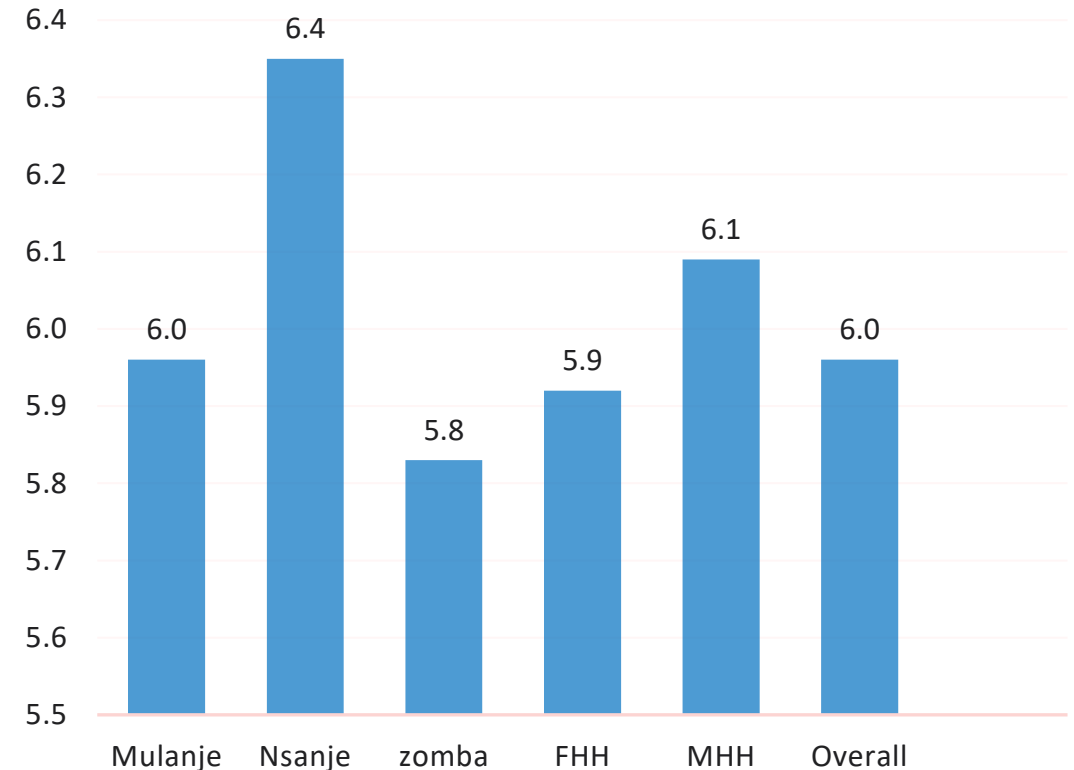
- **92%** of HHs grew more than two crops against **81%** at baseline, representing a 14% increase ( $p < 0.05$ )
- **31%** of HHs grew 4-6 crops against **23.7%** at baseline, representing a 33% increase ( $p < 0.05$ )
- Crop diversity index was at **0.79** against **0.61** at baseline, representing a 30% increase ( $p < 0.05$ )



Projects of this nature should endeavor to support project participants to cultivate nutrition sensitive crops that will contribute to improved nutrition while maintaining the desired crop diversification.

# AVERAGE NUMBER OF MONTHS OF FOOD DEFICIT

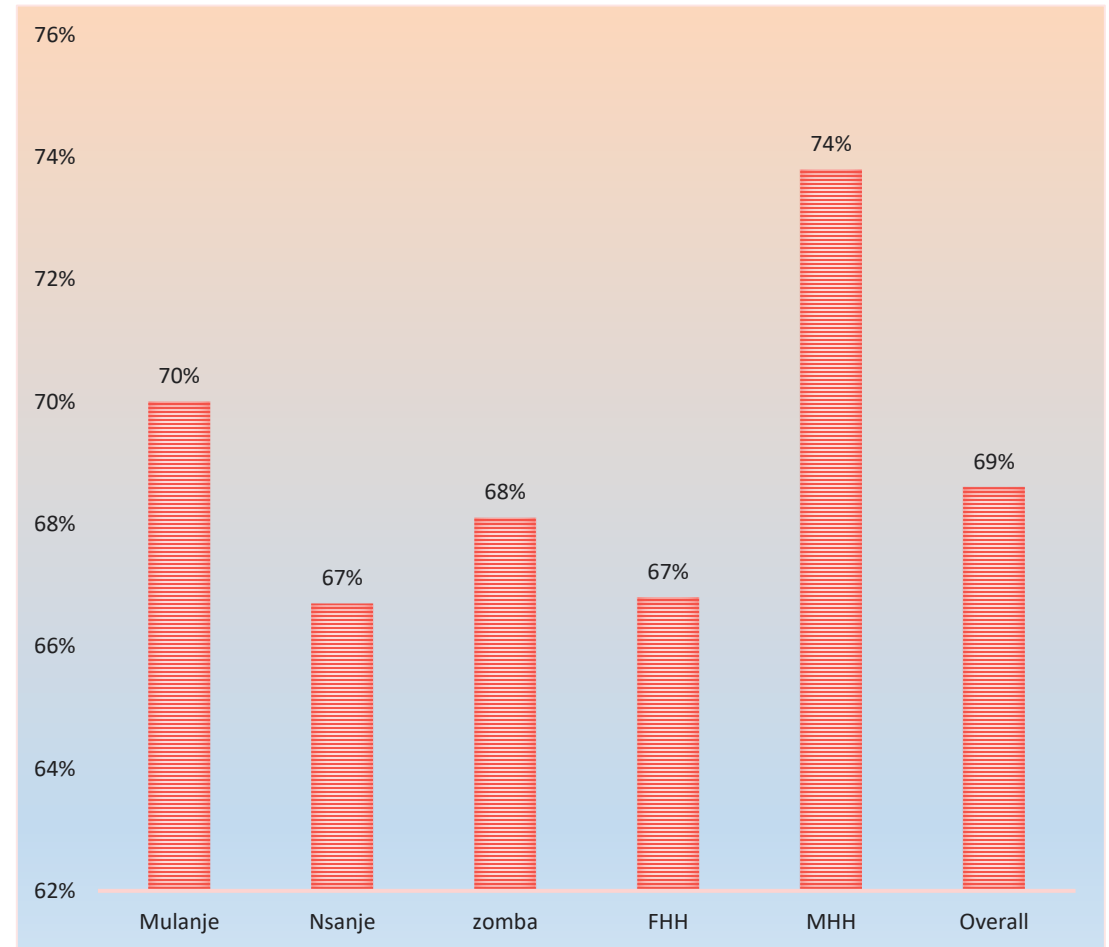
- **6** overall average months of food deficit against **8** at baseline (**25% decrease**)
- **47%** of HHs reported to produce enough food for 6-8 months in a year against **20%** at baseline ( $p < 0.05$ )
- **28%** HHs reported to produce food for 3-5 months against **49%** at baseline.
- **1%** of HHs produced food for less than 2 months against **25%** at baseline ( $p < 0.05$ )



**Implementers to intensify activities that encourage food production at HH level to achieve food security i.e. irrigation with more advanced equipment such as Treadle pumps than traditional watering cans.**

# HOUSEHOLD DIETARY DIVERSITY

- **69%** of the households have improved Dietary Diversity (DDS=>5), against **41.2%** at baseline (68% increase);  $p < 0.05$
- Overall HDDS was at **5.95** against **4.4** at baseline (26% increase)



Implementers should endeavour to intensify behavioural change messages aimed at encouraging diversified dietary intake at household level to realise desirable nutrition outcomes.



# HOUSEHOLD COPING STRATEGY INDEX

- CSI was at **14.7** against **17.2** at baseline (15% decrease).
- About **52%** of HHs had CSI>10 (High Coping).
- Low coping across the districts is generally higher (28%) than medium coping (19.7%), a sign that HHs are graduating into food secure thresholds.

District	Threshold	Count	%	CSI Annual Survey	Average CSI-Baseline
Zomba (n=191)	High Coping (CSI>10)	94	49.2	13.3	17.2
	Medium Coping (CSI=4-9)	35	18.3		
	Low Coping (CSI=0-3)	62	32.5		
Mulanje (n=160)	High Coping (CSI>10)	89	55.6	16.3	18.7
	Medium Coping (CSI=4-9)	33	20.6		
	Low Coping (CSI=0-3)	38	23.8		
Nsanje (n=66)	High Coping (CSI>10)	34	51.5	15.1	16.7
	Medium Coping (CSI=4-9)	18	27.3		
	Low Coping (CSI=0-3)	14	21.2		
Overall (n=417)	High Coping (CSI>10)	217	52	14.7	17.2
	Medium Coping (CSI=4-9)	82	19.7		
	Low Coping (CSI=0-3)	118	28.3		

**The Project should also focus on programming that uplifts PG1s to medium and in future to low coping.**

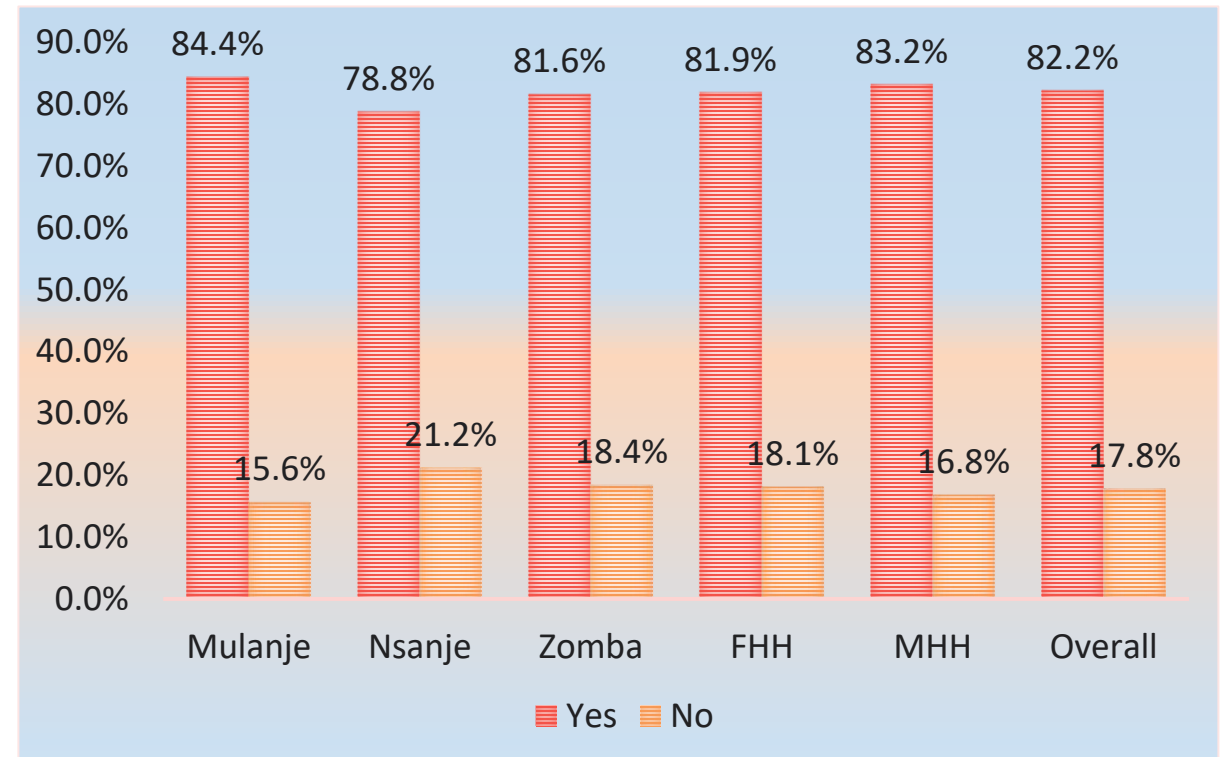
# MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE DIET (MAD)

- **21.4%** of the children (N=42) achieved Minimum Acceptable Diet against **8.1%** (N=86) at baseline ( $p < 0.05$ )
- **93.3%** children were breastfed against **84%** at baseline (11% increase)
- **61.9%** children met the minimum meal frequency against **43%** at baseline (44% increase) - ( $p < 0.05$ )
- **42.9%** of children met the required minimum dietary diversity against **20.9%** at baseline ( $p < 0.05$ )

Age Category	Breastfeeding (N=60)		Minimum Meal Frequency		Minimum Dietary Diversity		MAD (N=42)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
12-17 months	85.7%	14.3%	64.3%	35.7%	50.0%	50.0%	35.7%	64.3%
18-23 months	83.3%	16.7%	50.0%	50.0%	33.3%	66.7%	16.7%	83.3%
6-11 months	100.0%	0.0%	63.6%	36.4%	40.9%	59.1%	13.6%	86.4%
<6>23 months	94.4%	5.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Overall	93.3%	6.7%	61.9%	38.1%	42.9%	57.1%	21.4%	78.6%

# ADOPTION OF CSA TECHNOLOGIES

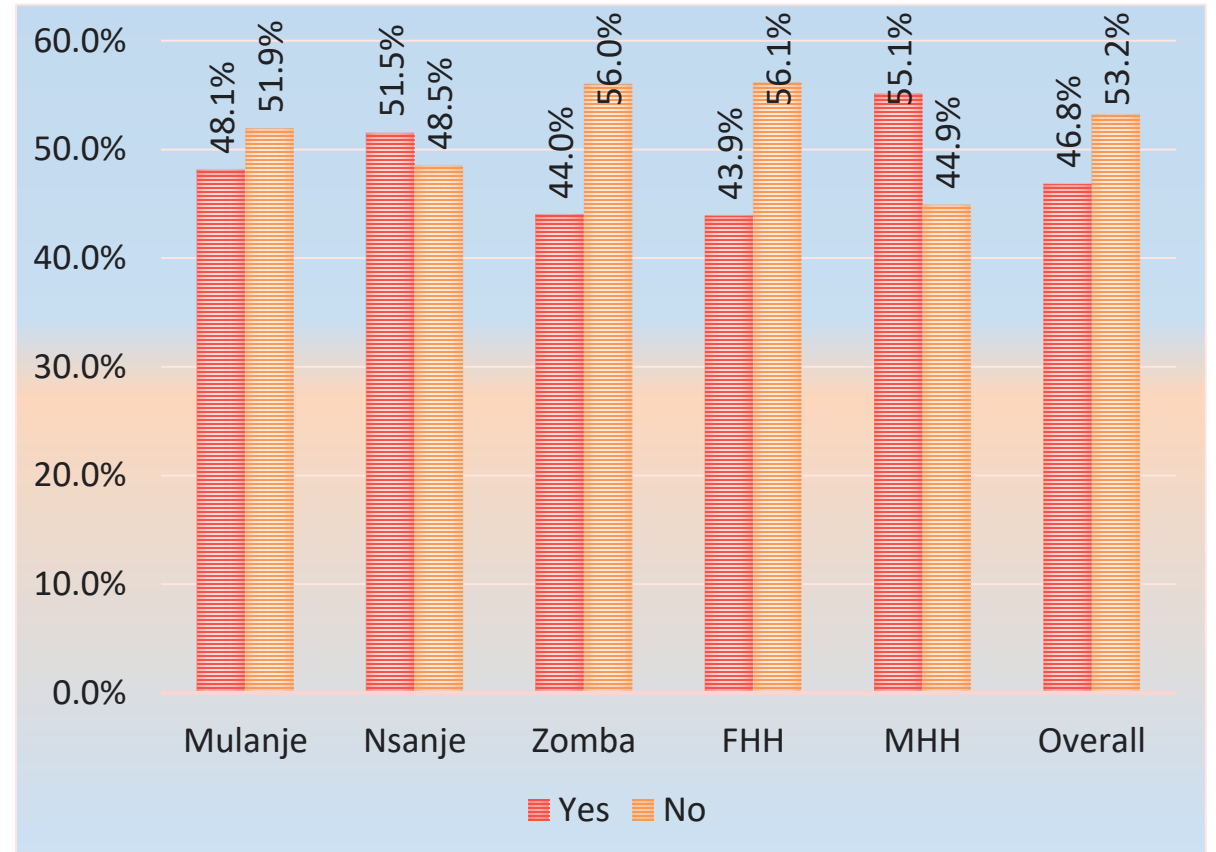
- **82%** adopted the recommended CSA technologies, against **67.4%** at baseline (22% increase); ( $p < 0.05$ )
- KIIs and FGDs revealed that monitoring of households practicing CSA remains a challenge as participants are scattered.



**There is need to devise a workable system to allow for ongoing monitoring of adoption of CSA technologies through community based agents.**

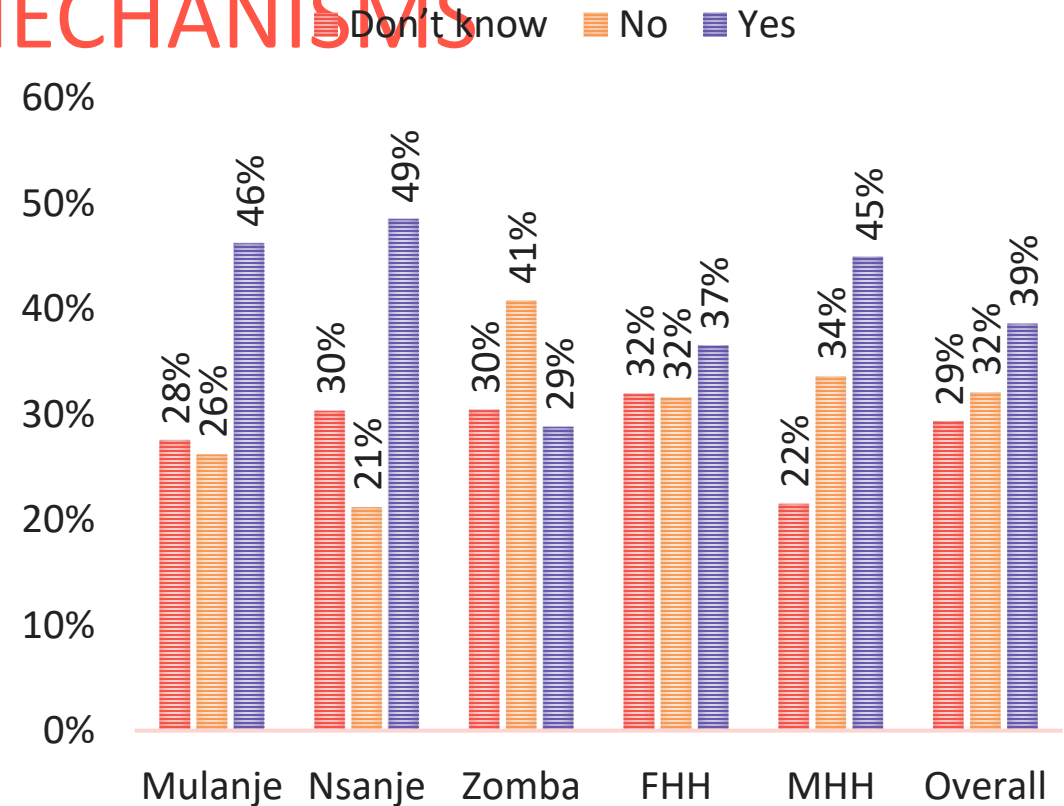
# KNOWLEDGE OF DRR STRATEGIES

- **47%** of HHs have knowledge of at least three DRR strategies against **21.9%** at baseline. ( $p < 0.05$ )
- Nsanje had the highest proportion (52%), followed by Mulanje (48%) and Zomba (44%).
- Knowledge areas included: reforestation (46%), riverbank protection (32%), Early Warning Systems (30%), shelter construction (20%) and drought management (14%).



# KNOWLEDGE OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MECHANISMS

- **39%** of respondent households are knowledgeable about response mechanisms against **20%** at baseline, representing a 95% increase. ( $p < 0.05$ )
- KIIs indicated that DRR activities are restricted to a few hot spot areas.



There is need for implementers to intensify hotspot mapping to direct DRR interventions to more disaster prone areas.



# FUNCTIONALITY OF DRR STRUCTURES AND SOCIAL SUPPORT COMMITTEES

- **70%** of the DRR structures are functional with Mulanje (79%) and Nsanje (76%) registering above project average while Zomba had a lower than project average proportion.
- Out of 276 CSSCs, **215** CSSCs, representing **78%** were strengthened at the time of the study against none (0%) at baseline.
- While there is evidence of linkages between community level structures, KIIs and FGDs revealed weaker linkages still exists in some areas to support SCTP beneficiaries optimally.

District	Percentage of district and community level DRR structures that are functional			Number and % of CSSCs strengthened		
	Total Structures	Number Functional	%	Total CSSCs	Total Strengthened	%
Mulanje	101	80	79	126	126	100
Nsanje	59	45	76	45	45	100
Zomba	88	49	56	105	44	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>78</b>

**There is need to strengthen linkages between community level structures that support SCTP participants such as through joint planning and review meetings.**

**There is need for the project to conduct a thorough review of the functionality/ sustainability of the community level Social Support Committees and DRR structures.**



# CONCLUSIONS



# CONCLUSION

There is strong evidence that the project is enabling greater resilience in Mulanje, Nsanje and Zomba districts;

- Improved incomes of the project participants resulting in increased asset ownership.
- Increased food and nutrition security through improved adoption of CSA technologies, crop and dietary diversity.
- Improved coping to stresses and shocks as a result of VSL initiatives, irrigation and livestock production.
- Improved knowledge and practice of DRR strategies and Response Mechanisms.

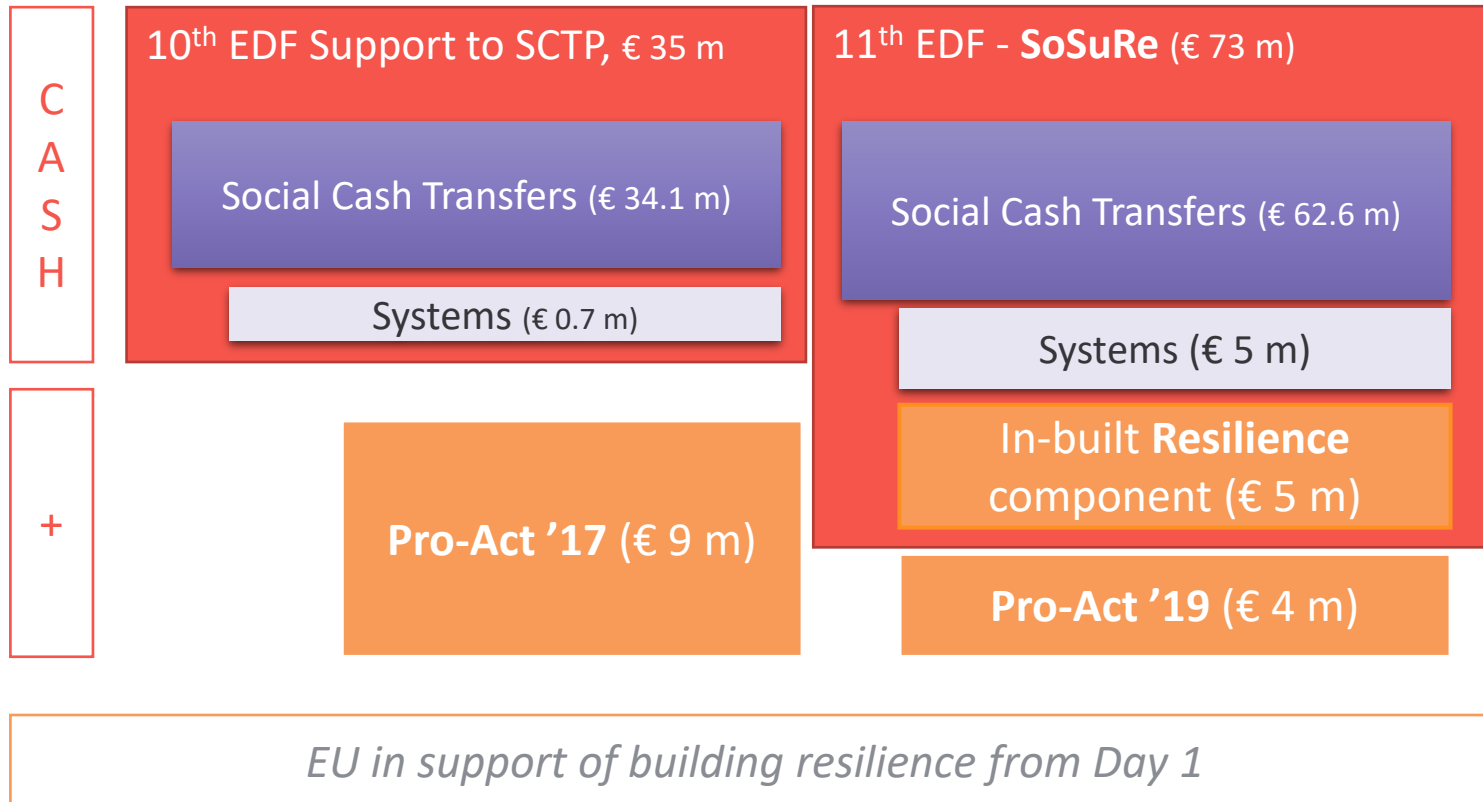


# KEY CHALLENGES AND WAY-FORWARD



# CHALLENGES

- Interesting journey of **introducing CASH+** :



- **Does it work** in the first place?
- Are these interventions **appropriate** considering the types of beneficiaries, geographical distribution, quality of services...?
- Are these interventions **cost-effective**?
- How to make Cash+ more **sustainable**?
- Bringing Cash+ closer to Government systems / **institutionalising Cash+**
- **Linkages & referrals** for sustainability
- Upcoming **retargeting** processes



# THANK YOU!

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