



**USAID** | **MALAWI**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# USAID/MALAWI MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING SUPPORT (MELS) PROJECT

## Verification Report for the Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests Project

AID-OAA-I-15-00022 / AID-612-TO-17-00001

Submitted: January 25, 2022

Resubmitted: February 19, 2022

International Business & Technical Consultants, Inc.  
8618 Westwood Center Drive, #400  
Vienna, VA 22182

### DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared by International Business & Technical Consultants, Inc. (IBTCI) for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the USAID or the United States Government (USG).

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS ..... iii

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... 1

1. INTRODUCTION..... 2

2. OVERALL METHODOLOGY/APPROACH..... 4

3. MCHF VERIFICATION FINDINGS..... 6

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 13

Annex 1: Sampled and Verified Cases..... 14

Annex 2: Unreported Cases Revealed in Nkhatabay ..... 16

Annex 3: Unreported Cases Revealed in Zomba..... 17

## ACRONYMS

<b>AgDiv</b>	Agricultural Diversification
<b>AMELP</b>	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
<b>DFO</b>	District Forestry Office
<b>DOF</b>	Department of Forestry
<b>DQA</b>	Data Quality Assessment
<b>ENV</b>	Environment
<b>FCDO</b>	Foreign, Commonwealth, Development Office
<b>FTF</b>	Feed the Future
<b>FY</b>	Financial Year
<b>GCC</b>	Global Climate Change
<b>GoM</b>	Government of Malawi
<b>IDIQ</b>	Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity
<b>LQAS</b>	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
<b>LWT</b>	Lilongwe Wildlife Trust
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MCHF</b>	Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests
<b>MELS</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Support
<b>MPS</b>	Malawi Police Service
<b>PERFORM</b>	Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi Activity
<b>PIRS</b>	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
<b>SEG</b>	Sustainable Economic Growth
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>USG</b>	United States Government
<b>WAG</b>	Wildlife Action Group
<b>WiCIS</b>	Wildlife Crime Information System

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides results from a verification activity conducted by the Malawi Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Support (MELS) team of an outcome indicator reported by the Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests (MCHF) project in Malawi for Financial Year 2021 (FY21). This exercise covered MCHF activities from October 2020 to September 2021. The team verified the following indicator:

- Percent change in annual conviction rate for illegal charcoal and other forestry crime activities.

The MELS team applied a three-stage verification approach checking calculations at the first stage, looking for the existence of source documents at the second stage, and conducting spot checks in the field during the third stage of the verification activity. The MELS team adapted techniques from the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) when selecting criminal cases for the spot checks. In total, 70 cases were randomly selected across five MCHF districts.

The first two stages of the verification demonstrated good data management at the MCHF head office level: all calculations and formulas were correct, and all source documents (i.e., data forms) were available for verification, and they matched reported data.

The final evaluation stage revealed one location (Dedza District) where the MELS team could not find sufficient evidence to justify reported data, and there were two locations (Zomba and Nkhatabay Districts) where the MELS team found additional cases that were not included in the MCHF report, i.e., the overall result was that MCHF underreported the convictions data. Most underreported cases were registered from July to September 2021. MCHF did not report the cases because the Government of Malawi (GoM) responsible for providing the data did not collect and share data for Q4 FY21. According to the agreement between MCHF and GoM, it is the GoM that collects and shares the results with MCHF. The government was unable to complete the data collection, and MCHF had to submit the report to USAID without the Q4 data. MCHF provided necessary explanations to USAID.

Despite the revealed inconsistencies, taking into account both overreported and underreported locations, and applying the LQAS technique, the MELS team finds the indicator values reported by MCHF to USAID for FY21 acceptable.

The major issues that could influence MCHF's data quality were the GOM's lack of a centralized database that could accumulate criminal cases from various agencies, and data inconsistencies across different reporting organizations/partners. . Different data management systems and requirements at the court and police levels led to instances where case data showed up as either incomplete, lost, damaged, misplaced or possibly incorrectly recorded.

The main recommendations from the MELS team would be to establish closer relations with the local organizations (courts, police) to facilitate exchange of information, and to revise PIRS to reflect current changes in the conviction rate definition.

Throughout the process, the MCHF team was cooperative and transparent and provided the MELS team with all necessary assistance.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the MELS activity is to implement performance evaluations and assessment services under the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract (IDIQ). MELS provides support to the Feed the Future (FTF) and Environment (Global Climate Change (GCC) and biodiversity) activities that are managed by USAID/Malawi's Sustainable Economic Growth (SEG) Office. The MELS activity aims to achieve the following four primary objectives:

- Objective 1:** performance evaluations of FTF and environment activities and of the sustainable livelihoods project designed and implemented;
- Objective 2:** assessments of FTF Malawi Ag Diversification (AgDiv) activity performance designed and implemented;
- Objective 3:** studies and analyses on selected topical issues developed and conducted; and,
- Objective 4:** local capacity to undertake evaluations and assessments strengthened.

The activity outlined in this report falls under Objective 3: providing studies and analyses, including verification activities, on selected topical issues. The verification will look at the indicator reported by the MCHF Project. MCHF is a five-year activity (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024) co-funded by USAID and United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth, Development Office (FCDO), and implemented by Tetra Tech.

USAID and FCDO initiated this activity after revealing that the main threats to Malawi's forests included unsustainable wood harvesting because of over-reliance of the local communities on wood fuels to meet energy needs (charcoal and firewood for cooking, fish smoking, and brick and tobacco curing), use of timber for construction, agriculture, and settlement expansion in forested areas, and harmful bushfires. As noted in the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP), charcoal production was the single most significant driver of forest loss in Malawi. More than 96 percent of households relied on charcoal and firewood as their primary cooking and heating fuel. Within Malawi's development context, charcoal and firewood will continue to be significant sources of cooking and heating energy in the foreseeable future – in fact, reliance on wood fuels is expected to further increase with the population growth and urbanization.

The lack of income-generating opportunities in rural areas and the lack of alternative cooking energy sources are the major drivers fueling the charcoal and firewood trade. As a major source of employment and energy, charcoal is often illegally produced in protected forest reserves intended to serve as critical water catchments for large populations. The MCHF project design enhances sustainable forest management in Malawi in select landscapes and promotes sustainable energy options in select urban demand centers to maintain forest cover and reduce land-based emissions. By increasing demand for alternative and efficient energy options and technologies, and expanding supply of sustainable wood fuels from well-managed forest resources, MCHF's objectives are to reduce unsustainable tree cutting in both public and customary forests, improve forest cover, and conserve associated watersheds. The activity builds on the strong foundation laid by USAID's Protecting

Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi Activity (PERFORM), which supported effective governance and forest management processes, built Malawi's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) readiness capacity, and promoted low-emission land use opportunities.

The MCHF activity is implemented in seven districts across Malawi, namely Mzimba and Nkhatabay in the North; Lilongwe, Salima, and Dedza in the Centre; and Blantyre and Zomba in the South. The activity has 23 indicators of which three are fee-tied. For the financial year 2021, only one indicator had a target and that could be verified by the MELS team:

- Percent change in annual conviction rate for illegal charcoal and other forestry crime activities.

What follows below is a report on this indicator that reviews the results reported by MCHF and comparative findings from the MELS team's verification of the indicator. The report includes a discussion of issues or challenges related to the indicator. The MELS team also provides an assessment on whether or not the reported values for this indicator are acceptable. This is the first year of reporting for MCHF; the verification is for data submitted in 2021. After the indicator discussion, the report finishes with conclusions and recommendations.

## 2. OVERALL METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

### Verification Stages

The MELS team applied a three-stage approach in its data quality verification activity.

**Stage 1:** During the first stage the team met with Tetra Tech, the MCHF implementing organization, and its local partner, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), to obtain a copy of reported data, to check calculations to make sure there were no arithmetic errors, and to discuss primary data sources for the reported data.

**Stage 2:** During the second stage the team looked for the existence of source documents, i.e., reports from various locations that included the number of people convicted and charged with illegal charcoal and other forestry crime activities. The MELS team compared reported data with the data provided in the source documents.

**Stage 3:** During the third stage the team randomly selected several cases for further verification in the primary locations where the documents originated, i.e., where the people were convicted/charged. The team travelled to the locations where the original records were stored, visited the courts and the District Police Stations of the Malawi Police Service (MPS), and compared reported data with the court and police records. Local prosecutors provided the team with additional guidance and support. The MELS team reviewed log books and available records from local and magistrate courts, police and prosecutor offices. Additionally, the team visited the District Forestry Offices (DFO) to triangulate the data collected from the courts and police stations, and to get the DFO officers' views on the forestry-related crimes in the area.

### Sampling Approach

The MELS team adapted techniques from the LQAS methods to work with this verification process. Given the imprecise nature of the data gathering in rural agricultural environments in Malawi and the need to borrow ideas from the LQAS literature, we looked at the measurement of confidence, which in most surveys was 95 percent. Various sources (listed below) tested LQAS for small sample sizes (i.e.,  $N = 19$ ) and found it to be a useful tool for sampling from a binomial distribution for an indicator that measures binary outcomes (acceptable or unacceptable). With a 95 percent confidence interval and a small sample size of 19 it was determined that at least 15 cases (84 percent of the sampled cases) had to be confirmed via spot checks to deem the reported data batch acceptable. If the team could not find evidence for four or more cases, then the whole data batch would be deemed to be unacceptable. We can say that the data is acceptable if the source documents exist for 84 percent or more of the data.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Using LQAS for Baseline Surveys and Regular Monitoring, Manual, 2002; and Review of Health and Agriculture Project Monitoring Tools for Title II Funded PVOs, Prepared for Food Aid Management by Thomas P. Davis Jr., MPH & Julie Mobley, MSPH, 2001.

**Table I: Sample of Cases for Spot Checks**

Location/ District	Sample Size
Salima	20
Dedza	19
Mzimba*	18
Zomba*	13
Nkhata Bay**	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>70</b>

\* Because the total number of cases in Mzimba and Zomba was less than 19, the team verified all available cases.

\*\* Although no cases were reported in Nkhata Bay, the team visited this district to verify it as well.

### Main limitations

The main limitation for the verification activity was poor data management at the local level:

- Data storage is not centralized across government agencies.
- Reported data is inconsistent across different data sources (i.e., courts, police, LWT, and DFO). Different data management systems and requirements at the court and police levels led to instances where case data showed up as either incomplete, lost, damaged, misplaced or possibly incorrectly recorded.
- Some court officers fail to record court cases, or record the case partially, or record it with large delays.
- Most police stations and courts do not have computers in the offices, and many criminal cases are hand-written in special registers that are prone to damage and loss.
- The courts' registers often do not contain information on the cases' outcomes.

**Figure I: Examples of Source Documents (Court Registers) in the Field**



### 3. MCHF VERIFICATION FINDINGS

#### 3.1 Verification of Calculations

MCHF reported the following data to USAID:

<b>Indicator:</b> Change in annual conviction rate for illegal charcoal and other forestry crime activities.				
	<b>Baseline Value</b>	<b>FY21 Value</b>	<b>Indicator change actual<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Indicator change target</b>
Conviction rate <sup>3</sup>	93.75%	100.00%	6.25% increase	5.00% increase

MCHF used the following data in the calculations:

	<b>Baseline Value</b>	<b>FY21 Value</b>
Number of people charged	216	412
Number of people convicted	195	343
Number of people acquitted	13	0
Outstanding cases	8	69
Conviction rate	93.75%	100.00%

The Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (PIRS) provided by MCHF outlined that “*The conviction rate will be expressed as a percentage, where the numerator is the number of convictions and the denominator is the number of people charged.*” However, MCHF, in agreement with USAID, adjusted the indicator definition to reflect the number of outstanding cases, which can sometimes take over a year to conclude<sup>4</sup>. MCHF used the following formula for calculation of the conviction rate:

$$\text{Conviction Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of people convicted}}{(\text{No. of people charged} - \text{No. of unresolved cases})} * 100$$

LWT used the same conviction rate formula to report data to USAID, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and to other bilateral and private donors. It is recommended to update the MCHF PIRS to reflect the indicator definition changes there.

During the first stage of the verification activity the MELs team checked all calculations and formulas to make sure there were no mathematical errors. All calculations in the electronic database were correct, and the reported results matched the data. The MELs team did not reveal any issues at this verification stage.

<sup>2</sup> Indicator change actual = FY21 value - Baseline value

<sup>3</sup> Conviction rate = Number of people convicted/(Number of people charged - Number of unresolved cases)\*100

<sup>4</sup> The conviction rate measure is based on what is used in the wildlife sector where they exclude outstanding/unresolved cases after they have specified what the MCHF PIRS say. The agreement with USAID was to use the calculation that excludes the unresolved cases as shown.

### 3.2 Verification of Source Documents

In FY21 MCHF collected conviction data with the support from Malawi Police Services' (MPS) Prosecutions Department, Department of Forestry (DoF), Wildlife Action Group (WAG), and LWT's Justice Department. MCHF followed this approach to expand the scope of data collection to ensure the project had access to as much of the nation-wide data as possible. MCHF received a total of 443 data forms for the FY21, rejected 31 forms, because they contained critical discrepancies, and accepted 412 cases that were eventually used in the reporting.

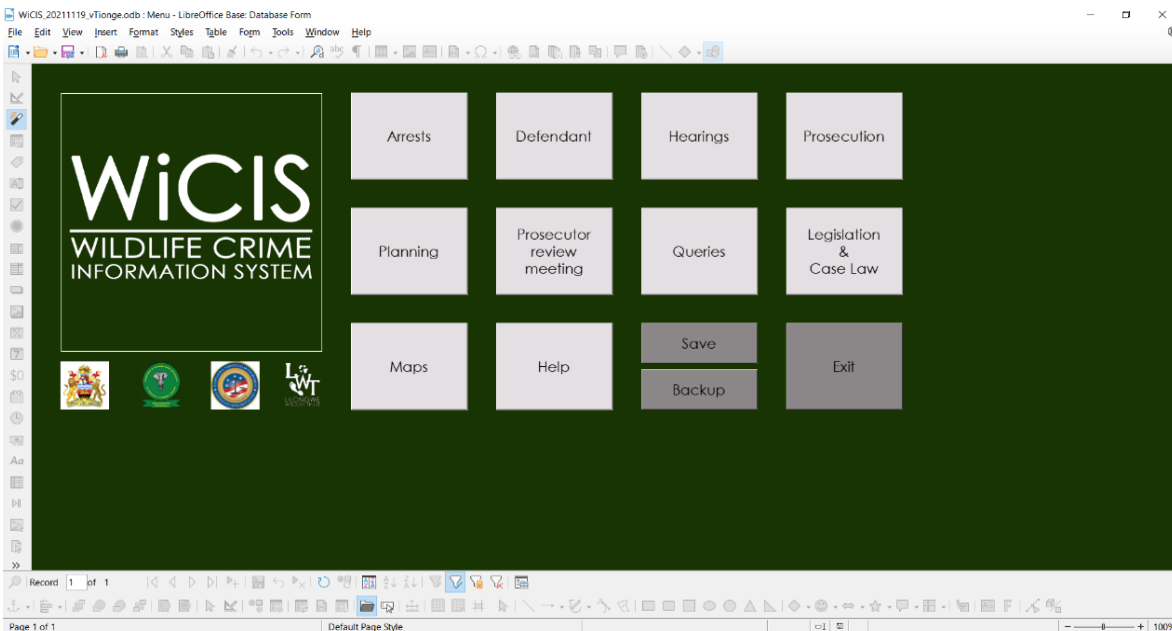
The data forms comprised of data collected by the LWT court monitors, data provided by DoF, WAG, and MPS. It should be noted that there was no centralized data storage, and each GOM partner used its own approaches and instruments to store collected data.

**Table 2: Data Collection and Storage Approaches Used by Partners**

Partners	Data Collection and Storage Approach
The Lilongwe Wildlife Trust	Wildlife Crime Information System
Local and magistrate courts	Manual registers
Malawi Police Service	Manual registers
Wildlife Action Group	Electronic registers
Department of Forestry	Written reports

LWT uses a data collection and storage system called Wildlife Crime Information System (WiCIS). It tracks conviction data at different levels, and contains data for both wildlife and forestry criminal cases (see Figure 2 below). LWT has monitors across the country who collect data electronically using the WiCIS forms. LWT accumulates and processes such data.

**Figure 2: Wildlife Crime Information System Dashboard**



MCHF, through LWT, employed a special KoBo Toolbox (see Figure 3 below) to collect and store various data on wildlife and forestry crimes: accusations, remands, charges, sentences, convictions, and other data.

**Figure 3: KoBo Toolbox**

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'Court monitoring (final)'. The address bar shows the file path 'C:/Users/mbamb/Desktop/Court%20monitoring%20(final).html'. The page content includes the 'KoBo Toolbox' logo, a language selection dropdown, and a 'Court monitoring (final)' heading. Below this is a 'Welcome' message and a description of the 'Wildlife Court Case Monitoring Form'. The form contains several input fields: 'Case reference' (with a date and time format), 'Arrest' (with a date and time format), and 'Station of arrest' (with fields for Locality, Traditional authority, and District). There are also fields for 'Place of offence' and 'Arrest officer' details.

Other local partners and institutions that collected data on forestry crimes and provided it to LWT had their own data management systems and tools: MPS and many local and magistrate courts had manual registers, LWT and WAG used electronic registers and forms, and DOF provided LWT with written reports. Due to the lack of a harmonized data collection and storage system, MCHF had to deal with various data sources and process various data types.

During the second stage the MELs team looked for the existence of source documents, such as data forms, and compared reported data with the data provided in the source documents. All reported data matched source documents available in the MCHF office.

### 3.3 Spot Checks in the Field

As described in the methodology section, the MELs team randomly selected several criminal cases for further spot checks, and travelled to the primary locations to compare reported data with court and police records. The team visited the local prosecutor's offices of the District Police Stations, where the verification process usually started, and reviewed police registers and records. The prosecutors provided the team with necessary guidance and support. Then, the MELs team visited relevant courts to see court registers. The verification

team reviewed log books and available records from courts of two levels: local and magistrate. If the courts, the police stations, and the prosecutor’s offices did not have any evidence of a specific criminal case, the team considered such case as “not verified.”

Overall, the verification team sampled 70 cases across 5 districts confirming data in two locations (Salima and Mzimba), not accepting data in one location (Dedza), and revealing additional cases in two other locations (Zomba and Nkhatabay). Details are provided in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Sampled and Verified Cases**

Location/ District	Number of Reported Cases	Number of Verified/ Confirmed Cases	Percent of Verified/ Confirmed Cases	Comments
Salima	20	18	90.0	Acceptable
Mzimba	18	15	83.3	Acceptable
Dedza	19	11	57.9	Not acceptable
Zomba	13	17	130.8	Underreported**
Nkhatabay*	0	17	n/a	Underreported**
<b>Total:</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>111.4</b>	<b>Underreported</b>

\* MCHF did not report any cases in Nkhatabay, but the verification team still went there to do the verification activity. The MELS team found 17 relevant cases there, which were not in the report.

\*\* Most underreported cases were registered from July to September 2021. MCHF did not report the cases because the GoM responsible for providing the data did not collect and share data for Q4 FY21.

**Salima District.** The team randomly sampled 20 cases in Salima District for spot checks and verified 18 of them (90 percent of the cases): the team found two cases in the Salima Police Station, and then additional 16 cases in the Salima Magistrate Court. There was no evidence of the two cases in the court and the police station despite availability of exact case numbers. A court clerk said that they were supposed to register each case right after the court session was over. However, he admitted that the clerks were tired sometimes and did not do it the same day, and could even forget to register a case afterwards. Overall, the LQAS approach considers all data in Salima District to be **acceptable**.

**Table 4: Spot Checks in Salima District**

Spot Checks in Salima District	
Data Sources	Number of Verified/ Confirmed Cases
Salima Police Station	2
Salima Magistrate Court	16
Total number of verified cases:	18
Total number of non-verified cases:	2
<b>Conclusion:</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>

**Mzimba District.** Because Mzimba District had only 18 registered cases in FY21, the verification team spot checked all of them, and managed to verify 15 cases (83.3 percent of the cases): the team found 11 cases in the Mzimba Police Station, and then an additional four cases in the Mzimba Magistrate Court. There was no evidence of the three cases in the court and the police station. Overall, the LQAS approach considers all data in Mzimba District to be **acceptable**.

**Table 5: Spot Checks in Mzimba District**

Spot Checks in Mzimba District	
Data Sources	Number of Verified/ Confirmed Cases
Mzimba Police Station	11
Mzimba Magistrate Court	4
Total number of verified cases:	15
Total number of non-verified cases:	3
<b>Conclusion:</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>

**Dedza District.** The team randomly sampled 19 cases in Dedza District for spot checks and verified 11 of them (57.9 percent of the cases): the team found 11 cases in the Dedza Police Station, but even with the help of a local prosecutor could not find any additional cases beyond that in the courts. The verification team looked through log books and registers in the local and magistrate courts. There was no evidence of the eight cases in the courts and the police station despite availability of exact case numbers and guidance provided by the local prosecutor there. The overall numbers for MCHF are within range due to overreported and underreported cases but if Dedza was evaluated on its own it would not be acceptable.

**Table 6: Spot Checks in Dedza District**

Spot Checks in Dedza District	
Data Sources	Number of Verified/ Confirmed Cases
Dedza Police Station	11
Dedza local and magistrate courts	0
Total number of verified cases:	11
Total number of non-verified cases:	8
<b>Conclusion:</b>	<b>Not Acceptable</b>

**Zomba District.** Because Zomba District had only 13 registered cases in FY21, the verification team spot checked all of them, and managed to verify 10 cases from the list (76.9 percent of the cases): two cases in the Zomba Police Station, and eight cases in the Zomba Chief Residence Magistrate Court. However, the District Court Administrator informed the verification team that there were seven more forestry cases in the court that the team was not aware of; the seven cases took place between April and September 2021 (details are provided in the Annex 3 to the report). It means that

MCHF underreported data, and there were additional conviction cases that the project team did not identify. Considering the new data found by the verification team, the data in Zomba District is **acceptable**, but **underreported**.

It should be noted that most of the underreported cases were registered from July to September 2021 (five out of seven underreported cases), i.e., MCHF did not report the cases because the GoM responsible for providing the data did not collect and share data for Q4 (July, August, and September). According to the agreement between MCHF and GoM, it is the GoM that collects and shares the results with MCHF. The government was unable to complete the data collection because of COVID and other reasons, and MCHF had to submit the report to USAID without the Q4 data. MCHF provided necessary explanations to USAID.

**Table 7: Spot Checks in Zomba District**

<b>Spot Checks in Zomba District</b>	
<b>Data Sources</b>	<b>Number of Verified/ Confirmed Cases</b>
Zomba Police Station	2
Zomba Magistrate Court	15
Total number of verified cases:	17
Total number of non-verified cases:	3
<b>Conclusion:</b>	<b>Acceptable (Underreported)</b>

**Nkhatabay District.** MCHF and LWT reported no relevant criminal forestry cases in Nkhatabay District in FY21. Regardless, the MELs team decided to visit the district for verification purposes, since it was in the MCHF zone of influence. The verification team revealed that there were 17 forestry cases in Nkhatabay area registered from July 2021 to September 2021 (Q4, FY21). The team collected names of convicted people and corresponding criminal case numbers – they are provided in the Annex 2 to the report.

It should be noted that since all underreported cases were registered from July to September 2021, MCHF did not report the cases because the GoM responsible for providing the data did not collect and share data for Q4 (July, August, and September). According to the agreement between MCHF and GoM, it is the GoM that collects and shares the results with MCHF. The government was unable to complete the data collection because of COVID and other reasons, and MCHF had to submit the report to USAID without the Q4 data. MCHF provided necessary explanations to USAID.

**Table 8: Spot Checks in Nkhatabay District**

Spot Checks in Nkhatabay District	
Data Sources	Number of Verified/ Confirmed Cases
Nkhatabay Police Station	7
Nkhatabay Magistrate Court	-
Total number of verified cases:	7
Total number of non-verified cases:	-
<b>Conclusion:</b>	<b>Acceptable (Underreported)</b>

**Figure 4: The MELS Team Conducting Spot Checks in the Field**



## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main conclusions from the MCHF verification activity are:

1. Despite the revealed inconsistencies, taking into account both overreported and underreported locations, and applying the LQAS technique, the MELs team finds the indicator values reported by MCHF to USAID for FY21 to be acceptable.
2. MCHF properly manages data at the head office level, using appropriate formulas, calculations, and data cleaning approaches, but there are some issues with the quality of data collected in the field, which is supplied to MCHF for processing. The spot checks revealed that there were areas where MCHF overreported and where it underreported the indicator values.
3. Most underreported cases were registered from July to September 2021. MCHF did not report the cases because the Government of Malawi (GoM) responsible for providing the data did not collect and share data for Q4 FY21. According to the agreement between MCHF and GoM, it is the GoM that collects and shares the results with MCHF. The government was unable to complete the data collection, and MCHF had to submit the report to USAID without the Q4 data.
4. The main difficulty is that there is no centralized unified database used to accumulate criminal cases from various government agencies and organizations. Hence, every organization uses its own system that varies from manually filled registers to more comprehensive information systems. LWT, MCHF's local partner, has a good WiCiS information system that helps them to collect and store data on forestry criminal cases, but this system does not cover all agencies and partners involved in the process. This leads to data inconsistencies across different organizations and data sources.
5. In addition, there are instances, when the case data is incomplete, lost, damaged, misplaced, or never recorded at the level of courts and police departments.

The MELs team recommends that MCHF:

- Makes effort to improve the quality of data collected in the field. Some of the ways of achieving it could be:
  - Increasing the number of monitors that track and collect data in the field;
  - Providing additional training to the field teams on collection and processing of data;
  - Establishing closer relations with the local organizations (courts, police) to facilitate exchange of information;
- Revise PIRS to reflect current changes in the conviction rate definition.

## Annex I: Sampled and Verified Cases

District	Case Reference	Case Label	Organization	Verification Status	Verification Source
Mzimba	262/2020	Hellen Chirwa	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Mzimba	262/2020	Cecelia Gama	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Mzimba	149/2021	Maggie Banda	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Mzimba	157/2020	Kufa Banda	LWT	Verified	Police
Mzimba	263/2020	Frank Gondwe	LWT	Verified	Police
Mzimba	263/2020	Gilbert Tchuwa	LWT	Verified	Police
Mzimba	263/2020	Joel Ngoma	LWT	Verified	Police
Mzimba	263/2020	Thulex Kumwenda	LWT	Verified	Police
Mzimba	314/2020	Justen Mzembe	LWT	Verified	Court
Mzimba	314/2020	Sarah Chirwa	LWT	Verified	Court
Mzimba	314/2020	Beatrice Shaba	LWT	Verified	Court
Mzimba	314/2020	Sikeve Jere	LWT	Verified	Court
Mzimba	295/2021	Dokiso Chipeta	LWT	Verified	Police
Mzimba	295/2021	Mkandawire Frank	LWT	Verified	Police
Mzimba	295/2021	Joseph Phiri	LWT	Verified	Police
Mzimba	301/2021	Tengeni Kamanga	LWT	Not verified	-
Mzimba	301/2021	Wilson Banda	LWT	Not verified	-
Mzimba	301/2021	Senzo Phiri	LWT	Not verified	-
Salima	130/2021	Violet Mangila	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Salima	130/2021	Patrick Mchochoma	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Salima	164/2021	Steven George	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Salima	164/2021	Grecian Chaluwa Gama	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Salima	240/2021	Agnes Kamzingeni	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Salima	240/2021	Pilirani Dickson	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Salima	240/2021	John Khobwe	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Salima	240/2021	Lawrence Cosmas	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Salima	39/2021	Enelesi Jambo	WAG	Verified	Court
Salima	39/2021	Criford Andrew	WAG	Verified	Court
Salima	45/2021	Ramzaani Jafali	WAG	Verified	Court
Salima	45/2021	Juma Sailodi	WAG	Verified	Court
Salima	78/2021	Geleshani Ganizani	WAG	Verified	Police
Salima	93/2021	Jomaso Kunenga	WAG	Verified	Court
Salima	93/2021	Jangiya Budula	WAG	Verified	Court
Salima	93/2021	Misozi Lenard	WAG	Verified	Court
Salima	31/2021	Lafashi Nowelo	WAG	Verified	Police
Salima	145/2021	Dorothy phillipo	WAG	Not verified	-
Salima	145/2021	Ginny Gama	WAG	Not verified	-
Salima	216/2021	Alinafe chauluka	WAG	Verified	Court

District	Case Reference	Case Label	Organization	Verification Status	Verification Source
Dedza	596/2020	Rasid Adam	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Dedza	596/2020	Paul Kajawo	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Dedza	596/2020	Salesi Soda	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Dedza	602/2020	Josephy Lexman	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Dedza	602/2020	Matthews Josa	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Dedza	602/2020	Letina Vikisoni	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Dedza	590/2020	Charles Gwade	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Dedza	78/2021	Mavuto Davite	WAG	Not verified	-
Dedza	78/2021	Msuwachi Aofi	WAG	Not verified	-
Dedza	78/2021	Chibwana Mdala	WAG	Not verified	-
Dedza	78/2021	Gribert Swali	WAG	Not verified	-
Dedza	331/2021	Lobina Alimakoyo	LWT	Verified	Police
Dedza	331/2021	Victor Chimbiya	LWT	Verified	Police
Dedza	331/2021	Onoliya Deku	LWT	Verified	Police
Dedza	330/2021	Samuel Bengo	LWT	Verified	Police
Dedza		Kamwendo Kudzala	WAG	Not verified	-
Dedza	159/2021	Kennedy Mchenga	WAG	Not verified	-
Dedza	159/2021	Janet Mchenga	WAG	Not verified	-
Dedza	398/2021	Chitsulo Sikinala	WAG	Not verified	-
Zomba	37/2021	Amos Gulule	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Zomba	37/2021	Yohane Makalane	MPS/DOF	Verified	Police
Zomba	89/2021	Elias Mapemba	LWT	Not verified	-
Zomba	89/2021	Mohammed Ganizani	LWT	Not verified	-
Zomba	89/21	Nkhoma Hendrix	LWT	Not verified	-
Zomba	45/2021	Patuma Dennis	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Zomba	45/2021	Jonathan Twaibu	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Zomba	45/2021	Alidi Matiki	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Zomba	45/2021	Khalilullah Shareef	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Zomba	45/2021	Benard James	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Zomba	34/2021	Rudo Samu	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Zomba	34/2021	Modester Osman	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court
Zomba	34/2021	Lenna Munyamba	MPS/DOF	Verified	Court

## Annex 2: Unreported Cases Revealed in Nkhatabay

District	Case Reference	Case label	Verification Source	Case Period*	Court Type
Nkhatabay	98/2021	Nelia Mwiya	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	98/2021	Ireen Mpezeni	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	98/2021	Mercy Mwase	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	100/2021	Costa Chembezi	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	101/2021	Moses Chaya	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	94/2021	Davison Chakhumbira	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	94/2021	Samson Kasambala	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	92/2021	Grace Mphande	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	92/2021	Mwayi Mphande	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	95/2021	Elemia Nyirenda	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	95/2021	Jessy Nyirenda	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	91/2021	Lovemore Longwe	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	78/2021	Elizabeth Mzima	Nkhatabay Police Station	Jul-21	FGM
Nkhatabay	108/2021	Moses Munyimbire	Nkhatabay Police Station	Aug-21	SRM
Nkhatabay	218/2021	Charity Mwase	Nkhatabay Police Station	Sep-21	FGM
Nkhatabay	219/2021	Charels Mbewe	Nkhatabay Police Station	Sep-21	FGM
Nkhatabay	117/2021	Bosi Mhone	Nkhatabay Police Station	Sep-21	SRM

\* It should be noted that since all underreported cases were registered from July to September 2021, MCHF did not report the cases because the Government of Malawi (GoM) responsible for providing the data did not collect and share data for Q4 (July, August, and September). According to the agreement between MCHF and GoM, it is the GoM that collects and shares the results with MCHF. The government was unable to complete the data collection because of COVID and other reasons, and MCHF had to submit the report to USAID without the Q4 data. MCHF provided necessary explanations to USAID.

### Annex 3: Unreported Cases Revealed in Zomba

District	Case Reference	Case label	Verification Source	Case Period*
Zomba	205/21	Gift Banda	Mulunguzi Magistrate Court	April 2021
Zomba	212/21	Bester Chimkango	Mulunguzi Magistrate Court	April 2021
Zomba	312/21	Wellington Amadu	Mulunguzi Magistrate Court	July 2021
Zomba	316/21	Kamuloni Songolo	Mulunguzi Magistrate Court	July 2021
Zomba	341/21	Steven Spy	Mulunguzi Magistrate Court	August 2021
Zomba	341/21	Luke Mkandawire	Mulunguzi Magistrate Court	August 2021
Zomba	370/21	Harry Jafu	Mulunguzi Magistrate Court	September 2021

\* It should be noted that most of the underreported cases were registered from July to September 2021 (five out of seven underreported cases), i.e., MCHF did not report the cases because the Government of Malawi (GoM) responsible for providing the data did not collect and share data for Q4 (July, August, and September). According to the agreement between MCHF and GoM, it is the GoM that collects and shares the results with MCHF. The government was unable to complete the data collection because of COVID and other reasons, and MCHF had to submit the report to USAID without the Q4 data. MCHF provided necessary explanations to USAID.