

Robson is a Paravet from Lundu Village. A Paravet since June 2013, he sees about 30 clients per month and makes on average \$50 USD a month for the services provided. With the money Robson has earned since becoming a Paravet, he built an office for clients to bring sick animals to supplement his visits in the village.



Robson Miranzi with Paravet kit.
Photo by Debbie DeVoe for CRS.

“We received training from WALA. I show farmers how to use drugs (purchased personally or from the government) and if they don’t understand, I do my treatment. The money I’m earning is really changing things in my household. I’ve seen an improvement in my family’s health, and I’ve opened a bank account.”

SUSTAINABILITY

The Paravets are supported by the Malawi Government extension workers and supervised by District Veterinary Staff. The Paravets help to **ease the heavy workload** of Government workers who cannot cover the veterinary needs in a region. This partnership will continue beyond the WALA timeline.

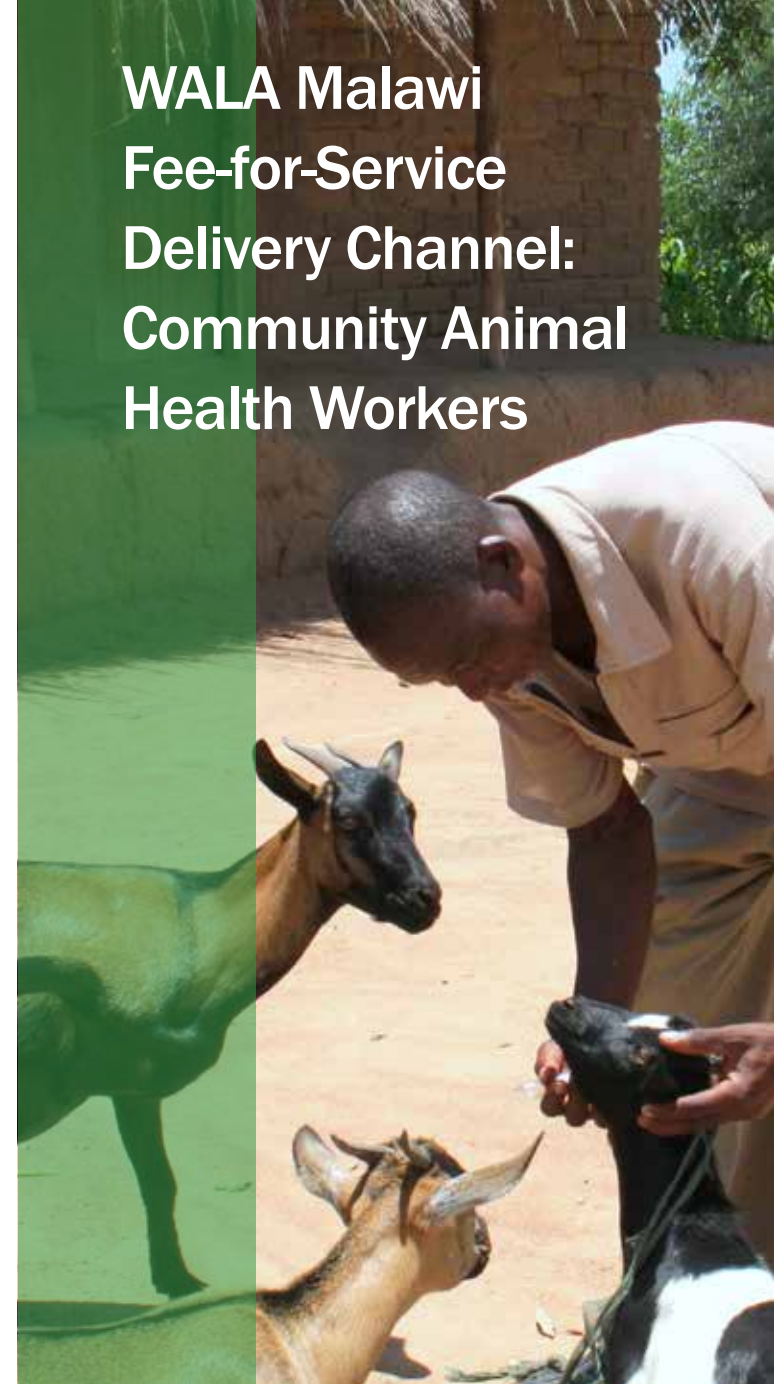
Paravets are able to earn an income, while meeting the high demand for veterinary services in the community. The extension service workers cannot meet all veterinary needs in their large catchment area, and the Paravets **promote self-reliance** and use of familiar and trusted resources in the community.

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Paravet visits family in Lundu Village.
Photo by Debbie DeVoe for CRS.

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WALA Malawi Fee-for-Service Delivery Channel: Community Animal Health Workers



Catholic Relief Services' Wellness and Agriculture for Life Advancement (WALA) program is helping reduce food insecurity in almost 215,000 chronically food insecure households in Southern Malawi.

WALA is a 5 year (2009-2014), \$80 million integrated food security program funded by USAID's Food for Peace and implemented by a consortium of nine agencies, led by CRS Malawi.

BACKGROUND

A key intervention in **achieving food security, stabilizing cash flow** and **improving livelihoods** is livestock production. Livestock can also provide improved nutrition, increased income and enable families to cope with shocks more effectively, i.e., to become more **resilient**. Livestock, however, require proper animal health care and husbandry. This can be achieved through capacity building for extension workers and the introduction of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW).

The CAHW, also called a Paravet, is a community-based livestock husbandry and health provider. The Paravet acts as an interface between the veterinary personnel and farmers and receives a fee for services provided. The Paravet is typically responsible for providing primary health care products and livestock husbandry services to farmers. These services include recommendations related to nutrition, housing and disease control. Secondary treatments, such as those requiring injections, are referred to qualified veterinary personnel.

The Paravet is supervised regularly by qualified veterinary personnel to ensure work is conducted within proper limits and to ensure animal welfare.

ROLE OF THE PARAVET

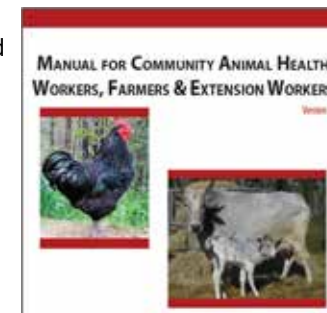
- Coordinate with village authorities and farmers to organize **timely vaccination campaigns** to prevent disease outbreaks.
- **Examine sick animals** at the request of farmers, to determine corrective treatment.
- **Maintain records of livestock** in the village, including: birth, mortality, diseases and sales.
- **Report disease outbreaks** to District Livestock Officer.
- Ensure that animals entering the village are clinically disease-free.
- Raise animals using good husbandry practices, and demonstrate ways to **improve livestock production**.
- Provide information on livestock to the District Veterinary Staff, Village Head or other relevant authorities.

“During the rainy season each year, many of my cattle die. But now, since the Paravet has been visiting my house and providing vaccinations, there have been no cases.”

- Rodney Chipagala, Farmer in Mpampba village

TRAINING

For a member of the community to be selected for the Paravet training, they must have the following qualities: have an interest in livestock farming, be able to read and write, have a demonstrated ability to serve the community, patience with livestock and the physical ability to work with different livestock.



If an individual possesses the required qualities and is selected by the community, they will enter the CRS/WALA training. The 14 day intensive training is based on a manual developed by CRS and includes in classroom and practical training.

After the training, the certified Paravet is provided with a starter kit, and is expected to purchase their own drugs and supplement the kit based on the demand in the community.

WALA has trained 136 Paravets (36 female, 100 male)

“The WALA Paravets ease the pressure of our work, because they are available in the community. Newcastle disease in chickens is a big problem, but the Paravets are helping with vaccination. Last month, WALA Paravets helped vaccinate 11,000 chickens. Now very few chickens are dying.”

- Julius Matola, Government Assistant Veterinary Officer, Zomba District