Piloting Road-run off water Harvesting in Malawi
Context

• Road construction if one of the biggest investments in most sub Saharan countries.
• Mzuzu – Nkhatatabay Road
• Balaka - Kasinje Road
• Liwonde - Balaka Roads
• Run off from roadsides if not properly channeled results in land degradation in farmers’ fields in various ways
• Turning the liability of runoff into a hydration opportunity...
Maintenance routine for Unpaved roads
Problem/challenges

• **Land Degradation** - Road side culverts which are poorly designed have rendered some fields completely uncultivable due to poor run off disposal

• **Extremely low agricultural production** – less than one tonne per hectare due to intra-seasonal dry spells and drought;

• **Shortage of water for livestock production**

• **Poor access to and availability of water** in the region due to inadequate water harvesting infrastructure – water storage falls below 1700 m3/capita/year (international minimum).

• **Drying of boreholes** due to poor ground water recharge.
Unexploited Potential
Current drought
Objectives

• Raise the level of awareness
• Build the capacity of community
• Promote the construction of RWH for storage of roadside runoff
• To promote economic empowerment
• To document and disseminate lessons
Excessive runoff
Gone in a few minutes
Infiltration pits
Road run off for Rice Production
Roadside Burrow pits
Well conserved roadside fields
The road – water channel
Maize in flooded fields
Maize crop
Way forward

• Campaign launch for R4W – local chiefs
• Capacity building
• Collect data through action research
• Farmers exchanges (Kitui, Machakos)
• field days
Happy faces