

# **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

October 2021 – September 2022 | Malawi

#### **SUMMARY**

**ECONOMIC** EMPOWERMENT

With your help, Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments (THRIVE) has impacted the lives of 17,098 farming families, including 12,251 women, 54,343 children, and 255 people with disabilities—some of the most underserved people in Malawi. Today, 90% of participants say they're practicing values gleaned through Biblical Empowered Worldview (BEWV), 84% are using improved agricultural technologies, and 100% are involved in a savings group. As a result, these families are better able to weather economic shocks and the effects of climate change, while investing in their businesses and communities.

#### Empowered farmers, flourishing families

By implementing new irrigation methods, planting with improved seeds, and using other agricultural technologies, farmers are seeing, on average, a 90% increase in crop yields. Additionally, by participating in collective selling, 8,278 farmers (4,048 of whom are women) earned a total of \$1.23M in fiscal year 2022, a 44% rise compared to FY21. These improvements translate to more marketable products, boosting household income and increasing food security for families.

# Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups offer equity and opportunity

Focused training with 1,971 S4T group leaders (including 683 women) showed how creating a saving culture at home can protect family income. This training was especially empowering to those often left out of household decisionmaking, such as women, those with disabilities, and the elderly. Further, in the last quarter of the fiscal year, 1,347 members (941 women) accessed \$97,889 in loans from VisionFund to grow their businesses.



After taking BEWV and joining a S4T group, Martha Nyirenda (above) and her husband began working together to farm and open a grocery store. Among 16,593 S4T members, 90% say they now practice shared decision-making between men and women, encouraging gender equity in homes and communities.

#### PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES (LIFE OF PROJECT TO DATE: FY17-FY22)

17,737 people experiencing holistic transformation through BEWV training

\$1.86M saved by S4T members to invest in their businesses and cover emergencies and expenses

14,084 producer group members increasing their profits by selling value chain products

5,413 people using loans from VisionFund to invest in agriculture and small businesses

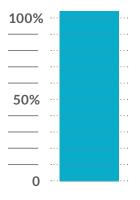


### **KEY LEARNINGS**

We fell short (88%) of reaching the goal of 16,000 producer group members increasing their profits by selling value chain products. In talking with THRIVE farmers, we learned that economic pressures pushed some to sell their produce early and at lower prices, resulting in this shortfall. We expect this to turn around as conditions continue to stabilize.

Separately, cell phone deterioration kept Commercial Village Trade Facilitators (CVTFs) from accessing the digital app used to aggregate their crops and command more competitive prices. To address this, phones were replaced and a refresher course on the app was provided to CVTFs and government stakeholders. Also, 40 local champions were identified to offer long-term advocacy for the digital platform.

#### LIFE-OF-PROJECT UPDATE



#### Goal

80,000 people, including 16,000 smallholder farmers, targeted for household economic empowerment

Actual

82,207 people, including 16,193 smallholder farmers, have benefited from economic activities since the program began in FY17, surpassing the goal and accomplishing a completion rate of 103%.

### PLANS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

A main priority is continuing to work with government stakeholders and leaders to build local capacity and sustainability, so that communities are ready to support themselves when this stage of Malawi THRIVE phases out in 2023. As part of these efforts, construction work on three value chain processing units is being completed and Malawi THRIVE staff members are offering additional refresher trainings. Team members are also putting plans in place to conduct an end-line survey to gauge impact over the life of the project.

Building on the progress THRIVE has already helped Malawian families to make, this project is well positioned to enter a new phase of expansion and growth in 2023.

### THANK YOU

World Vision

Over the last six years, your prayers and generosity have helped bring transformation to families in Malawi, helping them find hope in Christ, discover their own potential, and access the tools they need to flourish. Praise God!

> 34834 Weyerhaeuser Way S. P.O. Box 9716 Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

For more information visit: worldvisionphilanthropy.org/ economic-empowerment



"The same piece of land was giving me 30 bags of maize when we used the traditional way of farming, but THRIVE trained us in improved agricultural technologies, which have increased the maize harvest greatly."

-Friday Zimba (above, in back), a 46-year-old father in Kandoli who more than doubled his harvest output, selling 70 bags of maize this season, and who says he's teaching his four children what he's learned about farming being not only a means of subsistence but a promising business

We invite you to read our THRIVE 2030 Economic Empowerment Business Plan to reach 10 million people in 10 countriesincluding Malawi—with the tools they need to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.



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## **FINANCIALS**

THRIVE project-to-date spending by activity (October 2016 through September 2022)

Summary	Project-to-Date Funding Released to Project	Project-to-Date Spending	Project-to-Date Spending Rate
Increased household incomes and productive assets	\$ 3,770,997	\$ 4,059,946	108%
Households adopting an improved on-farm and off-farm natural resource base	1,283,862	1,259,580	98%
Increased resilience of livelihoods to shocks and disasters	724,505	569,474	79%
Smallholder farmers and their families transformed through Biblical Empowered Worldview	1,331,030	1,093,658	82%
Management and fundraising	3,150,546	3,321,143	105%
TOTAL	\$ 10,260,940	\$ 10,303,801	100%