

Development Aid from People to People in Malawi

Progress Report 2025



**'30 Years of Empowering
Communities in Malawi'**



www.dapp-malawi.org





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Chairperson's Remarks

As we reflect on our journey and the work accomplished during this reporting period, I am reminded that the strength of DAPP Malawi has always rested in its people – the communities we serve, the staff who carry out the work, the partners who walk alongside us, and the volunteers who give their time and commitment.

For more than thirty years, DAPP Malawi has remained consistent in its purpose: to work with communities to improve livelihoods, expand opportunities and strengthen resilience. Our vision of sustainable communities enjoying an improved quality of life continues to guide our direction. It is not simply a statement on paper; it is reflected in the colleges where teachers are trained, in farmers' fields where new methods are adopted, in health outreach sessions that reach vulnerable households, and in the systems we build to respond to emergencies.

This year's progress demonstrates steady and meaningful advancement across our core areas of work. In education and skills development, we have continued investing in teachers and young people who represent Malawi's future. In agriculture, our programmes are joining hands with smallholder farmers strengthen food security and adapt to the realities of climate change. In health and well-being, our community-based approach remains essential in extending services to those who might otherwise be left behind. Our humanitarian efforts have supported families affected by disasters, while our social enterprise initiatives continue to strengthen institutional sustainability and contribute to local livelihoods.

As a Board, we have placed strong emphasis on governance, accountability and long-term sustainability. The development environment is changing rapidly, and organisations must be prepared to adapt. Diversifying our funding base, strengthening internal systems, and investing in innovation are not optional steps; they are necessary measures to ensure that DAPP Malawi remains resilient and effective in the years ahead.

We are also mindful that development must be inclusive. Women, youth and persons with disabilities must not only benefit from programmes but also participate in leadership and decision-making. Strengthening social inclusion remains central to our direction.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Country Director, the management team, staff across all districts, and our many partners for their dedication and professionalism. Their work reflects integrity, commitment and belief in the mission of this organisation. I also thank our national and international development partners and government counterparts for their continued collaboration and trust.

As we move forward under our 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, the Board remains committed to providing oversight and strategic guidance that strengthens impact and safeguards the organisation's values. The challenges facing Malawi are significant, but so too is the determination of its people.

Together, we will continue to work steadily, responsibly and with purpose to advance empowerment, resilience and sustainable development.



Charlotte Danckert, Chairperson

Our 30 Years Journey

Advancing Community Development through Partnerships and Social Enterprise



Walking with Communities, Growing with Malawi.

Thirty years ago, DAPP Malawi began with a conviction that still guides us today: lasting change happens when people are trusted, equipped, and empowered to shape their own future. What started as a modest grassroots initiative has grown into one of Malawi's leading national development organisations, working across education, agriculture, health, humanitarian response, social enterprise, and Clothes and Shoes (C&S) initiatives.

This journey has been made possible through sustained collaboration with line ministries, as well as local and international partners, whose continued support, alignment with national priorities, and shared commitment have been central to DAPP Malawi's growth and impact. Across three decades, Malawi's development

landscape has shifted significantly.

Economic pressures, climate shocks, evolving policy priorities, and demographic changes have shaped both community realities and institutional responses. Through all these transitions, DAPP Malawi has remained consistent in its belief in people and in the strength of community-driven development.

From rural schools to farmers' fields, from vocational workshops to community health outreach, we have worked alongside communities rather than servicing them. Teachers trained through our colleges are now mentoring the next generation. Young people who passed through our vocational centres are running small businesses or are employed in businesses, contributing to local economies. Farmers organised in clubs are adopting climate-smart practices that protect both their livelihoods and their environment.





Families affected by floods and droughts have received not only emergency support but also assistance to rebuild with greater resilience.

This journey has been defined by partnership, learning, and steady growth.

Who We Are

DAPP Malawi is a people-centred development organisation rooted in collaboration with communities and national systems. Our vision is a society in which communities are sustainable and enjoy an improved quality of life. Our mission is to work with communities across Malawi to promote social and economic development through education and training, food security, health, environmental programmes, and resource mobilisation.

At the heart of our work is the people-to-people approach. We build capacity within individuals and institutions. We strengthen local leadership and community structures. We invest in sustaining structures that continue functioning long after project cycles end. Our role is not to replace communities or government systems, but to reinforce them.

Over time, this philosophy has shaped our network of Teacher Training Colleges, schools, vocational centres, Farmers' Clubs, community health initiatives, humanitarian response efforts, social enterprise operations, and C&S initiatives. It has also shaped our identity as a trusted national partner aligned with Malawi Vision 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.





Three Decades of Learning and Institutional Growth

Thirty years of work have brought important lessons. Development cannot be fragmented. Education must connect with livelihoods. Health must connect with nutrition and sanitation. Agriculture must connect with climate resilience and markets. Institutions must be financially sustainable to remain effective.

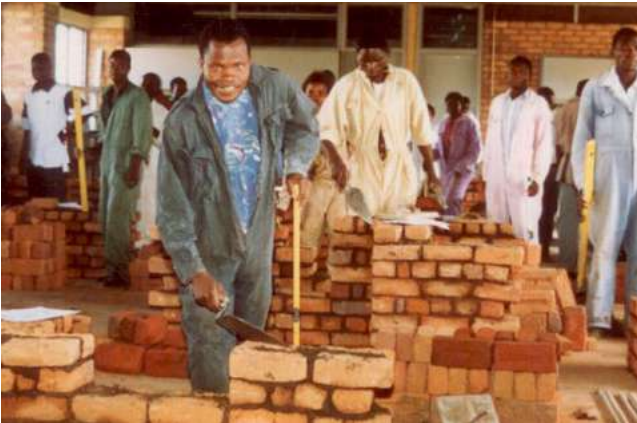
The 2021 to 2025 strategic period strengthened our systems, partnerships, and credibility. It reinforced the need for integrated programming, stronger digital monitoring systems, deeper social inclusion, and greater institutional sustainability.

It also underscored the importance of social enterprise initiatives such as Clothes and Shoes (C&S), which play a critical role in generating resources to support education particularly schools while contributing to job creation and environmental sustainability through recycling and reuse. These lessons now inform our direction as we move into the next phase.

As we look ahead, our 2026 to 2030 Strategic Plan provides a clear road map for consolidation and growth.

We will continue

strengthening education and skills development by investing in teacher training, early childhood development, schools, and vocational education to build strong human capital. We will deepen our work in agriculture, climate resilience, and food security, supporting smallholder farmers to increase productivity, adopt climate smart practices, and access markets. We will



Our Strategic Direction 2026 to 2030



expand health and well-being initiatives, focusing on integrated community based services and strengthened local health systems.

At the same time, we will enhance our humanitarian response capacity to ensure communities are better prepared for and supported during disasters. Institutional sustainability will remain a priority, with increased focus on social enterprise growth, including the expansion and strengthening of C&S initiatives, diversified income streams, sound governance, and improved efficiency.

Across all areas, we will prioritise social inclusion, ensuring women, youth, and persons with disabilities participate meaningfully in development processes. Climate resilience and digital innovation will be embedded across programmes to strengthen long-term impact.

Looking Ahead

Thirty years is both a milestone and a responsibility. It reflects trust built with communities, strong and consistent



collaboration with government institutions particularly line ministries as well as valued partnerships with local and international development actors. It also reflects systems refined through experience.

As we move toward 2030 and beyond, DAPP Malawi remains committed to empowering communities, strengthening resilience, and sustaining change. Guided by our vision and mission, and anchored in our belief in people we will continue walking with Malawi toward inclusive and sustainable development.



Key achievements in 2025



4.5+
Million people reached



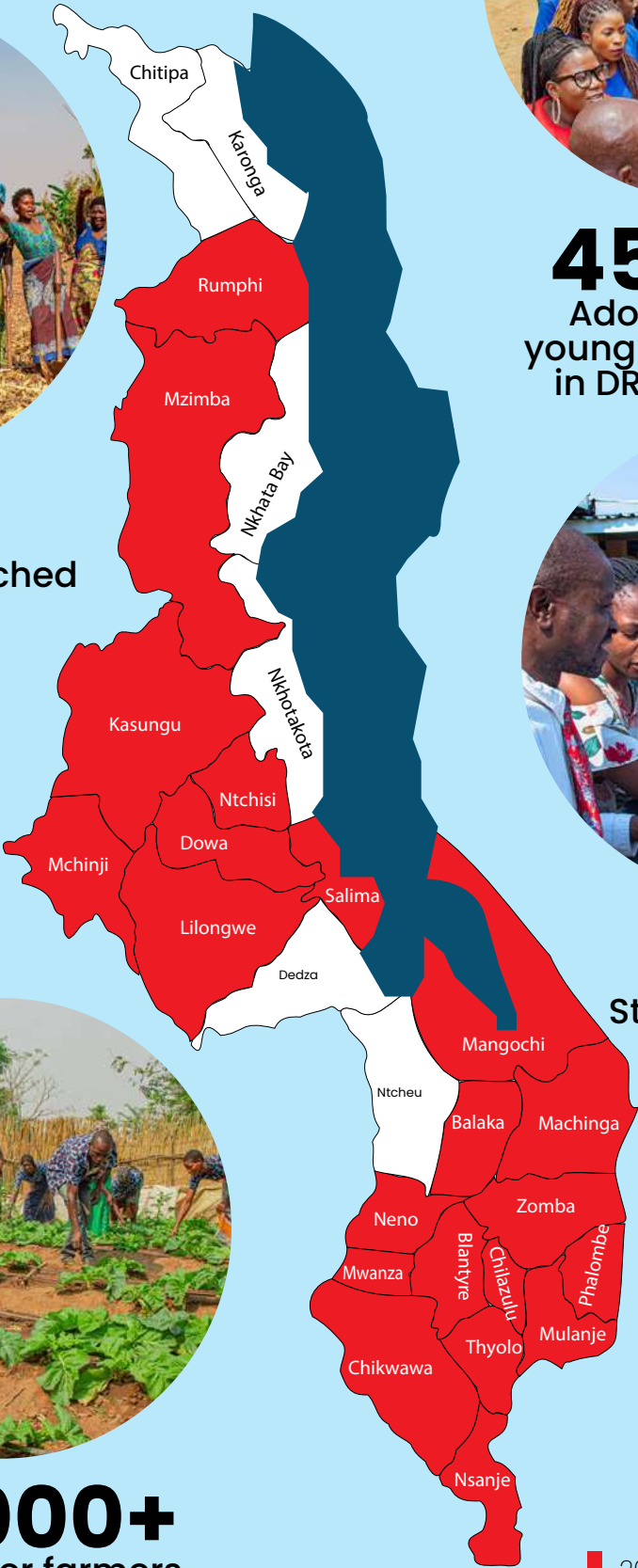
45,000+
Adolescent girls & young women enrolled in DREAMS Program



1900+
Students enrolled in DAPP institutions



65,000+
Smallholder farmers supported



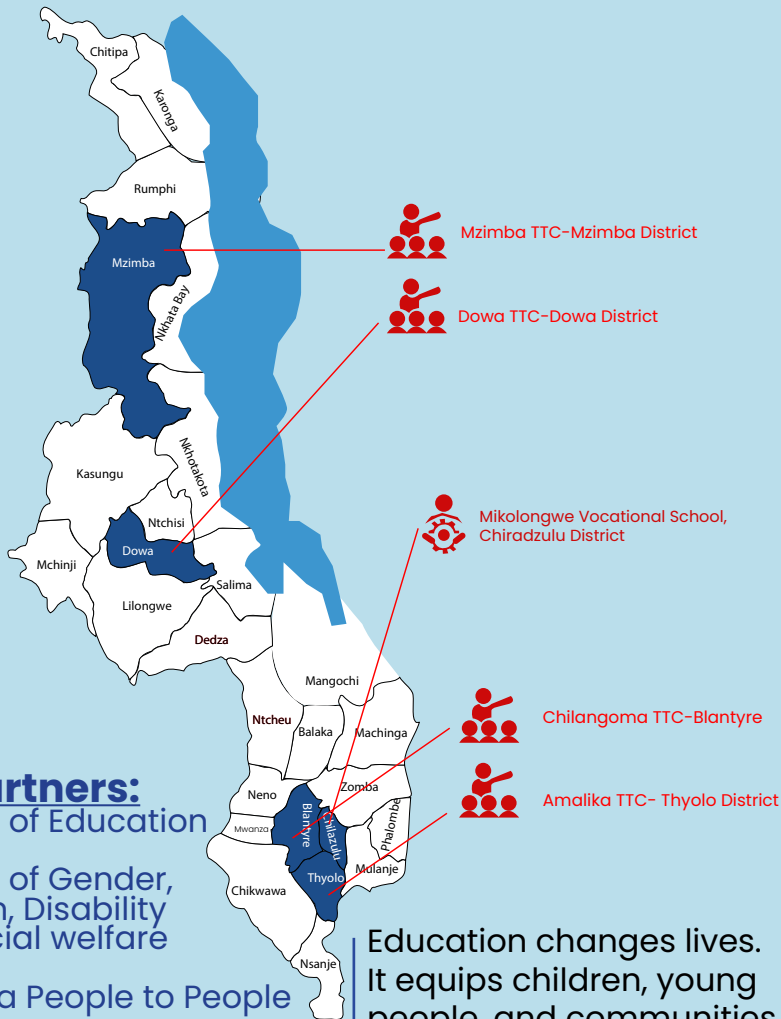
 2025 Districts of operations



Education

Igniting Minds, Changing Futures: Our education initiatives spark a passion for learning and provide students with practical life skills, nurturing self-reliance, and fostering community.

Our Education Projects



Partners:

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social welfare
- Humana People to People Partners
- TEVETA
- British Council
- GIZ
- The University of Malawi
- EU Via UNDP & Zantchito
- Alliance Bioversity CIAT
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Finland
- FEDOMA
- EU-Global Gateway via Enabel
- USAID Via Florida State University
- CFAO Motors
- United General Insurance (UGI)
- Chiesa Valdese
- City of Vienna

Education changes lives. It equips children, young people, and communities with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to shape their futures and contribute meaningfully to national development. As a fundamental human right and a key driver of sustainable development, quality education helps build resilient, productive, and inclusive societies.

Our education programmes support Malawi's development priorities under Malawi 2063, as well as the global commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 4. We focus on expanding access to inclusive and relevant learning opportunities while strengthening education quality and practical skills development.

For more than two decades, we have partnered with communities and national institutions to strengthen Malawi's education system. At our Mikolongwe Vocational School, young people gain hands-on vocational, life, entrepreneurial, and management skills that open pathways to employment and entrepreneurship.

Our four Teacher Training Colleges Chilangoma in Blantyre, Amalika in Thyolo, Dowa, and Mzimba prepare future primary school teachers. At the same time, our early childhood education initiatives help young learners begin their education journey with a strong foundation.

Our approach, guided by the educational principles of Humana People to People and aligned with the national curriculum, places learners at the centre of the learning process. Students and teachers engage in practical experiences, teamwork, and problem-solving that connects directly to real life challenges in their communities.

To date, more than 15,000 young people have completed vocational training, and over 4,500 primary school teachers have graduated from our Teacher Training Colleges. Behind each of these numbers are individuals who are contributing to stronger schools, improved livelihoods, and more resilient communities across Malawi.

Transforming Learning with the TRIO Method.



In 2025, DAPP Malawi introduced the TRIO method in 40 rural primary schools in Dowa District as part of the 'Upscaling Child Centred Teaching in Malawi' Project, funded by Enabel under the European Union's Regional Teachers' Initiative for Africa (RTIA) Facility Program. This initiative was inspired by the pedagogy and teaching methodology which has been practiced for 14 years in the DAPP Malawi 400 Primary School Program.

The TRIO method groups three learners of different abilities into "TRIOs" that collaborate on classroom tasks and continue learning together beyond school. When TRIOs join forces to form Clubs, learners build teamwork, problem-solving skills, and confidence.

The first year of the project focused on training 160 teachers, 40 head teachers, and

district leaders supported by coaching, Continuous Professional Developments (CPDs), and mentoring. Through this approach, 13,187 learners (6,137 boys and 7,050 girls) are now learning in an environment that is inclusive and collaborative. Students take ownership of their learning, completing tasks in TRIOs, sharing solutions with peers, and tracking their progress. Attendance, retention, and homework completion have improved, thanks to active support from parents and community members.

Today, the TRIO method is fully operational in all 40 schools, creating learning environments where every child is seen, supported, and empowered to succeed turning classrooms into spaces of discovery, collaboration, and hope.

Building A Brighter Future for Girls and Children with Disabilities



In the same Dowa District, we work closely with communities and partners towards ensuring that every child in the communities we target has the opportunity to learn and thrive. Through the 'Building a Brighter Future for Girls and Children with Disabilities' project, implemented in partnership with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland through UFF Finland and Disability Partnership Finland, and in collaboration with the Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA) we are supporting schools to become more inclusive and welcoming for all learners.

We work with 21 primary schools across the Boma, Mvera, and Kapita education zones. By strengthening the capacity of 210 teachers, we are helping 10,500 learners including children with disabilities engage more actively in school and benefit from supportive learning environments.

We also prioritise school hygiene and sanitation, helping create safe and dignified spaces that encourage attendance, particularly for girls and younger learners.

In 2025, our work included stakeholder orientations, a baseline survey, mobilisation of community volunteers, training in inclusive education, and advocacy efforts that supported the re-admission of girls and children with disabilities who had dropped out of school. Collectively, these efforts are contributing to the creation of learning environments where every child can succeed.



From Vocational Skills to Sustainable Livelihoods



Since 1997, DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School with support from the Malawi government and TEVET Authority has helped over 15,000 young Malawians turn potential into progress. In a country where unemployment limits opportunities for many, the school equips students with practical and entrepreneurial skills that go beyond survival. From welding and renewable energy to agribusiness and fashion design, graduates leave ready to create opportunities in communities where jobs are scarce.

In 2025, over 340 students were trained in formal courses and trades, while informal programs provided skills to youth who did not meet formal entry requirements, doing our part in ensuring no one is left behind. With support from the City of Vienna via Humana Austria, 100 young people with disabilities gained vocational skills thereby

strengthening inclusion and equal opportunity. In the same year through the Zantchito Access to Finance initiative, 31 youth-led businesses received incubation support, while our Business Acceleration for Youth (BA4Y) Project supported by Alliance Bioversity - CIAT strengthened 20 enterprises through grants, mentoring, and follow-up support.

In Mzimba District, with support from Chiesa Valdese via Humana Italy, 60 vulnerable girls completed vocational training under our school's satellite program.



Teachers with Heart and Purpose



Since 2012, DAPP Malawi has been nurturing a network of dedicated educators through the 400 Primary School Program, also known as the DAPP Graduated Teachers' Network. These teachers serve in public primary schools across Malawi and are helping in creation of inclusive and engaging learning environments whereby every child has the chance to thrive.

The teachers in the program act as a vital bridge between schools families, and communities. They lead initiatives that involve parents, school councils, and

learners, strengthening education at the local level. In classrooms facing high pupil-teacher ratios, the teachers use the TRIO method, grouping learners in threes to encourage active participation, peer discussion, and shared problem solving before teacher feedback.

In 2025, the network continued strengthening the use of subject elements when teaching, promoting climate action through tree planting, advancing school nutrition via practical agriculture projects, and training additional teachers in its child-centred pedagogy.

Today, the network supports over 200 teachers across 198 schools, fostering collaboration, strengthening skills, and inspiring better learning outcomes. Through their dedication, these teachers are turning classrooms into communities of learning and hope, where every child can grow, learn, and succeed.

Nurturing Young Minds, Strengthening Communities



In Malawi, every child deserves a strong start. The National Policy on Early Childhood Development (ECD) recognises that quality early learning from birth to eight years lays the foundation not only for individual growth, but for the well-being of entire communities.

For over 20 years, DAPP Malawi has been turning this vision into action through Community-Based Child Care Centres (CBCCs) pre-schools where children learn, play, and grow in safe, stimulating

environments. Working alongside local committees, caregivers, and volunteers, we ensure these centres are community owned, sustainable, and responsive to children's needs.

In 2025, we reached over 80 ECD centres around our four Teacher Training Colleges. Together with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social welfare, we trained and mentored caregivers, helping them bring engaging and child centred learning into classrooms. Parents and community members contributed by building playgrounds from locally available materials, creating school feeding gardens to improve nutrition, and supporting creative activities that nurture curiosity, confidence, and early learning skills.

Through these combined efforts, DAPP Malawi is not only preparing children for school, but also strengthening families and communities, planting seeds for a brighter future for all.

Training Teachers, Transforming Communities



In rural Malawi, overcrowded classrooms and teacher shortages continue to limit children's opportunities to learn and thrive. Through our Teacher Training Program, we are turning these challenges into opportunities by preparing our teachers to get ready in supporting children especially those in rural areas to reach their full potential while working closely with the communities they serve.

For over 20 years, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, we have trained more than 4,500 teachers to serve in rural and hard-to-reach areas. These educators are mentors, role models, and community leaders who are committed to strengthening schools, inspiring learners, and uplifting entire villages.

At our four Teacher Training Colleges; Chilangoma, Amalika, Dowa, and Mzimba, student teachers are trained to go beyond textbooks. They create inclusive, participatory learning environments where curiosity and collaboration thrives, while

connecting lessons to real life experiences. Our teacher training program also includes community engagement, school leadership, environmental conservation, entrepreneurship, and digital literacy, equipping the upcoming educators to respond to local challenges such as food security and sustainable development.

Our student teachers live and work with the communities they serve, demonstrating that education is deeply connected to daily life. The students graduate not as traditional teachers, but also mentors, farmers, environmental stewards, and advocates; transforming schools into hubs of hope where learning uplifts entire communities. Together, we are nurturing a generation of leaders who do more than fill classrooms; they build resilient, thriving communities, one student, one school, one village at a time.

Testimonials



"For 13 years, my neurological disability kept me out of school but the opportunity given me by DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School through the I CAN Project supported by the City of Vienna and Humana Austria opened a new path. I am proud to stand today as a tailor, grateful for this life changing support."

Elube Malefula – Former DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School Student



Blessings Chikapa

*Former Student Teacher,
DAPP Chilangoma Team
2023*

"Attending the DAPP Malawi Teacher Training Program has completely transformed me. I have learned how to engage every child in the classroom, make lessons more interactive, and foster a love for learning."



Joseph Banda

*Khungulu Primary School
Student*

"In my TRIO, we help each other understand the lessons. I feel proud when we solve a problem together and see it on the board."



Thomas Chitenga

*400 Primary School
Program Participant*

"Through the DAPP 400 Primary School Program, I have gained skills and confidence that have completely changed my classroom. I am no longer limited by challenges; now I teach with purpose, creativity, and confidence."

Key figures under Education

950+

Trained under technical
& vocational skills and
business incubation



1,400+

Student Teachers
undergoing training

51,000+

Students around DAPP
TTCs benefitting

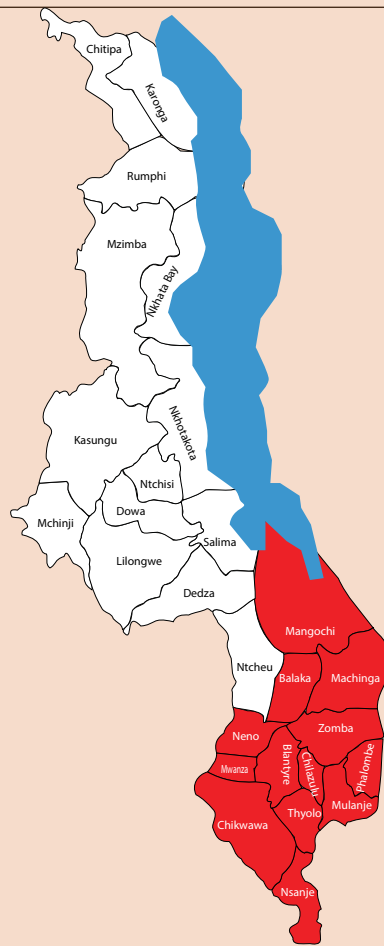




Health

Our health program begin with people and not with the disease. Positive health outcomes rely on people living well, building and maintaining good health in their communities.

Introduction



Our Health Projects



Total Control of Epidemic: (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, Aids-Free, Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) Program. Blantyre and Chiradzulu Districts)



Total Control of Epidemic: Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) Project and the TB Global Fund Project. 13 Districts in Southern Region.

Partners:

- Ministry of Health
- National TB & Leprosy Elimination Program
- National Malaria Control Program
- PEPFAR Via CDC
- The Global Fund Via World Vision
- Humana People to People Partners
- USAID
- USAID Via Health Services
- EU via Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe

Health remains a central pillar in advancing wellbeing, dignity and sustainable development in Malawi. While progress has been made in addressing communicable diseases, persistent public health challenges remain, particularly in the Southern Region where tuberculosis continues to be widespread and Adolescent Girls and Young Women face heightened vulnerability to HIV infection.

Tuberculosis remains a major public health concern. Delayed diagnosis, stigma, limited awareness and barriers to accessing services continue to affect timely case detection and treatment adherence. At the same time, Adolescent Girls and Young Women aged 15 to 29 face disproportionate

risks of HIV infection, gender based violence, unintended pregnancies, school dropout, harmful gender norms and economic vulnerability, particularly in high burden districts such as Balaka, Chikwawa, Blantyre and Chiradzulu where we implement targeted HIV prevention and DREAMS interventions. These overlapping risks require integrated approaches that strengthen health systems, enhance community resilience and place young women at the centre of prevention efforts.

In response, we implement three complementary programmes that address tuberculosis, HIV prevention and the structural drivers of vulnerability. Through these initiatives, we combine biomedical services, behaviour change communication, economic empowerment and strong community engagement to improve health outcomes across Southern Malawi.

Expanding Community Based HIV Prevention



In Balaka and Chikwawa districts, we are working alongside adolescent girls and young women to reduce their risk of HIV and support them to lead healthier, more confident lives. With support from the Global Fund through World Vision Malawi, we provide youth-friendly, community based HIV and sexual and reproductive health services for girls aged 15–29 and their male partners.

In 2025, we reached 12,938 girls aged 15–24 and 3,035 young women aged 25–29, creating more opportunities for them to access information and services that protect their health. A total of 6,722 girls were tested for HIV, with those testing positive supported and linked to care. We also supported 12,657 girls and their partners to start PrEP, and 5,981 male partners were referred for voluntary medical male circumcision. In total, over 20,000 girls received comprehensive prevention services, including counselling, STI screening, condoms, and support on gender-based violence.

Our work goes beyond health services. We create safe spaces where girls can connect, learn, and support one another through peer-led clubs, community outreach, and

hotspot clinics. These spaces help build confidence, reduce stigma, and encourage positive engagement from boys and men.

Through these efforts, we are seeing more young women making informed choices, protecting their health, and building hope for a safer and brighter future.

Finding TB Cases Early and Ensuring No One Is Left Behind

Through the Total Control of the Epidemic TB Project, we work hand in hand with communities and the Ministry of Health to strengthen community-based TB detection and care across 13 districts in Southern Malawi.

Between January and December 2025, we focused on finding TB cases earlier and ensuring that people could access care closer to home. With the dedication of 270 trained community volunteers, we carried out door-to-door screenings, helping individuals recognise symptoms, get tested, and begin treatment. Together, these efforts led to the identification of 1,354 TB cases, exceeding our annual target. Importantly, around 70% of cases were detected through community sputum collection points, highlighting how decentralised services are making a real difference for people in hard-to-reach areas.

People remain at the centre of this work. We trained 62 TB survivors as community champions, who now walk alongside others on their treatment journey—offering encouragement, reducing stigma, and helping communities better understand TB.

Empowering Girls and Young Women to Lead the Fight Against HIV



Through the DREAMS Project LoLa, we are supporting adolescent girls and young women in Blantyre District and Chiradzulu District to take control of their health and their futures.

In 2025, 43,300 girls joined DREAMS Clubs safe and supportive spaces where they can learn, share, and grow. Through these clubs, girls accessed HIV and sexual and reproductive health education, HIV testing services, self-test kits, PrEP, and referrals for treatment where needed. These services are helping girls make informed choices and protect themselves from HIV.

We also placed strong emphasis on building confidence and preventing gender-based violence. Through the empower programme, girls and boys gained assertiveness skills, self defence techniques, and more equitable attitudes. At the same time, we worked with communities to strengthen reporting systems and support for survivors, helping create safer environments for young people.

Recognising that economic vulnerability increases HIV risk, we supported girls

through the SIYAKHA model. Many completed vocational training in trades such as tailoring, cosmetology, welding, and hospitality while thousands joined village savings and loans groups to build financial skills and resilience.

Education remains a powerful protective factor. More than 3,700 girls received school fees and learning materials, helping them stay in school and perform better. By supporting both in-school and out-of-school girls, we are reducing exposure to risks such as early marriage and transactional sex.

By the end of 2025, we had strengthened HIV prevention, improved economic resilience, supported girls' education and increased community awareness of gender-based violence demonstrating the impact of a comprehensive, girl-centred approach that empowers young women to lead change in their own lives and communities.

Testimonials



Dr Olivier Mapan

*Hospital In-Charge,
St. Montfort Hospital,
Nchalo, Chikwawa*

"Community Sputum Collection Point volunteers are helping bring TB services closer to communities. This is leading to more people coming for testing and improving early detection and treatment."

Key Figures Achieved in 2025

1,686+

Individuals reached under
Tuberculosis detection
and community response



81,435+

Cumulative engagements
under HIV prevention and
SRHR services



47,000+

AGYW supported under
Education and economic
strengthening for HIV
prevention



Lucia Nsangatale,

TB Survivor, Chikwawa

"I had been coughing for some time but did not know it could be TB. After the Community Sputum Collection Point volunteers explained the symptoms and encouraged me to go for testing, which I did and got help. I am grateful they came to our village because it helped me seek treatment early."



Maria Kadula,

*Chairperson, Mtchembere 2
Girls Club*

"Before joining the club, we lacked knowledge on sexual and reproductive health. Now we understand family planning, HIV prevention and how to make informed decisions."



Stella Mzumala,

Peer Educator, DAPP Malawi

"We support girls with HIV testing, STI screening and condoms while guiding them on gender-based violence and safe motherhood."

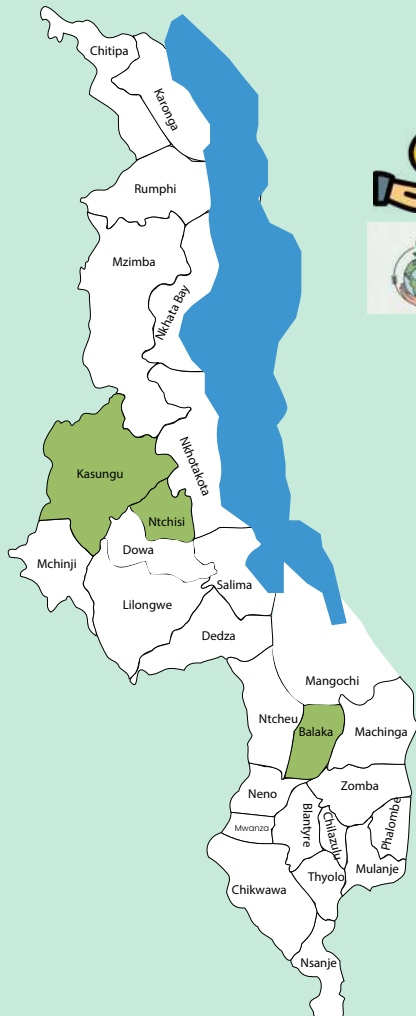


Agriculture

**Strengthening Malawi's farmers through
Farmers' Clubs: Cultivating Stronger
Communities, nurturing healthier crops, and
safeguarding our environment together**

Introduction

Our Farmers' Clubs Programme



Partners:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Department of Disaster Management Affairs
- Humana People to People Partners
- Commonwealth via Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC)
- IFAD via Ministry of Finance
- IFAD via Local Government
- Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)



Farmers' Clubs – Balaka (SAMIS Project)

Farmers' Clubs – Ntchisi and Kasungu (TRADE Project)

At DAPP Malawi, working in collaboration with strategic partners, we support small holder farmers to improve productivity, resilience and incomes, while enabling them to participate meaningfully in organised markets. Through initiatives such as the Sustainable Agriculture for More income among Small holders (SAMIS) project and the Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship (TRADE) programme, we are creating coherent pathway from climate smart production to value addition, entrepreneurship and market engagement.

Through SAMIS, we strengthen farmers' capacity to adopt sustainable and climate resilient agricultural practices using the Humana People to People pedagogy. This approach promotes collective learning, hands on practice and strong community engagement. Farmers work together to test new approaches, reflect on results and build the confidence to manage their farms, natural resources and livelihoods more sustainably.

Building on this foundation, through the TRADE programme, we support farmers and rural entrepreneurs to move beyond subsistence production into structured value chains. By strengthening Agriculture remains the backbone of rural livelihoods in Malawi, providing food, income and employment for the majority of households. However, smallholder farmers continue to face interconnected challenges related to climate change, low productivity, limited market access and weak participation in value chains. Addressing these challenges requires integrated, people-centred approaches that strengthen both sustainable production and inclusive market systems.

producer organisations, fostering private sector partnerships and promoting entrepreneurship, we improve aggregation, product quality and fair access to markets in soybean, groundnuts and sunflower value chains.

Together, these initiatives place people at the centre of development—strengthening skills, organisation and ownership while promoting inclusion, resilience and long-term rural transformation.

Expanding Market Access and Strengthening Rural Enterprise



Through the TRADE programme, we are supporting smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs to transition from subsistence production to active participation in structured agricultural markets.

In 2025, we implemented this programme in Chikwatula, Kalira, Malomo and Chulu Extension Planning Areas across Ntchisi and Kasungu districts, reaching 43,860 farmers and entrepreneurs.

We strengthened soybean, groundnuts and sunflower value chains by organising and supporting farmer groups and cooperatives. Through these efforts, farmers are engaging in aggregation, improving product quality and participating in collective marketing, thereby enhancing their access to formal markets.

Entrepreneurship development remains central to our approach. We equip farmers and rural entrepreneurs with skills in business

management, value addition and market analysis, enabling them to diversify into processing, storage and aggregation services.

These interventions are creating new income opportunities and strengthening household economic resilience.

We also promote inclusive participation by ensuring that women and youth are actively represented in producer organisations and leadership structures. By strengthening market linkages, entrepreneurship and collective action, we are contributing to strong value chains, improved incomes and inclusive rural economic growth.



Through our work under the SAMIS project, we strengthened climate-resilient farming systems among smallholder farmers in Traditional Authorities Chanthunya and Phalula in Balaka District. In 2025, we reached 37,500 smallholder farmers with practical training in climate-smart agriculture, soil conservation, agroforestry and small-scale irrigation adapted to dry conditions.

We established and supported farmer-managed demonstration plots as practical learning spaces where farmers test improved practices, exchange knowledge and learn from one another. Through this approach, we are supporting farmers to build more reliable production systems and reduce their vulnerability to erratic rainfall and soil degradation.

To improve food and nutrition security, we promoted integrated backyard gardens and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. As a result, 15,125 households established or improved backyard gardens and strengthened their knowledge in food processing and dietary diversification, contributing to healthier and more resilient households. We place strong emphasis on inclusion by promoting



equitable participation and representation of women, men, youth and vulnerable groups across all interventions. In addition, we support community land governance structures to strengthen land management, reduce conflicts and safeguard the rights of all community members, particularly vulnerable populations.

By the end of 2025, we had contributed to improved productivity, strengthened livelihoods and increased resilience among farming households in Balaka District, demonstrating the value of collective learning and people-centred agricultural development.

Testimonials



“Before the TRADE project, farming was very challenging for my household. Through the climate-smart practices we learned, I now use manure from my backyard garden, grow vegetables and diversify into crops like soybeans. I am also saving money through village savings groups and selling surplus produce locally. These changes have helped me improve food security and income for my family.”

Judith Chunga, Smallholder Farmer, Kalira EPA, Ntchisi District



Supply Tambala,

Smallholder Farmer, Ntchisi District

“The project has helped us understand the importance of crop diversification and improved farming practices. By adopting better legume production methods and working collectively, we are increasing yields and reducing losses. These innovations are helping us improve incomes and cope better with climate challenges.”



Jacqueline Katundu,

Member, Mwayiwathu Farmers Club, T/A Chanthunya, Balaka District

“We no longer farm the old way. Through the SAMIS project, we now plan our farming activities, follow seasonal calendars and use practices like composting and mulching. Farming has become more strategic. When we sell our maize collectively, the proceeds are shared among members and reinvested in group activities, ensuring that everyone in the club benefits.”



Chimwemwe Mukove,

Member, M'bwemba Farmers Club, T/A Phalula, Balaka District

“Before the project, we had limited knowledge of vegetable production. Now we are able to establish nurseries, apply compost, manage pests using organic methods and keep farm records. Despite ongoing water challenges, these practices are helping us sustain production and gradually improve our harvests.”

Key Figures Achieved in 2025



15,000+

Households with improved food and nutrition security through backyard gardens



38,000+

Smallholder farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture



40,000+

Farmers and entrepreneurs linked to structured agricultural markets



43,800+

Households reporting increased income
(proxy based on programme reach)



Humanitarian Aid

Aid is not just about providing sustenance; it is about restoring hope, rebuilding communities, and inspiring individuals to rise above adversity.

Our Humanitarian Work

Our humanitarian work stands alongside government and affected communities to protect lives, dignity and well-being when disaster strikes. Working hand in hand with local authorities and in coordination with fellow humanitarian actors, we respond to needs identified through close consultation with the communities themselves and the Department of Disaster ensuring that we contribute to the needed assistance.

Over the years, we have supported communities affected by floods, drought and other emergencies with

essential relief items and community led recovery initiatives helping families regain stability and rebuild with hope.

Our response combines immediate, life-saving assistance and then early recovery actions.

From the outset, we help communities move beyond relief towards self-sustained recovery and resilience, laying the foundation for stronger, safer futures in the aftermath of crisis.





Sale of Second Hand Clothes and Shoes

The reuse of clothing reduces waste and supports sustainable fashion practices. In a global context where fast fashion contributes significantly to environmental degradation, second-hand clothes provide a greener alternative.

Re-use Today for a Better Tomorrow!



Despite Malawi's challenging economic environment in 2025, our affordable second-hand clothes and shoes continued to uplift lives. With most Malawians living on modest incomes, second hand apparel remains a practical choice. We provide diverse, good-quality, budget friendly and fashionable 'Kaunjika' options, making sustainable fashion accessible to those who might otherwise struggle to buy new clothing.

The second-hand clothing market plays a vital role in job creation, sustaining livelihoods across the supply chain, from sorting and distribution to retail. With 18 retail shops, 12 wholesale outlets and one sorting centre nationwide, we offer formal employment to over 400 Malawians. In addition, 28,000 informal jobs have grown through sales

activities. Many entrepreneurs start small businesses by selling second hand clothes in local markets, strengthening local economies and nurturing a culture of self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

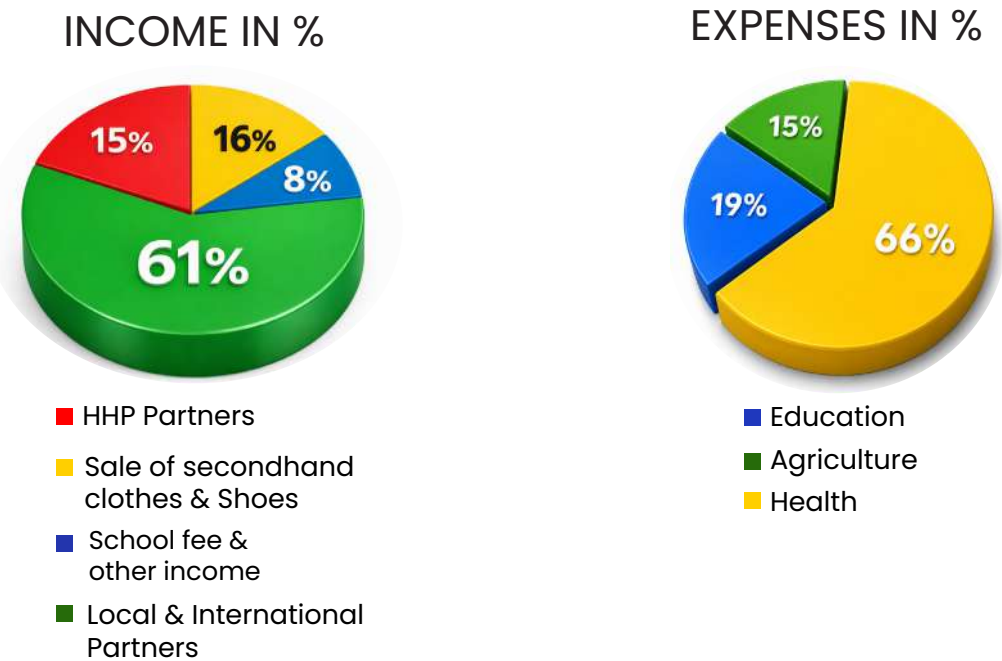
Reusing clothing reduces textile waste and advances sustainable fashion practices. Second-hand apparel provides an eco-friendly alternative. By extending garment lifespans, the market conserves valuable resources such as water, energy and raw materials otherwise used in new production, lowering carbon emissions. In this way, it supports a circular economy, making fashion more sustainable and environmentally responsible.



Accountability

Our initiatives are funded by different partners and stakeholders, and we remain deeply committed to utilizing the resources with maximum efficiency and impact to advance our mission.

Upholding standards of financial transparency and accountability, we ensure every contribution directly aligns with our strategic objectives. In 2025, we used US\$11 million, including proceeds from our second-hand clothing and shoes sales, which was allocated to drive meaningful outcomes, as detailed below.



Good Governance

DAPP Malawi has been certified through an external audit by ACPO SA of Switzerland for governance policies, procedures, and their implementation, using the NGO Governance Benchmark by NGO Governance Standards SA of Geneva, Switzerland. The standard was developed by Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) to provide non-governmental organisations with a management tool designed to highlight their key strengths and weaknesses in their operations.

It targets three main objectives: 1) demonstrate evidence of accountability, 2) strengthen trust with their donors, and 3) identify areas for improvement to enhance operational efficiency.

Our organisation had its first certification in 2021 by SGS, renewed in 2024 by ACPO SA.



Our 2025 Partners



Member of Humana People to People

DAPP Malawi is a member of the Federation for Associations connected to the International Humana People to People Movement. It comprises 30 independent national member associations.

We are united in our purpose: to tackle the most pressing social, economic, environmental and humanitarian challenges in the world. The Federation supports its members in delivering critical on-the-ground programs across Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. This support covers programme development, project management and operations, financial management assistance, and help to advance our shared agenda and build influence through key relationships and partnerships.

The activities of the Humana People to People movement are aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda as well as national and

continental development strategies.

Together with the people in the communities and our numerous partners, we continue to stand by countries as they strive to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, creating lasting positive change in the process.





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