



Heifer International

Heifer International is a global development organization on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. Working with farmers and their communities to identify and invest in business opportunities that deliver living incomes, Heifer International creates solutions to local challenges designed to build inclusive, resilient economies. Since launching in 1944, Heifer International has assisted more than 35 million people, with millions more now on a pathway to living incomes.



Heifer Malawi

In 2006, Heifer International started work in Malawi, providing technical assistance to farmers focused on livestock management and crop production. Farmers receive support to develop and scale agribusinesses through access to finance, using climate-smart agricultural techniques to build resilience. To date, Heifer Malawi has supported 685,000 families to diversify their incomes and diets. Families are adopting environmentally-friendly practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, energy efficient stoves, efficient irrigation and compost manure application. Gender inclusion training is helping to strengthen social capital within communities and HIV/AIDS awareness training enables community members to spot symptoms and get access to treatment faster. Heifer Malawi has installed solar-powered milk chilling tanks to enable local dairy farmers that live off the grid to access formal markets and works with cooperatives to support farmers to sell in bulk and meet bigger orders. Clean water wells and pumps have been installed in communities to improve hygiene and sanitation. Farmers are developing their business skills and organizing into groups connected to the crop, dairy, goat and poultry value chains. Working alongside partner organizations such as Shire Highlands Milk Producers Association, Water Access Malawi and Vision Fund Malawi, Heifer Malawi is implementing projects that enable farmers to build sustainable livelihoods.



■ Active Projects
■ Past Projects



Dairy



Legumes



Poultry

**Women Integrating Nutrition in
the Dairy Value Chain (WINDVC)
(2017-2020)**

**Total Value:
\$424,573**

This project is being implemented in Thyolo, supporting 1,000 women-led households to improve their livelihoods through dairy production. Project participants will increase their incomes, improve their health, nutrition and food security, and build resilience to climate change. Heifer Malawi is assisting farmers in self-help groups to strengthen their organizational and managerial capacities and train in business management. Through savings and loans groups, farmers are accessing finance at lower rates and investing in their businesses. Farmers are being linked to service providers to support their businesses and are working with processors, input service providers and milk bulking groups. Improved milk handling, high-quality fodder such as Napier grass and improved animal husbandry practices have increased milk production. Artificial insemination services have helped improve animal genetics, resulting in increased milk production. The project has successfully drilled and installed four water points in four communities, serving about 1,200 households. Families are receiving training on water point management and sanitation. Personal and environmental hygiene has improved through access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene training.

**Water Access, Sanitation
and Hygiene Project
(2018-2020)**

**Donors include:
Water4**

**Total Value:
\$148,426**

Heifer Malawi worked with Water Access, a local partner of Water4, to implement this project in the western part of Lilongwe, providing sustainable and cost-effective water access solutions to 51,975 families. The project engaged cooperatives and communities previously supported by Heifer Malawi, installing hand pumps at water wells, distributing vegetable packs and providing sanitation and hygiene training. All families gained reliable access to potable water via 17 new wells drilled during the project period. Water Access maintained water points on a monthly basis under individual agreements with communities. By the end of the project, all families had access to irrigation and most had set up backyard gardens, increasing vegetable consumption and reducing the amount of time and money spent buying vegetables from local markets. Group learning days were held, providing families with opportunities to increase skills and awareness in food processing, food preparation and healthy eating.

**Sustainable Agriculture Lead
Farmer Program (SALFP)
(2014-2020)**

**Donors include:
Development Fund
of Norway**

**Total Value:
\$1 million**

This project, implemented in Lilongwe, worked with 24,084 families to improve food security and resilience to climate change. Project participants included people living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS. Farmers built their production capacity, marketing and business management, and formed savings and loans groups, through which they accessed finance to scale their businesses. The project strengthened local structures such as district councils and engaged in policy and advocacy work to ensure the continuation of project interventions. Heifer Malawi provided farmers with resources such as livestock, treadle pumps, pushbikes and vegetable seeds, as well as fruit and agroforestry trees. It used the Lead Farmer approach as a starting point for all interventions with the intention of filling gaps in agricultural extension services. The introduction of irrigation technologies and seeds enabled farmers to increase production by 0.31 metric tons per hectare. With the increased yields, families can afford three meals per day. Families have also used livestock to improve nutrition status and now have access to protein from chicken meat, eggs and milk. They are also growing legumes to meet market demand. The percentage of women with control over their productive assets increased from 40% to 95% in the course of the project.