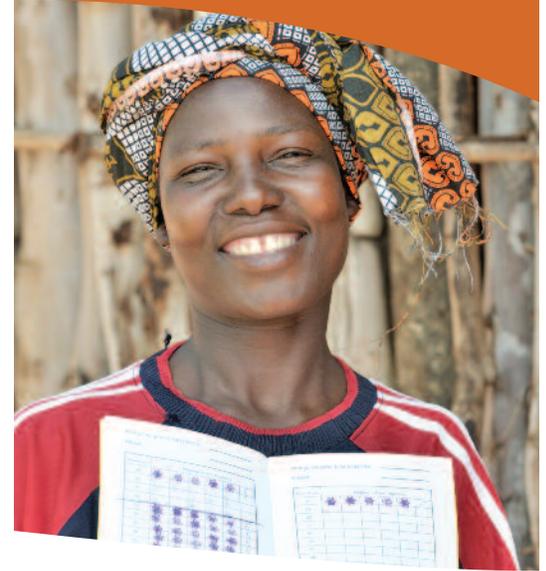
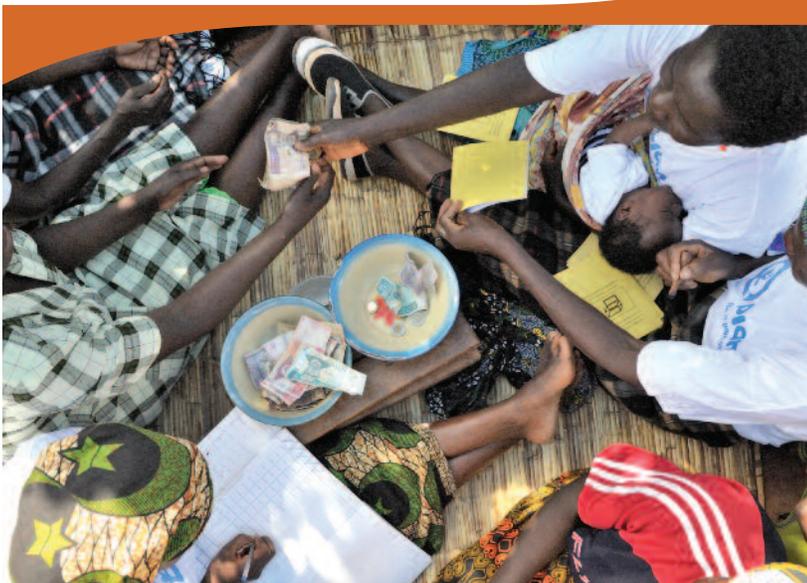


Building Sustainable Livelihoods



Hunger, climate change, gender inequality and health issues undermine efforts to eliminate poverty in Malawi. PWS&D is working to ensure 50,000 of the most vulnerable members of society gain the ability to earn an income and support themselves over the long-term. By investing in holistic community development, together we can respond to these needs and help people build sustainable livelihoods.

With support from Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Presbyterian World Service & Development is reaching out to men, women, children and youth living in poverty to create opportunities for the future. Support for the “Building Sustainable Livelihoods” program helps the most vulnerable – including women, girls, and youth affected by HIV and AIDS – overcome complex obstacles to development through education, vocational training, and by promoting gender equality and healthy living practices.



Learning and Earning a Way out of Poverty

Through the sustainable livelihoods program, men, women and youth in Malawi are learning in-demand vocational skills to help them find employment and start small businesses, in order to better support their families. With training in mechanics, carpentry, bricklaying and tailoring, disadvantaged youth are empowered to take responsibility for their futures and become self-supporting. In rural areas, livelihoods are being improved through

training in agriculture techniques that increase land productivity and reduce vulnerability to drought. When families are able to earn more and have enough to eat, they can afford to send their children to school, invest in their homes and build better lives free from poverty.

Self-Help Groups Support Empowerment

In support of these new skills, self-help groups are being formed. Together, groups of 15-20 (usually women) support each other as they save and lend amongst themselves in order to turn small loans into promising futures. Through the sustainable livelihoods program, members of self-help groups learn important entrepreneurial skills, such as business management and planning, and bookkeeping, which are necessary to begin successful ventures. Self-help groups will then pass on the knowledge they have gained to other groups, benefitting the whole community.

Promoting Gender Equality

Gender equality is a pillar of the sustainable livelihoods program. By specifically targeting females for participation in the sustainable livelihoods program, PWS&D is working to reduce the inequalities that exist between women and men and help women become agents of change in their communities. Women and girls are encouraged to train in what are traditionally seen as men's careers in order to gain access to occupations with higher earning potential. The program also makes deliberate efforts to ensure girls are able to complete their education.

Building Healthy Communities

Many factors determine a person's ability to earn a livelihood including their health. When people are ill or malnourished, their ability to work,

earn an income and care for children is greatly diminished. To strengthen the livelihood potential of families, local partners are working to teach communities about basic health, hygiene and nutrition in order to address health issues. Outreach clinics and community volunteers ensure pregnant women and mothers have access to health services, and that people with HIV and AIDS receive care. With this support, we are helping build healthier communities and enabling people to become active participants in their own development.

