



MALAWI

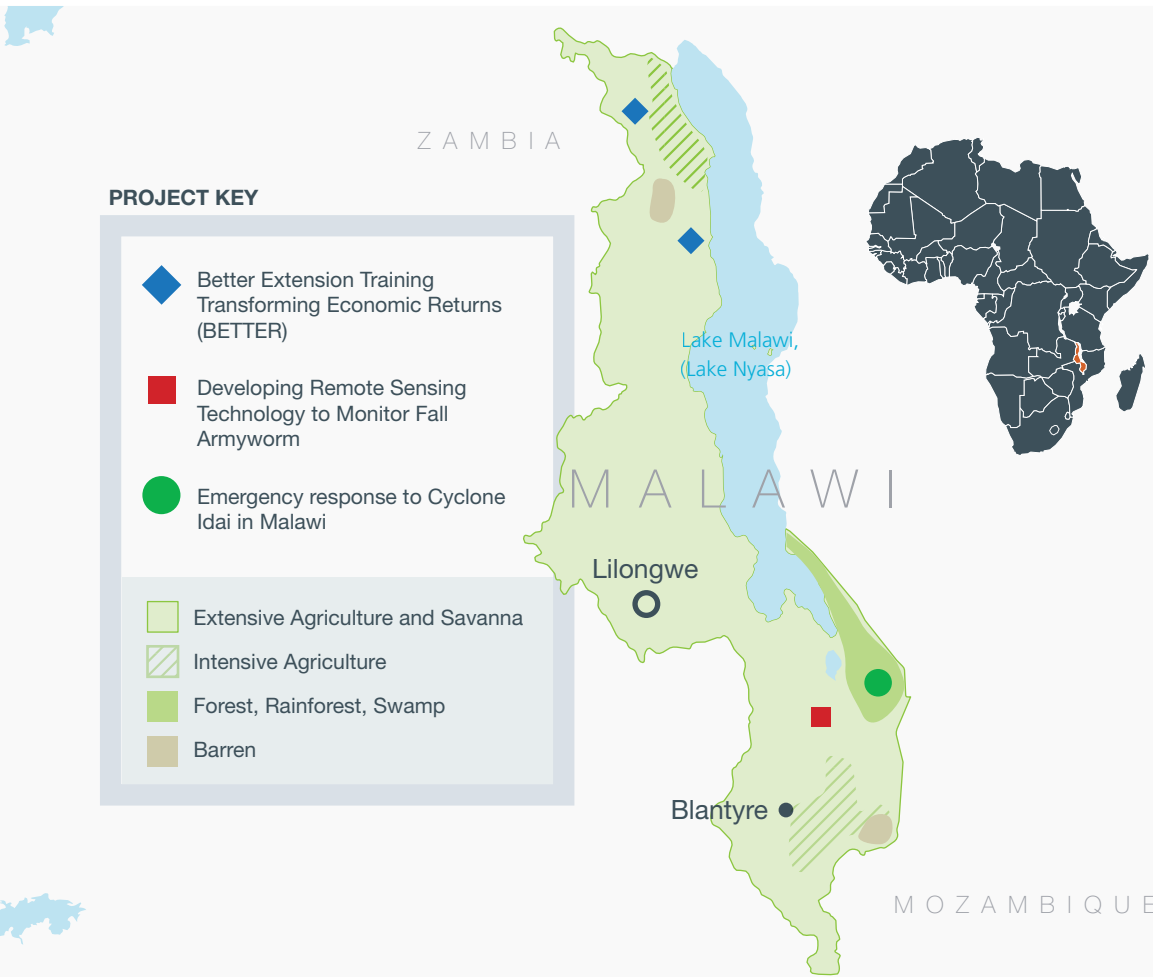
COUNTRY PROFILE

2019



Nellie Mohango, Magamira Village, Malawi.

Self Help Africa directly implements projects in Malawi. The overall programme goal, to support smallholder farming communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods, is in line with the Malawi government’s current Growth and Development Strategy II.



Agnes Richardson, Phiranjuzi, Malawi.

	Programme	Donor	Total Budget	Time Frame	Implementing Partner	Programme Area
01	Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Return (BETTER)	European Commission	€ 14,697,478	2018 ▼ 2022	ActionAid, ADRA, Plan International, and Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM)	Chitipa, Karonga, Mzimba, Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota, Kasungu, Salima, Mulanje, Chiradzulu and Thyolo Districts.
02	Developing Remote Sensing Technology to Monitor Fall Armyworm	World Bank, The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)	€ 127,000	2018 ▼ 2020	Malawi Ministry of Agriculture, Orbas Consulting, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering	Balaka Dsistrict
03	Emergency response to Cyclone Idai in Malawi	SHA	€ 40,000	2019	GOAL	Machinga Dsistrict

Objective: To increase resilience, food, nutrition, and income security of 402,000 smallholder farmers through sustainable agricultural growth in Malawi.

Smallholders produce approximately 80% of Malawi's food, and most of the population of rural Malawi are dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

The food situation in Malawi has been worsened by El Niño, which heavily affected the 2015-16 agricultural season. Maize is the most significant crop for food security, but recent outputs have been well below the amount required to meet national needs, underlining the need for crop diversification. Up to 40% of the population of Malawi live with the threat of food-insecurity, with estimates in 2017 suggesting that 6.7 million people would not be able to meet their food requirements that year.

Female smallholders are especially vulnerable to food insecurity due to their unequal access to land and credit and their disproportionate burden of labour.

The European Union-funded Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Return (BETTER) project is a collaboration between Self Help Africa, ActionAid Malawi, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Plan International UK and the Evangelical Association of Malawi.

Crop diversification and improved adoption of alternative crops has been one of the government of Malawi's key strategies to achieving food and income security. Malawi depends mainly on maize and tobacco for food and income security.

SHA are undertaking a number of activities to build capacity among smallholder farmers to increase production and efficiency.

These include: supporting Farmer Field school groups to promote sustainable agricultural practices, including conservation agriculture and soil and water conservation; promoting the adoption of legume and small-scale vegetable production including backyard gardening, integrating nutrition training and appropriate small-scale irrigation technologies; and training of smallholder farmers on diversification of crops, including early maturing varieties, drought and flood tolerant crops.

A key constraint for many farmers is access to information to guide their production decisions. Improved agricultural extension services provide farmers with the information that they need to address their challenges and to exploit opportunities. They are important to enable Malawi's farmers to significantly raise their productivity levels through sustainable agricultural practices.

Self Help Africa is also adopting new technologies to make farming more efficient. To achieve this, farmers are being organised into Farmer Field School groups. These groups involve farmer-led research to document and share best practices, training farmers in data collection and record management, linking farmer groups to mobile phone-based information services on sustainable agricultural methodologies, and developing community Early Warning Systems (EWS) in flood and drought-prone areas.

These actions have been designed to contribute to improving agricultural productivity in the targeted 10 KULIMA districts by improving capacity of smallholder farmers to farm in a more effective manner, thus reducing their vulnerability to shocks.

- **402,000 smallholder farmers** (including 241,201 women)

THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS:

- **13,000 Farmer Field Schools** will be created to provide training and promote new crops and climate-smart farming methods.
- **400,000 families** will be trained using a network of community-based field schools.
- The project will intervene in **10** of Malawi's 28 national districts.



Maize infected by Fall Armyworm, Malawi.

02 DEVELOPING REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY TO MONITOR FALL ARMYWORM

Objective: To contribute to the solution of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) problem by developing a tool for the detection of its hotspots.

Food security in Malawi has been worsened by the increasing prevalence of pests and diseases, including the emergence of the FAW affecting over 600,000 smallholder farmers.

The emergence of the FAW across Malawi and sub-Saharan Africa poses a critical continuous and recurrent threat to smallholder farmers across the continent.

The Developing Remote Sensing Technology to Monitor Fall Armyworm is being delivered by an innovative collaboration between: Self Help Africa, University College Dublin, and Orbas with the support of the relevant local government district authorities in Balaka district in Malawi.

The aim of the project is to create a model to detect and monitor Fall Armyworm outbreaks and severity.

This model will then be developed into a software tool to help public institutions, NGOs and commercial farmers to maximise the benefits of insecticide, manage yield losses, and adapt to climate change challenges.

In the initial stages of this project, data will be collected at both satellite and field levels, this data will then be processed and cleaned, and the model will then be built and optimised based on the baseline data to monitor any changes.

- 3,500 households in Balaka district (21,000 people)
- 50% women

03 EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO CYCLONE IDAI IN MALAWI

Objective: To ensure that households affected by Cyclone Idai have their immediate needs met, as well as necessary start-up resettlement packages to enable them to move from the IDP camps back to their respective homes.

Malawi experienced heavy flooding in early March that led to the declaration of a state of disaster on 8 March 2019 by the Government.

UN reports show that a total of 731,879 out of 868,895 affected people need support, 86,976 people displaced are in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps and there has been 677 injuries and 59 deaths across 15 affected districts.

Due to the heavy rains, many houses have collapsed, and affected people are seeking shelter mostly in schools, which is affecting learners accessing education. Agriculture fields have been washed away as well as small livestock. Despite immediate responses by INGOs and the Government of Malawi, there remains a critical need for food, portable water, shelter, and sanitary facilities.

Self Help Africa teamed up with GOAL to work with the Government of Malawi to support affected households in TA Nsanama and TA Mlomba in Machinga district.

The SHA-GOAL intervention is providing immediate support to camp management committees. This will include hygiene awareness and provision of chlorine in IDP camps, the sensitisation of IDPs in camps at Chilala and Joho on the available resettlement package and suggested procedures. The programme will also identify the most vulnerable households outside IDP camps through community structures for support in all affected areas in the targeted TAs in Machinga.

As part of the project, SHA and GOAL will also distribute shelter kit packages to 59 households (all the households in IDP camps) and provide food and non-food items to a total of 300 affected households (both in and out of IDP camps) including lifesaving (water, basic health needs) and multi-purpose cash transfers.

In addition to this, the intervention will support women and girls to access start up sanitary kits and protection kits through links to health facilities and will also work to link the affected households with other recovery resilience programmes and facilitate access to seeds and agricultural inputs for them to embark in winter cropping.

- 300 households (59 households in IDP camps and 241 outside IDP camps)
- 1231 people (772 female, 459 male) 62% female



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MALAWI

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Ethel Khundi, Mambero Village, Malawi
Photo credit: Ken O'Halloran, 2015