WFP states that 5.4M Malawians (20% of the population) face chronic food insecurity. Most Malawians depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Climate-related shocks and COVID-19 after-effects are exacerbating poverty and food insecurity. Rural families in Malawi, particularly those headed by women, face high levels of poverty. The conflict in Ukraine has led to higher prices for essential commodities, making it difficult for vulnerable communities to obtain enough food and nutrition. Rapidly rising inflation and an overall difficult economic landscape will further threaten food and nutrition security for the foreseeable future in Malawi.¹

**Titukulane...Let’s develop together²**

Titukulane RFSA³ has been working on three purpose areas to improve the food security in Malawi.

**Purpose 1:** Increased stable and equitable incomes from agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods for ultra-poor and chronically vulnerable households, women and youth.

**Purpose 2:** Nutritional status among children under five, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age improved.

**Purpose 3:** Increased institutional and local capacities to reduce risk and increase resilience among ultra-poor and chronically vulnerable households in alignment with the NRS.

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**Overview**

**Cooperative Agreement:** $75 million

**Timeline:** 2019-2024

**Program area:** Mangochi and Zomba Districts of Malawi

**Objective:** Titukulane aims to achieve sustainable, equitable, and resilient food and nutrition security for ultra-poor and chronically vulnerable households in Malawi. Additionally, to support implementation and ensure effectiveness of the Malawi National Resilience Strategy (NRS).

**Partners:**

1. WFP
2. USAID
3. IFPRI
4. Save the Children
5. WaterAid
6. Emmanuel International Malawi
7. NASFAM

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² Malawi country brief (https://www.wfp.org/countries/Malawi); ¹ In Chichewa language; ³ RFSA: Resilience Food Security Activity; ⁴ VSLA: Village Savings and Loans Association; ⁵ PLW: pregnant and lactating women; ⁶ ⁷ ⁸ Percentage figures are achievements on target for Life of Award (LOA)
Glimpse of Titukulane’s Impacts

- **28,331** farmers supported through Farmer Field Business School

- **197%** soya bean sold (307,731 kg) against the target sales volume of 156,000 kg for the 2023 marketing season

- **2,921** students have received vocational training

- **53,760** households have received health, nutrition, and WASH education and counselling through Care Groups

- **54,804** members of 2,595 VSLAs

- **1,788** participants were trained in disaster planning and household visioning

Through agricultural innovations, Titukulane-supported farmers realized soya bean and ground nut yields of more than double the average yield reported by the government for the 2022/23 season.

Through collective marketing, Titukulane farmers negotiated about 25% higher prices than reported by other farmers, with a total value of USD $139,421.

396 new group businesses established and supported with start-up capital.

40,321 PLW and children under two years received Nutritional Cash Transfers and 98.1% of the 16,621 children screened for malnutrition in Quarter 3 were well-nourished.

Cumulatively saved USD $3,028,002 and accessed USD $627,108 of loans in Quarter 3.

Following their experiences from Cyclone Freddy, communities mobilized USD $371,933 for disaster preparedness in Quarter 3, as compared to only USD $15,757 last season.
**Gender Progress Marker Monitoring**

Titukulane conducted a Gender Outcome Mapping (focused group discussions (FGD) with adult female: 131, adult male: 58, youth female: 60, youth male: 39) in January 2023 to better understand if communities are practicing the gender and positive socio-norm behaviors promoted through the project’s activities.

**43%** women make decisions of purchasing nutritious food and food allocation in the household.

**80%** Female youth have access to Gender-Based Violence information and services.

**100%** of all the women who participated in the FGDs participate in VSLAs.

**67%** Men provide start-up income for VSLAs and Income Generating Activities.

**57%** women accessed agriculture extension services and information.

**67%** Men support women to make decisions on selling of livestock or produce.

**Stories from field**

Mary Saidi is a model of how Titukulane builds sustainable, equitable and resilient households and communities by providing avenues for project participants to utilize their potential, irrespective of gender. She grew up in Group Village Headman (GVH) Mdoka in Traditional Authority Namavi in Mangochi. At 39, Mary now recognizes that some of the social norms she and other women grew up with can be challenged. The community members, especially men, used to disparage women who dared take up leadership roles or became prominent, as only men traditionally assumed such positions. To combat these, Titukulane intensified trainings on gender equality in its communities. Using Social Analysis and Action (SAA) tools and youth engagements in activities, Titukulane has engaged men, women, opinion leaders, religious leaders, initiations counsellors, community leadership structures, and others to challenge different gender norms and stereotypes that undermine the participation of women and youth in leadership and engagement at different levels. Since Titukulane has started working in the communities, understanding of gender equality and women empowerment has changed. Mary was also elected as chairperson for Mnemera Irrigation Scheme, and she is also a health promoter under the Waliwali campaign that promotes hygiene and sanitation in the communities.

“We have more women taking up leadership roles like becoming a chairperson, secretary, or treasurer. I am an example; I am the secretary for Nanyani Watershed elected in 2021.”

Photo: Mary inside Nanyani Watershed © CARE/ Titukulane RFSA 2022 /Samuel Chibaya