



Context

Since the first case of HIV/AIDS was recorded in Malawi in 1985, the average life expectancy in the country has fallen from 46 to 36 years. Recent efforts to stem the spread of AIDS have slowed down the rate of new infections. However, the disease has had, and continues to have, a lasting and devastating effect on the entire country as well as its economy, as most of the new victims are young people. Today, over half a million Malawian children have been orphaned by AIDs. Countless mothers have to raise and support their families on their own, caring for sick friends and relatives.

Strategy

UNIDO, in collaboration with the Malawian Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, developed the Salima Agricultural Technology (SATECH) project to secure the socio-economic foundation necessary for livelihood recovery in 17 poor rural communities in the Salima District. The project aims to improve productivity by upgrading traditional means of production, such as ox-drawn ploughs and carts, horticultural implements, treadle pumps, post-harvest equipment and various hand tools. The project's recipients include women and over one thousand orphans.

An extensive training programme, which focused on the immediate needs of the most disadvantaged groups, emphasized vocational training for orphans in different fields such as wood working, tailoring, metal fabrication and automotive mechanics. Around 11,000 people participated in the training, and many groups in which people pool their skills and tools for local development were set up. Today, local craftsmen can supply upgraded production equipment. Furthermore, the rudimentary rural health infrastructure was improved by the provision of water boreholes and bicycle ambulances.

Current results

- In total, 11,000 persons took part, 40% of them women and 10% orphans
- The capacities of local artisans have been upgraded through training and with improved equipment as well as new product designs
- The basic health infrastructure improved with 17 new ambulances, 9 boreholes and 8 maize committees
- Between 2006 and 2008, the villages and productivity groups earned more than USD 50,000

Impact/Outlook

The SATECH project helped thousands of households in poor rural areas of the Salima District. The project has successfully enabled the use of technology by poor, female-headed households, orphan guardian families and the youth to diversify and increase agricultural and non-agricultural income-generating activities. To ensure the project's sustainability, 163 interest groups were established and now provide assistance to more than 6,000 household members. In addition, local NGOs were strengthened and equipped with workshop facilities. A second phase was initiated in February 2010 to review the applied technology allowing for a quick impact assessment.

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At a glance:

- Goal:** Grassroots action for self-reliance and health
- MDG:**
1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Thematic area:

Poverty Reduction through Productive Activities

Donors: Japan through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), One UN-Malawi

Partners: Malawian Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Budget: USD 1,910,000

Status: ongoing

Duration: July 2005 - June 2011 (extended to June 2012)