Malawi is ranked as 170 out of 187 countries according to the United Nation’s Human Development Index. Almost 62 percent of its 16 million people live on $1.25 a day or less, and 14 percent of its children under five are malnourished.

Eighty-four percent of Malawi’s population live in rural areas, yet only 61 percent of its land area is used for agricultural purposes, while another 20 percent is covered by Lake Malawi.

Livestock plays an important role in meeting some of Malawi’s challenges and alleviating food insecurity. Apart from providing food and income, livestock also provides manure, milk and value-added materials such as hides. Some of Malawi’s biggest challenges, according to the U.N., include inadequate financial resources, high population growth, environmental degradation, inadequate health care, over dependence on rain-fed agriculture and HIV/AIDS.

Sofia Chimala (45) with a baby goat in Zulu village, Malawi.

Source: World Bank, unless otherwise specified.

In 2008, the Government of Malawi, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, requested we establish ourselves in Malawi. We opened a country office in Lilongwe and our first project was in the dairy sector, which we implemented in conjunction with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Our current projects have mainly been implemented within the broader integrated agriculture framework where dairy cattle, meat and dairy goats and poultry are being promoted among targeted smallholder farmers.
Doreen Chimala (16) collects fodder for her animals in Zulu village, Malawi.

Nalise Elasimu (5) from Kaphadyani village, Malawi.

Doreen Chimala (16) collects fodder for her animals in Zulu village, Malawi.

Nalise Elasimu (5) from Kaphadyani village, Malawi.

**KEY SERVICES**

**WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT**
Leadership training | Full participation

**INCREASED INCOME**
Village savings and loans | High-quality livestock | Value chain access | Crop diversification

**SOCIAL CAPITAL**
HIV/AIDS training | 12 Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development | Passing on the Gift® | Youth | Community organizing

**NUTRITION**
Vegetable gardening | Dietary diversification

**ENVIRONMENT**
Reforestation | Improved cookstoves | Agroforestry | Agroecology | Climate change adaptation | Disaster risk reduction | Water conservation

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

**Funders**
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)
- Development Fund of Norway (DFN)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- The Government of Malawi

**Local implementing partners**
- Malawi Milk Producers Association (MMPA)
- Central Region Milk Producers Association (CREMPA)
- Small Scale Livestock and Livelihoods Program (SSLLP)
- Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES)
- Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)
- Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET)
- Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM)