



TRANSFORM

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

The Sustainable Food Systems for Rural Agriculture Transformation and Resilience



>>> WHAT'S INSIDE

- ➔ About Point Of Progress Page 1
- ➔ TRANSFORM Program Summary Page 2
- ➔ Summary of Achievements 2020-2023 Page 3
- ➔ Summary of Value Addition and Processing Equipment or Machine by District Page 3
- ➔ Agripreneurship On The Drive To Unleash Youth Unemployment Page 4
- ➔ The Golden Opportunity of Cooking Oil Value Addition Page 6
- ➔ The Fall and Rise of Glory Gondwe Page 7
- ➔ Kondwani's Journey to Empowerment Page 8

ABOUT POINT OF PROGRESS

1

Point of Progress is local Non-governmental organization which is committed to empowering young people and children to act around youth issues that affect their lives and play an active role in the development process. The organization also gives a forum to young women and young men from different backgrounds to share ideas, exchange experiences and learn from each other in the struggle for a better life.

Point of Progress is registered with Malawi Government, Council for Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGOMA) and NGO Regulatory Authority (NGORA).

The organization enables young people and women to create programs and influence policies in the areas of child rights, environment/climate change and agriculture, gender, sexuality, health, education, governance. The organization promotes, protects and advances children's and young people's rights by building their leadership skills, and strengthening the scope of the youth through the clubs that the organization establishes in different communities so that they can actively participate and be involved in all issues that affect their day to day lives.

OUR BELIEF

We believe that the youth of Malawi, if equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills, are a force of change to be reckoned with. We believe that our youths have the energy to create a more powerful and more united Malawi.

MISSION

We empower youths in Malawi by offering access to relevant skills and knowledge that help them make more informed decisions that create better futures for them and their families.

PURPOSE

We exist to create a more united Malawi, one where both men and women are equally active in building a better future for themselves and their communities.

OUR BELIEF

Three key factors set us apart from other youth led organizations and clubs:

- » Our belief that 'young people' are the key to unlocking the key challenges that keep Malawi behind (dated beliefs / gender disparity / poor education)
- » Our belief that providing youth with relevant knowledge and skills addresses 3 key pillars; Decision making, confidence and leadership, new ideas and innovations which inspire and equip young people to make positive change.
- » Our model methodology



+265 999 94 26 79
+265 888 10 01 13



info@nfydmw.org



www.nfydmw.org

TRANSFORM PROGRAM SUMMARY

The TRANSFORM Program is making strides towards enhancing local food systems and bolstering the livelihoods, food security, and resilience of households reliant on agriculture. By implementing transformative measures, this initiative aims to foster sustainable agricultural practices, leading to increased income, improved food quality, and enhanced nutritional security for smallholder farmers in Malawi. At the heart of TRANSFORM lies the strategic emphasis on enhancing market accessibility and engaging the private sector. These priorities play a pivotal role in reshaping the agricultural landscape.

Central to the TRANSFORM Program's approach is the empowerment of participants to develop their assets and skills, enabling them to effectively manage their ecological and food systems during and beyond the program's duration. While community support was initially intensive, it's now gradually being scaled back, ensuring that knowledge and expertise remain embedded within the community even after the program concludes.

Point Of Progress plays a pivotal role in the TRANSFORM Program by rallying young farmers through the innovative Young Women Can Do It approach. Beyond this, the organization actively fosters the integration of youth and women into agriculture, amplifying their ability to lucratively participate in the agricultural value chain, notably through value addition. This strategic focus not only generates employment but also cultivates new avenues for business growth.

To secure lasting outcomes, the program has established sustainable mechanisms and strategies that will be put into action. True sustainability emerges when newly adopted practices prove fruitful, profitable, and environmentally friendly, eliminating the need for external assistance.

The Sustainable Food Systems for Rural Agriculture Transformation and Resilience (TRANSFORM) Program targets 150,000 agriculture-dependent rural households across 22 EPAs¹ in five districts—Dowa, Mchinji, Kasungu, Mzimba, and Rumphi—over a span of three years and six months (2021 – 2025). Orchestrated by three Norwegian organizations—Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Development Fund of Norway (DF), and Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)—the program aspires to drive substantial growth in Malawi's agricultural sector. Additionally, Point Of Progress actively encourages the integration of youth and women in agriculture, equipping them to partake profitably along the agricultural value chain, thus fostering job creation and business opportunities.



SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS 2019 - 2023

3

INDICATOR	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEVED	MZIMBA	KASUNGU	RUMPHI	DOWA	COMMENT
Number of youth groups participating in value addition	180	123	11	54	23	35	The remaining groups have just been identified and will be supported accordingly
Number of SMEs participating in value addition	20	69	2	44	7	16	The oil expeller in Kasungu has absorbed many SMEs in order to solve the issue of limited raw material supply as it demands a lot of raw materials
Number of women groups participating in value addition	180	89	12	39	14	24	The remaining groups have just been identified and will be supported accordingly

Summary of Value Addition and Processing Equipment/Machine by District

EQUIPMENT /MACHINE TYPE	QUANTITY	DISTRICT				HOSTING YWCDI/COOPERATIVE, WOMEN GROUP	NUMBER OF CLUSTERED GROUPS ACCESSING THE MACHINE/EQUIPMENT
		MZIMBA	DOWA	KASUNGU	RUMPHI		
Cooking Oil Expeller	1			1		Chengwe Cooperative and Chengwe YWDCI Club	178
Peanut Butter	4	1	2		1	Dzoole, Themba (Dowa), Chilulu (Rumphi), Chololo (Mzimba)	82
Maize Sheller	3	1	1	1		Engucwini Cooperative and Engucwini YWCDI Club (Mzimba), Kamtimbo YWCDI Club and Sichi Cooperative (Kasungu) Tiyanjane YWCDI and Kaso Cooperative (Dowa)	107
Groundnut Sheller	1			1		Yankho Cooperative & Yankho YWCDI Club (Kasungu)	168
Groundnut Powder	6		2	2	2	Chivungulu & Buwira YWCDI Clubs(Rumphi) Chidongo & Chiyambi YWCDI clubs (Kasungu) Jumpha and Dzuwa YWCDI Clubs (Dowa)	127

Agripreneurship On The Drive To Unleash Youth Unemployment

In the heart of Lisasadzi EPA in Kasungu, the agripreneurship potential of Masewela Village's youth stands as a testament to resilience and innovation. Despite only 20,000 youth having access to farming technologies and an unemployment rate of 7.6%, writing off their capabilities would be a grave oversight. The village's name, Masewela, meaning 'playing', should not overshadow the undeniable agility of its youth.



Under the guiding light of the TRANSFORM Program, the young individuals of Masewela have seized the opportunity of agripreneurship to break free from the shackles of unemployment. The TRANSFORM program's overarching goal is to fortify local food systems and cultivate sustainable enhancements in food security, nutrition, climate resilience, and income for rural households dependent on agriculture in Malawi.

At the forefront of this transformation is the role of Point of Progress. With a dedicated focus on youth and women, Point of Progress ensures their active participation throughout the entire food cycle, with a special emphasis on value addition and employment creation through agripreneurship.

Presently, Point of Progress, operating under the TRANSFORM Program, has mobilized an impressive count of 4,578 youth (2,589 girls, 1,989 boys) through 123 Young Women Can Do It clubs across Mzimba North, Dowa, Kasungu, and Rumphi. A remarkable story unfolds when we delve into the experiences of Memory Nyirenda and Lenia Nyirenda from the Yankho Young Women Can Do It club.

"Our lives took a positive turn with the arrival of the groundnut sheller. This machine generates income for our club. The proceeds cover school fees, personal care items, and school materials. We've also gained expertise in machine maintenance, saving us the expense of hiring external help. Our aspirations extend to acquiring more machines and becoming proficient mechanics in various agricultural equipment," Memory and Lenia share.

Memory and Lenia further express, *"Learning the operation and maintenance of the groundnut sheller has bolstered our confidence and shattered stereotypes. We yearn for comprehensive training in machine maintenance. The business management skills we've acquired have illuminated the machine's potential as an income-generating venture. Local farmers utilize the machine for a fee, creating additional revenue streams."*



Memory and Lenia standing in front of a groundnut sheller

Through meticulous planning and a feasibility study, Point Of Progress has acquired maize and groundnut shellers, a strategic move that has yielded results. A total of 14 YWCDI clubs have been procured to generate income, as these machines are rented within the communities at affordable rates, subsequently benefiting the clubs.

Moreover, 21 youth, including 11 girls and 10 boys, have undergone basic maintenance training for the machines, with advanced training prospects on the horizon. The story of Masewela Village's youth exemplifies the potential of agripreneurship to catalyze transformation, turning challenges into opportunities and showcasing the power of determination.



Sheila Chimwala shows packaged cooking oil at her shop

"I've experienced an incredible transformation. I opened an outlet shop that generated MK387,000 in revenue, gained employment, bought four goats, and improved our household's nutrition and the community's access to affordable cooking oil."

The Golden Opportunity of Cooking Oil Value Addition

The dusty road leading to Kaphaizi in Chipala EPA, Kasungu, may not initially capture one's attention. However, delving into the Kasungu Social Economic Profile, which reveals young people's limited interest in agriculture despite it providing 88% of the district's employment, sheds light on the challenges faced by the youth of Kaphaizi. A moment spent with Sheila Chimwala, though, unveils a story that defies statistics.

At the helm of the cooking oil enterprise in Kaphaizi Trading Centre, Sheila Chimwala stands as a testament to determination and success. Taking the reins of the enterprise with unwavering commitment, it's no surprise that within a mere three months, the cooking oil production has yielded an impressive MK7,568,600.00.

Sheila's journey paints a picture of triumph over adversity. "I faced numerous challenges trying to meet basic needs after the support from my child's father ceased. I became a burden on my family, who were already stretched, forcing my parents to care for me and my child," Sheila recounts.

However, the tides turned with the intervention of Point of Progress. Conducting a feasibility study on viable value addition initiatives, the organization procured an oil expeller and subsequently trained 15 young individuals (8 girls, 7 boys) in its operation. These training sessions were led by District Gender Officers, CAMCO technicians, and the District Youth Officer. Notably, Point of Progress also equipped them with essential maintenance tool kits.

For Sheila Chimwala, the oil expeller proved to be a game-changer. "My life has undergone a transformation beyond words. I established an outlet shop that has generated MK387,000 in revenue. The enterprise has not only provided me with employment opportunities but also enabled me to purchase four goats through cooking oil sales. Our household's nutritional status has improved, benefitting the larger community as well due to our affordable cooking oil," Sheila exclaims with a smile.

Sheila's success story mirrors the potential unleashed when determination meets opportunity. Her journey from adversity to prosperity stands as a testament to the transformative power of intervention and hard work. Through programs like TRANSFORM initiated by Point of Progress, individuals like Sheila rewrite their narratives, creating not only personal success stories but also contributing to the growth of their communities.





Glory Gondwe shows packaged peanut butter

Glory's Path to Prosperity in Chilulu

An enlightening conversation with Glory Gondwe from Chilulu YWCDI in Mhuju EPA, Rumphi district, paints a vivid picture of determination and focus among Chilulu's youth. Despite facing poverty's grip, Glory's journey was far from deterred. Hindered by the inability to afford school fees, she was compelled to leave secondary education. The looming prospect of marriage, often seen as an escape from financial woes, was a common route, echoing the sentiments of the Rumphi Social Economic Profile.

Reflecting on her past, Glory reveals, "Lack of financial support for my learning materials, school-related expenses, and uniforms, combined with the absence of role models and prevalent marriage choices among girls in my community, led me to abandon schooling. The TRANSFORM project then opened my eyes to the potential of value addition as a means to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty."

Glory's story of success is attributed to the intervention of Point of Progress. Conducting a feasibility study on promising value-added initiatives, the organization procured a peanut butter-making machine and provided training to eight young individuals (4 girls and 4 boys) in its operation. Facilitated by District Gender Officers, CAMCO technicians, and the District Youth Officer, these training sessions equipped them with essential skills. Notably, Point of Progress also supplied maintenance tool kits.

Glory's journey highlights the potential that emerges when determination converges with opportunity. Her triumph over adversity serves as an inspiration, showcasing the impact that intervention programs like Point of Progress can have on rewriting destinies. Through empowered youth like Glory, communities are transformed, and new avenues of possibility open up.

"It has reshaped my life entirely. Cumulative peanut butter sales have already yielded MK298,000, allowing me to purchase 3 goats and 5 piglets. This resurgence in my economic status has rejuvenated my determination to return to school. The prospect of classroom learning is now within reach."

Youth Rent A Scheme Service Bearing Fruits: A Case Study of Ndazona Nkhota

7



Ndazona Nkhota operating a maize sheller

Journeying along the picturesque Lilongwe-Salima road, one envisions the lakeside beauty and bustling hotels that adorn Lake Malawi's shores. Yet, a brief pause at Mvera, home to the Tiyanjane YWCDI Club, diverts attention towards a remarkable narrative. Ndazona Nkhota's story takes center stage, urging us to recognize the potential within Ngozi Village's youth in Mvera EPA, Dowa.

Shattering the misconception that only 19,000 youth access farming technologies and facing an unemployment rate of 7.6%, Ngozi Village's agile and determined youth are a testament to untapped potential. Transcending their village's name, which means 'an accident,' they have embraced agripreneurship as a liberating force from unemployment's grip. At its core, the TRANSFORM program strives to fortify local food systems, elevate food security and nutrition, enhance climate resilience, and boost income among rural households dependent on agriculture in Malawi.

Steering this transformation is the role of Point of Progress, ensuring active engagement of young people and women throughout the food cycle, with a focus on value addition and agripreneurial employment.

Currently, under the Transform Program, Point of Progress has united 4,578 youth (2,589 girls and 1,989 boys) across 123 Young Women Can Do It clubs in Mzimba North, Dowa, Kasungu, and Rumphi. A closer conversation with Ndazona Nkhota from the Tiyanjane Young Women Can Do It club unveils a narrative that challenges Dowa's youth unemployment statistics.

"I lost hope when I had to leave school due to financial constraints. The introduction of the maize sheller transformed my life, generating income for our club. With the proceeds, I'm supporting my siblings' education and have even bought four goats," Ndazona shares.

A pivotal moment arrived when Point of Progress conducted fundamental training in maize sheller operation, coupled with the procurement of a machine for Tiyanjane YWCDI and Kaso Cooperative.

This training, co-facilitated by District Gender Officers, CAMCO technicians, and the District Youth Officer, not only increased their confidence but also sparked aspirations for comprehensive machine maintenance training. The acquired business management skills have transformed the machine into an income-generating venture, with local farmers utilizing it for a fee.

Point Of Progress's initiatives, encompassing the procurement of maize and groundnut shellers, have garnered 14 YWCDI clubs as sources of income generation. These machines, available for rent within communities at manageable fees, serve as a stepping stone for growth. Further, 21 youth (11 girls and 10 boys) have undergone fundamental maintenance training, with advanced training on the horizon.

Ndazona Nkhota's journey exemplifies the transformative force of interventions. Through stories like hers, we witness the resurgence of hope, the power of education, and the potential to rewrite futures. Within these narratives, the youth of Ngozi Village prove that change is not just possible, but inevitable.



Amidst the dynamic landscape of Nachisaka EPA in Dowa, Kondwani Diverious emerges as a testament to the transformative prowess of the TRANSFORM project. A graduate with technical skills, Kondwani traversed years of joblessness, only to uncover a new horizon within agribusiness that would reshape his destiny.

"I completed a course in electric installation at a technical college, but the lack of start-up tools made self-employment an elusive dream. Traditional employment avenues remained out of reach. It was through the TRANSFORM project that I found an unexpected pathway in the peanut butter industry," Kondwani recounts.

The cornerstone of Kondwani's success story lies in Point Of Progress. Pioneering a comprehensive feasibility study on viable value-added ventures, the organization acquired a peanut butter machine and provided intensive training to eight young individuals (4 girls and 4 boys) in its operation. These training sessions were a collaborative effort involving District Gender Officers, CAMCO technicians, and the District Youth Officer. Additionally, Point of Progress ensured the availability of essential maintenance tool kits.

For Kondwani, the peanut butter-making machine has ushered in a new era of economic empowerment. "This machine has not only streamlined income generation but has also unlocked unforeseen prospects.

Cumulative peanut butter sales have yielded an impressive MK302,500, enabling me to acquire four goats. This success has ignited a fresh fervor to delve deeper into value addition. My aspiration is to eventually own my own machine and create employment opportunities for fellow youth. Furthermore, the nutritional well-being of our household and the broader community has witnessed a remarkable enhancement," Kondwani reflects with a soft-spoken determination.

Kondwani's journey epitomizes the boundless possibilities of intervention and enterprise. His triumph over adversity serves as an inspiration, demonstrating the transformative potential of initiatives like Point Of Progress. Through the resolute efforts of individuals like Kondwani, communities are revitalized, futures are rewritten, and a cascade of change is set in motion.



Kondwani Diverious standing in front of the peanut butter-making machine holding the packaged product

TALK TO US

+265 999 94 26 79

+265 888 10 01 13

info@nfydmw.org



Point of Progress

NETWORKING FOR YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



TRANSFORM

A CONSORTIUM BY



Norwegian University
of Life Sciences



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
actalliance



The
Development
Fund
Fighting hunger and injustice together

