



Sustainable Energy in Malawi Capability Statement

United Purpose is a movement of people and organisations that strives to end poverty and inequality across the globe.

United Purpose (UP) is recognised as one of the leading NGOs with unrivalled **experience, expertise** and **reach** across the **sustainable energy spectrum** in Malawi. Through our Sustainable Energy Management Unit we work to provide poor and marginalised communities with increased access to sustainable energy as a route to improved service provision, mitigating climate change and promoting wealth creation.

Our initiatives contribute towards the Sustainable Energy for All agenda and are based around three primary objectives: (1) Increased access to

sustainable energy for households, institutions and productive uses, (2) Enhanced markets for sustainable energy; and (3) Innovative, pro-poor deployment of climate finance.

30 years in Malawi
1 million people reached p/a
Annual budget of £10 million
Leader in rural micro finance
250 employees
18 Districts

Key Achievements

- Secured over \$7 million in funding
- Developed a national carbon finance programme
- Generated more than 600,000 carbon credits
- Featured internationally by BBC, Guardian and former Irish President Mary Robinson
- Led the National Cookstove Steering Committee, reaching 1.4 million stoves nationally
- Directly impacted over 1.5 million people with improved energy access
- Facilitated the production and sale of over 400,000 stoves
- Reached in excess of 100,000 people with solar products
- Generated in excess of \$400,000 in income through rural energy value chains
- Renovated 3 health facilities using carbon revenue
- Ensuring clean water for over 280 communities for 7 years
- Influenced national policy, including securing VAT and Duty waivers for cookstoves
- Developed and piloting a solar PV micro-grid model
- Successfully piloted a sustainable energy kiosk model at 4 sites in Chikwawa District

UNIVERSAL ACCESS: LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND

We believe that no-one should be left behind when it comes to achieving universal energy access. As such, we have developed a model to ensure even the poorest-of-the-poor are reached with modern cooking and lighting services. Working through the national Social Cash Transfer Programme we are providing fully subsidised stoves and pico solar lamps to ultra-poor and labour constrained households, through a voucher system. SCT households are issued a voucher entitling them to one free technology, which they can redeem from a local promoter who has been identified and trained by UP. Under this model we have secured funding to cover 18 districts with improved cookstoves and 3 districts for solar. We believe that this approach offers an opportunity to rapidly increase energy access across Malawi, significantly contributing to universal access by 2030 while leaving no-one behind.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT: COMMERCIALISING THE CHITETezo MBAULA

Building from the foundations of the social cash transfer model, UP has been working to create a sustainable, commercial market for the Chitetezo Mbaula stove. With funding from EnDev we have been supporting production groups to improve quality and quantity, while also guaranteeing them a market for their stoves. From there, we have been establishing warehousing and retailing structures to bring the stoves closer to consumers. Finally the energy team have undertaken aggressive marketing campaigns that include: radio, TV, newspapers, roadshows, events, and most innovatively, the sponsorship of the Southern Region Football League. This was branded as the Chitetezo Mbaula Southern Region Football League and generated a massive amount of publicity for cleaner cooking, helping to make Chitetezo Mbaula a household name.

INNOVATION: SOLAR MICRO GRIDS

Malawi's economy and poverty reduction efforts are limited due to low levels of electrification, especially in rural areas. The overall grid connection rate in 2014 was 11.6%, which was as low as 1% in rural areas. Given the high percentage of the population currently unserved by the national grid, the market potential is huge. With recent cost reductions in solar PV components there has been increasing interest in implementing solar PV microgrids (<10kW generation capacity) in Malawi, especially in areas unlikely to receive a main grid connection in the near future. The scale of this technology addresses a gap in the market, fulfilling a niche that offers higher levels of access than solar home systems or pico solar products, but with lower capital costs than current mini-grid systems (>80kW). Our approach is to therefore provide access in areas where the grid won't reach, which is cheaper than the equivalent SHS offering, while providing a superior service. As such we have undertaken in-depth surveys into energy consumption, as well as ability and willingness to pay. This has informed the development of a tariff structure which will be accessible to a wide range of customers, while providing operational sustainability for 20 years

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Lloyd Archer, Programme Manager - Energy. E: lloyd.archer@united-purpose.org, +265 (0) 888 34 61 26

OUR SUPPORTERS



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



energising
development



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Irish Aid
Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

