

Shire Valley Transformation Programme - 1

‘Irrigation and Cash Crops for a Better Life’



Background & Context of the SVTP

Approximately 85% of the population in Malawi live in rural areas; with the majority engaged in rain-fed subsistence agriculture and livestock raising.

Agricultural land is scarce in Malawi with 70% of small scale farmers farming less than one hectare of land. Over the years, rains in Malawi have become erratic and less predictable leading to low productivity. This, in addition to adverse effects of climate change including drought, floods, and declining soil fertility all of which have negatively affected the agriculture sector in Malawi.



Irrigation farming using centre pivots at Illovo Sugar

Irrigation helps farmers to better livelihoods as efficient water management can enhance yields, crop quality and cultivation of cash crops.

This leads to increased and sustainable incomes and food security at individual, household and community levels. This is why the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP) has been initiated in Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts.

In Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts many people secure an income and food for their family from cultivating crops and raising livestock. Whether the harvest is good or not so good depends on unpredictable rainfall which often bring periods of drought or floods.

Both droughts and floods have a significant impact on whether farmers can feed their families, pay for daily expenses, have a good house and secure the future of their children.

Through the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP), the Government of Malawi aims to boost agricultural production and increase productivity by helping farmers get a better harvest and healthier livestock and grow more high value cash crops to sell at both domestic and international markets.

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Photos courtesy of Illovo, Issa Farms, Chikwawa District Council

About the SVTP

The Government of Malawi (GoM) through the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, with support from the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is implementing the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP). The SVTP is a 14-year program (2018-2031) which will be implemented in three sequential but partially overlapping phases.

The SVTP will irrigate 43,370 hectares of land by abstracting water from the Shire River at Kapichira and conveying it by gravity to the irrigable area in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts through canals. This will ensure a more consistent supply of water to farm lands throughout the year.



Courtesy of Egenco

Site of the Intake at Kapichira Dam

The SVTP has the following guiding principles:

- ✓ Benefit current land owners and users, and include them in agricultural modernization;
- ✓ Farmers who want to participate will have to organise themselves and consolidate their land;
- ✓ Allow for private investments in partnership with land owners and users;
- ✓ Give communities a free choice to join the scheme;
- ✓ Charge fees to pay for management, operation and maintenance of the irrigation infrastructure. This will create a sustainable scheme that remains in good condition.

Our Objective

The program development objective (PDO) for the Shire Valley Transformation Programme is to increase agricultural productivity and commercialisation for targeted households in the Shire Valley; and to improve the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.

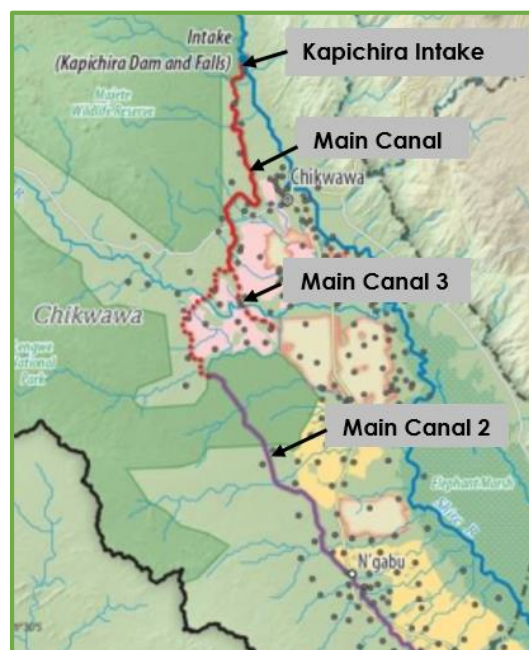
The objective of the first phase of the Programme (2018 to 2023) is to provide access to reliable irrigation and drainage services, secure land tenure for smallholder farmers and strengthen management of wetlands and protected areas in the Shire valley.

What We Aim to Achieve

- ✓ Provide reliable, professionally managed and sustainably financed irrigation service to irrigators in a phased construction of the scheme and providing multiple services including water supply;
- ✓ Support farmer organisations within a comprehensive land use plan; supporting land tenure strengthening and consolidation; as well as natural resources management; and
- ✓ Establish smallholder owned commercial farm enterprises transitioning into commercial agriculture from subsistence farming and integrating them into commercial value chains.

Coverage of the SVTP

Construction of the irrigation scheme will be done in two phases. Phase I covers the area from Chikwawa in the north to the edge of the Lengwe National Park. Phase II covers the area from south of Lengwe National Park along the Main Road to Bangula in the South. The water will flow by gravity without pumping through canals.



Some areas are not included in the project area. This may be because:

- ✓ The area is located higher than the canal, hence, cannot be irrigated without pumping.
- ✓ The soil is not suitable for growing crops under irrigation.
- ✓ The area is a village where people have their houses.
- ✓ The area is protected due to various reasons.
- ✓ The area is a graveyard or cultural heritage site.



Courtesy of Chikwawa District Council

The SVTP will utilize fertile lands like these in order to promote agriculture commercialization in the Shire Valley

SVTP Quick Facts

Total Irrigable Area of the SVTP

43,370 hectares

Phase 1 - 22,280 ha

Phase 2 - 21,090 ha

Smallholder farmers - 29,338 ha. (67.65%)¹

Large scale farmers - 14,032 ha. (32.35%)²



Project Funders

World Bank **US\$160 million**

African Development Bank **US\$50 Million**

Global Environment Facility **US\$ 5.5 million**

Government of Malawi **US\$7.2 million**

¹ Area for smallholder farmers is broken down as follows: Kasinthula – 1,429 ha; Phata – 600 ha; and new area – 27,307 ha.

² Area for large scale farmers is broken down as follows: Ilovo-9,995 ha., Sande Ranch-454 ha., Alumenda-2,764 ha., and Kaombe-819 ha.

Beneficiaries of the SVTP

The SVTP will benefit smallholder farmers and other farmers within the project area. Smallholder farmers who are the owners of the land will be the primary beneficiaries of the irrigation water. The estimated 2016 population in the project area was 279,550 people in 60,772 households.



Courtesy of Chikwawa District Council

The SVTP will benefit smallholder farmers like these

All people in the project area will receive the information needed to decide whether they want to take advantage of this opportunity to modernise their farms and enter into more commercial farming. Since the project supports the community at large, it will empower various vulnerable groups.

What will happen to people's land?

The current land rights will be respected. Only people whose land is in the direct line of the canals, drains and roads will need to be relocated and compensated for their loss. For all others, it is important to know that:

- ✓ Irrigated fields will be organised along the canals.
- ✓ Farmers will be organised in blocks to manage the water and, where relevant, their agricultural production.
- ✓ It will be necessary for farmers to consolidate land and get a shared ownership of the consolidated irrigation blocks.

The SVTP will facilitate the development of mutually agreed and voluntary partnerships between the private sector and farmers' organisations.

This will help farmers to increase their production, generate market opportunities and develop the value chain from production to distribution of the agricultural produce to consumers.

In addition, the project will allow for livestock, small scale water supply, drinking water and other secondary benefits.

How will farmers be organised?

There are already models of consolidated farms in Phase I of the irrigation scheme, such as Kasinthula Sugarcane Growers Association and Phata Cane Growers Cooperative. Other farmers are in the process of organizing themselves to irrigate their land; for example, KAMA Cooperative. Hence farmers have opportunities to these home grown models on which to base their organisations. All farmers that want to be part of the irrigation scheme will have to organise themselves and be legally registered using any of these models.

The farmers' organisations will be responsible for managing the farms in one or more irrigation blocks and sign a water purchase agreement with the operator of the irrigation infrastructure. The PMT has established that given the fact that the farms will be managed professionally, the fee to be paid for management, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure will be affordable. The fee is intended to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the infrastructure and long term sustainability.

How will the Irrigation Scheme be managed?

The Government of Malawi is the owner of the Shire Valley Irrigation Scheme and all the irrigation infrastructure. The Government will hire a company to manage the infrastructure. The company will be responsible for:

- ✓ Ensuring that all irrigation blocks get their water as per water purchase agreement.
- ✓ Maintaining the main canals and infrastructure so that water can flow.
- ✓ Entering into agreement with the farmers and collecting water fees, among others.

What type of farming will be promoted?

The objective of the project is to transform subsistence smallholder farmers into commercial farmers. Farmers will decide what crops to grow on their land. Cash crops will have to be grown on a larger portion of the land so that the income will be enough to pay for the Management, Operation and Maintenance (MOM) fees and other expenses. Part of the land (10%) may be used for food crops, pastures, woodlots and other uses.

Farmers will also decide if they want to do animal husbandry, aquaculture or fisheries.

Agricultural specialists investigated a large number of crops that could be grown under irrigation and selected the most viable crops (i.e. those with the highest gross margins) that are easy to grow, harvest, store, market and/or process. Examples of tropical fruits that could be grown are bananas, citrus, mangoes or pawpaw. There is also potential in the area to grow high value vegetables such as baby corn.

The cropping pattern shown below is an example of what irrigated crops could be grown within a 12-month period. In this case, the cropping pattern includes maize as a food crop and several cash crops of which sugarcane is the main one.

Annual Crops	Hot and Wet Season			Cold / Dry Season					Hot & Dry Season		Hot & Wet Season	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cotton	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow						Green	Green
Soya beans	Green	Green	Green	Yellow								Green
Pigeon Pea	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow							Green
Maize				Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	
Dry beans					Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow			
Tropical fruits	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Sugar cane	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

Modalities for Commercial Farming

Commercial farming requires a larger area of land for cultivation. Therefore, farmers will have to pool their land together to create this large farm. Farmers who will participate will have a share of the commercial farm corresponding to the area of their land.

All farmers with land within the irrigation block may participate. The participation in the irrigation blocks is voluntary. If a farmer does not want to participate he/she will be compensated in order to acquire land elsewhere in the surrounding communities.

Compensation for Losses

The Government of Malawi will strive to minimise involuntary displacements and land acquisitions to a limited number. However, land for the construction of the main canals will be acquired and compensated appropriately. Losses will be compensated in accordance with the laws and policies of Malawi, the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

The way in which losses are compensated will be transparent and equitable and be discussed with a large group of stakeholders before the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MOLHUD) will approve the Resettlement Policy Framework and Resettlement Action Plan.

No construction works for the SVTP infrastructure will be commenced until all project affected persons (PAPs) have been appropriately compensated for property losses.

Any non-land complaints associated with the SVTP will be heard through the normal channels or by the Grievance Redress Committees that the Project has established at Group Village Headman, TA, District and central levels. All land related grievances will be heard by the land tribunals as established under the Customary Land Act.

Five broad types of losses will be valued and compensated including:

- ✓ Land
- ✓ Agriculture produce such as crops, fruit trees, plantation crops, flowers
- ✓ Physical assets such as buildings and other structures
- ✓ Trees
- ✓ Access (e.g. water, forest products, grazing areas, watering points, etc.)

People whose buildings will be affected by the main canal will be given a choice of compensation in kind or cash equivalent. In kind compensation will entail construction of a new house of at least the same quality or better in the same community.

People with land in the canal route and within a wider irrigation block area will get a share in the irrigated block area. People with land in the canal route in areas without irrigation blocks will be compensated for the loss of their land.

People will be compensated for the loss of the produce on their land that cannot be harvested in time and for trees and forests. The valuation of the loss will take into account clearance and preparation of the land and the loss of income during the period until the first harvest.

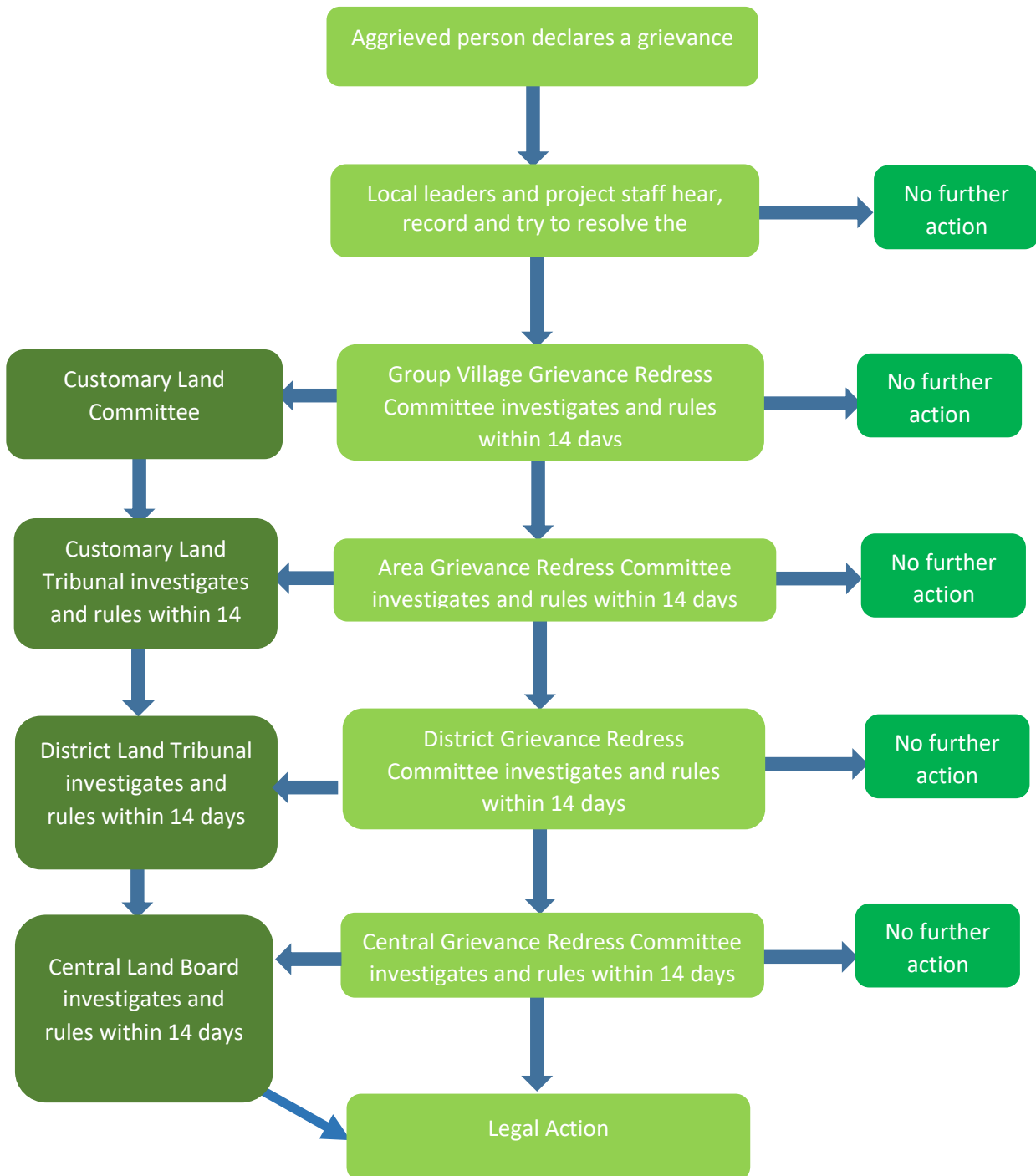
The design of the irrigation scheme will take into account the access routes of people as well as livestock and wildlife.

The land required for the irrigation scheme will have to be cleared before construction starts. It is the intention of the Government of Malawi to pay all compensation shortly after the valuation of the losses and before the start of construction works.

Grievances and Complaints

The SVTP will strive to resolve grievances and complaints at the local community level but where this is not possible, the aggrieved person(s) may lodge their grievance with the Grievance Redress Committees nearest to them. The SVTP has set up Grievance Redress Mechanism committees for the project. The purpose is to solve disputes at the earliest possible time and to provide a clear and timely procedure on how complaints will be received, assessed, resolved and monitored. The SVTP Grievance Redress Mechanism strives to be independent and free of conflict of interest.

Each time a conflict is not resolved the person with a grievance can go to the next level until the grievance is resolved and the case closed. An overview of the process is shown below.



The status of each grievance will be recorded and a list of all grievance cases will be available at the Chikwawa District Irrigation Office and open to public scrutiny.

The people in the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee have been democratically selected by the people in the project area. During the establishment of the GRM Committees great effort was made to ensure that those selected were:

- Trusted people within the community
- People with no history of corruption or abuse of public trust
- People with no conflict of interest with other committees/positions

The table below provides an overview of offices with a representation in the Grievance Redress Committee at each level.

GRIEVANCE REDRESS COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
Group Village Grievance Redress Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Group Village Head - Chair ✓ Representative of associations or cooperatives ✓ One representative from each known gazetted village, ✓ CSO representative ✓ Extension worker representative - Secretary ✓ Religious leader representative
Area Grievance Redress Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Traditional Authority – Chair ✓ 2 Chairpersons of GVGRM ✓ Assistant Irrigation Officer - Secretary ✓ CSO representative ✓ Extension worker representative - AEDC ✓ Religious leader representative ✓ Member from the Community Victim Support Unit ✓ A representative of people living with disabilities
District Grievance Redress Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ District Commissioner (Chair) ✓ 2 Traditional Leaders ✓ 1 PMT representatives ✓ District Lands Officer ✓ District Irrigation Officer ✓ Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace ✓ District Social Welfare Officer ✓ 3 PAPs' representatives
MoAIWD/PMT Grievance Redress Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Representatives of the MoAIWD ✓ PMT – Secretariat ✓ Representatives MoLHUD ✓ Local Government ✓ 2 representatives from Department of Surveys ✓ A representative from the Department of Irrigation ✓ A representative from DAESS ✓ The Shire Valley ADD Programme Manager ✓ A representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining ✓ PWL ✓ Representative of Ministry of Gender to be consulted where need be.

What about Conservation?

The intake is within the Majete Wildlife Reserve. The design and construction methods will minimise the impact on the environment as much as possible. Portions of the canal passing through the Majete Wildlife Reserve will be underground in the form of siphons to allow animals to pass and people to access tourist sites such as Kapichira Falls. Where the canal is open, it will be fenced. The design is intended to maintain the environmental flow at Kapichira Dam.

The main irrigation canal for Phase II will pass through a dry area in Lengwe National Park. The design will make it possible for animals to access drinking water and to cross the canal.

Within the project area there are no known sacred or cultural sites apart from a hill in Phase II. The project design has tried, as much as possible, to avoid going through graveyards.

With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the SVTP will ensure that all impacts on the environment and wildlife are mitigated at all stages of the Project. GEF has contributed US\$5,587,156 to cater for issues of wildlife and environmental conservation in Lengwe National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, the Elephant Marsh, and Matandwe Forest Reserve. The project is working hand in hand with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Energy especially the Departments of Forestry, Parks and Wildlife, and Fisheries.



Courtesy of African Parks Majete

Some game in the Majete Wildlife Reserve

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