
KAWJO FOUNDATION

2025 ANNUAL PROJECT RECAP

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Since 2009, the Kawjo Foundation has remained focused on its mission to address food insecurity, poverty and equality among Malawi's most vulnerable populations. For seventeen years, we have worked to uplift women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, the ultra-poor and people with different vulnerabilities through programs that promote education, humanitarian support, and economic empowerment across the aquaculture, agriculture, and fisheries sectors. Guided by our 2024-2028 strategic plan, Kawjo Foundation is pursuing meaningful impact in three core areas: food security and sustainable livelihoods; education and skills development services; and humanitarian services. This annual project recap represents our impact this year, highlighting achievements and identifying opportunities for continued improvement as we advance toward a more sustainable future together.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride in the Kawjo Foundation team for all we have accomplished together. Our shared vision to create sustainable, empowering change in the lives of Malawians, particularly women and youth, continues to drive our work. Our accomplishments reflect our commitment.

We have made significant progress on four (4) important projects: Green-Profish, Sustainable Aquatic Foods, WE4D and Smart-Aqua. Behind every achievement is a story—of hope, of transformation, of a life changed.

Despite the global and national challenges such as climate change, rising economic insecurity, and donor fatigue, we have strengthened our capacity to work toward our strategic goals. We have welcomed four World University Service Canada volunteers to mobilize resources, communicate and engage stakeholders, and monitor and evaluate our impact. We also welcomed two finance interns and a Resource Mobilization Officer to support our work.

Looking ahead, we are energized. We also continue to seek new opportunities and partners to further enable Kawjo Foundation to positively impact the lives of Malawians.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Zione Makawa Chawalika

Executive Director



OUR PROJECT OFFICERS



Hephzibah Hermes is a dynamic and results-driven professional in the aquaculture and fisheries sector, with a strong passion for advancing climate-smart aquaculture. He brings expertise in fisheries research, project management, and extension services, consistently delivering impactful outcomes. Hephzibah is a project officer for our PIF and SAF projects and remains a valued member of the Kawjo team.

Bertha Michiru is a passionate Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialist currently working as a Project Officer at Kawjo Foundation in Malawi. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Science from Mzuzu University. Bertha plays a key role in empowering women and youth through Climate-Smart Aquaculture and sustainable practices to improve food security and livelihoods in rural communities. Bertha is the project officer for the SAF project and continues our efforts in the Kasungu district



Christopher Lipande is a dedicated professional in fisheries and aquaculture, currently serving as a Project Officer with a focus on sustainable fishery management and aquaculture development. He brings practical expertise in hatchery operations, fish health management, water quality control, techniques, and feed optimization—critical elements for enhancing aquaculture productivity and sustainability. Christopher is a project officer on our GEF, SAF and WE4D projects and continues to strengthen our impact around Malawi.

Chisomo Kumwenda is a climate-smart aquaculture trainer and the M and E Officer at Kawjo Foundation in Malawi. As a dedicated aquaculture specialist with over 2 years of hands-on experience in fish farming techniques, Chisomo provides expert technical support to fish farmers and guidance on effective group formation. Her work focuses on equipping fish farmers with the best aquaculture practices to enhance sustainable fish production amid the climate change crisis, including pond design, feed formulation, and fish harvesting. Chisomo is working on our SAF and WE4D projects and continues to use her skills to improve the impact we are making.



None of the impactful projects we are doing to improve the lives of vulnerable communities around Malawi would be possible without the entire Kawjo team, including our Accounts Officer, Oscar Tembo; Resource Mobilization Officer, Yamikani Muha; and Communications & Visibility Officer, Amber Farrell.

KAWJO'S CURRENT PROJECTS

GREEN-PROFISH: SMART FISH PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

Funder: GEF Small Grants Programme through UNDP Malawi

Investment: 39 000 USD

Location: Sanga beach, GVH Kakhongwe in T/A Mankhambira, Nkhatabay district

Timeline: January 2025 to February 2026

Beneficiaries: 30 participants (70% Women)

Project Summary:

The Green-Profish project Introduces climate-smart technologies to 30 beneficiaries, primarily women and youth from local fishing communities around Malawi. The initiative promotes sustainable innovations, such as briquette-based smoking kilns, improved fish-drying racks, and climate-resilient fish ponds, to reduce reliance on firewood, enhance resource efficiency, and strengthen livelihood opportunities.

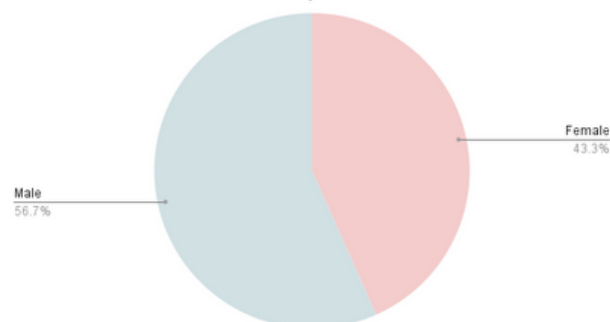
Through capacity-building and hands-on training, this project supports the adoption of these technologies while benefiting the wider community, including those purchasing briquettes, learning climate-smart practices, or consuming improved fish products. With a strong emphasis on gender equality and youth inclusion, the project aims to foster more equitable, resilient, and sustainable fish value chains in Malawi's fisheries sector, where women and young people often lack access.





This project promoted the inclusion of women and youth, who form a proportion of the beneficiaries, to address existing gender and age-related inequalities within the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Women and young people in Malawi often face barriers to access to land, skills training, productive assets, and decision-making spaces. By prioritizing their participation in beneficiary selection, training, and access to climate-smart technologies, the project creates opportunities for women and youth to move past low-income, labour-intensive roles and actively engage in economic activities. This inclusive approach strengthens household livelihoods, enhances community resilience, and supports more equitable and sustainable aquaculture development.

Gender Distribution of Participants



ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

Activity Area	Target	Result	Completion Status	Key Outcomes
Stakeholder Engagement	Meetings with stakeholders (DEC, DEACC and fishing clubs)	All meetings completed	Completed	A total of 4 meetings were conducted, reaching 186 stakeholders.
Confirmation of the Project Site	Identification and validation of the implementation sites	Confirmed original predicted of site	Completed	Project site confirmed at GVH Kakhongwer, TA Mankhambria, Nkhatabay.
Registration of Project Participants	Identification and enrolment of beneficiaries	Established 30 participants overall	Completed	17 men, 13 women and 10 youth registered to participate
Training on Group Dynamics and Organization Management	Capacity building on leadership, governance, and conflict resolution	Capacity training and conflict resolution completed	Completed	2-day training conducted; 2 group constitutions developed
Construction of Efficient Fish Smoking Kilns	Implementation of smoking kilns and skill transfer	Fabrication and construction of improved smoking kilns with skill transfer completed	Completed	3 efficient fish smoking kilns constructed
Construction of Climate-Smart Fish Pond	Construction of climate-resilient fish pond.	Construction of a deep climate-resilient fish pond using a knowledge-transfer approach completed	Completed	500 m ² climate-smart pond constructed and stocked
Installation of Kiln Shades	Install protective shade over smoking kilns	Installed protective shading area over kilns	Completed	1 shade installed
Installation of Metal Drying Racks	Fabrication and installation of improved fish drying racks	Fabrication and installation completed successfully	Completed	2 metal drying racks installed
Orientation on Fish Pond Management	Training on pond management, feeding, water quality, and harvesting	Trainings this far have been completed successfully	In Progress	10 fish farmers trained
Training on Briquette Making	Training on briquette production using agricultural waste	Participants were trained	Completed	20 fish producers trained in briquette making
Demonstration on Use of Efficient Smoking Kilns	Practical demonstrations comparing traditional and improved kilns	Completed demonstrations	Complete	2 demonstrations conducted; 20 fish processors trained
Project Monitoring and Supervision	Continuous monitoring by the project team, the Fisheries Department and the GEF steering committee	Monitoring already on its way, other partner check-ins continue	In Progress	Regular monitoring visits and progress tracking

IMPACT SUMMARY

Impact Area	Description of Impact
Renewable Energy and Waste Utilization	Training in briquette production promoted the use of agricultural waste as an alternative energy source, reducing deforestation and creating additional income opportunities.
Aquaculture Development	The climate-resilient fish pond increased local fish production, strengthened food security, and served as a demonstration site for sustainable aquaculture practices.
Capacity Building and Governance	Group dynamics and leadership training strengthened governance structures, accountability, and collective management of shared resources.
Gender Equality and Youth Empowerment	Targeted inclusion of women and youth increased access to technical skills, leadership roles, and income-generating opportunities within the fish value chain.
Community Resilience	Communities equipped with transferable skills to replicate technologies and sustain benefits and project completion
Environmental Conservation	Communities gained transferable climate-smart skills that enhance resilience to climate shocks while reducing environmental pressure through sustainable resource use

Concluding Statement

The Green-Profish project demonstrates how climate-smart technologies can strengthen fisheries-based livelihoods while promoting environmental sustainability and social inclusion. By equipping women and youth with improved fish processing systems, renewable energy alternatives, and climate-resilient aquaculture practices, the project has reduced post-harvest losses, eased pressure on forest resources, and enhanced household income opportunities. Through strong stakeholder engagement and capacity building, Green-Profish has laid a foundation for community-led replication and long-term resilience, contributing to more sustainable and equitable fish value chains in Malawi.



KAWJO'S CURRENT PROJECTS

SUSTAINABLE AQUATIC FOODS FOR TRANSFORMED AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS (SAF)

Funder: GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

Investment: 278, 473, 764 MK

Timeline: September 2024 to May 2025

Location: Lilongwe, Dedza, Dowa, Mchinji, Ntchisi, Salima and Kasungu

Beneficiaries: 350 new fish farmers, 1400 previous fish farmers & 20 fingerlings producers (34% women fish farmers)

Project Summary:

The Sustainable Aquatic Foods Project was split into two phases. In the first phase, 350 fish farmers and pond owners from Lilongwe, Kasungu, Dowa, and Dedza were selected to participate in a 3-day technical training covering core fish-farming operations and production monitoring, followed by ongoing coaching to support practical application of the skills learned.

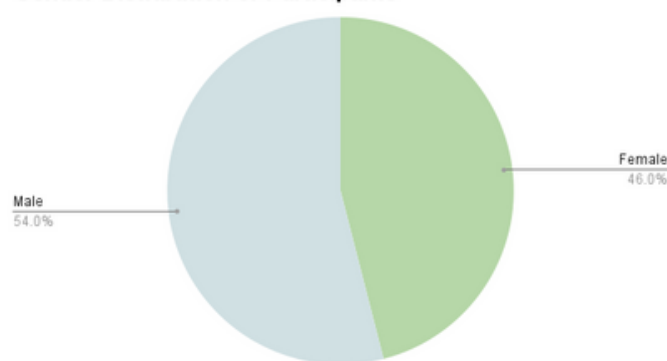
The second phase focuses on strengthening the local fingerling supply. Five fingerling producers were chosen for an intensive 4-day hatchery operations training and equipped with essential hatchery tools—such as hapa nets, sampling nets, scoop nets, weighing scales, and graders—along with high-quality broodstock sourced from a nationally accredited hatchery. Continuous data collection tracks how improved technologies and applied skills contribute to increased fish production and overall system efficiency.





The project places strong emphasis on improving women's participation because they play a critical role in household nutrition, food preparation, and livelihood diversification. Enhancing women's skills and access to knowledge in aquaculture contributes directly to improved household food security, income stability, and resilience to climate shocks. Additionally, promoting women's inclusion supports gender equity, strengthens community-level adoption of sustainable aquaculture practices, and aligns with national and donor priorities on gender-responsive agricultural development.

Gender Distribution of Participants



ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

Activity Area	Target	Disctrics Covered	Completion Status	Key Outcomes
Project Sensitization & Coordination	DEACC meetings and district engagement	Ntchisi, Salima, Dedza, Mchinji	Completed	Approval and buy-in secured for SAF implementation
Fish Farming Training Assessment	500 household-level assessments conducted using questionnaire surveys	Dedza, Dowa, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Salima, Ntchisi	Completed	555 farmers assessed
Hatchery Operator Needs Assessment	Assessment of AVCP- trained hatchery operators	Dedza, Dowa, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Salima, Ntchisi	On Going	20 operators assessed; 14 active, 6 inactive
Fish Farming Coaching Sessions	Group coaching and follow-up discussions	Dedza, Dowa, Kasungu, Lilongwe	Completed	Over 20 coaching sessions conducted
Refresher Trainings (CSA)	Climate smart aquaculture refresher trainings	Dedza, Dowa, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Mchinji	Completed	17 refresher training sessions conducted
New Fish Farming Coaching & Follow-up	Coaching for non-AVCP farmers and follow-up loops	Kasungu	Completed	Multiple coaching, monitoring and verification sessions for new fish farmers
Fish Farmer Verification & Monitoring	Verification of active farmers and production data	Kasungu	Completed	Verificaiied farmers lists and production status

IMPACT SUMMARY

Impact Area	Description of Impact
Youth Empowerment	This project engages young people across each district through training needs assessments, coaching sessions, and refresher training. Youth participants acquired practical skills in pond management, feed formulation, and climate-smart aquaculture, improving their ability to engage in fish farming as a stable livelihood and reducing reliance on subsistence farming alone.
Economic Impact	By improving fish farming skills, enhancing access to quality fingerlings, and promoting feed formulation using local materials, the project increased the potential for household income generation. Farmers began viewing aquaculture as a business, improving record keeping, production planning, and market-oriented practices.
Community Engagement	Community-level coaching sessions and group discussions fostered peer learning, collective problem-solving, and stronger farmer organizations. Farmers increasingly worked in groups to deepen ponds, share labour, bulk-purchase inputs, and address common challenges together, strengthening social cohesion and community ownership of aquaculture activities.
Agriculture Capacity Building	Through the completion of needs assessments, refresher trainings, and coaching, this project enhanced technical knowledge in climate-smart aquaculture, integrated agriculture-aquaculture (IAA), pond design, water management, and predator control. This improved farmers' adaptive capacity to climate shocks and improved the sustainability of fish farming systems.
Gender Inclusion	This project intentionally promoted women's participation in all activities, achieving gender equality for all participants. By empowering women with aquaculture knowledge and skills, the project improved women's roles in household nutrition, income generation, and decision-making, contributing to more equitable and sustainable farming households.

Concluding Statement

The SAF project strengthened smallholder aquaculture systems by building technical capacity, improving access to quality fingerlings, and promoting climate-smart production practices across all districts. Through training, coaching, and resilient community engagement, the project improved productivity, income generation, and resilience among fish farmers—particularly women and youth. These interventions have positioned aquaculture as a viable, market-oriented livelihood while supporting more sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems in Malawi.



KAWJO'S CURRENT PROJECTS

SMART-AQUA: CLIMATE-SMART AQUATIC FOOD SYSTEMS SKILLS FOR YOUNG WOMEN AND MEN (PIF)

Funder: WUSC - World University Service of Canada

Investment: 55,595,512 MKW

Location: Senior Chief M'bwatalika

Timeline: November 2024 to October 2025

Beneficiaries: 50 total participants, 35 women and 15 men (aged 18-34)

Project Summary:

The Smart-Aqua project is a practical training and skills development initiative for the vulnerable youth population at the Kawjo Foundation's field school and aquaculture demonstration site in M'bwatalika. This program equips participants with climate-smart agriculture and aquaculture techniques and combines tilapia rearing with diversified crop production, including onions, bananas, tomatoes, and green peppers. Participants also gain hands-on experience in constructing and operating a greenhouse for fish farming and vegetable cultivation.

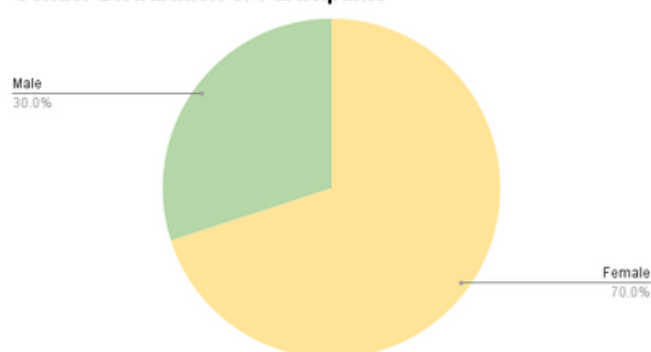
In addition to technical skills, the project improved participants' economic resilience through business development and entrepreneurship training, including guidance on accessing and managing Village Savings and Loans (VSLs). The curriculum further promotes waste recycling practices, effective group dynamics, and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI).





We have engaged 70% females and 30% males from the surrounding communities for this initiative. Women's and youth participation is essential, particularly in Malawi, where limitations in land access, training, and financial resources are most common. In the aquaculture sector, gender gaps continue to be significant, with women restricted to low-income, labour-intensive roles, rather than decision-making positions. By promoting gender inclusion, this project supports more unbiased access to skills and economic opportunities, helping strengthen the community and sustainable aquaculture livelihoods.

Gender Distribution of Participants



ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

Activity Area	Target	Result	Completion Status	Key Outcomes
Conducted stakeholder meetings with the DAECC, DEC, LUANAR, ADC)	Over 4 meetings completed	All meetings completed	Completed	Approval for project, engaged the community with decision-making processes and implemented plan validation in 4 meetings.
Community Sensitization & Youth Registration	Identify/ onboard 50 youth	Registered 35 females, 15 men	Completed	Established youth groups, concluded participant screening and registration
Complete Groups Dynamic and Development training	1 module & training	Deliver training to all participants	Completed	Youth constitution, leadership and governance training implemented
Pond Construction	1 production pond	Pond fully constructed & fitted	Completed	Fully functioning aquaculture systems ready for production
Greenhouse Installation	1 Greenhouse	Greenhouse installed with ventilation & shading	Completed	Support for integrated aquaculture & horticulture production
Greenhouse Pond Management Training	Train all participants	Participants were trained	Completed	Participants were equipped with technical pond management skills
Fish Stocking	5,500 fingerlings (2 species)	All species stocked	Completed	Production cycle initiated
Agribusiness, GMBS & VSL Training	Train all Participants	Participants were trained	In Progress	3 VSL groups formed
Greenhouse Vegetable Production Training	Train all Participants	Participants were trained	In Progress	Support diversification of Income
PSEA & Gender Equality Training	Train all Participants	Participants were trained	In Progress	Build safer, equitable working spaces for women
Coaching & Follow-Up Loops	Train all Participants	Sessions have been conducted and continue	In Progress	Monitor structures and ensuring practices are still being implemented

IMPACT SUMMARY

Impact Area	Description of Impact
Youth Empowerment	A total of 50 youth were trained in organizational and aquaculture-related skills, with 70% female participation, strengthening young women's leadership, technical capacity, and active engagement in the value chain.
Economic Impact	Established a functional fishpond and greenhouse system. Stocked fish, and supported Village Savings and Loan (VSL) groups, creating pathways for future income generation, improved household earnings, and sustainable livelihoods.
Community Engagement	Strengthened collaboration and local leaders, Area Development Committees (ADC), LUANAR, and District-level institutions, fostering local ownership and enhancing the sustainability of project interventions beyond the project period.
Agriculture Capacity Building	Participants acquired foundational skills in pond management, group leadership and aquaculture business structures, improving productivity, governance, and long-term viability of fish farming enterprises
Gender Inclusion	Prioritized the recruitment and engagement of women participants, increasing women's involvement in community economic activities, enhancing decision-making roles, and contributing to closing the gender gap in the aquaculture sector.

Concluding Statement

The PIF project successfully trained vulnerable youth and young women with climate-smart skills in aquaculture, agriculture, and entrepreneurship. By integrating fish production, greenhouse farming, and financial knowledge, this project improved livelihood diversification, leadership, and economic resilience. These outcomes have established a strong foundation for youth-led, sustainable aquaculture enterprises and long-term community impact beyond the project period.



KAWJO'S CURRENT PROJECTS

BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR WOMEN IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PROJECT (WE4D)

Project date: June 2025 – October 2026

Location: Dowa and Dedza, Malawi

Investment: 112 000 000 MKW

Number of Beneficiaries: 50 women fish farmers, 17 hatchery operators, 200 fish farmers

Project Summary:

The Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture project seeks to improve women's participation and success in Malawi's fisheries and aquaculture sectors by promoting gender-inclusive practices, improving skills, expanding employment opportunities, and increasing income generation. Although women play critical roles in the fish value chain, they continue to face obstacles such as limited access to land and capital, challenging gender norms, and poor working conditions. These constraints limit their ability to participate and benefit from aquaculture meaningfully.

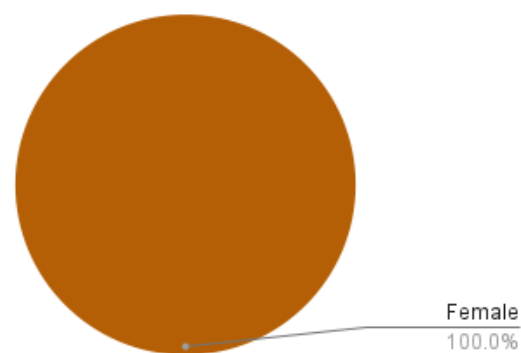
To address these gaps, the project equips women with practical technical skills and business competencies needed for fingerling production and enterprise development. Key activities include establishing demonstration sites for fingerling production, delivering technical training, providing mentorship and follow-up coaching, offering training on the economic importance of gender inclusion through Gender makes Business Sense trainings, and introducing skills for making fishing materials. Together, these interventions support women's empowerment and contribute to a more equitable and sustainable aquaculture sector.





Initiatives such as the WE4D project are critical for empowering women in aquaculture, a sector where they have traditionally faced limited access to resources, skills, and decision-making power. By intentionally targeting women with capacity-building, leadership development, and climate-smart production technologies, the project helps to reduce structural gender inequalities and strengthen women's economic independence. Promoting equality through inclusive participation, gender-responsive training, and support for women-led enterprises not only improves livelihoods but also contributes to more resilient households and communities, ensuring that women are recognized as key drivers of sustainable growth in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Gender Distribution of Participants



ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

Activity Area	Target	Districs Covered	Completion Status	Key Outcomes
TNA: Fish Farmers	Administrative questionnaires to assess knowledge gaps in Gender Make Business Sense (GmBS) and fish fingerling production	Dowa, Dedza	Completed	Identified knowledge gaps; registered 200 participants (Dowa: 125; Dedza: 75)
TNA: Hatchery Operators	Assess of capacity, production levels, and challenges of hatchery operators	Dowa, Dedza, Mchingji, Salima, Lilongwe, Kasungu, Mtchisi	Completed	Highlighted underperformance and identified the need for refresher trainings
Selection of Greenhouse Beneficiaries	Identify women eligible for greenhouse-based fingerling production	Dowa & Dedza	Completed	Selection verified with government officers; ready for intervention
Group Dynamics and Organization Development Training	Two-day participatory training to build functional groups and draft constitutions	Dowa & Dedza	Completed	Developed 2 group constitution; elected group leaders
Pond maintenance & Greenhouse Installation Preparation	Pond construction, lining, outline pipe installation, fertilization	Dedza	Completed	Prepared site for greenhouse installation; predicament underway
Staff Capacity Building	Workshops on M&E administration, accounts, PwDs inclusion, and gender Makes Business Sense ToT	Project Staff	Completed/ Ongoing	Staff trained to implement GmBS training effectively

IMPACT SUMMARY

Impact Area	Description of Impact
Youth Empowerment	Youth were actively included in training needs assessments and group dynamics training, strengthening their skills, confidence, and participation in aquaculture livelihood opportunities.
Economic Impact	Registration of fish farmers, preparation for greenhouse installation, and capacity building of hatchery operators are expected to increase fingerling production, improve productivity, and enhance income generation for women-led aquaculture enterprises.
Community Engagement	Participatory assessments and group-based training strengthen collaboration among fish farmers, community leaders, extension workers, and government fisheries officers, fostering collective action and shared ownership of project interventions
Agriculture Capacity Building	Training needs assessments, group dynamics training, and preparatory activity for climate-smart greenhouse systems enhanced technical, organizational, and management capacity in fisheries and aquaculture production
Gender Inclusion	Gender-responsive assessments and target selection of women beneficiaries strengthened women's participation, leadership, and decision-making in aquaculture value chains, addressing existing gender disparities in access to resources and income.

Conclusion Statement

The WE4D project has taken the necessary steps to amplify women's participation and leadership in Malawi's fisheries and aquaculture sector. By acknowledging skills gaps, increasing opportunities for climate-smart production systems, and strengthening governance, the project is paving the way for women-led aquaculture enterprises to create sustainable income. These early outcomes contribute to reducing gender inequalities and building more resilient livelihoods for women and their communities.



Kawjo reaches eight rural districts through its four current projects. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Salima district is in phase 3 (crisis) of food insecurity.¹ The other 7 districts are in phase 2 (stressed).

- SAF: Lilongwe, Mchinji, Kasungu, Dowa, Salima, Ntchisi and Dedza
- Smart Aqua (PIF): Lilongwe
- Green Profish (GEF): Nkhata Bay
- Women in Fisheries (WE4D): Dowa, Dedza



1. IPC Phase 2 (Stressed): Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies. IPC Phase 3 (Crisis): Households either have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies. For more details: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (2024, July). [Malawi: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for May - September 2024 and Projection for October 2024 - March 2025.xt](#)

FINAL IMPACT FINDINGS

Key Findings	GEF: Green-Profish	SAF: Sustainable Aquatic Foods	PIF: Smart Aqua Project	WE4D: Women in Fisheries
Individuals/ Groups Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 core participants Over 186 stakeholders engaged 2 functional community groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 1,000 farmers reached across 7 districts 20 hatchery operators assessed 17 refresher trainings delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 organized youth (35 women) 1 greenhouse-integrated production unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 women fish farmers trained 1 strengthened women's group
Social Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women & youth actively engaged in governance structures Improved decision making skills, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong youth participation Inclusion of PLWDs in field activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong female youth leadership Youth organized into functional production group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% women participation Inclusion of youth and PLWDs
Key Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divergent interests between producers and processes High community expectations for allowance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate shocks (ponds drying) High feed costs & fingerling shortages Farmer dependency mindset Fuel crisis affecting mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delayed soft-skill and sustainability trainings Need for stronger business orientation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low baseline knowledge on group governance
Adaptive Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separated groups by functions with own constitutions Transparent budget communicate-community co-financing through labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shift to deeper/larger pond standards Promotion of low-cost feed formulation Linking farmer to active hatcheries Coaching behaviour change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-phasing of training into next cycle Integration of GMBS, VSL and coaching plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly participatory training methods Partial constitution development
Community Value	The GEF project demonstrated Kawjp's ability to manage community expectations, strengthen institutions, and embed sustainability beyond infrastructure	Positioned Kawjo as a national-scale technical partner capable of adaptive delivery under climate and operational stress	Established a model youth innovation hub linking aquaculture, agriculture, and climate-smart infrastructure	Reinforced Kawj's strength in gender-transformative programming and women-led collective action





As this report demonstrates, 2025 has been a year of impactful progress, learning, and achievements for the Kawjo Foundation and the communities we serve. In every project, we have strengthened climate-smart aquaculture systems, expanded skills and improved livelihood opportunities for women and youth, by promoting community ownership of sustainable food production initiatives. These achievements reflect not only the effectiveness of technical interventions but also the power of inclusive, participatory approaches that place communities at the center of development.

As challenges such as climate change and resource constraints persist, the adaptive strategies implemented year-round demonstrate the Kawjo Foundation's commitment to learning, sustainability, and long-term impact. Our projects are paving the way for resilient futures that extend beyond the project cycle by blending capacity building, gender-responsive programming, and environmental stewardship.

Looking ahead to 2026, Kawjo remains committed to strengthening partnerships, improving livelihoods, and continuously building high-quality programs that align with our 2024-2028 strategic plan. With the continued support of our donors, partners and stakeholders, we will build on these projects to promote food security, economic empowerment, and equality for Malawi's most vulnerable communities.





ZIKOMO

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