

This provides an update on World Vision's efforts to end extreme poverty by 2030 through Economic Empowerment.



Economic Empowerment Briefing

May 2017

Greetings!

World Vision is delighted to send you our Executive Briefing for Economic Empowerment. You are an integral part of our work to end extreme poverty by 2030, so we want to keep you updated on our progress!

In this issue, you will find:

- A note from Christopher Shore, CDO for Economic Empowerment, WVUS
- Vision Trip Announcements
- Prayer Requests
- World Vision Micro

THRIVE Malawi

A note by Christopher Shore

Malawi is a small landlocked country in southern Africa, bordered by Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique. It is one of the poorest and now most deforested countries on the planet, and is heavily dependent upon agriculture for its well-being. It ranks 160th of 182 countries in terms of the Human Development Index, and according to the UNDP 90% of the population lives on less than \$2.00/day. It has recently experienced the negative effects of drought brought about by the El Nino event.



With World Vision's history in Malawi dating to 1982, and with microfinance investments dating to the late 1990s, Malawi was and is a logical choice for the THRIVE program, which is aimed at building radically improved and resilient livelihoods.

THRIVE is moving well in Malawi, with an initial emphasis on the fundamentals of the model:

- The Biblical Empowered Worldview;
- Savings Groups;
- Access to Financial Services;
- Formation of Commercial Producer Groups; and
- Natural Resource Management – soils and trees.

On the Biblical Empowered Worldview, World Vision has benefited from partnership with churches who have seen that the Biblical imperatives not only apply to personal conduct and agency, but include an urgent imperative to care for Creation (Malawi is one of the countries experiencing extremely high rates of deforestation).

The work in Savings Groups has benefited from over 15 years of emphasis on this approach to building financial and social capital, and Malawi is over 67% of the way to reaching its targets of people involved in Savings Groups. Almost 16,000 people are currently Savings Group members.

With the partnership of Farm Concern International, World Vision Malawi has already created a large number of Producer Groups, although the membership of these groups remains small. However, good momentum has been created in some now familiar agricultural value chains. For example, almost three tonnes of honey has been marketed and sold through honey producer groups. Sweet!

VisionFund Malawi is reporting a strong presence in the communities where THRIVE is working, and is benefiting from the significant investment in their computer and information technology systems. This investment in their core banking systems, mobile data capture, and mobile banking is driving down the costs and time required for serving agricultural loans. Expect more information on this in the next few months.

Finally, THRIVE Malawi is making concerted efforts to emphasize the importance of building soil quality and managing forests. The recent 2 years of drought caused by the El Nino event has the benefit of concentrating the mind! Everyone in Malawi knows the importance of keeping water in the soil, in the streams, and in the aquifers.

THRIVE Malawi is moving. The foundations are being built. We will keep watching to see what gets

built on the foundation! My best guess – an engine for building smallholder farmer wellbeing and resilience.

Christopher Shore

CDO for Economic Empowerment, World Vision U.S.

Vision Trip Season

Vision Trips are a great way to see the impact of our work and the transition from poverty to prosperity. We invite you to join our staff and beneficiaries in the field on the following trips!

1) Join Christopher Shore, CDO for Economic Empowerment, in **Malawi** from **September 4-9, 2017**. This trip will showcase the work World Vision and VisionFund International are doing with the [THRIVE Model](#) to move smallholder farmers out of extreme poverty. Please click the orange button below if you would like more information about this Vision Trip.



[More Information about the Vision Trip to Malawi](#)

2) Join Tony Frank, National Director for WVUS, in **Myanmar** from **October 27-November 1, 2017**. We also have tentative trips in the works to Myanmar for **November 5-11** and **November 19-25** based on your availability. Trips to Myanmar will feature the work VisionFund International is doing to provide access for the poor to financial services in order to lift them out of poverty. [This article](#), written by a recent Vision Trip traveler to Myanmar, provides you a glimpse of what a Vision Trip would look like. Please click

below if you would like more information about upcoming Vision Trips to Myanmar.



[More Information about the Vision Trip to Myanmar](#)

Prayer Requests

PRAISE

- Due to the generous hearts of our donors we have received a gift to support the THRIVE work in Zambia. This gift helps move us closer to eliminating extreme poverty in Zambia.
- The work our staff and beneficiaries in Malawi have done to transform lives through THRIVE.

REQUESTS

- Pray that our THRIVE work in Malawi continues to expand and reach more smallholder farmers, and that the farmers continue to be engaged and eager to learn from and work with our staff.
- Pray that our Vision Trips fill up so that more people can have their hearts broken by the things that break the heart of God.

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