February 2020 Featured Grantee
Shared Interest

Malawi
Introducing Shared Interest

Shared Interest mobilizes the resources for Southern Africa’s economically disenfranchised communities to sustain themselves and build equitable nations.
Where in the world?

- Malawi is a landlocked country in southeast Africa, population 17.5 million
- It is vulnerable to natural disasters: cyclones, drought, earthquakes, flooding, and severe storms
- 80% work in agriculture
- There are few opportunities in other economic sectors
- 11% have access to electricity
- Half of the population struggles with poverty
- 72% of men and 66% of women are literate
- Corruption is rampant
Life Challenges of the Women Served

- Small scale farmers have difficulty accessing quality seeds
- Traditional crops like legumes are grown mostly by women. These crops are not lucrative for seed manufacturers and therefore are neglected
- Shortage of quality seed contributes to ongoing poor agricultural productivity, malnutrition, and soil degradation
- 84% of rural households report food insecurity at least one month of the year
What are we supporting?

Seeds of Resilience

• helps smallholder farmers multiply and distribute climate-resilient, protein-rich legume seeds to improve farmer productivity and livelihoods.

• creates woman-owned seed production company, African Women in Agribusiness (AWAB)

Direct Impact: 929
Indirect Impact: 58,500
## Budget

DFW’s grant of $45,000 for one year will fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local consultants</td>
<td>Staff support for AWAB and its growers, including AWAB CEO, agriculture extension officers, accountant/warehouse staff</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment and supplies</td>
<td>Monthly subscription to monitoring and evaluation software platform and two tablets</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional services</td>
<td>Legal services for individual entrepreneurs and AWAB to enable the group to apply for a loan</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of credit fees</td>
<td>Guaranteeing loan to AWAB, fees charged by bank holding collateral backing loan</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 45,000</strong></td>
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About the Featured Grantee

Shared Interest offers three key services:

1. Loan guarantees and assistance with credit access – provides up to 75% of collateral
2. Technical support and capacity building for borrowers – ensures women can manage credit and their business plans are sound
3. Training and institutional development for banks – adapts underwriting standards, develops appropriate loan products, and implements risk practices
Share Your Thoughts

1. How do you think this project might affect the family dynamics of the women farmers?

2. What traits would you look for in the nine AWAB entrepreneurs?

3. How do you think this project will benefit the broader community, including the non-farmers?
February’s Sustained Grantee: Catalyst Foundation

Health and Hygiene Program in Ninh Thuận Province, Vietnam

The purpose of the project is to provide families with daily access to safe water, proper sanitation, hygiene, and quality medical care by

- Installing a 4-tank water filtration system
- Building a low-cost, high-quality toilet at each home
- Training a local team of women plumbers
- Providing education on safe hygiene, menstruation, and sanitation
- Providing annual medical and dental care

Direct Impact: 140 women, 96 girls; Indirect Impact: 224