

# Global Programme “Sustainable Aquatic Food” in Malawi

Small-scale producers of sustainable aquatic foods have successfully contributed to the transformation of aquatic food systems in Malawi

## The challenge

Fish is a popular food and the most important source of animal protein in Malawi. However, the country’s future supply of fish products is uncertain due to diminishing fish stocks in water bodies such as Lake Malawi. This has affected the availability of affordable fish in rural areas, a situation exacerbated by increased population growth, which has also increased the demand for fish. In addition to the extreme poverty suffered by the people, the shortage of fish also contributes to malnutrition, which greatly affects rural populations, especially children.

Sustainable aquaculture production offers a way to provide the population with high-quality food and counteract malnutrition. However, the expansion of fish production by smallholder farmers faces significant hurdles such as lack of essential production inputs, technical expertise and climatic shocks, which hinders their ability to operate aquaculture systems that are both environmentally friendly and economically viable. This limits the potential for increased production and deprives communities of valuable income, employment opportunities, and consumption of affordable nutritious fish products.

## Our approach

SAF Malawi aims to utilize the potential of sustainable aquatic foods to transform agriculture and food systems in Malawi. This will be done by:

Project name	Global Programme “Sustainable Aquatic Food” in Malawi
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Nkhatabay, Mzimba, Rumphi, Kasungu, Ntchisi, Mchinji, Dowa, Salima, Lilongwe, Dedza, Zomba, Chiradzulu, Phalombe, Thyolo, Mulanje, Blantyre, Mwanza, Neno
Political partner	Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI)
Duration	03/2024 – 02/2028
Budget	Up to EUR 3,488 million

The programme contributes to achieving these sustainable development goals:



- Strengthening the capacity of small-scale producers of aquatic foods** to address the knowledge and skills gap in aquaculture and business management. Technical trainings like the climate-smart aquaculture practices and the Aquaculture Business School as a business and entrepreneurial training are a focus to boost production and the business acumen of small-scale producers.
- Promoting knowledge sharing of existing aquaculture innovations and approaches** using regional and international knowledge exchange platforms.
- Supporting the establishment of productive cooperations** to facilitate business linkages between producers/processors and the private sector.
- Supporting the capacity building of women-led organizations in the fish value chain** to enable them to contribute to national and regional policy platforms.
- Supporting the development of sustainable cage aquaculture in Malawi** by improving the framework conditions for regulating cage aquaculture operations.





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## Results in figures

Until February 2028, the project aims to achieve the following:

- **5,5000 agricultural enterprises**, 30% of which are managed by women, have increased their production by an average of **30%**.
- **2 digital platforms** have made solutions for the promotion of sustainable aquaculture widely available.
- **2 cooperations** along the value chain have been established, one of them between producers/processors and the private sector.
- **Association of Women Fish Processors and Traders Network** has made two contributions to regional policy formats.
- **Guidelines for sustainable cage aquaculture** are developed.

## The benefits

Training in climate-smart aquaculture practices will build resilience and support the adaptation of small-scale producers to climatic shocks that affect their farming operations. Further to this, farmers will be equipped with knowledge on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and business management, which will boost their stance in taking farming as a business. Above all, these interventions will position small-scale farmers to sustainably produce more fish and contribute to improved food and nutrition security in Malawi.

## Where we work



This geographical map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions; GIZ makes no claims concerning the validity, accuracy or completeness of the maps nor assumes any liability resulting from the use of the information therein.

## Success factors

The project leverages on the political will by the government to support the initiative to increase fish production as several interventions have been launched, including the mega farms initiative which has aquaculture as a component. This is an assurance that the implementation of this project receives the necessary support from implementing partners. Further to this, the project also utilizes the different technologies and capacity built by the predecessor project, the Aquaculture Value Chain Project (AVCP), hence laying a foundation for smooth implementation of this project. The project also sees a lot of opportunities to achieve its intended purpose through synergies with other projects such as the GIZ Agriculture Finance project as capital is a catalyst for agricultural development, yet it remains a challenge for small-scale farmers to access it.

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