

Karonga District Commissioner Urges Communities to Embrace Self-Reliance

Karonga District Commissioner Willard Mwambo urged communities to utilise the knowledge and skills gained through development interventions to strengthen their livelihoods and achieve self-reliance.

The remarks were made on 28 July 2026 at Mwenelondo during a joint project monitoring visit organised by SPRODETA.

“The knowledge you have gained from SPRODETA’s interventions should help you to be self-reliant,” said Mwambo, encouraging community members to build on the skills and opportunities created through the project.

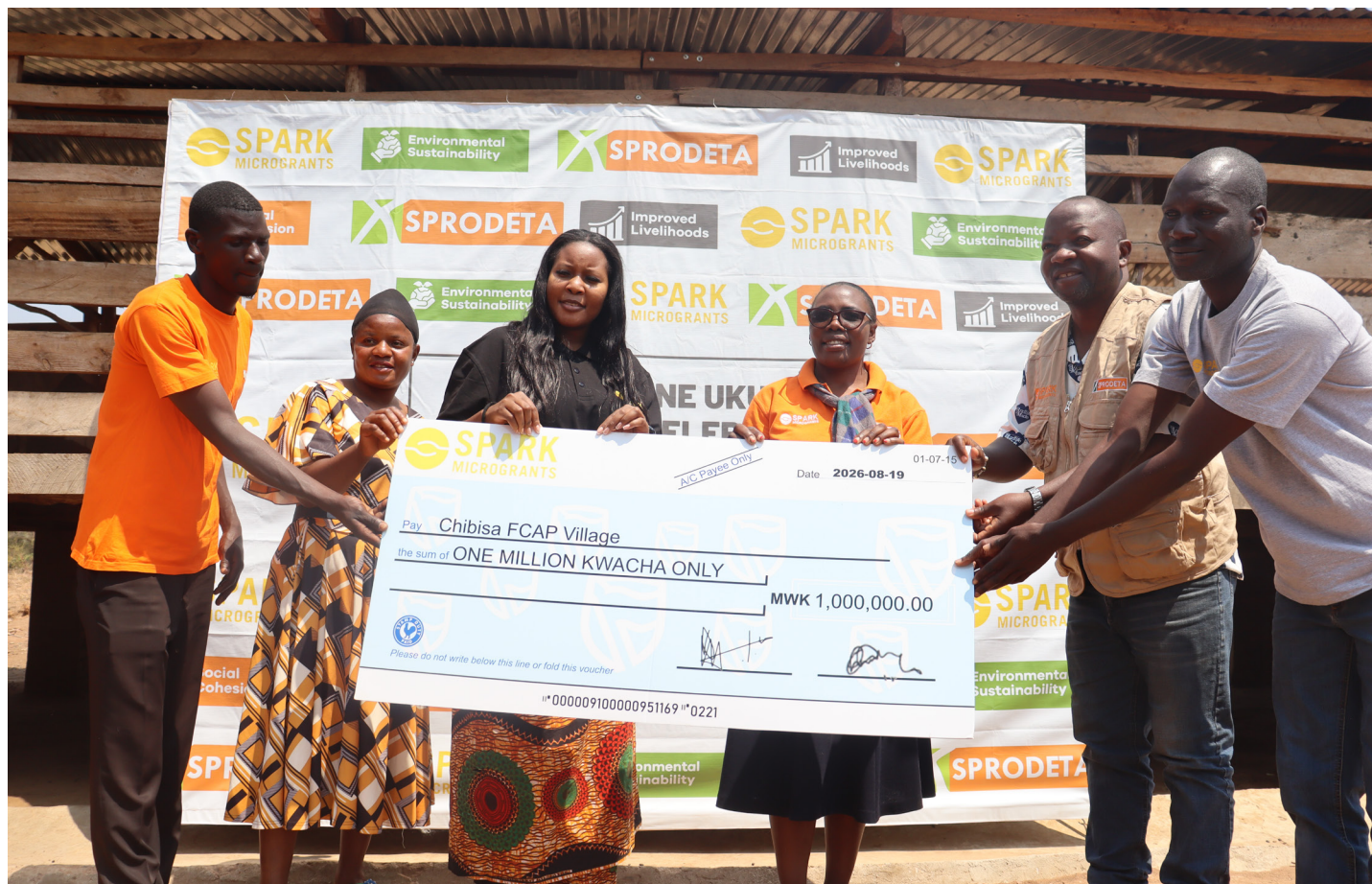
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Chibisa FCAP Awarded MK1 Million for Outstanding Community Performance



Presentation of dummy cheque to members of Chibisa FCAP Committee and CBF by Charity Nawanga, Racheal Kaunda and Allen Kumwenda

Chibisa FCAP Community was awarded MK1,000,000 by SPARK Microgrants on 26 August 2026 in recognition of its outstanding performance under the Titukulane Tikusamala Chilengedwe Project, implemented by SPRODETA with funding from SPARK Microgrants.

Since 2024, the project has been implemented across communities under Traditional Authorities Mtwalo, Jalavikuba and Mpherembe, aiming to strengthen community participation in environmental conservation, promote local development and improve livelihoods.

It began with 12 communities, four under each Traditional Authority, with participating communities expected to graduate after two years and continue their activities independently. A graduation ceremony held in

June 2026 marked this transition.

Among the 12 participating communities, Chibisa FCAP stood out for its continued commitment to community development even after graduating from the project. Its outstanding performance was demonstrated through active participation, unity and sustained environmental conservation efforts.

Community members continued holding regular meetings after graduation, demonstrating ownership of the initiative and a commitment to sustaining its activities. Their strong sense of unity and collective

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Chibisa FCAP Members and Guests posing after the function

responsibility has also enabled them to work together and support one another in pursuing their shared goals.

One of the community's most visible achievements has been its continued care for trees planted through the project. The trees are thriving, reflecting the members' dedication to environmental protection and the sustainability of project-supported interventions.

In recognition of these achievements, SPARK Microgrants awarded the community MK1,000,000 to support and expand its activities. The award represents more than financial assistance; it recognises the importance of community ownership, collective action and sustained commitment in achieving lasting development outcomes.



Annie Laisani, Programme Officer for SPARK addressing the people



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Chairperson of Mwenelondo General Farmers Cooperative, Mr Winston O. Kapira, reaffirmed the cooperative's commitment to sustaining the income-generating activities established through the interventions.

He said members would continue applying the knowledge gained and maintaining their activities to ensure lasting benefits beyond the project's support.



Winston O. Kapira

Chairperson - Mwenelondo General
Farmers Cooperative

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“We produce moringa, we are shelling groundnuts, among others. As a cooperative, we will make sure that these are taken care of properly so that we continue improving our livelihoods and become self-reliant even after SPRODETA has left us,” said Kapira.

During the monitoring exercise, Mwambo visited Mwenelondo General Farmers Cooperative, where members are engaged in agricultural value-addition and other income-generating activities, including groundnut shelling and moringa production. These initiatives aim to increase the value of agricultural produce, create income opportunities and strengthen household livelihoods.

The visit highlighted the importance of community ownership and the continued application of acquired skills in sustaining development gains. It also underscored the need for communities to maintain project-supported activities to ensure that the benefits continue beyond the project period.



DC for Karonga addressing the people during the monitoring at Mwenelondo Cooperative



DC for Karonga inspecting the Moringa Dryer at Mwenelondo Cooperative



DC for Karonga, invited guests, officials from SPRODETA and members of Mwenelondo General Farmers Cooperative, posing for a group photo after the monitoring visit

Esther Kawonga Finds New Hope Through Goat Pass-On Initiative

Esther Kawonga, 45, is a farmer from Chikutu under Traditional Authority Kilipula in Karonga District. She is a member of Chikutu Cooperative and a beneficiary of SPRODETA's integrated initiatives, including the Goat Pass-On, agro-ecology and value-addition initiatives.

Through the Goat Pass-On initiative, Esther received five goats, one billy and four does. With proper care and management, the goats reproduced, enabling her to pass on four goats to another community member, Kettie Msukwa, in line with the project's pass-on approach.

The intervention has transformed Esther's ability to support her family. Income from livestock production has enabled her to meet other basic needs for her two children, who are currently studying at Kamuzu College of Health Sciences and LUANAR.

"It was difficult for me to generate enough money to help my children with basic needs before SPRODETA intervention," Esther said.

In addition to generating income, Esther uses goat manure to improve soil fertility in her rice field and



Esther Kawonga with one of her goats

orchard, where she grows mangoes, pawpaws and bananas. This has helped her integrate livestock production with crop farming while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Esther's story demonstrates how SPRODETA's integrated interventions are improving household livelihoods, supporting children's education and promoting sustainable farming practices. Through the Goat Pass-On initiative, she is also helping extend these benefits to other community members.



Kawonga giving food to her livestock

"It was difficult for me to generate enough money to help my children with basic needs..."

21 Women in Mphompha Receive Customary Land Certificates, Strengthening Land Rights



Josephine Msowoya (in blue t-shirt) received her customary land certificate

Twenty one women received formal customary land certificates on 25 August 2026 at Ntchuka Primary School Ground in Mphompha Extension Planning Area (EPA), Rumphi District, marking a significant milestone in advancing women's land rights and security of tenure.

The presentation ceremony, held under the Promoting Environment and Community Economy (PEACE) Project, brought together community members, traditional leaders, project stakeholders and beneficiaries to celebrate progress towards more inclusive and equitable customary land governance.

For the women, the certificates will provide recognition of their land rights and greater confidence in using their land for housing, agriculture and other livelihood activities.

In her remarks, one of the beneficiaries, Lucy Msowoya of Yalumula Village, under Traditional Authority Chivwenene in Rumphi District, stated that cultural practices had previously limited her access to land and that the certificate will strengthen her confidence in her ownership rights.

"In our culture, parents share land to their male children, with the view that female children will get married and have land to their husband's side. The presentation of this certificate to

me is an encouragement to all the people to consider sharing land to women, so that they can take part in various development endeavours," said Msowoya.

The project is being implemented in Rumphi and Chitipa districts.

The presentation of the 21 certificates marked an important step towards strengthening women's rights, supporting their livelihoods and promoting more equitable communities.

SPARK CEO Applauds Chibalazi Community's Spirit and Development Efforts

SPARK Microgrants Chief Executive Officer Sasha Fisher commended Chibalazi FCAP Community in Mzimba District on 15 September 2026 for its strong community spirit, commitment to development, and determination to improve livelihoods.

Fisher made the remarks during a visit to the community, located under Traditional Authority Jalavikuba, where SPRODETA has been implementing the Titukulane Tikusamala Chilengedwe FCAP with support from SPARK Microgrants.

Chibalazi FCAP chose goat farming as its first development pathway in 2024, followed by the establishment of a community Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) as its second pathway. Both initiatives have continued to progress, with members actively participating in their management and implementation.



Fisher interacting with some of the women from Chibalazi FCAP

"The community members have put in so much hard work, sitting together, planning, budgeting, keeping accounts and records. Brilliant projects have been launched, including goat farming, SACCO and independent pathways. This is remarkable. Not everywhere in the world do you see such community spirit," said Fisher.

Chairperson for Chibalazi FCAP, Innocent Chulu, expressed gratitude for the support received through the project and reaffirmed the community's commitment to sustaining its development initiatives.

"We have benefited a lot through these interventions, from knowledge to financial support. We will continue taking good care of the goats and promote our community SACCO for continued livelihood improvement," said Chulu.



Pictorial focus from the visit

From Five Goats To A Growing Livelihood

For Doreen Chawinga of Matukuta Village in Karonga District, five goats received through the BUILD Project in July 2025 have become a valuable asset in her journey towards improved livelihoods and household resilience.

Doreen received four female goats and one male goat, which she embraced as an opportunity to strengthen her family's livelihood. Since then, her herd has grown to six goats, including two newborn kids, demonstrating encouraging progress in her goat-rearing activities.

Beyond growing her own herd, Doreen has also contributed to extending the benefits of the intervention within her community by passing on two goats to another beneficiary. This reflects the spirit of sharing and community support that helps livelihood initiatives reach more households.

The goats are providing Doreen with several opportunities to improve her family's well-being. Their manure can be used to enhance soil fertility and support crop production, while the growing herd represents a valuable household asset with the potential to generate income through the sale of goats.

Looking ahead, Doreen is determined to expand her goat-rearing activities, increase her herd and generate income to meet her family's needs.

"I want to continue expanding my goat rearing so that I can own more goats, earn money and support my family's needs," said Doreen.

Doreen's journey illustrates how a modest investment in livestock can create opportunities for household development. Through the BUILD Project, her experience highlights the potential of livelihood support to strengthen household assets, encourage community sharing and help families work towards a more secure future.



Doreen Chawinga (left) and her husband feeding their goats



Chawinga's husband posing with one of the goats

Eight GBV Survivors Make Progress in Tailoring Training

Eight women who are survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Pusi area, under GVH Matukuta, Traditional Authority Kilupula in Karonga District, are taking steps towards economic empowerment through tailoring training supported by SPRODETA.

The training commenced on 29 June 2026 and is expected to run until December 2026. It aims to equip the women with practical tailoring skills that could create opportunities for income generation and help them work towards greater economic self-reliance.

As the training progresses, the participants are learning to make skirts and other clothing items, developing skills that could enable them to pursue income-generating activities upon completion of the programme.

Sellah Simwayi, chairperson of the group, expressed appreciation to SPRODETA for introducing the initiative, noting its potential to help the women become economically independent.

“This training will go a long way in ensuring that we are self-reliant,” said Simwayi.

While the training is still ongoing, the initiative represents an important step towards strengthening the participants’ livelihood opportunities and economic independence. By providing practical vocational skills, SPRODETA is supporting efforts to help GBV survivors rebuild their lives, improve their prospects for earning an income and contribute to the wellbeing of their families and communities.

As the training continues towards its expected completion in December 2026, the women are working towards acquiring skills that may provide a foundation for future self-employment and sustainable livelihoods.



Esther Simwayi, chairperson of the group

“This training will go a long way in ensuring that we are self-reliant”



The women posing with some of their products



Name Surname (One of the beneficiaries) showcasing her tailoring skills

SPRODETA Recognised for Innovative Social Enterprise



The Award captured at Mzuzu Office

SPRODETA was honoured with the NGO-Led Social Enterprise Award at the 2026 NGO Day, held on 30 September in Lilongwe.

The event was organised by the Council for Non-Governmental Organisations in Malawi (CONGOMA) and the Non-Governmental Organisations Regulatory Authority (NGORA).

The award comes at a critical time when declining donor support is prompting non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to explore alternative sources of income to sustain their programmes and maintain their impact in communities.

Through SPRODETA Agribusiness, the organisation has been exploring innovative ways to generate income and support its daily activities.

An important achievement has been the installation of a maize milling machine at Encongolweni, Mzimba District.



Ginny Simbeye (Production Manager) explaining how the maize milling machine works

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SPRODETA Recognised for Innovative Social Enterprise



Ginny Simbeye (left) and Frezar (right) after receiving the award on behalf of SPRODETA in Lilongwe



The Finance Officer posing with the trophy at SPRODETA's Head Office (Mzuzu)



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