



microloan
foundation

Malawi
March 2025

MicroLoan Foundation Malawi is a subsidiary of MicroLoan Foundation UK, registered charity number 1104287 (England and Wales); SC041941 (Scotland)

MicroLoan Foundation Malawi

MicroLoan Foundation Malawi (MicroLoan Malawi) has been delivering financial services to women in rural communities since 2002, and was the first country of operations for MicroLoan Foundation.

Malawi ranks 172 in the Human Development Index, reflecting the depth of poverty that clients face.

MicroLoan Malawi provides loans and ongoing business and financial literacy training to clients across its 22 branches and eight satellites. With a large proportion of clients engaging in farming, MicroLoan Malawi also offers agricultural and irrigation loans.

The outstanding loan book at the end of Q1 2025 was 6.6Bn MWK (\$3.8M) and MicroLoan Malawi had 41,748 active clients.



Leadership Team

Davison Rakasi Chief Executive Officer Malawi

Davison is an accomplished executive with over 15 years' experience in Banking and Microfinance. Davison is currently the Chief Executive Officer for MicroLoan Foundation Malawi. Prior to joining MicroLoan Foundation, Davison worked as Interim CEO at Vision Fund Malawi after gaining significant exposure to operations, technology deployment, sales & marketing, strategy development, and project management in his previous role as Chief Operations Officer.

Linda Kambalmetore Chief Financial Officer

Linda Kambalmetore joined MicroLoan Malawi in 2023. She is an affiliate to the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) with over 15 years of experience in the accounting and finance function, 5 years of which were in management advisory roles in small and medium sized businesses. Her work experience spans across various industries including Agri-business inputs focusing on receivables management, debt collection, Agribusiness financing in sub-Saharan Africa, financial reporting, investment portfolio management and human rights advocacy in commonwealth countries with special focus on project financial management.

Elias Chakuza Chief Operations Officer

Elias Chakuza joined MicroLoan Malawi in November 2023. He brings 16 years of experience in the Microfinance sector. He has an impressive track record of leadership and innovation. In leadership roles with operations teams in Vision Fund, FINCA and Opportunity Bank, he contributed to significant portfolio growth, efficiency improvements and a positive impact in underserved communities.

Social Performance Management

MicroLoan Malawi works towards achieving a long-term outcome that permits poor rural women to cope better with the challenges and stresses they face. MicroLoan Malawi monitor activities and progress towards social and economic goals for their beneficiaries using rigorous and globally recognised systems. Their Social Performance Management model is often cited as an example of best practice, and is recognised by TrueLift, a global initiative pushing for accountability and learning in pro-poor programmes.

Key Products and Services



Four - six month business loan

This product has a 6% monthly interest on declining balance and a 3.5% processing fee. It is designed to support women starting new small businesses or to provide additional capital to those that are already in business. No collateral is required.



Eight month agriculture loan

The eight-month loan, designed for new and repeat clients who grow crops such as rice, maize and soya beans. It includes a four-month grace period followed by four bullet payments. The loan carries 6% monthly interest rate on declining balance, and a 3.5% processing fee.



Irrigation loan

The irrigation loan runs for seven months with a grace period of four months and repaid through three bullet payments. The loan is primarily intended for clients, who grow cash crops such as Irish potatoes all year round. The loan has 6% monthly interest rate on declining balance and a 3.5% processing fee.



FlNES agriculture and business loan

For repeat/existing clients, this loan product has an interest rate of 4% declining and a 3.5% up front fee. The loan term for FlNES business is four to six months and for agriculture it is eight months.



Insurance on loans

Cover includes hospitalisation and funeral support, and clears any outstanding loan balance in the event of a client's death or permanent disability. It is bundled with every loan for a one-off payment of 2% of the loan amount.



Individual Loan

Available to both new and repeat clients, is designed for growth-oriented small businesses whose capital needs exceed the limits of the group lending model. It is offered in two types: a standard loan for general businesses and an Environmental & Social (ES) compliance loan for businesses that incorporate ES elements such as solar-powered irrigation, climate-adapted seeds, and solar refrigeration. The loan has a 6–12 month term, and requires collateral. It carries a 5.5% monthly interest rate on a declining balance, and a 3.5% processing fee.



Savings

In addition to loans, MicroLoan Malawi facilitates savings among clients. As a non-deposit taking organisation, clients are linked to third party providers for savings accounts. Savings are withdrawn at any time, with consent from the group.



Financial literacy and business training

MicroLoan Malawi offer pre and post loan disbursement training modules which aim to help clients understand the purpose of the loans and ensure they are equipped to run and manage their businesses. Training modules include: market research, profit analysis, budgeting and the importance of savings. All training is taught through song, dance and role play due to high illiteracy rates.



Customer Hotline

This is to provide clients with ongoing support on any operational issues. It is monitored monthly to analyse any common issues coming from clients.

Operational highlights



Source: MicroLoan Performance Report

MicroLoan Malawi News

Socio-economic challenges

Malawi faced high inflation, forex shortages, and fiscal instability, triggering protests and political tension ahead of national elections. Cyclone Jude caused flooding and displacement in the south, though impacts were eased by early warning systems. The lingering effects of the 2024 El Niño drought worsened food insecurity, with limited humanitarian funding. Despite these challenges, MicroLoan Malawi experienced no disruption to its services achieved improvement across key indicators: active clients rose from 39,820 to 41,748, and the loan book grew by 9% reflecting strong resilience and continued support to our clients.

Peace of mind for our clients

In response to clients' needs, MicroLoan Malawi is offering a new Insurance product for added protection. Bundled with every loan, this affordable cover includes hospitalisation and funeral support, and also clears any outstanding loan balance in the event of a client's death or permanent disability. For a one-off payment of just 2% of the loan amount, clients receive simple, secure, and meaningful protection for themselves and their families.

Individual loan – bridging the missing middle

MicroLoan Malawi has successfully launched an Individual Loan product to support growth-oriented clients whose capital needs exceed group lending limits. With loan amounts from MWK 1 million (USD576) to MWK 10 million (USD5,770) and terms of 6 to 12 months. The loan includes standard and Environmental & Social (ES) compliant options and addresses the 'missing middle' entrepreneurs undeserved by both group and commercial lending. MicroLoan's Individual Loan fills this gap by enabling clients to expand their businesses and, in doing so, stimulate local economies and create employment opportunities for others in their communities.

Making loans more affordable for clients

MicroLoan has introduced lower interest rates across several loan products, now using a declining balance model with rates ranging from 4% to 6%, depending on the loan type. Previously, rates were higher—between 7.7% and 9.6%. This shift to a reduced rate structure and consistent application of declining balance interest has eased repayment pressure and lowered the total cost of borrowing for clients. Early feedback suggests improved loan affordability and repayment experiences. These changes aim to support clients in managing their finances more effectively and provide stronger support for future business growth.

Key Partnerships

Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation contributes to poverty reduction through microcredit and social impact investments in developing countries. MicroLoan Malawi currently holds a three-year loan from the Foundation, which is due for repayment in December 2025.

Lendwithcare is a microfinance organisation that has partnered with MicroLoan Foundation in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They solicit individual or group loans for people across the world from the general public through their online fundraising platform. With their support MicroLoan Malawi has access to loan capital which helps to expand their reach.

FDH Bank provides local currency overdraft facilities to MicroLoan Malawi on a needs basis, helping to manage liquidity and supplement cash flow.

Malawi Agricultural and Industrial Investment Corporation (MAIIC) A development finance institution (DFI) established under a public-private partnership, model mandated to support commercially viable investments across sectors to catalyze socio-economic development, job creation, and wealth generation in Malawi. In December 2024 MicroLoan Malawi received a two year loan from MAIIC for the purpose of loan book growth.

GIZ MicroLoan is benefited from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)'s GP AgFin Project in both Malawi and Zambia. The project aimed to improve access to financial services tailored to the needs of agricultural businesses and enterprises in rural areas. GIZ is also providing technical assistance funding for MicroLoan to develop an ES compliant loan product under Water and Energy for Food (WE4F).

Solidarité Internationale pour le Développement et l'Investissement (SIDI) promotes financial inclusion and sustainable development by investing in microfinance institutions, social enterprises, and rural producer groups around the world. In October 2022, MicroLoan Malawi secured a loan from SIDI to support the expansion of its loan portfolio and extend its outreach. Building on this partnership, an additional loan was approved in August 2024 to further strengthen MicroLoan's efforts, with repayment scheduled over a three-year period.

Fonds Européen de Financement Solidaire (FEFISOL) launched by SIDI in partnership with Alterfin and Etimos, supports rural Africa through local currency loans, guarantees, and equity investments in microfinance institutions. Under FEFISOL I, MicroLoan Malawi received financing in 2016, which was fully repaid by 2019. Building on this collaboration, a new credit facility was secured under FEFISOL II in 2025 for a three-year term to further strengthen MicroLoan's outreach and impact.

The Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Scaling (FinES) Project is a multi-year initiative funded by the World Bank to provide affordable wholesale financing to financial intermediaries. Administered through the Reserve Bank of Malawi, the project aims to stimulate economic growth and expand access to financial services. MicroLoan Malawi has accessed multiple credit facilities through the FinES Project since 2022, with loan terms ranging between three to five years.

Opportunity International is an NGO working to end global poverty. They are partnering with MicroLoan to Strengthening Systems for Financial Inclusion in Rural Malawi, funded by Jersey Overseas Aid.

If you would like any further detail about the information included in this document please contact MicroLoan Foundation's Group Chief Executive Officer, Medha Wilson.

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