

OCTOBER 2022

ALL
WE
CAN

STORIES OF Change

Hear the stories of lives transformed through your support



Image: Charles, the chairman of the irrigation scheme in the Nsanje District, Malawi. **All images:** Ralphworks/All We Can

Charles

CHURCHES ACTION IN RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT, MALAWI

Every
Person's
Potential
Fulfilled

All We Can's local partner, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), is a church-based organisation supporting local communities to become more resilient to disasters and climate change. They work with local people by providing access to clean water and sanitation and improving livelihoods and food security. Charles is the chairman of the irrigation scheme supported by CARD. Charles reflects on how CARD, along with the support of All We Can, has removed barriers so his community can transform their livelihoods:

'This scheme started in the year 2017,' explains Charles, 'we wrote a proposal to CARD, and they sent a contractor who started the works of installing solar panels, drilling a well and installing the water pumps. We have 80 members and the whole scheme covers a land of 5.8 hectares.'

The solar panels power the water pumps and allow the communities to water their crops all year round and ensure a successful harvest – this year and for many years to come.



Successful harvests are vital if families are to have enough food to eat and enough produce left over to sell at local markets so they can afford other essentials like education and healthcare.

'It was in 2018 when we started to benefit from the irrigation scheme,' says Charles, 'Myself, as the chairman, I have managed to build a house roofed with 32 iron sheets and also several other people have built houses. A member managed to buy a bike and a number of women who sell our produce have joined the village banks and are now able to sustain themselves, that is the benefit that we witnessed here in Nsanje.'

Thanks to your support, All We Can's local partners, like CARD, have been able to provide access to clean water and sanitation, improving livelihoods and food security in the Nsanje District.

'When we harvest, we sometimes give some to the less privileged and we also keep the money we make in village banks, so we are able to buy goats.'

CARD also supported the members of the scheme by putting them in touch with local hotels, hospitals and schools to secure regular buyers of their produce.



“We are not going to stop because now it's like CARD has given birth to a child that has now grown and is able to walk and do things on its own, now we are able to stand on our own. If CARD said they are leaving, we will still stand and be able to grow and sell our crops.”



'I thank God for listening to the cry of the people here... We had issues of water shortage and hunger, but this problem was solved and as a scheme we are grateful.'