THE HUNGER PROJECT-MALAWI CELEBRATES COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO END THEIR OWN HUNGER AND POVERTY

BLANTYRE, MALAWI – OCTOBER 11—The Hunger Project-Malawi will celebrate this week the graduation of two clusters of rural communities that have achieved the targets they set for declaring their self-reliance, meaning they have demonstrated their capacity to take charge of their own development. This monumental accomplishment will be marked by epicenter celebrations on Wednesday, October 12th and Friday, October 14th with senior government officials and civil society representatives in attendance.

Through The Hunger Project’s Epicenter Strategy—clusters of rural villages are mobilized into dynamic centers over a period of about eight years. During this time, communities launch and run their own programs to address health and nutrition, education, food security, microfinance and livelihoods, women’s empowerment, advocacy and awareness, and climate change and land productivity.

Champiti and Ligowe Epicenters in Malawi have now graduated to a phase of “sustainable self-reliance,” which means that these communities have demonstrated the confidence, capacity and skills to act as agents of their own development.

This marks the first time that communities in Malawi have graduated to self-reliance based on a comprehensive set of about 50 diverse targets—such as portion of households living below the poverty line and having access to clean drinking water, to the presence of sanitary latrines and use of improved farming methods—that measure their progress and assess their path to sustainability. In August 2016, three of The Hunger Project’s epicenters in Ghana graduated to self-reliance—the first to do so across The Hunger Project’s 117 epicenters in Africa.

Community members of these epicenters have affirmed multiple local partnerships, created funding streams from revenue-generating activities and established gender-balanced leadership structures to support sustainable growth.
“This achievement of Champiti and Ligowe Epicenters is the culmination of a long-term partnership and commitment between communities and The Hunger Project, and we are so thrilled and proud of what our community partners have accomplished” said Åsa Skogström Feldt, President and CEO of The Hunger Project. “This is an example of how a strategy can achieve locally owned vision and goals and foster a culture of self-determination in which the community itself is the driver of continued change.”

To honor this historic achievement, the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Honorable Kondwani Nankhumwa, MP, senior government officials, district council officials, members of the donor community and civil society representatives will be in attendance at the celebrations on October 12th (Champiti) and October 14th (Ligowe). In addition, a group of The Hunger Project’s Australian investors and members of The Hunger Project’s Global Staff will be in attendance.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in collaboration with representatives from the Ntcheu local District Council, the Champiti Community Development Organization, and The Hunger Project-Malawi will be signed at the celebration on October 12th, that details the relationship, roles and responsibilities of each of the three entities.

About The Hunger Project

The Hunger Project is a global non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty by pioneering sustainable, grassroots, women-centered strategies and advocating for their widespread adoption in countries throughout the world. The Hunger Project is active in 22 countries throughout the world, with global headquarters based in New York. For more information, visit www.thp.org.