

Umunthu
Social Impact Forum 2025



UMUNTHU SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM 2026

STRENGTHENING MALAWI'S SOCIAL IMPACT ECOSYSTEM
FOR A RESILIENT AND SELF-SUSTAINING FUTURE

2-3 JUNE 2026 • LILONGWE, MALAWI
PARTNERSHIP & SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS



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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Malawi's development landscape is undergoing a structural recalibration. For decades, the country's social architecture has been shaped by international development financing, bilateral aid flows, multilateral programming, and externally designed accountability frameworks. While this model has generated measurable gains across health, education, governance, agriculture, and community development, it has also created institutional fragmentation, financing concentration risks, and uneven ecosystem coherence.

Global fiscal tightening, geopolitical realignments, donor domestic pressures, and aid restructuring are redefining the reliability and character of international capital. Simultaneously, Malawi faces rising youth unemployment, climate-related economic shocks, governance trust deficits, and growing demand for locally anchored solutions. These forces expose a systemic vulnerability: the absence of a sufficiently coordinated, diversified, and resilient national social impact ecosystem.

"Does Malawi possess a sufficiently coordinated, transparent, and resilient social impact ecosystem capable of sustaining long-term development outcomes in a context of reduced external certainty?"

The Umunthu Social Impact Forum 2026 is designed as a structured national intervention into this moment. It is a deliberately constructed ecosystem convening focused on strengthening the architecture that underpins social impact delivery across Malawi. Forum 2026 will convene 150 senior leaders from corporate institutions, foundations, civil society organisations, government ministries, regulators, academia, development partners, impact investors, diaspora representatives, and the creative economy.

The 2026 edition will introduce a long-term institutional mechanism: the Umunthu Social Impact Index — a recurring ecosystem health instrument assessing financing diversity, coordination strength, governance integrity, accountability culture, and collaboration depth. While the Forum is the convening platform, the Index is the continuity mechanism ensuring dialogue translates into structured measurement and reform.

This prospectus invites institutional partners to participate not merely as sponsors, but as co-architects in strengthening Malawi's social impact ecosystem.

ABOUT THE UMUNTHU SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM

The Umunthu Social Impact Forum was established by Thrive Afrika as a platform for cross-sector dialogue rooted in the Umunthu philosophy – dignity, interdependence, and local leadership. Unlike issue-specific conferences, the Forum is explicitly ecosystem-oriented. It examines the connective tissue between sectors: financing flows, policy alignment, monitoring frameworks, governance incentives, and cross-sector trust.

The 2025 edition demonstrated strong institutional diversity, featuring corporate leaders, national planning experts, civil society founders, development economists, and innovation practitioners. Participating institutions included major banks, national planning bodies, international NGOs, philanthropic organisations, and policy stakeholders.

The 2026 edition expands this orientation by centring ecosystem resilience, capital diversification, and accountability architecture as primary themes – and by introducing the Umunthu Social Impact Index as a structural legacy mechanism.





Overall Goal

To strengthen the coordination, resilience, accountability, and sustainability of Malawi's social impact ecosystem by convening key stakeholders, fostering cross-sector alignment, and catalysing structured collaboration.

Specific Objectives

1. Generate a shared, evidence-informed understanding of Malawi's social impact ecosystem

Participants will collectively identify systemic bottlenecks, financing vulnerabilities, governance gaps, and coordination challenges affecting social impact delivery across sectors.

2. Catalyse measurable cross-sector collaboration

By the Forum's conclusion, at least five concrete partnership commitments or working groups will be initiated, focused on financing reform, M&E harmonisation, policy alignment, or capital mobilisation.

3. Elevate capital diversification conversations

Create a structured platform for corporate leaders, philanthropies, diaspora representatives, and impact investors to explore alternative financing mechanisms that reduce over-reliance on traditional aid models.

4. Initiate the consultative phase of the Umunthu Social Impact Index

Introduce the Index concept and invite ecosystem stakeholders into its foundational dialogue, securing expressions of interest from at least 10 institutions.

5. Produce a national reform synthesis

Generate a published report within six weeks capturing ecosystem reform priorities and structured collaboration commitments, serving as a reference document for ongoing engagement.

AUDIENCE PROFILE & ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

The Forum is intentionally curated to maximise decision-making density rather than volume attendance. Every delegate seat represents a senior institutional actor with the authority to commit resources, shape policy, or drive organisational change.

Industry Composition (Projected 2026)

Corporate Sector

30–35% | Banks, telecoms, FMCGs, financial institutions, insurance, logistics, energy

Civil Society & NGOs

25–30% | Implementation organisations, advocacy bodies, community networks

Philanthropic Institutions

10–15% | Foundations, giving networks, endowed organisations

Government & Regulators

10–15% | Key ministries, regulatory bodies, planning authorities

Academia & Research

5–10% | Policy institutes, think-tanks, universities

Impact Investors & DFIs

5–10% | Impact funds, development finance representatives, diaspora capital



Seniority Breakdown

C-Suite & Managing Directors

40%

Directors & Senior Managers

35%

Programme Heads & Technical Leads

15%

Emerging Leaders & Innovators

10%

THE UMUNTHU SOCIAL IMPACT INDEX

The Umunthu Social Impact Index is the Forum's most significant institutional legacy. It is not a standalone research product — it is a periodic ecosystem health assessment instrument designed to measure, track, and communicate the strength of Malawi's social impact architecture over time.

What the Index Measures

- Financing diversity and capital concentration risk across the ecosystem
- Cross-sector coordination strength and duplication levels
- Governance integrity and accountability culture within institutions
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning adoption rates
- Collaboration depth and trust levels between corporate, civil society, and government actors

How the Index Will Be Introduced at Forum 2026

A dedicated consultative session on Day Two will present the Index conceptual framework, invite institutional feedback on methodology, identify potential founding advisory partners, and establish the consultation timeline. Platinum and Gold Partners will have privileged access to the Index advisory process.

The Index will anchor continuity beyond the event itself — transforming the Forum from an annual convening into a structured, long-term accountability platform for Malawi's social impact ecosystem.



WHY PARTNER WITH THE UMUNTHU SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM

Institutional partners in the Forum are not merely sponsors — they are co-architects of Malawi’s social impact architecture. Partnering with the Forum delivers value across five strategic dimensions:

- 1 Brand Positioning & Reputation**
 Deep alignment with ecosystem resilience and national reform dialogue — positioning your institution as a serious, long-term social impact actor rather than a transactional CSR operator.
- 2 Thought Leadership**
 Direct opportunity to shape thematic conversations, contribute to session framing, and position your institution’s voice at the centre of Malawi’s most important ecosystem dialogue.
- 3 Policy Influence Proximity**
 Direct engagement with planning authorities, regulatory stakeholders, and government ministries — a rare convening where policy actors are in the room alongside practitioners and funders.
- 4 ESG & CSI Credibility**
 Demonstrated commitment to systemic impact rather than transactional CSR — credible alignment with national development priorities that strengthens ESG reporting and stakeholder trust.
- 5 Lead Generation & Relationship Capital**
 Access to 150–200 senior ecosystem actors, many of whom are decision-makers in financing, procurement, and partnership formation. Curated introductions and networking sessions are built into the programme.
- 6 Long-Term Institutional Visibility**
 Association with the Umunthu Social Impact Index creates year-round brand presence and positions your institution as a founding contributor to Malawi’s first ecosystem health measurement framework.



SPONSORSHIP & PARTNERSHIP PACKAGES

Each package is structured around three pillars: Thought Leadership (programme contribution), Brand Visibility (marketing reach), and Delegate Access. The programme model below mirrors international best practice — Platinum anchors the entire Forum, Gold Partners own individual plenary sessions, and Silver Partners lead breakout dialogues.

At a Glance

Package	Availability	Delegate Passes	Exhibition	Programme Role	Investment
Platinum Ecosystem Partner	1 Only	6 Passes	3m×3m Premium	Opening/Closing Keynote + Plenary 1	MWK 15,000,000
Gold Systems Partner	4 Available	4 Passes	2m×2m Space	Owens 1 Plenary Session	MWK 10,000,000
Silver Impact Partner	6 Available	3 Passes	Table Space	Leads 1 Breakout Session	MWK 7,000,000
Exhibitor / Innovation Showcase	8 Available	2 Passes	Dedicated Table	Exhibition Only	MWK 2,000,000
Print Partner	1 Only	2 Passes	Table	Logo on All Print	In-Kind





PLATINUM ECOSYSTEM PARTNER

Exclusive — 1 Available | MWK 15,000,000 | Programme Anchor

Strategic Positioning

As the sole Platinum Partner, your institution is the Forum's lead co-architect. Your brand, voice, and narrative are woven throughout both days — from the opening keynote to the closing synthesis. This is the only tier that spans both days in full.

Programme Contribution

- Exclusive opening keynote anchoring on Day One — 30-minute address from your nominated speaker or jointly curated conversation (subject to content alignment)
- Closing keynote anchor on Day Two — your institution provides or co-selects the closing speaker
- Full ownership of Plenary Session 1 (Day 1): Capital at Risk — including sponsor introduction, co-designed panellist selection, and session framing
- Seat on the editorial advisory board — input on all thematic framing, topic selection, and programme direction for both days
- Founding advisory partner status in the Umunthu Social Impact Index — privileged first-mover access to methodology consultation
- Co-branding on the official Forum Synthesis Report distributed to all 150–200 delegates and digital audiences

Brand & Marketing Visibility

- Top-tier logo placement: stage backdrop, media wall, all digital assets, event signage, delegate materials, Forum website, and programme booklet — front cover prominence
- Two dedicated sponsor social media posts (one on signing, one in the week prior to the Forum)
- Dedicated pre- and post-Forum media feature — PR pitch positioning your organisation



as Platinum Partner across national and regional media

- Brand recognition in all press releases, moderator introductions, and session acknowledgements throughout both days

Exhibition & Networking

- Premium 3m×3m exhibition space in the main plenary hall — priority placement with maximum delegate footfall
- Exclusive post-Forum executive roundtable invitation for senior leadership team — curated cross-sector introductions
- Access to anonymised delegate institutional profile report (organisations and seniority levels)

Delegate Access

and catered meals, networking events,

- Closing recognition address by a designated Platinum Partner representative
- Editorial interview/Podcast with Thrive Afrika and KlearComms media — content published and amplified across digital and social channels post-Forum



GOLD SYSTEMS PARTNER

4 Available | MWK 10,000,000 |
Plenary Session Owner

Strategic Positioning

Gold Partners are senior institutional voices within the Forum. Each Gold Partner owns one of the four thematic plenary sessions — shaping the session's framing, participating as a panel member or sponsor voice, and being associated with a specific ecosystem reform conversation.

The four Gold plenary sessions are:

- Gold A — Plenary 2: Governance, Accountability & Trust (Day 1)
- Gold B — Evening Networking Drinks Session Anchor (Day 1)
- Gold C — Plenary 3: Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (Day 2)
- Gold D — Plenary 4: Coordination & Collaboration (Day 2)

Programme Contribution

- Sponsor introduction at the opening of your owned plenary session (5 minutes)
- Speaking or panel participation within your plenary session — co-developed with the Thrive Afrika team
- Co-branding on session materials, presentation screens, and programme booklet for your assigned plenary
- Inclusion in the Umunthu Social Impact Index consultation workshops

Brand & Marketing Visibility

- Gold-tier logo placement: stage backdrop, media wall, digital assets, signage, and Forum website
- Two dedicated sponsor social media posts (one on signing, one prior to the Forum)
- Company banner in main plenary room throughout the Forum
- Brand acknowledgement by session moderator at your plenary opening and close

Exhibition & Networking

- 2m×2m branded exhibition space in the main networking area
- Access to post-Forum executive networking session with curated introductions
- Access to anonymised delegate institutional profile report

Delegate Access

- 4 full two-day delegate passes including all sessions and catered meals
- Editorial interview/Podcast with Thrive Afrika and KlearComms Media





SILVER IMPACT PARTNER

6 Available | MWK 7,000,000 | Breakout Session Leader

Strategic Positioning

Silver Partners lead one of the six thematic breakout sessions across both days — each a 45-minute facilitated dialogue anchored by the partner institution. This is an ideal entry point for organisations with deep expertise in a specific ecosystem theme.

The six Silver breakout sessions are:

- Silver A — Financing Diversification: Beyond Aid (Day 1)
- Silver B — CSI Evolution: From Charity to Ecosystem Investment (Day 1)
- Silver C — Local Philanthropy & Diaspora Capital Mobilisation (Day 1)
- Silver D — Policy & Regulatory Enablers for Social Investment (Day 2)
- Silver E — Accountability Architecture: M&E Harmonisation (Day 2)
- Silver F — Creative Economy & Social Storytelling as a Change Tool (Day 2)

Programme Contribution

- Lead facilitation or speaking role in your assigned breakout session — co-developed with the Thrive Afrika team
- Co-branding on breakout session room, presentation screens, and programme booklet
- Named recognition in the Forum Synthesis Report under your breakout theme

Brand & Marketing Visibility

- Silver-tier logo placement: event signage, digital assets, partner recognition walls, and Forum website
- Brand acknowledgement in programme booklet and by session moderator
- Company banner in your breakout room during your session

Exhibition & Networking

- Exhibition table in the networking area — showcase your organisation's work and tools
- Full networking access across both days including all breaks, lunch, and Day 1 evening drinks

Delegate Access

- 3 full two-day delegate passes including all sessions and catered meals



EXHIBITOR / INNOVATION SHOWCASE

8 Available | MWK 2,000,000

Strategic Positioning

Designed for social enterprises, research institutions, development finance platforms, philanthropic innovators, and digital impact tool providers. This package puts your work directly in front of 150–200 senior decision-makers across both days.

Exhibition & Visibility

- Dedicated exhibition table in the Innovation Showcase area — positioned in high-traffic networking zones
- Logo and profile listing in the Forum's printed exhibition guide distributed to all delegates
- Brand listing on the Forum website under Innovation Showcase partners
- Opportunity to provide a one-page insert in the delegate welcome pack
- Brief 2-minute showcase introduction slot during exhibition opening (subject to programme capacity)

Delegate Access

- 2 full two-day delegate passes including all sessions, networking, and catered meals



PRINT PARTNER

Exclusive — 1 Available | In-Kind Contribution

Strategic Positioning

The exclusive Print Partner sponsors production of all physical Forum materials — delegate packs, programme booklets, signage, name badges, and the post-Forum synthesis report — in exchange for prominent logo placement on every item.

In-Kind Contribution Covers

- Delegate name badges and lanyards
- Programme booklets and session guides
- Exhibition guide and delegate welcome packs
- Directional signage, banners, and session room materials
- Synthesis report print run (post-Forum distribution)

Brand Visibility

- Prominent logo on every printed item — front cover placement on programme booklet
- 'Official Print Partner' designation on Forum website, digital assets, and social media
- Verbal acknowledgement at opening and closing of the Forum
- Brand listing on event signage and partner recognition wall

Delegate Access

- 2 full two-day delegate passes
- Exhibition table for the duration of the Forum



TICKET PACKAGES — DELEGATE TABLES

For organisations wishing to send a team to the Forum without a full sponsorship commitment, curated table bookings are available for both Corporate and NGO/Civil Society delegates. Tables seat 6 people and include full two-day access to all sessions, meals, and networking.

Table Category	Standard Delegate pass	Corporate Table (6 Seats)	NGO / CSO Table (6 Seats)
Price per table	MWK 450,000 MWK 540,000	MWK 2500,000 MWK 3,000,000	MWK 2400,000 MWK 2,880,000
Indicative price per seat	✓ Included	MWK 500,000	MWK 480,000
Full 2-day programme access	✓ Included	✓ Included	✓ Included
All sessions, panels & breakouts	✓ Included	✓ Included	✓ Included
Catered meals both days	✓ Included	✓ Included	✓ Included
Day 1 networking drinks	✓ Included	✓ Included	✓ Included
Organisation listing in booklet	✓ included	✓ Included	✓ Included
Exhibition / speaking access	Limited — first come,	✓ included	✓ Included
Tables available	First served	Limited — first come, First served	Limited — first come, First served

Note: Table bookings do not include exhibition space, speaking opportunities, or brand visibility benefits. To unlock these, please enquire about a sponsorship package. Individual seats may be available subject to demand.

POST-FORUM DELIVERABLES

Synthesis Report

A structured publication capturing key ecosystem insights, reform priorities, and collaboration commitments — published within six weeks and distributed to all partners and delegates.

Policy Recommendation Brief

A concise brief distilling regulatory and policy reform recommendations from Forum discussions, shared with relevant government ministries and development

Media Amplification Campaign

Post-Forum digital and media campaign sharing highlights, key messages, and partner features across national and regional platforms.

Working Group Formation

Support for the establishment of at least five structured cross-sector working groups on ecosystem reform themes emerging from Forum dialogues.

Umunthu Social Impact Index Roadmap

Publication of the Index consultation roadmap, including participating founding advisory institutions, methodology timeline, and first assessment targets.

Partner Impact Reports

Individual post-Forum report for each sponsor, documenting their brand visibility, delegate engagement statistics, session performance, and contribution to ecosystem outcomes.



ABOUT THRIVE AFRIKA



Thrive Afrika is a pan-Afrikan social impact advisory and ecosystem-building institution grounded in the Umunthu framework — a philosophy of dignity, interdependence, and collective flourishing. Its work spans strategic advisory, impact measurement, convening architecture, storytelling for systems reform, and institutional capacity strengthening.

The organisation has successfully convened national and regional dialogues, curated cross-sector partnerships, and developed structured frameworks for social impact accountability. The Umunthu Social Impact Forum represents Thrive Afrika's institutional commitment to building long-term ecosystem resilience rather than event-driven engagement.

Core Capabilities

- Social impact ecosystem analysis and advisory
- Cross-sector convening and dialogue architecture
- Impact measurement framework design
- Brand storytelling and narrative strategy
- Institutional capacity strengthening

Proven Track Record

- Inaugural Umunthu Social Impact Forum (2025) — demonstrated strong institutional diversity
- National and regional policy dialogue facilitation
- Cross-sector partnership brokerage
- Structured ecosystem reform advocacy

CALL TO PARTNERSHIP

The 2026 Umunthu Social Impact Forum is a national intervention at a critical moment of structural recalibration. The ecosystem pressures Malawi faces are real, complex, and urgent — and they require the kind of structured, multi-sector response that this Forum is specifically designed to generate.

We invite institutions prepared to move beyond isolated initiatives toward systemic strengthening. Partners in this Forum are not merely sponsors — they are co-builders of Malawi's social impact architecture. Their names, voices, and insights will be part of a historic convening that shapes how this country responds to one of its most defining institutional challenges.





READY TO PARTNER?

For partnership discussions, sponsorship enquiries,
and table bookings:

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**TOGETHER FOR A
RESILIENT MALAWI.**