



Government of Malawi



## PRESS RELEASE

### COMMEMORATION OF 2021 INTERNATIONAL RURAL WOMEN'S DAY

15TH OCTOBER, 2021

The Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare wishes to inform the public that Malawi will join the international community to commemorate 2021 International Rural Women's Day (IRWD) on **15th October, 2021**. The Day was set aside by the United Nations to recognize the importance of rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development and improving food security worldwide. The day was first observed on 15th October, 2008 and has been observed since then.

Rural women and girls are leaders in agriculture, food security and nutrition, land, managing natural resources and unpaid care and domestic work. They have been at the front lines of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic even as their unpaid care and domestic work increased under lockdowns, restricted mobility, disrupted supply chains, and climate and conflict crises compounded by COVID-19 impacts.

In Malawi, the International Day of Rural Women is celebrated on the same day the country celebrates Mothers' day which is a public holiday. In this regard, the IDRW is commemorated together with Mothers' Day.

The theme for this year's International Day of Rural Women is **"Building Rural Women's Resilience in the Wake of COVID-19"** to create awareness of these women's struggles, their needs, and their critical and key role in the society and strengthening their sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing. It has been observed that gender-responsive investments are crucial to expand basic infrastructure, healthcare and care services in rural areas as they are often neglected due to limited resource baskets. The COVID-19 crisis has led to disruptions in economic and social dynamics, exacerbating the gaps that have existed long before the pandemic and thus increased the burden of care on women and girls.

The 2021 commemoration will take place on **Friday, 15th October, 2021 in Dowa, at Gogo School Ground, TA Chiwere from 10:00AM. The Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Honourable Dr. Patricia Anne Kaliati, will be the Guest of Honour.**

The Ministry is therefore calling upon all stakeholders and Malawians to commemorate the International Rural Women's Day to honor rural women of Malawi for the great work they are doing in developing the country.

Isaac Katopola

For: SECRETARY FOR GENDER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE



Self Help Africa



OXFAM

World Vision

