With funding from Comic Relief, United Purpose is implementing a 3-year netball-based girls’ empowerment project in Dedza district that aims to inspire girls to reach their full potential and be able to influence their own and their peers’ lives. Girls INSPIRED will empower and enable 480 girls in TA Chauma, Dedza, to influence their lives and those of their peers through sport. The project will lead to changes in two particular areas – reducing gender stereotypes that have a negative impact on women/girls, and increasing girls’ leadership skills. The project also seeks to build Sport for Development capacity in Malawi, equipping UP Malawi, Dedza District partners and broader stakeholders with the skills and tools to deliver sports-based gender equity programming.

Girls INSPIRED has four outcomes:

1. **Equip** – girls will be able to make informed decisions on issues that affect them, have a stronger sense of self-worth and recognition of their value. They will become aware of their legal rights and responsibilities, and how to access key services relevant to their well-being. The girls will develop a clear vision for their future and be able to identify the necessary steps to achieve these goals.

2. **Empower** – girls will be actively applying their leadership skills. They will gain confidence in their leadership abilities, through leadership experience gained from within the project, applying these enhanced leadership qualities to their lives outside of the project.

3. **Engage** – community members, including parents, teachers and local leaders, will be more active in recognising, promoting and protecting girls’ rights. They will demonstrate greater support for girls’ rights including their right to participate in sport. Boys and young men will also demonstrate more positive attitudes towards girls as equals.

4. **Build** – there will be increased Sport for Development capacity in Malawi. In addition to raising awareness of the approach, the project will equip UP Malawi, Dedza District partners and broader stakeholders with the skills and tools to deliver sports-based gender equity programming and sport for development approaches more broadly.

**About United Purpose**

Headquartered in the UK, United Purpose (UP) is an international development NGO with an innovative approach to delivering the SDGs and eradicating global poverty and inequality. Committed to innovation, partnerships and community-driven development, UP works towards our goal of seeing empowered and resilient women, men and children determining their own futures. For over 40 years we have helped deliver fundamental life changing impact for over 35 million people across 13 countries in Africa, Asia and South America. In 2016, International Inspiration (IN), the innovative sport for development charity that reached 25 million children, trained over 250,000 local leaders and influenced 55 national policies and strategies across 19 countries, became part of the United Purpose family.

In Malawi, UP has wide district presence, operating offices in 17 districts across the country, and over 300 staff currently employed throughout the country. Having worked in Malawi for 30 years, we have developed strong and long-standing relations with all District Councils and communities in our districts of operation, which enables us to work effectively and in a coordinated manner, responding to local needs and challenges. Furthermore, the relationships and reputation UP have fostered through its community-driven approach have facilitated trust, community access, experience and local knowledge. UP seeks to integrate its diverse programming areas, with over 15 projects under current implementation, spanning across livelihoods, governance, WASH, malaria, sustainable energy and nutrition.