



Funder

This project is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) [NIHR Global Health Research Group on Controlling Vector Borne Diseases in Emerging Agricultural Systems in Malawi (NIHR133144)/NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC)].

FUNDED BY

NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Partnership

- Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Clinical Research Programme (MLW)
- MAC - Communicable Diseases Action Centre (MAC-CDAC)
- Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS)
- African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)

What it aims to achieve

To investigate how the new SVTP irrigation scheme affects VBDs like malaria and schistosomiasis and their influence on smallholder farming practices.

Beneficiaries

Communities within the SVTP area.



For more information:



www.lstmed.ac.uk/shire-vec



malawivector@gmail.com



[@malawivector](https://twitter.com/malawivector)

**Shire
Vec**
Controlling vector-borne diseases in Malawi

About

The Shire Valley Vector Control Project (Shire-Vec) is a research collaboration that will investigate vector-borne diseases (VBDs) in emerging agricultural systems in Malawi.



Where

The group will focus its research on the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP), a new 40,000-hectare irrigation scheme which began construction in 2020 that is based in the districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje in the southern region of Malawi.

Objective

The objective of Shire-Vec is to offer practical solutions to manage the impact of the SVTP across both public health and agriculture.

Core Research Outline

Entomology

(vector surveillance | biobank)

- Monthly collections of snails and mosquitoes in sentinel sites around irrigated farms to monitor any changes to insect and snail populations.

Epidemiology

(disease abundance | historic case records)

Identify areas most affected by the newly irrigated farmland.

Social Anthropology

(lived experience)

- Study of the behavioural practices in the farming communities and how their exposure and contact with snails and mosquitoes might have changed in the aftermath of the irrigation scheme.

Vector Control

(operational research response)

- Develop and pilot locally tailored interventions to control snails and mosquito populations whilst offering value for money and practical/acceptable solutions to the community.

Future Planning

(modelled scenarios of disease burden & policy change)

- Inform and provide recommendations through mathematical modelling for mitigation against the increase in disease from future expansion of irrigated farmland to guide policy change.

Project Timeline

The project will run from September 2021 - August 2025.