The Malawi Secondary Education Expansion for Development (SEED) activity worked to improve urban secondary school facilities, including new classroom blocks, boy and girl latrine blocks, and changing rooms for girls.

The graphic below represents the reported impacts of Malawi SEED school expansion for surrounding urban communities.

**Health and safety**
- Better WASH facilities
- Improved hygiene
- Reduced disease

**Education and future outlook**
- Reduced absenteeism for girls
- Conducive learning environment
- Sense of school pride
- Increased enrollment*
- Increased motivation to do well
- Ability to complete syllabus
- Increased teacher workload*

**Business environment**
- Availability of work
- Improved roads
- Perceived long-term opportunities

* These represent unintended results of urban school expansion.
Malawi SEED Impact Evaluation: Urban Qualitative Findings

Data for Impact (D4I) along with the Center for Social Research (CSR) collected qualitative data as part of a mixed methods evaluation of the Malawi Secondary Education Expansion for Development (SEED) activity. To better understand the impacts of urban school expansion on surrounding communities, we collected qualitative data from Form 1 students, caregivers and teachers of Form 1 students, and community leaders at SEED-expanded schools in Mzuzu, Blantyre, and Lilongwe. Data were audio recorded, transcribed, coded, and summarized.

**RESPONDENTS**

| 12 focus groups with Form 1 students (13–17 years) | 46 girls  
| 48 boys |
| 12 focus groups with caregivers (21–76 years) | 38 women  
| 34 men |
| 24 in-depth and key informant interviews | 12 Form 1 youth  
| 6 Form 1 teachers  
| 6 community leaders |

**Conducive learning environment**

“Construction of this block has helped our children to be learning in spacious classrooms...children are having their classes comfortably and are happy. And if children are happy with their learning environment, they are motivated.”

– Female caregiver

**Increased enrollment and motivation**

“A beautiful school environment has a positive impact on my mindset towards my education and the goals that I want to achieve. Such a beautiful school shows that great things can be achieved here.”

– Form 1 male student

**Reduced absenteeism in girls**

“The change rooms which are menstrual hygiene-friendly have contributed enormously to the menstrual hygiene of girls which enables them to have dignified lives and not miss classes.”

– Form 1 female student

**Reduced disease and improved hygiene**

“The expansion has helped us a lot, because we were able to split the students into different classrooms which were also spacious and that made us to observe social distance. And we had handwashing facilities.”

– Female caregiver