

## ILLOVO SUPPORTS MALAWI WOMEN'S GROUP THROUGH COVID-19 BUSINESS INITIATIVE

*...Allocates K45 million towards face-mask production by Nchalo and Dwangwa women co-operatives...*

**27 October 2020:** Illovo Sugar Africa, through its Malawi subsidiary, has harnessed the momentum of its multi-country Covid-19 prevention programme to create economic opportunities for employees and their dependents, in the communities that host its businesses. Illovo Sugar Malawi identified and partnered with a local, entrepreneurial women co-operative located in Nchalo and Dwangwa, to produce cloth face masks. The company has allocated K45 million to pay towards material, elastic and the women's labour. To date, Illovo has paid over K16.4 million of this allocation to the women's group, who have successfully delivered 72,000 masks and are already working on the next tranche of face masks.

Illovo Sugar Africa has a dedicated mandate to secure the inclusion of women in the local value chains it has created around its in-country operations. For this initiative in Malawi, the country team identified a women's group, led by Gloria Mang'anda and based in Nchalo trading centre, as one of the beneficiaries of the initiative. The group, known as DACCLA, which stands for David, Chikondi, Clara and Alinafe, comprises 40 women aged between 18-60 years, all specialising in tailoring and design.

Speaking at the cheque presentation ceremony, Ms Mang'anda expressed her gratitude to Illovo Malawi for supporting their business and rural community. She said, *"Funds raised have not only helped our women to raise capital for their businesses, they have also helped them to buy new sewing machines, revamp their other businesses, improve their homes and buy land. What's more, in the process, this has also enabled other women to become motivated to aspire to become tailors too."*



**Caption:** The cheque presentation ceremony honouring the women was held at Nchalo Estate and was presided over by General Manager, Stuart Watson (left of picture) with Gloria Mang'anda, Joyce Kamanga, Vaifa Khembo, Isabel Madziambala, Wilfred Ntegula to his left. .



An AB Sugar company

Speaking on behalf of Illovo Sugar Malawi, the Head of Legal and Corporate Affairs, Mrs Maureen Kachingwe commented, *"This cheque symbolises more than a payment for masks, it represents Illovo's commitment to create Thriving African communities wherever we operate. We are proud to see how this initiative has created new economic opportunities for the women in the group, and how it has inspired and shaped other women's dreams as well. This is a true reflection of what we aim to achieve in building, supporting and growing our rural communities for the benefit of all."*

Ends

### **About Illovo Sugar Africa**

Illovo Sugar Africa (Pty) Ltd is a Pan-African consumer centric agri-business with roots in growing and making sugar and related products. It is Africa's largest sugar producer and has extensive agricultural operations in six southern African countries – eSwatini, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia - manufacturing sugar and downstream products from cane supplied by its own agricultural operations and independent growers. The group is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Associated British Foods plc (ABF), a diversified international food, ingredients and retail group operating in more than 50 countries. Illovo Sugar Africa employs more than 12 000 people in permanent positions across the group with a further 18 000 people employed on a temporary basis. In a recent independent socio-economic study, the company is estimated to support at least 71 443 jobs across the group and for each of Illovo's 29 663 direct employees, at least 1.4 additional jobs are estimated to be supported through grower communities and wider multiplier effects throughout the economy. Illovo has a proud history of significant contribution to local economies in which it operates and its positive social impact across this region on rural communities is substantial. Illovo's total economic impact, including direct, indirect and induced impacts, was estimated at R 23.8 billion in 2016/17