

Malawian journalists win regional awards

 By [Gregory Gondwe](#)

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Two journalists from Malawi's Blantyre Newspapers Limited (BNL), publishers of *The Daily Times*, *Weekend Times*, *Malawi News* and *Sunday Times* have won regional awards on stories that tackled issues of poverty, food security and social protection. The Southern African competition was organised by the Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP).

The regional award winner is BNL's supplements editor Chipiliro Kansilanga whose story, "Transferring cash to reduce poverty," published in *The Daily Times* on 1 March 2010 emerged the best from Southern Africa.

The runner-up award went to her colleague *Malawi News* editor for its entertainment supplement *Weekender*, Sellina Nkowani for her story "Social cash transfer; changes lives of poor Malawians," which appeared in *Malawi News* on 20 - 26 February 2010.

Malawi's freelance journalist Michael Kaiyatsa also scooped the national award for writing a story he titled "Cash transfer giving hope to vulnerable women," published in the *Sunday Times* on 31 January 2010.

Follow-up to intensive training

The Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP) organised the competition as a follow-up to an intensive training it organised between October 2009 and January 2010 for journalists from the five Southern African countries in collaboration with FrayInternational.

RHVP media consultant Brett Davidson said they really had an excellent set of entries from Malawi for the competition.

"The standard was high, and it has been tough trying to decide on a winner," said Davidson.

He said Chipiliro's winning feature did not only tell the story of two families and how they had benefited from social cash transfers, but she also painted the bigger picture through reference to some of the latest research from the field.

Davidson said Kaiyatsa will be hearing from FrayIntermedia for his prize, while RHVP will be in touch with Nkowani and Chipiliro for their awards.

Gregory Gondwe is a Malawian journalist who started writing in 1993. He is also a media consultant assisting several international journalists pursuing assignments in Malawi. He holds a Diploma and an Intermediate Certificate in Journalism among other media-related certificates. He can be contacted on gregorygondwe@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter at @Kalipochi.

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