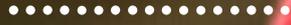




UNITED NATIONS
MALAWI



**20
21** UN COUNTRY
ANNUAL RESULTS
REPORT





**UNITED
NATIONS
MALAWI**



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FOREWORD

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malawi, I invite you to read this report, which details progress of our work in the country in 2021.

Together with our partners, we supported the Government of Malawi in undertaking various catalytic interventions to contribute towards the achievements of the national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report further presents the challenges tackled and lessons learned during the year and provides an overview of our priorities for 2022.

After the unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak in the previous year, 2021 came as a year of hope to heal from the impact of the deadly virus and foster efforts tackling climate change, addressing inequalities, and ending poverty.

The UNCT worked side-by-side with the Government in fighting the pandemic and its socio-economic impact and enhancing Malawi's progress to achieve the SDGs.

With our support, the Government developed and launched the Malawi 2063 as the country's long-term development vision as well as the Malawi 2063 First 10 Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) that replaced the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III as the country's new medium term development strategy to operationalize the vision and help turn Malawi into a middle-income economy and achieve most of the SDGs by 2030.

To ensure Malawi builds back better and faster from COVID-19, the UN also assisted the Government to develop and launch the 2021-2023 COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) – a key blueprint for reviving the country's economy with strategic interventions.

In support of Malawi's COVID-19 response and recovery, the UN System mobilised 78.7 million for the response interventions. With these and other resources, we assisted Malawi to have a robust health response to the pandemic, effective rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, continuity of education for children and protection of vulnerable groups such as women and persons with disabilities.

In 2021, about 2.6 million people in Malawi also faced acute food insecurity during the lean season. The UN reached more than one million of these people with cash and in-kind food assistance to save lives and livelihoods. Some 600,000 learners in vulnerable communities also received cash-based take-home rations to enable them to continue with school. In addition, 3.9 million accessed emergency and non-emergency education services. Out of these, more than 1 million benefited from direct COVID-19 related response services).

COVID-19 continued to impact on violence against women and girls during the year, and the UN family once again joined forces with national institutions, NGOs and other partners to strengthen nationally led and community-driven efforts to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child marriage and child abuse under programmes like the Spotlight Initiative. We actively supported capacity building for more than 1,000 essential service providers handling SGBV cases; conclusion of about 3,000 SGBV court cases; nullification of over 700 child marriages; and graduation of 11,440 mentees on safe space mentorship sessions to protect and keep girls in school.

Over 1.81 million children between 6 and 59 months old received vitamin A supplements. Besides, 29,008 children (52%) with severe acute malnutrition were admitted for treatment under the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition programme. Out of the admitted children, 92 percent recovered.

One enabler for SDG acceleration that the UN in Malawi promoted in 2021 is peace. We helped the Government to finalise consultations on strengthening of its infrastructure for peace, leading to completion of the draft Peace and Unity Bill for Parliament's approval. We look forward to further collaboration with different partners on Malawi's efforts to create national institutions such as the Peace and Unity Commission that the bill proposes to establish to promote lasting peace in the country.

In the face of the devastating effects of the climate crisis, we also took concrete steps to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation in Malawi in 2021. More than 200,000 smallholder farmers gained knowledge and skills in climate smart agriculture

and were reached with weather information to help them make informed agricultural decisions. About 400 climate-resilient houses, toilets and community water points, and four community markets and three irrigation schemes were built and/or rehabilitated in some of the most flood-prone areas.

In line with the UN Reform, we further enhanced the UN System's coherence, effectiveness and efficiency through our coordinated operations, programme implementation and communications.

As we continue to support Government to accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda, Malawi's second Voluntary National Review process in 2022 is timely to assess progress on SDG implementation and identify opportunities for overcoming challenges.

Finally, we thank the Government of Malawi for its leadership, and appreciate our partnership with development partners and other stakeholder. Our joint contributions have made the achievements presented in this report possible.

Let us continue to unite behind solutions that can benefit and transform lives of all people in Malawi.

I invite you to read this UN Country Results Report for 2021.

Mr. Shigeki Komatsubara

United Nations Resident Coordinator (ad interim)



UN COUNTRY TEAM



Resident UN Agencies



Non-Resident UN Agencies



Top 10 donors of the UNSDCF in 2021, excluding the UN agencies, include:



OVERVIEW: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITY AREAS



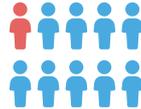
63%
Children are deprived of essential services



45K
Females suffer violence and discrimination



10.4%
Persons with disabilities face challenges to access education, protection, health services and dignified income sources



10%
Population are living with HIV

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III).

In support of national priorities, the Cooperation Framework supports the government in three inter-linked and mutually reinforcing strategic priority areas, commonly referred to as pillars: 1) Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions; 2) Population Management and Inclusive Human Development and 3) Inclusive and Resilient Growth.

The Cooperation Framework is operationalised through annualised Joint Work Plans (JWPs) which are signed with the government and translate the below nine outcomes into concrete, measurable and time-bound outputs that provide clear, normative-operational linkages and enable the UN and partners to establish the attribution of the UN contribution to national priorities.

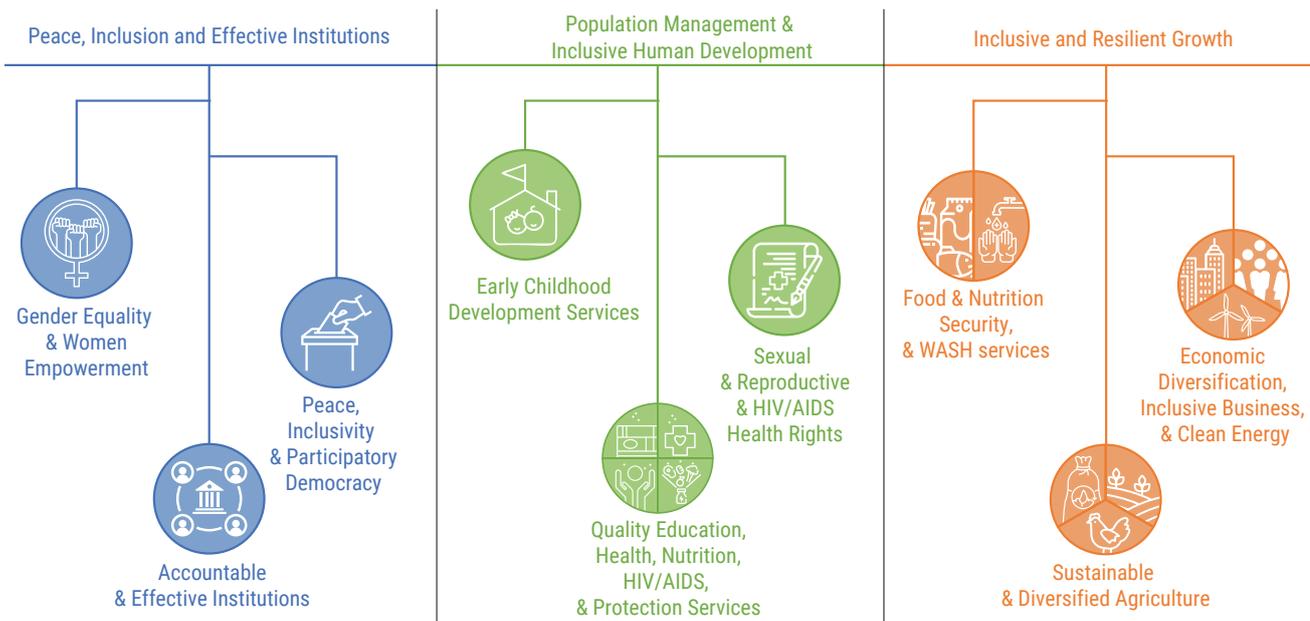




Photo: UNRCO/Phillip Pemba

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

Development: Malawi's economy continued to suffer the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, but a recovery is underway. Tightening of containment measures to prevent the spread of the virus, together with the knock-on effects that followed disruptions in global supply chains and trade, drastically reduced business activity in services (tourism, transport, wholesale, and retail) and industry (manufacturing) sectors, as well as exports.

However, agriculture rebounded strongly, with a record harvest, which was helped by favourable weather and extensive agricultural input subsidies under the government's Affordance Inputs Programme. This partially offset the decline in business activity in the services and industry sectors. Moreover, business confidence picked up later in the year as containment measures eased.

As a result, economic growth, which reduced sharply to 0.8 percent in 2020, rebounded slightly to between 2.4 percent and 3.1 percent in 2021, according to World Bank and the government estimates, respectively. Pressures to finance COVID-19-related expenditures weakened an already strained fiscal position and contributed to a significant increase in public debt. In 2021, the budget deficit was maintained at 8 percent of Gross Domestic Product, compared to 8.7 percent recorded in 2020. Malawi has faced much reduced external budget support and grants since 2014 and has resorted to financing budget deficits by costly domestic borrowing as well as borrowing from regional development banks on non-concessional terms.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed existing vulnerabilities and revealed multiple channels of threats to the general economic well-being and livelihoods across sectors and actors of the economy. To address, the vulnerabilities and threats to the economy and livelihoods posed by the pandemic, the government prepared a COVID-19 Socioeconomic Recovery Plan

(SERP), with the technical and financial support of the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Malawi.

Furthermore, the Malawi Government with support from the UN and Development Partners launched the Malawi 2063, a successor to Vision 2020 that aspires to have an inclusively, wealthy, and self-reliant industrialized upper-middle-income country by 2063. This vision was operationalized by the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Malawi Implementation Plan (MIP-1) that defines specific strategies to take the country to the lower-middle-income status by 2030.

Human Rights: 2021 began with a surge in protests across the country. Protesters expressed discontent with public policies and others sought to force fulfilment of promises made during the campaign period. The level of protests was the highest at the end of the year when protests attracted huge crowds. The youths were core participants in protest movements, but older women and men were equally engaged.

Regional developments: Malawi faces a rising security threat from the ongoing Islamist insurgency in neighbouring Mozambique's northern region, the Cabo Delgado province. The insurgency, which started in 2017, is causing significant security, political, humanitarian, and socio-economic crises in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado region and neighbouring countries. This situation occurs when Malawi President is the Chairperson of the Southern African Development Cooperation. This regional bloc, in which Mozambique is a member, stands a chance to offer lasting solutions to counter the violent extremism that has plagued northern Mozambique for almost four years. The UN in Malawi is engaging UNCT in Mozambique in a regional/ cross-border approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding that focuses on strengthening the triple nexus of peace, development, and humanitarian needs.

J P G E
FARMERS CLUB



APPLIED
FARMERS'

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

02

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

A snapshot of the results in this report were presented and validated at the Government- UN Inter-Pillar Consultation meeting held on 24 March 2022 attended by 28 Ministries, Departments and Agencies from the Government. During the last reporting period, the UNCT in Malawi identified five priority areas for 2021. The priority areas were operationalised through the 2021 Government-UN Joint Work Plan endorsed by Government at the high-level Joint Strategy Meeting. Below is a summary of results around the 2021 UNCT priority areas.

1. Governance, accountability, and public finance management

The UN in Malawi enhanced Government's accountability on implementation of normative frameworks and treaty body recommendations through engagements and report submissions. (e.g., The Economic and Social Council, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Universal Periodic Review, etc.). The completion of the Development Finance Assessment and the Local Level Finance Assessment under the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) Joint Programme provided the Government of Malawi with an encompassing and exhaustive assessment of the financing flows coming into Malawi at national and local level, as well as the key bottlenecks to address to unlock higher chances for the country to develop.

2. Climate Action

In 2021, the UN in Malawi developed a Climate Change Common Agenda with the Government of Malawi to support the national ambition to accelerate climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience, that will contribute to priority development objectives in Malawi. Also, the UN in Malawi provided

technical and financial support to the Government to update the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for Malawi. The NDC was submitted to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and outlines Malawi's plan to fight climate change and its contribution to the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and indicates directions for a low-carbon transformation until 2030. The UN in Malawi strengthened resilience of smallholder farmers to climate variability and change through sound safety nets and productive investments, using a holistic approach that blends disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

3. Data for Development and Digitalization

The pandemic has created an increased demand for data and data-driven solutions. The UN in Malawi supported EPandD to undertake a national scoping exercise of Management Information Systems (MIS) in 14 ministries and two district councils. The findings will assist to define system requirements for the National Harmonized- MIS. UNICEF, in collaboration with other development partners, supported the National Statistical Office (NSO) as part of the Global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) programme to analyze and disseminate the findings of the nationally representative 2019-2020 MICS. The MICS is a major data source for more than 30 Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) indicators and provides comparable data on children and women worldwide. UNDP supported the National Registration Bureau (NRB) to issue more national ID cards and establish linkages with public and private sector institutions to improve operations and transparency. UNFPA and UNDP assisted NSO to develop the Malawi Data Dissemination Platform and the SDG Hotspot to digitize Village Action Plans (VAPs) and track SDG indicators.

4. Strategic Financing and Partnerships

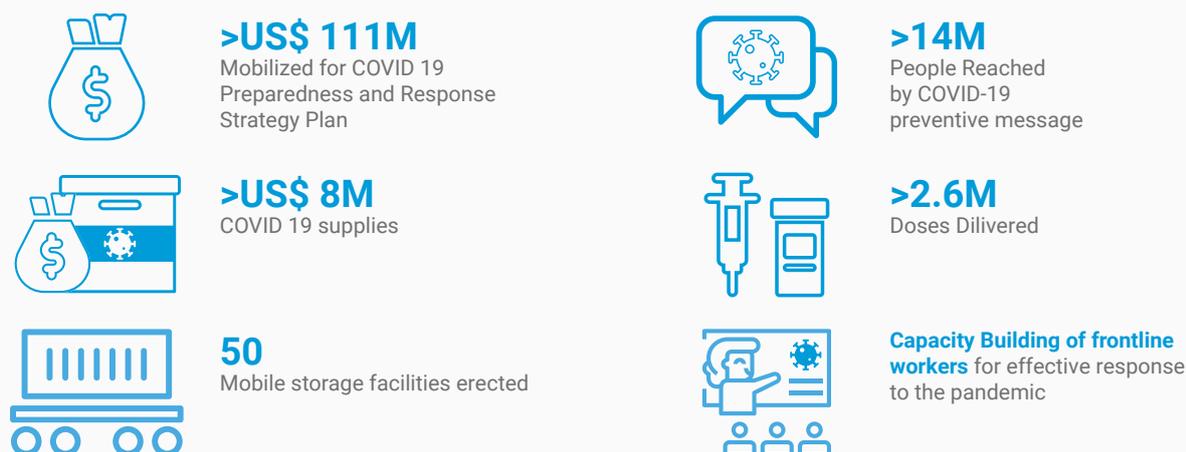
During this reporting period, partnerships were strengthened with research institutions and academia in the development of innovative demand-based, climate-smart and gender-sensitive agricultural and irrigation technologies for increased productivity. In 2021, Malawi alongside a small handful of countries, succeeded in the three global calls for proposals from the Joint SDG Fund. With an overall contribution of US \$10,9M, 6 UN agencies are implementing three Joint Programmes

that are strategic for the country and the ambition to achieve the SDGs. All the initiatives that Malawi presents to global funding mechanisms respond to a logic of complementarity, along with the financing mobilized in country, particularly with the portfolio of the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund, the UN country pooled fund that operates in close collaboration with Development Partners and Government entities in advancing SDGs, responding to principles established in the UN Reform and the Funding Compact.

5. COVID-19 Response

In 2021, the UN continued to support the Government of Malawi to address the evolving COVID-19 pandemic by contributing to strengthening health services, protecting people and providing social protection and basic services.

Health First: Strengthening Health Services for COVID-19 Response:



a. Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination of COVID-19 Response

The UN, through the cluster system, supported Government in the revision of the National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Strategy and Plan covering the period July 2021 – June 2022. The response plan covers most urgent areas:- health, sanitation, food security, logistics, socio-economic protection, education, and risk communication and community engagement.

The UNCT mobilized US\$78.7 million to respond to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Considering other funding mechanisms, UN's coordination support helped Malawi to mobilise over US\$ 111 million for the entire response to COVID-19 during the year,

involving at least 33 donors and 52 operational partners.

b. COVID-19 Logistics and Essential Supplies

The UN procured, and prepositioned essential COVID-19 supplies worth over US\$ 8 million, comprising various personal protective equipment (i.e. basins, hand sanitisers, tapped buckets, liquid hand washing soap, reusable face masks, gloves, and wipes), medicines, testing kits, medical equipment, screening supplies and intensive care unit equipment (oxygen concentrators and ventilators), to support the response.



c. COVID-19 Treatment and Vaccination

During the year, the UN played a critical role in the treatment of patients with illnesses from COVID-19 by ensuring availability of vital medical supplies and equipment in health facilities and establishing isolation and emergency treatment units. The UN also strengthened the capacity of frontline workers in areas of epidemiology and surveillance, contact tracing, case management, laboratory, infection prevention and control, and risk communication and community engagement.

During the year, Malawi received COVID-19 vaccines that helped to save lives by strengthening people's protection against serious illness, hospitalization,

and death. The UN, through WHO and UNICEF, delivered more than 2.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines under the COVAX facility. The vaccines included AstraZeneca, Johnson and Johnson, and Pfizer. During the vaccine rollout, the UN also provided syringes and safety boxes, and supported demand creation efforts through initiatives like COVID-19 Vaccination Express that closed vaccine information gaps, increased vaccine uptake and prevented expiry of vaccines. By end of 2021, more than 1.8 million doses of the vaccines had been administered and over 700,000 people were fully vaccinated.

d. COVID-19 Prevention and Information

A coordinated UN, Government, media, and NGO effort ensured a diverse, evidence-based, and effective communication campaign on COVID-19 prevention at national, regional, and local levels. To raise awareness and promote behaviour change, UN produced tailored multimedia content in multiple languages on COVID-19, including debunking of myths and false information about the vaccines. COVID-19 prevention messages were disseminated through the media, online platforms, and other interpersonal channels like community gatherings and door-to-door engagements, reaching over 14 million people. Influencers were included in the overall communication strategy. The UN further used the U-Report platform to engage people on COVID-19 prevention.



Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services:



> 1M
People reached
with cash and food



520
Children supported
in Dzaleka refugee camp



440K
Families reached
with cash transfers



> 26K
children were treated from
severe acute malnutrition



5K Litre
Water tanks installed
in Selected Hospitals



Supported prevention
and management of
COVID-19 to minimize
the loss of learning



>4.2M
People reached
with WASH messages

a. Food Security and Nutrition

About 2.6 million people faced acute food insecurity during the lean season following loss of income due to COVID-19 effects. The UN collaborated with Malawi Government and development partners to provide assistance, delivering life-saving cash and in-kind food assistance for over one million people in rural areas.



Photo: UNRCO/Phillip Pemba

The UN strengthened Malawi's social protection system by supporting the scaling up of the Social Cash Transfer Programme and rollout a COVID-19 Urban Cash Intervention (CUCI).

Further assistance was provided in the preparation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Analytical Framework for the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC); the development of the Emergency Agriculture and Food Security Surveillance System (EmA-FSS); and an information-sharing system on commodity prices and food security data from 2,500 households through the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). These mechanisms provided classifications and updates on the severity of acute food insecurity and informed response interventions during the year.

Mass Vitamin A supplementation through child health days was supported and resulted in improved immunity among 92 percent of the children aged 6-59 months and 55 percent of postpartum women. Besides, the UN helped to disseminate messages on maternal, and infant and young child nutrition to more than 2.7 million people.

b. WASH

As part of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, the UN supported installation and rehabilitation of WASH facilities at emergency treatment units, health care facilities and border posts, including installation of over 100 emergency latrines. By working with selected hospitals, the UN installed sets of 5,000-litre water tanks and fixed several plumbing issues to improve access to safe water, hygiene, and sanitation. It also facilitated engagement with water boards to ensure uninterrupted



Photo: WFP/Badre Bahaji

Beneficiaries are provided with ATM cards to enhance financial inclusion. Mobile ATM Vans are available on site for beneficiaries to withdraw their entitlements.

water supply, especially in hot spots of urban areas, including through water trucking operations.

c. Education

The UN supported prevention and management of COVID-19 cases among learners, reopening of schools, and administration of remedial interventions to minimize the loss of learning. UN further assisted in the tracking of the status of children's return to school, teacher preparedness, school hygiene standards, and the provision of innovative distance learning programmes through radio, online and self-learning options. UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Education supported more than 1 million children with direct COVID-19 education

services. Besides, 8,742 vulnerable out of school girls received scholarship support to complete secondary education.

d. Special Groups and Protection Issues

The UN played an essential role in the protection of vulnerable groups in Malawi. During the year, the UN also assisted with provision of appropriate alternative care arrangements and support for 520 children without parental or family care, while helping to raise awareness on prevention of child marriage and teen pregnancies across the country. To reduce overcrowding in prisons, the scaling up of camp courts was supported.

At Dzaleka Refugee Camp, the UN provided screening and isolation facilities and essential supplies, and distributed cash-based take-home rations. Gender-based violence in the face of COVID-19 was addressed by increasing access to essential services for survivors and strengthening community-led actions to prevent and respond to cases of violence against women and girls. The continuity of sexual and reproductive health services was also ensured through UN-programmes like the Spotlight Initiative. WHO supported the Ministry of Health to assess the effects of COVID-19 on pregnant women and the youths. The National Health accounts were updated during the reporting period. The findings informed programming in the COVID-19 response.



2.2 Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes, and outputs

2.2.1 Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions

Alignment to SDGs



This pillar addresses the root causes of poor governance through supporting governance institutions at all levels to harmonize legal and organizational frameworks, strengthen data systems for enhanced accountability, strengthen gender and human rights frameworks, civic engagement and participation, and the national peace architecture through early warning systems.

Participating Agencies



The subsections below provide the results achieved for the three outcomes under this pillar. Some joint programmes implemented under this pillar include Build Malawi, Spotlight Initiative, and Strengthening Malawi's Financing Architecture at National and Local Level.

2.2.1.1 Accountable and Effective Institutions

Alignment to SDGs



Participating Agencies



82%
reduction in the amount of money lost through mobile transactions from MK 141 million to MK 25 million



63%
Human rights cases resolved



71%
reduction in high level fraud cases, from 7 in 2020 to 2 in 2022.



109K
People empowered with legal advice and assistance



105
Service providers trained to generate quality and timely SGBV data



16
MDAs and private institutions sectors were linked to national ID system

Output - State and non-state institutions and legal frameworks strengthened to coordinate, promote partnerships and accountability, access to justice and human rights (UNICEF and UNDP): UNICEF enhanced the capacity of the Parliament of Malawi to undertake macro-fiscal analysis and forecasting and to prepare the Mid-year Budget Review and Budget Proposal Analysis Reports. This was made possible through the part-time secondment of the Deputy Director of Kenya's Parliament Budget Office, the hiring of an analyst and other in-kind support. UNICEF also supported the Government in the production of a citizen's budget.

UNDP in partnership with the Paralegal Advisory Service Institute (PASI) improved the capacity of Paralegal Officers to provide paralegal services for 108,912 poor and marginalized people in conflict with the law. UNODC strengthened responses to tackling trafficking in persons at Dzaleka Refugee Camp and ports of entry to Malawi as evidenced by better detection and identification of victims.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Homeland Security was supported by UNODC in the implementation of the Protocol on detection and victim identification at the Dzaleka Refugee Camp. This also included rehabilitation of the Police Station and the creation of space for a transit centre for victims of human trafficking and vulnerable smuggled migrants at the camps.

Output - Malawi has strengthened decentralized sectors and local governance structures for effective service delivery, development planning and SDGs acceleration (UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP): UNICEF supported the Government in costing the expenditure for the six major devolved sectors which contributed to a rebalancing between devolved functions and related finances.

UNICEF enhanced coordination under the Fiscal Decentralization Technical Working Group through development of a joint work-plan with the World Bank and facilitating regular participation of members in the Governance, Decentralization and Public Finance Management (PFM) Development Partners Groups.

UNFPA under the Spotlight Initiative enriched the capacity of 310 service providers from gender, social Welfare, health, police and judiciary seekers on essential service package (ESP) for GBV. This coupled with the localization of the standards and

protocols in the ESP, training of ESP trainers contributed to an increase referrals and renovation of Makanjira court.

UNDP also supported Nsanje and Phalombe districts to develop and roll out the online SDG Hotspots dashboard for social accountability and civic engagement. The dashboard has assisted to enhance coordination in addressing the food insecurity challenges identified from the Hotspots assessment.



Photo: WFP/Sante Bahaji

Output - Public institutions and non-state actors capable of collecting, analyzing, sharing, and utilizing disaggregated data and digital technologies for evidence-based policies and programs (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and UNHCR): UNDP and UNFPA have supported statistics experts in the Malawi Judiciary, Police, gender ministry and National Statistical Office (NSO) to develop a gender-focused integrated data management system to track the progress of SGBV cases for easy categorization and reporting. UNICEF supported the NSO to complete the MICS survey

UNFPA strengthened the capacity of 105 service providers in six districts under the Spotlight Initiative with capacity building interventions and ICT equipment's to generate high-quality and timely data on Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Management Information System.

UNDP supported 16 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and private sector institutions to be linked to the National ID system as a tool for authentication and verification. According to Fiscal Police, the number of high-level fraud cases in the private sector decreased from 7 in 2020 to 2 in 2021 since the linkage of the National ID to the Commercial banks and SIM cards for mobile phones. Consequently, the interlinked ecosystem of the National ID has a high propensity to revolutionize the use of data systems to improve service delivery and access to services.

UN Women supported the Government to undertake a gender-based national level assessment that provided findings towards strengthening the national gender-responsive system. UNHCR supported Government in line with the migration policy to ensure that all refugee and asylum seeker children born in Malawi have birth certificates.

Key challenges

1. Government support for its own ambitious reform agenda has been dwindling with many key bills stuck at the Ministry of Justice and little interest shown in prioritizing or pushing for a more holistic approach to the reform.
2. Limited absorptive capacity to fast-track implementation of strategic interventions, which could impact on overall delivery rate and achievement of intended development objectives.
3. Weak justice systems resulted to low reporting of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases, and this was coupled with low pursuant of reported SGBV cases in court by police as most of them are resolved out of court due to lack of interest by the survivors and police.

2.2.1.2 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

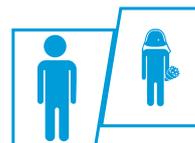
Alignment to SDGs



Participating Agencies



2,900
SGBV cases were concluded in courts



1,222
child marriages were annulled in six districts



31
cases of rape were identified and investigated by the Police

Output - National gender machinery with enhanced capabilities in coordination, management, formulation and implementation of transformative gender programs and gender related laws and policies (UNFPA, UN Women, UNHCR, and UNICEF): UNFPA in collaboration with government facilitated the conclusion of 2,900 SGBV cases in courts under the

Spotlight Initiative.

School-based SGBV has been considerably mitigated for 112,219 learners in 98 schools, who now have access to complaints boxes directly managed by the Malawi Police Service. Consequently, 31 cases of rape were identified and investigated by the Police, sending a strong message of deterrence



Photo: WFP/Badre Bahaji

to students and teachers.

A total of 195 informal leaders from 85 different communities were trained to develop bylaws using national bylaw guidelines, resulting in the formulation of seven draft bylaws focused on SGBV, SRHR and child marriage. The laws abolish or require the amendment of at least 18 harmful practises. Referrals of GBV cases were strengthened at community level through provision of bicycles to ease mobility. Similarly, UNHCR expedited the conclusion of GBV cases in Dzaleka Refugee Camp .

UN Women supported the Government to develop the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan for gender ministry to foster gender responsive programming. UNICEF Partnered with the Ministry of Education to support gender mainstreaming of various policies including the National Teacher Policy, Free Secondary Education policy among others. Further, the education ministry was supported to implement gender responsive teaching methodologies.

Output - Strengthened capabilities of Government and CSOs to implement, monitor and report on global, regional, and national obligations on GEWE: UN Women contributed to the development of the country's inputs to the UN Secretary General's report for the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW 65) and the contribution towards the pre-CSW65 Africa outcome document.

Furthermore, UN Women, under the Spotlight Initiative, collaborated with the NGO Gender Coordination Network (NGO-GCN) and engaged over 108 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at national and regional levels in treaty reporting processes. This partnership led to the compilation of the 8th State Party report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against



Photo: UNRCO/Phillip Pemba

Women (CEDAW), Beijing +25 and , CEDAW Shadow Report for Malawi. NGO-GCN utilized the issues identified to advance collaborated advocacy, and public awareness engagements towards enhancing state commitment to women's inclusion in key institutions and bodies, and gender-responsive financing for an enhanced fight against violence against women and girls.

Furthermore, UN Women strengthened the capacity of the government to track the progress of implementation of normative works and reporting processes for accountability through three regional and two global forums, an one International Women's Day commemoration conference. These focused on tracking the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and CEDAW. Key reports and documents generated were the pre- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 65) Africa Outcome Document and the Technical Contribution to UN SGs Report on CSW 65.

UN Women supported advocacy engagements and technical documentation on facilitating the adoption and implementation of temporary Special Measures (Gender Quotas).

Output - Public institutions and CSOs capable of producing and using knowledge products and analytical reports on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (ILO, UNDP, UN Women, and UNICEF: UNDP supported Malawi Human Rights Commission to develop a national situation analysis report on the prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace in public, and private institutions, and informal business sectors as well as guidelines for workplace policies on addressing and handling sexual harassment. The guidelines were adopted by the Government Human Resources Department.

Furthermore, UNDP supported an assessment of GBV coordination mechanisms and gaps in the districts through CSO Citizen Alliance. The recommendations assisted to revamp the Gender Technical Working Groups in six districts under the Spotlight Initiative.

UNDP supported the development of a gender audit report for higher education institutions, which informed the development of the model gender policy for higher learning institutions adopted by 22 universities and the National Council for Higher Education.

UN Women, in collaboration with UNFPA through the regional offices, finalised and disseminated the Rapid Gender Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on women. UNICEF also initiated three gender-related surveys.

UN Women supported the development of a document on Frequently Asked Questions on Gender Quotas and its dissemination, a Policy Brief on Gender Quotas, 10 advocacy engagements with political party leaders, and the Legal Affairs Committee. In addition, inputs were provided

towards the proposed legislative amendment on Gender Quotas.

ILO supported the Employers Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM) - an umbrella body for employers, to raise awareness amongst employers on the prevention of GBV for the protected women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Key challenges:

1. There is limited support from various quarters such as political parties, parliamentarians on the Gender Quotas to have increased women's political participation.
2. Weak enabling policy framework and inadequate mandatory guide to inform the public sector budget allocations for gender equality and women empowerment following the passing of the Gender Equality Act.
3. The availability of gender-disaggregated data remains a challenge in various sectors. This affects programming as it does not reflect the lived realities of women and girls who are often left out.

2.2.1.3 Strengthened Institutional Capacities

Alignment to SDGs



Output - Real-time conflict early warning and response mechanisms for monitoring conflicts and threats to peace (UNDP and UNHCR): UNDP provided support to the Ministry of National Unity in the operations and oversight of District Peace Committees and passage of the Bill on the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission.

Further support was provided to Public Affairs Committee to mediate on inter-religious tensions between Muslims and Christians that resulted in the signing of a memorandum of understanding on dress code to allow Muslim girls to wear Hijab in Christian-assisted schools.

UNHCR facilitated the development of two contingency plans in place, one for Persons of Concern

Participating Agencies



(PoC) from Democratic Republic of Congo and another for Mozambique. Currently the plan for PoCs from Mozambique is being updated based on the current situation and receipt of a few individuals in Mangochi.

Output - Governance, electoral management and peacebuilding institutions strengthened to promote inclusive, transparent, and peaceful societies: UNDP supported the Government to draft the electoral reform bill which was submitted to the Ministry of Justice. The Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) was supported with capacity building interventions for the new MEC Commissioners and the boundary delimitation exercise. MEC held peaceful by-elections throughout 2021.



The Malawi Parliament was supported by UNDP to hold hybrid parliamentary sessions during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, a live TV was launched to bring plenary discussions closer to the people.

UN Women strengthened the capacity of 135 personnel from local councils (108 Female and 27 Male) from the District Gender Technical Working Group and 10 Village Development Committees in Rumphu District to support peace building and prevention.

The capacity building initiative enriched the capacity of local councils to implement the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325) through ensuring the inclusion of women and participation of women

in conflict prevention and peace building, and leadership in community structures such as Village Development Committees and Area Development Committees. These groups continue to support gendered responses in security and humanitarian responses in the district.

Key challenges

1. Transition of the Social Cohesion project from the Office of the President and Cabinet to the Ministry of National Unity delayed implementation of 2021 activities.
2. Limited funding to conduct community-based dissemination of the Muslim and Christian memorandum of understanding on dress code

2.2.2 Population Management and Inclusive Human Development

Alignment to SDGs



Interventions under this pillar address the root causes of poor governance (through improving birth registration at facilities, provision of safe schools), managing rapid population growth (through interventions on family planning and information on Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights [SRHR]) and addressing negative social norms (through advocacy, behavioural change interventions, and community engagement, particularly regarding negative impacts on the girl child and HIV/AIDS).

Participating Agencies



During this reporting period, the UN in Malawi supported the government to maintain essential lifesaving health services amidst the pandemic. The UN under this pillar also provides maternal, newborn and child care services and implements interventions to address nutrition challenges and promote access to quality education. The subsections below provide the results achieved under the three outcomes of this pillar.

Most of the results were achieved through the implementation of six joint programmes, namely, AFIKEPO, Joint Programme on Girls Education, strengthening integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)/HIV and Sexual and

Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Joint Programme on Health System Strengthening, Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience (PROSPER), Spotlight Initiative and Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF).

2.2.2.1 Early Childhood Development Services

Alignment to SDGs



266K
Live births supported in 36 Health units



41%
under 5 have birth registration certificates



2M
Children reached with 345 ECD kits in various CBCCs



2.5K
Under 5 Refugees' children access to ECD services



6.5K
Mothers supported with HIV/AIDS prevention services

Participating Agencies



29K
children received early severe acute malnutrition treatment



> 1.8M
children between 6-59 months in 19 districts were supported with Vitamin A supplementation



92%
recovered from severe acute malnutrition



>1M
children received infant and young child feeding support



1.4M
parents and caregivers were reached through "Mmera Mpyomba" programme

The UN in Malawi provided an integrated package of interventions to support the efforts of the Government to improve the quality of Early Childhood Development (ECD) services.

This package included promoting learning for 3- to 5-year-old children in a nurturing environment coupled with positive parenting, and support birth registration including at health facilities. It also included promoting and supporting infant and young child feeding, community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) and severe acute malnutrition, as well as nutrition supplementation.

In addition, the package included deworming, growth monitoring and promotion; HIV interventions for early infant diagnosis as well as testing and retention in care for mother and infant pairs; and maternal, neonatal and child health.

Under-five children in selected districts received quality stimulation and responsive care services from their parents or primary caregivers (Positive Parenting) – (UNICEF and UNHCR).

During this reporting period, the percentage of Community Based Child Centres that meet national ECD standards moved from 40 percent in 2020 to 46 percent in 2021 because of the combined efforts of the Government, the UN and Development Partners. Furthermore, 64 per cent of districts are now implementing integrated ECD services at scale with support from UNICEF. UNICEF, in collaboration with World Bank, rolled out the Investment in Early Year (IEY) project. Over 968 care groups including 5,248 cluster leaders and 1,580 frontline workers had their knowledge enriched on integrated ECD nutrition, early stimulation, and nurturing package under IEY.

All district councils have capacity to provide free and universal birth registration for 0–5-year-olds (UNICEF, UNHCR and WHO): In 2021, 15 out of the 28 districts are providing universal birth registration services within the civil registration, compared to 19 districts in 2020. Mandatory health facility-based birth registration is taking place in all 28 districts, but only 13 out of 28 have both mandatory health facility and community-based birth registration.

With support from UNICEF, WHO, and UNHCR, under-five birth registration rates reached about 41 per cent against a set target of three percent. All refugees and asylum seekers born in Malawi were registered during the reporting period. The national wide civic education exercise created a demand for birth registration and ensured accountability from service providers. The results of the 2019-2020 MICS shows that under five birth registration rates in Malawi is at 67 percent.

All District Councils have strengthened capacity to provide minimum package of age-appropriate nutrition services to children supported by UNICEF and WFP. UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health through the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA), saved the lives of 26,000, under-five children who recovered from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) after effective treatment under the community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) program. This represented a 92.0% recovery rate within the acceptable SPHERE standards. To achieve this, life-saving supplies including RUTF, F100 and F75 were procured and distributed to the last mile ensuring equitable access by the end-users with no stock out. With UNICEF support, all 28 districts had no storage of Vitamin A supplements which resulted in 1.81 million and 53, 631 children (6 - 9 months old) receiving vitamin A supplements through the campaign and routine services,

respectively. UNICEF supported the operationalization of Standard Operating Procedures to ensure the continuity of the safe implementation of essential nutrition services including CMAM and optimum infant and young child feeding practices in the context of COVID-19.

To complement UNICEF's efforts, WFP supported 7,543 households with livestock in the districts of Phalombe, Zomba, Balaka, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Neno through the direct provision and pass-on programme as part of nutrition assets creation for the households to promote diversified food production and improvements in household food security for improved diets.



WFP continued to provide in-kind Corn Soya Blend as a prevention ration for about 45,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp (86 percent of the refugees in the country and also WFP rolled-out a nutrition prevention cash-based transfer top-up for children under the age of two.

The joint implementation of a package of nutrition-sensitive interventions under the AFIKEPO programme resulted in the improvements in the percentage of children 6-23 months old who met minimum acceptable diet (MAD) from 14 percent in 2020 to 22 percent in 2021. Furthermore, there were notable improvements in Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) from 30.4 percent in 2020 to 39.3 percent in 2021.

Mothers and under-five children receive quality HIV prevention and care services in health facilities and communities (UNICEF, UNAIDS and UNHCR): The UN and Development Partners supported Government in different multifaceted interventions such as strengthening of community Prevention of Mother

to Child Transmission (PMTCT) by building capacity of community mentor mothers, placing peer mentors in strategic entry points at the health facilities.

Community awareness campaigns and outreach clinics among other interventions contributed to ensuring that the number of HIV exposed infants tested within two months of birth has increased from 76 percent to 86 percent.

In addition, HIV testing in antenatal care has been maintained at >98 percent. The percentage of children living with HIV who are on ART increased from 61 percent in 2019 to 76 percent in 2021. About 6,456 mothers from the refugee community and surrounding host villages were supported with HIV/AIDS prevention services.

Mothers and newborns receive quality and integrated maternal, newborn and child care services (UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, UN Women, and WHO): UNICEF and UNHCR supported the Ministry of Health in strengthening the Quality of Care for Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) in nine targeted districts. The support contributed to the delivery of 266,326 live births in 36 Health units.

Besides, skilled birth attendance was 92 percent. In the nine targeted districts, Newborn mortality in the reporting period has improved to 12/1000 live births, a significant improvement as compared to the DHS finding in 2016 of 29/1000 live births.

Furthermore, UNFPA contributed to saving the lives of pregnant mothers and their newborns through heavy investments in the refurbishment of three operating theatres (one in Lilongwe district and two in Dedza district).

A total of six health facilities were renovated; Chikole, Mase, Malombe, Lungwena, Malukula and Namalala, and will contribute to increased uptake of family planning services including integrated SRHR.

UN Women established partnerships with the National Health Helpline “Chipatala cha pa fon” and Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace and 6,919 women of childbearing age including pregnant women and adolescents accessed advice and counselling through the hotline.

WHO supported the government to reach 64,000 (93 percent of the target) of eligible children in the



Photo: UNICEF/ Henry Sukali

11 implementing districts with the first dose of malaria vaccine. During the same period, surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases (neonatal tetanus, measles, and polio) continued during the same period with 1.0 non measles rate per 100,000 population reported.

Key challenges

1. Limited funding for ECD and implementation of mass birth registration for over 8.4 million children aged less than 16 years.
2. Sustainability of nutrition activities continues to be threatened by lack of domestic financing, exacerbated by the under prioritization of nutrition across sectors at central and local government structures.
3. The National Registration Bureau (NRB) is overwhelmed with exercise to renew over 3 million expiring national IDs, hence it has little time dedicated to civil registration of child births.

2.2.2.2 Quality Education, Health, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS and Protection Services

Alignment to SDGs



3.9M
children (56% Girls) have access to emergency and non emergency education services



75
People reached with 2ther4SRHR



55%
Females supported with SRHR awareness and HIV information



257K
school-aged adolescent girls received Iron Folic Acid supplementation reducing their susceptibility to anemia

Participating Agencies



52%
Girls enrolled in complementary basic education programmes



8.7K
Adolescent girls supported with girls education



593K
Learners supported with meals in schools



433K
(70 per cent) children 6-59 months received routine Vitamin A supplementation.

This outcome focuses on holistic strengthening of systems supporting girls' education and health while the girls are in and out of school. The joint programmes on girls' education, and adolescent girls and SRHR have been crucial to addressing education and SRHR concerns of adolescents, together with issues of social protection, gender equality and gender-based violence, and assisting in developing life skills.

The closure of schools due to COVID-19 greatly disrupted learning for all school-aged learners. To ensure continuity of learning, various distance learning programmes were introduced to support learners from preschool to secondary school levels.

Output - Learning (foundation skills and life skills): During this reporting period, UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNFPA) contributed results under this output. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 3.9 million (56 percent were girls) accessed emergency and non-emergency education services through different UNICEF-supported interventions. Over 1 million children (49 percent were girls) had direct access to COVID-19 emergency response

interventions in 2021. The emergency interventions included:- the distribution of ECD kits, the provision of chalkboards, recruitment of auxiliary teachers and training of teachers in assessment and remediation.

UNESCO worked with the Ministry of Education and the Malawi Institute of Education to conduct a curriculum audit of the Life Skills Education (LSE) curriculum for primary and secondary levels. The audit was validated with government stakeholders in December 2021. The Ministry has committed to reviewing the LSE curriculum in 2022. To strengthen implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in the classroom, UNESCO has supported the training of 20 Master Trainers across the six education divisions who have gone on to train 242 Primary Education Advisors (PEAs) in zones. As a result, 71,757 learners (52 percent were girls) have enrolled in the Complementary Basic Education programmes.

Under 2ther4SRHR Joint programme implemented in the districts of Mulanje, Nkhata Bay and Mangochi, UNFPA strengthened common understanding on values and attitude especially towards adolescents'

reproductive health during the pandemic through enriching the capacity of 20 district management team members who include the police, health, social welfare, education, youth, the judiciary, and health workers. Following the training a total of 75 political, local and area development committee members parents, chiefs, religious leaders, and young people were reached.

Output - Integrated services in and out of school: During this reporting period, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP contributed results under this output. IOM supported the Government to raise the awareness of SRHR and HIV information in Mchinji, Mwanza and Neno through the engagement of 202 (41% female) change agents. During this reporting period, the changes agents reached 7,342 (55 percent were female) migrants, sex workers, including school-going young vulnerable people and host communities with SRHR and HIV messages and COVID-19 messages.

Furthermore, 792 clients were referred to the nearest district service delivery points for SRHR and non-health services such as the police and social welfare for SGBV related cases. Out of these, 257 (31%) migrants, sexual workers, and host communities confirmed to have received the services at the service delivery points. While an additional 1040 beneficiaries received services through mobile clinics.

With funds from the 2021 UBRAF country envelope, female condom usage and youth demand for adolescent and youth-friendly health services in Dzaleka camp increased, primarily due to capacity building of health workers and youth mentorship through youth leaders on sexual reproductive health and rights, family planning and HIV/AIDS.

An accreditation exercise of Youth Friendly Health Services delivery was conducted with support of UNFPA to assess the implementation status of adolescent and youth SRHR programmes. Ten out of 19 facilities assessed met the required standards of care.

With UNICEF support, the electronic Continuous Professional Development learning programme was operationalized as part of the expanded training package for teachers to integrate in-service and distance learning. To promote digital learning under Reimagining Education and GIGA initiatives, UNICEF collaborated with the newly established directorates of Open and Distance E-Learning and

Science Technology and Innovation to support a digital learning scoping study for the expansion of online and distance education to improve learning outcomes.

WFP supported the Ministry of Education to develop guidelines for safe food preparation in schools which have been adopted as part of the official communication on resumption of school meals. Since the resumption, WFP has supported about 592,854 learners with meals in schools.

Output - Second chance education (Out of school-boys and girls and reintegration): During this reporting period, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNESCO contributed results to this UNDAF output. UNFPA under the Joint Programme for Girls Education supported the identification of 76 adolescent girls and among them 45 girls were recommended to be recipients of an education support package in the targeted district.

UNICEF supported the Government Line Ministries to develop the National Youth Policy and Youth Investment Plan, and National Functional Literacy Curriculum. The National Youth Policy has been validated by a steering committee of principal secretaries from various government ministries.

Furthermore, UNESCO supported MoE to develop supplementary materials on Menstrual Hygiene Management; SRGVB and early, forced and child marriage which will be finalized in 2022. The materials will be made available to learners for self-instruction.

Under Generation Unlimited initiatives and the youth innovation challenge, UNICEF, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, supported 1,000 youth females to acquire skills in soap making, piggery, and tailoring. A total of 16 learners (50 percent female) graduated from the African Drone and Data Academy (ADDA) bringing the total number of ADDA course graduates to 216, of whom 70 per cent are currently employed. The graduating youth received specialist skills in flying drones and using them to support lifesaving intervention in development and humanitarian programming as well as data analysis and capturing aerial drawings. An additional 435,445 children (217,673 girls) in ten targeted districts were empowered to protect themselves from violence and demand protection services and have completed a Safe School's Empowerment Transformation and Active Citizenship training.

Key challenges.

1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued suspension of feeding in schools as per government's guidance, provision of diversified nutritious meals under WFP was affected. The programme was adapted to a Take Home Ration modality providing either cash or in-kind support to learners, so that their families would be able to provide at home a meal previously received in school.
2. Poor internet connectivity in hard-to-reach areas limits access to basic education and Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC)/CSE Programmes broadcasting on radio, TV and ICT platforms using the internet.

2.2.2.3 Sexual and Reproductive and HIV/AIDS Health Rights

Alignment to SDGs



Participating Agencies



360K

People supported with family planning services



76%

Children living with HIV are on ART



>22K

Marginalized girls completed life skills programmes



90

Fistula patients were repaired successfully by trained clinicians

The UN in Malawi addressed the HIV-related needs of children, adolescents, and young women through expanding and enhancing community capacities to target the most vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Malawi has achieved its treatment and viral suppression targets among children aged 0-14 years and adults living with HIV. Epidemic control was achieved in 2020 with impressive 92 per cent, 95 per cent and 94 per cent results across the treatment cascade (Malawi Population based HIV Impact Assessment, 2020/21). The majority of children living with HIV who are on treatment were switched to optimized treatment regimens to reduce adverse side-effects and boost viral suppression.

Access to services on family planning, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, and gender-based violence increased with UN support.

Improved capacity for Family Planning service delivery including in humanitarian contexts: During this reporting period, UNHCR, UNFPA and IOM contributed results to this UNDAF output. IOM and UNHCR supported capacity building and awareness sessions in district councils in Mchinji, Mwanza and Neno and Dowa (Dzaleka Refugee Camp). This contributed to the demand for SRHR, HIV/AIDS and Family planning services at community level. UNFPA collaboration with key partners such as Ministry of Health and Family Planning Association of Malawi, contributed to uptake of modern family planning methods as evidenced from 360,114 additional users, aged 15 to 49 during the reporting period. In the course of the year over 1.43 million (65.9 percent female) young persons between the ages of 10 to 24 accessed integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Services at both facility outreach and mobile clinics.

Young people, particular adolescents are empowered to make informed choices about their reproductive health and rights: During this reporting period, ILO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UN Women and WHO contributed results to this UNDAF output. Over 22,205 adolescents and youths marginalized girls in UNFPA focus districts completed life skills programmes that build their health, social and economic assets. Other Youths were reached through social media and 18 radio programs were aired in Salima and Dedza districts.

With support from ILO, UNFPA, UN Women, and WHO, 21,110 marginalized girls were identified in focus districts that successfully completed life skills programmes that build their health, social and economic assets. Among these, 100 girls rescued from child marriages were trained in basic digital skills with the support of UN Women.

In 2021, UNESCO in collaboration with UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and WHO continued to take a leading role in mobilizing the government and CSOs in the process of renewing the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Commitment under the Malawi O3 programme. Specifically, the programme, together with the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the Ministry of Education conducted a briefing meeting of the chairpersons of all parliamentary committees. These were followed by orientation meetings for five parliamentary committees, namely Health; HIV and AIDS; Social; Budget; and Women's Caucus.

Through UNICEF programming, 100 percent of children have finally been migrated to optimized antiretroviral (ARV) for children and it is anticipated that this will increase the percentage of children on ART who are virally suppressed. And consequently, contribute towards reaching UNAIDS global target of 95, 95, 95.

Furthermore, UNICEF strengthened the skills of 116 (83 Female, 33 Male) adolescents living with HIV, and young mothers aged between 10-24 years and their male partners (16,318 Female and 6,255 Male). This has improved identification of adolescents who need HIV testing, PMTCT or SRHR or SGBV, or other youth-friendly services; and improved linkage to care, with those requiring psychosocial support quickly linked to teen clubs.

With support from UNFPA, 12 clinicians and nurses were trained in the management of obstetric fistula and 90 fistula patients were repaired successfully at the Bwaila Fistula Centre. As part of support towards

income generation, 49 Fistula ambassadors have been provided with sewing machines; and 60 fistula survivors provided with solar units. The solar units have enabled survivors to engage in barbershop and hair dressing salon businesses. WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health carried out an assessment on Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC). The findings continue to be used as a resource mobilization and planning tool for EmONC service provision in the country, both at the national and district level. During the reporting period, over 1897 clients accessed post-abortion care services undertaken by 60 health workers trained in post-abortion care.

Women and adolescent girls benefit from improved gender equality and women empowerment: During this reporting period, UNHCR, UNFPA, UN Women and UNESCO contributed results to this UNDAF output. With fund received from UBRAF, UNHCR through Plan International Malawi conducted a safety audit which provided information on the risk factors which potentiates GBV. The findings have contributed towards strengthening of programming regarding access to WASH services, security services, survivor support, and the support towards the response to the evolving COVID-19 context.

Under the Spotlight Initiative, in collaboration with government, UNFPA supported the graduation of 11,440 mentees on safe space mentorship sessions and trained 12 clinicians and nurses in the management of obstetric fistula.

UNESCO supported MoE in summarizing and repackaging the Readmission Policy. The content has been repackaged to target learners, teachers, school management, parents and mother groups, communities, and faith leaders. The draft repackaged content has been submitted to the MoE for review.

Key challenges

1. Non-endorsement of the ESA Ministerial Commitment by Malawi. Efforts are continuing to bring the Ministries of Education, Youth, Gender, and Health together to review the Commitment and make a clear decision.
2. Congestion at Dzaleka Refugee Camp poses a risk as the camp is meant to accommodate less than 12,000 refugees. However, the number of refugees has grown to over 51,000

2.2.3 Inclusive and Resilient Growth

Alignment to SDGs



Malawi is severely vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change, with few resources or institutional mechanisms to adapt or mitigate them. The UN focuses on supporting the Government's agenda for more inclusive and resilient development. The UN support is achieved through inter-related actions concentrating on the three outcomes below where the UN has a comparative advantage.

Participating Agencies



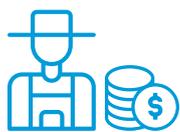
Most of the results have been achieved through the implementation of the following joint programmes: AFIKEPO; Catalysing private investment, enterprise, and SDG impact through innovative finance (BUILD Fund Malawi); KULIMA; Social Protection for the SDGs in Malawi; Poverty-Environment Action for the SDGs; and Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience (PROSPER).

2.2.3.1 Food and Nutrition Security, and WASH services

Alignment to SDGs



Participating Agencies



89%
Smallholder farmers supported through village savings and loans



2.7M
People reached through Nutrition social behavior change communication



89.5K
People gained access to safe drinking water from 15 Solar powered water schemes



20%
Flood risk population



65K
Households supported with payouts equivalent to US\$ 2.4M



62K
People gained access to basic sanitation services

This outcome focuses on a human rights and people-centred approach to increase food and nutrition security, reduce developmental inequalities, promote equitable access to benefits derived from healthy ecosystems, and scaleup support for resilient households and livelihoods and WASH activities.

Therefore, the UN focused on these five intervention areas: (i) Sub-national government capacity for resilience programmes; (ii) disaster risk management and early recovery from shocks; (iii) strengthening the capacity of the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II); (iv) nutrition sensitive agriculture and resilience to climate change; and (v) water, sanitation and hygiene programme.

Sub-national Government Capacity for Resilience Programmes: During this reporting period, IFAD, UNDP, and WFP contributed results to this UNDAF output. WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture continued to support smallholder farmers with Village savings and loans. The proportion of participants accessing loans through Village savings and loans (VSLs) increased from 44 percent in 2019 to 89 percent in 2021. This has contributed to smallholder farmer's ability to purchase agricultural inputs, invest, and diversify their livelihoods.

Besides, VSL allowed for better coping from shocks and stressors through access to credit and savings. IFAD supported the Ministries of Lands, Agriculture and Forestry with capacity building interventions on project management through training on Diversity Assessment Tool for Agrobiodiversity and Resilience (DATAR) and several land management technologies.

During the reporting year a total of 38,637 hectares of land were put under Sustainable Land Management. UNDP supported the development of an offline Ecosystem Restoration and Management Plan for the Bua River (across 6 districts) and an online geo-map for tracking restoration overtime.

UN Women enhanced the skills of community members on promoting Gender equality using HeForShe Male engagement strategy which improved access to knowledge on how to promote gender equality in their communities while engaging men as change agents to foster positive behavior change

Disaster, risk management and early recovery from shocks: The UN in Malawi supported the Department of Disaster Management Affairs to review the Disaster Risk Management bill. The bill

has been submitted to Ministry of Justice for further review. UNDP and WFP contributed results to this UNDAF output during this reporting period. WFP supported the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services to install additional weather stations to support timely and accurate weather recording to assist with timely downscaled weather information and building historical data sets.

Furthermore, 24,000 farmers were reached in eight districts with weather and climate information for agriculture decision making under the Malawi, Integrated Risk Management and Climate Services. UNDP reached over 5,000 people (69 percent) with inclusive recovery interventions targeting the most vulnerable groups in two of the most flood-prone areas with 380 climate-resilient houses, VIP latrines, provision of community water points, rehabilitation of 4 community markets and rehabilitation of three irrigation schemes reclaiming 39 hectares of damaged infrastructure.

UNDP also implemented structural flood mitigation works and constructed 5 green multipurpose evacuation centres which will enhance dignity during displacements and minimize exposure of flood-prone populations to the hazard of flooding. Through this intervention, the population at risk from flooding has reduced to 20 per cent in 2021 from 28 per cent in 2020. UNDP installed community-based flood early warning systems (EWS), benefiting 9,000 of the Population with automated EWS.

Improved Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II): During the reporting period, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR continued to leverage the social protection system for the 2021-2022 Lean Season Response. Technical assistance was provided in developing the cash guidelines and piloting integrated and aligned approaches for shock responsive Vertical and Horizontal expansion approaches for the Lean Season response.

WFP supported the roll-out of the shock responsive Vertical expansion in Balaka and Nsanje districts where the beneficiary targeting/registration used the Unified beneficiary Registry (UBR).

WFP scaled up the Area Yield Index Insurance (AYII) across eight targeted districts due to the challenges associated with Weather Index Insurance during the past two agricultural seasons.



Under the AYII modality, the coverage triggered pay-outs equivalent to around USD 2.4 million distributed among nearly 65,000 households (or 97 percent) across all eight districts. WFP and its partners are in the process to ensure all pay-outs are disbursed.

WFP also shared its experiences on successful 2020/2021 Area Yield insurance Programme to guide the planning of a World Bank-supported expansion of Social Protection benefits from weather index insurance currently under design to be implemented in the 2022/2023 planting season. The Joint Programme on Social Protection provided 5,000 households with cash assistance in line with needs as identified by the Government through the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC).

Furthermore, over 161,370 individuals were reached with emergency food needs. The enhanced advocacy through the Joint Programme on Social Protection contributed to the increase of the Government share of the social protection budget and undertake measures to improve efficiency and sustainability of spending via progress towards a financing strategy.

In the context of a shorter financial year for 2021/22, the GoM has maintained its contribution to the funding of the Social Cash Transfer Programme, at 0.12 percent of the 2021/22 total budget, with further increases expected in 2022/23.

Nutrition sensitive agriculture: FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, and WFP contributed to promoting and implementing various interventions in nutrition-sensitive agriculture. During the reporting period, UN agencies promoted the consumption of diversified and

nutrient dense foods based on six food groups while ensuring food safety and hygiene through implementation of Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture interventions.

FAO supported Government to train 10 District Nutrition Coordination Committees in Scaling up nutrition and this resulted in the integration of nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions in their District Plans.

In addition, 1075 goats and 29,451 vegetable seedlings plus fruit trees were distributed as part of the livestock pass-on programme and integrated home-stead farming in the five districts of Balaka, Nsanje, Phalombe, Chikhwawa and Zomba. UNICEF through Nutrition social Behavior change communication activities reached 2.7 million people in Zomba, Nsanje, Phalombe, Balaka, and Chikhwawa districts.

Climate resilient WASH programme: During the year UNICEF and UNHCR played an important role in fostering strategic partnership, first with the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources (MoFNR) which is the key WASH government partner especially in creating the WASH enabling environment.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources to attend the Conference of Paris (CoP26) in Glasgow on Climate Change. UNICEF supported communities (rural and peri-urban) to implement a sanitation revolving fund initiative to enhance households to access improved sanitation products and services for improved health and livelihoods for women and girls.

Key challenges

1. Legal constraints due to reservations made to the 1951 convention by Malawi government (Restricted movement; limited Access to wage employment; land; tertiary education.
2. The need for incentives for community volunteers remains a challenge for programme and project sustainability
3. Utilization of data/evidence at district and community level remains a challenge due to technical, administrative, and non-functionality limitations of the Malawi's Multi-Sector Nutrition Information System

2.2.3.2 Sustainable and Diversified Agriculture

Alignment to SDGs



41
Farmers field schools established



20%
Farmers use hermetic bags

Participating Agencies



9
Irrigation schemes managed acquire water rights through pride programme



84
Farmer organisations and cooperatives have access to structural markets

The UN's contributions aim to accelerate the achievement of SDGs and support Malawi in attaining improved productivity and timeliness of agricultural operations, the efficient and sustainable use of resources, enhanced and equitable market access, improved access to agricultural extension and advisory services, and an improved ability to mitigate the effects of climate-related hazards.

The four key interventions under this outcome include: (i) Agriculture service delivery able to address the challenges of modern sustainable agriculture, value chains, (ii) enabling environment for agricultural entrepreneurship, agro-processing and commercialization, and (iii) tenure rights.

Improved agriculture service delivery to promote modern sustainable agriculture: IFAD, FAO and UN Women contributed results to this output during the reporting period. IFAD supported the Ministry of Agriculture to establish 41 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and provided basic seeds for multiplication on 91 hectares of land to 506 lead farmers and 5186 farmers.

Furthermore, ICT based Climate-related extension platforms were established in 21 districts to collect data for various indicators with the support and involvement of properly trained front line workers. This platform is under use to promote evidence-based decision making. A total of 300 (200 female and 100 male) frontline extension workers

got trained in Climate-smart Agriculture with support from UN Women. This has assisted to strengthen gender mainstreaming in agronomic practices for improved service delivery

Value Chains: FAO, UNHCR, UN Women, and WFP supported strategic agriculture value chains and enabled them to provide sustainable income opportunities for small-scale farmers and particularly women, young people, refugees, and asylum seekers. They also contributed to integration/coordination of most agricultural value chains.

FAO facilitated access to structured markets for 84 Farmer organisations and cooperatives, of which 21 are registered with the Ministry of Trade. UNCHR supported 1250 refugees and asylum seekers with guidance on business market opportunities while UN Women supported 559 marginalised groups (including women, youth, people with disability) with access to business finance.

UNHCR in collaboration WFP supported refugees and host communities with livelihood interventions, including the development of two irrigation schemes and linking smallholder farmers to private sectors for market access. Dzaleka's catchment area is now among the largest producers of agricultural produce in Malawi with traders patronizing from the central region and Chipata districts in Zambia. Refugees have shared their tomato production skills with the host community.



Lidia Ngomba is beneficiary of food assistance for assets supported by USAID since 2017. In 2016, due to lack of knowledge and environmental degradation she only harvested 1 bag of 50kg of maize. In 2017, Lidia enrolled in the project and started using conservation agriculture techniques as well as planting trees. Watershed management also helped in preventing water run off which was washing away her crops before. Her yield started increasing and she harvested 20 bags of 50kg maize in 2019/2020. This year, she received free fertiliser from another partner (supported by WFP) and is expecting 30 bags.

Enabling environment for agricultural entrepreneurship, agro-processing, and commercialisation:

FAO and WFP promoted the empowerment of marginalized groups (including women, youth), farmer associations, and cooperatives through capacity building, mentorship, and improved market access and targeted livelihoods strategies. WFP worked to mitigate post-harvest losses (PHL) through sensitization and capacity building of 18,950 farmers on use of hermetic bags. This resulted in the use of hermetic bags by 20 percent of the farmers.

Tenure rights: IFAD, FAO, and UN Women worked on establishing means for protecting and strengthening tenure rights of smallholders and improved access to land and enhanced enjoyment of the right to food for marginalised groups. IFAD financed Program for Rural Irrigation Development (PRIDE) programme managed to acquire Water Rights for nine Irrigation Schemes earmarked for construction under the programme.

The PRIDE programme managed to establish Customary Land Committees who are carrying out the process of Land adjudication. With support from FAO, 28 percent of population in targeted Traditional Authorities had the knowledge of new land law enriched.

UN Women commissioned a study on discriminatory Laws which is ongoing. The study provides an in-depth understanding of the current legal gaps and discriminatory provisions, with the long-term vision of advocating for law reform to enact new laws or repeal or revise gender-discriminatory legislation with a particular focus on laws and policies that affect women's investment in women economic activities.

Key challenges

1. Department of Agriculture and Extension Services has reservations to implement e-extension especially in FFS methodology due to the hands-on nature of the methodology, but open to using it for disseminating general extension messages and this has been ongoing through radio, SMS, and video.
2. Ongoing land law reviews and slow action halted many activities and this affected progress of interventions
3. Of particular concern is recurring incidences of Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) in maize and Rosette disease in groundnuts. Farmers cannot afford pesticides and resort to the use of local methods whose efficacy is not proven.

2.2.3.3 Economic Diversification, Inclusive Business and Clean Energy

Alignment to SDGs



Participating Agencies



748
Local products certified
by Malawi Bureau of Standards



10K
Youth participated in skill
capacity building and
economic empowerment



41
Private entrepreneurs
accessed regional/international
markets



2.1K
Jobs created in Malawi
Innovation Challenge Fund



385 kW
Generated in 2021 increased
electricity access in rural
population



20%
Households benefit from
clean, affordable and sustainable
energy access

Under Malawi's National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, the UN worked with key districts to track implementation of their district plans to inform critical action and budget mobilization by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). Efforts were made to accelerate the country's green recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 focused on vulnerable sectors of the economy.

Enhancing competitiveness and market access: UNDP in collaboration with entrepreneurs supported business development services focusing on non-farm opportunities, facilitated access to finance, and supported to meet quality standards for export and support to local business platforms including the Buy Malawi Strategy and the Buy from Women initiative. The Malawi Innovation Fund under UNDP generated 2,125 new jobs, of which 35 percent were women.

Upskilling Malawi for a competitive, productive, and resilient economy: UNICEF and UNDP focused on accelerating entrepreneurship skills for women and youth, developing means for promoting women in non-traditional vocations, strengthening certification standards in selected business sectors,

promoting equitable access to skills development, and improving information and access to upskilling opportunities. UNICEF enriched the capacity of 10,000 youth (40% girls) in skills development and economic empowerment. UNDP facilitated the certification of 748 local products by Malawi Bureau of Standards and further supported 41 private entrepreneurs to access regional or international markets.

Empowering renewable energy services in Malawi: UNDP through the Access to Clean and Renewable Energy Project supported 1,464 households to access affordable and clean energy through mini grids. Access to clean energy in the selected geographical areas promoted economic development through enhanced tourism and the establishment of new businesses such as maize mills, oil expelling, jewellery crafting shops etc.

Key challenges

1. The delivery of skills development is not flexible to respond to learning at different times in various settings and contexts. There is need to encourage a multiple-pathways approach to skills development, ensuring the delivery options of skills development training.



Photo: UNRCO/Phillip Pemba



SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

03

In 2021, the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund (national pooled fund) continued to advance efforts in supporting financing coordination and SDGs acceleration. The Fund has consolidated as the most suitable mechanism to enhance collaboration, create efficiencies, and overall improve joint programming for UN entities. Overall, a total of 8 Joint Programmes have been approved by the SDG Acceleration Fund (SDG-AF), where the Government, Development Partners and UN Malawi jointly agree on priorities and take part in the decision-making process. The SDG-AF is the most strategic tool currently supporting the implementation of the UN Reform and the Funding Compact, frameworks appealed by Member States for improving coordination, accountability, and funding behaviour at country level. The SDG-AF places emphasis on collective partnerships, predictable funding, innovative and transformative results; moving from fragmentation to strategic planning, improved coordination; responding rapidly to national priorities, and leveraging on the added value of UN entities in Malawi, enabling greater synergies and coherence in cross-sectorial SDG priorities.

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From 2019 to 2021, the SDG-AF has approved a total of 15 programmes, has moved from two donors to a total of six, enhancing an overall portfolio of US \$34M to US\$ 140M. By 2021, a total of 12 UN entities have received resources directly from the SDG-AF, and 15 Civil Society Organizations also participate in its implementation. Moreover, the programmes supported by the SDG-AF are being implemented in

21 out of the 28 districts of Malawi, while at least 16 State institutions take part on the implementation of programmes, enhancing ownership of local and national entities. Up to 2021, a total of 3,646,272 persons (52% women or girls) have benefited from the Fund investments. The SDG-AF is also a mechanism strongly supporting gender equality. In 2021, 52% of the resources implemented are directly aligned with activities supporting women's and girls' empowerment, surpassing the ambition of at least allocating 30% of its resources in advancing gender equality. In 2021, the Fund supported implementation of 6 Joint Programmes, reflecting the Fund's stakeholders' efforts and commitment to work in a more effective, efficient, coherent, coordinated and better performing manner toward the achievement of SDGs. Particular investment focus was granted to SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG4 (Quality Education), all including a special focus on the needs of vulnerable groups particularly women, SDG 5.

The SDG-AF is also a mechanism strongly supporting gender equality agendas. In 2021, at least 30 percent of the resources implemented were directly aligned with activities advancing women's and girls' empowerment. Two of the approved Joint Programmes are fully addressing gender inequalities in the country, while the rest demonstrate strong streamlining and budget allocation to a minimum of 30 percent.

2021 represented a year for continued support to COVID-19, through the Humanitarian/Nexus window of the SDG-AF, guaranteeing that all approved programmes were catalytic in, while responding to emergency needs, kept track of the 2030 goals. Beyond COVID-19, programmes on critical areas, such as Conflict Prevention (responding to potential spill overs from the situation in Mozambique), or the approval of a multi-year Joint Programme on Girls' Education, to mention only two, demonstrated that the Fund remains focused in the long-term agenda and accomplishment of the 2030 goals.



Photo: WFP/Badre Bahaji

RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND EFFICIENCY

04

Increased coherence through Joint Programming- In 2021, the UN in Malawi has thrived towards increased coherence in various areas ensuring efficiency and coherence of its approach. All 15 Joint Programmes gathered to seek increase economies of scale, common communication and lessons learned sharing to improve Joint Program delivery. The outcomes of the Malawi exercise also contributed to the overall revision of the 2014 Joint Programme global guidelines. The UN in Malawi also supported the design of other Joint Programmes in various areas such as Health System Strengthening for Equitable Health and Nutrition Outcomes and developing Human Rights, BUILD, and Data and Information Management JP.

Better coordination and leadership- Confirming the last two years of UNRC repositioning as the leader with a neutral, impartial, and strategic view of the UN country team. In 2021, this leadership helped increasing the leverage of pooled funds in country (portfolio and coverage of the SDG-AF), engaging on the anti-corruption agenda with the GOM as one UN, position the cross-border coordination with Mozambique as a key priority of the UN team following conflict assessment on the border areas, the support to SADC chairship of the overall coordination in the COVID-19 recovery and the 2021-2023 Socio Economic Recovery Plan (SERP).

Enhancing system-wide coherence – Following efforts in 2020 to increase coherence at field level, the UNCT has embarked on an approach of scalability of programmes. The additional focus area on ‘Scalability of proven UN practices’ represented an effort to identify activities that have been identified for scaling:- Food systems, Climate change action, Data management and Social inclusion and protection.

Integrated Policy Advice- The UNCT leveraged system-wide expertise and knowledge in provision of

strategic and integrated policy advice towards the development of the 10 Year National Implementation Plan (MIP-1) and the 2021-2023 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP). The UN Monitoring, Evaluation, and Advisory Group was influential in supporting NPC to develop the monitoring and evaluation framework for MIP-1 and SERP. Furthermore, the UN in Malawi used its convening role to bring together the Economic Planning and Development Department, the UN Data Group, and Development Partners in implementing the National Scoping Exercise for Management Information Systems in 2 district councils and 14 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

Reconfiguration of Result Groups and the High-level Joint Strategy Meeting - The UN reviewed and adapted its coordination structures, configuration of the leadership of pillars with the introductions of co-chairs and rotating the chairs for UNCT working groups and ensuring better accountability to the UNCT. UN efficiency was also displayed under the duty of care. The Joint Strategy Meeting was also reconfigured to ensure that it is fit for purpose to enhance oversight of the cooperation framework results.

Use of UN regional and global level assets – The UNCT engaged the Regional OIB4 Team led by WHO and ITU in efforts to develop a digital transformation agenda for the UNCT in Malawi. A concept note for accelerating digital transformation in Malawi was prepared. The next steps will involve a mission to review and assess the digital landscape and then develop a proposal and action plan with jointly coordinated interventions guided by the UN Resident Coordinator. The UN Economic Commission for Africa was engaged to undertake the Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership Diagnostic Study for Malawi. The study looks at the country’s Public Private Partnership experience, the regulatory and policy landscape, contributing reasons to the current

PPP status quo, and overall readiness. These have aided in identifying the most critical priority actions to take to remove the roadblocks to infrastructure development through thriving PPPs.

Business Operations Strategy: With a desire to streamline the implementation of Malawi's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2019 – 2023, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malawi developed Business Operations Strategy (BOS 2.0) to coordinate and align its activities for more efficient and effective service delivery including COVID 19 response, thereby mitigating duplication of processes, curtail transaction costs and enhance operational efficiency.

The Malawi BOS 2.0 was developed through the BOS online platform and was signed off on 24 December 2020 for implementation in the year 2021. It focuses on joint business operations with the purpose of eliminating duplication, leveraging the common bargaining power of the UN and maximizing economies of scale. This has been a key step at country level towards achieving the aspired efficiency gains with the BOS, setting a solid foundation for the rest of the business operations reform targets. In 2021 the UNCT in Malawi has made efficiency gains of nearly US\$1 million. This cost avoidance has been established through the establishment of Long Term Agreements which leveraged on the bargaining power of collaboration in the different common services. UNCT has been able to achieve these efficiency gains mainly through realised labour and recurring costs.

Results of Communicating as One

SDG Advocacy: In 2021, the UN intensified advocacy for the SDGs through various strategic engagements that led to increased youth interest and involvement in SDG actions. One such engagement is the side event on youth and SDG acceleration at the Africa Regional Review Meeting for African Least Developed Countries plus Haiti where youth and stakeholders were engaged on efforts to increase youth-led actions on SDG implementation. Similarly, advocacy efforts calling for more action on climate change, zero hunger and nutrition were carried out during the Malawi Green Climate Conference, Food Systems Summit dialogues and the mission of the Under Secretary-General and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement during the year, resulting in increased stakeholder engagement on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development in Malawi. Besides, the UNCT advocated on a number of human rights issues in 2021 such as rights of persons with albinism, child labour, gender-based violence, and peace and social cohesion. This was done through press briefings, media interviews, public statements, op-eds and other UNCT engagements with different stakeholders.

Communicating UN Impact: During the year, the UN communication Group (UNCG) communicated results of UN work through the UN annual results reports, human interest stories, situation reports, media coverage, speeches, press releases, web postings, social media posts and events, reaching different stakeholders such as development partners, Malawi Government officials, CSOs, the media and many more.

During the year, the UNCG also intensified communication about the impact of UN work through coordinated communication products for UN joint programmes such as the Spotlight Initiative, the Joint Programme on Social Protection, Joint Programme on Girls' Education, and Joint Programme on Resilience. This resulted in improved awareness of the impact of UN joint programmes using communication products such as social media assets, stories and videos.

SDG Media Engagement: In 2021, the UN worked with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) – Malawi Chapter to provide two SDG Media Awards that recognized the best stories on the principle of leaving no one behind. Due to these awards, the quality and quantity of in-depth reporting on SDGs in the media has improved, resulting in more public understanding and mobilisation on the SDGs.



Photo: WFP/Badri Bahaji



Photo: UNRCO/Phillip Pemba

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

1. Financial Overview

The 2021 budget increased to US\$294.9 million from US\$ 268 million in 2020. Similarly, more resources were mobilized in 2021 (US\$204.8 million) when compared to 2019 (US\$ 182.9 million). Furthermore, in 2021 the UN in Malawi utilized 81 per cent of the available resource compared to 76 per cent used in 2020.

A disaggregated analysis by strategic priority level showed that in 2020 Pillar II had a higher utilisation rate of 107 per cent followed by Pillar I (88 per cent) and Pillar III (65 per cent). Among other factors, the low absorption capacity of some implementing partners contributed to the low delivery rate for Pillar III.

2. Resource mobilization

2021 proved to be a difficult year in terms of joint resource mobilization. This was mostly driven by global cuts on ODA from Development Partners, while a strong focus on COVID-19 national responses was taking place. Despite this, in 2021 one additional

donor added up and contributed unearmarked resources to the SDG-AF, Canada. This contribution proved that, while still focusing on donor priorities, in this case COVID-19 response, the unearmarking allows an informed and strategic discussion among partners on key investment areas. As a result from this contribution, three catalytic Joint Programmes in support of the National COVID-19 response were approved.

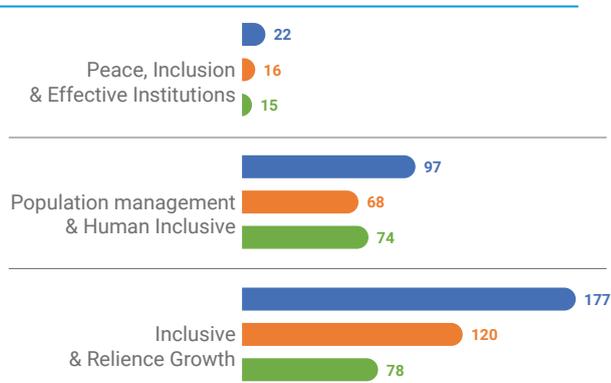
Additional confirmation from Iceland to add up to the Fund in 2022 was received. Other already donors to the SDG-AF such as Ireland also confirmed additional contributions for 2022.

The quality of resources:- Un-earmarked Vs earmarked, continues to be a challenge. Most of the jointly mobilized resources are heavily earmarked, if not at project level, at least at thematic level. Overall, the SDG-AF has mobilized a total of US \$140M through its implementation.

2019 - 2021 Annualized Funding Overview
(in millions US\$)



2021 Financial Overview by Strategic Priority
(in millions US\$)



■ Total Resources ■ Available Resources ■ Expenditure



Photo: WFP/Badre Bahaji

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

In 2022, the United Nations Country Team in Malawi will launch the process to develop the 2024 to 2028 Cooperation Framework as a strategic tool between the Government of Malawi and the UNCT to plan and implement the UN development activities at the country level in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The existing five-year United Nations Development Assistance Framework expires in 2023. Furthermore, the development of the new Cooperation Framework comes at the right time when the country has a Vision 2063, a successor to Vision 2020 that inspires to have an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant industrialized upper-middle-income country by 2063. This Vision 2063 will be operationalized by the 10-year National Implementation Plan that defines specific strategies that will take the country to the lower-middle-income status by 2030. The major steps to be undertaken during the analysis and development of the next cooperation framework will include:

1. Undertake an independent summative evaluation of the 2019-2023 Cooperation Framework using the new guidelines developed by UN Development Coordination Office and UNEG
2. Undertake a light Common Country Analysis (CCA) in April 2022 to update the CCA completed in 2021. The idea is to have an independent, collective, integrated, forward-looking, and evidence-based country context analysis.
3. Commence the design process of the new Cooperation Framework that is informed by National priorities and the findings of the Cooperation Framework evaluation, UN entity and joint evaluations, CCA findings, the 2021 UNCT SWAP Gender Scorecard, Malawi Voluntary National Review, SDG Annual Reports, and other reviews and analyses.
4. Configuration of the UNCT to objectively examine the capacities needed to deliver on the agreed strategic priorities, outcomes, and outputs in the Cooperation Framework.
5. Preparation of Funding Framework and Resource Mobilization Strategy.
6. Deriving UN entity-specific country development programming instruments from the Cooperation Framework.

Furthermore, the UNCT will prioritize strategic interventions on COVID-19 response; system strengthening; Governance, accountability, and public finance management; data for development and digitisation; climate action, and Strategic Financing and Partnerships through the SDG Acceleration Fund.

ACRONYMS

AYII	Area Yield Index Insurance
ADDA	African Drone and Drone Academy
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CCA	Common Country Analysis
C4D	The Communication for Development Group
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
DNHA	Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS
DATAR	Diversity Assessment Tool for Agrobiodiversity and Resilience
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa
ESP	Essential Service Package
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EWS	Early Warning Systems
ECAM	Employers Consultative Association of Malawi
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmers Field Schools
GoM	Government of Malawi
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IEY	Investment in Early Year
IWD	International Women's Day
JIN	Japan Innovation Network
LSE	Life Skills Education
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MEC	Malawi Electoral Commission
MAD	Minimum Acceptable Diet
MDD	Minimum Dietary Diversity
MICS	Global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIP-1	The Malawi First Implementation Plan
MISA	The Media Institute of Southern Africa
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
MNSSP	Malawi National Social Support Programme

MoFNR	Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSO	National Statistical Office
NRB	National Registration Bureau
NGO-GCN	NGO Gender Coordination Network
PRIDE	Program for Rural Irrigation Development
PPPs	Public-Private Partnership
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PROSPER	Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SERP	Socio-Economic Recovery Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SWAP	System Wide Action Plan
SBCC	Social and Behavioural Change Communication
SDG-AF	Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration Funds
UN	United Nations
UBR	Unified Beneficiary Registry
UBRAF	Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNDAF	The United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNCG	The United Nations Communication Group
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VSL	Village Savings Loans
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Program
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Photo: UNRCO/Phillip Pemba

nivwila nchifukwa
chakunichitira
nkhanza yayi!!!

Masambiro panthazi,
nthenywa panyuma

Vithandani wawungwana
na wamama ku nkhanza
zakuchitika kwa
wasungwana

Tumani bana ku sukulu,
kunthenywa yayi.

Make it a reality, end GBV
against women and girls

Wa police kutindiwiza
milandu ya nkhanza
zakuchitika kwa
wasungwana na wamama
yayi

Masambiro panthazi,
nthenywa panyuma

Taweya, phalani nkhanza
zakuchitika kwa
wasungwana na wamama.

chichiziga
wana kutenga
bandamalizge
sukulu

Tumani bana ku sukulu,
kunthenywa yayi.

Tumizan ana ku Sukulu
osati ku banja





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