



UNITED NATIONS
MALAWI



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
FRAMEWORK (2019-2023)

2019 REPORT



**UNITED
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MALAWI**



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Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM)





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The Sustainable Development Goals in Malawi

The Sustainable Development Goals are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the earth's environment and climate, and ensure that people everywhere can enjoy peace and prosperity. These are the goals the UN is working on in Malawi:



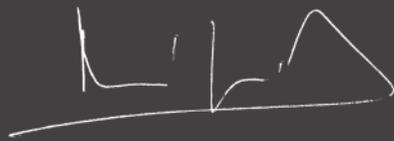
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In Malawi, the start of the implementation of the new 2019-2023 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), also known as the Cooperation Framework, at the beginning of the year, opened a new chapter in transforming the lives of the people of Malawi through the five-year agreement.

FOR

WORD



Maria Jose Torres
UN Resident Coordinator





Globally, 2019 goes down as the year when the United Nations Development System took a monumental step to revamp the system to turn our collective ambition – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – into reality and make real improvements in lives of all people.

The start of the year put into effect key reforms such as changes in management, accountability and institutional structures of the system, including the strengthening of coordination of UN's development work at the country-level through a “reinvigorated” Resident Coordinator (RC) system. All this was done in response to the request of UN member states for a UN system that is fit for purpose in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In Malawi, the start of the implementation of the new 2019-2023 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), also known as the Cooperation Framework, at the beginning of the year, opened a new chapter in transforming the lives of the people of Malawi through the five-year agreement.

Founded on three pillars (Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions; Population Management and Inclusive Human Development; and Inclusive and Resilient Growth), the Cooperation Framework propels a new level of coordination among UN entities in supporting national development priorities. For the first time, all UN work in Malawi is guided by one cooperation agreement put into practice through Joint Annual Work Plans signed by the UN and Malawi Government.

This report, therefore, presents progress of implementation of the 2019 Joint Annual Work Plan of the Cooperation Framework. I am pleased to report that our continued

partnership with national authorities and other partners, yet again, yielded significant results in 2019, moving us forward towards meeting some of the SDG targets.

Being an election year, 2019 saw Malawi increasing women participation in Parliament and local government by 40.6 percent and 26.9 percent, respectively, as 45 female Members of Parliament and 66 female Councillors were elected compared to 32 and 52 in 2014. The May 2019 Tripartite Elections were held in a relatively peaceful environment while voter turnout increased to 74 percent from 70.7 percent in 2014, thanks to our collaboration on the 50:50 campaign and voter education.

During the year, the UN continued to support the National Registration and Identification System (NRIS), including birth registration, resulting in birth registration for children aged five and below increasing from 10 percent to 22 percent. Deriving of national ID linkages and interface with some public and private sector systems to promote efficient service delivery also advanced with UN support. A case in a point is the voter registration for the May 2019 elections which was based on the national IDs, bringing savings and enhancing credibility in the voter registration process.

Addressing the immediate needs of vulnerable people prone to natural disasters while facilitating their recovery and enabling them to build back better remained a significant part of UN work in 2019. Together with partners, the UN helped to save lives of about 3.3 million food insecure people in 27 districts and enabled many of them to build or maintain critical assets to support their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience to shocks. Malawi's ability to achieve sustainable development depends on the wellbeing and capacities of its people. I am happy to

report that, in 2019, we also made significant investments in the people of Malawi and addressed several barriers so they can reach their full potential, move out of poverty and be on a path to prosperity. For instance, our Joint Programme for Girls Education (JPGE) further improved average school attendance in its three implementation districts to 87 percent in 2019 from 73 percent when it started in 2014. About 4.8 million under-five children were also screened for acute malnutrition in 17 districts so that those in need could get treatment to grow well and be more productive in future.

This report also shows significant results from our extension services work aimed at improving agricultural production as well as our work to create employment and improve incomes under the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF). It also shows that installation of mini-grids in Mchinji and Mulanje has provided electricity to over 350 households and businesses in the districts.

Our resolve to promote participation of diverse groups in society and development processes, with special emphasis on persons with albinism, persons living with HIV/AIDS and women, continued in 2019. This, for example, saw 76 percent of HIV-exposed infants getting tested within two months of birth against an annual target of 71 percent, boosting efforts to fight HIV/AIDS.

Building on this progress, the UN will continue its efforts to support acceleration of national SDG implementation and closing of gaps between where Malawi currently is and where it should be by 2030.

I invite you to go through this annual report to learn more about our results and success stories from 2019.

Acronyms & Abbreviations

BoS	Business Operations Strategy
CBFO	Community-based Financial Organizations
CMAM	Community Management for Acute Malnutrition
CMD	Centre for Multiparty Democracy
CSE	Comprehensive Sexual Education
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DDP	District Development Plan
DDPF	District Development Plan Framework
DoDMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DPP	Democratic Progressive Party
EBRIS	Electronical Birth Registration System Software
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EMONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
EWER	Early Warning Response
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmer Field School
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEER	Gender and Elections Engagement Room
GoM	Government of Malawi
GPI	Global Peace Index
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
JAWP	Joint Annual Work Plan
JPGE	Joint Programme on Girls Education
JP	Joint Programme
JWP	Joint Work Programme
MEC	Malawi Electoral Commission
MESN	Malawi Electoral Support Network
MICF	Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund
MCP	Malawi Congress Party
MNSSP	Malawi National Social Support Programme
MoAIWD	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MoFEPD	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
MoGCDS	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
MoH	Ministry of Health

MoLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MP	Member of Parliament
MPLC	Multiparty Liaison Committee
MPS	Malawi Police Service
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
NECOF	National Elections Consultative Forum
NRB	National Registration Bureau
NSC	National Steering Committee
OMT	Operations Management Team
PAC	Public Affairs Committee
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PoC	Persons of Concern
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEP	Socio-Economic Profile
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights
UBR	Universal Beneficiary Register
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCG	United Nations Communication Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UTM	United Transformation Movement
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
VDP	Village Development Plan
YFHS	Youth-Friendly Health Services
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
ZBS	Zodiak Broadcasting Station



OPPORTUN BANK



FICO'S

ardue Improved Crop



1

Chapter

Overview

Key Development Trends

- Political Situation
- Humanitarian Situation
- Economic Performance



Over **1 million** under-five children were screened for acute malnutrition during the 2018/2019 lean season



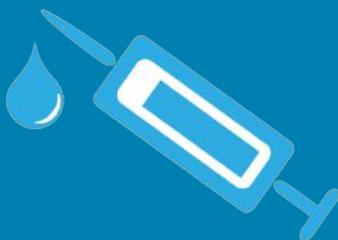
Over **670K** people in flood affected areas were reached with intensive sanitation and hygiene promotion messages flood response



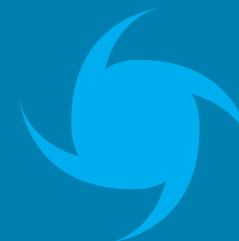
3.3 million people across the 27 districts required food assistance during lean season



Over **1.7 million** people benefited from cash transfer top ups during the lean season



95 percent out of the targeted **48 726 children** who were under 59 months were reached with measles immunization during the flood response



Over **868K** people were affected due to Cyclone Idai



US\$ 40.5million mobilized by government and its humanitarian partners during the lean season response



Over **153K** people benefited from safe water supply during the flood response



50 climate-resilient houses were built for vulnerable women during the flood response

IN NUMBERS

1.1 Political Situation

Malawians went to the polls on May 21, 2019, to elect Councillors, Members of Parliament, and the Republican President. The first quarter of 2019 saw increased political campaign activities leading to inter-party violent clashes in Mangochi, Blantyre, and Nsanje districts. The most notable violent incidences involved the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), United Transformation Movement (UTM), and Malawi Congress Party (MCP) supporters, resulting in the burning of the UTM campaign vehicles and the stripping of opposition supporter (lady) in Mangochi.

As part of its prevention strategy, the UN-supported conflict prevention interventions with critical stakeholders, including presidential candidates, religious, traditional leaders, and political parties, the media, and civil society organizations. The UN played a critical role in fostering dialogue and mediation of political and electoral disputes and tensions prior and post-election. This was through the Resident Coordinator Office and the implementation of UNDP led governance and electoral assistance programs,

The UN supported efforts of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in conflict prevention, dialogue, and mediation. The Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) organised conflict prevention dialogue sessions for leaders of political parties at the national, regional, and constituency levels. The Public Affairs Committee's (PAC) peace mediation and dialogue processes, which resulted in the signing of the Peace Declaration by all presidential candidates before the May 21, 2019, tripartite elections. Also, the UN Resident Coordinator, using her Good Offices, convened meetings with presidential candidates of the main political parties, the Media and Civil Society, to support the peaceful electoral process. The UN



further supported the establishment of a Gender and Elections Engagement Room (GEER) to monitor, report, and follow up on incidences of Violence Against Women in Elections (VAWE) with relevant authorities, including the Malawi Police Service (MPS). The UN also supported MPS with the establishment of Incidence Command Centers to monitor analyse and respond to election-related violence. All these interventions yielded positive results as the recorded incidents began to drop, and the campaign period recorded no significant inter-party violence clashes.

These interventions contributed significantly to ensuring that political and electoral related conflicts and tensions between parties, and between parties and Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) were peacefully resolved. Following the announcement and declaration of official results, two opposition presidential candidates from MCP and UTM were dissatisfied with the results and the results management process by the MEC. These candidates petitioned the High Court (sitting as a constitutional court) seeking the nullification of the presidential results. While the election petition was being handled through the court process, CSOs led countrywide demonstrations calling for the resignation of the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission. The protests turned violent when demonstrators clashed with MPS personnel resulting in the use of teargas by the police and the burning of police vehicles, offices, and some government offices.

The UN, therefore, continued to support and engaged national actors, including Political Parties, the Media, and Civil Society. The interventions supported in the post-election period included the panelling of six Insider Mediators (including two women) who conducted shuttle diplomacy engagements with the opposition candidates and the President. PAC also

produced and disseminated peace messages on the need to respect the court process, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights during and after the announcement of the Court's decision. Dialogue sessions for Secretary Generals of all political parties with representation in Parliament were organized by CMD.

The Secretary-General signed a joint statement urging party supporters to respect the court decision and remain calm while leaders of parties use legal laid down procedures to seek redress where necessary.

1.2 Humanitarian Situation

In early 2019, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) was already responding to the lean season 2018/2019 where 3.3million people across the 27 districts were assessed as food insecure. As the crisis and ability to respond worsened, UN agencies applied to the Central Emergency Response Funding (CERF) for additional funding to bridge the gap in funding and meet the pressing needs. A total of USD\$10 million was awarded ensuring a full nutritional basket for the nine districts in Integrated Phase Classification 3 and 4. A multi sectoral response with nutrition, health, water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and protection was an integral part of the response.

On 6th March, Malawi was hit by Cyclone Idai, that formed in the Mozambican channel, moving inland and bringing heavy rains and strong winds. The heavy and persistent rains led to severe flooding in the southern region and affected 13 of the 28 districts, many of which were already affected by the Lean Season. The floods caused substantive damage and loss of crops, livestock, shelter and impacted on children's ability to attend schools as internally displaced people were reallocated to schools, churches and temporary



Ruthie and Bram reminiscing about the night of the floods.

The UN also supported MPS with the establishment of Incidence Command Centers to monitor analyse and respond to election-related violence. All these interventions yielded positive results as the recorded incidents began to drop, and the campaign period recorded no significant inter-party violence clashes.

shelter. At least 868,900 people were affected, with 86,976 displaced, 60 killed and 672 injured. On 9th March, the Government of Malawi (GoM) declared a state of disaster and activated 10 clusters to respond to the emergency. The flood response plan with a budget of US\$45million was developed with support of OCHA ROSEA to respond to the floods. The government and its partners mobilized US\$ 40.5million, 92 per cent of the funding required.

Following Cyclone Idai, DODMA with the support of UNDP and World Bank initiated a team composing of government officials, donors, UN agencies and CSOs to conduct the post disaster needs assessment (PDNA) and successfully completed data collection by mid-April. The PDNA estimated that the floods costed USD\$202,2million while the total needs for recovery and reconstruction was pegged at US\$370.5 million.



Aerial view of affected areas in Chikwawa (2019)

1.3 Economic Performance

GDP growth prospects for the next few years are positive, due to the rebound in agriculture and improved electricity supply from the Zambia–Malawi interconnector. Growth is projected to rise modestly to 5.2 percent in 2020 and 5.5 percent in 2021, up from 5.0 percent in 2019, supported by prudent policies, improved external financing, favourable terms of trade, and increased investments in connectivity infrastructure along major trade corridors. Growth will be reinforced by continuing macroeconomic stability. The cautious monetary easing in June 2019 signalled an attempt to stimulate demand. It is envisaged that maintaining that accommodative policy could propel capital flows, increase economic activity, and restore growth, since it supports credit to the private sector. Climate shocks, fiscal policy slippages, and lower business confidence could, however, hurt the economy. Fiscal slippages have exacerbated the fiscal deficit since 2016, and the debt-to-GDP ratio rose from 30 percent to 62 percent between 2013 and 2019. With public debt rising above the sustainability threshold of 60 percent of GDP, fiscal space is tight. The plan to reduce the fiscal deficit to 2.5 percent appears ambitious, as the 2019 cyclone Idai flood recovery costs linger. Risk reduction measures to build resilience to shocks for the 87 percent of Malawians engaged in agriculture will bolster growth.



Economic growth (4.5 %)



Single Digit Inflation



Debt to GDP doubled



Fiscal spending reduced

The International Monetary Fund expected economic growth to strengthen to about 4.5 percent

in 2019, up from 3.5 percent in 2018. This growth was supported by a rebound in agriculture and reconstruction of infrastructure that was damaged by Cyclone Idai.

The exchange rate stabilized at 738 Malawian kwacha per dollar in September 2019, up from 732 Kwacha per Dollar in September 2018. Foreign reserves remained above the three months threshold throughout 2019 rising to 3.9 months by the end of 2019.

According to the National Statistics Office, Malawi registered a single digit inflation for most of 2019, averaging 9.4 percent compared to 9.2 in 2018.

Food items prices continued to be the key determinant of inflation in Malawi with maize prices having a huge contribution. The monetary policy rate eased from 20.6 percent in 2017 to 13.5 percent by November 2019.

Debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio doubled in the past nine years (currently at US\$6.3 billion, about K4.6 trillion).

Reserve Bank of Malawi figures put public debt at K3.3 trillion, which is 2.5 times the K1.3 trillion 2018/19 National Budget. Post-cyclone Idai reconstruction created fiscal pressures in 2019. Malawi is one of the six countries in sub-Saharan Africa whose debt to GDP ratio doubled. The government, faced subdued revenue of 19.9 percent of GDP and growing public debt, sought to reduce domestic debt from 30 percent of GDP in 2018 to 20 percent in 2019.

The 2019 fiscal spending was reduced from 29.5 percent of GDP to 25.6 percent. The 2019 deficit was estimated at 5.9 percent of GDP, and the 2020 deficit was projected at 4.3 percent to be financed from external and domestic resources. The current account deficit was estimated at 16.9 percent of GDP in 2019, up from 16.2 percent of GDP in 2018, driven by a decline in tobacco prices. A current account deterioration was projected at 17.4 percent of GDP in 2020 and 17.8 percent of GDP in 2021, driven by post-cyclone Idai infrastructure imports. Unemployment was high at 18.5 percent, aggravated by a mismatch between the demand and supply for skills.

 **UNHCR**
The UN Refugee Agency

GSM Dubai
Emergency Assistance
MALAWI
2019

 Delivering
Humanitarian
Relief

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

 Delivering
Humanitarian
Relief

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

GSM Dubai
Emergency Assistance
MALAWI
2019

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

 Delivering
Humanitarian
Relief

2225 KG

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MADE IN CHINA



2

Chapter

Overview

Results of the One Programme

- Joint Programmes
- Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions
- Population Management and Inclusive Human Development
- Inclusive and Resilient Growth

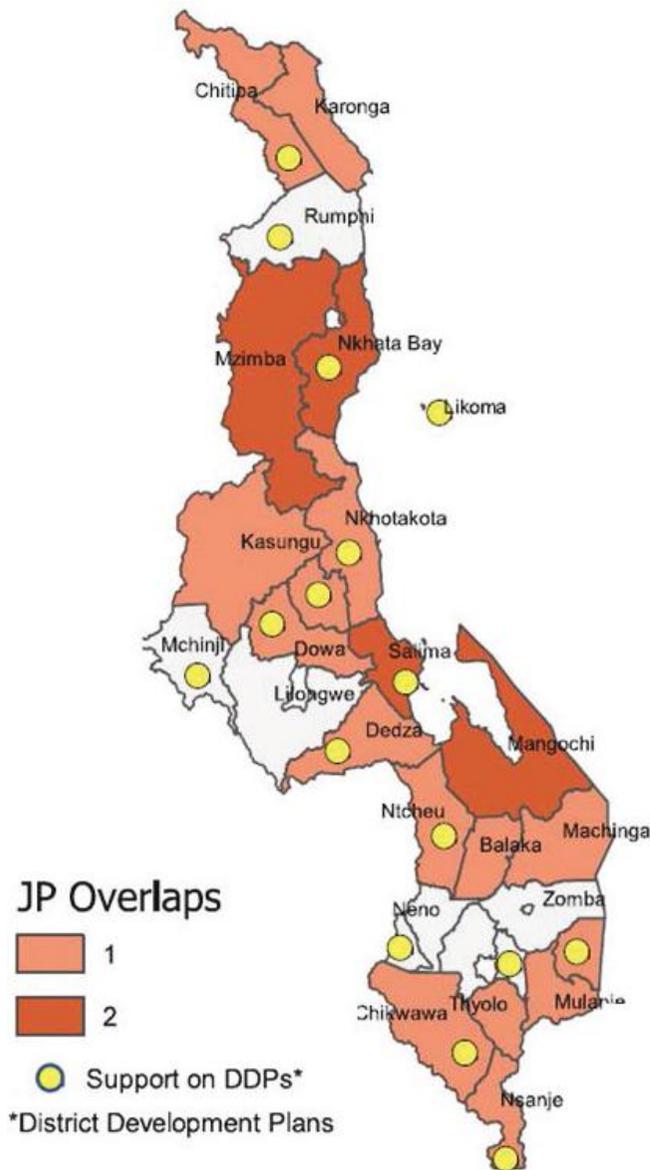
Results of the One Programme

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (formerly known as UNDAF - United Nations Development Assistance Framework) was jointly developed with the GoM to support the Malawi Growth Development Strategy III. It aligns with the 2030 Agenda and focuses on three strategic priorities: Pillar 1- Peace, inclusion and effective institutions; Pillar 2- Population management and inclusive human development and Pillar 3-Inclusive and resilient growth. The cooperation framework brings all UN organisations together to deliver under one nationally owned strategy drawing upon the full range of UN expertise giving a comparative advantage.

The implementation of the 2019 Joint Work Plan (JWP) was done in partnership with GoM, CSOs, and the private sector, including through UN Joint Programmes. The report focuses on the results at the output level, considering that the programme implementation is at the infancy stage making it premature to provide information on changes at the outcome level.

At mid-year, the Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM) chaired by the Chief Secretary and the UN Resident Coordinator was organized on 29th October 2019 at the Peak Gardens Conference Room to allow the Government and the UN in Malawi to collectively assess progress during the first six months of implementation of the Cooperation Framework regarding Malawi's development framework, identify key achievements across the three Pillars, and discuss challenges and bottlenecks that require joint attention from senior leadership. Furthermore, the meeting served as a platform to discuss current and upcoming issues affecting the sustainable development context





and the Government-UN partnership. The JSM brought together senior Government officials and UN Heads of Agencies.

The 2019 report highlights the results achieved through the implementation of the 2019 JWP which were developed in collaboration with GoM and are aligned to the 2019-2023 UNSDCF. The following section presents the progress made in achieving the objectives of the 2019 JAWP under the Cooperation Framework and is organized under nine Outcomes. For each Strategic priority or Pillar, the achievements, challenges, lessons and emerging opportunities are outlined.

2.1 Joint Programmes

The UN has made strategic shifts towards joint programming at the district level through channelling funding directly using a decentralized approach. Joint programmes brought greater results and impact as the activities are tailored to meet the multifaceted needs of beneficiaries. This arrangement also facilitates complementarity, transfer of various skills and resources thereby simplifying implementation of interventions. However, joint implementation of activities requires thorough planning and proper coordination among different players.

This reporting period includes a Joint Programme (JP) on Social Protection amounting to US\$2 million. This new JP aims to ensure that the Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector

to reduce the vulnerability of those left behind. The JP will also support the development of a financing ecosystem and national financing infrastructure toward increased domestic resource mobilization and seeks the adoption of a new legal framework to ensure the institutional and financial capacity for sustaining the results. The JP directly supports the Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II) and thus has Government’s commitments, whilst ensuring that key donors and partners are engaged.

The JP on Advancing Disability Rights in Malawi moved into its second year of implementation. The project had particular success in supporting improved disaggregated data on persons with disabilities and situational reporting on areas of need in education, health and housing. Working with government and civil society partners towards improved participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making structures was also an important focus in 2019. Strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities in Malawi remains an important priority for the UN in Malawi.

Overall, more than US\$186.6 million has been mobilised across eight JP’s for the 2019-2023 UNSDCF implementation period. The joint programmes have helped the UN to coordinate development programmes and promote coherence in supporting national priorities and needs. With the progress of the SDG Acceleration Fund (Malawi national Multi-Partner Trust Fund), a commitment for more joint programming while better alignment of programs with the UNSDCF is being pursued.





10 million
Malawians with
identity cards



By utilizing
the National
ID, about
USD 11.5
million was
saved for voter
registration



6,507 minor
civil cases
resolved



45 female
MP's elected
up from 22

2.2 Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions

2.2.1 Accountable and Effective Institutions

The UN in Malawi supported the implementation of the National Registration and Identification System (NRIS) project that registered about 10 million Malawians aged 16 years and above, with more than 9 million people having chip-based biometric ID smart cards. The biometric ID links and interfaces with some public and private sector systems to optimize the use of IDs in promoting efficient service delivery and other operational functions such as prevention of fraud and money laundering by linking to the banking sector. The National ID enabled prosecutors in criminal cases to obtain convictions in cases of defilement, rape and sexual assault of young girls by being able to establish the age of minor victims.

About 6,507 minor civil cases were resolved through the provision of village mediation in 11 districts and paralegal services in 22 districts. Of these resolved cases, 56 percent were presented by females. This was achieved through strengthening the police, judiciary and informal justice institutions to handle minor cases. At least 14,202 people (11,322 men, 1,278 women, 1,408 boys and 194 girls) received paralegal services in 79 police stations, 50 magistrate courts and 25 prisons. This approach has led to improved case communication, coordination and collaboration among key stakeholders for timely and efficient access to justice for the vulnerable people who conflict with the law.

Sixteen out of 28 socio-economic profiles (SEPs) and district development plan frameworks (DDPFs) were developed by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) with technical and financial assistance from the UN. The training of

trainers (TOTs) to facilitate the process of formulating Village Action Plans (VAPs) were done in 12 districts, and VAPs formulated in three districts. Village Development Committees and Area Development Committees were revitalized in Nsanje and Chikwawa Districts to enable them to effectively formulate the Local Development Plans. The two district councils (Nsanje and Phalombe) were supported to develop a prototype SDG hot spot dashboard with 8,000 households as a management tool to coordinate devolved sectors and other non-state actors. This initiative will facilitate SDG acceleration through strengthened service delivery.

Five of the planned 10 memorandum of understandings (MoUs) were signed to facilitate linkages and interfaces and create multiple uses of the National ID card in Malawi and bring operational efficiency in various private and public institutions. These MoUs were signed between 1) National Registration Bureau (NRB) and Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC); 2) NRB and Malawi Revenue Authority; 3) NRB and Credit Reference Bureau; 4) NRB and FDB Bank Limited and 5) agreements not based on MoU were established with the Department of Human Resource Management Development and Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority. The National Registration Bureau, with technical and financial support from the UN, refurbished 51 out of 65 post offices pending deployment of the recruited registration officers to expand registration points for National IDs.

The Migration Policy was finalized and presented to the Office of the President and Cabinet and awaits

the Refugee Department under the Ministry of Homeland Security to make a presentation to the Principal Secretary's meeting for approval. Thereafter it will be presented to the Cabinet. Once approved the policy will be rolled out. The Refugee Act could await review for the government to implement Malawi's Global Refugee Forum pledges.

Reviewed legislative and policy frameworks on all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices. The UN through the Spotlight Initiative laid important groundwork for the gender and disability sensitive amendment of critical laws and policies, among these are the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act and the Gender Equality Act, which will facilitate an enabling environment for the protection of women and girls against violence. Gender Gaps were identified in prioritized laws and policies through a highly consultative process with key government counterparts such as the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Development, the Ministry of Justice and the Law Commission. Solutions were collectively devised to address these gender gaps. The ongoing review of these legal instruments will criminalise rape in marriages, define and specify harmful practices under criminal law, and permit permanent protection orders for survivors subjected to domestic violence.

Over 26,000 non-state actors were engaged in eliminating Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other harmful cultural practices through transforming social norms. The key actors were mobilized at the national and community level, including young women and girls, university students, female police, traditional leaders, wives of traditional leaders, and female faith leaders through various innovative movements. These movements included the launch of the first ever Young Feminists Network in the context



of Generation Equality, giving voice to marginalised populations, per the principle of Leaving No One Behind, mobilization of University students to bring to the fore dialogue on rape and negative masculinity and encourage young men and boys to become agents of change, Furthermore, traditional authorities, their wives, and women of faith were engaged in various dialogues, leading to the formation of powerful alliances at community level and that already started transforming harmful attitudes and behaviours that give rise to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Harmful Practices. Additionally, mobilization of women faith leaders on addressing harmful attitudes in their communities was undertaken, with over 1,000 female followers involved in 7th Day Adventist “End It Now Campaign” from all over Malawi including the six spotlight districts of Nsanje, Machinga Dowa, Ntchisi, Mzimba and Nkhata Bay were engaged. The promotion of positive masculinity and gender equality and interpersonal relationships with 9,303 men and boys from Salima, Dedza and Karonga districts through the UN Wide and national HeForShe strategies.

The UN in collaboration with senior traditional leaders from Malawi contributed towards the development of the regional and country action plan at the regional Committee of Chiefs and Traditional Leaders on ending child marriage and harmful cultural practices. This was translated in Malawi to the mobilization of 68

Paramount Chiefs and Senior Traditional leaders from across the country and the formation of the high-level Traditional Leaders Technical Working Group which will facilitate the promotion gender equality and positive social norms in all target districts. Other key results include increased understanding of gender related laws among local leaders.

The UN enhanced capacity of 662 members (413



males and 249 females) in tracking, monitoring, and referring cases on GBV. This was made possible through revamping community-based police units and community policing forums. This resulted in Increased knowledge on SGBV among displaced and host communities in affected areas targeting over 30,000 people. (17, 155 women and girls; 12, 845 men and boys).





GENERATION EQUALITY



2.2.2 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The 50:50 campaign in Malawi's political sphere resulted in increased women's participation and increased representation at parliament and local government level. The UN in collaboration with CSOs drummed up support for the 50:50 campaign in Malawi's political sphere through media and community profiling and peer to peer learning and mentorship sessions to capacitate aspiring female candidates to effectively participate in electoral processes. Furthermore, 211 women (150 aspiring councillors and 61 aspiring members of parliament), of which five were persons with disability, were trained to effectively market their manifestos to the electorates. This support resulted in a three-fold

increase in the number of women (309 and 613 female candidates for parliament and local government elections respectively) participating in the elections when compared to a target of 300 women. These efforts resulted in election of 45 female MPs, up from 32 in 2014 (See Figure 2). Additionally, 66 women were elected as councillors, up from to 52 in 2014.

The UN in Malawi supported the review of the Joint Sector Strategic Plan on Gender, Youth and Sports (2013 – 2017) and development of a successor Joint Sector Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024). The consulting firm delivered the Review Report and draft Framework for the strategic plan. The successor plan is due for final review in March 2020.

The Commission on Status of Women (CSW) 63 report

was developed and presented by GoMat the CSW63 session held in New York. Malawi was represented by a delegation of four people from government, CSOs, parliament and academia. Malawi reaffirmed its commitment to implement the Beijing Declaration and platform for action including recommendations from previous outcome documents, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The country further reaffirmed the promotion of rights of all women and girls and mainstreaming of the same in all policies and documents aimed at ending poverty.

One hundred sixty-five women occupying leadership positions in public institutions from five districts had their skills enhanced in decision making, financial management and result-based reporting, gender

equality act, conflict resolution, public speaking and networking. The Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDS), in partnership with the UN contributed towards this result in Dedza, Salima, Karonga, Mzimba, and Mangochi. This platform also facilitated the formation of district-based women's networks on advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

Six district councils under the guidance of MoLGRD and with technical and financial assistance from the UN completed the updating of SEPs and DDPFs with gender-disaggregated data. Five of the six districts are formulating VDPs that will be consolidated into District Development Plans.

2.2.3 Strengthened Institutional Capacities

The UN in Malawi updated the contingency plan for the potential influx of asylum seekers from DRC. Various community-based organizations and peace committees operating at Dzaleka Refugee Camp were oriented on conflict resolution and peace building issues. Town Hall meetings were conducted with refugee community structures, and the communities were sensitized on key operational and protection issues that impact their lives.

Public Affairs Committee and Center for Multiparty Democracy with support from the UN in Malawi successfully advocated for and facilitated the signing of the Peace Declaration and regional and constituency peace commitments by political party leaders before the May 2019 elections. This resulted in a high degree of policy/issue-based political campaigns as all contesting political parties developed and used manifestoes and policies for their campaigns. Besides, there was a significant reduction of political tensions from what was witnessed at the beginning of the year

and subsequent political campaign period that recorded no significant violent clashes between political party supporters.

Twenty-eight multiparty liaison committees (MPLCs) at district level had their capacity to diffuse electoral tensions strengthened by CMD. This initiative aimed at promoting a conducive electoral environment before, during, and after polling. These MPLCs were critical in diffusing tensions around the campaign period in terms of dialogue, putting restrictions on damaging campaign materials of opponents and advancing issue-based politics. Furthermore, CMD and political parties were oriented on the best practices in the development of party manifestos. This resulted in five parties incorporating gender issues in their manifestos. Summaries of party manifestos were published in local media to ensure that eligible voters were well informed on policy issues proposed by each party. Media houses with support from the UN and other development partners successfully organized presidential running mates debates in Blantyre, Lilongwe, and Mzuzu. These debates showcased issue-based politicking ahead of polling day. The UN further supported the review and production of code of conducts for political parties, traditional leaders and the media re-enforced conducive environments for ensuring a level playing field.

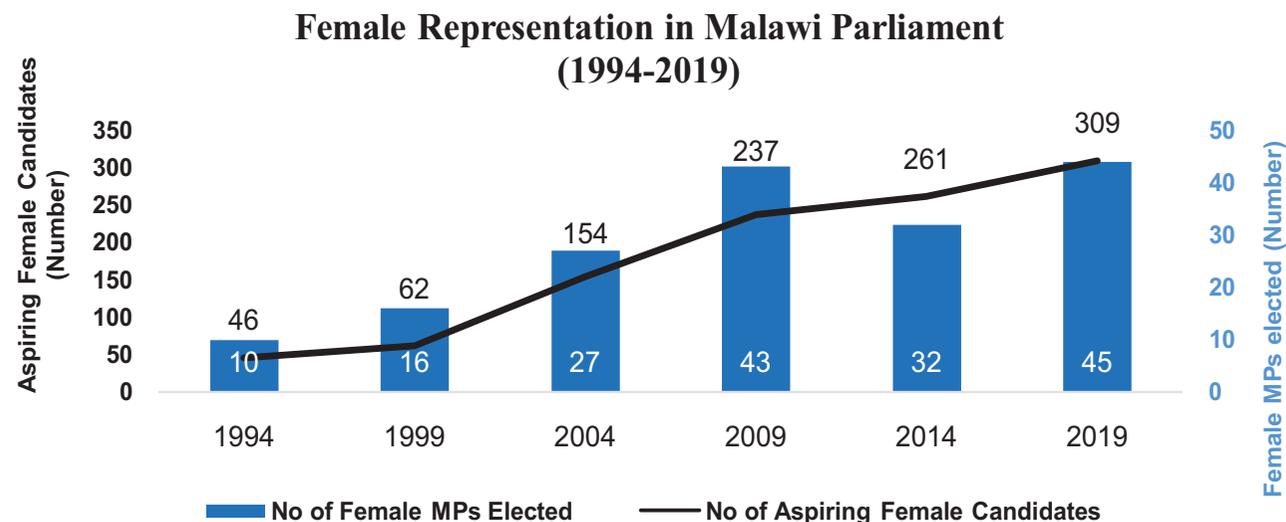


Figure 2: Trend in Female Representation in Malawian Parliament

Source: Malawi Electoral Commission Gazette Results

*upper numbers refer to aspiring female candidates



NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US

EMPOWER WOMEN
END...


**VOTELANI AMAYI
TUKULANI
MALAWI**


**INCLUDE WOMEN,
CHANGE FOR THE
BETTER**

**BALANCE
DRIVES BETTER
WORK**

...RE IS HOP
EVERY GIRL
AND TENAC
...EVE EVE
DREA

Women march in solidarity to mark International Women's Day



An enumerator collecting data in Machinga District

Voter education resulted in 74 percent voter turnout on 21st May 2019, up from 70.7 percent during the 2014 tripartite elections and 1.09 percent null and void votes. The Malawi Electoral Commission with technical and financial support from the UN carried out civic and voter education before the elections through roadshows, use of megaphones, social media campaigns and bulk SMS' on Airtel and TNM mobile lines. The electoral process was hinged on the first ever biometric voter registration which took place in 2018 utilizing the biometric national identity card developed by National Registration Bureau. The biometric ID was used as a source of primary identification of voters, both during registration and on polling day. This guaranteed a clean voter roll with no duplications or underage voters. Thus, a biometric system offered an opportunity to guarantee One Person, One ID, One Vote.

A robust results transmission system connecting 197 constituency tally centres across the country to the National Tally Centre in Blantyre was developed and successfully tested by MEC. The system worked well without any failures as all results were received in less than 72 hours. Also, cybersecurity experts were deployed to provide around the clock surveillance to deter any attempts to hack the system. To avert the logistical hiccups that were experienced in 2014 elections, the UN in Malawi supported MEC with 105 trucks for the transportation of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials which resulted in 98 percent of polling stations opening at 6 am and closing at 6 pm. This support further ensured timely retrieval of electoral materials to regional warehouses for safekeeping as prescribed by the electoral laws.

The UN in collaboration with PAC established a conflict early warning and response system (EWER)

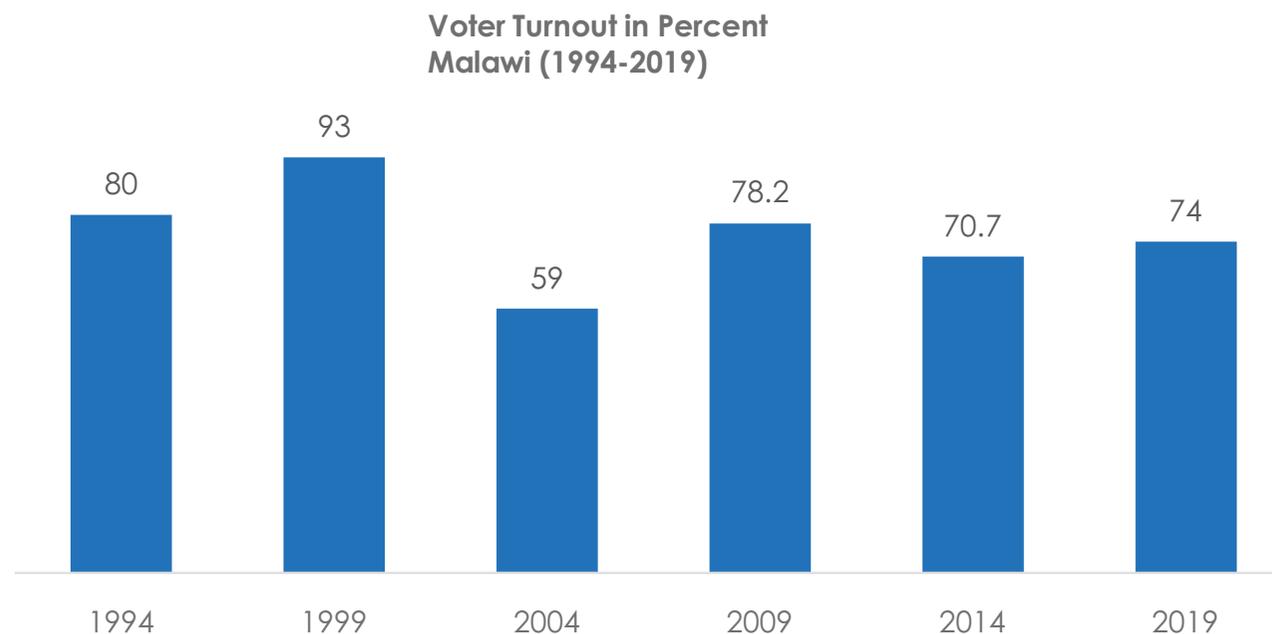


Figure 3: Trend in Voter Turnout

Source: Malawi Electoral Commission Gazette Results

that operated through a UN Prevention Platform. The platform was used to monitor electoral related conflict and human rights violations, including violence against women and girls. Real-time reports of incidents, analysis of trends and early warning alerts facilitated strategic adjustment in UN election engagement with a prevention focus. A hotline mobile application called VIAMO was introduced in local communities and captured pre-electoral, election day and post-electoral incidences of violence. This initiative resulted in increased participation of youth in election monitoring and reporting. Consequently, 140 youths from 'conflict hot-spot' areas monitored conflicts, determined types of electoral violence, used electoral legal framework and reported violence using mobile technology. This was then used to facilitate conflict/human rights violation prevention initiatives by engaging community-based organizations and peace committees, including those operating in refugee camps, to acquire skills for mediating conflicts and building peace.

A total of 65 isolated cases on electoral related VAWG were monitored and referred to relevant authorities. The Gender Engagement Election Room (GEER) was the other source of data managed by Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN) which enabled electoral partners to address election-related violence against women and girls (VAWG). The GEER was the first of its kind innovation to be implemented in Malawi. The data was used to direct issues to relevant stakeholders for immediate response to mitigate potential escalation of conflicts. The UN support also led to the adoption of terms of reference for a consultancy to facilitate the development of a UN Resolution 1325 National Action Plan supported the provision of mitigation measures on VAWG cases and other gender-related conflicts.

Malawi made new international commitments to labour rights and the elimination of child labour, ratifying three International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in November 2019. Development of a National OSH policy and programme, and strengthening of the national OSH system, as called for by the newly ratified instruments, will be supported by the UN. On the same date, Malawi ratified the ILO Forced Labour Protocol. The second National Action Plan on Child Labour (NAP-II) was adopted by the National Steering Committee on Child Labour (NSC-CL) in December 2019. The NAP-II sets a roadmap for the elimination of child labour in Malawi in all its forms by 2025, in line with SDG Target 8.7. Implementation of the NAP-II will be supported by the UN, including through support to Malawi's expression of interest to become an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country.

Challenges

- a) The SDG Hot spots Dashboard remains as a prototype and has not been finalized into a real-time dashboard. This is mainly due data privacy issues on accessing household data and the irregularities in the Universal Beneficiary Register (UBR) data.
- b) The district council is characterized with high staff turnover and acting personnel did not have the required expertise to comprehensively analyse issues and come up with good chapters in the SEP.
- c) The unwillingness of other line ministries to be part of the process of developing SEPs and DDPs. There is a tendency for line ministries to review their sector chapters in isolation and this results in duplication and waste of resources.
- d) There was weak coordination between development partners and UN agencies to support the process of developing SEPs and DDPs. Donors had different interests in the DDPs. Going forward, the UN agencies can jointly support the councils to ensure coherence in the implementation of the UNSDCF.
- e) Sectors such as labour and fisheries were unable to systematically collect data due to lack of resources. Nevertheless, sectors such as agriculture, education and health were able to systematically collect relatively good quality and updated data.
- f) Lack of disaggregated data in almost all sectors in the SEP and lack of data from non-devolved sectors (i.e. energy and tourism). This is compounded by lack of resources for data collection, verification and analysis. In some cases, district councils failed to collect district-specific data from key parastatals or sectors due to policy restrictions.
- g) High level of polarization among traditional partners along political lines resulting into adoption of a wait and see stance for fear of being partisan.
- h) High influx of asylum seekers into Malawi. On average 450 asylum seekers arrive in Malawi every month. With the limited funding, this impacted the delivery of service for the protracted caseload.

Lessons Learnt and Emerging Opportunities

- a) The decentralized system of distributing electoral materials resulted in timely distribution of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials to district councils and polling stations ahead of time, which in turn resulted in timely opening of polling stations with all required polling materials.
- b) Networking with other information management systems is key for a more effective EWER system. For instance, the National Peace Program would benefit from networking with Lilongwe Primary Justice, Chilungamo Project; Malawi Police, GBV data collection and management system; the spotlight initiative observatory hub information management system; and human rights violation case management system.
- c) Use of layers of conflict data collection mechanisms from local communities to national level provides an opportunity for cross-referencing information reported under the UN prevention platform.
- d) Currently, there are no joint programmes on youth participation in economic, civic and political activities targeting youth. There is a need to develop joint youth-targeted programmes. This will be a new initiative in Malawi where youth are more than 50 percent of the population with limited employment opportunities.
- e) The UN was able to actively engage NRB in 2019, as a result refugees and asylum-seeker children aged below 16 will be supported in 2020 with the mass nationwide birth registration exercise.
- f) The UN agencies continue to engage government counterpart to respond to continuous influx of asylum seekers, as the protection interventions for the Internally Displaced Persons situation resulting from Cyclone IDAI was coordinated.



Bram Mussa rescued more than 100 people during cyclone Ida



2.3 Population Management and Inclusive Human Development

2.3.1 Early Childhood Development Services

The UN in Malawi reached 48 percent of under-five children 0-5 using Early Childhood Development (ECD) services and 431,126 families with parenting Education and Care for Child Development Services. This was achieved through the nation-wide scale-up of the ECD programme.

Malawi introduced the first dose of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination for adolescent girls aged nine years in 2019 that reached 232,729 out of the targeted 280,862 adolescent girls. This was achieved through supply chain strengthening, communication for development and procurement of vaccines to increase access to immunization services. C4D activities increased levels of knowledge, attitudes and practices that contributed to the high uptake of the HPV vaccination. Furthermore, DTP/Penta3 vaccine coverage increased to 93 percent against a target of 90 percent.

The UN in Malawi reached over 4.6 million people (50 percent of population 15 years and above) with messages on HPV and routine immunization and improvement of interpersonal communication skills through various channels. Furthermore, a total of 4.3 million people (37 percent of the adult population) were reached with key messages on responsive and positive parenting through the launch of Bambo Wachitsanzo: Super Dads Campaign, interpersonal communication and mass media campaign. This resulted in increased knowledge and skills among fathers in positive parenting thereby increasing access for children to early stimulation and responsive caregiving practices among children of 3 to 5 years. The UN supported



Children at Mangumba Village in Zomba wait to receive their vitamins from Neverson



75 percent
of HIV exposed
infants were
tested



School
attendance rate
has increased
from **73**
percent in
2013/14 to **87**
percent in
2019 in 169 JPGE
- supported
schools



4.8 million
under-five
children were
screened
of acute
malnutrition



2,057,656
Couple
Years of
Protection was
realized due
to adoption
of modern
family planning
methods

the Government of Malawi in the development of parenting education guide inline with ECD policy which resulted in ensuring the availability of coherent policy, strategy frameworks and guidelines for delivering quality parenting program especially for younger children (0 to 2 years). An ECD sector analysis was carried out to identify key bottlenecks, which resulted in guiding the necessary actions for ECD programming and evidence-based planning by different stakeholders. Additionally, the UN in Malawi continued to provide guidance to ECD stakeholders in improving the home environment for optimal child growth and development.

Seventy-six percent of HIV-exposed infants were tested within two months of birth against an annual target of 71 percent. This is due to the increase in the number of Point of care or near Early Infant Diagnosis and Viral Load Testing services across Malawi. Eighty-eight percent of pregnant women attending antenatal care and getting an HIV test knew their HIV status and those found positive immediately started treatment. Furthermore, more than 12,650 births were delivered in the target health facilities with 91 percent of them being attended by skilled birth attendants. During the reporting period, 80 percent of the supported emergency obstetric and newborn care (EMONC) health facilities were fully functional and provided with the relevant signal functions. This was enabled by the mentorship of health workers on their use and procurement of 170 delivery beds, 50 midwifery kits, RH kits and 150 non-pneumatic ant shock garments for 56 EMONC facilities. Additionally, 169 Women with obstetric fistula were successfully repaired. Thirty-three health facilities providing youth-friendly health services were accredited having met the quality of care standards prescribed by Ministry of Health (MoH). The support of the UN in Malawi further helped to ensure the functionality of the National Confidential

Enquiry Committee into maternal deaths whose key deliverable was the analytical MDR Report which is currently informing policy.

A total of 4,825,367 under-five children, among which 53.7 percent were girls, were screened for acute malnutrition through the integration of active case finding in the existing platforms including care groups, integrated community case management (ICCM) in 17 districts. This significantly contributed to the timely admission of 117,163 children (32,970 with Severe Acute Malnutrition-SAM and 84,193 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition-MAM) across the 728 out of the 731 health facilities offering Community Management for Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) services. Of the total admissions, 62,821 were girls while 54,342 were boys.

The improved coverage and quality of services for acute malnutrition management and continued availability of nutrition supplies throughout the year, coupled with training of 1,039 health workers in CMAM services resulted in a cure rate of 93 percent; death rate of 2.4 percent and default rate of 2.5 percent.

A total of 557,232 households with 227,448 pregnant and lactating women had improved knowledge in optimal breastfeeding, complementary feeding and caregiving practices. This contributed to improved quality of under-five children diets for 220,496 (112,673 girls and 107,823 boys) through C4D approaches. Furthermore, 254,383 (129,735 boys and 124,648 girls) children between 6 and 23 months had the quality of their complementary feeding improved through home fortification using micronutrient powders following improved capacity of district councils to implement scaling up nutrition activities. Additionally, 521,313 people were reached with Social Behaviour Change Communication.

Vitamin A coverage rose to 82 percent in 2019 from 77 percent in 2018. A total of 1,649,121 children 6-59 months (808,069 boys and 841,052 girls) received Vitamin A supplementation to improve their immunity against childhood illnesses. The increase follows scaled up support towards community mobilization and sensitization to access vitamin A. Consequently 23 out of the 28 districts had zero stockouts. Additionally, a total of 557,232 households with 134,568 pregnant and lactating women had improved knowledge in optimal breastfeeding, complementary feeding and caregiving practices resulting in improved quality of under-five children diets for 220,496 (112,673 girls and 107,823 boys) through C4D approaches.

In 2019, the UN in Malawi in collaboration with NRB and partners increased birth registration among children aged five years and below from 10 percent to 22 percent. The clearance and approval of all the backlogs of birth registration records in the districts have contributed towards increased registration. Besides, funding has been secured for mass registration of 8.4 million children aged 16 years and below in 2020. This will include refugee children who were born in Malawi. The UN provided technical support to MoH on linking national ID to the health system for tracking access to and provision of health care.

Two hundred thirty-one refugee children were supported through the birth registration. The government provided registration equipment to Dowa civil registry to support issuance of birth certificates. There is continued engagement NRB to facilitate the mass registration of refugee children who were born in Malawi. The UN paid for issuance of birth certificates for children aged 16 and above, however NRB could not issue the certificates until the children had the national ID as per requirement.



Participants celebrating after learning about vocational training

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

The UN in Malawi launched the O3 programme (Our rights, our lives, Our future) in mid-2019 which supports the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) to improve Comprehensive Sexuality Education through the subject of Life Skills Education in primary and secondary schools. Furthermore, the programme works on disability and gender-based violence in schools. The UN in Malawi constructed six classrooms in Dowa district to increase enrolment at the primary school. School feeding continued with the support of Mary Meals.

The National Functional Literacy Curriculum was drafted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) with technical and financial assistance from the UN. Presidential assent to the national children's commission act represented a significant milestone for children's rights. The evaluation of child protection district implementation plans was completed, and an annual review meeting convened in June to identify bottlenecks and priorities for 2019. The MPS was supported to conclude the review of key policy documents including their community policing handbook, guidelines for provision of services in victim support units, MPS, child Protection Policy and basic recruits' curriculum. The National Association of Social Workers was registered after over two years of effort with support from the UN. This initiative was part of the work to develop a quality assurance system for social service work.

Average school attendance rate has increased from 73 percent in 2013/14 to 87 percent in 2019 in 169 schools in Dedza, Mangochi and Salima districts under the Joint Programme on Girls Education. The attendance

rate in 2019 is higher for girls than boys. The increased attendance rate is as a result of keeping girls in school interventions that focused on adolescent girls. A total of 7,714 refugees and host community members were able to access pre-primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education with technical and financial assistance from the UN. Furthermore, 7,000 girls benefited from a USD 1 million bursary and scholarship fund in this reporting period. The UN further provided meals to 1,020,808 learners (505,067 boys and 515,741 girls) in 13 Districts and reached 73 percent adolescent girls with weekly iron-folic acid supplementation. The UN further reached 20,000 out of the targeted 28,000 out-of-school adolescent and youth with complimentary basic education and life skills.

The UN in partnership with Government and CSOs reached 28,175 learners in four districts with emergency school feeding meals. Additionally, 62,681 learners (30,258 boys and 32,423 girls) were supported with emergency supplies including dignity kits. This enabled learners to continue their education during the floods. At least 19,000 children in affected districts were provided with access to psychosocial support, socialization, play and learning through safe spaces. Children's corner kits (i.e. materials for child-friendly spaces) were prepositioned by the UN in all districts, enabling quick response at the onset of the emergency. Community-based complaints mechanisms were operationalized in the flood-affected districts to receive and refer cases of child protection, GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse to protection services.

Forty-six percent of the targeted 350,000 in and out of school young people were reached with comprehensive sexual education in six districts during this reporting period. The UN in partnerships with government Ministries and CSOs supported GoM in strengthening

the integration of sexual and reproductive and health rights (SRHR) services.

Almost 19,000 new reported cases of violence against girls, boys and women through police, community victim support units, and selected district social welfare offices delivering child protection services using the case management approach through child protection workers.

2.3.3 Sexual and Reproductive and HIV/AIDS Health Rights

Malawi recently introduced two generic modern family planning methods of Levoplant and DMPA subcutaneous to increase the method mix of the Family planning commodities. In return, a total of 2,057,656 Couple Years of Protection was realized in 2019. In this reporting period, the focus was given to eligible adolescents' girls accessing modern family planning methods between the ages of 15 to 19 years and realized a total of 162,440 users. In this regard, 2,490 trained health workers and 800 service providers were equipped with knowledge and skills in creating the demand for modern family planning. To improve uptake of family planning amongst refugees and asylum seekers, the UN in Malawi supported MoH to provide family planning and child spacing information. Various groups in Dzaleka refugee camp (youths, men, women, zone, religious and community leaders) were engaged to discuss the benefit and debunking the myths surrounding family planning.

Over 150,092 young people accessed youth-friendly health services (YFHS) through static and outreach in six focus districts. In three (Dedza, Mangochi and Salima) of the six districts, four YFHS were renovated. The facilities continue to enhance the provision of YFHS for an informed decision about reproductive



Reproductive Health Kits in a warehouse in Malawi awaiting delivery to affected sites

rights including HIV and GBV prevention. In the reporting period, 33 Public Health Facilities were accredited for the provision of quality YFHS according to standards.

A total of 47,897 young persons (23,570 men and 24,327 female) were reached with various modes of delivery of comprehensive sexuality education. It was mainly attributed to the delivery of printed facilitators manuals and programme guides for out of school youth through Ministry of Youth with direct support from UN agencies. The UN in Malawi extended the comprehensive HIV/SRHR services to prisoners. About 446 prisoners (197 female) received HIV/AIDS and SRHR services within prison clinics and central hospitals.

The UN in Malawi reached 385,879 adolescents with messages on Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) and life skills. The programme further supported the printing of 1,000 copies of CSE Participants manuals, 500 CSE Programme guides and 500 CSE Facilitators manuals that are used in the delivery of CSE for out of school youth. While training of lead facilitators continued, however during the year under review, the emphasis was on follow up of the trained lead facilitators to monitor the delivery of CSE in their communities. A total of 47,897 (23,570 male and 24,327 female) were reached with various modes of delivery of CSE. Besides, the UN in Malawi supported documentation of best practices on the integration of CSE in the right of passage curriculum and developed a reference guide which is ready for dissemination.

The UN in partnership with the MPS and the security sector hosted the 7th Kigali international conference

declaration in Malawi with the quest of leveraging on existing innovative initiatives globally and regionally. The theme for this year was 'The Role of Security Agencies and Community on Combating Child Online and Offline Sexual Exploitation and Gender Based Violence'. The KICD attracted the participation of 118 members (57 women, 61 men) from security organs (police, military and prisons) in 24 African countries.

A survey on traditional practices in Malawi aimed at systematic documentation of prevalence and persistence of two traditional practices (early marriages and initiation ceremonies) was completed in March 2019. The UN in Malawi provided technical and financial support to the National Statistical Office, Centre for Social Research at the University of Malawi, and Centre for Child Well-being and Development at the University of Zurich in the execution and completion of the survey. Furthermore, the UN made great strides in identification, analysis and cataloguing of key social norms that contextually fuel youth vulnerability to SGBV, and HIV/AIDS through a series of 18 intergenerational dialogue sessions that targeted 677 participants comprising of key stakeholders including persons living with HIV/AIDS. Building on this contextual analysis, 247 community members (150 women and 97 men) were equipped with knowledge and skills to promote gender equality and interpersonal relationships through community campaigns in Dedza and Karonga districts. These campaigns contributed towards positive change in attitude and behaviour among men and boys with a family, individual and community setting towards gender equality. For example, there was increased male involvement in promoting active male engagement to address GBV, child marriage and

promoting access to education for girls as evidenced from 161 additional men who were mobilized through the HeForShe campaign. These men launched campaigns reaching out to 33 boys' clubs in schools. Cyclone Idai affected four districts in Malawi and resulted in massive displacements. The Government of Malawi declared a state of disaster in early March 2019. In response to the flooding, caused by Cyclone Idai, the UN in Malawi reached 25,939 out of the 35,000 targeted vulnerable people with support in form of dignity kits, midwifery/ reproductive health kits and financial support to run mobile clinics. Furthermore, the UN supported 530 community groups and nearly 180 community policing units with relevant life saving devices.

In 2019, the UN in Malawi in collaboration with MoH improved the SRHR/HIV services to the over 45,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Dzaleka refugee camp. Health workers in Dzaleka were trained on TB, HIV, and Safe motherhood new guidelines in order to provide services in accordance with the 2018 National Guidelines. Two nurses were trained to become certified providers of cervical cancer screening and treatment in Dzaleka. Twenty-four health workers from Dowa district were trained on prevention and syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections, family planning methods, client counselling, adolescents and youth friendly services. Mass screening on cervical cancer was conducted in the nine zones in the camp, 311 women were screened, and positive clients were treated. A workshop on comprehensive SRH services that targeted 69 sex workers in Dzaleka and surrounding host community was successfully undertaken.

Challenges

- a) Inadequate learning spaces, lack of qualified and adequate teachers continue to affect access to and quality of education. Additionally, both refugee and national schools are facing persistent challenges of lack of qualified teachers and high staff turnover.
- b) Deeply rooted cultural beliefs and harmful practices continue to hamper progress in access to and uptake of SRHR services, coverage of universal comprehensive sexual education, and reporting violence against children and GBV.
- c) Non-availability of well-defined structures for girls who are out of school in both nutrition specific and sensitive interventions.
- d) The fiscal capacity relating to the inability to generate funds to sustain programmes of the government remains a challenge.
- e) Multi-layer systemic issues with several bottlenecks related to lack of collaboration and coordination between NRB and MoH; inadequate human resources and capacity; infrequent collection of filled birth reports from facilities due to distances or lack of transport; slow approvals of birth records at both the district level and central level; weak accountability mechanism; poor connectivity and electronic birth registration system software (eBRS) issues which slowed down the process; lack of computers for entering data and poor financial and technical support to MoH to implement birth registration. As mitigation measures, the UN is advocating

for provision of adequate resources in terms of staff and finances for both NRB and MoH; reinforcing accountability; training of existing and new staff particularly health workers; collaboration and concerted effort between NRB and MoHP on implementation of birth registration; provision of adequate computers to district registration offices to enable timely entering of birth registration records in the eBRS and their approval; improve connectivity and rectify eBRS software issues that are preventing seamless use of the system and are slowing the birth registration process; and NRB to work with the MOH to incorporate some of the information from the birth register into the maternity registers so that health workers do not have many forms to fill.



Students working together on a class exercise



Demonstrations by Phillipina

Lessons Learnt and Emerging Opportunities

- a) The UN under the health systems strengthening project adopted an 'Agile' working team of inter-agency members. This team works in 2-week sprints during proposal development at the end of which they jointly delivered products such as theory of change document, workplan and budget. This provides an efficient means of achieving an objective through continuous and broader engagement of the inter-agency team members based on their comparative advantages.
- b) The mass child registration which is being planned to take place in March 2020 presents an opportunity to register about 9 million children. Asylum seekers and refugees are also waiting for this exercise to benefit from the exemption of the existing fee.
- c) The joint programmes provided an effective way to leverage resources based on the comparative advantage of each participating agency. Even beyond formal joint programmes, the joint initiatives have added value to work within the outcomes. A particularly successful example

is the UNHCR's collaboration with UNICEF in developing a policy brief on integration of refugee education into the national system. UNHCR benefitted from the engagement of UNICEF to approach MoEST and other line ministries.

- d) The current youthful population (if trained in different skilled trades) is as an opportunity for spurring economic development. Investments in the youth of the country should be a priority in line with the demographic dividend roadmap. The United Nations Country Team should consider supporting the finalization of the youth investment case as a way of implementing the demographic dividend road map.
- e) The development of the new national strategic plan on HIV and AIDS provides a crucial opportunity to accelerate the progress towards eliminating AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The UN support to the government in the development process during 2020 implementation period will ensure that the new plan addresses the remaining gaps, particularly in HIV prevention, and that it fully considers the needs of key populations, leaving no one behind.





2.4 Inclusive and Resilient Growth

2.4.1 Food and Nutrition Security, and WASH services



1.2 million
rural people benefited from food and cash-based transfers, including insurance



252,356
poor people benefited from income generating activities and loans



Farmer organizations realised total sales of **EUR 619,288** from 1,811 metric tonnes



Installed generative capacity has increased to **375Kw** from **60Kw**

The UN in Malawi reached over 1,241,672 vulnerable people in rural areas with food and cash-based transfers, including insurance, to cover immediate food needs while participants built or maintained assets to improve their livelihoods (i.e. community gardens, fish ponds, reforestation), creating healthier natural environments, reducing risks and impacts of shocks, increasing food production, and strengthening resilience to natural disasters. Three social protection donors committed to the same process in four districts as part of the 2019/2020 Lean Season Response. In one of the districts, the UN in collaboration with Government tested other elements of the social protection system (UBR, national ID, PMT) to the extent possible to reach other affected households. Intensive preparatory work was undertaken to prepare the social protection system to be leveraged (e.g. evidence on social registries, contracting the same E-payment financial service provider, communication materials etc.). The UN has also developed a module on Shock-Sensitive Social Protection as part of the global TRANSFORM package to support government practitioner's make decisions on the future of social protection and its links with shocks in Malawi.

During the reporting period, 10 percent of the local governments had adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030. At the sub-national level, the UN in Malawi worked with district councils in Phalombe, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Zomba, Balaka, Blantyre, Machinga and Mangochi to strengthen operational plans across multiple sectors and institutions, to inform resilience-

building, productive safety nets and other relevant agendas, and to enable partnerships and coordination through Seasonal Livelihood Programming. Districts councils were provided with technical capacity and resource allocation for them to support monitoring of resilience activities and enhance sustainability.

About 94,000 households were able to access weather, climate and agriculture advice for enhanced decision-making related to food security. Among these households, 18,000 received co-production and dissemination of messages via 534 Community Radio Listening Hubs. About 72,000 farmers received a series of SMS with actionable climate information and agricultural advice to enhance climate-smart decision making. Over 136,000 messages were received from farmers with follow up questions, evidencing the interest. Additionally, 264,687 smallholder farming households were trained in Climate Smart Agriculture.

Consolidated data collection tools for humanitarian planning and response were developed with support from the CERF funds. The tools were reviewed and adopted by the Department of Disaster and Management Affairs (DoDMA) and offered a window of opportunity in collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data for effective humanitarian action in Malawi. Relevant government staff at national and district levels were trained through a training of trainers that enhanced their skills and knowledge in collection of sex, age, disability to enhance program delivery during humanitarian crises. Multiple stakeholders, including National humanitarian cluster co-leads contributed to revision

of the data collection tool for rapid assessment at the onset of a disaster. The training was led by the Directorate of DoDMA in collaboration with the UN.

Disaster Management Information System have been put in place in four districts namely Balaka, Chikwawa, Mangochi and Phalombe. The DMIS enabled the districts to be more specific in terms of quantitative and qualitative analytics during needs assessments whenever occurrences of weather and other shocks affected district populations. This enabled clearer accountability and transparency in reporting adhering to humanitarian principles.

Around 275,925 households; 135,568 pregnant and lactating women, 114,172 adolescent girls and 220,496 children under the age of 5 years were reached with Infant and Young Children Nutrition (MIYCN) activities. All districts were oriented and trained on the National Nutrition Information, and reporting. This system serves as the common results framework for all nutrition programmes in the country. Additionally, the UN in Malawi facilitated an organized delivery of services by Programme Development Agents, Community-Based Facilitators, Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) and other relevant stakeholders and managed to reach 64 percent of the 90 traditional authorities targeted rolling-out the different planned activities.

Five assessments and a draft bill on old age pension were developed by GoM with support from the UN and other development partners. These included the pre-season assessment, pre-harvest assessment; comprehensive food security household survey; household economy approach and market survey and PDNA. The draft bill on old age social pension was submitted for parliament approval. This was achieved through a series of discussions with parliament



Mulele FFS members are testing which banana variety will grow in their area and have also purchased a piece of land to go into coffee growing as a commercial enterprise



Experiencing mponda giya

committees and UN advocacy on the feasibility and potential impacts of the legal framework. Previous evaluations and reviews on humanitarian response have highlighted weak coordination as the major challenge affecting delivery of services to the affected populations. In this regard, the UN in Malawi supported the government through Economic Planning Department and DoDMA in the roll out of the learning journey on coordination and leadership in April 2019. The learning journey is an 18-month process that seeks to identify effective coordination structures and mechanism for Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) II with a strong agenda to harmonizing humanitarian action and social protection.

Unified Beneficiary Registration (UBR) has been completed in five districts with support from the UN along with other stakeholders. UBR is a key output of the Government's efforts to strengthen the delivery of social support services under the National Social Support Programme. The UBR is expected to strengthen the coordination of social support programmes and ease the challenges encountered in the targeting of beneficiaries, which have resulted in higher inclusion and exclusion errors in past interventions. Furthermore, the MNSSP II Implementation Plan which serves as the key operationalization tool for the programme was finalized with UN support.

Over 170,000 out of the targeted 181,500 households were supported with productive assets in 10 districts (Karonga, Dedza, Balaka, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Phalombe, Machinga, Mangochi, and Zomba). The interventions on land resources management, livestock production, irrigation and forestation contributed to building resilience to climatic shocks. The UN in Malawi continued to support GoM in resilience

building, climate change adaptation and improving the food security status. Eight district councils that received technical and financial assistance from the UN have incorporated resilience issues in their DDPs and further increased budget allocations towards resilience activities. Similarly, nine out of 10 targeted district councils incorporated nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions incorporated in their DDPs.

2.4.2 Sustainable and Diversified Agriculture

A total 0.64 hectares of 713 planting stations of banana study orchards were established in the three Residential Training Centres of Thuchira, Lisasadzi and Mzuzu to assess localized and suitable options on banana pest and disease management, good husbandry management including soil health, utilization of banana local landraces for genetic biodiversity, and production of clean planting materials. These have demonstrated affordable and sustainable solutions, which facilitate the revitalization of the banana industry in Malawi. About 2,192 clean suckers were distributed to Farmer Field Schools (FFS) outreaches and 70 additional community-managed banana orchards have been established across all the 10 project districts with varieties already adapted to Malawi.

A total of 197 extension workers and 2,559 lead farmers graduated from 982 Farmer Field School (FFS) Master Trainers' courses under the KULIMA project, 'Revitalizing Agriculture Clusters and Ulimiwa M'ndandanda. The graduates are now FFS master trainers and community-based facilitators. This initiative is enhancing institutionalization and strengthening capacity development on the FFS methodology within the framework of the District Agricultural Extension Services System in the country. Additionally, guidelines for FFS implementation have been developed and Multi-Stake holders National Task

force has been established and is operational. The UN in Malawi has further contributed towards improved agriculture service delivery using modern sustainable agriculture through ensuring that 7,016 extension workers in 18 targeted districts have integrated farmer field school methodology in their routine advisory service. In addition, the number of districts with improved extension platforms/approaches has increased to 18, up from two.

Collective marketing and bulking among FFS resulted in the growth of total sales from 20 percent to 40 percent. This was attributed to higher negotiated prices realized through bulking and collective marketing. Collective marketing in the FFS has enhanced negotiation for better prices, thereby increasing the value of produce, which translated to more incomes for farmers. Farmer organization's sales of sold soya bean through the aggregation points increased from MK804,921 (EUR 983) at baseline to MK507 million (EUR 619,288) and on the other hand, the value of beans also increased from MK314,368 (EUR 384) at baseline to MK58 million (EUR 70,845) in 2019, and maize value has increased from MK430,178 (EUR 525) at baseline to MK32 million (EUR 39,087) in 2019. The number of produce aggregation centres has increased from 69 to 87 and these are crucial for collective marketing among the farmer groups. Farmer organizations supported by interventions have experienced an increase in sales of their products; For soya bean, 1,811 MT and Bean 92 MT were sold. The increase in volumes sold translated to increased revenue.

The Ultra-poor graduation programme has reached 8,000 ultra-poor households with savings and loans services thereby improving access to agricultural inputs. About 2,107 Community-based Financial Organizations (CBFOs) were created and supported with membership of 44,716 households to improve

their access to savings and loans for on and off farm enterprises. Additionally, 77 banking agents have been opened in rural areas across the country, 30,000 digital accounts opened in rural areas, 4,335 agriculture business loans have been processed, and 105 CBFOs linked to formal financial services. About 757 out of the planned 593 farmer organizations in Malawi were linked to microfinance institutions, input and output suppliers. The UN collaborated with key government ministries in promoting sustainable agricultural value chains. The number of farmer organizations which are operational and registered with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism has increased to 21, up from 16. Besides, 13,712 smallholder farmers (including 456 marginalized groups and 560 refugees and asylum seekers) out of the targeted 17,790 were equipped with knowledge and skills in business management, value addition and marketing skills. The UN through its implementing partners supported 450 refugees and host communities participating in the ultra-poor graduation approach with consumption support and various livelihoods activities such as winter cropping, rain-fed agricultural production, livestock production and business enterprises in Dowa district. Two additional solar powered irrigation schemes at Chaliwa in Dzaleka surrounding environment were developed during the period.

The UN in Malawi supported Government in drafting the regulations for five land related Acts namely, Customary Land Act, Physical Planning Act, Land Survey Act, Land Acquisition Act (including Compensation regulations) and Registered Land Act. These regulations detail the step-by-step guide in the implementation of the laws. In order to enhance the people's understanding of the law, the Customary Land Act and its regulations have been translated

into Chichewa, a vernacular language. This will help to raise awareness of the laws among most rural communities, especially women who usually have low literacy levels. About 292 Traditional Leaders were briefed on the criteria for establishing Customary Land Tribunals. Customary Land Tribunals are a justice recourse mechanism for addressing land related issues at community level as a way of providing access to justice. Eighteen vulnerability and risk assessments were conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) with support from the UN and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the UN provided technical and financial support that resulted in strengthened capacity of 20 government staff to support in synthesizing of climate and biophysical data.

Vessel monitoring systems in the southern-west wing of Lake Malawi was made operational by the Department of Fisheries with technical and financial assistance from UN. This will contribute towards successful monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities.

2.4.3 Economic Diversification, Inclusive Business, and Clean Energy

The installed generative capacity has been increased to 375 Kw through the installation of an 80KW Solar mini grid at Sitolo Village at Mchinji. During this reporting period, a total of 150 households from Sitolo were connected to the Solar mini-grid, while 203 households and 2 maize mills were connected to the MEGA mini-hydro at Mulanje.

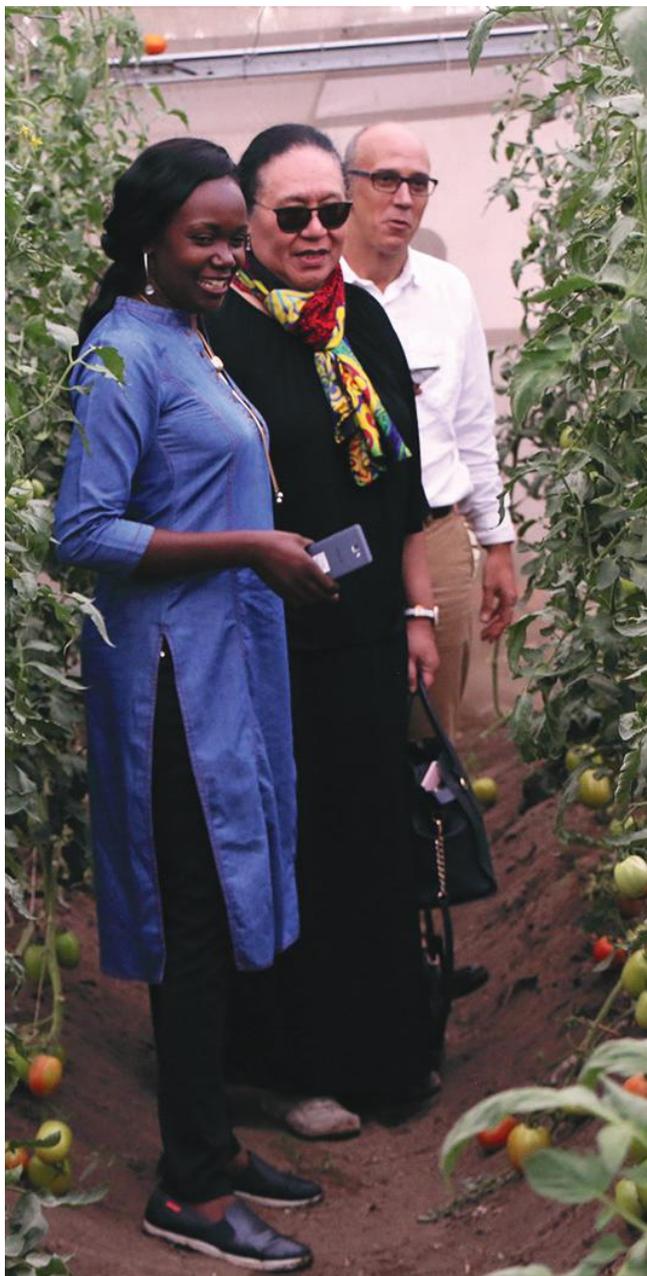
Twenty-four private sector entrepreneurs accessed

regional and international markets including access to affordable capital, de-risk investments and business growth. Eleven entrepreneurs accessed affordable capital through the Growth Accelerator Entrepreneurship Challenge. About 123 disadvantaged beneficiaries (95 women and 28 men) graduated from bursary supported training in skilled trades and entrepreneurship.

The UN support to the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF), cumulatively has resulted in livelihood improvement of 252,356 poor people (32 percent women); enhanced income generating opportunities of 35,088 smallholder households (31 percent women); and generated 1,215 low income unskilled permanent employment (33 percent women). Fifty-three prospective agents and 96 prospective tellers were equipped with skills leading to the activation and employment of a total of 37 agents and tellers of which 65 percent were women. The UN in partnership with Zoono Malawi supported the implementation of the Leveraging Gender Balance for Malawian Digital Financial Services providers. Financial support in the form of small matching grants to business start-ups through the Growth Accelerator challenge has created 29 jobs for the youth (eight female). As part of its second cohort of ventures, the acceleration initiative selected six female-led enterprises out of 13, representing a 46 percent share. Both men and women experienced net positive incomes and livelihood improvement. Employment from either the MICF or Growth Accelerator is among other things making the beneficiaries able to buy food and other necessities, pay school fees for their dependents and buy farm inputs. The special training on designing solar mini-grid plants had 30 percent female participation.

Challenges

- a) Limited integration and coordination of survey tools resulted in duplication and overlaps, reduced cost efficiencies, and fatigue among respondents.
- b) Competing priorities, limited funding and overstretched Government's Departments.
- c) The policy holder of the MNSSP II, the Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Department is overstretched in its activities, making coordination and articulation in the sector slow and fragmented.
- d) Delayed submission of reports by stakeholders involved in the implementation of various programmes across agencies and this subsequently delayed the release of resources by different donors.
- e) Delays in procurement of equipment and inputs for implementation of various programmes across agencies delayed implementation and affected outputs of different programmes.
- f) Persons of concern (PoC) including refugees have limited legal rights limits which prevents them from accessing land and productive natural resources; freedom of movement and association; and accessing formal employment. This exposes PoC without livelihood opportunities and humanitarian support to various risks such as engaging in negative coping mechanisms for their survival (survival sex, begging, theft etc.)
- g) The business environment has not been fully favourable for the private sector companies participating in the MICF due to among other challenges, intermittent power supply, and high costs of importing raw materials.
- h) There was lack of required capital for the entrepreneurs and other graduates trained under the UN supported programs.
- i) Low literacy levels in certain populations affected adoption of knowledge and skills on issues that help progressive realization of Right to Food.



Lessons Learnt and Emerging Opportunities

- a) There is a need to synchronize activities between Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) and nutrition cluster for a better analysis and a well-informed response, as well as to further develop a long-term strategic plan for institutionalization of MVAC activities.
- b) There is a need to ensure early planning and advocacy ahead of the lean season to guarantee not only timely provision of assistance, but also the capacity to advance the government's vision of Shock-Responsive Social Protection.
- c) There is a good working relationship between UN Agencies and various stakeholders, both at lower and higher levels involved in the implementation of various programmes across the country. However, there is a need for continued capacity building of stakeholders to ensure that necessary skills and information is transferred for both timely and high-quality sustainable programme results.
- d) The graduation approach is a time bound livelihood intervention that can help lifting the extreme poor refugees and host communities out of poverty leading to self-empowerment. There is a need for UN agencies to support scaling up of these interventions with the needed resources. The approach, if scaled up, will lead to increased income, improved food security, increased savings and improved self-confidence among beneficiaries.



Felix Chikudzu interacting with media regarding lessons on good banana management practices at Thuchila RTC



3

Chapter

Overview

Results of Operating as One

- Business Operations Strategy
- One UN House

Results of Operating as One

Business Operations Strategy: The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the subsequent Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution on operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (2011) call for simplification and harmonization of the United Nations system. In this regard, the Malawi second generation Business Operation Strategy (BOS 2.0) covering the period 2019 to 2023 is at an advanced stage to streamline business processes that promise the highest return from simplification and harmonization with the purpose of saving costs.

The UN in Malawi has established a Business Innovation Group that took over the leadership using new guidance and will provide access to an online platform where the BOS plans will be uploaded to track progress on key performance indicators. Following the launch of the BoS 2.0 guidance in October 2019, the UNSDG BIG has completed the development of the online BOS platform. The BOS platform automates parts of the BOS, making it easier and faster for the UNCTs to develop their respective BOS frameworks. The BOS platform includes reporting capability that allows RCs, UNCTs and Operation Management Team (OMT) to establish baselines, assess impact and progress on their BOS implementation, compare countries and regions in terms of BOS impact and assess actual efficiency or quality gains immediately.

One UN House: The One UN House in Malawi is among the top priorities of the UNCT, as well as, the currently seated government. The erection and occupation of the One UN House is linked with the UN reform, is anticipated to yield significant savings, and is designed to also serve as a common back office for the UNCT. The UN in Malawi funded a feasibility

study contracted by the Public Private Partnership Commission and the completed feasibility argues a viable business case, in terms of affordability and efficiency gains. The One UN House phase 1 final feasibility study was submitted on 5th December 2019 and confirmed viability of implementation of the project under Public Private Partnership arrangement as a Design Build Finance Operate Maintain contract modality.

However, due to the lack of ability to raise debt for the Project of the government, its unavailability of funds and following advice from headquarters, the United Nations System in Malawi are exploring the possibility to establish a new arrangement under the capitalization model where the United Nations Agencies in Malawi will take the lead in the procurement of the project with external funding and including engagement with the World Bank as a potential investor and the manager of the building that host the World Bank and the entire UN system.

The One UN House Technical Working Group will submit recommendations to OMT and UNCT and the Cost Benefit Analysis and Business Case will then be submitted for endorsement by the Task Team on Common Premises and Facility Services (New York), once an acceptable and viable funding modality is identified. Phase II of the feasibility study will mainly comprise the management of the procurement process for the One UN House.

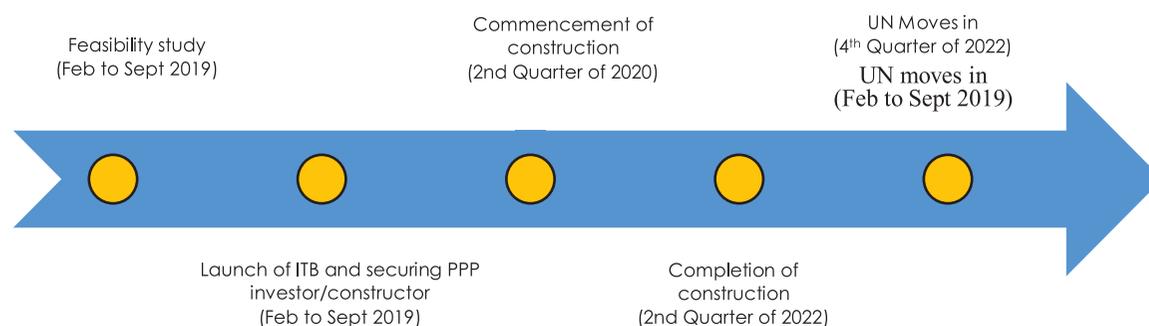


Figure 4: One UN House Roadmap



Man standing close to his solar panel



4

Chapter

Results of Communicating as One

- SDG Advocacy in Communities
- Coherent communication around UN support to flood response
- SDG Advocacy during Electoral Campaign
- UN Media Engagement
- Promoting Albinism Awareness
- Communicating Results of UN Contributions
- Coordinating Communication and Visibility of Joint Programmes

Results of Communicating as One

SDG Advocacy in Communities: On 4th February 2019, the UNCG launched dissemination of the SDG Movie, a communications and advocacy tool featuring Malawians who have worked towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG videos helped to demonstrate that achieving SDGs is possible in Malawi by focusing on local success stories to stir similar efforts in other communities. The SDG videos put a human face to the SDGs and showed that united efforts can produce major results.

The dissemination of the SDG Movie in local communities also targeted people who were adversely impacted and displaced by Cyclone Idai through screening of the videos in some of the displacement camps to encourage transformative actions at the time the affected people were about to return to their homes. For instance, some of the displaced persons at Bangula Camp in Nsanje said the SDG Movie inspired them to engage in irrigation farming to mitigate Cyclone Idai impact and harvest more yields from their pieces of land. The SDG Movie has also been a learning tool to inspire community transformation on gender, education, access to justice, water and sanitation, and health issues. The SDG Movie was also disseminated to senior Malawi Government officials, Development Partners, Parliament, media, UN staff and the general populous through television, social media, events and UN website.

Besides, in the first half of 2019, the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) worked with over 10 community radio stations to broadcast special SDG radio documentaries aimed at raising SDG awareness and mobilising local actions for achievement of SDGs in rural areas. The radio documentaries focused on gender and women empowerment; food and nutrition



security; and early childhood development, among other topics, reaching over seven million people across Malawi.

Coherent communication around UN support to flood response: UN Agencies' support to the flood response in the first half of 2019 humanitarian response prompted the need for coordinated communications around the flood response. The UNCG supported the UNCT to produce two joint press releases that helped communicate the totality of UN support to the flood-response. About 10 television, radio and newspaper stories about the totality of UN support to the flood-response were published.

SDG Advocacy during Electoral Campaign: The UNCG supported UNCT to implement SDGs advocacy through the SDG Question Time debates for political parties ahead of the May 2019 Tripartite Elections. Five main political parties represented by 19 leaders participated in the first-ever SDG Question Time debates from 25th February to 3rd March 2019 in Lilongwe. The UNCG partnered with Zodiak Broadcasting Station (ZBS) and Nation Publications Limited (NPL) to organise and conduct the debates. Senior party members articulated how they intended to accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Malawi. Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Malawi Congress Party (MCP), United Transformation Movement (UTM), United Democratic Front (UDF) and People's Party (PP) are the political parties that participated in

the debates. The debates focused on four themes considered critical for the achievement of the SDG agenda: (i) Climate Change and Agriculture, (ii) Education, (iii) Human Rights/ Leave No One Behind and (iv) Health. The debates were broadcast live on ZBS Radio, Television and Zodiak Facebook Live, and 10 community radios, reaching some 500 people in attendance in the auditorium and over 10 million people through the radio, TV and social media.

The televised debates increased issues-based campaigning during the electoral process through interactive discussions on the SDGs in Malawi. They also enabled Malawians to engage and interrogate the political parties on their propositions, allowing the citizens to make informed decisions during the elections, in as far as how the political parties' manifestos to advance achievement of the SDGs. The SDG debates also informed on the subsequent debates for presidential running mates and presidential candidates, which also centred on how the candidates intended to end poverty and promote sustainable development in Malawi, further enhancing issues-based campaigning during the elections.

UN Media Engagement: In the first half of 2019, 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. The awards have increased the quality and quantity of in-depth reporting on SDGs in the media, boosting SDG media reporting in Malawi.

Promoting Albinism Awareness: A coordinated approach was taken to advocate for the rights of persons with albinism through issuance of a joint UN media statement on the rights of persons with albinism issued on 13 June, urging for more commitment to implement the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism, as well as special media interviews with local and international media, including Voice of America. The efforts also supported advocacy to prevent attacks against persons with albinism in Malawi.

Communicating Results of UN Contributions: The UNCG continued to coordinate production of UN Malawi bulletins and results stories which were disseminated to development partners, Malawi Government officials, CSOs, UN staff, the media and other stakeholders, through the emails, website, social media and the media.

Coordinating Communication and Visibility of Joint Programmes: In 2019, the UNCG coordinated communications for joint programmes, especially the Spotlight Initiative, supporting the UNCT to issue a joint press release, together with EU and Malawi Government, announcing the programme. UNCG also helped to mobilise a media network that is specially supporting communications, advocacy and outreach for the Spotlight Initiative. The UNCG also commenced coordination of communication and advocacy for the Joint Programme on Resilience.



C-Zee and DJ Goxy have also been travelling around the country interviewing young people who have set up their own business after completing their technical education





5

Chapter

Overview

Financial Overview

- Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation
- Top 10 Expenditure by SDG
- The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund

5. Financial Overview

5.1 Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation

In 2019, the total mobilized funds amounting to US\$173.1 million accounted for 64 percent of the original estimated budget of US\$270.9 million for implementation of the 2019 Joint Work Plan. A disaggregated analysis showed that Pillar 2 has an annual funding gap of US\$46.7 million, which is US\$10.8 million higher than that of Pillar 3. Pillar 1 has the least funding gap at US\$15.2 million. Out of the available US\$ 173.1 million mobilized, only 43 percent was utilized. The level of utilization ranged from 22 to 73 percent across the three pillars. Pillar 2 had a higher utilisation rate of 73 percent followed by pillar 3 (36 percent). Pillar 1 had the least utilisation rate of 22 percent (See Figure 5).

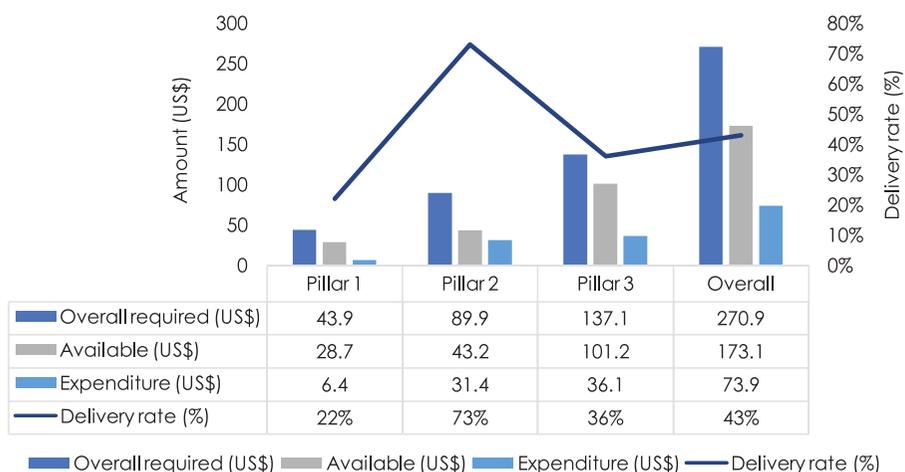


Figure 5: Resource mobilization & utilization at pillar level

Source: Analysed based on UN INFO data

Top 10 Expenditure by SDG

About 61 percent of the expenditure was associated with SDG 1 (US\$417.5 million), SDG 2, (US\$19.9 million) and SDG4 (US\$7.8 million).The breakdown of expenditures among the top 10 SDGs is shown in figure 4 below.

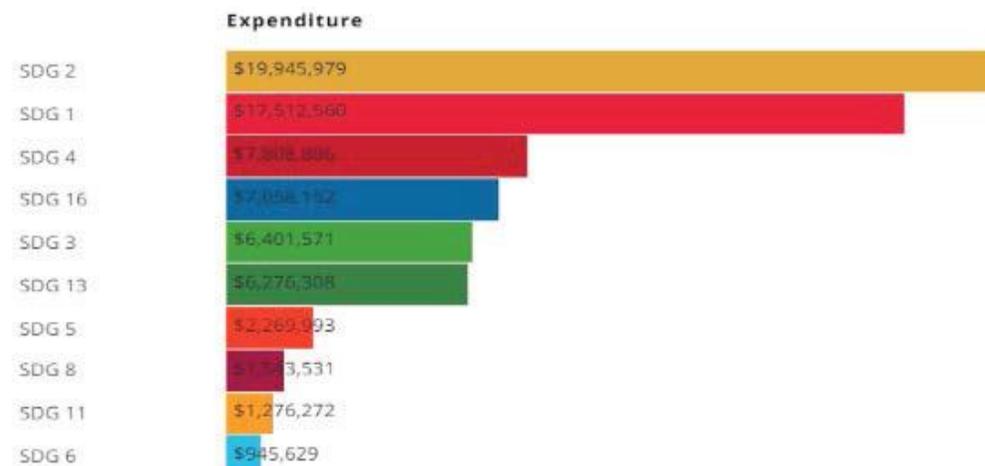


Figure 6: Expenditure by SDG

Source: UN INFO

5.2 The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund

The UNDS in Malawi established in December 2018 the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund as a way of operationalizing the recommendations of the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), including the lessons learned from the One Fund. The Fund emphasizes adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to be made available for a coherent, effective, efficient and accountable response in accordance with national needs and priorities.

The main objective of the Fund is to support the most critical, catalytic and strategic priorities jointly defined between the Government of Malawi, the United Nations, and other key stakeholders in the UNSDCF.

2019 represents the year of the early implementation of the SDG Acceleration Fund. Due to the closure of the One Fund in 2018, different stakeholders agreed in allocating remaining resources and existing projects under the umbrella of the new fund. In consequence, most of the activities implemented in 2019 are a continuation of existing initiatives that had been approved under the One Fund. This has represented both a challenge and an opportunity. Given the new character of the Fund with specific focus on SDG Acceleration and its improved governance and management, existing initiatives and stakeholders had to adapt to a new institutional, programmatic and administrative setup. Nonetheless, these changes have represented a great opportunity to enhance coordination, realign previous initiatives looking forward to greater impact on SDGs, and broadening participation of stakeholders.

The experience of 2019 has demonstrated that the Fund has the potential to boost coordination, facilitate joint priorities definition, while supporting initiatives that can become benchmarks in the design of public policies, become key topics in decision-making spaces, and drive substantial positive change in the communities. This potential shall be unleashed in 2020 and the coming years of implementation.



Water reservoir







UNITED NATIONS
MALAWI

