



**UNITED NATIONS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
FOR MALAWI**

2024-2028







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Joint Statement

Malaŵi's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and the aspirations of its long-term development plan – Malaŵi 2063 – is unwavering, despite the impact of multiple surprises like recent climate disorders, health issues– cholera and COVID-19 outbreaks; and geopolitical conflicts, that have set back development progress.

Current projections for achieving both the Malaŵi 2063, and most of the SDGs by 2030 indicate a lag in progress. Regaining Malaŵi's development course is, therefore, urgent and requires abandoning the norm.

Through our partnership, we commit to a life-changing approach and build on our common pledge and capacities, to accelerate and deliver impactful results. The 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) pronounces the commitment of the United Nations in support of the Government of Malaŵi's national priorities and the achievement of the SDGs as well as the African Union Agenda 2063.

Developed through a consultative process with national and local level stakeholders, the UNSDCF lays out an ambitious program to accelerate development progress during the Decade of Action. It panels the six SDG transitions that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs. These are *(1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) job and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.*

The UNSDCF is anchored on guiding principles, including Leave No One Behind (LNOB); integrated and multidimensional programming; human rights-based approach to development; gender equality and women's empowerment; resilience; sustainability; and accountability.


We, the Government of Malaŵi, and the United Nations in Malaŵi, re-affirm our commitment to work together in full accountability to the people of Malaŵi to deliver this Cooperation Framework.

**On behalf of the
Government of Malaŵi**



**Ms Colleen Zamba,
Secretary to the President
and Cabinet, Office of the
President, and Cabinet**

**On behalf of the UN System
in Malaŵi**



**Ms Rebecca Adda-Dontoh,
UN Resident Coordinator for
Malaŵi**

Signature Page

In signing hereafter, the participating partners endorse this UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and underscore their joint commitment towards the achievement of its results.

UN Country Team Malaŵi Commitment and Signatures



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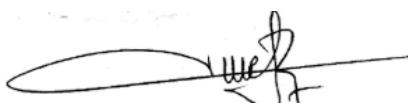
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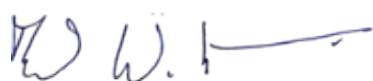
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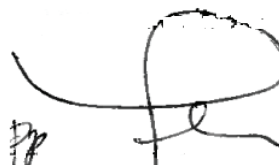
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Executive summary

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) represents the UN Development System's support to the achievement of Malaŵi 2063, the country's first 10-year Implementation Plan 2021–2030 (MIP-1), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the African Union Agenda 2063. Malaŵi is making progress, though gradually, on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but the goals of ending poverty and inequalities remain a challenge, further worsened by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the frequent disasters affecting the country, and the global economic downturns. Realising the SDGs would require strategic interventions.

The UNSDCF is nationally owned and held in national development priorities. It outlines the contribution of the UN Development System (UNDS) in achieving the SDGs in a holistic manner, with a commitment to leave no one behind, fulfil human rights, gender equality and other international standards. The UNSDCF serves as a core accountability tool between the UN Country Team (UNCT), the host government and among UNCT members for cooperatively delivering development results in an accountable and transparent manner. UN national programs and strategies are obtained from the UNSDCF.

The preparation of the UNSDCF was co-led by the Government of Malaŵi and the UN on the basis of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and evaluation of the 2019–2023 UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). It extensively engaged development partners and civil society at every stage of the process.

In response to identified development requirements, lessons learned from UNDAF 2019–2023 and a forward-looking common country analysis, the UN identified four interrelated and mutually reinforcing strategic priority areas for the 2024–2028 UNSDCF as support to the Government of Malaŵi in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 and the long-term development vision where “Malaŵi is a resilient nation where all people equitably enjoy their rights, participate in and benefit from sustainable and inclusive growth

and peace, respectful of a healthy environment and enabled by good governance”.

Strategic Priority Area 1: Support sustainable, diversified, and inclusive growth.

- **Outcome 1:** By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable groups, including women, youths, and persons with disabilities, will participate in and benefit from food and nutrition security and a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth resilient to shocks.

Strategic Priority Area 2: Strengthen institutional governance.

- **Outcome 2:** By 2028, people in Malaŵi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, will experience more inclusive good governance, peace, and robust political and civic participation.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Ensure sustainable investments and outcomes in human capital development.

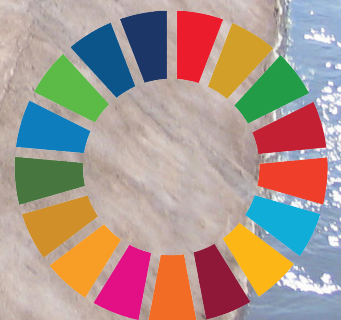
- **Outcome 3:** By 2028, more people, in particular women, children, and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, are resilient with access to and utilisation of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and occurrence-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, protection and social protection services.

Strategic Priority Area 4: Adapt to climatic change, reverse environmental degradation, and support energy transformation.

- **Outcome 4:** By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable, including women and youth, are resilient to climate change and shocks, benefit from and have access to better-managed waste, ecosystems, and natural resources, including clean and affordable energy.

Country progress towards the 2030 Agenda

CHAPTER 1



Country progress towards the 2030 Agenda

1.1. Country context



Malaŵi 2063 (MW 2063), the country's long-term development strategy, aims to transform Malaŵi into "an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant industrialised upper-middle-income country by the year 2063". The MW 2063 is operationalised through its first 10-year Implementation Plan 2021–2030 (MIP-1) and focuses on the achievement of most SDGs by 2030.

Currently a low-income country, Malaŵi is the 12th poorest country in the world in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) per capita.¹ Malaŵi is making progress, though gradual, on the SDGs, but the goals of ending poverty and inequalities remain a challenge, further compounded by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the frequent disasters affecting the country, and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Malaŵi has experienced mixed and uneven economic performances. Periods of growth did not last or were not sufficiently high and inclusive to create enough decent jobs and significantly reduce poverty. With 17.6 million people in 2018²

and an estimate of 19.9 in 2021³, Malaŵi is one of the ten most densely populated countries in Africa.⁴ In 2018, the population of young ones below 18 grew rapidly, constituting 51%.

In 2019–2020, 50.7% fell below poverty line, while urban poverty increased (19.2% vs 17.7%) compared to 2016–2017. Rural poverty decreased from 59.5% to 56.6%, while ultra-poverty increased from 20.1% to 20.5%, primarily affecting rural areas, with an incidence of 23.6% compared to 3.3% in urban areas. Both phenomena affect women unduly, with 56.8% of the women living below the poverty line compared to 48.5% of men, and 25.3% in ultra-poverty compared to 18.6% of men.⁵ In terms of poverty, 58.8% were found to live in multidimensional poverty in 2022⁶. The current result indicates a declining trend compared to the figure reported in 2021 of 61.7%, though there is no significant difference between the two results.

Against a backdrop of mixed trends in monetary and multidimensional poverty, development indexes such as the Human Development Index (HDI), show a slow improvement over the past years. Malaŵi's HDI value increased from 0.483 in 2019 to 0.512 in 2021. However, this score is still lower than the average of sub-Saharan Africa and least developed countries (respectively 0.547 and 0.540). According to the 2022 Education Management Information System (EMIS), 12% of children of primary school going age are not accessing primary education.

Transition rate from primary to secondary improved from 36.5 to 42.5 percent in 2021, but the education system is still not absorbing most pupils completing primary education. 83.4% of secondary school going age are not accessing

¹ World Bank, 2021, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?locations=MW>

² 2018 Malaŵi Population and Housing Census

³ World Bank, 2021, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POPTOTL?locations=MW>

⁴ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-in-africa>

⁵ National Statistical Office of Malaŵi, 2021.

⁶ UNDP (United Nations Development Program), OPHI (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative), 2022. [2022 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\): Unpacking deprivation bundles to reduce multidimensional poverty](https://www.ophi.org.uk/2022/02/2022-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi-unpacking-deprivation-bundles-to-reduce-multidimensional-poverty/). New York.

secondary education. The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) for Malaŵian students entering both technical and higher education is 3% and this is amongst the lowest in the world, with the average for low-income countries being 10%.

The impacts of the pandemic, climate-related shocks, and the ongoing war in Ukraine negatively affected economic growth, reducing fiscal space, and increasing debt pressure. Before the pandemic, economic growth had been projected at 4.8% for 2020, and the actual growth rate was 0.8%.⁷ Public policy responses to the effects of the pandemic increased government expenditure, widening the fiscal deficit; and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) recently found that Malaŵi was at high risk of external and overall debt distress.⁸

The pandemic had effect on remittances and livelihoods, particularly in the agriculture sector, small-scale businesses, job opportunities especially for the youth, leaving many households without a source of income and reduced savings. The resulting deteriorating socio-economic situation worsened inequalities and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) with an increased rate of child marriage⁹ and reported cases of sexual violence.¹⁰ A Rapid Assessment on Child Marriages and Teenage Pregnancies report¹¹ indicates that Malaŵi registered 13,067 cases of child marriages and 40,667 teenage pregnancy cases in 2020.

Malaŵi has had regular elections since 1994. However, since the 1993 referendum, the most significant transformative political developments came through the 2019–2020 political and electoral events, which brought significant changes to the political and electoral environment. For instance, presidential elections changed from a plurality voting system to a majoritarian system.

These positive developments for governance and the rule of law institutions, especially the Judiciary, for consolidating democratic principles, have received international recognition. The government through its public sector reform agenda, has strengthened institutional mechanisms and policy frameworks for fighting corruption and improving the quality of social service delivery. These developments notwithstanding, Malaŵi continues to face significant challenges. Corruption remains a national concern, political party structures remain weak, and the security sector continues to attract criticism. Discrimination and violence toward women, minority groups, and people with albinism also remain key concerns.

Malaŵi has made commendable progress in establishing legal frameworks and strategies to combat gender-based violence (GBV), but further action and a collective commitment are necessary to address the root causes and effects of such violence on women and society. Notable initiatives include the National Male Engagement Strategy, that encourages men to play an active role in eliminating violence against women and the first National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security in 2021. Despite these positive steps, there remains a concerning trend of domestic violence. Statistics reveal that one in every three women in Malaŵi experiences some form of violence. According to a 2017 report by the National Statistical Office (NSO), 42% of women experience intimate partner violence, surpassing the global average of 30%.

The effects of global economic slowdown, and climate-related disorders (i.e., floods, droughts, and cyclones), have negatively impacted the national context. In the most recent years, tropical cyclones Anna (in 2022), Gombe (in 2022), Freddy (in 2023), recurring cholera outbreaks, and fiscal and external

⁷ World Bank. 2021. "Malaŵi Economic Monitor, December 2021: Addressing Macro and Gender Imbalances." Washington, DC: World Bank. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/36747>.

⁸ World Bank and IMF. 2021. "Malaŵi : Joint World Bank-IMF Debt Sustainability Analysis." Washington, DC: World Bank and International Monetary Fund. <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/946631648217580282/Malaŵi-Joint-World-Bank-IMF-Debt-Sustainability-Analysis>.

⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Malaŵi CRC/C/MWI/CO/3–5 paras 24–25.

¹⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Malaŵi CEDAW/C/MWI/CO/7 paras 22–23.

¹¹ https://careevaluations.org/wp-content/uploads/MoG-Malaŵi-COVID-19-RGA-Report-21052020-GiE-Signed-Off_.pdf

imbalances¹². In March 2023, over 2,260,000 people were affected by tropical cyclone Freddy, displacing more than 659,000. At least 56% of the affected were children, and 7.2% were persons with disabilities.¹³ The total recovery and reconstruction cost is estimated at USD 764 million, while the total disaster effect is USD 546.5 million.

Most of the districts affected were also severely affected by the devastating floods in 2022 and 2019 and, the country was experiencing one of its worst cholera outbreaks in decades. All 29 health districts, including Lilongwe, have reported cholera cases since the confirmation of the first case in March 2022.

Malaŵi's recovery from the impact of multiple occurrences, including the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple of these occurrences remains slow due to longstanding structural challenges, minimal economic transformation characterised by heavy reliance on subsistence and rain-fed agriculture, weak tourism, extractive and manufacturing industries, and narrow financial markets.

Economic growth, projected by the Government to shrink by 2.7% in 2023, will be slow amidst significant downside risks. While long-term growth is likely to remain positive, more investment will be required to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, fulfil human rights and meet the aspirations of a growing population. As such, the Prevention Agenda of the Secretary-General is at the forefront of the engagement of the UN in Malaŵi.

1.2. National vision for sustainable development

Malaŵi is committed to regional social and economic policies, a central one being the African Union Agenda 2063 "the Africa We Want", a long-term development program with the goal of encouraging inclusive growth and fighting poverty. On the basis of this, Malaŵi 2063 was developed through a broad multi-stakeholder consultative process involving Malaŵians of different backgrounds.

Transforming Malaŵi into "an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant industrialised upper-middle-income country by the year 2063", is set on the three pillars: 1/Agricultural productivity and commercialization; 2/Industrialization; and 3/Urbanization. These pillars are catalysed by seven enablers: 1/Mindset change; 2/Effective governance systems and institutions; 3/Enhanced public sector performance; 4/Private sector dynamism; 5/Human capital development; 6/Economic infrastructure; and 7/Environmental sustainability.

The MIP-1 outlines the objective of an annual average economic growth of 6% by 2030 that requires faster economic change and shifting from dependence on primary commodities and import of most goods and services to an industrialised exporting economy. The Plan recognises the need to prioritise key economic sectors to inspire investment and productivity, as well as social sectors that will help build the required human capital to support the transformation agenda. MIP-1 further explains transformative plans including flagship projects, and the necessary policies and legislations required for a conducive environment for realising the objectives of the MW2063 and SDGs. The country also recognises its youth as its greatest resource and opportunity to harvest the demographic dividend.

Both the country's long-term vision and its first 10-year implementation plan are aligned with the SDGs. The Government has shown commitment to global initiatives through active participation in systemic changes in food, education, climate (COP 27), Least Developed Countries (LDC) conferences and the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection. Furthermore, the prioritisation of digitalisation as a critical SDG accelerator has the potential to grow the economy, expand opportunities, especially for youth, improve service delivery and positively transform society.

The country aspires to quicken domestic and external resource mobilisation efforts to ensure

¹² World Bank. Malaŵi Economic Monitor. December 2022 <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099945012012289449/pi7952904c6c4603d0b0660c8a8483efa59>

¹³ Office of the President and Cabinet – Department of Disaster Management Affairs (March 2023), "Tropical Cyclone Freddy Emergency Response Plan"

Alignment of the MIP-1 Pillars and Enablers with the SDGs

MIP-1 Pillars and Enablers	Related SDGs
Pillar 1: Agriculture productivity and commercialization	1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 13, 15
Pillar 2: Industrialization	9
Pillar 3: Urbanization	11
Enabler 1: Mindset change	
Enabler 2: Effective governance systems and institutions	10, 16
Enabler 3: Enhanced public sector performance.	16
Enabler 4: Private sector dynamism	17
Enabler 5: Human capital development	4, 8, 17
Enabler 6: Economic infrastructure	7, 9, 11
Enabler 7: Environmental sustainability	5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

full realization of the MW2063 and the SDGs. Catalysing private investments and unlocking opportunities for private sector investment remains key to growing the economy, creating decent jobs, and accelerating the green transition.

Combining traditional and non-traditional sources of financing such as external grants, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and other regional and international financing mechanisms, the country aims to control financing towards persuasive investments that will help grow its revenue base. The government aims to promote realistic development through proper financing, prioritizing national needs, and coordinating delivery methods, with a focus on wealth creation for all.

Malaŵi undertook two Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) for the SDGs, which were presented at the High-Level Political.

1.3. Progress towards the SDGs

Forum in 2020 and 2022. The VNR 2022 data shows that the country made significant progress on “Zero Hunger” (SDG 2), “Good Health and Well-being” (SDG 3), “Quality Education” (SDG 4), “Clean Water and Sanitation” (SDG 6), and “Life Below Water” (SDG 14). Moderate progress was aligned to the goals of “Gender Equality” (SDG 5), “Affordable and Clean Energy” (SDG 7), “Decent Work and Economic Growth” (SDG 8), “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” (SDG 9), “Climate Action” (SDG 13) and “Partnerships for the Goals” (SDG 17). There was little or no progress in the SDGs “No Poverty” (SDG 1), “Reduce Inequalities” (SDG 10) and “Life on Land” (SDG 15).

The challenges in achieving progress to fight poverty and reduce inequalities for the most vulnerable groups, are particularly critical for



the most vulnerable groups in the population. The CCA identified 13 of these groups of women, children, adolescent girls, youth, persons with disabilities, persons with albinism, persons living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTQIA individuals, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), the elderly, and persons deprived of their liberty including prisoners.

The ultra-poor and food-insecure households are at risk of being left furthest behind. Inequalities may be triggered by climate shocks, health outbreaks, inadequate human capital investment, weak governance, harmful practices, and negative social norms. The key factors associated with discrimination include gender, sexual orientation, age, disability status, HIV status, geography, socio-economic status, migratory status, religion, tribe, and political affiliation.

The Government remains committed to undertaking VNRs, but insufficient data made it difficult to assess progress in SDGs 11, 12, and 16. As of 2022, 144 of the 231 unique SDG indicators had data available, although with differences in timeliness. The Government has also adopted the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) to align its national development plans with the SDGs. The results show that the alignment of MIP-1 to the SDGs is 81.62%. At the goal level, the alignment of MIP-1 to SDGs is at 98%, signifying that MIP-1 aligns with almost all of 17 SDGs. At the target and indicator levels, 72% and 53% of the 169 targets and 244 indicators, respectively, align with MIP-1¹⁴.

1.4. Gaps and challenges

Achieving the country’s ambitious objective of transitioning into a more competitive nation

¹⁴ UNECA (2022). Report on the Application of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) in Malaŵi

requires greater investments in the social sectors and a more dynamic, private sector willing to invest in order to foster faster and more inclusive growth.

Malaŵi has not been able to invest adequately to meet the growing demand for social services. Funding for the social sectors is unevenly distributed and heavily reliant on development partner support. Public debt interest payments account for the largest item in the national budget, 18% in 2022/23, reducing the available resources to fund social sectors. Social spending is vital to realising the Agenda 2030, MW2063 and fulfilling the rights of all people in Malaŵi while reducing inequalities and poverty.

Furthermore, climate-related emergencies and health pandemics are increasing in frequency and magnitude. In 2015, tropical cyclone Chedza caused damage worth US\$494 million, while the economic impact of the damage from tropical cyclone Idai in 2019 and tropical storm Ana in 2022 is estimated to be between US\$500–700 million. The recovery and reconstruction costs from damage caused by tropical cyclone Freddy in 2023, the worst to ever hit Malaŵi, are significantly higher and estimated at USD 764 million. These disorders continue to hamper efforts to realise sustainable development and have the potential to derail the SDG gains and worsen inequalities.

The VNR 2022 highlighted that Malaŵi is unlikely to meet thirteen SDGs without drastic and strategic interventions. The CCA further identified four interlinked and mutually reinforcing development challenges:

1. Unsustainable, undiversified and non-inclusive growth– Heavy reliance on subsistence and rainfed agriculture coupled with small land holding and increasing population, limits agricultural sector growth potential. It increases exposure to shocks such as weather surprises, public health outbreaks, market surprises, sudden reductions of capital inflows, including aid, and geopolitical events. The tourism, extractive/mining, and manufacturing industries need to be developed. Persistently high levels of food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty levels, income inequality, early pregnancy,

GBV, child marriage, discrimination including against persons with disabilities, and gender inequality hinders the country's sustainable development prospects.

2. Weak governance institutions– While the country generally has adequate policies and strategies, their implementation remains weak, at times politicised, lacking accountability, and coordination. Governance challenges are rooted in mismanagement, corruption, persistent harmful cultural and social practices, and weak institutions. Decentralisation reforms have been implemented at the sub-national level in an uneven and incomplete way, lacking a specific focus on gender awareness. Central ministries, departments, and agencies control spending for a large part of development projects. The participation of women and youths in governance and processes remains inadequate. Access to justice and the equal enjoyment of human rights for women, and other marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities, LGBTQAI+ individuals, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, remain inadequate. While the country has remained largely peaceful and stable, deep political division has undermined the collaborative leadership necessary to accelerate sustainable development.

3. Investments in human rights and human capital development remain uneven – while the portion of the national budget dedicated to education and health sectors has increased: 16.3% and 10% in 2022/23, respectively. However, this remains below the Dakar Commitment on Education for All by the African Union for African states to allocate 20% of their total budgets to education and the target of allocating at least 15% of their budget each year to the health sector, of the Abuja Declaration on Health. Other sectors such as nutrition, gender, youth, social welfare/ protection, WASH, science, technology, and innovation also continue to receive insufficient investments.

Social protection, nutrition and WASH remain extremely dependent on on-budget donor support (over 90%). In parallel, the rapid population growth significantly increases

the demand for social services. Malaŵi's population density which increased from 138 persons per square kilometre in 2008 to 186 persons per square kilometre in 2018, is one of the highest in Africa:¹⁵ Adolescent fertility remains high at 136 per 1,000 births increased teenage pregnancies, high maternal and adolescent mortality rates, and¹⁶ low educational attainment, leading to cycles of ill-health and poverty.

4. Climate change, environmental degradation, and inadequate energy- Malaŵi faces extreme weather events, environmental degradation, unsustainable use of wood and charcoal, overfishing, soil erosion and illegal trafficking of wildlife. Energy poverty worsened by less eco-friendly energy sources, profoundly impacts economic growth, employment, innovation, and environmental sustainability. This, combined with the effects of population growth and (internal/cross-border) migration patterns, results in increased border and food insecurity, poverty, and environmental degradation. In addition, increased exposure to food insecurity and violence affects women, girls, and persons with disabilities. Malaŵi, these past years, has witnessed the impact of climate change on sexual and reproductive health services, which can result in poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

These challenges, coupled with the growing insecurity and threat of extremism in the region, global geopolitical tensions, and climate insecurity, could affect Malaŵi's progress towards the 2030 agenda. If unaddressed, they could also undermine the democratic gains, stability, and sustainable peace in the country.



¹⁵ 2018 Malaŵi Population and Housing Census

¹⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Malaŵi CEDAW/C/MWI/CO/7 paras 34-35.

UN Development System support to the 2030 Agenda

CHAPTER 2



UN Development System support to the 2030 Agenda



2.1. Theory of change

The development of the strategic priorities was informed by the insights and lessons from UNDAF evaluation findings and CCA, which involved extensive and participatory consultations with government entities, UN agencies, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector. The UNCT and the Government conducted a thorough review to identify the top development challenges and opportunities outlined in the CCA.

The Government and UN agencies utilized the challenges to develop strategic priorities based on the UN's comparative advantage, capacity, and alignment with Malaŵi's 2063 and ten-year Malaŵi Implementation Plan. Lessons from the UNDAF evaluation were useful in reconfiguring the coordination structure, where government entities and the UN agencies co-chair the strategic priority groups and develop a result

framework with manageable indicators that translates the theory of change into a detailed results chain that reflects the UN's contribution to national sustainable development priorities.

The United Nations Development System (UNDS) supports Government of Malaŵi in achieving its national development priorities as articulated in Malaŵi 2063, the MIP-¹⁷ and the SDGs while promoting regional integration and contribution to the AU Agenda 2063 as well as the Vienna Program of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries 2014-2024 and Doha Program of Action (DPoA) for the Least Developed Countries 2022-2031. In this regard, the United Nations system is devoted to contributing to a vision where by 2030, "Malaŵi is a resilient nation where all people equitably enjoy their rights, participate in and benefit from sustainable and inclusive growth and peace, respectful of a healthy environment and enabled by good governance".

For this vision of change to be achieved, the Government, the UN and their partners will need to ensure that:

- Food systems and the economy are diversified, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, empowering, and benefitting all people, especially vulnerable and marginalised groups;
- Efficient, transparent, and accountable institutions promote public engagement, strengthen democratic governance, and guarantee the Rule of Law and sustainable peace;
- Equitable, efficient, and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, and social protection services are accessible and utilised by the most vulnerable people;

¹⁷ Malaŵi 2063 First 10-Year implementation Plan

- All people benefit from clean and affordable energy, well-managed natural resources, and a healthy environment with increased resilience to climate change and shocks.

This ambitious theory of change requires risk-informed approaches and implementation mechanisms, as detailed in sections 3 and 4, identified risks, including:

- The challenges in achieving the level of collaboration and coordination between various stakeholders, including the government, the national human rights institution, civil society, private sector, and international partners necessary to address a wide range of issues with limited resources available; and
- The vulnerability of Malaŵi to shocks, particularly those resulting from disasters and climate change, could induce shifts in priorities and allocation of resources, hindering progress towards longer-term sustainable development.

The Theory of Change, closely aligned with the Prevention Agenda of the Secretary-General, aims to support disaster risk reduction plans, prevent violent conflicts, advance a preventive approach to human rights, and build resilience to external economic and financial surprises, which are all articulated in the strategic priorities of the UN in the coming five years.



Overarching Theory of Change

MALAWI
2063

AN INCLUSIVELY WEALTHY AND SELF-RELIANT NATION



MIP-1
MILESTONES

TO RAISE THE COUNTRY'S INCOME STATUS TO LOWER-MIDDLE LEVEL BY 2030; AND
TO MEET MOST OF THE SDGS WHOSE END-LINE TARGET IS 2030.



UNSDCF
2030
VISION

MALAWI IS A RESILIENT NATION WHERE ALL PEOPLE EQUITABLY ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS, PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND PEACE, RESPECTFUL OF A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND ENABLED BY GOOD GOVERNANCE

STRATEGIC
PRIORITY
AREAS

1. SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE,
DIVERSIFIED, AND INCLUSIVE
GROWTH

2. STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL
GOVERNANCE

3. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE
INVESTMENTS AND OUTCOMES IN
HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

4. ADAPT TO CLIMATIC CHANGE,
REVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL
DEGRADATION AND SUPPORT
ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

CONDITION
S FOR
CHANGE

If food systems and the economy are diversified, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, empowering and benefitting all people, especially vulnerable and marginalised groups;

If efficient, transparent and accountable institutions support citizen engagement and strengthened democratic governance, and guarantee the Rule of Law ;

If equitable, efficient and shock-responsive social and protection systems are accessible and utilized by the most vulnerable people;

If all people benefit from clean and affordable energy, well-managed natural resources and a healthy environment with increased resilience to climate change and shocks;

2030 VISION	MALAWI IS A RESILIENT NATION WHERE ALL PEOPLE EQUITABLY ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS, PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH, RESPECTFUL OF A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND ENABLED BY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE			
STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS	1. SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE, DIVERSIFIED, AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	2. STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE	3. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS AND OUTCOMES IN HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	4. ADAPT TO CLIMATIC CHANGE, REVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND SUPPORT ENERGY TRANSITION
CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE	If food systems and the economy are diversified, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, empowering and benefitting all people, especially vulnerable and marginalised groups;	If efficient, transparent and accountable institutions support citizen engagement and strengthened democratic governance, and guarantee the Rule of Law ;	If equitable, efficient, and gender and shock-responsive social and protection systems are accessible and utilized by the most vulnerable people;	If all people benefit from clean and affordable energy, well-managed natural resources and a healthy environment with increased resilience to climate change and shocks;
OUTCOMES	1. By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable groups, including women, youths, and people with disability, participate in and benefit from food and nutrition security and a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth resilient to shocks.	2. By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth and those most left behind, experience more inclusive good governance, peace and robust political and civic participation.	3. by 2028, more people, in particular women, children and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are resilient with access to and utilization of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, social and protection services.	4. By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable, including women and youth, are resilient to climate change and shocks, benefit from and have access to better-managed waste, ecosystems and natural resources, including clean and affordable energy.
OUTCOMES CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE	<p>If more people, especially women and youth, have more access to skills development opportunities, including entrepreneurial, productive resources and technologies, and financial and non-financial services, including for remittances ;</p> <p>If the economy creates more decent jobs and increases its resilience to shocks, productivity, diversification, efficient cross-border trade and exportations in a favorable, digitalized and innovative business environment;</p> <p>If access to financing for sustainable development, including alternative project finance mechanisms, and diaspora engagement are increased;</p> <p>If food systems are more productive, inclusive, diversified, efficient, resilient, and sustainable;</p>	<p>If institutional capacity is strengthened to improve transparency, accountability and good governance to sustain peace, deliver inclusive, quality, rights-based public services at local and national levels;</p> <p>If the capacity of government, community leaders (especially women and youth leaders), mechanisms and policies to advance peaceful and harmonious societies are strengthened;</p> <p>If people in Malawi, especially women, youth and those most left behind, are more engaged in government decisions and empowered to advocate for/claim their rights;</p>	<p>If more people, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized, especially girls, women, youths, migrants and persons forcibly displaced, the elderly and people living with disabilities and HIV, access and are to timely seek and utilize quality education, health, nutrition, WASH and social and protection services at all times, without harmful socio-cultural norms;</p> <p>If social services systems (education, health, nutrition, and WASH) are responsive, high quality, inclusive, adequate, well-resourced and fully functional and duty bearers have increased institutional capacities and accountability to develop, improve and implement existing regulations, strategies, policies and legislation, in line with Malawi's international commitments;</p> <p>If social protection and social services (education, health, nutrition, WASH) empower the poorest and most vulnerable people and households to become resilient to shocks across the lifecycle and self-reliant with equitable opportunities to all ;</p>	<p>If more people, especially women and youth, and communities have the skills, access to climate-resilient knowledge and technologies, and adopt behaviors to become more resilient to shocks, benefit from and contribute to waste circularity, improved management of natural resources and the environment ;</p> <p>If duty bearers have stronger, sustained technical and financial resources to implement and enforce better evidence-based, gender-responsive policies and global and regional multilateral agreements and harmonized legislation for better management of biodiversity and natural resources, integrated waste management, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response;</p> <p>If the availability and accessibility of gender-transformative, renewable, low-carbon and sustainable technologies/approaches, including for energy, and more effective and coherent normative frameworks, partnerships, financing, and data accelerate the transition to a green and circular society;</p>

MALAWI UNSDCF 2024 – 2028 Alignment with National, Regional & Global Frameworks

2030 VISION	MALAWI IS A RESILIENT NATION WHERE ALL PEOPLE EQUITABLY ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS, PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH, RESPECTFUL OF A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND ENABLED BY GOOD GOVERNANCE			
Strategic Priority areas	1. SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE, DIVERSIFIED, AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	2. STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE	3. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS AND OUTCOMES IN HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	4. ADAPT TO CLIMATIC CHANGE, REVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND SUPPORT ENERGY TRANSITION
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 pillars and enablers	Pillars: Agricultural productivity and commercialization, Industrialization (includes mining), Urbanization (includes tourism) Enablers: Private sector dynamism, and environmental sustainability, Human capital development (including gender equality). Economic Infrastructure.	Enablers: Enhanced public sector performance, Effective governance system, Human capital development, Mindset Change	Enablers: Human capital development, Enhanced public sector performance, Effective governance system, Mindset change	Enablers: Environmental sustainability, Economic Infrastructure
AU 2063 goals	A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens Transformed Economies Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production World Class Infrastructure crisscrosses Africa Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development	Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place Peace Security and Stability is preserved Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development	A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation Healthy and well-nourished citizens Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life	Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities World Class Infrastructure criss-crosses Africa Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life
2030 Agenda	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 17	SDG 5, SDG 10, SDG 16, and SDG 17	SDG1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 10, SDG 13, SDG 16	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 17

2.2. Strategic Priorities for the UN development system

The UNSDCF 2024–2028 is the result of a collaborative effort between the Malawian Government and the UN, strategically identifying four key priority areas. Aligned with Malawi's 2063 priorities, the framework leverages the UN's comparative advantage, along with robust technical and financial capacities. The development of partnership framework was inclusive, engaging various stakeholders such as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), representatives from the private sector, the National Human Rights Institution, and academia.

Strategic Priority Area 1: Support sustainable, diversified, and inclusive growth.

This strategic priority area aims to increase agricultural productivity and commercialisation and diversify the economy in an inclusive manner, including through industrialisation, mining, tourism development and digitalization, while nurturing employment. It will contribute to and benefit from necessary progress in terms of the dynamism of the private sector, transformation towards a greener economy transformation, better infrastructures, and development of the country's human capital development.

Strategic Priority Area 2: Strengthen institutional governance.

This strategic priority area aims to promote sustainable development and peace through the universal enjoyment of human rights and enhanced public sector performance, including e-governance, and mindset change. It thus recognises the necessity for all people, especially the most vulnerable, to be engaged in government decisions and empower them to claim their rights.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Ensure sustainable investments and outcomes in human capital development.

This strategic priority area aims to accelerate inclusive growth and reach most of the SDGs by investing in human capital development and fundamental rights. It recognises the potential of harnessing the demographic dividend. It focuses

on critical sectors to improve the well-being of people in Malaŵi through ensuring the realisation of the rights to education, health, nutrition, WASH, protection, and social protection services.

Strategic Priority area 4: Adapt to climatic change, reverse environmental degradation, and support energy transformation.

This strategic priority area aims to improve environmental sustainability and access to clean and affordable energy through climate strategies that actively involve marginalized and vulnerable groups for the country to become more resilient to climate change and shocks.

These four strategic priorities provide a structured approach for the UN to focus its efforts and resources in support of the Government of Malaŵi in the areas deemed most critical to achieving the SDGs. They are further outlined through the intended development results which refer to the desired outcomes and changes the UN and its partners will be striving to achieve, for which progress will be closely monitored throughout the lifecycle of the UNSDCF.

2.3 Intended development results

Over the next five years, Malaŵi and its partners aim to strategically invest in achieving the SDGs, as outlined in the MIP-1's objectives, while recovering from the lingering effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events and building its resilience to future occurrences. This entails an all-inclusive and humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach that prioritises human rights, gender equality, social and economic development, environmental sustainability, and good governance. The UN will assist Malaŵi accelerate progress on its national development priorities and towards the SDGs in an integrated manner through the following jointly agreed development results:

- **Outcome 1:** By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable groups, including women, youths, and persons with disabilities, participate in and benefit from food and nutrition security and a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth resilient to shocks.

Through this outcome, the UN aims to support economic growth (SDG 8 and 9) that benefits all (SDG 10), reduces poverty (SDG 1) and translates into more food security (SDG 2), With a particular focus on gender equality and empowerment (SDG 5). It will enable resilience to shocks (SDG 11) and the transition to a greener economy (SDG 12 and 13) while requiring significant human capital development (SDG 4) and increased availability of financing for the SDGs (SDG 17).

- **Outcome 2:** By 2028, people in Malaŵi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, experience more inclusive good governance, peace, and robust political and civic participation.

This outcome aims at supporting well-functioning institutions, strong democracy, and better access to justice to enable the full realisation of human rights in Malaŵi (SDG 16), underpinned by gender equality (SDG 5).

- **Outcome 3:** By 2028, more people, in particular women, children, and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, are resilient with access to and utilisation of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, protection, and social protection services.

This outcome is a concrete commitment of the UN in Malaŵi to improve access to quality basic social services and fundamental economic, social rights and labour rights, within a Leave No One Behind approach, strengthening the education, health, nutrition, WASH, protection, and social protection systems by strengthening institutional and human capacities and improving cross-sectoral coordination. It aligns with the national and global goals (SDG 1, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG11), tackling some of the country's urgent needs regarding stronger nutrition, health systems and WASH (SDG 2, 3 and 6). It will also contribute to inclusive growth (SDG 8) and the reduction of inequalities (SDG10) and protection issues (SDG 16). It aims to ensure strong and resilient human capital to contribute and provide solutions for all other outcome areas.

- **Outcome 4:** By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable, including women and youth, are resilient to climate change and shocks, benefit from and have access to better-managed waste, ecosystems, and natural resources, including clean and affordable energy.

- This outcome represents the commitment of the UN system to support access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG7), Malaŵi's adaptation to climate change (SDG 13), especially benefiting women (SDG 5) and the most vulnerable (SDG 10), sustainable management of natural resources (SDG 6 and 12) and cities, disaster risk reduction (SDG 11) and the protection and management of marine (SDG 14) and land (SDG 15) ecosystems.

2.4. Cooperation Framework outcomes and partnerships

2.4.1 Strategic priority area 1: Support sustainable, diversified, and inclusive growth

- **Outcome 1:** By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and people with disabilities, participate in and benefit from food and nutrition security and a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth resilient to shocks.

Theory of change

To achieve the stated outcome, at least four conditions must be fulfilled.

- More people, especially women, persons with disabilities and youth, must have access to skills development opportunities, including entrepreneurial, productive resources and technologies, and financial and non-financial services, including remittances.
- The economy should create more decent jobs and increase its resilience to shocks, productivity, diversification, efficient cross-border trade, and exportations in a favourable, digitalised, and innovative business environment.
- Access to financing for sustainable development, including alternative



project finance mechanisms and diaspora engagement, must be increased.

- Food systems should be more productive, inclusive, diversified, efficient, resilient, and sustainable.

UN contribution to the outcome

The work of the UN agencies under this outcome focuses on supporting Malaŵi's efforts in guaranteeing, without discrimination, the economic rights of citizens, including the right to freely engage in economic activities, to work and pursue a livelihood and the right to development, as enshrined in Malaŵi's constitution.

The UN will focus on enhancing employment, digital and future skills development opportunities, particularly for women and youth. This will involve promoting technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and supporting the productivity and competitiveness of micro and small enterprises led by youth and women through entrepreneurship and technical skills development programs. The UN is promoting inclusive economic growth, financial literacy, and digital inclusion, with a special emphasis on empowering women and persons with disabilities through alternative learning pathways, safe spaces, and digital literacy initiatives.

The UN aims to foster green inclusive growth and economic transformation by promoting a diverse economy, a robust private sector, assessing capital market barriers, and investing

in green products. Market-led business solutions to unlock opportunities for the private sector to contribute towards financing development, job creation, production, and value addition will be supported. In line with Malaŵi's Agenda 2063 and MIP-1, good governance in natural resource management will be supported, noting that the mining, tourism, agriculture, and service sectors are potential drivers for high-value economic growth. Furthermore, the joint UN contribution aims to increase access to financing for sustainable development, including implementing a diaspora engagement strategy and strengthening capacities for innovative public and private financing.

Support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), is prioritised, particularly those led by women, persons with disabilities and youth. This will facilitate and de-risk green, inclusive, and impactful investments promoting entrepreneurship through incubation services, and strengthening immigration and border management capacities for cross-border trade. In the context of labour market policies, the UN will promote decent work, emphasizing skills development, comprehensive social protection programs, and recognizing the contributions of cultural and creative industries.

Financial inclusion and digital transformation policies will be supported, along with efforts to strengthen food systems through sustainable smart agriculture production. The UN will also contribute to the advancement of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and work towards making food systems more productive, inclusive, diversified, efficient, resilient, and sustainable.

This involves capacity development for smallholder farmers, technical support for resilient food systems transformation, emergency preparedness and response, health, and supply chain systems, and strategic partnerships to address nutrition issues.

Partnerships

The achievement of priorities under Outcome 1 depends on the mobilisation and partnerships (existing and new) with various stakeholders including government ministries at national and sub-national levels, development partners, civil

society, academia, private sector partners, and other organizations towards meeting the SDG targets. Specifically, the UN will collaborate with the following government entities including the Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Local Government, Culture and Unity, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Information and Digitalization.

2.4.2 Strategic priority area 2: Strengthen institutional governance

Outcome 2: By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, would experience more inclusive good governance, peace, and robust political and civic participation.

Theory of change

To achieve the stated outcome, at least three conditions must be fulfilled.

- Institutional capacity ought to be strengthened to improve transparency, accountability, and good governance to sustain peace and deliver inclusive, quality, rights-based public services at local and national levels.
- The capacity of government, community leaders (especially women and youth leaders), mechanisms and policies to advance peaceful and harmonious societies must be strengthened.
- People in Malaŵi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, must be more engaged in government decisions and empowered to claim their rights.

UN contribution to the outcome

The UN will contribute to promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance, by providing support for institutional capacity strengthening for citizens' engagement and for delivery of essential services. Democratic processes, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding will be prioritised, alongside the rule of law and digitisation of government systems for better oversight and access to social services by citizens.

The UN will contribute to efforts on strengthening decentralisation processes and public sector reforms including fiscal decentralisation and budget reforms at the national and sub-national entities with a focus on improved budget accountability and oversight by the parliament and civil society. In addition, building safe, sustainable urban councils and communities will be prioritised.

The institutional capacity of human rights and governance institutions will be strengthened to promote and protect human rights, by establishing robust reporting mechanisms and strengthening human rights institutions. The migration management and social services system will be improved to ensure safe migration, provide quality health, education, and social protection services, focusing on evidence-based interventions and gender integration.

Democratic institutions in basic human rights, peace building, conflict resolutions and regional cooperation to advance peaceful and harmonious societies through enhanced implementation of human rights obligations and strategies.

Civil Society Organizations will be capacitated to implement and monitor human rights and amplify the voices of marginalised group and strengthen systems for enhanced dialogue, collaboration, and coordination in governance institutions.

Support would be given for improving an environment that values diversity and promotes gender equality including disability-inclusive programs and capacity building for disability organisations, awareness-raising on violence and harassment, adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights, and empowerment of women and marginalized groups.

Partnerships

The United Nations will continue to strengthen its partnership with the Government (including the Ministries of Justice and of Local Government, Unity and Culture, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Homeland Security, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Ombudsman, Parliament, Malaŵi Human Rights



- More people, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised, especially girls, women, youth, migrants, and persons forcibly displaced, the elderly and persons with disabilities and HIV, access and utilise quality education, health, nutrition, WASH, protection, and social protection services at all times, without harmful socio-cultural norms.
- Social services systems (education, health, nutrition, and WASH) are responsive, high quality, inclusive, adequate, well-resourced, and fully functional and duty bearers have increased institutional capacities and accountability to develop, improve and implement existing regulations, strategies, policies, and legislation, in line with Malaŵi's international commitments.
- Social protection and social services (education, health, nutrition, WASH) empower the poorest and vulnerable people and households to become resilient to shocks across the life cycle and self-reliant with equitable opportunities to all.

Commission, Malaŵi Electoral Commission, National Planning Commission, National Statistical Office to support the priorities of outcome 2.

Furthermore, the United Nations will continue its partnership with the Malaŵi Human Rights Commission to further enhance access to justice for marginalised and vulnerable groups. Civil society organisations will also be key implementing partners in helping ensure meaningful participation and access to justice. Other partners include political parties, and government institutions like Parliament and the Police, as well as the media and academia, among others.

2.4.3 Strategic priority area 3: Ensure sustainable investments and outcomes in human capital development

Outcome 3: By 2028, more people, in particular women, children, and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, are resilient with access to and utilisation of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, protection, and social protection services.

Theory of change

To achieve the stated outcome, at least three conditions must be fulfilled:

UN contribution to the outcome

The UN in Malawi will support adolescents and youth, particularly girls, empowering them to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as their overall health, well-being, and sustainable livelihoods.

Strengthening of institutional capacity including capabilities, review and implementation of relevant regulations, policies, and strategies to support prevention and reduction of GBV, and delivery of quality social services.

To strengthen the social services systems in Malawi, including education, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), GBV prevention and response key strategies will focus on building the capacity of institutions and duty bearers to develop, improve, and implement regulations, strategies, policies, and legislation aligned with international commitments. Specific areas of intervention include strengthening health and social sector institutions to provide integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence information and services,

enhancing migrant-responsive services and transboundary disease control, supporting national systems for food and nutrition security, and strengthening the social protection system, education, health, disaster risk management, and emergency preparedness, expanding and improving early childhood education, generating evidence for decision-making, and supporting comprehensive social protection policies and programs.

Additionally, there will be efforts to enhance human resources for health, health financing, health service delivery monitoring, sexual and reproductive rights, access to essential medicines, disease control, non-communicable disease prevention and management, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria control, neglected tropical diseases control, maternal and neonatal health monitoring, and community-led monitoring in the HIV response. Efforts will be made to enhance vaccine-preventable diseases surveillance and response, integrate COVID-19 vaccines into primary healthcare, control neglected tropical diseases, and achieve immunization targets.

As part of its commitment to Leaving No One Behind, the UN in Malawi will amplify its efforts to empower the poorest and most vulnerable people and households, promoting resilience and self-reliance with equitable opportunities and the capacity to claim their rights. Efforts include a focus on social protection that provides food assistance, nutrition, and livelihood support in anticipation and response to occurrences, leveraging national social protection systems where possible.

The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system will be strengthened to ensure the protection and promotion of rights, including children's rights. Interventions will strengthen social protection programs, enhance delivery systems, promote health-seeking behaviours, improve child protection against violence, neglect, and harmful practices, strengthen community-based childcare centres (CBCCs), and support integrated social protection systems and digital literacy skills. The aim is to amplify the impact of cash support on household resilience, enhance unforeseen sensitivity through innovation and digital solutions, and foster collaboration

across the humanitarian-development nexus additionally, efforts will be made to establish water quality monitoring and surveillance platforms at the national and district levels. Additionally, efforts will be made to strengthen policies and strategies to facilitate adequacy of social protection services in line with the life cycle approach to leave no one behind.

Partnerships

The principal partners in achieving outcome area 3 will include government line ministries (Education, Health, Gender, Labour, Youth, Local Government, Agriculture, Finance and Economic Affairs, Water and Sanitation, Youth and Sports, Homeland Security, National Planning Commission, National Registration Bureau, Police, Human Resources Department), civil society, academia, multilateral and bilateral donors, benefiting communities, private sector, volunteer-involving organisations, trade unions, employer organisations, private sector, and local and international community development partners (with a focus on youth- and women-led organisations).

Collaboration with partners and strategic stakeholders will be strengthened to leverage funding, scale-up of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), HIV and SRHR services, reduce inequalities and improve inclusivity, and promote the outcome of the Transforming Education Summit and the Education Plus initiatives.

2.4.4 Strategic priority area 4: Adapt to climatic change, reverse environmental degradation, and support energy transformation.

Outcome 4: By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable, including women and youth, are resilient to climate change and shocks, benefit from and have access to better-managed waste, ecosystems, and natural resources, including clean and affordable energy.

Theory of change

To achieve the stated outcome, at least three conditions must be fulfilled.

- More people, especially women and youth, and communities have the skills and

access to climate-resilient knowledge and technologies and adopt behaviours to become more resilient to shocks, benefit from and contribute to waste circularity, and improved management of natural resources and the environment.

- Duty bearers should have stronger, sustained technical and financial resources to implement and enforce better evidence-based, gender-responsive policies and global and regional multilateral agreements and harmonised legislation for better management of biodiversity and natural resources, integrated waste management, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response.
- The availability and accessibility of gender-transformative, renewable, and sustainable technologies/approaches, including for energy, and more effective and coherent normative frameworks, partnerships, financing, and data accelerate the transition to a green and circular society.

UN contribution to the outcome

The UN joint efforts in the coming five years will include supporting climate change adaptation through weather information and early warning systems, livelihood diversification, food security, and restoration of fragile ecosystems in target communities, disaster risk reduction, integrated climate and disaster nutrition-sensitive resilience and livelihood support and the promotion of better environmental management, secure land tenure and rights, and foster gender-sensitive climate and disaster-resilient technologies.

The UN will support the integration of climate and disaster resilience and mitigation strategies into WASH facilities, capacity building for health workers to address the impact of climate change on health and digital skills to enable equitable access and sharing of natural resources and biodiversity. Additionally, ecosystem services will be enhanced, and agricultural systems of vulnerable rural communities will be improved through irrigation schemes, addressing land degradation, agro-biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and resilience to disasters.

UN Malaŵi is committed to establishing a

sustainable climate finance mechanism by assessing Malaŵi's climate finance needs, engaging diverse stakeholders, creating a policy framework in alignment with international agreements, and strengthening institutional capacity. Given Malaŵi's vulnerability, funding will be mobilized from various domestic and international sources, focusing on climate resilience and adaptation.

The UN will support promotion of an energy-just transition, emphasizing the shift to renewable energy and supporting affected communities in moving away from fossil fuels, while ensuring fair access to clean energy solutions.

This aligns with SDG 7 involving the transition to a green and circular society in Malaŵi through enhanced access to clean and affordable energy, particularly through the scaling-up of decentralised energy systems including mini-grids targeting productive sectors and rural households. Partnerships will be established to transition social service sectors, such as schools, health centres, to renewable energy technologies. Incentives will be explored to promote the uptake of clean alternative fuels in the clean cooking sector.

Partnerships

The principal partners supporting to achieving outcome area 4 will include the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, the Ministry of Energy, and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs. The Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture and the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Information and Digitalisation, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, National Planning Commission and district councils will be among the other government partners in achieving outcome area 4.

Others include non-governmental organisations (national and international), academic and research institutions (including universities) and development partners (i.e., multilateral, and bilateral donors, including the World Bank and the AU African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group). The UN's multistakeholder partnership approach will focus on working with rights-based organisations, and vulnerable groups,

especially women and youth groups as well as refugees and asylum seekers, the private sector to foster public-private partnerships as well as exploring innovative finance and investments. The UN will explore opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation to enhance the learning and capacity of the Government and partners on climate change, waste management, ecosystems, natural resources, and energy.

2.5. Synergies between Cooperation Framework outcomes

The four strategic priorities and outcomes put forward in the UNSDCF are interlinked and designed to maximise the opportunity for leveraging the synergies for the integration and acceleration of the SDGs and the development priorities of the Malaŵi 2063 vision and its first ten-year Implementation plan.

Ultimately sustainable, diversified, and inclusive growth priority is enabled by strengthened institutional governance; sustainable investments and outcomes in human capital development; and adaptation to climate change, environmental sustainability, and energy transformation. Enhanced institutional governance establishes the basis for inclusive and widespread involvement, engagement of people, representation, transparency, and accountability. It is a bedrock for sustaining peace, resilient political systems, promoting gender equality, upholding human rights, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

These elements are fundamental to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth. Better governance improves the quality of institutions, increases the productivity of, and attracting investments for developing human and physical capital. Improved institutions and better government policies make an attractive and congenial environment for high investment in human and physical capital development, thereby achieving economic growth while simultaneously fulfilling human rights with multiplier effects.

Strengthening human capabilities is, in turn, both a vital outcome and a principal means for generating and accessing sustainable economic opportunities. And against the backdrop of

recurring climate shocks, investment in climate adaptation, environmental sustainability, good natural resource management, and energy transformation builds socio-economic resilience to shocks. It ensures a more productive, diversified, and stable economy in the long term and more equitable and sustainable development.

Clean and affordable energy plays a pivotal role in enabling sustainable, diversified, and inclusive growth. Strengthened institutional governance, sustainable investments in human capital development, and adaptation to climate change, environmental sustainability, and energy transformation are key components of this growth. Investing in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and energy transformation can yield a wide range of economic benefits in both the short and long terms. These investments are not only essential for addressing environmental and societal challenges but can also lead to substantial economic gains for Malaŵi. In the short term these investments will contribute to job creation in labour-intensive activities, such as construction, retrofitting, and installation of renewable energy systems.

Large-scale investments in these areas can also act as economic stimulus, injecting funds into various industries, and while some upfront investments might be required, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience measures can lead to immediate cost savings by preventing damages and losses caused by natural disasters and reducing energy consumption. In the longer term, economic benefits include substantial long-term savings by preventing or mitigating the impacts of disasters.

This includes avoiding damages to infrastructure, homes, businesses, and agriculture, as well as minimizing the costs associated with post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. It will help avoid disruptions in essential services and fewer economic losses. Climate resilience measures can also lead to improved public health. This translates into lower healthcare costs and increased workforce productivity. Finally, investments drive innovation and technological advancement better positions Malaŵi in the global markets.



2.6. Sustainability

To ensure the sustainability of development outcomes beyond the duration of the Cooperation Framework and towards the 2030 horizon, the UN development system will employ several strategies:

- Ownership:** The UN will promote participatory and inclusive consultation that empowers the national government and other partners to take charge of development programs. This will involve aligning UN interventions with MIP-1, sectoral and district frameworks, utilising existing national and sub-national structures, building the capacity of national institutions, providing technical assistance, and transferring knowledge to enable effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of development initiatives.
- Institutional arrangements:** The UN will foster collaboration and coordination among government agencies, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, and other stakeholders to strengthen institutional arrangements. This will promote effective governance, human rights, policy coherence, and multi-stakeholder partnerships that contribute to sustainable development.
- Knowledge sharing and innovation:** The UN will facilitate the exchange of knowledge, peer learning, and the adoption of best practices among countries. At country level, the UN will harness and nurture proven and successful indigenous knowledge. This will foster innovation, accelerate progress, and enable countries and communities to learn from each other's experiences in scaling up sustainable development impact.
- Sustainable financing:** The UN in Malawi will support the government in identifying diverse and sustainable financing options for development interventions. This may include mobilising domestic resources, promoting public-private partnerships, accessing international funding sources, and advocating for innovative financing mechanisms aligned with the country's development objectives.

UN interventions throughout the strategic priority areas are interconnected and complement each other. By expanding access of adolescent and young women to integrated sexual and reproductive health services, and especially family planning, within strategic priority area 3, family sizes are expected to reduce, building climate resilience by improving food security, reducing the strain on natural resources such as land and water, and also helping girls continue their education.

Furthermore, other interventions such as safe spaces, mentorship and livelihood programs for adolescents will build their health, agency, social and economic assets and, therefore, their resilience to climate change. Integration of SRHR, HIV and GBV prevention and response, with focus on adolescents, in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response plans will ensure continuity of access to life-saving SRHR and GBV services of the most vulnerable population during disasters and other occurrences.

The four strategic priorities and outcomes of the UNSDCF serve as a centralised entry point for strategic development engagement and offer an opportunity for accelerating Sustainable Development Goals partnerships, promoting the realisation of human rights, unlocking innovative investments, funding and financing, and public-private partnerships.



facilitating the transfer of responsibilities to local actors and ensuring a smooth transition. The UN in Malaŵi will endeavor to establish the country-level pooled funds to align seamlessly with the present strategic priorities. These efforts will leverage the past experiences and successes to reinforce sustainability measures.

2.7. UN comparative advantages and UNCT configuration

The United Nations is uniquely positioned to make a significant and impactful contribution in Malaŵi due to several key factors. Firstly, the wide range of expertise and capacities of UN entities that are now actively contributing to this new UNSDCF. This broad involvement ensures a comprehensive and tailored approach towards addressing the country's development challenges. Secondly, the UN's convening power allows it to bring together diverse stakeholders, including government officials, development partners, civil society organisations, and the private sector, fostering dialogue and collaboration towards common goals. Thirdly, the UN possesses technical capacity in various themes identified by the Government as priorities for the country's development, enabling it to provide specialised expertise and support to Malaŵi.

Furthermore, the UN's thought leadership role, particularly in analytics and evidence-based approaches, enables it to provide valuable insights and guidance to inform policy and decision-making processes in Malaŵi. As a trusted partner of donors, the UN has a proven track record of effectively utilising funds and resources, making it an attractive collaborator for development initiatives. The UN is also trusted by the local population and international community, which enables it to mobilise different categories of local and international volunteers efficiently and rapidly. Additionally, the UN's commitment to South-South cooperation enhances its ability to facilitate knowledge exchange and partnerships between countries facing similar development challenges. The multilateral nature of the organisation also enhances its credibility.

Led by the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT in

- **Monitoring and evaluation:** The UN in collaboration with the government and its partners will regularly assess progress, identify challenges, and adopt strategies as necessary to ensure that interventions align with government aspirations and sustainability goals. This will involve ongoing monitoring and evaluation to track the effectiveness and impact of development initiatives.
- **Humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach:** Considering the recurring climate shocks that jeopardise the progress made towards achieving the SDGs and pose risks to sustained peace, the United Nations (UN) will promote strong cooperation, collaboration and coordination between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts through collective efforts that emphasize joined-up, coherent, complementary, and risk-informed analysis, planning, and action, ultimately aiming for collective and sustainable outcomes.
- **Exit strategy:** The UN will promote the development and regular review of exit strategies for joint programs and other initiatives, outlining a responsible and phased exit strategy of UN support. These strategies will ensure continuity and sustainability by

Malaŵi conducted an assessment to identify the existing and additional capacities and resources needed to achieve the outcomes of the UNSDCF. UN entities have pledged their commitment to contribute to implementing the CF through the full range of support modalities and types of presence (physical, embedded, non-physical, etc.). This inclusive approach has expanded the range of UN capacities and expertise available to support Malaŵi from 19 signatories in the UNDAF 2019–2023 to 23 signatories in the UNSDCF 2024–2028. New signing agencies include ITU, UN–Habitat, UNECA, UNCTAD, and UNV. On the other hand, the signatures of previously participating agencies (IAEA, UNEP and UNIDO) are not foreseen. The configuration will be revised as needed throughout the UNSDCF cycle to ensure effective and efficient support aligned with the evolving country context. Recognising the dynamic nature of the UNCT configuration, the UN entities that had committed to supporting the UNSDCF 2024–2028 at the time of its signing include:

1. **FAO**
2. **IFAD**
3. **ILO**
4. **IOM**
5. **ITU**
6. **OHCHR**
7. **UN–Habitat**
8. **UN Women**
9. **UNAIDS**
10. **UNCDF**
11. **UNCTAD**
12. **UNDP**
13. **UNECA**
14. **UNESCO**
15. **UNEP**
16. **UNFPA**
17. **UNHCR**
18. **UNICEF**
19. **UNODC**
20. **UNOPS**
21. **UNV**
22. **WFP**
23. **WHO**



Frameworks of governance or Governance structures

CHAPTER 3



Frameworks of governance or Governance structures



3.1. Cooperation

framework governance

Leadership, direction, and accountability of UNSDCF implementation is the responsibility of UN and Government of Malaŵi. The cornerstone for achieving the UNSDCF's outcomes is the strategic partnership and shared intent with Malaŵi's leadership. Recognition of existing national capacities; and national actors will be vital for enabling national ownership and sustainability. The UN will work to deliver on the UNSDCF's strategic priorities in support of the national developmental goals as outlined in the Malaŵi 2063 (MW2063) and the first 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1). The Government of Malaŵi plays a critical role in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the UNSDCF.

The UNSDCF governance structure will ensure strong national ownership and engagement, which includes the Joint Taskforce as the highest governing body (see Annex 6). The National Joint Steering Committee ensures

that the adopted policy objectives are linked to UNSDCF developmental goals. The Committee is co-chaired by the RC and the Secretary to the President and Cabinet (SPC).

The result groups are responsible for UNSDCF implementation, monitoring progress and reporting on their strategic priority area. They are co-led by line ministries and UN entities and composed of experts from relevant national institutions and UN Agencies, Funds and Programs (with and without a physical presence in Malaŵi). The result groups with support from the RCO, they develop the Joint Work Plans (JWPs) identifying the joint UN contribution to the results, including through joint programming and joint resource mobilisation.

3.2. Cooperation Framework management structure

As per the mutual accountabilities indicated in the Management and Accountability Framework, the UNCT serves as the internal coordination mechanism for the UNSDCF except the ongoing update of the CCA and oversight provisions. The UNCT also takes decision and implement strategies for results and efficiency. They also coordinate the work of other internal UN units. The Program Management Team (PMT) provides operational oversight for the UNSDCF, facilitating the implementation and promoting synergies across the four priority areas together with the result groups and providing overall technical guidance on key policy issues and the UNSDCF monitoring and reporting. It comprises Deputy Representatives, Heads of Programmes of the entire UNCT and must be chaired by a head of agency (rotational). The PMT will designate representatives to represent the UN in the Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs), which are established as a coordination mechanism to ensure the efficient execution of Malaŵi 2063 and its MIP-1.

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group (MELG) and Data Group support the work of the



result groups at the outcome level by providing coherent support in strengthening national data and digital systems to track UNSDCF, joint work plans and SDG achievement, monitor groups in vulnerable situations, including through support for greater disaggregation of national data and statistics, monitor the alignment of national policies and frameworks with international norms and commitments. A jointly agreed annual work plan guides their work, UNSDCF result matrix (See Annex 1) and UNSDCF monitoring, evaluation, and learning plans (see Annex 3).

The UN Operations Management Team (OMT) guides the UNCT for operational coherence, harmonisation, and optimisation to increase the UN's overall service efficiency, effectiveness and quality while enhancing program delivery. It comprises operations managers from the UNCT to address issues of procurement, administration, Information Communications and Technology, human resources and finance and Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) an the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) in Malaŵi .

The UN Communication Group (UNCG) is composed of communication officers or focal points of all UN agencies operating in Malaŵi and is responsible for coordinating UN communications, including strategic advocacy, outreach, joint program communication, partnership building, media relations, digital communications, and publications.

The Gender and Human Rights Theme Group (GHRTG) comprises of the gender focal points/ specialists of each UN entity operating in Malaŵi, plays a central role in the provision of strategic support and advice to UNCT collaboration with Governments to achieve SDG 5.

They also provide the gender equality dimensions of other SDGs throughout the UNSDCF, the provision of policy advice and joint programs. Specifically, the GHRTG is responsible for accelerating gender and human rights mainstreaming through the full implementation of the UNCT–SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard (UNCT–SWAP) action plans.

The Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), supports day-to-day coordination and the UNCT as the secretariat, liaises with Government and has six key functions: (1) Leadership for development, (2) integrated normative and policy support for the 2030 Agenda; (3) Coordination and planning for development results; (4) Partnerships and finance for development; (5) Communications for development results; and (6) Business innovation and operations.

The coordination working groups will at least hold monthly meetings and, when necessary, conduct ad hoc meetings. Special attention will be given to ensure that lower-level coordination groups and technical working groups convene meetings a week prior to the scheduled meetings of the UNCT, OMT, and PMT to ensure informed decision making and enhance accountability.

3.3. Resourcing the cooperation framework

Estimated resource requirements

The table below offers a detailed overview of the resources required for the realization of planned UN contributions by outcome. Its aim is to serve as a valuable reference for government entities, UN system agencies, donors, and partners by highlighting any financial gaps that require attention.

This table forms the basis for joint resource mobilisation efforts of the UNSDCF, ultimately enhancing the efficiency of development cooperation between the government and UN agencies. However, these budget figures are

indicative and subject to potential modifications by the governing bodies of UN Agencies and internal management decisions. Additionally, resources do not include funding received in response to emergency appeals.

Table: Estimated financial resources required for the implementation of the Malaŵi UNSDCF 2024–2028 by Strategic priority area (in millions of USD)

Outcome	Total Required Resources	Available Resources	To be mobilised resources
Strategic priority area 1	570.1	381.6	188.5
Strategic priority area 2	133.5	46.4	87.2
Strategic priority area 3	703.4	123.1	580.4
Strategic priority area 4	354.3	83.2	270.9
Total	1,761.3	634.3	1,127.0

It is estimated that the full implementation of the UNSDCF will require a total of US\$1.761 billion for the entire timeframe 2024–2028. UN agencies have access to various sources of funding, encompassing regular/core resources and other/non-core resources, which can be harnessed based on established strategies and expected outcomes.

As a result of existing partnerships and commitments, 36% of the resources necessary can be considered already secured, for the implementation of strategic priorities 1 and 3. Thus, a funding gap of \$1.127 billion currently exists and will require the attentions of the UN and its partners in Malaŵi. To achieve the desired results outlined in this framework, a concerted and collaborative resource mobilisation strategy will be essential, jointly spearheaded by the National Joint Steering Committee and the UNCT.

Strategic partnerships and resource mobilization

The United Nations system recognizes that partnerships play a strategic role by granting access to specialised expertise and knowledge, foster innovation, share risks, enhance credibility,

influence policies, access new technologies, leverage complementary resources, and promote continuous learning, thereby contributing to the country's growth, and success in achieving the SDGs.

In particular, the UN will establish strategic partnerships with the private sector and other technical and financial partners to mobilise resources towards achieving the expected UNSDCF results. The UN will ensure that existing and potential donors are kept apprised of the organisation's work and results so that efforts align with development partners to maximise synergy and impact.

The United Nations system will collaborate with civil society, including NGOs, Volunteer Involving Organisations, and communities, to mobilise the grassroots population and secure their involvement in the UNSDCF interventions. The beneficiary population, especially the youth, women, and vulnerable groups, will be involved at all levels of monitoring the UNSDCF implementation.

Types of support

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the UNSDCF, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, program development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to non-governmental and civil society organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual workplans and project documents.

Additional support may be obtained from access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialised information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialised agencies, funds, and programs. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for program development, program support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the program, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the UNSDCF. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the workplans and project documents.

By mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this UNSDCF. This will include and encouraging potential donors to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the program; endorsing efforts to raise funds from the, the private sector both internationally and locally; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations Malaŵi

for support. Donors will be largely exempted from tax or be provided with a tax holding.

3.4. Derivation of UN entity country programming instruments from the Cooperation Framework

UN entity programming instruments serve as vehicles for translating the results and priorities of the UNSDCF into actionable strategies and activities. The UNSDCF's success is attributed to the alignment of joint programs, UN agencies programming instruments, efforts, resources, coordination, and monitoring mechanisms with the UNSDCF outcomes and outputs.

UN agencies develop comprehensive strategies within their programming instruments to address various aspects of the UNSDCF outcomes. These strategies may encompass policy support, capacity building, technical assistance, advocacy, and resource mobilization to achieve the desired results. This alignment ensures that agency interventions are directly contributing to the broader development priorities of Malaŵi.

The program will be under the auspices of the Office of the President and Cabinet. Government coordinating authorities for specific UN system agency programs are noted in Annex 4. Government ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement program activities.

The UNSDCF will be made operational through the development of joint work plans (see section 3.2), agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary, which describe the specific results to be achieved. This will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner on the use of resources.

The UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed UNSDCF and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the UNSDCF and joint or agency-specific work plans and or project documents.



Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honorarium, and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the International Civil Service Commission circulars).

3.5. Joint workplans

For a successful implementation of the UNSDCF, the UN will collaborate with partners and UN agencies to develop, track, and disclose biannual Joint Work Plans (JWPs) using the UN INFO¹⁸ platform.

The UNCT in Malaŵi will place much emphasis on adaptive programming, based on learning from available evidence when developing and implementing JWPs and joint programs. The primary objective of the JWPs will be to reduce fragmentation, avoid duplication, ensure coherence of UN entity programming, and promote alignment of each UN development entity's contributions (sub-outputs, key activities, and resources) to the Malaŵi 2063

and Malaŵi Implementation Plan. Furthermore, the JWPs will enhance the country's capacity to achieve results and ensure accountability and transparency during the implementation process.

This UNSDCF is outcome-based, with a limited number of priorities and outcomes, allowing for programmatic flexibility and enabling the UN to respond to the evolving context. The JWP formulation process will start with translating outcomes into measurable, tangible, and time-bound outputs, facilitating clear connections to attribute the UN's contribution to Malaŵi's sustainable development objectives.

The UNSDCF Strategic Priority Group will be responsible for preparing an annual or bi-annual JWP, covering the CF outcomes, outputs, resources, targets, indicators, alignment with national priorities, gender equality, human rights, and other system-wide markers. All UNCT members, irrespective of their geographical location, will be involved in drafting the JWP for their respective strategic priorities. The Government-UN National Steering Committee will approve the JWP, which will be publicly available on UN INFO for transparency and accessibility.

3.6. Business Operations Strategy in support of the Cooperation Framework

As part of its operational strategy in support of both the UNSDCF and the planned UN global common back office—a key feature of the ongoing UN reform agenda – the UN Malaŵi will implement the UN's global Business Operations Strategy (BOS). The BOS focuses on common services, including logistics, administration, human resources, finance, procurement, and ICT, that can be implemented jointly or delivered by one UN entity on behalf of the other.

It will therefore be a critical instrument to reinforce the link between efficient business operations and more effective programs. The BOS is thus intended to enhance efficiency, productivity, and reduce transaction costs, in UN operations, particularly in implementing the UNSDCF.

¹⁸UN INFO is an online planning, monitoring, and reporting platform that digitizes each Cooperation Framework and its corresponding joint work plans.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

CHAPTER 4



Monitoring and Evaluation Plan



4.1. Monitoring plan

The Monitoring Plan will cover four interlinked dimensions: Program Monitoring; quality of implementation; accountability, and learning. It will be developed in accordance with the norms and standards of the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG). One of the critical responsibilities of the UNCT is to jointly monitor the implementation progress of the UNSDCF with relevant government entities by utilising the Results Matrix (Annex 1) and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (Annex 3). To implement the monitoring plan, the UN will make the best use of available national data and information systems. Moreover, the UN will enhance the capacity for data collection, analysis, disaggregation, use, and SDG monitoring by providing support to national systems.

At the outcome level, the primary source for indicators is the SDG monitoring framework. This will maximise the existing efforts of the Government and the UN Malaŵi to strengthen data and monitoring of progress on achieving the SDGs. The criteria used to prioritise indicators included relevance to the context of Malaŵi, alignment with the UN contribution to the outcomes, and data availability.

According to the UNSDCF governance structure, the responsibility for monitoring will primarily

rest with the Strategic Priority Groups and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group. The UN is committed to establishing new methods for data collection and evidence generation for the national statistical system. This will prioritize the most marginalised for their resilience to disasters. Efforts will be made to ensure that upcoming joint programs include improving data availability and quality through data systems and household surveys. The UN will support governments or other actors to strengthen their statistical capacity, to collect and analyse high-quality data for evidence based, context-specific and inclusive policy choices.

The data will be gathered using UN INFO, the online planning, monitoring, and reporting platform to enhance coordination, transparency, and responsibility for outcomes. It will keep track of the contributions to the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Implementing partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities on cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, implementing partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the UN system agencies.
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organisation, in collaboration with other UN agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry), will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of implementing



partners with large cash assistance from the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

4.1.1. Risks and opportunities

Malaŵi faces multiple, interlinked and mutually reinforcing risks to the country's sustainable socio-economic development path. These risks have become increasingly multidimensional, with knock-on effects on all sectors of society. Given the prevailing context of high levels of poverty and high vulnerability to socio-economic stressors, climate change, competition for resources, corruption, insecurity and political (electoral) competition, the UNSDCF could be impacted by social, economic, and political instability with significant implications for human security and human rights:

- Political and governance risks: Political and governance risks that may hinder human capacity for development agenda may include election violence, inter-religious and ethnic tensions, shrinking civic space, and weak institutional capacities to deliver social services.
- Security risk: the growing risk of violent extremism and the deteriorating conflict situation in neighbouring countries presents a serious risk to Malaŵi's security stability.

This threatens the human rights and security of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and other already excluded vulnerable groups.

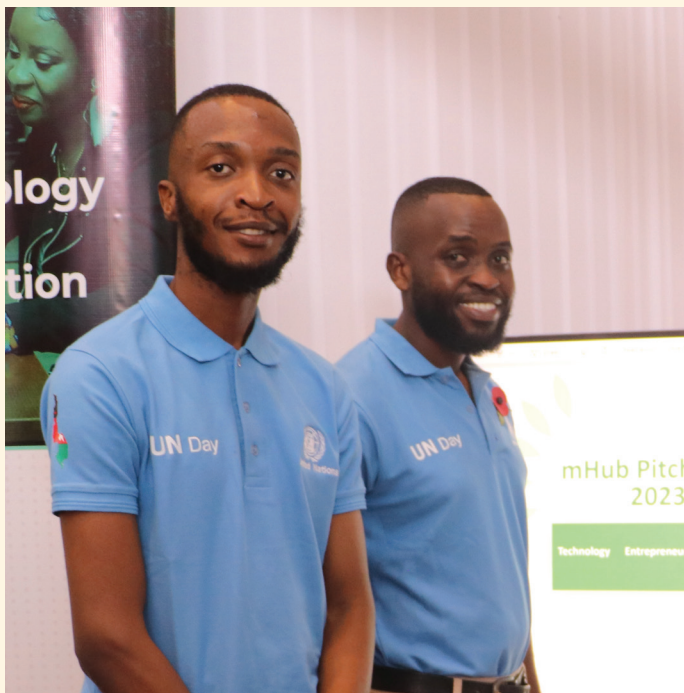
- Climate change impacts, such as cyclone-induced floods and droughts, pose threats to energy production, human security, and community livelihoods, leading to social, religious, and political tensions and conflicts.
- Due to weak economic fundamentals and over-dependence on imported goods, geopolitical events/pressures will continue to impact Malaŵi's socio-economic and governance spaces.

These risks and threats notwithstanding, Malaŵi's governance and economic spaces present many strategic opportunities that will be harnessed to lessen these risks, strengthen institutional resilience, and accelerate inclusive development and wealth creation. These include the existence of a relatively robust and progressive policy and legal regime – MW 2063 and MIP1, post 2019/2020 electoral and human rights-related legal reforms and Peace and Unity Act; the existence of a political will and accessibility, public sector reform drive, digitalisation and new transformative technologies, strong partnerships – academia, trade unions, civil society, volunteer involving organisations, employers' organisations, human rights institutions/organisations, IFIs, private and public partnerships; economic frameworks and agreements – AGOA, AfCFTA, carbon trade agreements; and opportunities on green debt and carbon financing.

The UN will continue to support national efforts in promoting social cohesion through the creation/strengthening of platforms for inclusive dialogue and citizen engagements in national development.

4.1.2. Cooperation Framework review and reporting

To ensure that the development landscape of Malaŵi remains up to date, the CCA will be reviewed and revised at least once per year. This analysis will be presented to stakeholders and enable the UN to examine progress, gaps, opportunities, and bottlenecks vis-à-vis the country's commitment to achieving the MIP-1,



4.2. Evaluation plan

In 2027, an evaluation of the UNSDCF is scheduled to take place to assess the contributions of the UN, ensure accountability, promote learning, and inform the design of the subsequent UNSDCF. The evaluation of the UNSDCF will align with the norms and standards of UNEG as well as the evaluation criteria of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee.

An independent evaluation team will conduct the evaluation in a transparent and inclusive process in line with the UN Evaluation Group and UN Development Coordination Office guidelines for undertaking UNSDCF evaluation. Appropriate governance and management arrangements will be established involving UNCT members, the Government of Malaŵi, and other key stakeholders.

The evaluation will scrutinise various aspects, such as development outcomes, UNSDCF design and execution, adherence to the guiding principles, funding compact, and management and accountability framework. Additionally, the UNSDCF evaluation will seek to create harmonies with the evaluations of the individual agencies, country programs, and strategies. UN country program and joint programs will be evaluated earlier to feed into the UNSDCF evaluation.


The UNCT will take steps to guarantee that new joint programs are appropriately monitored, reported, evaluated, and audited by allocating five percent of their budget to these activities unless donors or pooled funds mandate different requirements. In addition, the lead agencies will promote the evaluation of joint programs worth more than \$5 million.

2030 Agenda and national priorities, as well as UN norms and standards. The CCA will identify any necessary adjustments to the UNSDCF and its Theory of Change if necessary. The PMT will be responsible for these updates, working under the guidance of the UNCT and with support from the MELG, Gender, and Human Rights Group and RCO.

In addition, the UNCT and interagency strategic priority groups will conduct annual performance reviews with stakeholders to assess achievements, challenges, solutions, opportunities, and lessons learned. The annual performance reviews will inform the generation of an annual UN Country Results Report supported by the MELG and Data group. The UNCT will use nationally available data and other country-specific data points in UN INFO and other platforms to compile the report.

The UNCT will provide ongoing financial reporting and a budget overview detailing resources mobilised and available, expenditures, and funding gaps. This report will serve as a key accountability tool between the UN and the Government of Malaŵi, emphasising the commitment to leaving no one behind. CCA updates and UN Country Results Reports will be mutually reinforcing with the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and the country's SDGs reporting.

Mandatory Annexes

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- Annex 1** Results Framework
 - Annex 2** Configuration table
 - Annex 3** Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning Plan
 - Annex 4** Legal Annex
 - Annex 5** Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT)
 - Annex 6** UNSDCF Coordination Structure



Annex 1 – Results Framework

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (UNSDCF)
2024- 2028

RESULT FRAMEWORK



STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1: SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE, DIVERSIFIED, AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH								
National development priorities:								
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Pillars: Agricultural productivity and commercialization, Industrialization (includes mining), Urbanization (includes tourism)								
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Enablers: Private sector dynamism, and environmental sustainability, Human capital development (including gender equality). Economic Infrastructure.								
Regional frameworks:								
Africa Union 2063 - A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens; Transformed Economies; Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production; World Class Infrastructure criss-crosses Africa; Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children; Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life; Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development								
SDGs and SDG targets:								
SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 17								
RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	LEVEL OF DISAGGREGATION AVAILABLE	BASELINE 2023	2028 TARGET	SOURCE / MEANS OF VERIFICATION	SDG INDICATOR REFERENCE	Agency focal points for data collection	ASSUMPTIONS
1. By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable groups, including women, youths, and people with disability, participate in and benefit from food and nutrition security and a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth resilient to shocks.	1.1 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.	National Men Women Children	National, 0.617 Male, 0.581 Female, 0.723	National, 0.53 Male, 0.471 Female, 0.684	MPI reports	1.2.2	UNDP, UN Women, World Bank, UNICEF	The governments at both national and regional levels will prioritize and enact policies that promote access to skills development opportunities, entrepreneurial resources, and financial services for marginalized groups, including women, people with disabilities, and youth. These policies should also support a favourable, digitalized, and innovative business environment, as well as facilitate access to financing for sustainable development. The global economic environment remains relatively stable to ensure that the economy creates more decent jobs, increases resilience to shocks, and fosters efficient cross-border trade and exportation, a stable international economic climate is essential. Stable and predictable weather patterns with minimal natural disasters and continued efforts to address climate change.
	1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	National	81%	70%	MVAC Reports	2.1.2	FAO	
	1.3 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture		0.34	0.4	Ministry of Agriculture APES Report	2.4.1	FAO, IFAD, ITU	
	1.4 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex	National Men Women	National, 0.73 Women, 0.79 Men, 0.69	National, 0.78 Women, 0.84 Men, 0.74	NSO, Labour Market Profile Malawi	8.3.1	UN WOMEN, UNCDF, ILO	
	1.5 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (%)	National Men Women	National, 20 Women, 26 Men,14	Women, 21 Men, 10	NSO, Labour Market Profile Malawi	8.5.2	UN WOMEN, UND, ILO, ITU,	
	1.6 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile- money-service provider		0.43	0.75	Ministry of Finance, Global Findex Database	8.10.2	UNCDF, ITU, World Bank	
	1.7 Proportion of national budget funded by domestic taxes/sources		0.57	0.65	Ministry of Finance	17.1.2	UNDP, IMF	
	1.8 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	per year	2.10%	3.10%	World Bank report	17.3.2	UNDP, IOM, UNCDF, World Bank	
	1.9 Proportion of women who used internet at least once a week during the last 3 months	Area/region	Overall,0.063 (W), 0.15 (M) Urban,0.208 (W), 0.36 (M) Rural, 0.031 (W), 0.101 (M)	Overall,0.15 (W), 0.30 (M) Urban,0.40 (W), 0.60 (M) Rural, 0.07 (W), 0.20 (M)	MICS	17.8.1	UN WOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA, UNCDF, ITU	
		Education	Pre & primary, 0.021 (W), 0.062 (M) Secondary, 0.283 (W), 0.519 (M) Higher, 0.704 (W), 0.787 (M) Vocational 0.458 (W), 0.458 (M)	Pre &primary 0.05 (W), 0.12 (M) Secondary 0.60 (W), 0.60 (M) Higher 0.80 (W), 0.90 (M) Vocational 0.70 (W), 0.70 (M)	MICS			
	Age	<24yrs, 0.21 (W), 0.543 (M) 25 to 40 yrs, 0.159 (W), 0.478 (M) 40 to 49 yrs, 0.93 (W), 0.242 (M)	< 24yrs, 0.42 (W), 0.65 (M) 25 to 40 yrs,0.30 (W), 0.60 (M) 40 to 49 yrs, 0.20 (W), 0.40 (M)	MICS				

Note: W stands for women and M is for men

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

National development priorities:							
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Pillar: Urbanization (includes sustainable municipal self-financing mechanisms)							
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Enablers: Enhanced public sector performance, Effective governance system, Human capital development, Mindset Change							
Regional frameworks:							
Africa Union 2063: Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched; Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place; Peace Security and Stability is preserved; Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life; Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children; Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development							
SDGs and SDG targets:							
SDG 5, SDG 10, SDG 16, and SDG 17							

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	LEVEL OF DISAGGREGATION AVAILABLE	BASELINE 2023	2028 TARGET	SOURCE / MEANS OF VERIFICATION	SDG INDICATOR REFERENCE	Agency focal points for data collection	ASSUMPTIONS
By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth and those most left behind, experience more inclusive good governance, and robust political and civic participation.	2.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments	By political party and if independent candidate	21/193 (0.109)	66/193 (0.342)	MEC Parliamentary Elections Report, Malawi Parliament Hansard	5.5.1	UN-Women, UNDP	The capacity of government, community leaders, and policies to advance peaceful and harmonious societies relies on the external assumption of political stability and effective conflict resolution mechanisms.
	2.2 Proportion of seats held by women in local governments	By political party and if independent candidate	0.14	0.30	MEC Local Government Elections Report, MALGA Reports	5.5.2	UN-Women, UNDP	
	2.3 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	Gender (Reported to Police)	Women, 0.253 Men, 0.199	Women, 0.355 Men, 0.255	NSO - MICS	16.3.1	UN-Women, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA	The availability of international support and partnerships to strengthen institutional capacity, enhance transparency, accountability, and good governance. The existence of a vibrant civil society sector in an enabling environment, including freedom of expression and association, is essential for these efforts to be effective.
	2.4 Percentage of cases reported through the Observatory Hub SGBV case management system that are resolved in the previous 12 months.		48.7	60	NSO Observatory Hub,	16.3.1	UNDP, UN Women; UNFPA	
	2.5 Percentage of disputes resolved that have been channelled through dispute resolution mechanisms connected to the national peace architecture.		20	50	Conflict prevention platform	16.3.1	UNDP, UN Women;	
	2.6 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	Health services	0.13 (0.14male, 0.117 female)	0.2	Afrobarometer	16.6.2	UNDP	
		Education services	0.152 (0.169male, 0.135female)	0.2	Afrobarometer		UNDP	
	Security and rule of law	0.12	0.2	UNDP perception survey		UNDP		
	Energy services	0.111 (0.116male, 0.105 female)	0.2	Afrobarometer		UNDP		

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

National development priorities:							
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Pillar: Urbanization (includes sustainable municipal self-financing mechanisms)							
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Enablers: Enhanced public sector performance, Effective governance system, Human capital development, Mindset Change							
Regional frameworks:							
Africa Union 2063: Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched; Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place; Peace Security and Stability is preserved; Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life; Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children; Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development							
SDGs and SDG targets:							
SDG 5, SDG 10, SDG 16, and SDG 17							

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	LEVEL OF DISAGGREGATION AVAILABLE	BASELINE 2023	2028 TARGET	SOURCE / MEANS OF VERIFICATION	SDG INDICATOR REFERENCE	Agency focal points for data collection	ASSUMPTIONS
3. By 2028, more people, in particular women, children and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are resilient with access to and utilization of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, social and protection services.	2.7 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	Type of NHRI, whether Ombudsman, human rights commission, advisory body, research-based institute	0 MHRC submissions to Human Rights Council; 1 MHRC submission to treaty bodies 11 investigation reports published	5 MHRC submissions to Human Rights Council; 6 MHRC submission to treaty bodies; 16 investigation reports published	MHRC report ; For UPR submissions: https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/uprmw-stakeholders-info-s9 For treaty body submissions: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSeArch.aspx?Lang=en	16.a.1	UNDP, UN-Women, OHCHR, UNHCR, IOM; UNFPA	
	2.8 Malawi's rank on the Corruption Perception Index.		34	30	Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index		UNDP	
	2.9 Digital readiness score		Opportunistic	Systematic	UNDP digital readiness score		UNDP, ITU	
	2.10 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services (UNDP, source: Afrobarometer, Mo Ibrahim Survey, UNDP Perception Survey) <i>Health services: Baseline (2022): 13.0%; Target (2028): 20% (Afrobarometer) (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP)</i> <i>Education services: Baseline (2022): 15.2%; Target (2028): 20% (Afrobarometer) (UNICEF)</i> <i>Security & Rule of Law: Baseline (2022): 12%; Target (2028): 20% (UNDP Perception Survey) (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women)</i> <i>Energy services: Baseline (2022): 11.1%; Target (2028): 20% (Afrobarometer) (UNDP, WFP)</i>			<i>Health services: 13.0%</i> <i>Education services: 15.2%</i> <i>Security & Rule of Law: 12%</i> <i>Energy services: 11.1%</i>	<i>Health services: 20%</i> <i>Education services: 20%</i> <i>Security & Rule of Law: 20%</i> <i>Energy services: 20%</i>	Missing data sources		<i>Health services: (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP)</i> <i>Education services: (UNICEF, ITU)</i> <i>Security & Rule of Law: (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women)</i> <i>Energy services: (UNDP, WFP)</i>

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS AND OUTCOMES IN HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

National development priorities								
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Pillars: Agricultural productivity and commercialization (includes irrigation development, Industrialization (includes research, science, technology, and innovation), Urbanization (includes infrastructure development planning)								
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 enablers - Human capital development, Enhanced public sector performance, Effective governance system, Mindset change								
Regional frameworks:								
Africa Union 2063 - A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens; Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation ; Healthy and well-nourished citizens ; Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children ; Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life								
SDGs and SDG targets:								
SDG1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 10, SDG 13, SDG 16								
RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	LEVEL OF DISAGGREGATION AVAILABLE	BASELINE 2023	2028 TARGET	SOURCE / MEANS OF VERIFICATION	SDG INDICATOR REFERENCE	Agency focal points for data collection	ASSUMPTIONS
3. By 2028, more people, in particular women, children and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are resilient with access to and utilization of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, social and protection services.	3.1 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health, and social protection)	National	Education:0.16 Health: 0.09 Social Protection: 0.03	Education: 0.02 Health: 0.11 Social Protection: 0.04	National Budget Documents, UNICEF Social Sector Budget Briefs	1.a.2	UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, ITU	The effectiveness of social service systems and their responsiveness to the needs of the most vulnerable depend on a stable political environment in which the government to allocate resources to education, health, nutrition, and WASH services. In that regard, the education, health and social protection budgets are assumed to grow by 1%; 0.5% and 0.2% of the total budget, respectively, per each of the fiscal year until FY2027/28. The commitment from donors and partners to provide financial resources, technical assistance, and expertise will also be critical. The conditions of change also assume relatively stable global health and economic conditions. External factors like pandemics, economic crises, or global economic disparities could significantly impact the ability of governments and organizations to provide essential services and social protection. It is assumed that there is a commitment within Malawi to ensure equity and inclusivity in the delivery of social services and social protection. This includes policies and practices that prioritize the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations, such as girls, women, youths, migrants, displaced persons, the elderly, and people with disabilities and HIV. It also includes the willingness of communities to challenge harmful socio-cultural norms that may impede access to services, particularly for vulnerable groups.
	3.2 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	District, Sex, Age, Urban/Rural, Wealth Quintile	35.50%	28%	MICS, DHS and IHS	2.2.1	UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNHCR	
	3.3 Maternal mortality ratio: The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period	District, Wealth Quintile	381 per 100,000 live births	258 per 100,000 live births	UN interagency estimate / DHS	3.1.1	WHO, UNFPA, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR	
	3.4 Neonatal Mortality rate	District, Wealth Quintile	26 per 1,000 live births	17	MICS	3.2	UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO	
	3.5 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age, district	Under 15, female, male	0.22	0	MoH report	3.3.1	UNAIDS, UNFPA, WHO	
	3.6 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	Age, gender, district rural/urban, wealth quartile	51.74%	73%	Malawi UHC index report	3.8.1	WHO, UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR	
	3.7 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	National	50 %	60%	State Party Annual Report (SPAR) - reported annually; Joint External Evaluation (JEE) when available	3.d.1	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM	
	3.8 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	District, Sex, Age, Urban/Rural, Wealth Quintile	Primary: 56%, Lower secondary: 23% Upper secondary: 15%	Primary: 70% Lower secondary: 35% Upper secondary, 25%	MICS and EMIS report	4.1.2	UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, UNHCR, ILO	
	3.9 Proportion of children 24 to 59 months of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	District, Sex, Age, Urban/Rural, Wealth Quintile	0.59	0.65	MICS	4.2.1	UNICEF, UNESCO, WFP, WHO	

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS AND OUTCOMES IN HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

National development priorities

Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Pillars: Agricultural productivity and commercialization (includes irrigation development, Industrialization (includes research, science, technology, and innovation), Urbanization (includes infrastructure development planning)

Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 enablers - Human capital development, Enhanced public sector performance, Effective governance system, Mindset change

Regional frameworks:

Africa Union 2063 - A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens; Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation ; Healthy and well-nourished citizens ; Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children ; Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life

SDGs and SDG targets:

SDG1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 10, SDG 13, SDG 16

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	LEVEL OF DISAGGREGATION AVAILABLE	BASELINE 2023	2028 TARGET	SOURCE / MEANS OF VERIFICATION	SDG INDICATOR REFERENCE	Agency focal points for data collection	ASSUMPTIONS
3. By 2028, more people, in particular women, children and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are resilient with access to and utilization of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, social and protection services.	3.10 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes (omitted as data is not available); (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions) (UNICEF)	Electricity, 0.32 Internet for pedagogical purposes, 0.025 Adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, 0.148 Basic drinking water, 0.94 Single-sex basic sanitation facilities, 0.952 (girls), 0.945 (boys) Basic handwashing facilities, 61.7	Government to set the target since it's a national target		EMIS	4.a.1	UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA; UNHCR, ITU	
	3.11 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	District, Urban/Rural, Wealth Quintile	Before 18: 0.38	Before 18: 0.30	MICS	5.3.1	UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, IOM, UNDP	
	3.12 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	District, Urban/Rural, Wealth Quintile	0	1	MICS, DHS, and JMP	6.1.1	UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR	
	3.13 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	District, Urban/Rural, Wealth Quintile	0.24	0.65	MICS, DHS, and JMP	6.2.1	UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR	
	3.14 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months	Women, Age	(a) 15-19 years: 0.29 (b) 20-24 years:0.413; (c) 25-49 years;0.459	(a) 15-19 years: 0.20 (b) 20-24 years:0.30 (c) 25-49 years;0.35	DHS	16.1.3	UNODC, UNHCR, UN Women, WHO, UNFPA	
	3.15 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	sex and form of exploitation	Sex Female, 202 Male, 486 Form of exploitation Labour exploitation, 595 Sexual exploitation, 93	0	Malawi Network Against trafficking in persons	16.2.2	IOM, UNODC, ILO	
	3.16 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	District, Sex, Age, Urban/Rural, Wealth Quintile	0.67	1	MICS	16.9.1	UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF	

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: ADAPT TO CLIMATIC CHANGE, REVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND SUPPORT ENERGY TRANSFORMATION								
National development priorities:								
Malawi 2063 /MIP 1 Enablers: Environmental sustainability, Economic Infrastructure, Mindset change								
Regional frameworks:								
Africa Union 2063 - Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth / Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities / World Class Infrastructure criss-crosses Africa / Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life								
SDGs and SDG targets: SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 17								
RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	LEVEL OF DISAGGREGATION AVAILABLE	BASELINE 2023	2028 TARGET	SOURCE / MEANS OF VERIFICATION	SDG INDICATOR REFERENCE	Agency focal points for data collection	ASSUMPTIONS
4. By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable, including women and youth, are resilient to climate change and shocks, benefit from and have access to better-managed waste, ecosystems and natural resources, including clean and affordable energy.	4.1 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies		0.54	0.65	DODMA reports	1.5.4	UNDRR, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNCDF, IFAD, WHO, IOM, UNFPA	Communities are receptive to learning and are open to adopting new practices and behaviors (ie modern contraception) that promote climate resilience, waste circularity, and sustainable resource management.
	4.2 Proportion of population with access to electricity		14.9%	30%	Ministry of Energy	7.1.1	UNDP	
	4.3 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)		2	DODMA to set the target since it's a national target	The Grade report- World Bank	11.5.2	UNDRR, UNDP, UN Habitat, UN Women, IOM	There is a market for environmentally friendly technologies, and these technologies are economically viable, making them accessible to a wide range of consumers and businesses.
	4.4 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities		0.3	Government to set the target since it's a national target	Municipal reports	11.6.1	UN-Habitat, DESA, ITU	
	4.5 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year		3%	Government to set the target since it's a national target	Assessment report, district report	13.2.2	UNFCCC, UNEP, UNDP and WHO	The Global Commitment to Sustainable Development among nations and international organizations to address climate change, waste circularity, and natural resource management as a top priority, translates into increased investments and support to the most vulnerable countries to climate change like Malawi.
	4.6 Forest area as a proportion of total land area		0.244	0.26	Assessment report, Forest Inventory and Restoration Reports	15.1.1	FAO, UNDP, WFP, FAO, UNCDF	
	4.7 Total area under sustainable forest management		2,300,439.97 Ha	2,337,247.01 Ha	Assessment report and Restoration Reports Progress reports (UNDP)	15.2.1	UNDP, WFP, FAO	

Annex 2 – Configuration Table

Agencies	Representative office	Separate liaison/project office	Capacity embedded in RCO	Capacity embedded in another UN entity, please specify which:	Through a regional, sub-regional or multi-country office	Through headquarters	Short-term technical support	Other
FAO	X				X	X		
IFAD	X							
ILO		X						
IOM	X							
ITU					X	X		
OHCHR					X			
UN Habitat		X						
UN Women	X							
UNAIDS	X							
UNCDF								
UNDP	X							
UNECA					X	X	X	X
UNESCO					X			
UNFPA	X							
UNHCR	X							

Agencies	Representative office	Separate liaison/project office	Capacity embedded in RCO	Capacity embedded in another UN entity, please specify which:	Through a regional, sub-regional or multi-country office	Through headquarters	Short-term technical support	Other
UNICEF	X							
UNODC					X			
UNV		X						
WFP	X							
WHO	X				X	X	X	

Annex 3 – Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning Plan

Description of activities	Lead UN entities	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				Estimated cost (US\$)	Required
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Monitoring																							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake joint monitoring missions for selected joint programs 	MEAG Chair				x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		-	DSA by each agency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the implementation of National Statistical System Strategic Plan in conducting national surveys such as MICS, DHS, LFS, and IHS surveys, and enhancing administrative data sources. 	TBD	x	x	x	X	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support EP&D to establish the Harmonised Management Information Systems 	UNDPA & UNDP																						Staff time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support joint programs in the development/ refinement of result frameworks 	JP lead agencies	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	Staff time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the UNSDCF result framework against each 	RCO			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	-	Staff time

Description of activities	Lead UN entities	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				Estimated cost (US\$)	Required
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
outcome/output indicators by result groups.																							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen M&E capacity building for UN and implementing partners through M&E clinics and learning events 	MEAG Chair/ UNICEF	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	TBD	Cost sharing
Review and Reporting																							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Program Management Team (PMT) to develop joint thematic studies/reviews/policy briefs and publications as relevant 	TBD	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	TBD	TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support result groups to undertake the UNSDCF Annual Performance Review and develop Joint Annual Work Plans using UN INFO. 	UNSDCF Co-leads			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	-	Staff time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support result groups to prepare the UN annual country results report 	RCO	x				x				x				x				x				-	Staff time

Description of activities	Lead UN entities	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				Estimated cost (US\$)	Required
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
• Support PMT to update the Common Country Analysis	RCO			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	-	Staff time
• Support NPC to organize the high-level national development conference	RCO																					\$100,000	Cost-sharing+ Staff time
Evaluation																							
• Support UNCT in the design and implementation of the independent evaluation of UNSDCF	RCO															x	x					\$170,000	Cost-sharing+ Staff time
• Support PMT in the design and implementation of independent evaluations of UN joint programs.	JP Lead Agencies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Staff time
• Support Government to undertake the mid-term evaluation of MIP-1	UNICEF																						Cost sharing
Learning and knowledge management																							

Description of activities	Lead UN entities	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				Estimated cost (US\$)	Required	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
• Organize M&E learning events for joint programs	Rotate among JP Lead Agencies		x				x				x				x							\$10,000	Cost-sharing+ Staff time	
• Organize a research and evidence workshop	UNFPA/ UNICEF																							Cost sharing
• Support NPC in the organization of National Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning week	UNICEF																					\$50,000	Cost-sharing+ Staff time	
• Roll out of joint evaluation, assessment, and knowledge management approach	UNICEF		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	TBC	Cost sharing among agencies	
Estimated total budget																					\$430,000	For cost sharing among agencies		

Annex 4 – Legal Annex

1. Whereas the Government of Malaŵi (the “Government”) has entered into the agreements listed below with the United Nations, including its Funds, Programs and other subsidiary organs, and other organizations of the U N system (“UN System Organizations”), which are applicable to their program of activities in Malaŵi (the “UN Agreements”) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the “Cooperation Framework”).

2. Whereas the UN agreements, together with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (the “General Convention”) and/or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 (the “Specialized Agencies Convention”) as applicable, form the primary existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government and each UN System Organization for supporting the country to deliver on the Cooperation Framework, and are non-exhaustive and without prejudice to any other legal instruments the Government may enter into, including additional agreements with UN System organizations for the purpose of their activities in the country:

a) With the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to Malaŵi, which was signed by the Government of Malaŵi and UNDP (the “Standard Basic Assistance Agreement” or “SBAA”) on 15 July 1977. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP program activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a “project document” as referred to in the SBAA. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.

b) With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government of

Malaŵi and UNICEF on 28 June 1994.

c) With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the Government of Malaŵi and UNHCR on 28 April 1988.

d) With the World Food Program (WFP), a basic agreement between the Government and WFP concerning assistance from WFP, was endorsed by the Government of Malaŵi and WFP on 8 April 1968.

e) With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an agreement concluded by an exchange of letters, which entered into force on 2 November 2015, pursuant to which the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Malaŵi and the United Nations Development Program shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to UNFPA in Malaŵi.

f) With the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Agreement Concerning Technical Assistance concluded between the Government of Malaŵi and ILO on 24 October 1964.

g) With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an agreement for the establishment of the FAO representation in Malaŵi by exchange of letters entered into force on 28 April 1986.

h) With the World Health Organization (WHO), a basic agreement for the provision of technical advisory assistance signed by the Government of Malaŵi and WHO on 24 October 1964 came into effect.

i) With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the host country agreement concluded between the Government of Malaŵi and IOM on 19 February 2018.

j) With the United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a cooperation agreement concluded between the Government of Malaŵi and UNAIDS on 11 April 2019.

k) With the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a headquarters agreement concluded between the Government of Malaŵi and IFAD on the establishment of IFAD's Country Office on 18 October 2011.

l) With the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), a basic agreement concluded between the Government of Malaŵi and UNCDF on 2 February 1982.

m) With UN Women, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), *mutatis mutandis* the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Malaŵi and UNDP on 15 July 1977 applies.

n) With the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Universal Postal Union (UPU) an Agreement Concerning Technical Assistance concluded between the Government of Malaŵi and UNESCO, ILO, FAO, ICAO, WHO, ITU, WMO, IAEA and UPU on 24 October 1964.

3. With respect to all UN system organizations: assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions, decisions, rules, and procedures of each UN System organization.

4. Without prejudice to the above, the Government shall:

(i) Apply to each UN system organization and its property, funds, assets, officials, and experts on mission the provisions of the General Convention and/or the Specialized Agencies Convention; and

(ii) Accord to each UN system organization, its officials and other persons performing services on behalf of that UN system organization, the

privileges, immunities, and facilities set out in the UN Agreement applicable to such UN System Organization.

5. United Nations volunteers performing services on behalf of a UN system organization shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to officials of such UN system organization.

6. Any privileges, immunities and facilities granted to a UN system organization under the Cooperation Framework shall be no less favourable than those granted by the Government to any other UN system organization signatory of the Cooperation Framework.

7. Without prejudice to the UN agreements, the Government shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against any of the UN system organizations and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf, and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the Cooperation Framework, except where it is mutually agreed by the Government and the relevant UN system organization(s) that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that UN system organization, or its officials, or persons performing services.

8. Nothing in or relating to this Cooperation Framework shall be deemed:

(i) A waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of any UN system organization; or

(ii) The acceptance by any UN system organization of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from this Cooperation Framework, whether under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention, the UN agreements, or otherwise, and no provisions of this Cooperation Framework shall be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, that is inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

Annex 5 – Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT)

All cash transfers to an implementing partner are based on the work plans agreed between the implementing partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the implementing partner:

a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);

2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner.

3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing partners.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for program implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the implementing partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the implementing partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a government implementing partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN implementing partner.

A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the implementing partner shall participate. The implementing partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of program implementation based on the findings of program monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the implementing partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the implementing partner in 10 working days.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 140 working days].

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the implementing partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agencies provide cash to the same implementing partner, program monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan, will be used by implementing partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that relevant

UN organisations will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The implementing partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request, and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to implementing partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO implementing partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies, and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to relevant UN organisations within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO implementing partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted (to UN organization) within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each implementing partner receiving cash from relevant UN organisations will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by relevant UN organisations, together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control

structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing partner and relevant UN organisations.

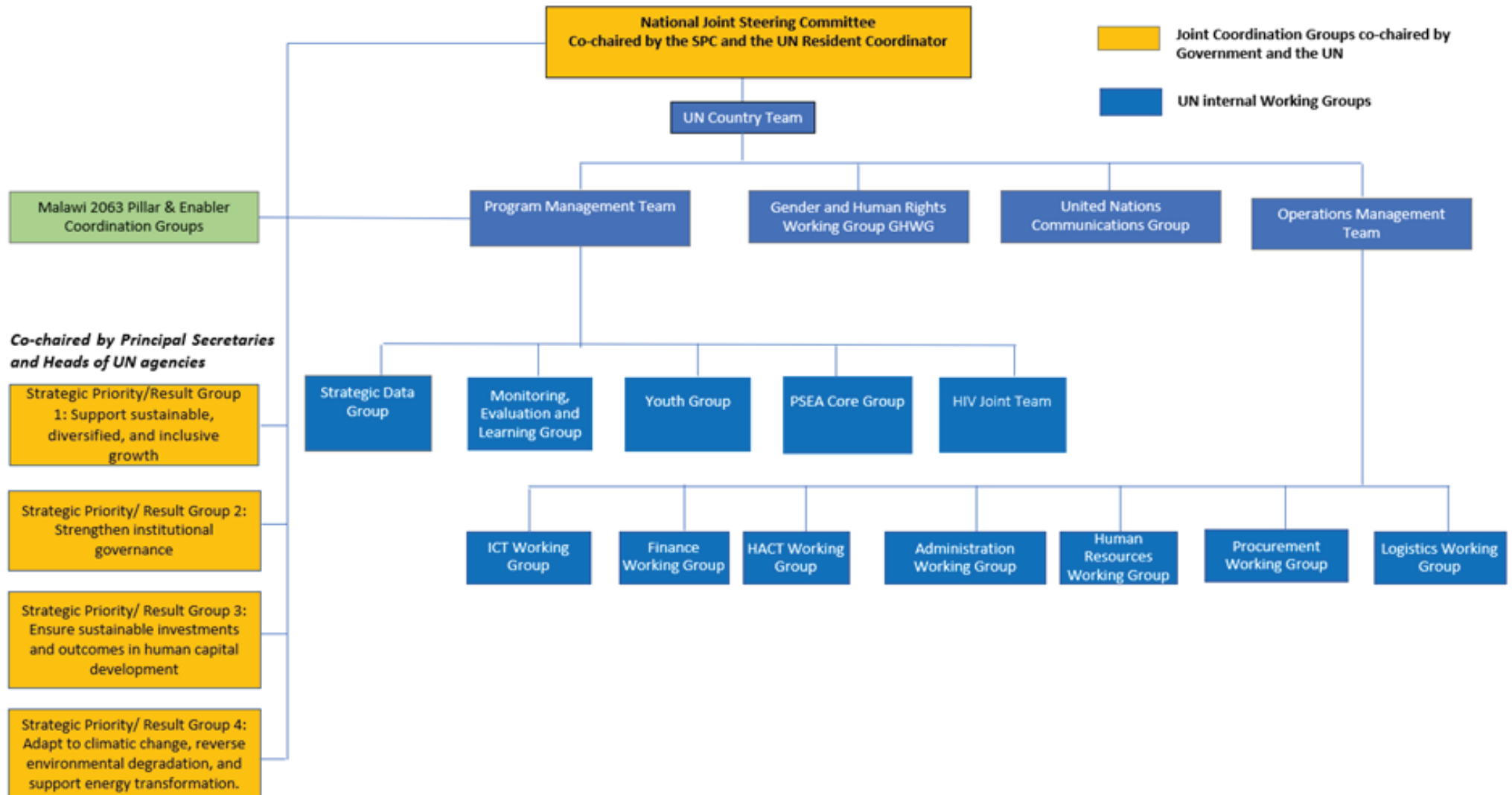
Each implementing partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the relevant UN organisations that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to relevant UN organisations.
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations. Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

Annex 6 – UNSDCF Coordination Structure

UNSDCF Coordination Structure



Annex 7 – Outcomes of the UNSDCF regional consultations

Introduction:

The UN in Malaŵi conducted a series of regional consultations in Blantyre, Mangochi, Salima, and Mzuzu from August 21 to 25, aimed at garnering valuable insights to inform the formulation of the 2024–2028 UNSDCF. These consultations engaged local council delegations, various stakeholders from UN agencies, and representatives from the Ministry of Local Government. The subsequent summary provides an overview, emphasizing accomplishments, identified shortcomings, and a set of recommendations intended for the thoughtful consideration of the UNCT in shaping the new UNSDCF.

Areas requiring improvement in the UNSDCF:

- **Operations need streamlining:** Simplify procurement, consolidate UN project offices, and ensure timely disbursement of funds.
- Enhance alignment with district development plans.
- **Improve collaboration and coordination:** Empower local structures, create joint work plans at district levels and engage with local CSOs in implementation of UN initiatives. Furthermore, the UN should have district coordination representatives and actively participate in quarterly full council meetings.
- **Focus on sustainability:** Adopt proper exit strategies, avoid last-minute proposals, and ensure asset handovers.
- **Enhance local level understanding of UNSDCF and SDGs:** Devise awareness strategies and share information with local councils and CSOs.

Priority areas for UN support in the UNSDCF:

- **Governance:** More support on digitization of Village Action Plans, by-law registration, fiscal decentralization, local council revenue generation initiatives, and the scaling –up of Innovation Challenge Fund. Enhance cooperation between CSOs and non-state actors.
- **Capacity development:** Capacity building in waste management, urban planning, environmental management, decentralization, leadership, financial accountability, and organization development. Promote curriculum reviews in primary schools.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Establish robust M&E systems, support government in evidence generation, and knowledge management.
- **Humanitarian preparedness:** Provide resources for preparedness, response, and recovery phases. Support disaster-prone districts with permanent evacuation centers.
- **Operations support:** Equip local councils with vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, and ICT infrastructure. Aid recruitment and initial staff salaries.

Acronyms

DHS	Demographic Health Survey
EMIS	Education Management Information System
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
Ha	Hectare
MALGA	Malawi Local Government Association
MEC	Malawi Electoral Commission
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
NSO	National Statistical Office
NHRI	National Human Rights Institutions
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SP	Strategic priority





**UNITED NATIONS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
FOR MALAWI**

2024-2028