

Malawi

UN COUNTRY
RESULTS
REPORT 2023



UNITED NATIONS
MALAWI



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Foreword by the Resident Coordinator



2023 marked a pivotal juncture for Malaŵi as we closed the 2019-2023 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and embarked on formulating its successor UNSDCF for 2024-2028 that responds to Malaŵi’s priorities outlined in Malaŵi 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Undoubtedly, 2023 posed formidable challenges, with emergencies such as a tropical cyclone and cholera outbreaks testing our resilience. Geopolitical tensions further compounded the situation, casting shadows on economic growth and sustainable development. However, amidst these adversities, Malaŵi persevered in its pursuit of development. As exemplified by slow recovery of the economy, despite the multifaceted challenges of the year.

This report not only chronicles the trials and triumphs of the Malaŵian people but also underscores the indispensable role of robust partnerships. It highlights the tangible results achieved through collaborative efforts between the UN and its myriad partners, including the government, development partners, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and academia. Together, we navigated the complexities, demonstrating the power of collective action in advancing sustainable development.

Rebecca Adda-Dontoh
UN Resident Coordinator



As we chart our course forward, our resolve remains unwavering. We are committed to deepening partnerships, mobilizing resources, and fostering innovation to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, Malaŵi 2063, and the Malaŵi Implementation Plan (MIP-1). In doing so, we remain guided by the principles of inclusivity, sustainability, and accountability, recognizing that our collective efforts are essential for realizing Malaŵi’s development aspirations.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the government of Malaŵi, our esteemed partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering collaboration and support. Together, let us continue our journey towards a brighter, more inclusive and sustainable future for Malaŵi.



UN Country Team



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The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malaŵi comprises a diverse range of 26 UN agencies, funds and programmes, including international financial institutions (IFIs), reflecting the comprehensive and multifaceted

The UN's footprint in Malaŵi reflects its commitment to delivering as one, leveraging the collective strengths and specialized expertise of its various entities. Through effective coordination and collaboration, the UNCT strives to address the country's development priorities in a holistic and sustainable manner, aligning

1. Agencies with Physical Presence with accredited representation in the country:



This category includes agencies that have a strong and well-established presence in the country, with an accredited Representative, dedicated offices, staff, and programmatic activities. These agencies play a pivotal role in addressing various development challenges, providing technical assistance, and implementing projects across multiple sectors. The agencies in this category are FAO, IOM, IFAD, IMF, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNAIDS, UN Women, UNDP, UNOPS, WFP, WHO, and the World Bank.

2. Agencies with Physical Presence through liaison / project offices



These agencies maintain a physical presence in the country through liaison or project offices, led by a Country Lead or Officer-in-Charge, along with project teams, although they may not have a designated country Representative. Working in collaboration with their respective regional offices and headquarters, these agencies actively contribute to various programmatic activities and initiatives in partnership with other UN entities and government counterparts. The agencies falling into this category include ILO, UNESCO, UNODC, UNCDF, UNV, and UN-Habitat.

3. Agencies without Physical Presence



While not physically present in the country, these agencies contribute to the UNCT's efforts through technical support, capacity development, policy advice, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Their expertise and global mandates complement the work of the UNCT, fostering a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing development challenges. The agencies in this category are ITU, OCHA, UNHCR, UNECA, UNCTAD, and UNEP.



Key development partners

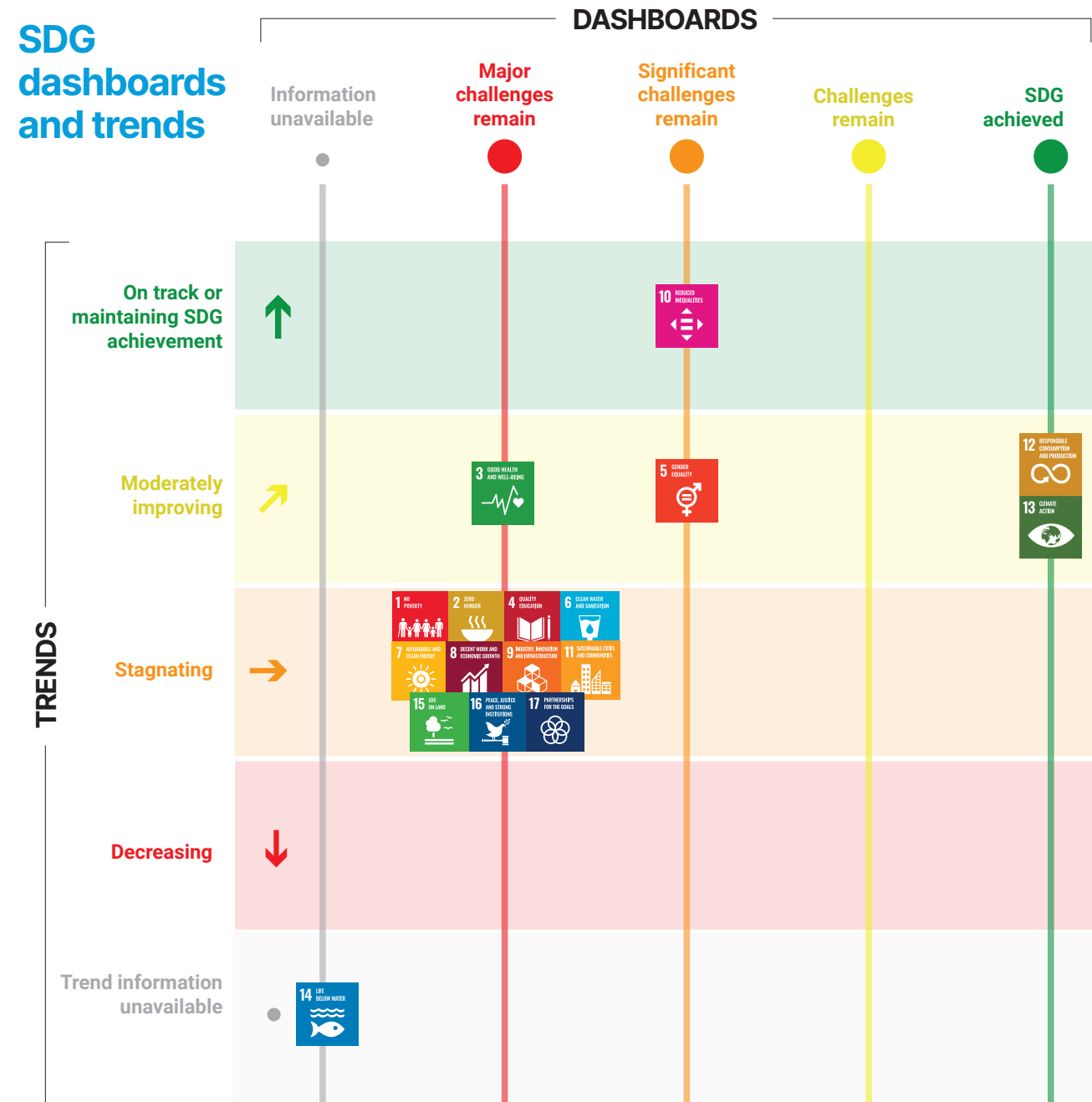
Ministries, Departments, and Agencies	Contributing partners/Donors	Non-state actors
Department of Disaster Management Affairs	Africa CDC	African Institute of Corporate Citizenship
Department of Human Resource Management & Development	African Development Bank	Action Aid
Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS	Australian Agency for International Development	Anglican Council of Malawi
District councils	Basket funding	Care International
Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Care Malawi
Department of Refugees	British Embassy	Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
Economic Planning & Development Department	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention USA	Centre for Multiparty Democracy Malawi
Environmental Affairs Department	China	Churches Action in Relief and Development
Malawi Electoral Commission	Consolidated Funds from NatComs	Civil Society Organization
Malawi Human Rights Commission	Disaster Preparedness ECHO Programme	Emmanuel International
Malawi Police Service	European Union	Employers' Consultative Association of Malawi
Malawi Prison Service	Flanders Government	Evangelical Lutheran Development Services
Ministry of Agriculture	Food for Peace	Facilitators of Community Transformation
Ministry of Education	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation	Farmers Union of Malawi
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs	Global Humanitarian Response Fund	Farmers Union of Malawi
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Global Nutrition	Find Your Feet
Ministry of Gender	Global Partnership for Education	Her Liberty
Ministry of Health	Government of Belgium	Jesuit Refugee Service
Ministry of Homeland Security	Government of Canada	KNCV
Ministry of Information and Digitization	Government of France	Malawi Congress of Trade Unions
Ministry of Justice	Government of Germany	Malawi Electoral Support Network
Ministry of Labour	Government of Iceland	Malawi Girl Guide Association
Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture	Government of Ireland	Malawi National Association for the Deaf
Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change	Government of Japan	Malawi Network for Aids Service Organization
Ministry of Trade and Industry	Government of Malawi	Malawi University of Science & Technology
Ministry of Water and Sanitation	Government of the Netherlands	Malawi Girl Guides Association
Ministry of Youth & Sports	Government of Norway	Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre
National AIDS Commission	Government of Sweden	Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association
National Initiative for Civic Education	Government of the Republic of Korea	Malawi Local Government Association

Ministries, Departments, and Agencies	Contributing partners/Donors	Non-state actors
National Planning Commission	Government of the United States of America	Malawi Network of AIDS Service Organisations
National Registration Bureau	Icelandic International Development Agency	National Child Justice Forum
National Statistical Office	International Fund for Agricultural Development	National Initiative for Civic Education
National AIDS Commission	Irish Aid	National Local Government Finance Committee
Office of Ombudsman	Japanese Supplementary Fund	NGO Gender Coordination Network
Office of the President and Cabinet	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau	National Youth Council of Malawi
Parliament	Korea International Cooperation Agency	Organization for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Initiative
Office of Ombudsman	Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund	OXFAM
	Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Paralegal Advisory Service Institute
	Nutrition International	Partners in Action for Sustainable Development
	Standard Bank Group Plc	People Serving Girls at Risk
	Swedish International Development Agency	Phalombe Youth Arms
	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Plan International
	Nutrition International	Story Workshop
	Standard Bank Group Plc	The Adventist Development and Relief Agency
	The Global Environment Facility	The Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Malawi
		Welthungerhilfe
	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	Women's Legal Resources Centre
	The Green Climate Fund	World Vision International
	The Joint SDG Fund	Youth Net and Counseling
	The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	
	The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (UN Peace Fund)	
	The World Bank	
	Unified Budgetary Accountability Framework	
	Universidade de Curitiba	
	United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	
	United States Agency for International Development	
	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	
	The Global Environment Facility	
	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	
	The Green Climate Fund	
	Central Emergency Response Fund	
	Southern African Development Community	

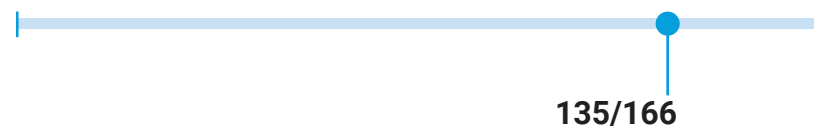


MalaWi at a glance

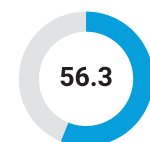
SDG dashboards and trends



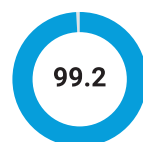
SDG index rank



SDG index score



Spillover score



Country Data

Demographics

Estimated Total Population	20.4 million
Population growth (annual %)	2.6
Life expectancy	63

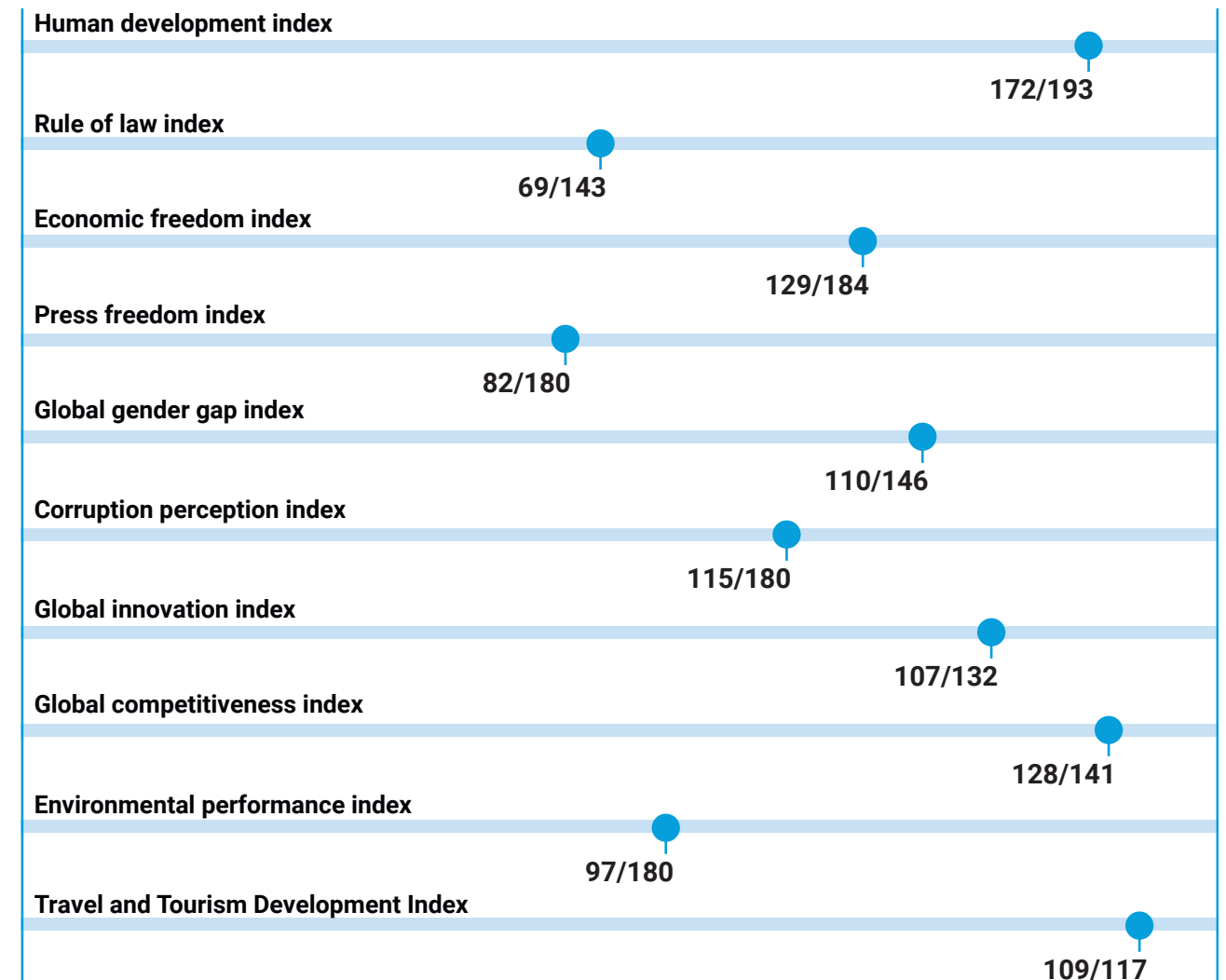
Social indicators

Poverty rate	50.7
Literacy rate	62%

Economic indicators

GDP per capita (current US\$)	645.2
GDP growth (annual %)	1.5%
Average Inflation (Annual %)	28.8%
Public debt as a % of GDP	80.2 per cent of GDP

MalaWi's standing in selected global rankings



Overview

Cooperation framework priority areas

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), MalaWi 2063 and the MalaWi Implementation Plan (MIP-1). The Cooperation Framework supports the government in three interlinked and mutually reinforcing strategic priority areas.

UNSDCF Strategic priorities/pillars	Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions	Population Management and Inclusive Human Development	Inclusive and Resilient Growth
UNSDCF outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accountable and effective institutions 2. Gender equality and women empowerment 3. Peace, Inclusivity and Participatory Democracy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Early Childhood Development (ECD) Services 5. Quality Education, Health, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and Protection Services 6. Sexual and Reproductive and HIV/AIDS Health Rights 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Food and Nutrition Security, and WASH services 8. Sustainable and Diversified Agriculture 9. Economic Diversification, Inclusive Business, and Clean Energy
Alignment with MalaWi 2063 Pillars	Agricultural productivity and commercialization, Urbanization (includes tourism)	Industrialization (includes mining), Urbanization (includes tourism)	Agricultural productivity and commercialization,
Alignment with SDGS			

1

Key developments in the country and the regional context



1.1 Country development context

The world is experiencing significant development challenges with the increasing intensity and frequency of shocks. Malaŵi has not been spared from the adverse impacts of climatic shocks, geopolitical tensions, and lingering effects of health pandemics including COVID-19 and cholera. These challenges have significantly impacted the country's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and threaten to reverse development gains. Still, the country is forging ahead and aspires to graduate into a lower middle-income economy and achieve most of the SDGs by 2030 and an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant industrialized uppermiddle-income economy by the year 2063.

Malaŵi's economy continued to recover, albeit slowly. The economy, measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 1.5 per cent in 2023, up from 0.9 per cent in 2022. Acknowledging the hurdles of slow growth, high inflation, and towering debt levels, the government embarked on a path of reform, bolstered by a four-year Extended Credit Facility (ECF) valued at US\$175 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This arrangement not only secured financial resources, but also helped mobilise support from development partners through budgetary support. Furthermore, the initiative underscores a broader commitment to structural adjustment and macroeconomic stability and laying the foundations for sustainable growth. The government championed Agriculture, Tourism, and Mining (ATM) strategy to drive economic expansion, aligning with the objectives set in the Malaŵi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan. These efforts were complemented by investments in infrastructure, and measures to combat climate change, all designed to pave the way for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

However, the increasing frequency and intensity of shocks on the back of pre-existing structural development challenges weighed down on economic growth and sustainable development. Tropical Cyclone Freddy hit the country in early 2023, causing loss of life, livelihoods, infrastructure damage and a total economic cost estimated at 0.5 per cent of GDP.¹ Nearly 2.3 million people were affected, including 659,278 people who were displaced, 679 who were killed and

530 who are still missing. The Cyclone Freddy also hit the country while the country was struggling to recover from the impact of tropical storms Ana and cyclone Gombe (2022) whose direct damages were estimated between 1.5 to 2.7 per cent of GDP and the ripple effects, including power generation, continued to negatively impact industry and citizens. Health shocks, in particular cholera outbreak in 2022-2023, and the impacts of the war in Ukraine, as well as a worsening balance-of-payments crisis caused by sustained fiscal and external imbalances, have also heavily weighed down on economic growth.

Meanwhile, high inflation on commodities (such as petroleum products, fertilizer, cereals, cooking oil) further worsened the socio-economic environment. In November 2023, the Reserve Bank of Malaŵi realigned its currency to better reflect market developments resulting in a 44 per cent devaluation of the Malaŵi kwacha against the US dollar. The exchange rate alignment transmission impact saw a significant increase in the prices of basic commodities and imported goods. By January 2024, annual inflation reached the highest in a decade, largely driven by food inflation which stood at 44.9 per cent; a level last recorded in the late 1990s. Inflation negatively impacted on the poor and vulnerable groups as they experienced reduced real incomes, with implications for the quality of life. With elevated food prices, vulnerable households are forced to make painful trade-offs by reducing food purchases or other essential expenditures like health and education impacting on the right to food, education, and health, exacerbating existing inequalities, including gender inequality resulting in increased Gender-Based Violence (GBV), teenage pregnancies, child marriages, and weighing on the achievement of SDGs.

With a limited capacity to cope, and little time to recover, a significant number of households slipped further into chronic food insecurity and poverty. The 2023 Malaŵi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) Annual Assessment, using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), projected that 4.408 million people in 28 districts and 4 cities fell in IPC Phase 3 or worse and requiring food assistance ranging from 2 to 6 months' period during the 2023/2024 consumption year. Among the affected



people, 266,000 people were in Phase 4 (humanitarian emergency) and were at risk of severe lack of food access with excess mortality and high risk of malnutrition. At the same time, 4,136, 000 were in Phase 3 (crisis), highly stressed and suffered critical lack of food access with a high risk of malnutrition. A decrease in maize production on the back of Tropical Cyclone Freddy and prolonged dry spells, crop pests, high prices on the market for food commodities and the slowdown in economic activity were among the major drivers of food insecurity.

Despite efforts, poverty based on the international poverty line of US\$2.15/day remained significantly high at 71.2 per cent. According to the UN (UNICEF and WFP) Joint SDG Fund supported

National Statistics Office (NSO) Survey on the Impact of Multiple Shocks on the Most Vulnerable in Malaŵi between 2019 and 2023, national headcount poverty worsened by 1.8 per cent since 2019-2020, while ultra poverty worsened by 2.6 per cent. Southern and central districts, whose poverty rates were higher than the national average, were more worse off, as they were hit hardest by the recent weather events, likely exacerbating poverty rates and poverty severity, and pushing many households further below national poverty lines. Meanwhile, about 61.7 per cent of Malaŵians were multidimensionally poor. More female-headed households (72.3 per cent) were multidimensionally poorer than their male-headed household (58.1 per cent).

1.2 Regional development context

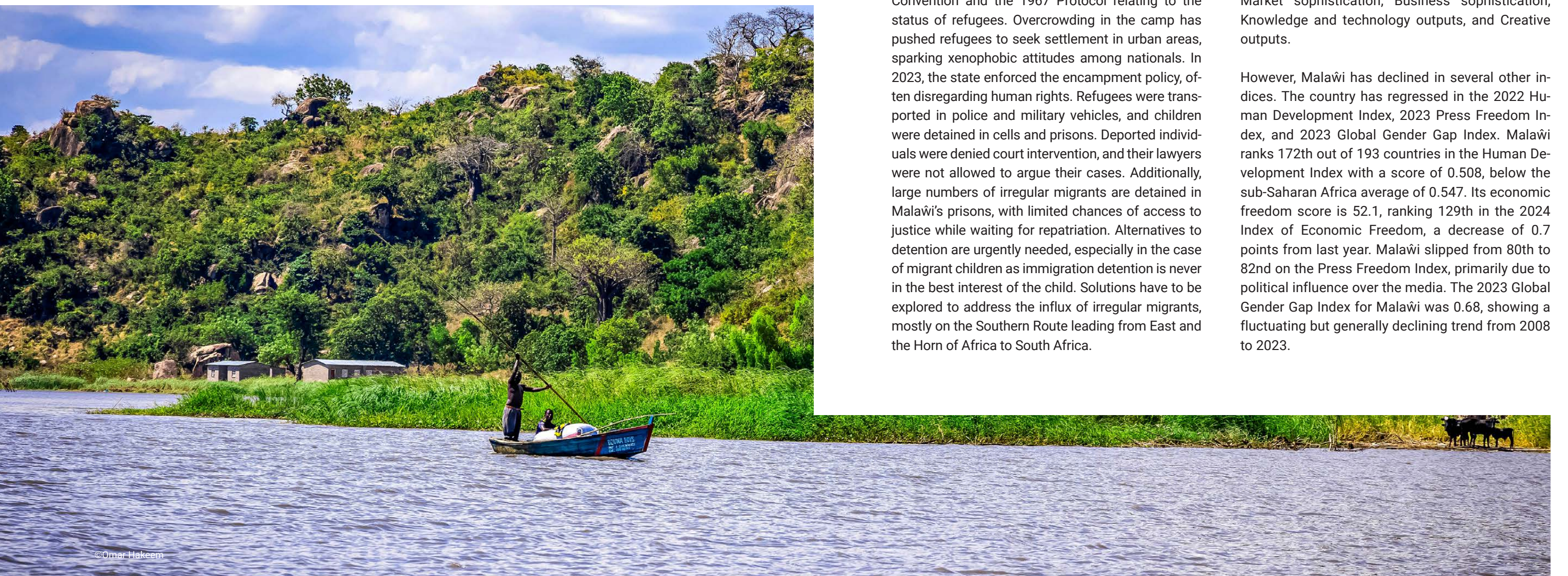
Over the past five years, Malawi has consistently ranked 8th in sub-Saharan Africa on the Rule of Law Index, according to the World Justice Project's 2023 report. Despite this steady ranking, the country has received low scores in regulatory enforcement, transparency in government operations, and the effectiveness of its criminal justice system. These areas have been significant factors in the stagnation of Malawi's overall performance on the index.

Political instability and social unrest in East Africa have increased the influx of refugees into Malaŵi, straining a camp designed to host 10,000 people on 224 hectares of land. Overcrowding has led refugees to defy Malaŵi's encampment policy. The country has reservations about some clauses in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees. Overcrowding in the camp has pushed refugees to seek settlement in urban areas, sparking xenophobic attitudes among nationals. In 2023, the state enforced the encampment policy, often disregarding human rights. Refugees were transported in police and military vehicles, and children were detained in cells and prisons. Deported individuals were denied court intervention, and their lawyers were not allowed to argue their cases. Additionally, large numbers of irregular migrants are detained in Malaŵi's prisons, with limited chances of access to justice while waiting for repatriation. Alternatives to detention are urgently needed, especially in the case of migrant children as immigration detention is never in the best interest of the child. Solutions have to be explored to address the influx of irregular migrants, mostly on the Southern Route leading from East and the Horn of Africa to South Africa.

Similarly, Malaŵi has not improved on the leading global indicator of public sector corruption known as the Corruption Perception Index which scores 180 countries around the world. Malaŵi has a score of 34 this year with a rank of 115 out of 180 countries. The country's resolve to fight corruption faced a litmus test in 2023 when the country's Anti-Corruption Bureau was frustrated in its quest to deal with a landmark alleged corruption cases that involved senior government officials. Most of the cases have now been discontinued by the state.

In the Global Innovation Index of 2021, Malaŵi ranked 107th among 132 economies, 3rd among 13 low-income group economies, and 10th among 27 economies in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaŵi performs above average in five pillars: Institutions, Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs, and Creative outputs.

However, Malaŵi has declined in several other indices. The country has regressed in the 2022 Human Development Index, 2023 Press Freedom Index, and 2023 Global Gender Gap Index. Malaŵi ranks 172th out of 193 countries in the Human Development Index with a score of 0.508, below the sub-Saharan Africa average of 0.547. Its economic freedom score is 52.1, ranking 129th in the 2024 Index of Economic Freedom, a decrease of 0.7 points from last year. Malaŵi slipped from 80th to 82nd on the Press Freedom Index, primarily due to political influence over the media. The 2023 Global Gender Gap Index for Malaŵi was 0.68, showing a fluctuating but generally declining trend from 2008 to 2023.



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2
















UN development system support to national development priorities through the cooperation framework



2.1 Overview of cooperation framework results

This report summarizes the collective results achieved at the outcome and output levels during the implementation of the 2019-2023 UNSDCF, facilitated by the annual Joint Work Plan (JWP) and five joint programmes. Despite challenges posed by emergencies such as floods, and cholera outbreaks, commendable progress was made. Below is a snapshot of key results and highlights, supported by the UN and its development partners.



 <p>US\$ 1.2 billion mobilized in the last five years and US\$170.5 mobilized in 2023</p>	 <p>US\$ 7 million cost avoidance realized in the last five years</p>	 <p>Over US\$ 4 million mobilised in 2023 to support national surveys</p>
 <p>Over 3.6 million people have benefited from the SDG Acceleration Fund in the last five years</p>	 <p>79 survivors of gender-based violence successfully accessed justice</p>	 <p>1,572 cases of child marriages were annulled in 2023</p>
 <p>Nearly 3.9 million children, including refugees and adolescents accessed education in 2023</p>	 <p>Polio supplementary vaccination completed in 28 districts</p>	 <p>HIV infections among children 0-4 years reduced from 2,965 in 2022 to 1,655 in 2023.</p>
 <p>1.5 million people, including refugees reached in 2023 through social protection interventions</p>	 <p>45 farmer groups sold over 1.2 million kilograms of agricultural produce and realised sales of US\$207,860</p>	 <p>3,073 farmer organizations and cooperatives were linked to structured markets in 2023.</p>
 <p>805 jobs created for both wage and self employment in 2023</p>	 <p>600 solar systems and 2,000 energy cooking stoves provided to the most vulnerable households</p>	 <p>5,000 ha of degraded land was restored in 2023</p>



2.2 Cooperation framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

Outcome 1

Accountable and effective institutions

State and non-state institutions and legal frameworks strengthened to coordinate, promote partnerships and accountability, access to justice and human rights (IOM, ILO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, and WHO):

The UNCT established the UN Network on Migration (UNNM) to enhance collaboration among state and non-state actors in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. Since February 2023, the UNNM has provided one UN voice on key migration-related issues. Member agencies to the UNNM submitted a proposal to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund which was successfully included as a pipeline project. IOM's coordination of cross-border collaboration forums between Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia has led to concrete action plans addressing migration-related challenges. Joint initiatives to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants have strengthened migrant protection and facilitated trade, illustrating the synergistic efforts of UN agencies.

UNDP and UN Women, in partnership with the Legal Aid Bureau, Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), and the Judiciary, have enhanced access to justice for persons in custody. The implementation of camp and mobile courts, digital case management systems, and capacity building in DNA forensic training for cases on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) have equipped the Judiciary and police with better tools and skills. This has resulted in increased access to justice, particularly for 79 survivors of gender-based violence. Additionally, UN-facilitated strategic litigation through the Gender and Justice Unit has challenged discriminatory laws, promoted legal reforms and raised awareness about the rights of vulnerable populations.

WHO's support in applying Equity Analysis tools has led to significant strides in addressing health inequities in Malawi. By partnering with the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Health, WHO has identified underserved communities, particularly in epidemic settings. Capacity-building initiatives at national and district levels have enhanced the use



of equity analysis, contributing to informed policy dialogue and decision-making. These efforts support the achievement of Universal Health Coverage and SDG targets by 2030.

UNHCR, in collaboration with UNECA and the National Registration Bureau (NRB), has made significant progress in improving birth registration for vulnerable children in Malawi. Joint workshops and the development of standard operating procedures have laid the platform to support reducing the risk of exclusion and statelessness among vulnerable populations. This initiative ensures that all children, including refugees and asylum-seekers, have access to essential documentation, such as birth certificates, aligning with broader efforts to protect the rights of all children.

Malawi has strengthened decentralized sectors and local governance structures for effective service delivery, development planning and SDGs acceleration (UNICEF & UNDP):

District councils now have improved digital systems and performance-based budgeting, leading to enhanced service delivery through the joint efforts of UNDP and UNICEF. UNDP through the SDG Hotspots Acceleration and Public Sector Innovation Initiatives has spearheaded the piloting and implementation of digital systems for revenue management and hospital information management in Mwanza and Dowa district councils to improve service delivery. UNICEF's support for evidence-based improvements and digitization of its own source revenue collection



and management systems at the local level has enhanced financing for social service delivery. Collaboration with the government and development partners has resulted in the strengthening of district performance-based budgeting and alignment with the MIP-1 and Malawi 2063 agenda.

District Development Plans and Socio-Economic Profiles are now better aligned with Malawi 2023 and its 10-Year Malawi Implementation Plan. UNDP supported six district councils in developing digital Village Action Plans to address longstanding challenges in development planning, such as accessibility issues and data quality concerns. This has resulted in more effective resource allocation and increased community engagement. Additionally, UNICEF's technical assistance in intergovernmental fiscal transfer mechanisms and the development of Socio-Economic Profiles and District Development Plans has enhanced the local governance framework.

The integration of the Malawi 2063 vision and the Monitoring and Evaluation framework into district-level planning processes, facilitated by UNDP in collaboration with the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Local Government, has led to all district councils establishing robust M&E frameworks. This ensures coherence between local development plans and national priorities, fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.

IOM's comprehensive capacity-building initiatives have equipped decision-makers, community leaders, and frontline border officials with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively address trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, and irregular migration. These efforts have strengthened border management systems and safeguarded the rights of migrants.

Oversight institutions and civil society enabled to engage duty bearers to ensure increased demand for accountability (ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UN Women):

Public institutions and non-state actors, supported by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNHCR, have improved their capacity to collect, analyze, share, and utilize disaggregated data and digital technologies for evidence-based policies and programs. These enhancements have led to better-informed decision-making processes and more effective development interventions.

ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women and FAO collectively supported the National Statistical Office (NSO) in mobilizing close to US\$4 million for the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, Micro-nutrient Survey, Labour Force Survey, and National Census on Agriculture and Livestock. The UN Data Group, led by UNFPA, facilitated consultations for developing the next National Statistical System strategic plan. These efforts have significantly improved the country's data collection and analysis capabilities, including the collection of sex disaggregated data thereby supporting evidence-based policy formulation.

ILO, IOM, UNDP and UNICEF have collaboratively enhanced the capacity of citizens to foster a culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability from a young age. ILO supported the Ministry of Labour and social partners in implementing the National Workplan on the abolition of tenancy labor, following its legal abolition in 2021. This support enhanced the ministry's capacity to enforce labour laws and protect workers' rights. The Anti-Corruption Bureau, with support from UNDP, developed and launched the Anti-Corruption Handbook, which mainstreams anti-corruption principles in primary education. IOM

has enhanced transparency and accountability in the employment services sector by encouraging the formation of the Private Employment Agencies Association and provided capacity-building support to agencies for the ethical recruitment of prospective labour migrants. Additionally, the Ministry of Labour, empowered with tools for ethical recruitment, has developed Employment (Labour Migration) Regulations to ensure safe labour mobility. Simultaneously, UNICEF, in partnership with five CSOs, has strengthened accountability and responsiveness in local government. Through the establishment of dedicated accountability platforms, such as the Bwalo Initiatives, children, duty bearers, and communities have been empowered to interact and promote mutual accountability. These platforms have mobilized grassroots demand for better governance and enhanced community participation in shaping socio-economic profiles, leading to tangible improvements in service delivery.

Through the National Registration Identification System, the National Registration Bureau (NRB) and selected district councils integrated the national ID platform with the Universal Beneficiary Registry and piloted birth registration with UN support. As a result, government agencies can now quickly and accurately determine eligibility, reducing the risk of errors and fraud. In three districts of Malawi, 618,000 births were recorded, and over 95 per cent of children under the age of 16 received their birth certificates.

Capacity-building initiatives for government officials in NSO and NRB on the production of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) have strengthened institutional and technical capacities with UN support. This has facilitated the development of the inaugural Malawi Government's Technical Note on CRVS, enhancing the country's ability to maintain accurate and comprehensive vital statistics.



Outcome 2

Gender equality and women's empowerment

National gender machinery with enhanced capabilities in coordination, management, formulation and implementation of transformative gender programs and gender-related laws and policies (UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, and UNICEF):

UN Women and UNICEF spearheaded advocacy efforts and provided crucial support for legislative reforms, resulting in significant advancements in the legal framework, particularly in safeguarding the rights of women and girls. Collaborating with the National Taskforce on law reform, the UN facilitated the successful amendment of 5 laws and 2 policies, including the critical revision of the Penal Code. Notably, the amended Penal Code now aligns with the Constitution, defining a child as an individual under the age of eighteen years, thereby strengthening protections against sexual offences. These legislative milestones have not only enhanced access to justice and legal protection for survivors of violence but have also played a pivotal role in combating harmful practices like child marriage. Through the robust referral mechanisms of the Spotlight Initiative, a total of 78,765 cases related to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including 1,994 cases of child marriages, were closely monitored, leading to the annulment of 1,572 child marriages.

Moreover, the Spotlight Initiative supported the restructuring of local government frameworks to foster gender and disability inclusion in development planning and execution. The establishment of Gender Technical Working Groups, comprising representatives from diverse sectors such as education, agriculture, local government, and finance, among others, has fortified the capacity to monitor and promote gender and disability inclusivity across all local development plans.

In response to humanitarian crises, enhanced monitoring and GBV referral mechanisms supported by UN Women in communities and camps led to the reporting, follow-up, and referral of 44 cases. This initiative protected women, girls, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups from violence both in the camps and after they returned to their communities during the Tropical Cyclone Freddy response. Furthermore, through its partners, UN Women strengthened and facilitated access to protection and preventive services for 39,147 community members directly affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Of these, 18,350 were women and girls, and 1,263 were persons with disabilities. Collaborating with CSOs in Spotlight Initiative targeted districts, 105 girls received referrals to law enforcement and healthcare

facilities for support in GBV cases, while 2,700 girls benefited from group therapy and 574 received individual psychosocial counselling through mentorship programs.

UNFPA's partnership with stakeholders, including the Malaŵi National Association for the Deaf, extended the reach of gender equality advocacy, GBV activism, and sign language promotion to over 1 million individuals.

Strengthened capabilities of Government and CSOs to implement, monitor and report on global, regional, and national obligations on GEWE (ILO, UN Women, and UNDP):

In 2023, UN Women, in collaboration with relevant CSOs, facilitated the development of community scorecards, opinion polls, grievance and redress structures, and other social accountability mechanisms for health promotion, SGBV and SRHR related reporting and monitoring. These initiatives empowered both communities and service providers to identify and address challenges. Notable issues surfaced through the scorecard assessments included Chiefs soliciting bribes during the processing of hospital/police referral letters for GBV victims, instances of male teachers sexually abusing young girls in schools, delays in prosecuting GBV cases, bribery within the Police and Courts system, and reports of health centers and health workers sexually abusing patients and charging fees for services that should be free to the public. Through these mechanisms, collaborative action was taken to address these systemic issues.

Simultaneously, with support from UNDP, the Ministry of Justice established a Treaty reporting mechanism to monitor its obligations under all international instruments it has ratified. This framework enabled the tracking of recommendations stemming from the Universal Periodic Review process.

Furthermore, in partnership with the MHRC, ILO conducted a gender audit for both public and private institutions, fostering institutional awareness and accountability towards gender equality and human



rights. This collective effort aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and institutional responsiveness to gender-related concerns and international human rights commitments.

Public institutions and CSOs capable of producing and using knowledge products and analytical reports on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (IOM, UNDP, UN Women, and UNICEF)

Through the Spotlight Initiative, the UN agencies collaborated to support the MHRC in conducting a comprehensive national situation analysis on the prevalence of sexual harassment in workplaces across public, private institutions, and informal business sectors. This initiative resulted in the development of a national situation analysis report, which served as the foundation for the MHRC to formulate guidelines for the establishment of workplace policies aimed at addressing and managing sexual harassment effectively.

Additionally, under the Spotlight Initiative an assessment of GBV coordination mechanisms through the CSO called Citizen Alliance identified district-specific gaps. The assessment outcomes and recommendations prompted the restructuring of Gender Technical Working Groups in the six Spotlight Districts, refining their Terms of Reference for enhanced effectiveness in addressing GBV issues at the grassroots level.

In parallel, UNDP spearheaded efforts to establish minimum data requirements for integrating gender considerations into district-level planning, implementation, and reporting processes, aligning with gender-related SDGs mandates. Furthermore, support was extended to the NSO in setting up an observatory hub to monitor and report trends in SGBV cases, facilitating informed decision-making and progress tracking toward SDG 5 targets.

UNICEF supported Malawi Human Rights Commission to conduct GBV and Sexual and Exploitation Abuse (SEA) rapid assessment of Cyclone Freddy to have evidence-based planning for other

emergencies including the contingency plans. Furthermore, UNICEF supported NGO Gender Coordination Network with capacity building in gender, GBV and PSEA integration in emergency response, imparted gender analytical skills. This support led to generation of evidence through gender based and social inclusion analysis, and safety audits and these findings inform evidence-based gender integration in emergency response. Consequently, these WLO capacitated the district staff and created community awareness on the GBV and SEA risks, and gender transformative behaviour change interventions for resilient building and recovery after Cyclone Freddy reaching out to 8000 children and women and adolescent girls in all the Cyclone Freddy districts. This was a great breakthrough as most women and adolescent girls opened up on the specific challenges, including sexual violence, that they were facing during emergencies which resulted in increased awareness on GBV and SEA risks and the available service providers within their vicinity.

In an effort to enhance mitigation the impact of climate change, promote adolescent girls leadership, sense of agency, and voice, UNICEF supported and collaborated with Ministry of Youth to engage adolescent girls in Climate Action in four cyclone affected districts of Phalombe, Mulanje Chikwawa and Nsanje where adolescent girls were equipped with knowledge in climate change, GBV and leadership skills and set up tree planting activities in their communities contributing to mitigation of impact of climate change.

Moreover, IOM played a crucial role in data collection and analysis pertaining to cross-border flows. Over 60 stakeholders from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other institutions accessed the information. This data, made accessible to local government frontline workers, including the Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services, Border Police, and Port Health serves as a valuable resource for informed programming in peace and conflict resolution as well as emergency prevention efforts, fostering greater resilience and community cohesion in border regions.



Outcome 3

Strengthened institutional capacities

Real-time conflict early warning and response mechanisms for monitoring conflicts and threats to peace (UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, and UNHCR):

UNDP collaborated with the Government of Malaŵi to establish the National Peace and Unity Commission, a cornerstone in fostering sustainable peace and conflict prevention, equipped with a robust early warning and response system. Simultaneously, similar support was extended to the Public Affairs Committee to fortify national capacities for mediation and dialogue facilitation across both national and community levels. In a concerted effort, UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA facilitated the development of district peace committees, ensuring the inclusion of women’s participation and addressing mental health concerns in conflict contexts.

Furthermore, the UN collectively supported capacity strengthening through comprehensive training programs targeting district and community-level stakeholders, including the District Gender Technical Working Groups and 10 Village Development Committees in Rumphi District. A total of 135 individuals (108 Female and 27 Male) underwent training and received support to actively engage in community-based peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts. Also, women movements for conflict prevention and peace building were established in Mangochi, Mulanje and Karonga districts to foster peace and conflict prevention at community levels. These initiatives align with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, emphasizing women’s inclusion and participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding endeavors. Moreover, the enhanced engagement of women in leadership roles within community structures

such as Village Development Committees and Area Development Committees underscores the commitment to addressing Gender-Based Violence as a pivotal aspect of women’s peace and security. These empowered groups are poised to continue advocating for gender-responsive approaches in security and humanitarian responses at the district level.

In tandem, UNHCR formulated a comprehensive refugee response contingency plan, aligned with the principles of age, gender, and diversity, ensuring inclusive support and assistance to all individuals in need. With an average of 186 new arrivals per month in Dzaleka Refugee Camp, this contingency plan stands ready to swiftly address any potential humanitarian challenges while upholding the commitment to leaving no one behind in crisis situations.



Outcome 4

Early childhood development services

Children under five in selected districts receive quality stimulation and responsive care services from their parents or primary caregivers (Positive Parenting) – (UNICEF):

UNICEF provided early stimulation and responsive care to a total of 91,917 children aged 0 to 5, comprising 52,749 females and 39,168 males, across targeted districts. This comprehensive support was delivered through various platforms, including Community-Based Child Care Centers and community care groups, ensuring that children received essential nurturing and developmental support from their parents and caregivers.

Furthermore, a substantial number of 997,560 parents and caregivers received counselling sessions on effective parenting practices and infant and young child feeding techniques. As a direct outcome of these interventions, a notable cohort of 47,142 children, comprising 10,234 males and

36,908 females, experienced tangible benefits from enhanced early stimulation and nurturing facilitated through CBCCs and care group platforms.

UNICEF supported the revision of the National Integrated ECD Policy, which lays out a comprehensive approach to high-impact programmes and services for all children from conception to eight years of age. This draft policy now awaits approval from an Inter-Ministerial Committee. UNICEF also supported the development of an ECD Bill, currently awaiting final endorsements from Cabinet.

All district councils have capacity to provide free and universal birth registration for 0-5 year old children (UNICEF and UNHCR): During the period from January to September, birth registration was successfully completed for over 542,000 children under the age of five. This achievement represents approximately 75per cent of the annual target of 600,000 registrations for the year.

All District Councils have strengthened capacity to provide minimum package of age-appropriate nutrition services to children (UNICEF and WHO):

Throughout the nationwide initiative, a total of 1,040,429 children under the age of five benefited from vitamin A supplementation, constituting a coverage rate of 40 per cent. Additionally, 29,328 children diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition were admitted into the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition program, achieving a case coverage of 47 per cent against the target of 62,067 admissions.

Moreover, in targeted districts including Blantyre, Phalombe, and Nsanje, a commendable total of 110,891 caregivers of children aged 0-23 months enhanced their skills and knowledge regarding Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition practices. These interventions signify a concerted effort towards improving the nutritional well-being of children and families in Malawi.



Mothers and under-five children receive quality HIV prevention and care services in health facilities and communities (IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNAIDS):

The concerted efforts of UN agencies and development partners in MalaWi have led to a multifaceted approach in combating HIV/AIDS and supporting vulnerable populations, particularly pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and HIV-exposed children. Through collaborative initiatives such as the community and facility mentor mother model, UNFPA's establishment of safe spaces, UNAIDS' support for critical services, IOM's health interventions with migrants and communities among main migration routes in border areas including fish-dependent communities, and UNICEF's identification and linkage of vulnerable adolescent girls and young women to prevention services and response to disaster situations, significant achievements have been realized.

These efforts collectively ensured access to comprehensive HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care information for 11,600 vulnerable pregnant



and breastfeeding women, resulting in the prompt initiation of treatment for 402 newly diagnosed HIV-positive individuals. Additionally, the establishment of safe spaces facilitated access to essential reproductive health and SGBV services for over 11,000 individuals.

Furthermore, critical services were extended to over 6,000 parents and caregivers of HIV-exposed or HIV-positive children, leading to the testing of over 6,700 children for Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) and subsequent linkage to HIV treatment. UNICEF's response to disaster situations ensured the continuity of HIV services for over 51,000 affected individuals, with thousands successfully reinitiated on treatment post-disaster.

Moreover, UNAIDS' support for the review of the National Strategic Plan on HIV, particularly focusing on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, underscores a comprehensive approach aligned with the triple elimination agenda.

These collective efforts have significantly contributed to the reduction of new HIV infections among children aged 0-4 years, showcasing tangible progress in the national HIV response. This interconnected web of interventions highlights the synergy and complementarity among UN agencies and development partners in addressing HIV/AIDS and supporting vulnerable populations in Malaŵi.

Mothers and new-borns receive quality and integrated maternal, newborn, and childcare services (UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO)

Through collaborative efforts, the UN agencies in Malaŵi have achieved significant milestones in improving maternal and neonatal healthcare services, thereby positively impacting institutional and behavioral changes in development conditions.

The development of Standard Operating Procedures, coupled with the adaptation of the Safe Delivery App to the Malaŵi context, laid a solid foundation for enhancing the referral system



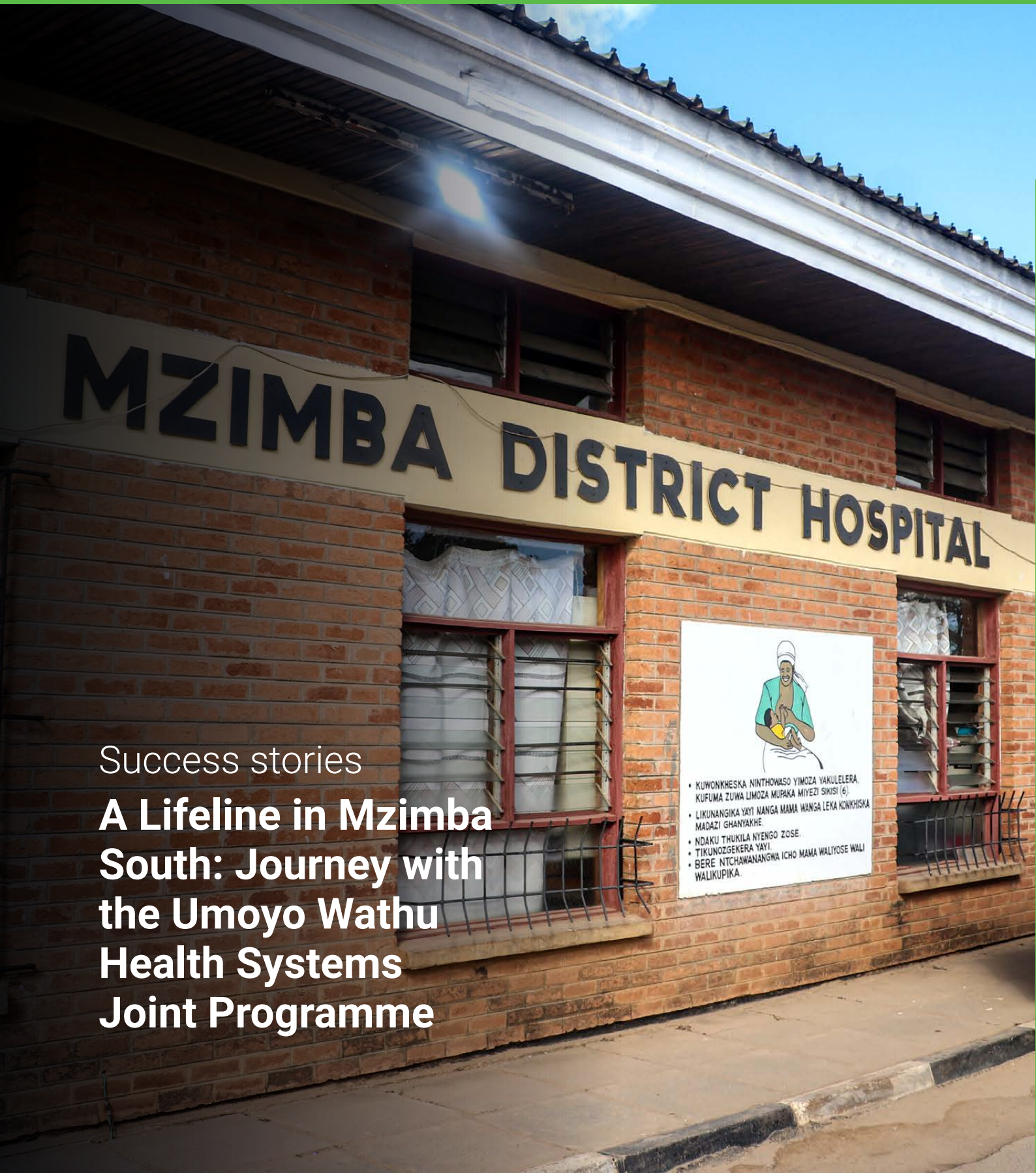
for Obstetric and Neonatal Emergencies. UNFPA played a pivotal role in bolstering Emergency Obstetric Care, with 85 per cent of health facilities in targeted districts delivering Emergency obstetric and newborn care services. This initiative not only addressed institutional gaps but also ensured the sustained provision of essential services, with 70 per cent of health facilities maintaining relevant signal functions. Furthermore, the Umoyo Wanthu Health System Strengthening Joint Programme facilitated the review of 68 per cent of maternal deaths in selected districts, indicating a commitment to institutional change and improved healthcare outcomes.

In parallel, UNICEF's establishment of 10 Special Newborn Care Units across seven districts complemented UNFPA's efforts in refurbishing operating theaters in Mulanje and Nsanje. These interventions collectively contributed to improved maternal and neonatal services, as evidenced by maternal mortality ratio and newborn mortality rates meeting SDG targets in nine learning districts.

Moreover, UNICEF and WHO's support in achieving the vaccination coverage of Human Papillomavirus and supplementary polio vaccination campaigns, alongside measles and cholera vaccination initiatives, underscores the comprehensive approach adopted by UN agencies to address healthcare

challenges. By leveraging their respective expertise and resources, the UN agencies in Malaŵi have demonstrated synergy and complementarity, resulting in tangible improvements in healthcare outcomes for women and children across the country.





Success stories
A Lifeline in Mzimba South: Journey with the Umoyo Wathu Health Systems Joint Programme

• KUYONKYESKA NINTHOWASO YIMOZA YAKULELERA. KUFUMA ZUWA LIMOZA MUPAKA MIYEZI SIKISI (6).
• LIKUNANGIKA YAYI NANGA MAMA WANGA LEKA KONKHSKA MADAZI GHANYAKHE.
• NDAKU THUKILA NYENGO ZOSE.
• TIKUNOZGEKERA YAYI.
• BERE NICHAWANANGWA ICHO MAMA WALIYOSE WALI WALIKUPIKA.

The Umoyo Wathu Health Systems Strengthening Joint Programme is a six-year programme (2019-2025) supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The programme aims on improving quality of health services for the people of Malawi in line with attaining Universal Health coverage goals, which puts emphasis on delivering better health outcomes for women, new-borns and children at grassroots level through decentralized governance mechanisms.

This programme, implemented in Mzimba South, Rumphu, Kasungu, Ntchisi, Nsanje, and Chikwawa by UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO, is transforming lives. Takondwa Mwalwanda, a mother of two in Mzimba district, recalls the day she gave birth to her youngest child, Julius, as one of the most harrowing experiences of her life. In the small village in Mzimba South district, complications during childbirth are often life-threatening. As she lay in the small maternity unit, she feared for her life. Thanks to the Umoyo Wathu Health Systems Joint Programme, Takondwa received the emergency care she needed. Now, as Julius turns one year old, he is a happy, healthy child—a living testament to the life-saving impact of the programme.

In Mzimba South, dedicated healthcare workers like Lydia Lipende, Louis Moyo, Daniel Mulenga, and Anthony Mpeya are making a profound difference. The UN Joint Programme on Health System Strengthening has been a game-changer for these professionals and their patients.

Lydia Lipende, a maternity nursing officer, shares her experience: “We have received mentorship, training, and guidance, which has significantly improved our skills and confidence. We have learned how to manage complications during pregnancy

and childbirth and provide emotional support to women and their families.” However, Lydia highlights a critical need: “Our maternity unit is overwhelmed, with over 600 deliveries annually, but only six beds. We urgently need more beds, equipment, and staff to ensure quality care for our patients.”

Louis Moyo, the principal administrator for Mzimba South District Health Office, echoes Lydia’s sentiments. “As a district, we have benefited greatly from the joint programme. We have seen tremendous improvement in patient referrals, thanks to the provision of fuel and vehicle maintenance. This support has eased the burden on our health-care system and enabled us to respond quickly to emergencies.”

Daniel Mulenga, a nurse and the deputy secondary coordinator, adds, “The joint programme has been instrumental in strengthening our Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Maternal and Newborn Health. UNFPA has provided capacity building, training, and equipment for maternal and perinatal death surveillance response. WHO has helped us improve the quality of care for pregnant women and their babies. And UNICEF has provided essential equipment for SRH and maternal and newborn care.”

Anthony Mpeya, a clinical officer in the maternity department, shares, “The programme has benefited us greatly. It improved our skills, which has helped reduce maternal deaths from postpartum and antepartum hemorrhage. The Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response training has enabled us to identify shortcomings and improve our services. I believe continued support from the programme will further enhance our skills and healthcare services.”

Through the combined efforts of the Maternal and Newborn Quality of Care Learning Programme and the UN Joint Programme on Health System Strengthening, Malawi is witnessing a transformative change in maternal and newborn health. These initiatives are not only improving healthcare outcomes but also empowering communities, ensuring a brighter and healthier future for all.



Outcome 5

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

In a collaborative effort, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Ministry of Education have made significant strides in enhancing education outcomes in Malaŵi, emphasizing collective achievement and synergistic interventions.

With UNICEF support, 1,072,552 learners accessed emergency and non-emergency services to improve learning outcomes and the school environment. Out of these, 727,804 learners (368,099 girls) received emergency supplies after the cholera outbreak and Tropical Cyclone Freddy. The remainder had their learning outcomes and school environment improved through non-emergency interventions including remediation lessons, teaching and learning materials, health and hygiene services, food supplements and alternative learning pathways. Additionally, UNICEF built the capacity of 7,914 teachers (3,337 females) to support improved learning outcomes and promoted inclusive education by establishing 43 model inclusive education centres for specialized support to learners with disabilities. Complementing these efforts, UNESCO developed radio lessons on Life Skills Education broadcasted via Malaŵi Broadcasting Station, reaching a wider audience and supporting the use of the KuPhunzira PaDen WhatsApp-based chatbot which supplements in-school delivery of Life Skills Education for both learners and teachers.

Under the Joint Programme on Girls Education, Youth Radio Programs addressed critical topics like disability inclusion, mental health care, and gender-based violence, reaching 13,500 listeners and facilitating access to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education, with UNICEF support, recruited 3,270 auxiliary teachers to alleviate classroom congestion, reducing pupil-teacher ratios and enhancing learning environments. These concerted efforts culminated in tangible outcomes, with the transition rate from primary to secondary education increasing from 35% in 2017 to 42.5% in 2023, and the primary completion rate rising from 38% in 2017 to 56% in 2023.



Under the Gender and HIV programme, UN Women achieved significant results through targeted interventions. A total of 9,121 community change agents that included men and boys, 91 traditional leaders and 57 religious leaders were trained to become role models, promoting women's economic empowerment, positive health-seeking behaviors among men, speaking out against VAWG, and fostering gender equality within households. This contributed to the establishment of a robust community-based justice and alternative dispute resolutions system that prosecutes, sanctions, and provides redress in cases of sexual and domestic violence. This system, supported by collaboration with Chiefs, Social Welfare, and Religious Leaders, resulted in the resolution of 1,673 out of 3,064 recorded cases in Mangochi, Mulanje, Blantyre, and Zomba. Furthermore, 157 cases were referred to the police, with 121 heard in court, 82 concluded, and 39 convictions made. A total of 840 individuals (362 men/boys and 478 women/girls) were referred for essential services.

Integrated services in and out of school (IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNHCR, and WHO)

In a collaborative effort, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO have achieved significant milestones in youth development, SRHR and public health promotion, demonstrating collective achievement and synergistic interventions.

Together, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNAIDS supported the Ministry of Youth in the development of the National Youth Investment Plan and development and approval by Cabinet of the National Youth Policy and. Additionally, UNFPA facilitated the establishment of Youth Sector Working Groups to enhance coordination in youth development initiatives, fostering institutional changes conducive to effective governance.





Success stories

Empowering Futures: The Success Story of the UN Joint Programme on Girls' Education in Malawi

In collaboration with the Government of Malawi and with support from the Government of Norway, the United Nations (UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP) is making significant strides in improving access to quality education through the UN Joint Programme on Girls' Education (UN JPGE). Since its launch in 2014, this initiative has been a beacon of hope in the districts of Dedza, Kasungu, Mangochi, and Salima, impacting 189 schools and countless lives.

The programme's success is evident in schools like Napache Primary in Salima district, where the drop-out rate for boys has plummeted from 10 percent to 3 percent, and the transition rate to secondary school has soared from 47 percent to 79 percent. This transformation is not just about numbers; it is about real lives changed and futures brightened.

Ms. Helen Chibwana, a dedicated teacher at Napache Primary School since 2014, shares her firsthand experience of the programme's impact. "Since the JPGE

started in 2017, parents have become more invested in their children's education, as evidenced by the increased enrollment and attendance. We used to have very few girls in Standard 8; now we have more boys and girls. As a young teacher, I have gained respect and received several trainings through the JPGE, which have taught me better teaching methods. I truly feel empowered."

Nutrition is another critical component of the programme. Fevester Mbinga, a member of the Mwai Wathu cooperative, supplies fruits, vegetables, and cereals for the daily school meals at Napache. This partnership has not only improved the children's nutrition but also boosted Fevester's finances. He is committed to food diversification, ensuring the children receive all necessary nutrients.

The impact of the programme extends beyond the classroom. Mary Benjere, a single mother of three children enrolled at Napache Primary School,

volunteers as a cook, preparing nutritious meals every morning. Using local produce and recipes, these meals nourish the students and promote healthy eating habits at home.

Laston Kholowa, Assistant Nutrition Coordinator in Mangochi, highlights the transformative impact of JPGE. "Before 2018, we faced numerous challenges, including early marriages and school dropouts. Now, parents and guardians understand the importance of education and are more supportive of their children's schooling."

In the tranquil village of Traditional Authority Chimwala, Mangochi, Mpale Primary School stands as a testament to the power of community involvement. This serene setting belies the harsh realities many young girls face, including early marriages and school dropouts. Yet, amidst these challenges, the story of Rose Wande shines brightly.

Rose, now a vibrant 16-year-old, had her childhood abruptly disrupted when she was forced into marriage at a tender age. Her parents, valuing gifts and money from her suitor over her education, compelled her to marry a man returning from South

Africa. "They didn't care how old I was or whether I would be abused," Rose recalls, her voice filled with both sadness and strength. One day, as Rose was returning from the market, she stumbled upon a youth club sensitizing the community about the dangers of child marriages and the importance of education. The team leader, moved by Rose's plight, intervened and, after persistent efforts, convinced her parents to allow Rose to return home and continue her education. Today, Rose is back in Standard 6, her eyes sparkling with renewed hope and determination. Her parents, once indifferent, are now her biggest supporters, urging her to excel in her studies.

The community's involvement has been pivotal in sustaining the programme's success. Traditional Authorities have formed mother groups at Mpale Primary School, offering support to female students and even caring for the children of young mothers during school hours. These groups also produce reusable sanitary pads, ensuring that girls do not miss school due to lack of hygiene products. Furthermore, youth groups conduct community sensitizations, encouraging children to attend school, significantly reducing dropouts and early marriages



Outcome 6

Improved capacity for Family Planning service delivery including in humanitarian contexts (UNFPA and UN Women)



Through coordinated efforts, UNFPA and the Ministry of Health have collectively improved reproductive health services in Malaŵi. The comprehensive training of 120 Community-Based Distribution Agents, coupled with strategic procurement of 938,000 vials of subcutaneous DMPA and effective distribution of family planning commodities to 360,000, has increased access to essential reproductive health services and contributed to positive institutional and behavioral changes across the country.

Additionally, 27,445 individuals were reached with comprehensive SRHR-HIV information by 145 Change Agents, surpassing the annual target by 37.2 per cent. Over 18 integrated outreach campaigns were conducted, offering multiple SRH-HIV services to vulnerable populations, including young people, sex workers, and migrants.

At a policy and legislative Level, UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, with support from UNFPA and UNAIDS, developed and launched the National Male Engagement Strategy on Gender Equality, GBV, SRHR and HIV 2023-2030. It is envisaged that the Male Engagement Strategy (MES) will guide operationalization of men’s and boy’s support for women’s and girls’ rights, addressing social norms change and ending violence against women and girls in 2024 and beyond. Reviewed and developed the Chiefs Policy which updated roles and functions of traditional leaders in addressing VAWG and achieving gender equality in alignment to various legal frameworks such as the Constitution, new/amended laws. The policy will help guide the application and implementation of the chiefs’ forums (COTLA/CONATA) at all levels. Through the traditional leaders’ platforms, traditional leaders have been able to form and revise by-laws on SGBV, SRHR and Child Marriages.

Young people, particular adolescents are empowered to make informed choices about their reproductive health and rights (IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF & UNAIDS)

IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, and UN Women have collectively achieved significant outcomes in youth health services, CSE, GBV response, and migrant health assessments in Malaŵi. UNICEF in particular has interventions targeting adolescents living with HIV to ensure access to and compliance with ART. These joint efforts have enhanced skills, improved services, and brought about notable institutional and behavioral changes.

UNFPA and UN Women demonstrated synergy in addressing GBV by creating a continuum of support from community-level reporting to professional health and psychosocial services. UNFPA, in partnership with the Youth Network Organization, empowered community members to proactively address and respond to issues affecting youth, particularly adolescent girls and teen mothers. This initiative led to a 34.38 per cent increase in the reporting of GBV, child marriage, and sexual abuse cases by community members. UN Women supported the referral of 105 girls to police and health centers for support on GBV cases by their mentors. Additionally, 2,700 girls participated in group therapy sessions, and 574 girls received individual psychosocial counselling, enhancing support mechanisms for GBV survivors. UN Women through the Gender and HIV Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework supported the removal of 28 underage girls from prostitution and facilitated access to social welfare and psychosocial counselling in Mangochi district. Through community outreach clinic initiatives, 1,489 individuals (579 men/boys and 910 women/girls) have been tested for HIV, with self-testing kits being the most preferred method. Out of these, 423 individuals (198 men and 225 women) were referred for ART treatment. Additionally, 86 defaulters (52 men and 34 women) were successfully traced and brought back to treatment. Furthermore, 38 women accessed family planning services through these initiatives. In addition, 34 Adolescent Girls





and Young Women and 227 women living with HIV were provided with psychosocial counselling services and antiretroviral therapy.

Nearly 60,000 young people (aged 10-24) accessed youth-friendly health services through static and outreach clinics, with 23,460 of these visits occurring at flood relief camps. The UNFPA support has increased access to critical health services for young people in challenging environments. UNESCO's work on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) complemented the health services provided by UNFPA, ensuring that young people are educated on sexual health and have access to appropriate services. UNESCO continued its engagement with

the Ministry of Education on the Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment on sensitizing Parliamentary Committee on Education and all ministry directors on CSE. This resulted in increased government acceptance and integration of CSE into the school curriculum. UNICEF interventions have increased access to antenatal care for adolescent mothers including access to micronutrient supplementation.

IOM facilitated health assessments for 3,291 migrants undergoing regular international migration processes, ensuring that migrants received necessary health evaluations and support for safe migration.

Women and adolescent girls benefit from improved gender equality and women empowerment (UN Women, UNICEF & UNESCO)

UN Women, in collaboration with Ministry of Gender and other partners, achieved significant progress in addressing VAWG) by enhancing GBV services at the community level. This joint effort provided comprehensive support to 618 women and girls, with 79 accessing justice through mobile courts and 50 receiving legal aid.

Concurrently, UNESCO, working with the Ministry of Education, repackaged the Readmission Policy to engage learners, teachers, school management

teams, parents, mother groups, and community and religious leaders. This initiative led to significant behavioural and institutional changes, fostering a more inclusive and supportive educational environment. These collective achievements demonstrate the synergy and complementarity among UN agencies, resulting in enhanced skills, better services, and substantial improvements in development conditions for the target groups.

Furthermore, UNICEF collaborated with Women led Organisation through NGO Gender Coordination Network in addressing gender challenges in emergency response whereby 25 Women Led Organizations (WLO) were capacitated in gender transformative emergency response including gender-based violence, and sexual exploitation (SEA). Consequently, these WLO capacitated the district staff and created community awareness on the GBV and SEA risks, and gender transformative behaviour change interventions for resilient building and recovery after Cyclone Freddy reaching out to 80,000 children and women and adolescent girls in all the Cyclone Freddy districts. This was a great breakthrough as most women and adolescent girls opened up on the specific challenges including sexual violence, they were facing during emergencies which resulted in increased awareness on GBV and SEA risks and the available service providers within their vicinity.



Outcome 7

Food and Nutrition Security, and WASH services

Sub-national Government Capacity for Resilience Programmes (UNCDF, UNDP and WHO)

UNCDF, WHO, and UNDP, in collaboration with the government, implemented synergistic and complementary interventions that significantly improved climate resilience, health system strengthening, food security, and sustainable energy access for target communities.

In 2023, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Ministry of Finance, and the National Local Government Finance Committee, initiated the Performance Based Climate Resilience Grant under the Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL) mechanism. In the first grant cycle, a total of \$410,000 was disbursed to the local councils of Nkhotakota, Mwanza, and Mulanje. Six climate adaptation projects were implemented, benefiting approximately 13,300 households. Notably, 55% of the beneficiaries were women and youth. These included Installation of solar-powered boreholes for humans and livestock to improve access to clean water, rehabilitation of irrigation schemes and construction of culverts to improve access to markets, schools, and hospitals.

WHO supported the Ministry of Health in signing the WHO Health Initiative Commitment Letter to develop a climate-resilient, low-carbon emission health system and assisted in drafting the Health National Adaptation Plan. This plan aims to build a foundation for a climate-resilient health system by mainstreaming climate change into existing health policies and strategies. WHO also developed a health and climate change communication strategy, including public health advisories for extreme weather events translated into Chichewa and Chitumbuka, pretested and disseminated in eight districts. Moreover, WHO strengthened the Early Warning Surveillance and Response system for climate-sensitive diseases, training 30 health workers in operationalizing the dashboard in Chikwawa, Zomba, Salima, and Chitipa.



UNDP supported district councils with climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions, including enabling 1,000 households to practice irrigation farming and supporting the Ministry of Natural Resources' learning visit to Ghana on operationalizing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. UNDP also provided three district councils with solar irrigation facilities, enhancing household food security and diversifying food items. Furthermore, UNDP empowered 2,028 youths across 10 districts with entrepreneurship skills, landscape restoration, and waste management techniques, contributing to their well-being and climate change resilience. The MalaWi Green Corps Project facilitated the rehabilitation of 5,000 hectares of degraded land. Additionally, UNDP promoted the use of liquid petroleum gas in Lilongwe and Zomba, targeting 4,000 households, and installed five communal biogas digesters in Lilongwe and Zomba, alongside providing 600 solar home systems and 2,000 energy-efficient cooking stoves to reduce deforestation and reliance on charcoal.

To mitigate the impact of climate change on sustainable availability and access of nutritious foods, UNICEF supported community-based food value addition, processing, and preservation technolo-

gies. Through Frontline workers, care group promoters and care cluster leaders, UNICEF in collaboration with District councils promoted use of simple food processing and preparation methods. Overall, 750 solar dryers were procured and distributed to promote safe processing and preservation of vegetables and fruits in Kasungu, Nkhotakota, Salima, Nkatha-bay, Mzimba, Karonga, Chitipa, Thyolo, Chiradzulu and Mulanje.

UNICEF in collaboration with Malawi Red Cross supported the local Government and civil protection committees in Karonga and Rumphi districts with knowledge and skills on accessing, interpreting, and disseminating flood forecasting information generated from the Impact Based Flood Modelling System developed under this project. A total of three government institutions namely Water Resources, Meteorological and Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA), participated in the training and were oriented on products and information that will be generated by the Impact Based Flood Modelling system including the maps that hazards were produced and how they can use these in the district planning processes. Following the training, district has already integrated the district hazard maps into the district contingency plans.



Disaster, risk management and early recovery from shocks (FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNICEF and UNDP)

IFAD, FAO, and UNDP collaboratively enhanced the resilience of smallholder rural producers to climate-related shocks through a series of complementary interventions. IFAD, through two of its programmes namely the Programme for Rural Irrigation Development and the Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship Programme, equipped 13,879 households with skills to practice environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies, increasing the adoption of CSA to 81.7 per cent.

FAO further strengthened this effort by training 174,321 smallholder farming households in CSA, blending Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation to bolster resilience to climate variability and change. UNDP played a crucial role by providing tailored climate information, including seasonal rainfall forecasts and agro-weather advisories, to over 18 per cent of the population across 21 districts via community radio, SMS, print, and extension agents, enabling communities to make informed decisions about crop, livestock, and livelihood options.

Additionally, UNDP maintained 16 hydrological stations and community-based flood early warning systems, significantly enhancing national coverage of automatic weather and hydrometeorological stations and serving over 150,000 people. This early warning system proved vital during the 2023 Cyclone Freddy disaster, allowing timely preparation and response. UNDP also supported the DODMA in installing Emergency Operation Centers with Information, Communication and Technology equipment and furniture in five districts and bolstered the development of disaster contingency plans for city and ward levels, including support for 16 Ward Civil Protection Committees and drainage clearing and rehabilitation efforts.

IOM trained 66 officers from nine districts and 13 MDAs on integrating migration and displacement into environmental management, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk management



planning at both national and district levels. Additionally, 122 officers from five districts received training in Camp Coordination and Camp Management. These trainings enhanced the collection and dissemination of information within the camps, thereby informing shelter cluster and multi-sectoral response efforts.

UNICEF played a crucial role in cholera preparedness across all 29 districts in terms of supplies, Capacity building and community-based feedback mechanism, which helped districts to take response Measures like timely supply of lifesaving health, water, sanitation, and nutrition supplies. These supplies included Acute Watery Diarrhea kits, medicines, cannulas, and WASH Non-Food Items for infection prevention and control.

Improved Malawi National Social Support Programme II (ILO & UNICEF)

UNICEF and ILO collaboratively enhanced the shock-sensitivity and effectiveness of the social protection system, resulting in significant institutional and behavioral changes. UNICEF reviewed and finalized the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Handbook, rolled out GRM structures and training in Ntcheu and Balaka, and strengthened the GRM call center, utilizing it for social and behavior change messaging via bulk SMS. UNICEF also contributed to the development of the New National Social Protection Policy (2023-2027) and its implementation plan, the National Social Protection Strategy. Additionally, UNICEF scaled up the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP), reaching 303,800 households (about 1.3 million people, including refugees), and

implemented Climate Smart Public Works, benefiting 346,000 households (1.5 million people). The social protection delivery system was strengthened by scaling up a harmonized e-payment system in 10 districts.

Complementing these efforts, ILO supported the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in launching the civil society social protection network to enhance advocacy and worked with the Ministry of Gender to develop a social cash transfer strategic plan framework. ILO also provided technical and financial support to the civil society social protection network to develop an advocacy strategy on social protection. These synergistic interventions by UNICEF and ILO have collectively strengthened the capacity and resilience of the social protection system, improving access to essential services and support for vulnerable populations.





Nutrition sensitive agriculture (FAO and UN Women)

FAO's efforts have significantly enhanced nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions and coordination at various administrative levels. District Nutrition Coordination Committees are now operational and functional, with 567 members trained in Scaling Up Nutrition, Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy/Integrated Homestead Food Production, effectively integrating nutrition-sensitive agriculture into district plans. Additionally, 112 Area Nutrition Coordinating Committees and 1,033 Village Nutrition Coordinating Committees have been strengthened, facilitating the operationalization of the Harmonized Care Approach and project activities. These coordinated efforts reached 667,821 households, including 654,444 women of reproductive age, 426,056

children under five, 235,066 pregnant and lactating women, and 387,858 adolescent girls with nutrition-sensitive agriculture extension services. As a result, 10 districts have successfully incorporated these interventions into their district plans, demonstrating the collective achievement and synergy of FAO's comprehensive approach to improving nutrition and agricultural practices across the target regions.

UN Women supported 7,404 (3,461 males, 3,944 females) to establish livelihoods and enabled them to be involved in integrated Homestead farming which has assisted women farmers in accessing vegetables and fruits within their homestead, thereby assisting in improving their diets at household level. 746 (344 males, 402 females) are involved in Banana Propagation.

Climate resilient WASH programme (IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, and WHO)

WHO, WFP, UNICEF, and UNHCR collaboratively enhanced WASH systems in Malawi, addressing both immediate and long-term needs. The implementation of the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) by WHO focused on governance, monitoring, human resources, and finance, identifying key areas for strengthening the broader WASH system to accelerate national progress.

UNICEF's WASH interventions have significantly impacted over 616,430 individuals, providing them with access to basic drinking water services, while an additional 190,509 people have gained access to basic sanitation facilities.

UNHCR WASH interventions reached 52,910 refugees and asylum-seekers, providing access to an average of 14.4 liters of water per person per day in Dzaleka camp. Notably, 84.5 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers now have access to household latrines, enhancing their privacy and sanitation standards, while the remainder utilize communal latrines. Additionally, UNHCR empowered 396 young women and girls with skills to produce reusable sanitary pads, promoting economic independence and reducing the risk of harmful coping mechanisms.

IOM's WASH interventions have positively impacted 619 internally displaced persons and host communities by providing access to safe sanitation services in camps. This was achieved through the construction of temporary and durable pit latrines and the safe disposal of fecal matter by decommissioning temporary latrines



Success stories

Growing a Brighter Future: The Success Story of the PROSPER Joint Programme in Malawi

The PROSPER joint programme aims to reduce extreme poverty and break the cycle of crises and humanitarian aid dependence in Malawi. Targeting food-insecure households in Balaka, Chikwawa, Phalombe, and Mangochi, PROSPER is building resilience for over 1.1 million people. This initiative, funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), is a collaborative effort involving the Malawi government and a UN consortium (FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, and WFP).

In the small village of Chipoka, Mangochi, a remarkable transformation is unfolding. Once struggling to meet basic needs, Chipoka is now thriving, thanks to PROSPER. This initiative has empowered local farmers to come together, forming a cooperative that is changing lives and fostering hope.

Helena Mpotola, the chairperson of the Farmer Field School (FFS), stands at the forefront of this transformation. "We used to struggle to feed our families," she shares. "But now, we have a surplus of crops to sell at the market. I'm now growing bananas on a large scale, and they are in high demand. Our children are going to school, and we can afford basic necessities like healthcare and clothing." Helena's journey from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture is a testament to PROSPER's impact. The programme has provided training in modern farming techniques, enabling farmers to increase their yields and improve their livelihoods.

Tafadzwa, a young mother, adds her voice to the chorus of success. "The programme has taught us new farming techniques, like conservation

agriculture and irrigation. We can now grow crops like maize, bananas, and vegetables, even in the dry season." The adoption of conservation agriculture and irrigation has revolutionized farming in Chipoka. These techniques help farmers manage water resources more efficiently and maintain soil fertility, ensuring sustainable crop production throughout the year.

The benefits of PROSPER extend beyond women; men in the community are also reaping the rewards. Kondwani, a local farmer, explains, "We are learning new ways of farming that are increasing our yields. We can now provide for our families and even sell our surplus crops at the market."

Daudi Eliasi, another farmer, echoes this sentiment. "I'm now growing maize on a larger scale, and my yields have increased significantly. I can provide for my family and even sell some at the market."

The cooperative spirit fostered by PROSPER has united the community, creating a network of support and shared knowledge. "We are working together, sharing our knowledge and skills," says Daudi. "We're a family now." As the community works together in the fields, the atmosphere is filled with joy and camaraderie. Singing and laughter are common, their faces reflecting pride and happiness. PROSPER has not only improved their economic situation but also strengthened social bonds.

"The programme has given us a chance to build a better future for ourselves and our families," Helena says with a smile. The cooperative's success has inspired others in the region, showcasing the power of collective action and sustainable farming practices. Through PROSPER, Chipoka is not just surviving but thriving, setting an example for communities across Malawi.



Outcome 8

Sustainable and diversified agriculture

Improved agriculture service delivery to promote modern sustainable agriculture (FAO, IFAD, & UN Women)

The interconnected efforts through FAO, ILO, IFAD, and UN Women collectively enhanced agricultural productivity, sustainability, and inclusivity among smallholder farmers in Malaŵi. FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, trained 800 extension workers in the Farmer Field School methodology, which supported 362,700 smallholder farmers in season-long Farmer Field Schools. This initiative, bolstered by IFAD's engagement of 2,793 additional smallholder farmers, enabled these farmers to adopt sustainable and productive agricultural technologies. The integration of ICT-based and climate-related extension platforms in 18 districts facilitated real-time data collection and reporting, ensuring comprehensive monitoring and support for these interventions.

UN Women, through the Agricultural Sector Wide Approach Project, built on these efforts by helping farmers increase production across key value chains, including soybeans, groundnuts, maize, and sweet potatoes. This increase in production led to substantial sales, with 45 farmer groups selling over 1.2 million kilograms of agricultural produce, generating significant income. Between September 2020 and June 2023, 117,074 farmers accessed these enhanced agricultural extension services, reinforcing the productivity gains initiated by FAO and IFAD.

ILO's establishment of the Disability Inclusion Academy provided technical support to IFAD-funded programs, ensuring that disability inclusion was integrated into these agricultural initiatives. ILO's training at various program levels on disability inclusion and the use of disability inclusion scoring cards for IFAD supported programs resulted in the collection of disaggregated data and increased spending on disability-inclusive measures. Additionally, ILO conducted AgriLab master training and a learning route for IFAD programs, fostering the creation of low-cost technologies for farmers with disabilities and promoting inclusive rural transformation.



Value Chains (FAO, IFAD, UN Women, and WFP)

IFAD, UN Women, and WFP collaborated effectively to provide comprehensive support to marginalized groups, including women, youth, and people with disabilities, through village savings and loans initiatives, resulting in business finance being extended to over 6,000 beneficiaries. This financial assistance was coupled with training in business management and entrepreneurship, empowering recipients to engage in various income-generating activities such as selling merchandise, agro-produce, and value-added products. Moreover, UN Women's complementary efforts significantly bolstered the agricultural sector by equipping farmers, particularly women, with training in climate-smart agriculture and facilitating market access initiatives. By enhancing farmers' skills and brokering connections with seed and cooking oil processing industries, UN Women enabled farmers to secure better prices for their products, leading to increased incomes for over 8,000 farmers. Concurrently, FAO trained over 3,000 farmer organizations on market access and post-harvest management, coupled with facilitating linkages to structured markets, empowered farmers to negotiate deals independently and benefit from improved prices for their produce.

Enabling environment for agricultural entrepreneurship, agro-processing, and commercialisation (IFAD, FAO, UN Women & UNCDF)

In a concerted effort, FAO, IFAD and UN Women trained over 250,000 smallholder farmers in business management, value addition and marketing skills. Simultaneously, FAO facilitated the organization and registration of over 500 farmer groups with the Ministry of Trade, enabling 65 of these to access financial support through government projects like Agricultural Commercialisation, thereby promoting sustainability and expansion. Additionally, UN Women has enhanced these initiatives by equipping 48,792 rural farmers, including 55 per cent women, with business management skills through the Lead Farmer model and Agricultural Extension Officers training. Complementing these endeavors, IFAD and FAO delivered vital training to over 10,000 farmers' organizations on market access and post-harvest management, arming them with the necessary skills to navigate agricultural markets effectively. Together, these collaborative interventions have not only enhanced the institutional capacities of farmer groups but also instigated behavioral shifts, fostering inclusive and sustainable agricultural practices.

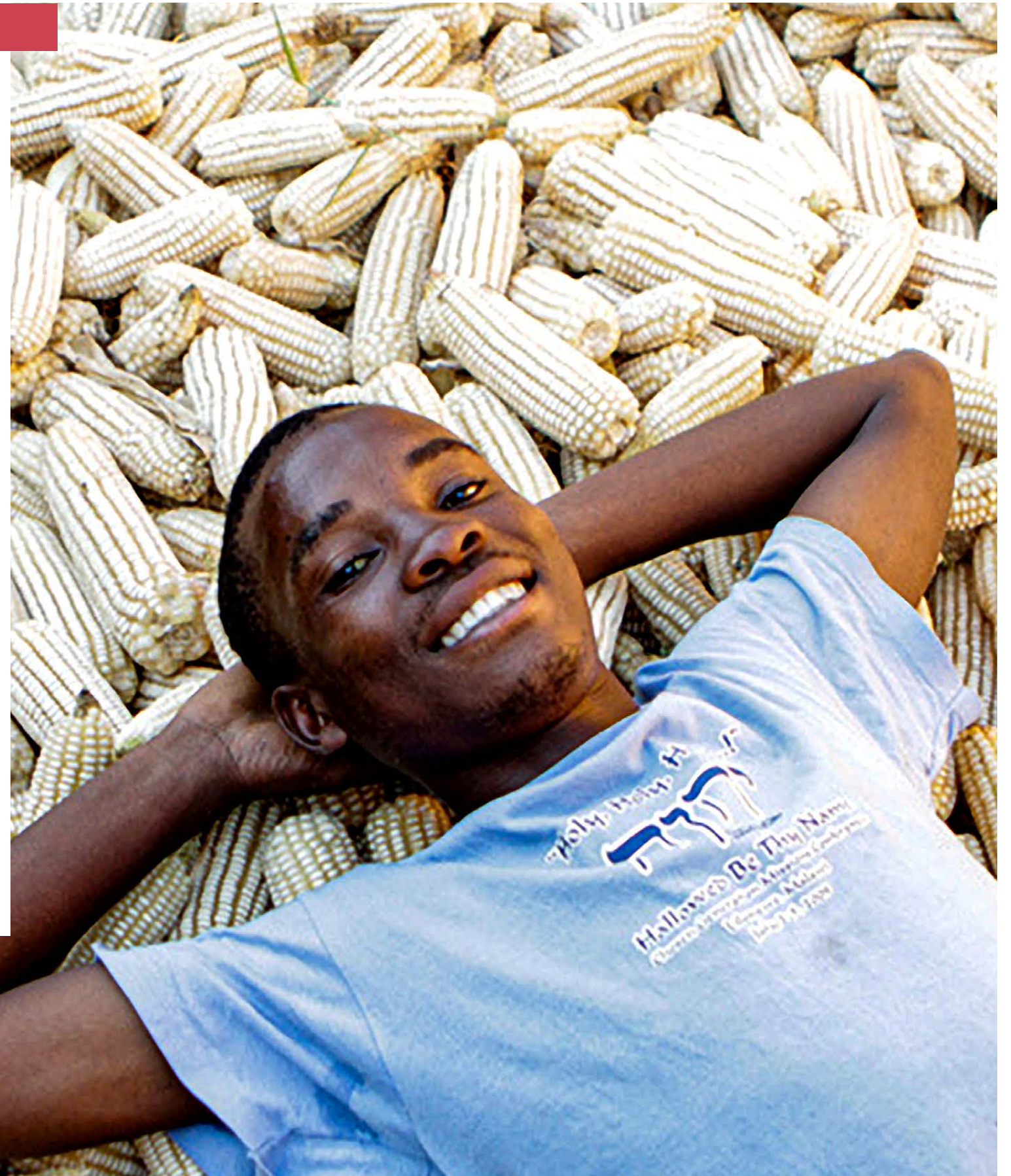


Consequently, livelihoods have improved, and communities are better equipped to withstand economic challenges.

UNCDF supported government assess the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector focusing on financial literacy and the effective use of digital products and services. This assessment identified the gaps, needs, and current state of the business environment for MSMEs. Key areas for MSME development were recommended, including digital financial services, digital tools for business, and consumer protection. These findings will guide UN programming related to MSMEs, foster stakeholder engagement to avoid duplication of efforts, and encourage leveraging the knowledge, experience, and data of those active in the MSME sector in Malawi. Furthermore, UNCDF initiated the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) Digitization project to enhance access to financial services for smallholder farmers. The project promoted financial inclusion by integrating smallholder farmers into the broader financial sector through an innovative digital platform. This platform uses VSLA transactional data to develop an alternative algorithm for credit scoring, thereby increasing VSLAs' access to finance. During the reporting period, the digital platform was customized to meet the needs of Malawian farmers, and VSLAs were profiled for integration with the platform.

Tenure rights (FAO and UN Women)

FAO and IOM has achieved significant progress in raising awareness of the new land law among targeted Traditional Authorities, with 44 per cent of the population now knowledgeable about its provisions. This accomplishment is closely tied to FAO's comprehensive efforts in Land Use Planning and Sustainable Land and Water Management, as well as the 2022 UN Women HeForShe interventions at the community level aimed to identify gender issues related to women's land ownership rights, including the development and translation of relevant materials. Furthermore, FAO has actively engaged 112 women's and youth groups in forums focused on land governance within specific districts. This collaborative approach underscores FAO's dedication to fostering inclusive decision-making processes and empowering marginalized communities. Ultimately, these initiatives contribute to driving sustainable agricultural development and promoting equitable land management practices. IOM advocated for Housing, Land, and Property rights and facilitated the demarcation and allocation of land, enabling internally displaced persons to settle in planned settlements in Chikwawa district following their relocation due to Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Leading the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Technical Working Group, IOM coordinated various clusters and organizations to conduct relocation site assessments, determining the feasibility of sites for households affected by the cyclone. These initiatives promoted an inclusive and participatory process, ensuring that the most vulnerable and marginalized people actively contributed to and took ownership of the process.



Outcome 9

Economic diversification, inclusive business and clean energy

Enhancing competitiveness and market access (ILO, UN Women and UNDP)

ILO, UNDP, and UN Women collaborated closely with the government in Malaŵi to bolster competitiveness and expand market access through synergistic interventions. Leveraging initiatives like the development of Recognition of Prior Learning program tools and advocacy for the review of the TVET Policy, ILO has played a pivotal role in fostering the creation of quality employment opportunities, enhancing skills recognition, and mitigating skills mismatches. Furthermore, ILO's aid to various industries has stimulated business growth, resulting in increased demand for wage workers. Remarkably, in 2023, 805 youths, including 451 females, accessed both wage and self-employment opportunities, demonstrating the concrete impact of ILO's initiatives on youth employment and economic empowerment.

Simultaneously, UNDP's Zantchito Entrepreneurship Project has fortified entrepreneurial ecosystems across Malaŵi by empowering 6 incubators with US\$30,000 each, thereby fostering an environment conducive to entrepreneurial success. This initiative aligns seamlessly with ILO's endeavours, collectively contributing to a vibrant entrepreneurial landscape and bolstering economic resilience.





Empowering renewable energy services in Malaŵi (UNDP)

UNDP's endeavours to close the energy access gap through the development of greenfield Mini-Grids with 725 kilowatt and support for existing ones have driven economic development in local communities. Additionally, initiatives under the Africa Mini-Grids Program have fostered agri-chain value addition, further enriching economic opportunities in targeted districts. Six companies were engaged during the reporting period to accelerate alternative energy and fuel-efficient solutions.



2.3 Support to partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda

The UNCT in Malaŵi continued to promote strategic partnerships that helped advance the SDGs and leveraged financing for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through these partnerships, the UNCT mobilized US\$20 million in 2023 from various partners, including the Governments of the United Kingdom, Norway, Belgium, and Ireland. These resources played a critical role in complementing recovering by promoting peace, inclusion, and effective institutions, strengthening population management inclusive human development and resilient growth.

Contributor/Partner	Commitments	Deposits
 United Kingdom	\$33,727,949	\$11,272,377
 Norway	\$8,720,397	\$8,720,397
 Belgium	\$1,545,068	\$174,416
 Ireland	\$384,001	\$384,001
Total	\$44,377,414	\$558,417

The most strategic tool currently supporting the implementation of the UN reform and the Funding Compact is the Malaŵi SDG Acceleration Fund (SDG-AF), with a portfolio of \$US112.6 million as of 31st December 2023 channelled through 12 UN participating agencies. This pooled fund continued to advance efforts in supporting financing coordination. Collective partnerships, predictable funding, innovative and transformational results, moving from fragmented to strategic planning, improved coordination, and responding rapidly to national priorities are some of the things the SDG-AF places emphasis on.

2.4 Results of the un working more and better together: un coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency



UNCT engagement with the State President

Malaŵi's President Lazarus Chakwera hosted an inaugural high-level dialogue with the UNCT to strengthen the strategic partnership between the government and the UN. This engagement facilitated an exchange of insights and commitments aimed at advancing Malaŵi's development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the UNSDCF. Through this dialogue the UN Resident Coordinator highlighted the significance of leveraging the six SDG transitions to accelerate Malaŵi's progress towards national commitments and the achievement of the SDGs. The State President reaffirmed the government's commitment to partner with the UN towards achieving the SDGs.

Finalization and signing of the UNSDCF

The United Nations (UN) in partnership with the Government co-created the Malaŵi 2024-2028 UN Sustainability Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) under the guidance of the Joint National Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Secretary to the President and Cabinet and the UN Resident Coordinator. The UNSDCF aligns with the Malaŵi 2063 and its first 10-year Implementation Plan 2021-2030 (MIP-1) and the achievement of most of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063. The framework outlines an ambitious programme designed to expedite development progress during the Decade of Action, focusing on six SDG transitions: (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 focuses on four mutually reinforcing strategic priorities namely (i) support sustainable, diversified, and inclusive growth (ii) strengthen institutional governance (iii) Ensure sustainable investments and outcomes in human capital development (iv) Adapt to climatic change, reverse environmental degradation, and support energy transformation. The UNSDCF will be implemented through biennial Joint Work Plans, catalytic joint programs, and UN entity programming instruments. The projected cost for UNSDCF implementation from 2024-2028 is \$1.761 billion, spanning 23 UN agencies. Six UN agencies have already derived their UN agency programme frameworks from the UNSDCF. These included FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, and WFP

Disaster response and preparedness

The UN in Malaŵi, with support from OCHA, developed a Cholera and Floods Flash Appeal calling for a combined US\$115.9 million to support the national response. Of this amount, 39.6 per cent was mobilized to assist people affected by flooding induced by the cyclone and to respond to the deadliest cholera outbreak in recorded history, which impacted 4.8 million people in 15 priority districts.

Strengthened coherence through Pooled Funds

In 2023, the UN implemented six joint programmes managed by the SDG-Acceleration Fund and Joint SDG Fund, placing significant emphasis on coherence and complementarity among development,



humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts despite multiple emergencies. Efforts were made to strengthen coherence between the planned activities of UN entities and non-UN partners. In 2023, the fund has continued to advance gender equality by ensuring that at least 30 per cent of all approved programme resources are allocated to activities that promote gender equality.

No	Name Of Project	PUNOS	Donor	Amount
1	Joint Programme on Girls' Education III: Learning for all in Malaŵi	UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP	Norway	US\$40,561,450
2	PROSPER	UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, FAO	FCDO	£37,100,000
3	Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening for Equitable Health Outcomes – Umoyo Wathu	WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF	FCDO	US\$14,564,559
4	Border Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Malaŵi	UNDP, NFPA, UNODC, IOM, UN Women	Iceland and Ireland	US\$837,312
5	Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture in Malaŵi	FAO, UNDP	Flanders	US\$2,450,000
6	Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls	UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF	EU	US\$ 20,990,484



Results of Joint Advocacy and Communicating as One

The United Nations enhanced the media environment in Malawi through strategic initiatives aimed at fostering collaboration and improving reporting standards. A key event, the Media Editors Forum Dinner Meeting, saw the UNCT engage with editors from six major media outlets. This event created partnerships, advocated for better coverage of Sustainable Development Goals, and provided a platform for discussing challenges to media freedom in Malawi. Another significant effort was the Joint Media Field Visit, where reporters from five media houses documented UN projects in Nsanje, Mangochi, and Salima. The published stories from these visits significantly increased public awareness of the UN's contributions to Malawi's development and deepened journalists' understanding of the UN's role and operations on the ground.

The United Nations Communication Group galvanized Malawi and youth through a series of impactful engagement campaigns focused on SDG-related initiatives. A highlight was the UN Day Youth Expo,

which coincided with the launch of the National Youth Policy 2023–2028. This event mobilized over 1,000 youths, including those with disabilities and refugees, showcasing a commitment to inclusivity. Through extensive outreach on social media and various media channels, the campaign effectively reached over 1.5 million individuals, significantly amplifying its impact and fostering greater youth participation in sustainable development efforts across Malawi.

The United Nations Communication Group significantly enhanced its advocacy and communication efforts in Malawi by coordinating the production of joint advocacy messages on key themes, including Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), refugee situations, the SDG Summit, and Cyclone Freddy. By harmonizing messages across multiple UN agencies, these efforts ensured a cohesive and powerful advocacy campaign. The messages were disseminated through a variety of channels such as press releases, speeches, and multimedia content, which collectively strengthened the UN's ability to effectively advocate on these critical issues and engage with a wider audience in Malawi.

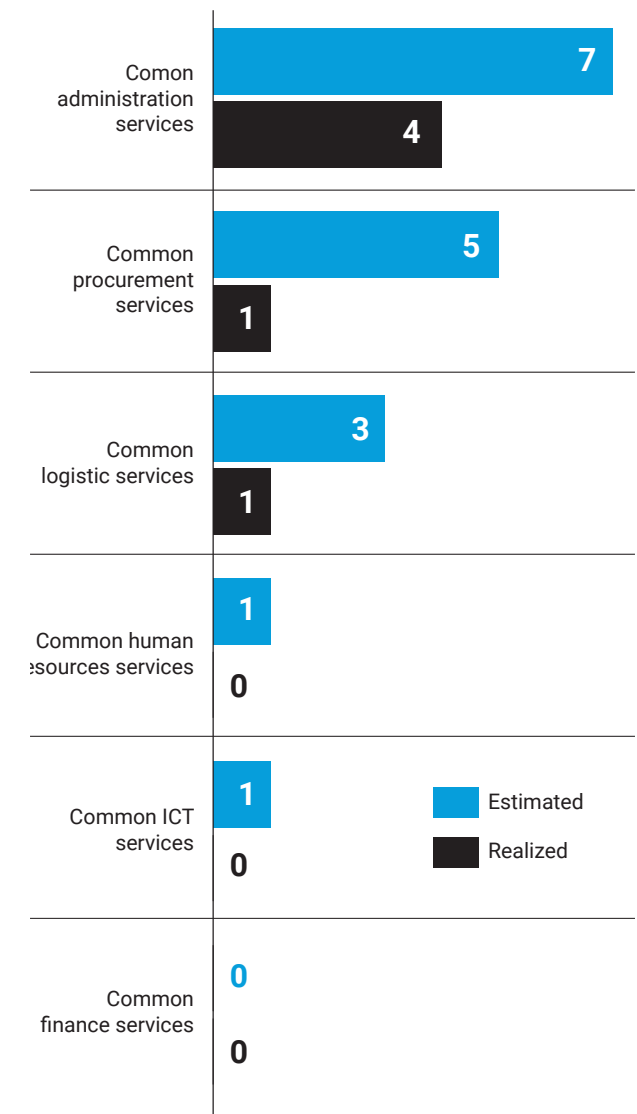
Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:

The UN's PSEA Core Group significantly advanced its dialogue with the government, resulting in the development of an anti-sexual harassment policy for public servants. This policy serves as a critical tool in combating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and sexual harassment. Throughout the reporting period, the UN provided capacity-building support to 85 out of its designated implementing partners. The Spotlight Initiative Girls Empowerment Self Defence training programme empowered 16,129 girls to protect themselves from abuse and exploitation. Additionally, the UN collaborated with the government through the humanitarian cluster to integrate PSEA measures into the Disaster Preparedness Workplan. This initiative effectively enhanced the protection of vulnerable populations by incorporating PSEA protocols into the work plans of District Councils, thereby ensuring a more comprehensive and systematic approach to safeguarding these communities. Furthermore, UNICEF enhanced capacity of frontline workers (social workforce 742 (320 males and 422 females) in GBV and PSEA risk mitigation and response which resulted in increased community awareness and reporting on these two issues in Cyclone Freddy affected districts. The frontline workers were also provided with PSEA information materials in English and Chichewa languages for their use in communities.

Business Operations Strategy

The Operations Management Team and its Technical Working Groups, under the leadership of the UNCT, prioritized efforts to minimize duplication of business processes within the UN system, leverage the collective bargaining power of the UN through increased collaboration, and optimize economies of scale. By implementing the Business Operations Strategy (BOS 2.0), the UNCT in Malawi achieved a total cost avoidance of US\$6 million between 2019 and 2023. Notable cost savings were realized in areas such as common administration services, common procurement services, and common logistics services (see details below).

Cost avoidance by service line
In million US\$



Success stories

Bridging Gaps Through Innovation in Education, Health and Human Rights

Empowering Education Through Innovation

The Success of the MILAB App and Kuphuzira PaDen chatbot: In an inspiring partnership, the UNDP Accelerator Lab collaborated with young developers and undergraduates from Mzuzu University to create MILAB, an innovative virtual game-based application. MILAB revolutionizes education by providing students with unlimited opportunities to conduct virtual experiments in physics and chemistry right at their fingertips. The impact of MILAB has been profound. Fully adopted by the Ministry of Education, the app is now active in 58 rural schools, with plans for nationwide implementation. This groundbreaking tool has been recognized as the best practice in education digitalization and was showcased at the 67th Session of the Commission on Status of Women in New York and at the Africa heads of state Human Capital summit in Tanzania.

UNESCO supported the Ministry of Education in the development and airing of radio lessons on Life Skills Education for Standards 3-8 (for ages 9-14) and Forms 1-2 (ages 15-16) via Malawi Broadcasting Corporation. Additionally, UNESCO has been managing Kuphuzira PaDen, a WhatsApp-based chatbot that aims to supplement the in-school delivery of Life Skills Education (LSE) and provides additional access to primary and secondary school LSE resources for both teachers and learners. Over 1,400 users have been reached so far. These digital initiatives are largely contributing to increased access to Life Skills Education for learners who might otherwise not have had access to it. They were also used to mitigate learning loss resulting from school closures during the cholera epidemic and the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy.

©Omar Hakeem

Drone Deliveries for Polio Campaigns and Early Warning Systems in Malawi's Vulnerable Districts

To strengthen immunization efforts, in July 2023, as a part of the Polio campaign, UNICEF Malawi introduced drone delivery in 5 Southern Malawi districts, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mangochi, Balaka, and Zomba, which are considered disaster-prone districts. During the mentioned period, there were 83 deliveries to 29 health facilities (of 54 targeted health facilities) in 5 Southern Malawi's districts carrying over 35,000 doses of vaccines (~400 doses per delivery on average). These deliveries helped vaccinate 23,810 children for polio in the remote locations of those 5 districts, contributing to the overall immunization rates and leaving no one behind. Trend analysis has shown that immunization coverage in certain health facilities, as well as the stock availability of polio vaccines have experienced an upward trend. Furthermore, UNICEF in collaboration with Department of Disaster Management Affairs and Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services supported local councils in Rumphu and Karonga districts with innovative impact-based forecasting and early warning system. The system allows decision-makers get information about the potential flood hazards up to 48 hours before it occurs.

From Discrimination to Empowerment

Princess Dinala, born with albinism, faced rejection in all aspects of her life, including her passion for netball. Her fortunes changed when she joined a safe space established by the TEENS project under UNFPA, funded by the Government of Ireland. The project's innovative approach used smart tablets to foster understanding and inclusivity. Safe space mentor Gladys Enock used these devices to showcase videos of communities celebrating individuals with albinism, shifting perspectives and deepening understanding of human rights. "I now realize I have the power to change things by speaking against such behaviors," Princess declared, empowered by the program. The tablets also facilitated knowledge exchange on entrepreneurship and financial management. Linley Rahman, a 19-year-old single mother, leveraged her new digital skills to transform their village savings bank from loss to profit. She invested her earnings in a small business, aiming to return to school.



2.5 Financial overview and resource mobilization

2.5.1. Financial overview by pillar

In 2023, the collective results were achieved through collaborative efforts among 16 UN entities in partnership with government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academia. During the reporting period, the UN in MalaWi successfully mobilized US\$170.5 million out of the required budget of US\$247.7 million. The total expenditure for the year was US\$121.5 million, reflecting a delivery rate of 71 per cent across the three pillars and nine outcome areas. Pillar 1 had the highest utilization rate at 85 per cent, followed by Pillar 3 at 75 per cent, and Pillar 2 at 66 per cent. The chart below displays the financial summary of the three pillars in 2023.

Pillars	Total Required Resources (US\$)	Available Resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	Utilization rate (%)
Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions	24,095,162.00	11,049,874.00	9,396,369.00	85%
Population Management and Inclusive Human Development	117,232,734.00	73,616,045.00	48,329,281.00	66%
Inclusive and Resilient Growth	106,349,230.00	85,876,701.00	63,767,347.00	74%
Grand Total	247,677,126.00	170,542,620.00	121,492,997.00	71%

2.5 Financial overview and resource mobilization

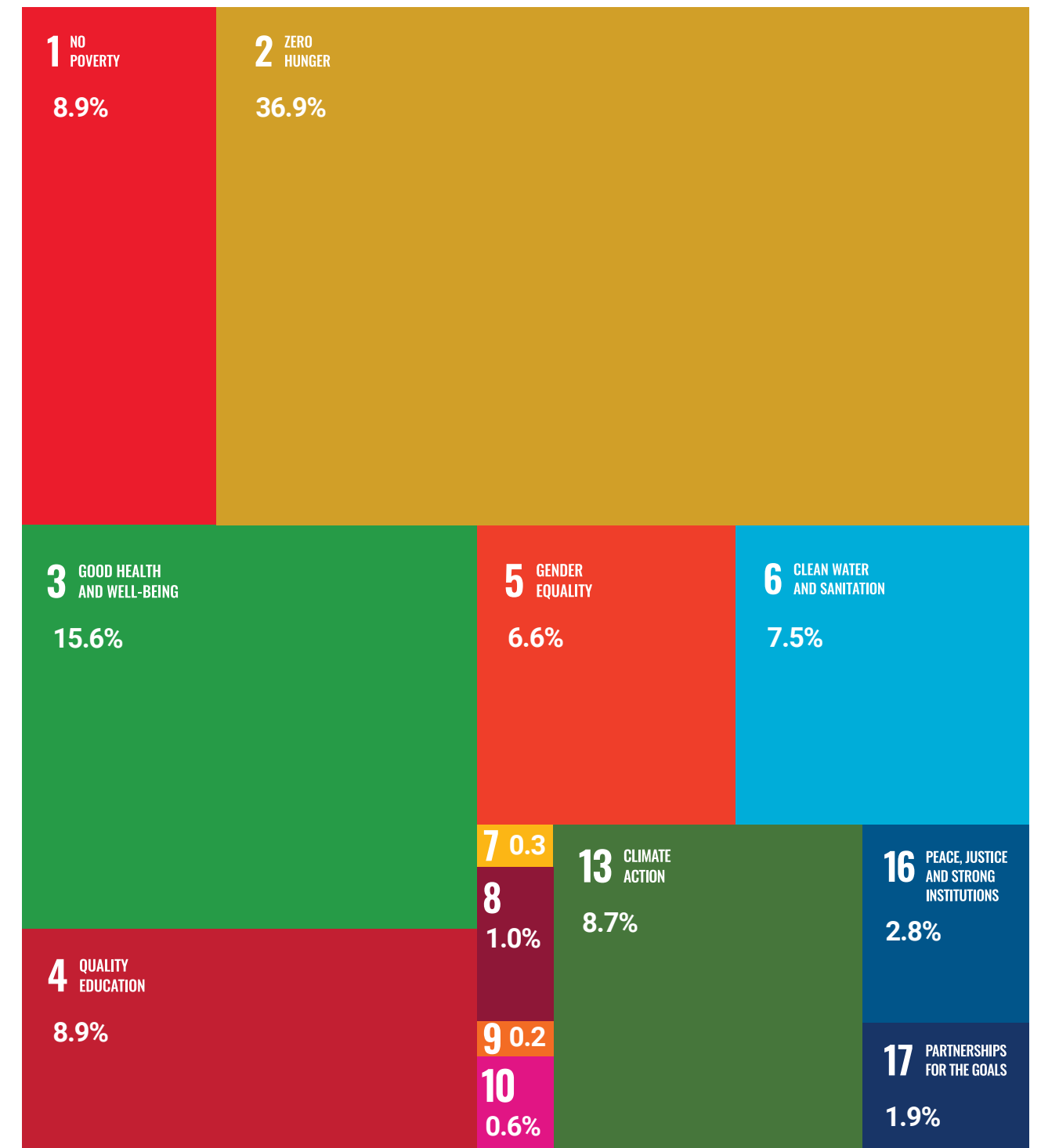
2.5.2. Financial Overview by Outcome


The table presents data on financial resources required, available, and expended across various outcome areas, along with the corresponding utilization rates. The analysis provides insights into the efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocation and utilization. Low utilization rate suggests significant inefficiencies or delays in spending despite substantial resources being available and vice versa. For sectors like Quality Education, Health, and Nutrition, a thorough review of spending processes and removal of bottlenecks is necessary to enhance utilization rates.

Outcome	Total Required Resources (US\$)	Available Resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	Utilization rate (%)
Accountable and Effective Institutions	18,560,217.00	6,171,446.00	5,847,185.00	95%
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	2,631,913.00	1,308,904.00	942,000.00	72%
Peace, Inclusivity and Participatory Democracy	2,903,032.00	3,569,524.00	2,607,184.00	73%
Early Childhood Development Services	74,470,698.00	35,675,872.00	30,874,708.00	87%
Quality Education, Health, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and Protection Services	34,008,307.00	29,639,131.00	10,547,931.00	36%
Sexual and Reproductive and HIV/AIDS Health Rights	8,753,729.00	8,301,042.00	6,906,642.00	83%
Food and Nutrition Security, and WASH	57,975,734.00	41,812,628.00	23,159,134.00	55%
Sustainable and Diversified Agriculture	42,359,217.00	38,049,794.00	36,237,213.00	95%
Economic Diversification, Inclusive Business, and Clean Energy	6,014,279.00	6,014,279.00	4,371,000.00	73%
Grand Total	247,677,126.00	170,542,620.00	121,492,997.00	71%


2.5.1. Financial overview by SDG

In 2023, the UN in MalaWi focused on accelerating progress towards 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), excluding SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Over 70 per cent of the available resources were directed towards seven key SDGs: SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).





3
UNCT key focus for next year



The UNCT in Malawi will focus on the following

- 1** Develop the Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Strategy
- 2** Reconfigure the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund in line with new Cooperation Framework
- 3** Implement the 2024 -2025 biennial Government and UN Joint Work Plan, including the current and new joint programmes
- 4** Support government on the preparations of global and regional agendas, including the Summit of the Future, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries
- 5** Convene partnerships to leverage the six transitions and enabler actions to accelerate SDG achievement



List of acronyms and abbreviations

- ATM** Agriculture, Tourism, and Mining
- BOS** Business Operations Strategy
- CSA** Climate-Smart Agriculture
- CSE** Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- CSOs** Civil Society Organizations
- DODMA** Department of Disaster Management Affairs
- ECD** Early Childhood Development
- ECF** Extended Credit Facility
- GBV** Gender-Based Violence
- GDP** Gross Domestic Product
- GRM** Grievance Redress Mechanism
- ICT** Information and Communication Technology
- IFI** International Financial Institutions
- IPC** Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
- JPGE** Joint Programme on Girls Education
- MDAs** Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
- MHRC** Malawi Human Rights Commission
- MIP-1** Malawi Implementation Plan
- MVAC** Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
- MSME** Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise
- NGOs** Non-Governmental Organizations
- NSO** National Statistics Office
- PSEA** Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- SEA** Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- SBC** Social and Behavior Change
- SCTP** Social Cash Transfer Programme
- SDG** Sustainable Development Goal
- SGBV** Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- SRHR** Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
- TEVET** Technical, Entrepreneurial, and Vocational Education and Training
- UNCT** United Nations Country Team
- UNNM** UN Network on Migration
- UNSDCF** United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
- US\$** United States Dollar
- VAWG** Violence Against Women and Girls
- VSLA** Village Savings and Loans Association
- WASH** Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene



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