



UNITED NATIONS
MALAWI



Malawi

UN Country Results Report 2024





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With a UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2024–2028) aligned with Malawi’s Vision 2063, the UN leveraged the collective strengths of both to deliver results.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

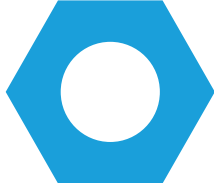
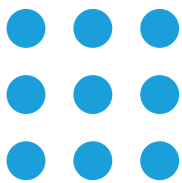
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DDPs	District Development Plans
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FARMSE	Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and Enterprise Programme
GEM	Gender Equality Marker
GDP	Growth Domestic Product
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
IHRIS	Integrated Human Resources Information Systems
IFs	International Futures
IHRIS	Integrated Human Resources Information Systems
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
JWP	Joint Work Plan
LTAs	Long-Term Agreements
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MDHS	Malawi Demographic Health Survey
MIDAS	Migration Information and Data Analysis System
MIP-1	Malawi Implementation Plan 1
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NAP	National Action Plan

NRIS	National Rural Infrastructure Support
PD	Programme Documents
PSEA	Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PRSEAH	Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
PROSPER	Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience
RBM	Reserve Bank of Malawi
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SLGs	Savings and Loan Groups
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TB	Tuberculosis
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
USSD	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data
UNCG	UN Communication Group
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene



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The past year (2024) tested Malawi’s resilience. The El Niño-induced drought, economic pressures, and climate shocks threatened hard-won development gains.



Foreword by Resident Coordinator

Ubuntu – I am because we are. So I am pleased to share this report on behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malawi. It captures our shared progress, made with the Government of Malawi, development partners, civil society, and the private sector, toward a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Malawi.

The past year (2024) tested Malawi’s resilience. The El Niño-induced drought, economic pressures, and climate shocks threatened hard-won development gains. Yet, amid these challenges, the Government’s leadership—through reforms in economic diversification, social protection, and governance—created a critical enabling environment for progress.

With a UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2024–2028) aligned with Malawi’s Vision 2063, the UN leveraged the collective strengths of both to deliver results. Central to our partnership has been a commitment to leave no one behind. From evidence-based policymaking to shock-responsive

social protection, we prioritized the most vulnerable—women, youth, and marginalized communities—while strengthening systems for long-term impact.

The successes in this report are a testament to the power of collaboration. I extend my deepest gratitude to the Government of Malawi for its trust, and to our partners for their unwavering commitment. As we look ahead, the UN remains steadfast in supporting Malawi’s journey to 2030—through scaled-up innovation, financing, and partnerships—to turn aspirations into tangible progress for all.

Together, we can overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and transform aspirations into reality.

Rebecca-Adda Dontoh
United Nations Resident Coordinator in Malawi

United Nations Country Team

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Malaŵi comprises a diverse range of 25 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), reflecting the comprehensive and multifaceted nature of the United Nations’ mandate. Among these, 23 signed the Cooperation Framework.

The overall composition of the UNCT is categorized into three groups:

1

Agencies with Physical Presence and Accredited Representation:

This category includes agencies that have a strong and well-established presence in the country, with an accredited Representative, dedicated offices, staff, and ongoing programmatic activities. 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 a lean project team. Working under the guidance of a Representative based out of the country or 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, OCHA, 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 resident agencies, fostering a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing development challenges. The agencies in this category are ITU, OCHA, UNOHCHR, UNECA, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNIDO and WMO.

This diverse composition of the UNCT reflects the United Nations’ 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 with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Key development partners

Ministries, Departments, and Agencies

Department of Disaster Management Affairs	Ministry of Labour
Department of Human Resource Management & Development	Malaŵi Electoral Commission
Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS	Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture
District councils	Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change
Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services	Ministry of Trade and Industry
Department of Refugees	Ministry of Water and Sanitation
Economic Planning & Development Department	Ministry of Youth & Sports
Environmental Affairs Department	National AIDS Commission
Malaŵi Electoral Commission	National Initiative for Civic Education
Malaŵi Human Rights Commission	National Planning Commission
Malaŵi Police Service	National Registration Bureau
Malaŵi Prison	National Statistical Office
Ministry of Agriculture	National AIDS Commission
Ministry of Education	National Youth Council
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs	Office of Ombudsman
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Office of the President and Cabinet
Ministry of Gender	Parliament
Ministry of Health	Office of Ombudsman
Ministry of Homeland Security	Office of the President and Cabinet
Ministry of Information and Digitization	Parliament
Ministry of Justice	

Contributing partners/Donors

Australian Agency for International Development	European Union
Basket funding	Flanders Government
Basque Government	German Agency for International Cooperation
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs	Global Partnership for Education
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Government of Denmark
Central Emergency Response Fund	Government of Germany
Children's Investment Fund Foundation	Government of Iceland
Eli Lilly	Government of Ireland
Embassy of Canada	Government of Italy
Embassy of Norway	Government of Japan
Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases	Government of Jordan
European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations	Government of Malawi



Contributing partners/Donors

Government of Norway	Peace Building Funds
Government of Sweden	Qatar Fund for Development
Government of Switzerland	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
Government of the Netherlands	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Government of the Republic of Korea	Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute
Hemsley	The Global Environment Facility
Irish Aid	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Islamic Development Bank	The Green Climate Fund
Korea International Cooperation Agency	The World Bank
Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau	UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund	United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office
Multi Donor Trust Fund	United States Agency for International Development
Multi-donor Programme on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)
Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol	
OPEC Fund for International Development	

Non-state actors

Adventist Development and Relief Agency	Malawi Congress of Trade Unions
Baylor College of Medicine Baylor College of Medicine	Malawi Girl Guide Association
British Council	Malawi Human Rights Resource Center
Care International	Médecins Sans Frontières
Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy Malawi	Palladium International Ltd
Chemonics International Inc.	Path
Employers' Consultative Association of Malawi	Partners in Health
Family Planning Association of Malawi	Plan International
Forest and Farm Facility	Village Reach
International Centre for Research in Agroforestry - World Agroforestry Center	WaterAid
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent	Welthungerhilfe
Malawi Girls' Education Malawi Girls' Education	Youth Net and Counselling
Christian Aid Malawi	Private companies

Malaŵi at a glance

SDG Indes Rank

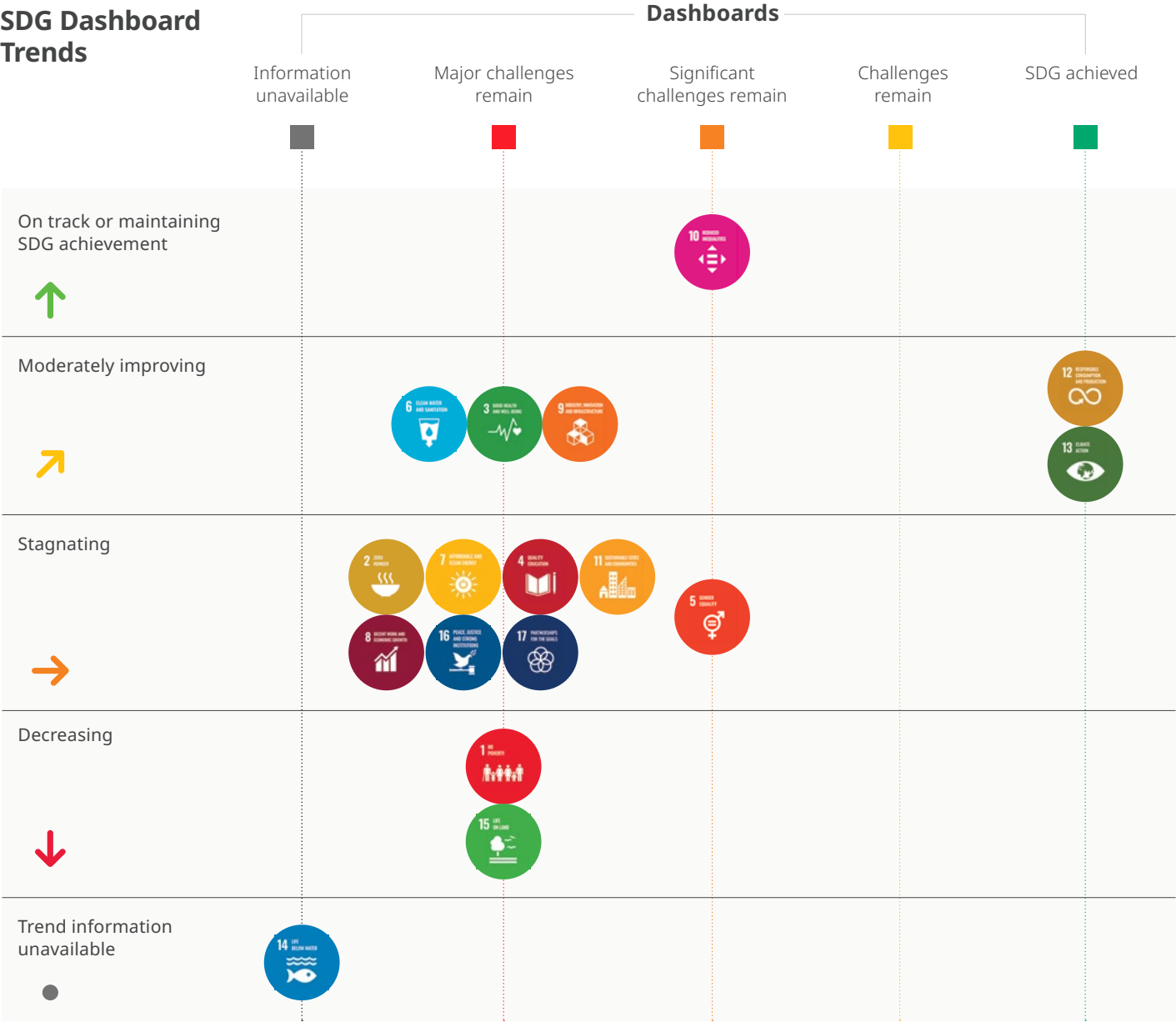
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SDG Index Score

56.75%

Spillover Score

97.44%



Demographics

Estimated Total Population

20.93M

World Bank (2023)

Social indicators

Poverty rate (US \$ 2.15 /day)

72%

World Bank (2024)

Economic indicators

GDP per capita (current US\$)

602.3

World Bank (2023)

Life expectancy

65.1%

WHO (2022)

Literacy rate

69.5%

UNESCO (2022)

GDP growth (annual %)

1.8%

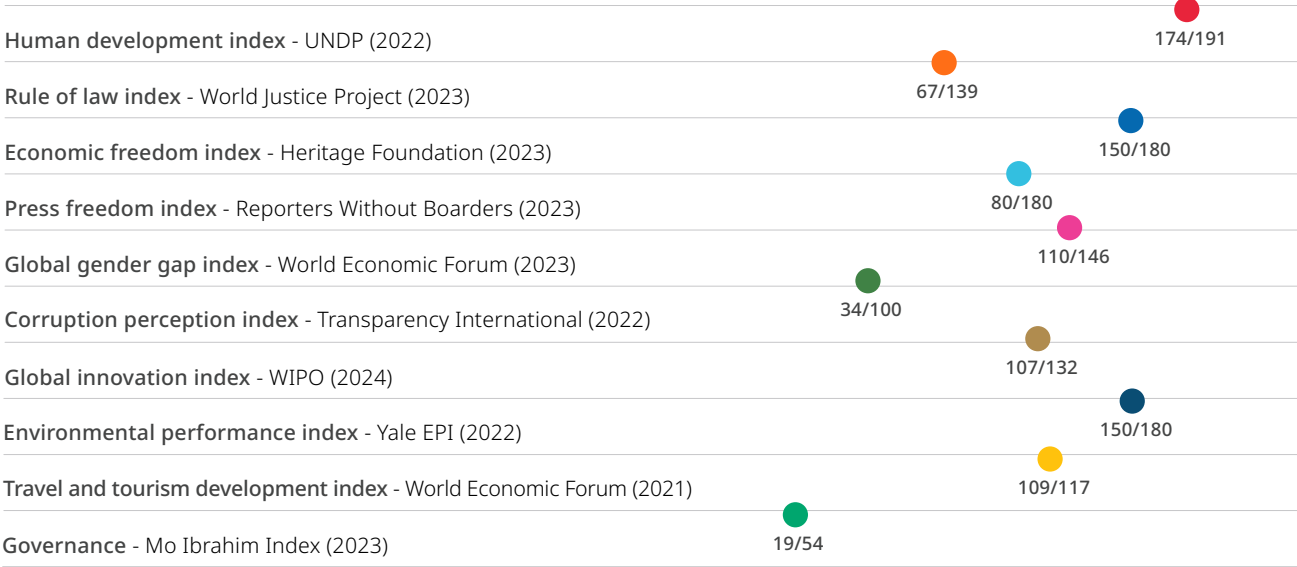
World Bank (2024)

Population growth (annual %)

20.93M

World Bank (2023)

Malaŵi's standing in selected global rankings



Overview:
Cooperation Framework Priority Areas

UNSDCF Strategic priorities/pillars	Support sustainable, diversified and inclusive growth
UNSDCF outcomes	By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable groups, including women, youths, and people with disability, participate in and benefit from food and nutrition security and a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth resilient to shocks.
Alignment with Malaŵi 2063 Pillars	Pillars: Agricultural productivity and commercialization, Industrialization (includes mining), Urbanization (includes tourism) Enablers: Private sector dynamism, and environmental sustainability, Human capital development (including gender equality). Economic Infrastructure.
Alignment with SDGS	



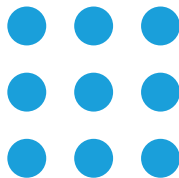
The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024 – 2028 supports the achievement of the Malaŵi Implementation Plan (MIP-1), Malaŵi 2063, Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **The Cooperation Framework supports the government in four interlinked and mutually reinforcing strategic priority areas below.**



Strengthen institutional governance	Ensure sustainable investments and outcomes in human capital development	Adapt to climatic change, reverse environmental degradation and support energy transformation
		
By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth and those most left behind, experience more inclusive good governance, peace and robust political and civic participation.	By 2028, more people, in particular women, children and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are resilient with access to and utilization of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, social and protection services.	By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable, including women and youth, are resilient to climate change and shocks, benefit from and have access to better-managed waste, ecosystems and natural resources, including clean and affordable energy.
Enablers: Enhanced public sector performance, Effective governance system, Human capital development, Mindset Change.	Enablers: Human capital development, Enhanced public sector performance, Effective governance system, Mindset change.	Enablers: Environmental sustainability, Economic Infrastructure, Mindset Change.
		

Chapter 1

Key developments trends



Malawi's development context has been particularly difficult in the face of significant and enduring socio-economic challenges.

Climate-induced catastrophes, such as the recent El Niño weather phenomenon that affected the 2023/24 agricultural season, and the lingering effects of Tropical Cyclone Freddy that impacted Malawi in 2023, coupled with the impacts of geopolitical conflicts and fluctuating commodity prices, remain major challenges. Set against a backdrop of pre-existing structural issues, including macro-economic imbalances, weak private sector investment, unsustainable debt levels (estimated at 84.4 percent of the GDP) and governance deficits, these challenges have significantly hindered development progress and achievement of the SDGs.

In the 2023/24 agricultural season, the southern Africa region experienced the worst dry spell in 100 years. El Niño phenomenon caused a reduction in the production of various crops in Malawi, notably maize, which registered a decrease of 16 percent, from 3,509,837 metric tons registered in 2022/23 to 2,926,190 metric tons in the 2023/24 season (and a 14 percent decrease compared to the 5-year average) against a national requirement of 3.8 million metric tons. Beyond the immediate impacts on the agriculture sector and food security, spillover socio-economic impacts resulted in reduced aggregate output, elevated inflationary pressures, employment contraction, worsening poverty levels and exacerbated social inequalities.

The 2024 growth projection of 1.8 percent in 2024, a downward revision from an initial estimate of 3.2 percent at the beginning of the year, in large part reflects the effects of El Niño. With the population growth rate at 2.6 percent, this marks the third consecutive year of negative GDP per capita. Malawi's growth also weakened due to the slow implementation of macro-economic reforms. Inflation moderated at the end of 2024, although it was elevated for much of the year, exceeding 30 percent, driven by rising food prices and sustained money supply growth. According to the World Bank, poverty, based on the international poverty line of US\$2.15/day is projected to increase slightly to 72 percent in 2024 from 71.2 percent.

The UN in close collaboration with the Government responded to the El Niño emergency, saving lives, rebuilding sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening dialogue with key development actors while placing sustainable economic transformation and enhanced development financing at the centre of development priorities to build resilience.

Chapter 2

UN support to national priorities through the Cooperation Framework



2.1 Overview of Coperation Framework Results

Coordination and Joint Advocacy

The UN and Government of Malawi strategic partnership was solidified through an unprecedented high-level dialogue between the UNCT and President Lazarus Chakwera with is Ministers, reinforcing the

shared commitment to sustainable development.

Furthermore, the UNCT implemented four joint programmes under the SDG Acceleration Fund which collectively reached 3.6 million people and mobilized US\$170.5 million in resources.

Name of Project	PUNOS	Donor	Amount
Joint Programme on Girls' Education III: Learning for all in Malaŵi	UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP	Norway	US\$40,561,450
Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience (PROSPER)	UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, FAO	FCDO	£37,100,000
Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening for Equitable Health Outcomes - Umoyo Wathu	WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF	FCDO	US\$14,564,559
Border Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and	UNDP, NFPA, UNODC,	Iceland and Ireland	US\$837,312
Peace Building in Malaŵi	IOM, UN Women	Flanders	US\$2,450,000
Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture in Malaŵi	FAO, UNDP		



Summarized Results by Strategic Priority

In 2024, collective results were achieved through collaborative efforts among 23 UN entities in partnership with 91 implementing partners, including government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academia. Below is a snapshot of the key results since implementation of the Cooperation Framework started in 2024 across its four strategic priorities:



Sustainable, Diversified, and Inclusive Growth: The UN in Malawi supported 5.8 million people in accessing income-generating activities and facilitated the creation of 48,443 jobs. Additionally, 1,030 hectares of irrigation schemes were developed, benefiting smallholder farmers. Nearly 3,000 farmer organizations gained access to structured markets, while 100 km of rural roads and 21 bridges were rehabilitated, enhancing agricultural productivity and rural connectivity.



Strengthened Institutional Governance: The UN in Malawi facilitated the registration of 7.1 million voters and supported 12.9 million individuals in obtaining legal identity documents. Additionally, 900 women registered as electoral aspirants. The justice and social welfare systems resolved 9,300 cases through police, courts, and social services. Moreover, 70,000 women and girls accessed gender-based violence (GBV) response services. The UN strengthened capacities of the newly established Malawi Peace and Unity Commission.



Human Capital Development: The UN in Malawi improved access to education for 3.9 million children, including refugees, and treated 44,573 cases of severe wasting. Social protection services benefited about 347,000 people, while 1.14 million young people received sexual and reproductive health services, contributing to reduced maternal mortality and improved health outcomes. Additionally, 837,000 primary school learners received daily nutritious meals, and 197,000 individuals gained access to climate-resilient WASH infrastructure.



Climate Change, Environment, and Energy: The UN in Malawi restored 5,000 hectares of degraded land and provided 53,000 farmers with climate risk insurance, strengthening resilience to climate shocks. Furthermore, 62,000 people accessed clean and sustainable energy solutions.

Response to Unforeseen Changes

The UNCT demonstrated flexibility in repurposing its efforts to address emerging challenges. For example, in response to the El Niño-induced drought, the UNCT, in collaboration with development partners, reallocated resources to support emergency food security interventions, reaching 1.5 million people with social protection measures. The UNCT also strengthened its collaboration with international financing institutions, including the World Bank and IFAD, to mobilize additional funding for climate resilience and economic recovery.

Global Initiatives and Partnerships

The UN in Malawi supported the Government of Malawi to prepare and participate in the Summit of the Future, including organizing a media breakfast that raised awareness about the Summit, facilitated technical consultations, and convened high-level consultative meetings with various stakeholders



including the youths. As a result, the UN strengthened the ability of the Malawi Government to shape the outcomes of the Pact for the Future, including through developing a position paper that served as a negotiation document. The RCO also supported Malawi’s Youth Representative, 1 of 10 youths selected from 5,000 applicants to attend the Summit in New York, by facilitating connections with government counterparts and providing relevant guidance. Discussions with the Government are ongoing to translate the outcomes of the Pact for the Future into meaningful policy actions. Additionally, the UN in Malawi supported the Government of Malawi’s participation in the World Health Assembly, where global health decisions are made. As a member of the One Health Quadripartite—comprising WHO, FAO, UNEP, and World Organisation for Animal Health — Malawi also took part in the One Health Congress, which was held for the first time on African soil.

Resource mobilisation

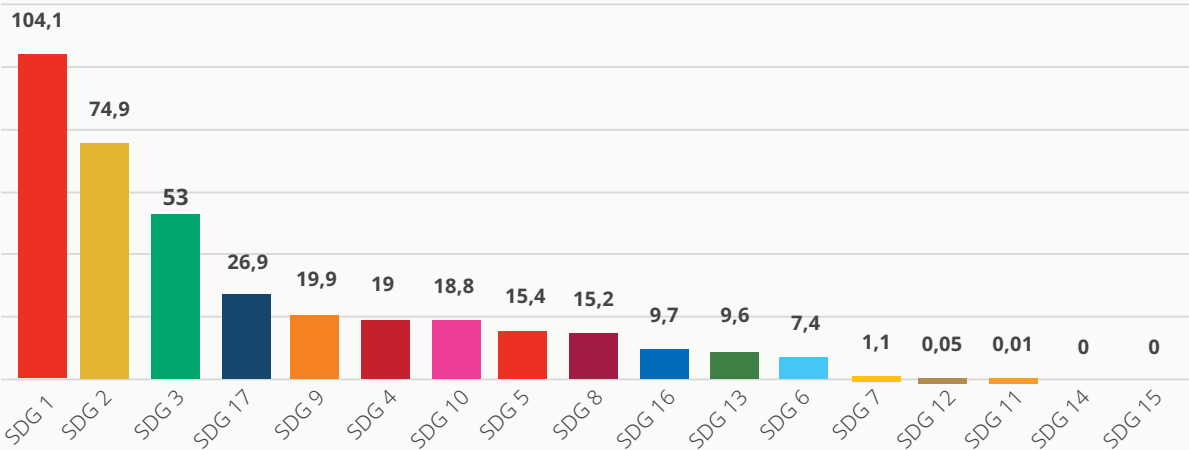
The UNCT successfully mobilized US\$375.2 million out of the required US\$568.2 million, demonstrating its ability to leverage partnerships and funding for SDG acceleration.

The UNCT’s work in 2024 was bolstered by its participation in global initiatives and partnerships, including mobilising US\$20.5 million through the SDG Acceleration Fund from partners such as Norway, Flanders, and the UK to support initiatives in health systems strengthening, women and youth empowerment, and peacebuilding. The UNCT and development partners supported the Global Fund in securing US\$500 million for HIV, TB, and malaria responses, contributing to a significant reduction in HIV infections among children.

Key Challenges

Notwithstanding the successes, the operationalization of the Cooperation Framework faced several challenges, including structural weaknesses and capacity gaps in decentralized governance. Specifically, the non-devolution of critical Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) impeded effective implementation. Additionally, limited staffing capacity in local councils and the absence of clear implementation frameworks in devolved sectors, such as education, further constrained progress. Weak coordination and collaboration at the district level, compounded by ineffective coordination mechanisms, also hindered the Framework’s implementation.

Mobilized Resources (In million US\$)



2.2 Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs



Strategic priority 1

Sustainable, diversified and inclusive growth

Output 1.1

Enhanced Access to Skills Development, Resources and Services (ILO, IFAD, FAO, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNCDF)

The UN's collective efforts under Output 1.1 significantly improved access to skills development, productive resources, and financial services for vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and migrant workers. By 2024, over 3,000 individuals demonstrated increased knowledge or skills related to international trade and ability of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to effectively compete in local markets, sustain their operations, and grow over time. Notably, ILO supported 1,577 individuals while IFAD reached 850 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). FAO and UN Women provided skills development to 300 individuals. UNDP supported 430 graduates from Technical, Entrepreneurial, Vocational Training (TEVET) and MSMEs with foundational business and entrepreneurship training. UNICEF supported 216 (151 male: 65 female) to enroll in formal

vocational skills under TEVETA formal apprenticeship programme. Additionally, UNDP strengthened the entrepreneurial ecosystem by positioning 58 business development service providers, with nine trained as Trainer of Trainer providers to offer sustainable support to growing enterprises. These efforts have empowered beneficiaries to engage more effectively in economic activities, fostering resilience and inclusivity.

Access to quality infrastructure and digital services has also improved markedly. Over 12.3 million people gained improved access to reliable and sustainable infrastructure, with UNDP's National Rural Infrastructure Support project (against a target of 11.4 million). In 2024, UNDP partnered with Microsoft to accelerate digital literacy and skills development across Malawi. As part of this initiative, Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the University of Malawi, Malawi University of Science and Technology, Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences, and Mzuzu University to embed digital literacy modules within university curricula.



Through this collaboration, over 800 students and faculty members received specialized training in blockchain, emerging technologies, digital safety, and cybersecurity advocacy. Additionally, UNDP facilitated the training of 62 digital advocates to extend digital skills and awareness to underserved communities, reinforcing national efforts toward inclusive digital transformation. As part of its ecosystem-strengthening approach, UNDP also supported the ICT Association of Malawi Innovation Forum, providing a platform to showcase women-led technological innovations and foster a more inclusive and vibrant tech ecosystem in Malawi. UNOPS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, completed the technical preparatory works, including topographical surveys, geotechnical investigations and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for the construction of Centres for Vocational Excellence at four technical colleges: Lilongwe, Salima, Mzuzu and Blantyre.

The UN through FAO, UNCDF, UNICEF, and UNDP reached over 20,000 individuals with financial and digital products. These initiatives have enhanced digital inclusion and economic participation, particularly for marginalized groups. IFAD also facilitated access to reliable water for 7,818 households through



construction of irrigation infrastructure which has reduced their reliance on rain-fed agriculture.

The UN Joint Programme on Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience supported over 30,000 households (88 percent of which were women-headed) and facilitated access to financial services for nearly 3,000 of these households. These households received cash payouts, participated in VSLAs and were linked to microfinance service providers. UNICEF and UN Women supported nearly 26,000 individuals through 1,292 VSLAs, integrating financial literacy, climate-smart agriculture, and entrepreneurship training to enhance economic security. With support from UNCDF, a total of 1,122 VSLAs received training on digital financial tools and were successfully onboarded onto a digital platform, enhancing their access to formal financial services. UNCDF and IOM increased economic resilience for migrants and vulnerable youth, training 285 remittance receivers and 103 youth in financial literacy and savings management. UNCDF advanced financial inclusion by enabling 4,210 mobile money agents to access liquidity through the Agent Overdraft Solution Project, ensuring stable financial services in underserved areas. UN Women and IFAD empowered

3,000

Individuals with increased knowledge in trade and MSME operations

1,577

People supported by ILO for skills and employment

850

Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) reached by IFAD

850

Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) reached by IFAD

women and smallholder farmers by providing gender-sensitive business training to 130 agripreneurs and supporting the formation of 850 new VSLAs, enhancing financial literacy and economic independence.

The UN's support also catalyzed job creation and retention, with a total of 48,443 jobs created or retained. Of these, the ILO contributed 1,577 jobs, UNDP supported 5,500 jobs, and IFAD created 41,366 jobs. UN Women, ILO, and FAO enhanced youth employability by training 373 young women and 108 boys in ICT, gender, and entrepreneurship, equipping them with skills for digital careers and self-employment. To further enhance employability, ILO and the Ministry of Labour developed Recognition of Prior Learning guidelines in five trades, improving formal recognition of informal sector skills. UNICEF operationalized the National Children's Commission, strengthening child rights oversight. ILO's youth apprenticeship programs in hospitality, fisheries, and agriculture benefited 7,000 trainees, improving employability.

Output 1.2
Strengthened Institutional Capacities for Inclusive Policies and Digital Tools (FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNCDF, UN Women, UNECA, UNHCR, WFP, WHO)

Under Output 1.2, the government and private sector with UN support developed inclusive policies and digital tools that enhanced productivity, resilience, and trade participation. A total of five new or improved policies and strategies were developed to address hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, and food safety with support from FAO, WFP, and WHO. These included the National Agriculture Policy, National Irrigation Policy, Agriculture Land Resources, and Management Policy, National Food Safety and Hygiene Policy and Animal Health Workforce Strategy. These policies have laid the groundwork for more sustainable and inclusive food systems. Furthermore, UNECA supported the Government to develop Malawi's National Industrial Policy, regulations for Special Economic Zones. UNESCO supported the Government to develop the National Arts and Heritage Bill. IFAD through its the

Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and Enterprise Programme (FARMSE), strengthened the capacity of the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) to review the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (III) and to develop the National Sector Development Strategy—both of which were launched in 2024. FARMSE also supported the RBM to develop the Financial Inclusion and Digitalization Portal, which aimed to streamline the management of regulatory financial data, enhance policy review and development on financial inclusion, and improve access to financial inclusion data for all stakeholders, thereby enabling more effective geographical targeting. UNHCR supported the Government through the Malawi Law Commissioner to review the refugees act with the aim of developing a comprehensive and Unified legislative framework for the protection and management of refugees which projected to be concluded by December 2025.

Capacity-building efforts have also been significant. 208 rural organizations and government institutions enhanced their abilities to design and implement policies that improve productivity and working conditions. FAO led this effort by supporting 174 institutions, while ILO contributed to 34 institutions. These interventions have strengthened the enabling environment for sustainable development.

In 2024, UNDP significantly advanced Malawi's digital transformation by supporting the integration of the National ID system across key sectors. In healthcare, UNDP facilitated the linkage of 7,739 National IDs and 6,143 birth certificates with the Hospital Management Information System in Karonga District, improving patient data management and service delivery.



Output 1.3
Increased Access to Financing for Sustainable Development (ILO, IFAD, IOM, UNDP)

The UN expanded access to financing for sustainable development, benefiting over 5.8 million people benefited from income-generating activities, with UNDP supporting over 4 million individuals and WFP reaching nearly 1.4 million people. IFAD and ILO supported over 400,000 people with income-generating activities. IFAD provided financial literacy training to 445,549 individuals and facilitated the linkage of 443,162 people to formal financial institutions. These interventions have enhanced livelihoods and economic resilience, particularly for vulnerable groups.

The UN in Malawi through IOM and UNDP strengthened governance frameworks, border management, and diaspora engagement, enhancing investment potential and regional cooperation. Five bilateral and national policies were developed to recognize migrants as contributors to sustainable development. UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Finance finalized the SDG Investor Map, identifying priority investment areas aligned with Malawi 2063, attracting private sector engagement in sustainable development initiatives. IOM and UNDP conducted a Feasibility Study on Diaspora Engagement and Investment Vehicles, informing strategies to mobilize financial and technical contributions from the Malawian diaspora. IOM and the Department of Immigration implemented the Migration Information and Data Analysis System, modernizing border management systems and improving trade facilitation with Mozambique and Zambia.

On Development Financing, Government in collaboration with UNDP implemented Malawi's Integrated National Financing Framework, aligning tax policies with SDGs, and supported the Article six framework for carbon finance. A green business roadmap identified growth opportunities, and a climate change account, funded by carbon taxes, enabled Malawi to finance its first climate project.

For social protection, UNDP's support enabled the integration of the National ID with the Unified Beneficiary Registry, enhancing the efficiency and transparency of programs and allowing 4,277,500 Malawians to access equitable government benefits. In agriculture, UNDP supported the integration of the National ID with a biometric verification system for the Agricultural Inputs Program, enabling 4.8 million citizens to verify eligibility via SMS and USSD services, while biometric authentication of 1.4 million beneficiaries minimized fraud and ensured subsidies reached intended farmers.

With technical and financial support from UNDP, the Ministry of Information and Digitalisation successfully completed Malawi's first Digital Readiness Assessment. This comprehensive assessment provides a baseline understanding of the country's digital ecosystem—covering infrastructure, governance, skills, inclusion, and innovation—and serves as a critical input for the formulation of Malawi's National Digital Transformation Strategy and Implementation Roadmap.

Private sector performance has also improved, with over 4,700 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) benefiting financial and technical support from FAO, UNDP and UNCDF. UN Women and ILO supported 123 women-led businesses and bridged the gender gap in access to finance and unleashed women's entrepreneurial capacity. These results underscore the UN's commitment to gender equality and economic empowerment.

Output 1.4
Enhanced Capacities for Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods (IFAD, FAO, UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO)

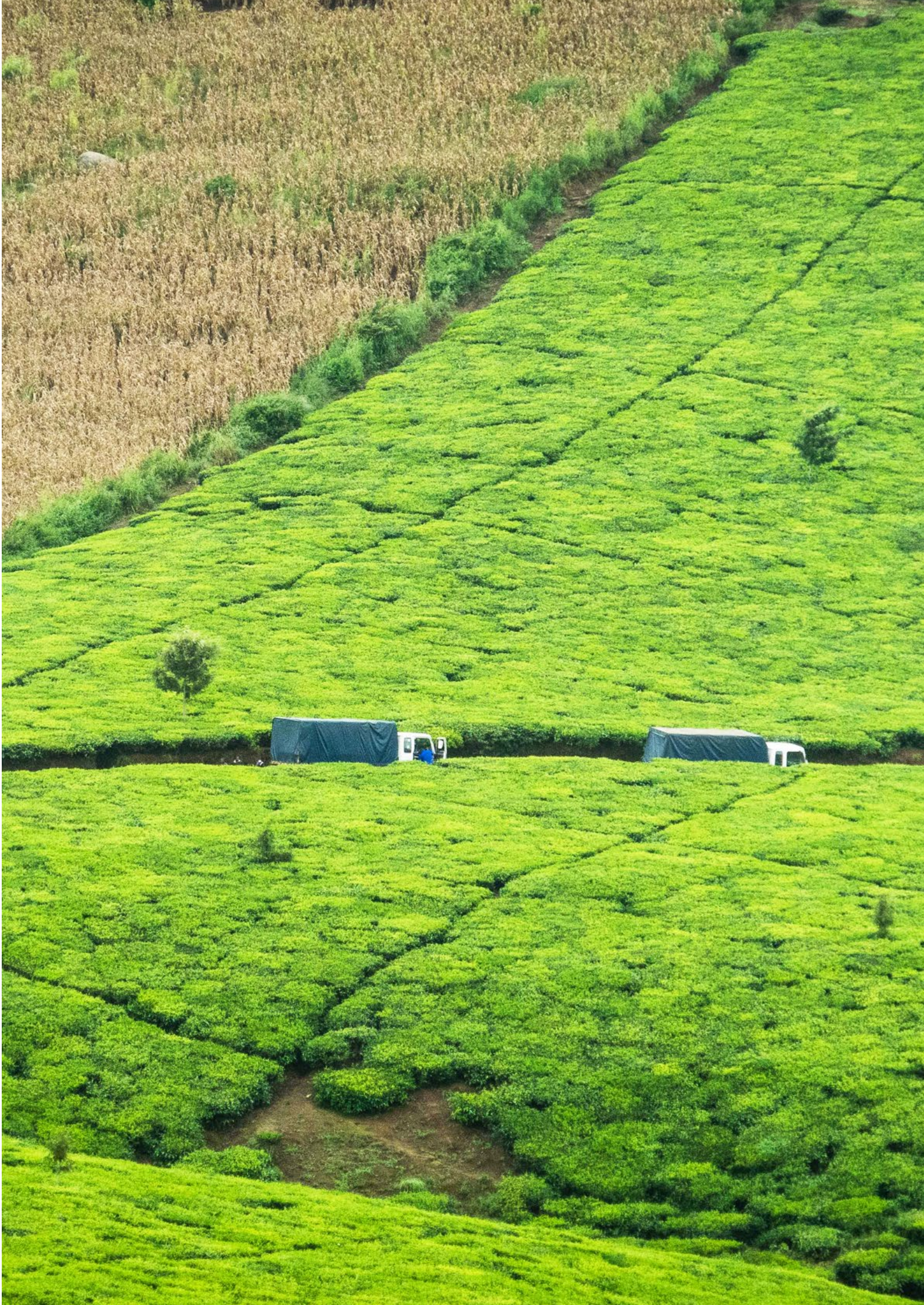
IFAD, FAO, UNDP and UN Women expanded access to irrigation, constructing irrigation schemes covering 1,030 hectares and providing solar-powered irrigation pumps to 11 farmer groups, promoting year-round agricultural productivity.

The UN has strengthened the capacities of smallholder farmers, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, to contribute to sustainable food systems. Nearly 15,000 beneficiaries gained secure access to land, with FAO and IFAD leading this effort. Additionally, about 35,000 farmers accessed production inputs and technological packages, with FAO supporting 16,320 farmers and IFAD reaching nearly 19,000 farmers. These interventions have improved agricultural productivity and resilience. IFAD, UNICEF and FAO improved food security and nutrition, distributing 62,738 fruit trees and supporting 94,211 households in establishing backyard gardens, strengthening household food production and dietary diversity. With support from UNICEF, a total of 30,471 households (29,237 Blantyre, 626 Nsanje and 608 Phalombe) were provided with livestock (goats, chickens and guinea fowls). WHO supported national capacity building training of 26 food safety experts from research, government and private institutions to enable them to generate food safety data for Malawi and contribute to the global food safety data base, including training of national food safety officers from the National Codex Committee and the National

Codex focal Points to have capacity to participate in Codex work, Codex processes and functions.

As a result of IFAD’s support, market access and post-harvest management improved significantly through the rehabilitation of 100 km of rural roads and the construction of 21 bridges, enabling more efficient transportation of agricultural goods to markets. Training initiatives have also been impactful. A total of 29,543 individuals were trained with IFAD support in improved production practices. These trainings have equipped farmers with innovative techniques to enhance crop, livestock, and fish production. UN Women’s Gender Makes Business Sense training strengthened women agripreneurs, integrating gender equality into agricultural value chains and increasing business profitability. Over 1,473 farmers (73 percent women and youth) were trained in climate-smart agriculture, post-harvest management, and value addition, enhancing food security and household income. Institutional capacities have also been strengthened, with 242 institutions supported by FAO improving their ability to strengthen tenure security.

UNDP through its support to various value chains empowered over 160 SMEs by improving their access to finance, fostering sustainable economic growth. The approach integrated over 800,000 smallholder farmers into sustainable value chains, fostering resilience and economic inclusion. 105 innovative products were supported and introduced to markets to reduce import dependency, such as organic fertilizers and sustainable briquettes.





Strategic priority 2

Strengthen institutional governance

Output 2.1
Strengthened Institutional Capacities for Good Governance and Inclusive Service Delivery (IOM, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC, UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO, WHO)

The UN's interventions under Output 2.1 have significantly enhanced institutional capacities to improve governance, transparency, and the delivery of inclusive public services. UNDP, UN Women and UNESCO in partnership with Government, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and Political Parties supported registration of 7.1 million voters, mobilized 900 registered female aspirants and influenced political party structures for increased female representation, gazetting the first ever asset declaration to build integrity and combat corruption. UNDP and UN Women facilitated voter education campaigns, reaching 13.2 million citizens.

The UN in Malawi through IOM, ILO, UNDP, UNODC and UN Women supported government to advance Legal and Policy Frameworks focusing on: trafficking in persons Act, Smuggling of Migrants, Anti-terrorism, addressing human rights violation for older persons, decentralization, Code of Conduct on prevention of violence and harassment, employment (labour

migration), MoU on cross border, strategy on political empowerment of women, Gender Equality Act & Monitoring framework, Youth National Action Plan 1325, Youth Health Service Strategy, and Action plan for older persons. In preparation for peaceful elections, UNDP enhanced the capacity of the Electoral Management Body (EMB) through the development of an Information Security Policy, a Civic and Voter Education Strategy, and an Election Dispute Resolution Framework.

UNDP supported the SDG Audit of the National Budget which found that 85 percent of the national budgeting system was aligned with the SDGs, enabling better tracking of budget allocations for gender-responsive and inclusive development. This alignment ensures that resources are directed toward priority areas, benefiting marginalized groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities. Additionally, 18 government institutions have improved their capacities to plan, budget, manage, and monitor the delivery of gender-sensitive services. These enhanced capacities through UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and other development partners have led to more efficient and equitable service delivery, particularly in health, education, and security sectors.



For instance, public satisfaction with health services for Malawi increased to 19 out of 54 African countries on the Mo Ibrahim Survey, up from a baseline of 13 percent. Similarly, satisfaction with education services improved to 33 out of 54, reflecting tangible progress in service quality and accessibility.

Furthermore, the government, with UNICEF support, completed the Integrated Child Poverty Data in the national budget and planning processes, ensuring government ownership in shaping perspectives on child-inclusive programming that addresses the multifaceted deprivations faced by children. This approach has empowered 12 Local Government Authorities to strategically enhance their child-inclusive planning and budgeting processes, ensuring the integration of child poverty into the broader Public Finance Management and decentralised policies (District Development Plans and District Implementation Plans).

Output 2.2
Enhanced Capacities for Human Rights, Peacebuilding, and Gender Equality (IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women, UNODC, UNICEF, WHO)

Under Output 2.2, the UN has strengthened the capacities of duty bearers, community leaders, and marginalized groups to advance human rights, peacebuilding, and gender equality. A key achievement is the government's implementation of 80 Universal Periodic Review (recommendations, supported by OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women, and

other development partners. This reflects Malawi's commitment to upholding human rights and addressing systemic inequalities.

UNDP and UNFPA strengthened Malawi's human rights framework and operationalized the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission and District Peace and Unity Committees to mediate conflicts. IOM and UNODC supported the development of Malawi's National Migration Policy and Global Compact for Migration Implementation Plan, ensuring regulatory frameworks for labor migration. The Regional MoU enhanced cross-border mobility and strengthened collaboration with Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. UNODC and IOM trained safe-house staff and supported 34 trafficking survivors with reintegration services. IOM's awareness campaigns reached over 800 community members, improving public engagement in anti-trafficking efforts. UNODC finalized the Smuggling of Migrants Bill and the Drug Control Policy, ensuring legal protections for vulnerable populations.

UN efforts were critical in strengthening individual and institutional oversight of GBV at national and subnational levels. UNDP and UNICEF supported the Government to establish mobile court circuits in remote areas, expanding access to justice for survivors of GBV through remote hearings and reducing re-victimization. The National Statistical Observatory hub reported 15,523 cases, with 60 percent resolved through social welfare, police and courts, improving transparency in the justice

system. Cumulatively, since its establishment, a total of 12,020 cases have been addressed. UNDP and UNODC enhanced governance institutions, supporting capacity-building for the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission, ensuring data-driven policymaking. The Malawi Parliament improved legislative oversight and citizen engagement through ICT-driven transparency reforms with support from UNDP and other development partners.

UN Women and UNDP trained 5,834 women as peacebuilders, enabling mediation and conflict prevention efforts that resolved 372 cases. UNFPA and UNDP supported the development of Malawi's National Action Plan (NAP) for UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security. The UN through UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women with the Peacebuilding Funded Project supported strengthening and building the capacity of subnational infrastructures for peace through capacity building for community peacebuilders including women and the youth. The NAP is the first policy framework in Malawi that recognized the positive role young people play in preventing and resolving conflict and sustaining peace.

Output 2.3
Empowered Women, Youth and Marginalized Groups in Governance and Decision-Making (UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, WHO)

The UN's interventions under Output 2.3 have empowered women, youth, and marginalized groups to engage in governance and decision-making processes and supported the meaningful participation of marginalized groups in public processes. The National ID was integrated with the Unified Beneficiary

Registry, enabling 4.2 million individuals to access social protection more efficiently, while reducing fraud and duplication. UNDP supported the Ministry of Agriculture's Agricultural Input Programme by enabling biometric verification and SMS/USSD platforms, allowing 4.8 million citizens to verify their eligibility, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and service delivery. Cumulatively, by December 2024, with the technical and financial support of UNDP, National Registration Bureau registered 1,926,870 new citizens (51.5% female, 48.5% male), bringing the total to 12.5 million Malawians with legal identities . To ensure every child has legal identity, since 2015 the US Center for Disease Control, UNDP and UNICEF have supported birth registration of 3.2 million children and plans are underway to register over 7 million to close the legal identity gap and ensure inclusive access to services.

UN Women's advocacy secured reduced nomination fees for female candidates, contributing to 900 women registering as electoral aspirants. UNDP supported six Civil Society Organizations to mobilize women, youths, people with disabilities, and the public across Malawi to engage in electoral processes for the 2025 General Election. This included civic education on new electoral laws, promoting participation in political party primaries and voter registration, which led to increased interest from women and youths in contesting political positions. Furthermore, UNDP assisted the Parliament of Malawi in organizing citizen engagement activities, such as Parliament Week, to raise public awareness about its functions and operations.

UNFPA and UN Women empowered 70,000 women and girls, including those with disabilities, through

4.8M	4.2M	3.2M	900
farmers verified for input support via biometrics and SMS.	accessed social protection faster after linking National ID to beneficiary registry.	births registered since 2015 with support from CDC, UNDP & UNICEF — 7M more planned.	women registered as electoral aspirants following UN Women's advocacy for reduced nomination fees.



GBV response services across eight districts. UNFPA economically empowered 18 fistula survivors with sewing machines. UNICEF reached out to 4,043 (2,569 people with SGBV awareness raising, 1,250 participated in SGBV interface meetings and 24 adolescences empowered on SGBV). UNICEF trained 520 Community Victim Support Units members in GBV case management, financial literacy, and VSL group formation, improving their ability to support survivors and refer cases effectively. Community campaigns and school outreach reached over 3,100 individuals, leading to improved reporting, trust in protection structures, and the formation of advocacy groups promoting GBV prevention and response.

UNICEF supported 224 adolescents (109 boys, 115 girls) with capacity building in leadership and advocacy, developing action plans and influencing decisions with duty bearers. Child parliaments and adolescent-friendly spaces were established, promoting youth voice in addressing GBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) issues. These platforms are laying the groundwork for sustainable youth engagement in protection efforts, with scale-up expected as awareness and ownership grow within communities. Further through Journey of life sessions, UNICEF reached 1,365 participants, providing safe spaces for adolescents and caregivers to build emotional resilience, address SGBV, and improve SRHR awareness. Peer support networks emerged from the sessions, women and girls access psychosocial support through community-based safe spaces. Caregivers observed better emotional well-being among children, and trained facilitators are ensuring continuity and scale-up of the intervention.





Strategic priority 2

Ensure sustainable investments and outcomes in human capital development

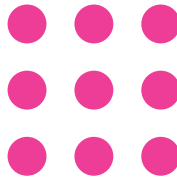
Output 3.1

Enhanced Access to Quality Services for Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities (IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Women, UNAIDS and WHO)

The UN's interventions under Output 3.1 have significantly improved access to quality services for vulnerable and marginalized communities, including women, children, youth and persons with disabilities. By 2024, 10 functioning inter-agency coordination mechanisms were established to address GBV, up from 3 in 2023. These platforms, led by UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Women, UNAIDS, and WHO, have strengthened collaboration and resource-sharing among stakeholders, ensuring a more coordinated response to GBV.

In the area of sexual and reproductive health (SRH), 12 inter-agency coordination mechanisms were established. These mechanisms, supported by UNFPA, WHO, and UNAIDS, have enhanced access to SRH services, particularly for adolescents and young women. Additionally, 14 platforms were created to

promote gender mainstreaming across sectors, up from 8 in 2023, demonstrating the UN's commitment to integrating gender equality into development programmes. Similarly, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, reached 1,141,785 young people with sexual and reproductive health services, averting 3,004 adolescent maternal deaths. UNHCR reached 8,967 individuals with SRH services in Dzaleka camp and host communities. UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, supported efforts to address cervical cancer risks among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). A total of 6,545 AGYW, including 433 adolescent girls living with HIV, received the Human Papillomavirus vaccine. Additionally, WHO ensured that 280,096 adolescent girls aged 9–14 years were vaccinated. Out of these, 182,045 were reached through school-based platforms, ensuring broad reach and accessibility. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of HIV on AGYW, UNICEF and its partners identified 2,420 AGYW at high risk of HIV infection in Blantyre, Kasungu, and Nsanje districts. These individuals were promptly linked to multisectoral prevention services addressing



their risks and vulnerabilities, using the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment tool developed through funding from Global Fund.

UN Women, through partnerships, enhanced service delivery in grassroots communities, including HIV testing and counselling services for 183 community members. UNHCR supported the HIV testing of 10,400 individuals, including ,663 pregnant women. Among these, 697 received antiretroviral therapy. UNFPA's efforts in collaboration with the Ministry of Health led to significant improvements in SRHS services, reaching over 1 million young people. The UN Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening reached 12,348 clients with family planning methods. Furthermore, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, provided family planning services to 4,215 women in Dzaleka camp and host communities.

The UN's efforts have greatly expanded Immunisation services in Malawi. At strategic level, the costed National Immunisation strategy (2024-2030) supported by WHO and other development partners was pivotal in guiding immunisation program partners and highlighting investment needs for immunisation in Malawi. UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO expanded coverage of services for immunization and vaccination campaigns that cut zero-dose immunization rates by 52 percent while Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTP 3) vaccination coverage rose to 91 percent with

WHO further supporting Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunisation and catch up vaccination efforts that led to significant reduction in Zero Dose populations from 11 percent in 2022 to 6 percent in 2024 across the identified 10 priority Districts.

WHO through its country's analysis and assessment of barriers unearthed equity gaps which resulted into targeted vaccination of over 657,567 people (with 51% of them being female) in riverine and hard to reach areas across 223 health facilities, 4,524 catchment areas and 12,375 villages across 10 districts being reached. UNHCR ensured that immunization efforts reached 1,635 children with the measles vaccine and 3,890 children under-five with routine immunizations in Dzaleka camp and host communities.

To sustain the gains made during the COVID-19 response, the UN, through WHO, supported the implementation of the National COVID-19 Integrated Deployment Plan. This support enhanced access to COVID-19 services for high-risk groups and enabled the reach of over 1.5 million individuals, including people with comorbidities, the elderly, and refugees. Building on the Malawi Government's integration guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination, UNICEF vaccinated 28,590 people living with HIV, comprising 18,926 females and 9,664 males in Mangochi, Nkhata-bay and Nsanje thereby reducing the morbidity and mortality in this high-risk group.

UNICEF contributed to this effort strengthened capacity of 86 Antiretroviral Therapy support groups and 430 support group leaders, particularly focusing on generating community demand for COVID-19 vaccination. Under the Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening, 15,466 under-five children were vaccinated. The UN screened 107,000 individuals for non-communicable diseases. Maternal and newborn health improved, with a 10 percent increase in antenatal care visits and higher rates of delivery by the skilled birth attendance.

The UN's efforts have also expanded access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, and care services. Over 239,000 people were reached with HIV interventions, supported by UNAIDS while early HIV testing for exposed infants reached 93 percent. UNICEF built capacity of 76 health care workers on data quality, who in turn improved the HIV, Syphilis and Hep B data quality from 68 percent to over 96 percent in the 10 targeted health facilities. At the National level, UNICEF supported Government develop the triple elimination costed roadmap which will act as a blueprint for implementation of path to elimination agenda. Furthermore, community engagement on the triple elimination of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B reached over 63,000 individuals in Chikwawa and surrounding districts. The combined efforts reduced HIV stigma and improved retention rates from 51 percent to 13 percent within a year. The UN supported the Government to finalize the HIV Prevention Roadmap and secured \$500M from the Global Fund for HIV, TB and malaria responses.

WHO's and UNICEF's timely technical and financial support led to a significant reduction in cholera cases, from hundreds daily in 2023 to below 20 per week in 2024. This was achieved through enhanced coordination, local leader engagement, evidence-based risk communication and community-based interventions. More than 90 percent of the people in Malawi are aware of cholera, its symptoms and preventive methods. UNICEF and WHO reached 20,134 people (11,045 women and 9,099 men) with key messages on cholera prevention and control, nutrition, child protection and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) through community drama performances. Overall, the distributed supplies from UNICEF and WHO contributed to the treatment of over 4,000 cholera cases, enhancing response efforts and improving health outcomes. UNICEF supported 12,000 people by providing health supplies and reached 6,120 women, children, and lactating mothers with essential primary health services through government-integrated mobile health clinics in Nkhotakota and Karonga. WHO provided 9 million USD worth of Essential Medicines, averting acute drug shortages throughout 2024. WHO deployed a national emergency medical team during the Nkhotakota floods, providing critical health care to 10,093 displaced individuals including surgical care for complicated procedures such as caesarian sections to 15 women with maternal emergencies. UNICEF trained 200 rapid response teams and 150 health promotion officers to address cholera risks, benefiting over 51,000 individuals.

1.5M+

people reached with COVID-19 services, including elderly, refugees, and people with comorbidities.

15,466

under-five children vaccinated under the Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening.

10%

increase in antenatal care visits and higher skilled birth attendance rates.

183

community members accessed HIV testing and counseling via UN Women.



UNICEF screened over 2.8 million children for malnutrition, treating 44,573 cases of severe wasting and achieving a 71 percent coverage rate. WHO complemented these efforts and distributed a PEDSAM kit with medicines, renewables and equipment suitable for kids. Furthermore 634,011 children received Vitamin A supplements with UNICEF's support thereby boosting their immunity. WFP expanded its Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, which promotes school retention by providing daily nutritious meals to 837,000 primary school learners and 15,000 early childhood development (ECD) learners across 11 districts. This initiative also benefited 24,400 smallholder farmers who supplied the meals.

Access to basic services, including WASH and education, also improved in this reporting period through efforts of IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and development partners. UNICEF's emergency WASH interventions aided 1.41 million people, helping to alleviate the effects of droughts and other climate-related challenges. IOM supported 9,985 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community members with access to safe drinking water through borehole rehabilitation and construction. UNICEF's climate-resilient WASH infrastructure benefited 197,000 individuals, ensuring sustainable water access. IOM provided handwashing and hygiene promotion materials to 9,985 IDPs and host communities, enhancing hygiene practices in displacement and relocation sites. UNICEF's community-led sanitation programmes resulted in 217 villages achieving open defecation-free status in this reporting period. These interventions have enhanced the well-being of vulnerable rural communities.

The transition rate from primary to lower secondary schools has increased from 45.4 percent in 2023 to 49.7 percent in 2024 under the Joint Programme on Girls' Education covering 199 schools. Furthermore, 99.8 percent of girls and boys in target areas completed the life skills programme, surpassing the target of 90 percent by 2024. All 199 schools provided a comprehensive minimum package of integrated SRHR information and made significant progress

in building the capacity of 1,900 primary and 50 secondary school teachers on Life Skills Education, utilizing existing Ministry of Education structures to ensure sustainability. Furthermore, UNHCR, and its partners supported Government efforts in education by providing staff and resource support to over 16,000 children and youth across preschool, primary, secondary, and tertiary levels in Dzaleka camp and host communities. UNICEF supported 561 (291 male; 270 female) adolescents with education support and 216 girls through existing UNICEF Scholarship programming.

Early childhood education was improved through UNICEF's support with 840,000 children enrolled in community childcare centers. UNICEF enhanced learning environments for 81,000 students through infrastructure upgrades and the distribution of 20,300 desks, while also training 4,165 educators in inclusive education practices. These efforts contributed to an 11 percent increase in enrolment of students with special needs and created safer, more supportive classrooms for all learners. In addition, 9,000 girls were provided with scholarships across 11 districts, boosting the secondary school transition rate to 50 percent. UN Women trained 360 secondary school students in coding through e-learning hubs, enabling them to participate in the digital economy. The UN efforts connected 1,800 out-of-school youth to vocational training opportunities.



Output 3.2
Strengthened Institutional Capacities for Inclusive Policies and Services (ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNESCO, UN Women, UNICEF and WHO)

Under Output 3.2, the UN has strengthened the capacities of national and sub-national institutions to design and implement inclusive policies and strategies. A key achievement is the development of four laws and regulations to eliminate violence against women and girls, supported by ILO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNESCO and WHO. These legal frameworks have created a more protective environment for women and girls, addressing harmful practices and promoting gender equality. In the area of sexual and reproductive health, eight laws and regulations were developed to promote equal access to SRH care. These efforts, led by UNFPA, WHO and UNESCO, have improved access to SRH information and services, particularly for marginalized groups. The UN has also supported the revision of the national social protection policy, enhancing the coverage and adequacy of social protection benefits. This policy, supported by ILO, UNICEF and WHO, has strengthened the social safety net for vulnerable households. UN Women and UNICEF contributed to the development of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage (2024-2030) and the National Gender Policy (2023-2030), aiming to reduce child marriages and improve support for gender-based violence survivors. Under the Health Systems Strengthening Joint Programme, the UN played a key role in the development of a National Patient Safety Manual and the review of the 2017–2022 Quality Management Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the programme engaged mentees from 59 of the 60 targeted facilities and supported

529 Quality Improvement Support Team members in mentoring 564 healthcare workers in quality-of-care standards.

IOM facilitated the resettlement of 1,928 refugees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo to countries including the United States of America, Australia and Canada. IOM enhanced the capacity of 25 health facilities to provide migrant-sensitive health services, benefiting vulnerable groups such as migrating fisherfolk and sex workers. UNICEF improved case management systems and aligned national planning frameworks with SDG priorities, bolstering the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response system.

■ ■ ■

Through coordinated health and education interventions, the UN reached millions—reducing cholera cases by 95%, screening 2.8 million children for malnutrition, and boosting school enrolment and transition rates, especially for girls and vulnerable learners.

4

laws and regulations developed to eliminate violence against women and girls.

59

health facilities engaged with mentees; 529 Quality Improvement Support Team members mentoring

564

healthcare workers on quality-of-care standards.

3,023

community health workers and 233 data/statistical clerks trained in health information systems.



Output 3.3
Increased Access to Shock-Responsive Social Protection (IOM, UNICEF, UN Women, UNHCR, UNDP and WFP)

The UN's interventions under Output 3.3 have enhanced the resilience of vulnerable households through shock-responsive social protection and life-saving support. By 2024, over 1,090,945 people benefited from improved social protection services, supported by IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, and WFP. These services have reduced the adoption of negative coping mechanisms, particularly in times of crisis. UN Women provided business management training and loans to 80 women living with or affected by HIV, contributing to economic stability and reducing the risk of gender-based violence. UNICEF supported the government to develop a Gender Transformative Training manual for Social Cash Transfer Programme and identified 1,457

gender champions in 9 districts who will facilitate transformation of negative gender norms and practices at household and community level.

Nutritional support has also been expanded, with over 408,000 people receiving food or cash-based transfers through malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes. WFP and UNICEF played a key role in delivering these interventions, ensuring that nutritionally vulnerable populations, including children and pregnant women, received essential support. Furthermore, WFP and UNHCR, in collaboration with the government, provided food assistance to over 51,000 refugees throughout 2024. About 4,000 households affected by El Niño in Dzaleka camp and the host community received a pay out of US\$ 400,000 as part of the parametric insurance in Malawi.



Success Story

From Child Bride to Classroom — Rose’s Fight for Education



In the lakeside village under Traditional Authority Chimwala in Mangochi District, 16-year-old Rose Wande’s life took a heartbreaking turn when her parents forced her into marriage to ease their financial burden. “They didn’t care how old I was,” Rose recalls. For months, she watched other children head to school while her own future remained uncertain and bleak. “Before the Joint Programme on Girls’ Education (JPGE)—funded by the Norwegian Government and implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA, and WFP—early marriages and school dropouts were widespread,” explains Laston Kholowa, Assistant Nutrition Coordinator in Mangochi. Today, more parents recognize education as the best investment in their children’s future.”

A Second Chance at Life

Hope arrived when a local youth group stepped in. They successfully persuaded Rose’s parents to let her return to school. Today, Rose is back in Standard 6, and her once-reluctant parents are now her strongest supporters. Now an outspoken education advocate, Rose dreams of becoming a teacher.

“I want to show other girls that it’s never too late,” she says. Her story is a testament to the power of second chances and the impact of collective support. Rose’s journey is just one of thousands, each a powerful step toward a Malawi where no child is left behind.

The Ripple Effect of JPGE

At Mpale Primary School, the impact of JPGE is clear. “Our enrollment rose from 1,000 students—including just 300 girls in 2020—to 3,130 students today, of whom 1,630 are girls,” says Headteacher Mr. Laynek Matola. Beyond enrollment, the programme has empowered communities. Mother groups have been established to support young mothers by caring for their

babies during school hours and producing reusable sanitary pads to keep girls in school. Students also receive nutritious school meals, further reducing barriers to attendance.

Since its launch in 2020, JPGE has addressed root causes such as poverty, gender-based violence, and harmful traditional practices that prevent girls from accessing education. Thanks to this collective effort, girls like Rose now have the chance to reclaim their dreams and shape a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

Watch Success Story: From Child Bride to Classroom — Rose’s Fight for Education



Output 3.4 Improved Data Systems for Evidence-Based Policies (UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO)

Under Output 3.4, the UN strengthened data systems to inform evidence-based policies and programmes.

By 2024, state institutions achieved satisfactory capacity to use population data for planning and budgeting, supported by UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO. These efforts have enhanced the ability of governments to allocate resources effectively and monitor progress toward the SDGs.

The UN led by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP in partnership with the National Statistical Office launched the Power of Data Initiative bringing together government, development partners and academia around six national priorities on data demand, supply and use. Furthermore, the first post COVID-19 Demographic and Health Survey (Round 8) was carried out with support from the UN and development partners.

The UN Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening enhanced public health intelligence and disease surveillance through building the capacity of 3,023 community health workers and 233 officers’ data and statistical clerks in the use of the Health Management Information System, Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response, and Integrated Human Resources Information Systems (IHRIS). This resulted in improved quarterly results by district council and health facility leads as well as the development of evidence-based risk informed annual workplans that accelerated the achievement of targeted maternal and newborn goals. Collaborative efforts with partners, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have successfully made IHRIS operational in all districts across the country, including the six targeted districts. This advancement is crucial for enhancing data management and decision-making related to human resources in the health sector.

UNFPA facilitated the hosting of the 9th African Population Conference, disseminating the National Population Policy and supporting evidence-based programming through technical and financial support for the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) and Population and Housing Census preparations. UNHCR’s advocacy resulted in the Dzaleka refugee camp being included as the 33rd domain of the MDHS enabling comparative data for refugees. The Government early warning systems for public health have also been improved, with data timeliness for Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response increasing to 95.4 percent and completeness to 95.8 percent across all 29 Districts as supported by WHO. These systems have strengthened the capacity to identify and respond to public health emergencies, protecting vulnerable populations.

The capacity for GBV data generation, recording, and use for evidence-based programming was significantly enhanced in nine districts through targeted support from UNDP, in collaboration with the National Statistics Office and the Ministry of Gender. UNDP expanded the Disaster Risk Management Information System to nine local authorities, enabling real-time reporting and resource tracking for El Niño-induced drought response.



Success Story

Saving Mothers and Newborns: How Umoyo Wathu is Transforming Healthcare in Mzimba



In the rural heart of Mzimba, Malawi, childbirth was once a perilous journey. For many pregnant women, the lack of trained staff, essential equipment, and emergency referral systems turned delivery into a life-threatening ordeal.

The turning point came with the introduction of the Umoyo Wathu Joint Programme, implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO and funded through FCDO support. Through targeted training and mentorship, health workers were equipped to manage complications with skill and confidence. The programme also provided critical medical equipment, strengthened emergency referral systems with reliable transport, and introduced maternal and perinatal death

surveillance tools to improve the quality of care. “The training transformed our capabilities—we now manage complications confidently,” Lydia notes.

Her colleague, Daniel Mulenga, highlights how the support improved both maternal and newborn health programmes across the district. Clinical officer Anthony Mpeya adds that the programme has helped reduce maternal deaths, particularly from postpartum hemorrhage, and allowed for better monitoring and service delivery.

One mother’s story brings this transformation to life. Takondwa Mwalwanda, a mother of two, vividly remembers the day she gave birth to her youngest child, Julius. Complications during childbirth left her fearing for her life.

“I thought I was going to die,” she recalls. Thanks to emergency care made possible through the Umoyo Wathu programme, both mother and child survived. Today, Julius is a healthy one-year-old—a living testament to the programme’s life-saving impact.

District Health Administrator Louis Moyo confirms the wider changes.

He notes that emergency referrals are now faster and more effective due to consistent support for fuel and vehicle maintenance. Families are placing renewed trust in the health system, and more women are seeking antenatal and delivery care in health facilities “Before, we couldn’t respond quickly. Now we save lives,” Louis says.

And while challenges remain, healthcare workers in Mzimba now have the tools, training, and motivation to keep mothers and babies safe. With continued support,” Daniel adds, “we can do even more.”

In a district where maternal and newborn deaths were once far too common, Umoyo Wathu has become more than a programme—it is a promise of safety, dignity, and hope.

Watch Saving Mothers and Newborns: How Umoyo Wathu is Transforming Healthcare in Mzimba



Output 4.1

Access to Climate-Resilient Skills and Knowledge (FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO and WFP)

The UN has significantly expanded its reach in supporting vulnerable populations to build resilience and engage in sustainable resource management. By 2024, over 1 million individuals under the PROSPER Joint Programme had their capacities enhanced to cope with the effects of climate change. In addition, the programme provided 27 matching grants of up to US\$206,000 to Farmer Field School groups that developed sound agribusiness proposals through a competitive selection process. WFP, UNDP and UN Women facilitated climate risk insurance for 53,000 farmers, securing financial protection against crop failure.

The UN through FAO, IFAD and UNDP empowered 6,711 groups that included women and youth to manage natural resources and address climate-related risks sustainably. FAO played a pivotal role,

supporting 6,542 groups, while IFAD and UNDP contributed to 146 and 21 groups, respectively. IFAD and UNDP supported 137 Village Natural Resource Management Committees and nine Water Users Associations in sustainable land and water resource management.

Furthermore, over 1.6 million people received tailored climate information through early warning systems with UN support. UNDP through the e-PICSA app trained 4,000 lead farmers and reached 100,000 farmers with climate-resilient insights. These initiatives have empowered vulnerable populations, especially women and youth, with the skills and knowledge necessary to manage natural resources sustainably and enhance resilience to environmental shocks. This combined efforts through the PROSPER Joint Programme and agency initiatives resulted in the rehabilitation of 22,729 hectares of forest land.





Strategic priority 4

Climate change, environmental degradation, and energy

Output 4.2

Strengthening Capacities of Duty Bearers (FAO, IOM, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, WHO)

Capacity-building efforts further strengthened preparedness and improved disaster response and recovery. IOM and UNDP co-led efforts to integrate climate risk considerations into 23 District Development Plans (DDPs) and contingency plans, fostering long-term resilience at the district level. IOM trained 100 community members in safe house construction and emergency shelter techniques, strengthening disaster resilience. UN Women trained 223 stakeholders, including government actors and humanitarian responders, on gender-responsive DRM, ensuring inclusive disaster planning and recovery. UNICEF also capacitated two district teams in gender transformative DRM and PSEA integration. Institutional awareness and oversight of Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PRSEAH) within the Ministry of Health were significantly enhanced through WHO's targeted interventions, including the delivery of an intensive

leadership programme for 60 senior government officials and the dissemination of PRSEAH messaging to 4,235 frontline health workers. UNEP built the capacity of 136 members of District Planning Units in climate risk management and adaptation planning through 8 workshops held in August 2024. A summary for policymakers is available and will be published on EAD's website, while key messages from the climate risk assessment have been tailored for specific stakeholder groups. Furthermore, a climate risk mapping tool is under development to support integration of climate risk into local planning processes.

The UN was instrumental in supporting the implementation of policy measures to enhance Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. These measures have facilitated the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. FAO's support led to the adoption and implementation of a national Disaster Risk Reduction strategy in line with the Sendai Framework. This strategy has strengthened



the country's preparedness and response to disasters, reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience. The UN supported the adoption of carbon removal and emission reduction technologies, although progress remains limited. WHO has initiated efforts to reach 50 individuals on decarbonization in health facilities, highlighting the need for further scaling up of these interventions. WHO supported the Government to sign the COP26 Health Programme by submitting a commitment letter to the COP26 Presidency. This commitment underscores Malawi's dedication to enhancing the climate resilience and sustainability of its health systems.

The UN in Malawi enhanced national and local disaster preparedness by strengthening policies, building resilience, and expanding access to climate risk mitigation mechanisms. At the policy level, UN Women facilitated the integration of gender considerations into 43 guiding tools on gender-responsive DRM, including the DDP and District Disaster Risk Management Plan in Zomba district. UNDP and FAO collaborated with the Government to formulate the 2024/2025 National Emergency Contingency Plan and the National El Niño Agriculture Sector Recovery Plan, ensuring proactive preparedness and resource

mobilization. UN Women supported the National Gender Action Plan for the Sendai Framework, mainstreaming gender into climate resilience and DRM policies. UN Women facilitated the integration of gender considerations into 43 guiding tools on gender-responsive DRM and resilience building. UNESCO and UN Women led these efforts, ensuring that cultural and heritage considerations are integrated into disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies. This integration has strengthened community resilience and preserved cultural heritage.

UNICEF established 12 new contingency Programme Documents (PDs) with NGOs and Academic institutions across sectors. These PDs were instrumental in ensuring rapid deployment and scalability of life-saving interventions. UNICEF also established multiyear partnership with The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) that strengthened their capacity in project management, volunteer coordination, and data management, enhancing its role as a frontline emergency responder. The partnership also addressed systemic challenges, enabling MRCS to adapt to evolving needs and independently lead critical interventions, such as WASH services during the Nkhotakota floods. In response to weak government capacity identified during the Cyclone Freddy and Cholera After-Action Review 2023, UNICEF Malawi equipped over 60 District DRM staff with essential skills in risk analysis, response planning, and addressing cross-cutting issues like gender, GBV, and protection from exploitation.

UNEP, in collaboration with the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), supported the development of Malawi's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), resulting in several key milestones. A comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability assessment was completed at both

23

District Development Plans integrated climate risk for resilience (IOM, UNDP).

100

community members trained in safe house construction and emergency shelter (IOM).

223

stakeholders trained on gender-responsive disaster risk management (UN Women).

850

Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) reached by IFAD

Success Story

Growing a Brighter Future: How PROSPER Transformed Chipoka Village



In the quiet village of Chipoka in Mangochi, Malawi, a profound transformation is taking root—fueled by the resilience of its people and the support of the Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Empowered Resilience (PROSPER) program supported by the FCDO and delivered through a government-UN partnership. Once grappling with food insecurity and limited opportunities, the community now stands as a beacon of hope and resilience.

From Struggle to Surplus

At the heart of this transformation is Helena Mpotola, Chairperson of the local Farmer Field School (FFS). “We used to struggle just to feed our families,” she recalls. “Now, I’m growing bananas on a large scale, and they’re in high demand. We have surplus crops for sale, our children are in school, and we can afford healthcare and clothing.”

Helena’s journey from subsistence to commercial farming mirrors the story of many in Chipoka. Through PROSPER, farmers have received training in modern agricultural techniques, which has significantly improved their productivity and livelihoods.

Innovation in Every Furrow

Tafadzwa, a young mother, explains how the program introduced her to conservation agriculture and irrigation—methods that now enable her to grow crops even during the dry season. “We are cultivating maize, bananas, and vegetables year-round. These new techniques have changed everything,” she shares. These innovations have enhanced climate resilience and improved soil and water management, allowing for consistent yields and diversified diets.

Empowering Communities Equally

PROSPER’s impact has been inclusive, empowering both men and women. Kondwani, a local farmer, notes, “We’re learning new methods that boost our harvests. Now we can support our families and earn income from the surplus.” Daudi Eliasi, another beneficiary, echoes this: “I’m now farming on a larger scale. My maize yields have increased, and I’m able to sell at the market. It’s more than farming—it’s dignity.”

Beyond individual gains, PROSPER has nurtured a cooperative spirit. Daudi adds, “We’re no longer farming in isolation. We share knowledge and support each other like a family.”

More Than Farming: A Sense of Joy and Unity

In the fields of Chipoka, the laughter, singing, and smiles of farmers at work speak volumes. The cooperative is more than an economic engine—it’s a social glue binding the community together. “We’re not just growing crops,” Helena says. “We’re growing our future, together.”

Looking Ahead

As Helena puts it, “We have come a long way, and we’re not stopping now. We’re building a brighter future for our children and ourselves.” In Chipoka, the seeds of resilience have not only taken root—they are flourishing. PROSPER is not just a program; it’s a promise that sustainable partnerships can lead to lasting change.

Watch Growing a Brighter Future: How PROSPER Transformed Chipoka Village



the national level and across 8 representative districts and formally approved by the Expert Working Group on Adaptation. Adaptation options for these districts were identified and are being further refined through localized district adaptation plans.

Output 4.3
Access to Clean, Affordable and Renewable Energy (UNDP, UNICEF)

The UN made significant strides in expanding access to clean and sustainable energy, benefitting 62,017 people through WFP’s initiatives and 3,000 people through UNDP’s projects and 621 producer groups through IFAD’s interventions. UN Women trained 600 women and girls in producing and using biomass briquettes, reducing reliance on firewood and enhancing economic opportunities. UNICEF supported the provision of water supplies in 69 rural health facilities and 28 schools.

In 2024, UNDP supported government install 0.06742 megawatts of solar energy capacity, contributing to the country’s renewable energy capacity and promoting sustainable energy solutions. UNDP commissioned the Chisi Solar Mini-Grid, benefitting 300 people, and advanced the Mwansambe Solar Mini-Grid to serve 1,000 more. These efforts have improved energy access, enhanced quality of life and reducing environmental impact.

The UN continued to actively support Malawi in its efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through various partnerships and financing mechanisms. The UN’s support to Malawi in partnerships and financing for the 2030 Agenda is multifaceted, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change and governance. By leveraging its global expertise, networks and resources, the UN played a critical role in helping Malawi to achieve the SDGs while fostering sustainable and inclusive development.



2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund

The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund is a pooled funding mechanism designed to accelerate progress towards the SDGs in Malawi. It serves as a platform for mobilizing resources and fostering partnerships among the government, UN agencies, development partners, the private sector and civil society. In 2024, the Fund received around US \$20.5 million from contributing partners (Norway, Flanders, UK

and Ireland) for implementation of various initiatives, including health systems strengthening, empowering women and youth in agriculture, promoting sustainable partnerships for empowered resilience, promoting access to quality education for girls in Malawi, and conflict prevention and peace building. These partnerships are driving tangible results in areas such as poverty reduction, climate resilience, health, education and gender equality, helping Malawi move closer to achieving the 2030 Agenda.



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

Joint SDG Fund

The RCO coordinated UN support to the Malawi Government in developing two catalytic Joint Programmes, totaling US\$2 million, aligned with SDG transitions on jobs and social protection, as well as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. These joint proposals were approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

Revamping of the Development Cooperation Architecture

The UN under the leadership of UNDP and in collaboration with the European Union played an instrumental role in supporting the Malawi Government to revamp of the development cooperation structures in Malawi. The structures are meant to strengthen coordination and partnerships between the Government and cooperating partners and improve alignment of development partner's support to national development priorities as well as adherence to principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, namely, country ownership of development agenda, inclusive partnerships, focus on results, transparency, and mutual accountability. As a result, the first Development Cooperation Group forum since 2017 was convened in September 2024. Held under the theme "Making Development Cooperation work for results in Malawi" the forum brought together key Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, development partners, UN Agencies, multilateral Agencies, South-South Partners, and non-state actors including representing from civil society, academia, Trade Unions, and the private sector.

Efforts are underway to revamp other supporting structures including the High-Level Forum on Development Cooperation which is a key platform for fostering dialogue, coordination, and partnerships among stakeholders involved in development cooperation. It brings together the Government of Malawi, development partners, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders to align efforts with national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Operationalization of the 2024-2028 Cooperation Framework: The National Joint Steering Committee (JSC) co-chaired by the Secretary to the President and Cabinet and the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) convened on 31 January 2025 to review progress towards implementing the 2024-2025 biennial Joint Work Plan (JWP) and address structural, programmatic, and operational challenges hindering the Cooperation Framework's implementation. Additionally, the four Results Groups, co-chaired by Government and UN agencies and reporting to the JSC, developed and digitized the biennial JWP in UN INFO online platform, assessed its implementation progress, and contributed to the preparations for the successful JSC meeting.

Common Country Analysis (CCA) update: Under the leadership of the RC, the UNCT undertook an annual update of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) that examined shifts on the country's development landscape, taking stock of the emerging challenges and opportunities, and multi-dimensional risks on Malawi's journey to the achievement of the SDGs. The UN in collaboration National Planning Commission deployed innovative methodologies for the CCA,



including systems thinking and modelling through the International Futures (IFs), to understand potential future scenarios, trends, and uncertainties and to better inform resilient and adaptable strategies and programming.

Strengthening Climate Resilience Through Foresight and Scenario-Based Planning: The UN also collaborated with the Government – National Planning Commission, the National Statistical Office, the Department of Meteorology and Climate Change services and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs – to examine the effects of El Niño going beyond immediate humanitarian needs and developing recommendations towards strengthening resilience of the country to future shocks. Using foresight approaches, the joint UN-Government technical team, undertook additional analysis of La Niña weather phenomenon to draw scenario pathways (6 to 24 months) and implications for policy and programming.

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Through strengthened accountability, community engagement, and unified reporting systems, the UN in Malawi is advancing a zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse—putting survivor support and prevention at the center.

Results of Joint Advocacy and Communicating as One

In 2024, the United Nations in Malawi exemplified the power of joint action in achieving impactful results. Through coordinated efforts, the UN Communication Group (UNCG) secured over 60 media mentions, highlighting critical issues such as the El Niño response, food security, and peacebuilding, while amplifying key messages across digital platforms, which saw over 81,000 social media followers and 740,000 website impressions. Collaborative advocacy initiatives, including joint statements, press releases, and multimedia content, ensured a unified voice on priorities such as PSEA and the Summit of the Future. The UNCG also played a pivotal role in commemorating significant international days and UN Day, marked by a landmark 60th anniversary celebration at the Malingunde Resource Centre, which underscored the UN's commitment to inclusivity, climate action and youth empowerment. By working together, the UNCG strengthened partnerships, enhanced public engagement, and effectively communicated the UN's collective contributions to Malawi's development and the SDGs.

Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The UN in Malawi has strengthened efforts to prevent and respond to PSEA by fostering coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency across agencies. In 2024, the focus was on deepening awareness of PSEA through a multifaceted approach that included capacity-building, staff and community engagement, and strong partnerships where implementing partners have been supported to strengthen mechanisms for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) prevention, risk mitigation and response.



The PSEA Network leveraged existing tools to enhance unified response mechanisms. Standardized Operating Procedures for recording and processing SEA complaints ensured standardized procedures for reporting and follow-up. A UN Common Implementing Partner Assessment Tool was utilized to assess compliance and strengthen accountability. The GBV Referral Pathway improved coordination and survivor support services. A Code of Conduct for Humanitarian Actors reinforced ethical standards and zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and harrasment.

To enhance outreach while optimizing resources, PSEA awareness activities were integrated into existing international and national events, including: 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, International Youth Day, International Day of the Girl Child, and Malawi-Irish Consortium on GBV events. By embedding PSEA activities within these larger platforms, the UNCT minimized the need for standalone campaigns, reducing costs while reaching broader audiences.

Business Operations Strategy and Common Premises Initiatives

The UN's Business Operations Strategy (BOS) and Common Premises initiatives in Malawi have significantly reduced operational costs, achieving over \$8.3 million in cost avoidance since BOS was launched in 2019. In 2023 alone, approximately \$4,256,414 was saved, while in 2024, savings totaled \$1,076,838, as confirmed in the finalized 2024 review on March 31. However, the decline in savings compared to previous forecasts is largely due to the scarcity of foreign currency in Malawi, which has driven up vendor prices. Several vendors with long-term agreements (LTAs) with the UN requested price revisions, reducing anticipated savings. Despite this challenge, these initiatives have been driven by strong inter-agency collaboration, particularly through LTAs that secure discounts and lower transaction costs. BOS has also streamlined processes, eliminated duplication and improved overall efficiency. Additionally, the Common Premises initiative has mapped UN offices across Malawi, identifying available capacity that can be shared among agencies. This not only optimizes resources but also fosters greater collaboration.



2.5. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

2.5.1 Financial Overview by STRATEGIC PRIORITY

During the reporting period, the UN in Malaŵi successfully mobilized US\$371.9 million out of the required budget of US\$565.9 million. The total expenditure for the year was US\$179.2 million, reflecting a delivery rate of 49 per cent across the four strategic priority areas. All strategic priorities achieved a delivery rate above 70 percent, except for Strategic Priority 1: Sustainable, Diversified, and Inclusive Growth,

which had a delivery rate of only 31 percent. The delivery rate reflects preliminary figures, as some UN agencies had not yet finalized their financial reporting at the time of preparing this report.

The table below 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.

Table 1: Financial overview by strategic priority (in million US\$)

Outcome	Required Resources (US\$)	Available Resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	Utilization rate (%)
Sustainable, diversified and inclusive growth	232,379,660.00	211,785,472.00	66,423,258.90	31%
Institutional governance	47,586,411.00	22,458,893.00	17,891,184.00	80%
Human capital development	210,088,881.00	116,123,469.00	81,515,057.00	70%
Climate change, environmental degradation and energy	64,442,256.00	21,610,444.00	16,411,848.00	76%
Total	554,497,208.00	373,488,638.00	183,205,745.90	49%

Source: Data provided by UN entities in UN INFO during the annual performance review.

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In 2024, the UN in Malawi mobilized over \$370 million to support national priorities, achieving strong delivery across most strategic areas—though sustainable, inclusive growth remains underfunded and underdelivered, with only 31% of its budget utilized.

2.5.2 Financial Overview by AGENCY

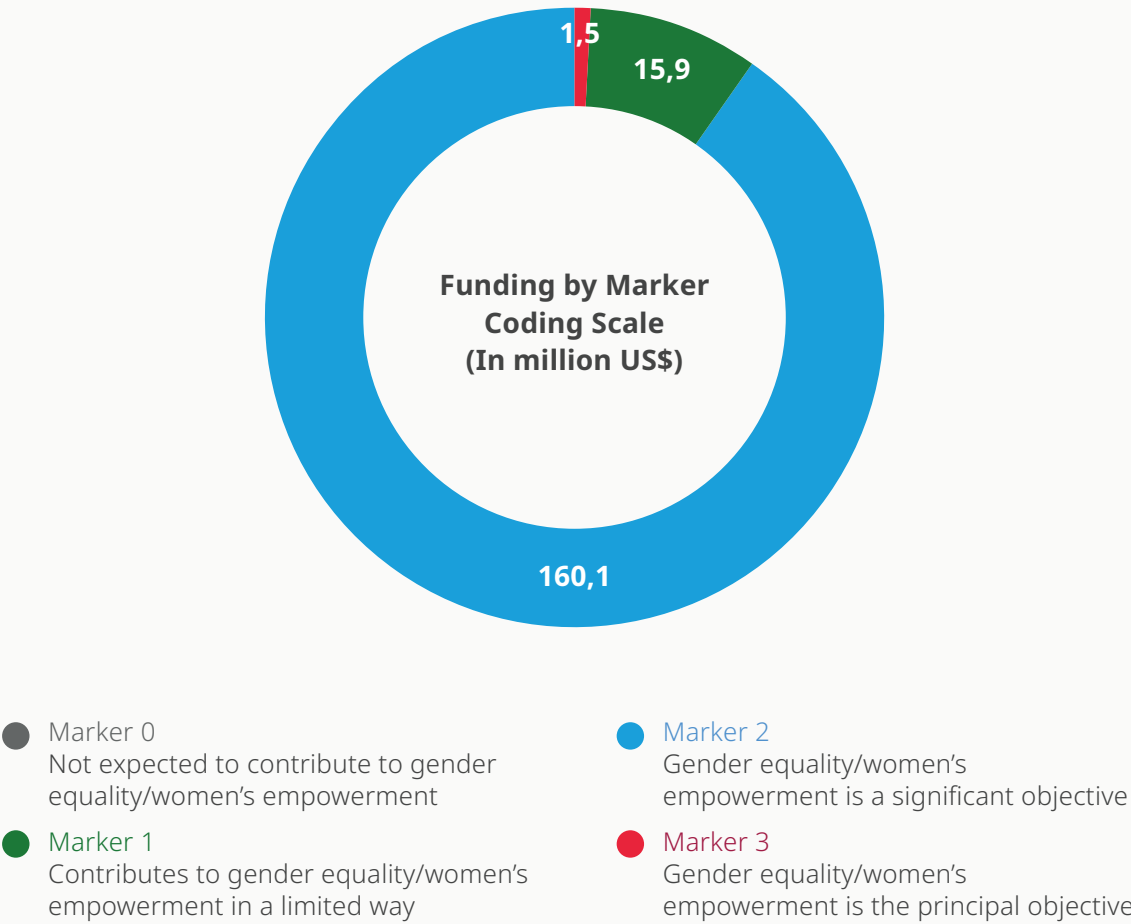
The overall disbursement rate of 48 percent indicates that approximately half of the available resources remain unutilized. Agencies such as UNAIDS (100 percent), UNESCO (98 percent), UNICEF (86 percent), ILO (84 percent), IOM (72 percent), and UNDP (77 percent) demonstrated strong financial execution, each exceeding 70 percent disbursement. FAO (69 percent) ,UNFPA (65 percent) and UNEP (58 percent) maintain a moderate disbursement rate between 50 percent and 70 percent. Several agencies show low disbursement rates below 50 percent. These included UNECA (47 percent), IFAD (46 percent), UN Women (33 percent), UNODC (33 percent), WFP (33 percent), UNHCR (18 percent), WHO (11 percent), UNOPS (5 percent) indicating potential delays or funding constraints. Notably, OHCHR, UNCDF, and UN-HABITAT have yet to report.

Agency	Total Required Resources (US\$)	Total Available Resources (US\$)	Total Expenditure (US\$)	Disbursement rate (%)
UNAIDS	2,393,000.00	942,332.00	942,332.00	100%
UNESCO	4,220,000.00	3,280,000.00	3,200,000.00	98%
UNICEF	83,383,616.00	60,572,979.00	51,919,962.00	86%
ILO	4,300,000.00	2,640,000.00	2,215,524.00	84%
UNDP	60,272,956.00	39,364,741.00	30,347,535.90	77%
IOM	11,810,000.00	6,856,182.00	4,962,182.00	72%
FAO	19,605,522.00	7,105,522.00	4,886,250.00	69%
UNFPA	22,224,468.00	12,515,740.00	8,191,462.00	65%
UNEP	1,510,387.00	1,510,360.00	879,398.00	58%
UN ECA	235,000.00	190,000.00	90,000.00	47%
IFAD	63,700,055.00	63,700,055.00	29,418,776.00	46%
UN Women	5,104,000.00	3,207,535.00	1,049,608.00	33%
UNODC	1,631,000.00	296,000.00	97,000.00	33%
WFP	164,157,884.00	124,941,802.00	41,318,614.00	33%
UNHCR	11,976,932.00	2,328,523.00	410,549.00	18%
WHO	66,980,240.00	18,912,569.00	2,106,000.00	11%
UNOPS	22,450,000.00	22,450,000.00	1,170,553.00	5%
OHCHR	35,000.00	15,000.00	0	0%
UNCDF	6,482,150.00	634,300.00	0	0%
UN-HABITAT	2,024,998.00	2,024,998.00	0	0%
Grand Total	554,497,208.00	373,488,638.00	183,205,745.90	49%



2.5.3 Expenditure by gender marker coding scale

The UNCT in Malawi tracks the allocate resources towards gender equality and the empowerment of women through the Gender Equality Marker (GEM). The GEM uses a four-point coding scale, from 0 to 3, to indicate the planned contribution of programmatic interventions to gender equality. In 2024, the UNCT-GEM analysis revealed that 35 out of 46 programme interventions were classified as gender equality ‘mainstreamed’ or as making a substantial contribution to gender equality and women’s empowerment. These interventions accounted for US\$169.1 million in expenditure.





Chapter 3

UNCT key focus for next year



In 2025, the UNCT in Malawi will continue to prioritize effective implementation of 2024-2028 Cooperation Framework. Below are the key focus areas:

1

Implement the signed Government and UN Joint Work Plan for 2024 -2025 and catalytic joint programmes

2

Expedite development progress around the six SDG transitions:
(1) food systems
(2) energy access and affordability
(3) digital connectivity
(4) education
(5) job and social protection
(6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

3

Promote the efficiency agenda to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the UN system

4

Support government in the national implementation of the global and regional agenda including the Pact of the Future and Financing for Sustainable Development.



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