

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK MALAWI 2019-2023



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UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM SIGNATURES

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019-2023 captures the agreement between the UN in Malawi and the Government of Malawi on selected areas of work that will be the basis of development cooperation over the next five years, and sets out the specific outcomes the UN and the Government of Malawi will together aim to achieve by 2023.

The UN Country Team, representing both Resident and Non-Resident UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, will ensure that the UN's collective human, technical and financial resources are organized and deployed in the most effective and efficient manner under Government leadership,

and in the spirit of Delivering as One. With this UNDAF, the people of Malawi, and in particular those left furthest behind, will receive the fullest value of their partnership with the UN under national leadership, attain the national development targets set for the country by the Government of Malawi, and work towards the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals.

We, the Government of Malawi and members of the United Nations Country Team in Malawi, commit to working together in full accountability to the people of Malawi and with the development community for achieving the outcomes of this UNDAF, and make a true change for the country.

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ACRONYMS

ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
ECD	Early Childhood Development
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HDI	Human Development Index
iSDG	Integrated Sustainable Development Goals model
JAWP	Joint Annual Work Plans
JP	Joint Programmes
JRMS	Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy
JSM	Joint Strategy Meeting
JWP	Joint Work Plans
KPA	Key Priority Area
MAPS	Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDHS	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
MEAG	Monitoring and Evaluations Advisory Group
MEC	Malawi Electoral Commission
MES	MDG End Line Survey
MGDS III	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III
MICF	Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund
MNSSP II	The Malawi National Social Support Programme II
MPHIA	Malawi Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NES	National Export Strategy
ODA	Other Development Area
OMT	Operations Management Team
PMT	Programme Management Team
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small-to-Medium Enterprises
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TEVET	Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training
UN DOCO	United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office
UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is the strategic plan for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) contributing to the Malawi Government's national development priorities and actions for the period 2019-2023. The UNDAF incorporates the goals and principles that underpin Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that lie at its heart. It further guides the UN Agency programmes ensuring UN wide coherence and represents a strong collaborative link with the Government of Malawi's development aims expressed in the *Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III*.

This UNDAF is UN Malawi's attempt to step up and match the ambition and reach of the Sustainable Development Goals through a system-wide response to national challenges. The UNDAF was hence designed with a common purpose of delivering transformation as One UN.

Developed at the outcome result level, the UNDAF formulation was a consultative process with the UNCT and the Government of Malawi involved at all stages to ensure that the UNDAF aligns to national priorities and needs. The three pillars and corresponding outcomes of this UNDAF were identified at the *Vision 2030 and Strategic Prioritization Retreat*, which took place in August 2017. The retreat had representation from the UN, the Government, Development Partners and Civil Society. The three pillars, identified as the UN's response to the MGDS III are:

1. Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions;
2. Population Management and Inclusive Human Development; and
3. Inclusive and Resilient Growth.

The pillars respond to the identified root causes of development challenges in Malawi:

1. Poor governance
2. Climate change
3. Weak economic structure
4. Rapid population growth
5. Negative social norms

They are also closely linked to the UN Malawi's comparative advantages over other actors in the country, which are centred on multi-sectoral support to resilience, aid effectiveness, policy advice and advocacy, governance and human rights, capacity development, innovation and data support.

Responding to the UN Secretary General's report on repositioning the UN system call for the UNDAF as a system-wide response to national priorities, tailored to the national context, and accountable for results on the ground, the UN identified eight transformational principles for Malawi which will be mainstreamed throughout the UNDAF: (1) reaching the last mile; (2) changing incentive structures; (3) focus on implementation; (4) data for development; (5) changing negative social norms; (6) scalable; (7) Delivering as One at the decentralized level; and (8) supporting integration across ministries and departments at the national and decentralized level.

The indicative resources required for the implementation of the UNDAF 2019-2023 are estimated at US\$ 1,088,348,001, of which \$346,830,601 are expected to be available, and \$741,517,400 are to be mobilized.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development Context

Over the past 40 years, Malawi has been one of the most stable and peaceful countries in Africa. It has an enviable record of holding five predominantly peaceful elections, including the smooth transition of power between opposing parties. However, unlike other countries on the continent, this stability has not translated into sustained development and poverty reduction. Young Malawians, civil society and business owners are increasingly calling for an acceleration of transformative change that will put Malawi on a pathway to shared prosperity and sustainable human development.

Malawi's population is estimated at 18.2 million in 2017,¹ four times higher than in 1966, and is estimated to reach 30 million by 2030.² The population is overwhelmingly youthful, with 48 per cent below the age of 15.³ Given the country's high fertility rate, the population is estimated to grow at 2.9 per cent annually.⁴

While the population of Malawi is currently and expected to remain mostly rural, the country has one of the highest rates of urban growth in Africa (3.8 per cent).⁵ High population growth places significant strain on the capacity of the Government to provide essential services.

Malawi is in the early stages of a structural transformation from a low-income country reliant on rain-fed agriculture with high levels of poverty and inequality to a middle-income country based on a more diversified

and inclusive economy. The country has an estimated per capita GDP of US\$ 381 (2015).⁶ Economic progress has been uneven, marked by robust periods of GDP growth of 6.5 per cent per year between 2003 and 2014, before sliding to 3 per cent in 2015 and 2.8 per cent in 2016.⁷ The economy is largely based on small scale, low productivity rain-fed agriculture, which makes it especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. There is limited diversification, with the manufacturing and service sectors contributing less than 10 per cent and 9 per cent to GDP respectively.⁸ The agricultural sector continues to be Malawi's major source of economic growth and accounts for over 90 per cent of export earnings.⁹



Inflation in Malawi has been above 20 per cent per annum since mid-2012, well above regional averages. This has resulted in higher prices for essentials including food, electricity and transportation, and has had the greatest effect on the poor, especially women and children. Since January 2017, however, inflation has been declining consistently reaching 7.7 per cent in November 2017 due to prudent fiscal management and declining food prices.¹⁰



Despite slow progress on poverty reduction and economic growth, Malawi has experienced progress in some social sectors. Malawi achieved significant advances in four of

1 Population by age and sex, 2010, National Statistical Office, Government of Malawi.

2 Assuming the same age proportions, there are estimated to be 8.8 million children in 2015, 16.2 million by 2030.

3 National Statistical Office (NSO) [Malawi] and ICF. 2017. Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16. Zomba, Malawi, and Rockville, Maryland, USA. NSO and ICF.

4 Malawi, World Bank Country Data, 2016.

5 Ibid.

6 Malawi, World Bank Country Data, 2015

7 "From Falling Behind to Catching Up," Country Economic Memorandum for Malawi, World Bank, 2017.

8 Annual Economic Review, 2016, Government of Malawi.

9 2017 Root Cause Analysis.

10 NSO Consumer Price Indices: November 2017.

the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), notably those related to Reducing Child Mortality, Combating HIV, Malaria and other diseases, Ensuring Environmental Sustainability, and in Global Partnerships for Development. Malawi has in addition registered some progress towards the remaining four, but requires concerted efforts to sustain these gains and address the unfinished agenda from the MDG era.

These successes, together with the global priorities included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, form the backdrop to the Government's Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III) 2017-2022, cleared by Cabinet in September 2017. The Strategy, subtitled "Building a Productive, Competitive and Resilient Nation" defines five Key Priority Areas (KPAs) for Malawi during the period 2017-2022; (1) Agriculture, water development and climate change management, (2) Education and skill development; (3) Energy, industry and tourism development; (4) Transport and ICT Infrastructure, and (5) Health and population. Additionally, the strategy outlines eight Other Development Areas (ODAs).¹¹

Malawi has in recent years made significant progress towards strengthening the legal and policy framework for human rights. It is a party to most of the core Human Rights Conventions. Significantly, by clarifying definitions of what constitutes a child and the age of marriage in the Constitution and the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act, the Government has aligned previously conflicting definitions in an attempt to eliminate child marriage. However, Malawi continues to face a wide array of other human rights challenges including violence, stigma, and discrimination against women, children and minority groups including persons living with HIV, LGBT populations and persons



with albinism. Lack of access to justice, severe prison overcrowding, a narrowing of civil society space and underinvestment in human rights infrastructure and accountability mechanisms continue to limit the most vulnerable from exercising their human rights.

In 2016 Malawi ranked 170 out of 188 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI),¹² only one position up since 2010. The proportion of the population living below the international poverty line increased slightly in 2016, from 69.6 per cent in 2015 to 69.8 per cent.¹³ Malawi's overall poverty rate is expected to decline over the next decade. However, it is possible that the percentage of people living below the poverty line will decrease only marginally unless population growth slows, economic diversification and growth increases significantly, and there is a more equitable distribution of the benefits of growth. Inequality, manifested in access to services by income quintile, rural-urban location, disability status and geographic region, is increasing.

Women in Malawi fare worse than men on most social and economic indicators, including wage equality, political participation, exposure to violence, secondary and tertiary education enrolment, literacy and ownership of land and assets. Female-headed households are more likely to be poor and are disproportionately represented in the lowest quartile of income distribution. Women head about 30 per cent of all households, and 57 per cent of female-headed households live in income poverty compared to 40 per cent of male-headed households. Multi-dimensional child poverty estimates show that 63 per cent of children are deprived in two or more domains. The gender gap in agricultural productivity is estimated at 7.3 per cent. Granting women



11 1) Financial services; 2) vulnerability, disaster risk management and social support; 3) gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare; 4) human settlement and physical planning; 5) environmental sustainability; 6) HIV/AIDS management; 7) nutrition; and 8) peace and security.

12 Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone, (2016) United Nations Development Programme, New York.

13 Malawi Economic Monitor, Q2 2016 – World Bank Malawi, March 2016.

equal access to credit, training and the means of production would result in estimated gross gains to GDP in the order of USD\$ 100 million (or 1.85 per cent of GDP).¹⁴

The median age at first sexual intercourse is decreasing, and is currently at 16.8 years for women and 18.5 years for men.¹⁵ Furthermore, Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with almost half of adolescent girls married before their eighteenth birthday.¹⁶ Teenage pregnancies are also increasing with the current adolescent birth rate at 136/100,000 live births; the second highest in the SADC region. Adolescents face challenges in accessing modern contraceptives due to factors such as traditional practices and unfriendliness of health services. Nearly 20 per cent of all deaths among women of reproductive age are pregnancy-related.¹⁷



For the majority of the population, primary education is the highest level of schooling attended or completed with a secondary school net enrolment rate of only 14.3 per cent and a dropout rate of 10 per cent.¹⁸ The DHS 2015/16 estimated that 2.2 million Malawians are without access to safe water. Despite a sharp reduction in HIV and AIDS incidence, prevalence and mortality over the last decade, the country remains amongst the worst affected in the world. Overall, 8.8 per cent of Malawians aged 15-49 are HIV positive, ranging from 3 per cent in Salima and 20 per cent in Mulanje, and 10.8 per cent among women and 6.4 per cent among men nationally.¹⁹ Young people, and particularly young women continue to be disproportionately affected. Additionally, persistent stock outs, leakages and pilferage



of medical commodities remain significant challenges in the country's health supply chain system.

Malawi is among the most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change and environmental shocks, with few resources or institutional mechanisms to effectively scale-up adaptation investments to safeguard its development gains. It is one of the 15 countries in Africa categorized as a population and climate change "hotspot" because of its rapidly growing population, water scarcity and falling food production. Over the past five years, an average of 1.53 million people have required food-related humanitarian support.²⁰ Chronic food insecurity coupled with high vulnerability to even the smallest fluctuations in weather patterns, have led to cyclical humanitarian responses to meet food and nutrition needs. During the 2016/17 lean season, Malawi experienced its worst food security crisis in over a decade, with 6.7 million people facing chronic or acute food insecurity.²¹



The 2015 Cost of Hunger report showed that in 2012 the cost of under-nutrition in Malawi was estimated at US\$ 597 million or 10.3 per cent of GDP. The poor, the less educated, those highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture and dwellers in more remote areas continue to be the most affected by the impacts of a changing climate.

1.2 UNDAF Development

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is the strategic plan for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) outlining its strategic contribution to the Malawi Government's national development

¹⁴ World Bank. 2015. The cost of the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda (English). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

¹⁵ 2015-16 MDHS

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Country Assessment on the Cycle of Accountability for Sexual and Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health and Human Rights, 2016, United Nations Population Fund.

¹⁸ The fourth Integrated Household Survey (IHS4), 2016-2017, Malawi National Statistical Office.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ 2017 Root Cause Analysis

²¹ 2016/17 Food Insecurity Response Plan

priorities and actions. The UNDAF incorporates the goals and principles that underpin Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the centre of this agenda. The UNDAF guides the UN Agency programmes to ensure UN-wide coherence, and represents a strong collaborative link with the Government of Malawi's development aims articulated in the *MGDS III*.

The preparation of the UNDAF included the development of the *Malawi Vision 2030* document that incorporated findings of the *2017 Root Cause Analysis, the Comparative Advantage and Stakeholder Analysis and the Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG)* report which analysed the linkages between the SDGs and explored different scenarios for their achievement. Other UN studies, including those on resilience, life-cycle analysis, and gender and conflict analysis, also contributed further context and guidance to the UNDAF.

The UNDAF Evaluation, completed in 2015, found that the Malawi UNDAF 2012-2018 was a good compilation of agency mandates and capacities, organized and deployed around national and international priorities. The UNDAF was coherent within almost all outcomes, but had limited linkage among its clusters, with UNDAF outcomes and outputs generally operating in silos. The evaluation echoed the mid-term evaluation of 2013 by recommending the UN to scale up its ambition to the next level of Delivering as One with joint programming under each outcome. The UNDAF review moreover found that the UNDAF addressed symptoms rather than the underlying causes of major issues. As a result, the UNCT largely acted as "a provider of last resort" for basic services. The new UNDAF incorporates these lessons learned, while marking a pivot towards more coherent, joined up programming across the UN system.

The 2017 Root Cause Analysis found five key root causes that prevent Malawi from embarking on transformative development pathways: (1) poor governance; (2) climate

change; (3) weak economic structure; (4) rapid population growth; and (5) negative social norms. A review of the UN's comparative advantage found that it is centred on multi-sectoral support to resilience, development effectiveness, policy advice and advocacy, governance and human rights, capacity development, innovation and data support.

During the preparation of the UNDAF 2019-2023, the UN gathered a range of views from the Government, development partners, civil society and other stakeholders. In addition, and in concert with the Department of Economic Planning and Development, the UN carried out a series of district consultations in four districts covering the three regions of the country. The consultations included meetings with the District Executive Committees and Area Development Committees, including representatives of Traditional Authorities, to take stock of the aspirations and demands of the ultimate beneficiaries of the UNDAF; the people of Malawi.

1.3 Partnerships, Values and Principles

Transformation is the United Nations' global watchword towards 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted by all UN Member States on the 25th of September 2015 – is a pledge to transform lives and protect the planet. With SDG 17, *Partnerships*, at its core, the 2030 Agenda commits all countries and stakeholders to work together towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, and environmental protection. Leave no one behind can only be delivered with strong partnerships, within the UN, between actors in a country, and through trans-boundary partnerships on regional and global levels. *Leaving no one behind* will ensure that all women and men, boys and girls – now and in future generations – fulfil their potential with dignity, with equal opportunities, and in a healthy environment. Inspired by the vision and ambition of the SDGs, the foundation for this UNDAF is built on a shared purpose: Delivering

transformation as *One*. The 2030 Agenda raises the bar high for integrated solutions to complex inter-connected development challenges. Translating the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda into shared results for the people of Malawi requires moving beyond coordination towards a new common narrative, collective focus, and joint commitment to new ways of working. Responding to this call, the UNDAF differs from its predecessors not in the thematic focus, but in the way the UN agencies and partners come together around strategic objectives, addressing the inter-connected and multi-dimensional root causes of development challenges, and allowing for a focus on prevention and high impact, multi-sectoral interventions addressing

development challenges, through a human rights lens.

The Secretary General's report on repositioning the UN system calls for UNDAFs that are system-wide responses to national priorities, tailored to the national context, that are cohesive and accountable for the results on the ground. Responding to the call for tailored UNDAFs, the Malawi UNDAF is, in addition to the four mandatory programming principles (Leave no one Behind, Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Sustainability and Resilience, and Accountability), structured around eight nationally identified transformational principles that will help Malawi embark on its road to transformation:



1. **Reaching the last mile:** Programs implemented under the UNDAF must demonstrate a clear impact in the lives of the intended beneficiaries at local level and focus on the most vulnerable, while building on structures already in place.



2. **Changing incentive structures:** Capacity development interventions will focus on putting in place incentive systems that promote an enabling environment for sustained delivery of new capacity and skills, ownership of development interventions, and measurable change in institutional capabilities.



3. **Focusing on implementation:** Malawi is policy rich and implementation poor. Policy support will be reduced in the UNDAF and focus will be on policy coherence and policy implementation at national and sub-national levels.



4. **Data for development:** The UNDAF will be accompanied by a data strategy for evidence-based programming and strengthening of national data systems. UN programmes using and collecting data will ensure harmonized data collection, analysis and utilization at district and national level.



5. **Changing negative social norms:** For better impact, programmes will need to consider the impact of negative social norms on attaining the ambitions of the MGDS III and the SDGs, gather evidence on why social norms exist and explore what it takes to change negative social norms in line with human rights principles.



6. **Scalable:** Programmes undertaken in the UNDAF must be scalable and sustainable, address root causes and be focused on achieving progress across multiple SDGs by 2030.



7. **Delivering as One at decentralized level:** Progressively the UNCT will move towards joint programming at the district level ensuring that transaction costs for district and communities are reduced, financial management and other capabilities built and interventions aligned with district plans. The UNCT will strive to channel funding directly through decentralized entities.



8. **Support integration:** In line with Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS), interventions under the UNDAF will support SDG compliant programming and integration across ministries and departments at national and decentralized level. Government systems will be used to the extent possible to strengthen accountability and fiduciary management systems.

The UN programming principles have been applied in identifying and designing the UNDAF pillars and outcomes. These principles were incorporated and central to the work carried out developing the Theories of Change proposed for each pillar and principles were further cascaded down to the proposed UN contributions under each. A key aspect of the Agenda 2030 has been used throughout – the principle of Leaving No One Behind.



2. PILLAR NARRATIVES

2.1 Pillar 1 – Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions



While having experienced an influx of refugees from conflicts in neighbouring countries in recent years, Malawi itself has been peaceful, stable and secure. However, a narrowing of civil society space, rising inequalities and threats to individual security, including gender-based violence, discrimination and exclusion of marginalized groups such as women and girls, persons with disabilities, persons with albinism, and the LGBT population, a lack of access to justice, a rise in vigilante killings and severe prison overcrowding remain a concern and will need to be addressed to fully achieve the SDGs. The Gini coefficient increased from 0.339 to 0.461 between 2005 and 2017,²² expressing deteriorating economic equality, and the share of poorest quintile in national consumption worsened from 10.1 per cent in 2005 to 5.5 per cent in 2012.

Malawi has ratified almost all international human rights conventions and treaties and strengthened the legal and policy framework for human rights. The law forbids discrimination in all forms. However, the groups mentioned above continue to face strong hostilities that greatly undermine their freedoms including access to justice and services. The full realization of human rights and equitable economic growth would require addressing harmful cultural

practices, as part of social norms as well as the limited access to justice mechanisms. Despite a much-improved policy and legal framework in Malawi, implementation of laws and policies remains weak due to insufficient institutional coordination and capacity gaps at the national and sub-national level.

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



OUTCOME 1:
Rights holders in Malawi access more accountable and effective institutions at the central and decentralised levels that use quality disaggregated data, offer integrated service delivery and promote civic engagement, respect for human rights and rule of law.

²² Malawi Country Profile, Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Durand-Delacré, D. and Teksoz, K. (2017): SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). <http://www.sdgindex.org/>

Improving democratic governance is the foundation for poverty reduction and a sustainable development agenda for Malawi, evidenced by the 2017 iSDG modelling report, which found that investment in governance has the maximum multiplier effect on achieving all the SDGs.²³ Malawi's political system and Government institutions are gaining strength, and Malawians are demonstrating increasing satisfaction with democracy (53 per cent of Malawians expressed satisfaction with democracy in 2013 up from 47 per cent in 2002, however, dropping to 49 per cent in 2015²⁴). For example, Malawi recently amended the Constitution increasing the age of marriage from 16 to 18 years, passed an Access to Information Bill and has a sound framework of gender-related and child protection laws. Implementation, however, remains weak. Poor governance, reflected in poor implementation capacity and limited oversight and accountability, is at the root of development challenges in Malawi, and public trust for almost all public institutions has seen a drop in recent years.²⁵ Corruption remains a challenge, and there is need for greater accountability, empowered citizenry and stronger and independent oversight institutions.

While Malawi has had a policy of decentralization since 1998, it has proven challenging in practice due to capacity limits at the district level, a dependence on central Government grants coupled with incomplete devolution of functions and financing, lack of experience and inadequate grassroots participation in local authority affairs. Insufficient budget allocations, partially due to inadequate collection of tax revenues have resulted in heavy reliance on donor funding and technical assistance. Effective decentralization is a Government priority and will have significant impact on Malawi's achievement of the SDGs.

Inadequate investment in appropriate research and monitoring and evaluation, and gaps in competencies and skills for evidence-based policy and programme formulation, lack of data, particularly disaggregated data, and the disconnect between use of data and policy formulation and implementation limits Government capacity to fully plan and measure impact of interventions to map and address socio-economic, education, and health disparities between urban and rural areas, between males and females, and between households and districts and hence to design effective and accountable interventions.²⁶

Although Malawi is party to most of the core UN Human Rights Treaties, it is significantly behind in terms of meeting the UN Treaty body reporting obligations. While Malawi is taking steps to domesticate the conventions through a slow but steady process of legal reform, two major factors complicate the process of realizing these rights in Malawi: the country's limited implementation capacity and negative social customs and beliefs.

UN CONTRIBUTION

For the UN to make an effective contribution to governance in Malawi at all levels, and to support the aspirations of the other UNDAF pillars, it will work in a more integrated manner while incorporating the principles of leaving no one behind, respect for human rights and greater accountability in all programming. MAPS will be the main strategy employed to ensure coherence in policy and implementation.

In line with SDG 1, 5, 16 and 17, and MGDS III's ODA 3 and 8,²⁷ the UN's interventions under this outcome will involve four main areas of focus:

23 Draft Integrated SDG Modelling Report for Malawi, UNDP 2017.

24 Afro-Barometer Dispatch No. 45. African democracy update 2015.

25 Malawians' Trust in Public Institutions Declines as Perceptions of Corruption Increase, Press Release 20th August 2014, Afrobarometer.

26 Capacity Needs Assessment on Evidence Based Policy Coordination, Formulation and Implementation – Final Draft Report; Government of Malawi November 2017

27 ODA 3: Gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare; and ODA 8: Peace and security

1. Harmonisation of legal and organizational frameworks



- Strengthen technical and financial capabilities of democratic governance institutions including through review and harmonization of laws, in line with Malawi’s international human rights obligations,²⁸ implementation, monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies to improve transparency and accountability.
- Strengthen the engagement and reporting of Government and civil society with the International Human Rights Mechanism, together with dissemination and follow-up on recommendations to Malawi.
- Strengthen the capabilities of state and non-state entities working in the country, to strengthen the protection of human rights, aimed at ensuring no-one is left behind.
- Promote access to justice and the protection of human rights for marginalised groups.
- Enhance advocacy for good governance and human rights.
- Strengthen partnerships between civil society, media and oversight institutions to hold duty bearers accountable and ensure responsive, inclusive and participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

2. Decentralisation and local governance



The UN will support Government to improve local Government service delivery and public engagement in local development planning, budgeting and monitoring processes in selected districts, through:

- Ensuring roll-out of sectoral devolution.
- Strengthening local Government systems and coordination structures.
- Ensuring alignment of national and local development planning processes.

3. Civic engagement and participation



The UN will work to expand civil society space, strengthen the engagement and participation of civil society with the objective of increasing accountability of duty bearers while ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels through:

- Building technical and financial capabilities of civil society to demand accountability for human rights.
- Information, advocacy and training to increase awareness of human rights standards.
- Expanding civil society space, strengthening coordination mechanisms and mechanisms to increase active, free and meaningful participation of right holders, including marginalised groups.

4. Data for development



While data, as a transformational principle and an important accountability mechanism in line with the programming principles, will be mainstreamed throughout all the outcomes, there will be a specific focus on coordination of UN support to data systems, for national development and district planning under this outcome. Programme-related data initiatives will take place under the relevant outcomes and will feed into the national system in close collaboration with outcome 1.

28 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Convention Against Torture (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Protocol to the African Chapter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, SADC Gender and Development Protocol

Under this outcome, the UN will strengthen national systems for disaggregated data collection and use for evidence-based development planning and programming at district level. The main elements will include:

- Strengthening capabilities of the target institutions including the National Statistics Office (NSO), Government institutions and non-state actors both at national and district level for SDG monitoring.
- Coordination of UN response on data at district level.
- Support to ensure the improved collection and use of quality disaggregated data for national and district level development planning and programming.

Support CSOs to get qualitative data from marginalized groups to supplement official statistics.



**OUTCOME 2:
Gender equality and
the empowerment of
women and girls in
Malawi is enhanced.**

Gender discrimination is the most pervasive form of bias and the costliest in terms of impact on sustainable development and the achievement of human rights in Malawi. Gender inequality is high, with Malawi scoring 0.614 on the Gender Inequality Index.²⁹ The low score is mainly attributed to negative social norms and discriminatory practices, resulting in low levels of representation in politics and the economy with 93 per cent of women in unpaid labour compared to 79 per cent of men. Ending gender discrimination and empowering women and girls are important to Malawi's achievement of national goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Access to economic resources is a serious challenge for women in Malawi, and marginalized women such as asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced, and elderly. Laws guaranteeing inheritance and land ownership rights to women are often overridden by social norms and customs or lack of access to appropriate information. Women are estimated to constitute 70 per cent of the labour force in the agricultural sector but have less access to agricultural inputs and credit than men.³⁰ A study from 2015 showed that closing the gender gap in Malawi's agriculture sector can lift 238,000 people out of poverty every year.³¹

Wage differentials between men and women are rampant across all economic sectors in Malawi, the most prominent of which can be observed in the agricultural sector. On average, and in terms of median gross wages, female agricultural workers earned 6,600 Malawi Kwacha less per month than their male counterparts. This is especially significant given that most women are smallholder farmers. In 2013, only 6.2 per cent of employed women held a "formal" job and benefited from social security. The share of men with formal jobs was more than double that of women at 15.8 per cent.³²

Violence towards women and girls remains a significant human rights challenge. Harmful cultural practices, early sexual practice initiation, early and forced marriage, sexual assault, so-called "witch killings," and domestic violence still occur and require continued efforts to change social mind-sets and norms. Marginalized women and girls such as asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, the elderly and women with disabilities as well as persons with albinism are particularly vulnerable to violence.

29 Human Development Report, 2016.

30 UN Malawi - Gender Briefing Draft of 23/04/15

31 The cost of the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda. Washington, D.C. World Bank. 2015.

32 Gender Inequality in the World of Work - Evidence from Malawi's Labour Force Survey, 2013. Ministry of Labor, UN Women and ILO. 2015

Despite clear improvements in the gender legal and policy environment, there is a lack of a well-structured and systematic multi-stakeholder machinery to drive the gender agenda within the development policy space. There is a need to bring about a national framework for gender equality and women's empowerment, and to fully harmonize national legal provisions with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other global commitments. The existing machinery lacks harmonized efforts by Government, development partners and civil society, and provides limited funding of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment projects from the Government. As a result, support to programs for gender equality and empowerment of women is fragmented, leading to duplication of funding and interventions, and, consequently, weak impact.

The twin track approach has been used to mainstream gender through a standalone outcome on gender that will complement the gender interventions through the other outcome areas and indicators. Outcome 2 has been worded broadly and in line with SDG 5 due to the broad nature of normative and policy related interventions. However, the normative component of the UN's work will be narrowed down through operational interventions targeting specific marginalized groups and districts.

UN CONTRIBUTION

In line with SDG 5, 10, 16 and 17 and ODA 3,³³ and considering specifically the programming principles of leaving no one behind, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, and accountability, there are three main proposed areas of interventions by the UN:

1. Improved coordination and management of the National Gender Machinery



The UN Agencies will ensure coordinated support to the Ministry of Gender to address gender issues, improve coordination and management of the gender machinery, ensuring gender equality is mainstreamed in all structures, policies and programmes. The work will encompass the following:

- Ensure implementation of institutional gender policies in higher education institutions, Government, non-state actors and oversight organizations.
- Ensure gender sensitive budgeting is carried out at national and district level.
- Build capacity of Government officials on gender transformative programming.
- Provide technical support to Government to generate disability, age and sex-disaggregated data for planning and reporting on gender outcomes.

2. Implementation and monitoring of all global, regional and national obligations and commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls



The UN will work with the Gender Sector Working Group and other partners to:

- Strengthen implementation of the Gender Equality Act and other gender related laws, policies and regulations.
- Engage law enforcement bodies including the police to ensure enforcement of gender related laws.
- Strengthen the capacity of Government and stakeholders to assess progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, Maputo Protocol and other global normative and policy frameworks.

³³ ODA 3: Gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare.

- Monitor the gender sensitivity of all UN programs and ensure that gender concerns are mainstreamed in all programmes.
- Strengthen tracking, implementation and dissemination of the recommendations of international treaty bodies and the compilation and submission of treaty body reports on the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment.

3. Production, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data



The UN will in conjunction with its national partners strengthen the national capacity to generate gender statistics to inform and monitor the implementation of gender related commitments in the 2030 Agenda, including:

- Conduct specialized gender based surveys.
- Strengthen the capacity of the NSO in collection of gender sensitive statistics, inclusive of asylum seeker and refugee populations.
- Strengthen the Ministry of Gender planning department and local councils' ability to generate gender sensitive statistics, particularly those related to monitoring the MGDS III and SDG Goal 5.



Outcome 3: Malawi has strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace, inclusive societies and participatory democracy.

Democracy and good governance are essential elements for social peace and development as they create the necessary enabling environment for sustainable economic growth, responsive service delivery and social wellbeing. While having

held five mainly peaceful elections, signs of social discord are beginning to appear. High living costs, breakdown in social services and widespread corruption have fuelled debates in the press, the parliament and among civil society activists. These stresses to democratic governance present challenges to the country's longer-term stability and heighten the risk of civic dissent and conflict if left unaddressed.

With elections due in 2019 there is a high risk of political instability going forward. This is reinforced by deeply felt feelings regarding hot button issues such as corruption and perceived southern bias in appointments of officials. To mitigate this risk the Government has been engaged in developing and operationalizing a "National Peace Architecture" with the aim of listening to and addressing public concerns.

Despite the guarantee of fundamental rights afforded by the Constitution, the biggest challenge that Malawi's democratic consolidation faces are weak institutions of governance such as Parliament, political parties, local governance, civil society organizations, and the Electoral and Human Rights Commissions. Weak oversight and accountability provides opportunities for corruption and lack of transparency manifested in the regular uncovering of major financial scandals.

There are no *de jure* barriers to effective and equal participation in voter registration and voting in Malawi. However, challenges remain for women's effective participation in politics, including core areas such as running for office. In 2014, the number of women parliamentarians reduced to 32 from 43 in 2009, and only 56 of the 457 District councillors elected during the last general election were female. The 2014 Tripartite Election statistics painted a gloomy picture for the future of women in politics, as only 257 of the 1,292 candidates vying for 193 Parliamentary seats were women and 44 constituencies had no female contestants.

UN CONTRIBUTION

In line with SDG 5, 16 and 17 and ODA 3 and 8,³⁴ and emphasizing in particular the programming principles of accountability and human rights and women empowerment, there will be two main intervention areas for the UN under this outcome:

1. Establish real-time conflict early warning and response mechanisms for monitoring conflicts and threats to peace



Firstly, the UN Agencies will work together to support a real-time conflict early warning monitoring system as a component of the National Peace Architecture structures at national and district level. This will include:

- Supporting ad hoc early warning systems and conflict resolution mechanisms around specific political events including elections.
- Building capacities for stakeholders in several areas including: conflict resolution skills (mediation, dialogue facilitation, negotiation and conflict analysis); indicator identification and monitoring capacity for District Peace Committees and Multi-Party Liaison Committees; collaborative leadership and dialogue skills for political leaders.

- Continuing to facilitate grass roots and centrally based dialogue on contentious issues that arise, and promote women and youth participation in peace and security structures and processes.

2. Strengthen participatory governance



Secondly, the UN will continue to support the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) and other electoral stakeholders to ensure credible and peaceful electoral processes within a strengthened legal environment. This includes:

- Capacity building support to stakeholders in electoral processes including civic and voter education, voter registration results transmission management and dispute resolution processes.
- The UN will work with “grass roots” structures to support women participation in political life and will monitor any violence towards women participating in politics, to ensure a more women-conducive political environment.
- Support information and advocacy with media, political parties and civil society to ensure greater transparency in governance opportunities, problems and issues.

³⁴ ODA 3: Gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare; and ODA 8: Peace and security

2.2 Pillar 2 – Population Management and Inclusive Human Development



Malawi's human resources – the ultimate bedrock of sustainable development – has over the past decade been challenged by: rapid population growth; continuing high rates of malnutrition and stunting; poor access to, and quality of education – especially for girls; poor access to, and quality of, health care exacerbated by the continuing heavy impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic; limited resources available to the sector preventive health services; inadequate attention paid to changing social norms related to negative health behaviours; a high child dependency burden of 0.91 for every working age person; and continuing episodes of natural disasters related to climate change. Addressing the unfinished business of the MDGs forms a natural entry point into the SDGs and Agenda 2063.³⁵ Investing in education, family planning, health and infrastructure such as water resources is crucial to allow Malawi to harness the benefits of the Demographic Dividend, and allow for an acceleration of economic growth and sustained higher standards of living.³⁶ As part of a transformational strategy for better-integrated social and economic development in Malawi, investment in the social sectors will contribute highly to development, in addition to the enjoyment of human rights while reducing poverty.

Interventions under this pillar hence address the root causes of poor governance (through improving birth registration at facilities, access to health care, and supporting

Government to provide safe schools), rapid population growth (through interventions on family planning and information on SRHR) and negative social norms (through advocacy, behavioural change interventions, and community engagement, particularly regarding negative impacts on the girl child and HIV/AIDS).

Outcome 4: Children 0-5 years will have increased access to comprehensive quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) services.

Quality maternal health and early childhood development are the foundations for better health and learning outcomes. Early Childhood Development (ECD) enrolment has been steadily improving over the past 13 years in Malawi. The proportion of children accessing ECD centres has increased from 2.6 per cent in 2000 to approximately 40 per cent in 2015.³⁷ Data from the national *Malawi MDG End Line Survey* (MES) reveals that 39 per cent of children aged 36-59 months attended early childhood education in 2014. Quality early childhood education is the foundation for a successful learning journey. There is, however, a lack of trained adult caregivers and access to books and play materials. Additionally, there is a lack of information on the benefits of ECD as well as limited knowledge on effective parenting,

³⁵ The African Union's strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years.

³⁶ Demographic Vulnerability: Where Population Growth poses the Biggest Challenge. The Population Institute June 2015

³⁷ 2017 Root Cause Analysis

insufficient facilities for ECD, inadequate Government funding and weak coordination structures.

In 2015, stunting was at 37 per cent, wasting at 4 per cent, underweight at 17 per cent, and 13 per cent of children were born at a low birth weight.³⁸ Despite the significant reduction in stunting proportions during the last few years, this is not reflected in the absolute number of children with chronic malnutrition due to rapid population growth.

The appropriate and early care of young children lays the foundation for their physical growth, mental development and socialization and thus their future development. Early childhood, in this case including the pre-natal period, is the period of most rapid development in the human life cycle and a time of heightened vulnerability including violence and neglect. If children fail to get what they need during the most critical years of early childhood – nutrition, nurturing, care, stimulation, protection and sense of security – the impact on their lives and futures is enormous. Healthier babies become healthier adolescents and adults who can lead the transformation of Malawi into a thriving, middle-income country.

UN CONTRIBUTION

Progress has been achieved in establishing an enabling policy environment for the rights of children in their first decade covering policies on ECD, orphans and vulnerable children, free primary education, maternal and child health care, nutrition for infants and young children, paediatric and maternal HIV, and gender equality. Nevertheless, a multitude of constraints and disparities persist and sector performance needs to be improved. For the most part, the challenges remain in the implementation of these policies at decentralized levels. UN programmes will concentrate on the convergence and integration of strategic

interventions in targeted districts where these will be taken to scale to demonstrate impact. There will be an additional emphasis on improving quality of service delivery and professionalization of front-line workers within the institutional setup.

The SDG 3, 4, 5, and 10, the MGDS III's KPA 2 and 5,³⁹ and ODA 2, 3 and 7,⁴⁰ the National Health Sector Strategic Plan, the National ECD Policy, ECD Strategy, and Malawi Multi-Sectoral National Nutrition policy and strategies, will provide the framework for the support of the UN to this outcome area. Highlighting the programming principles of leaving no-one behind and sustainability and resilience, the integrated package of interventions by UN partners to support the Government of Malawi's efforts to improve the quality of ECD services will include:

- Improve access to high quality basic and emergency obstetric care as well as neonatal care.
- Positive parenting through early stimulation, learning and care, and identification and referral of cases of abuse.
- Learning for 3-5-year olds in a nurturing environment.
- Birth registration including at health facilities.
- Age appropriate nutrition interventions to promote and support Infant and Young Child Feeding, Community Management of Acute Malnutrition and Severe Acute Malnutrition, as well as nutrition supplementation, deworming growth monitoring and promotion.
- HIV interventions for early infant diagnosis as well as testing and retention in care for mother and infant pairs.
- Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health with a focus on supporting interventions along the continuum of maternal and new-born care, immunization and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses.

38 MDHS 2015/16

39 KPA 2: Education and skill development; and KPA 5: Health and population

40 ODA 2: Vulnerability, disaster risk management and social support; ODA 3: Gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare; and ODA 7: Nutrition

Using a life cycle, rights-based approach to young child survival, growth, development and protection, the interventions supported through this outcome will emphasize a holistic, integrated and evidence-based approach to achieve results for the multiple and interrelated rights of girls and boys.

**Outcome 5: Girls and boys
6-17 years,
particularly
the most
marginalized,
benefit from an
integrated package of quality
education, health, nutrition,
HIV/AIDS and protection
services.**



Over the last decade, Malawi made notable progress in primary education with net enrolment ratio at around 88 per cent and has achieved gender parity. Approximately 80 per cent of six-year olds attend Standard 1. However, the sector continues to be characterized with quality-related challenges reflected in survival rate to grade 5, which is at 60 per cent for boys and 62 per cent for girls. Attendance in secondary school remains a challenge with a 2014 net attendance ratio of just 16 per cent,⁴¹ and is characterized by serious inequalities. Only 3 per cent of secondary school-aged children in the poorest quintile attend secondary school compared to 30 per cent in the richest quintile. The high pupil-teacher ratio (80:1) and limited infrastructure with the pupil-permanent classroom ratio at 116, indicates that many pupils are learning from open spaces or in congested classes. This contributes significantly to the quality of education.⁴² In addition, girls are on average absent from school 50 days annually due to issues on menstrual hygiene and lack of school sanitation facilities.

Both girls and boys have high levels of grade repetition, approximately 28 per cent of students repeat Standard 1.⁴³ Fourteen per cent of the population 15 years and above reported to have never attended school. While the literacy rate in Malawi has increased with 8 per cent from 2010-2011 to 73 per cent today, only 30 per cent of the population aged 15 years and above has acquired any form of educational qualification (ranging from Primary School Leaving Certificate to tertiary education qualifications).⁴⁴ The primary and secondary drop-out rates are relatively low, at 2 per cent and 10 per cent respectively,⁴⁵ however the transition rate to secondary school is only about 36 per cent.⁴⁶ One of several reasons for this low transition rate is limited access to age appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and services among adolescent girls and boys. Unwanted pregnancies and early marriage are significant factors in poor educational completion results.

Interpersonal-violence, including gender-based violence, also contributes to poor education indicators, especially for girls. A third of adolescents between 13-17 years old who had experienced sexual abuse reported that the abuser was a classmate or schoolmate, with between 10-20 per cent of all reported sexual abuse incidents occurring at school.⁴⁷ Micronutrient disorders of iron, vitamin A, iodine and zinc are prevalent among school going children in Malawi. According to the micronutrient survey of 2015-2016, 17 per cent of adolescent girls aged 10-14 years and 22 per cent of girls 15-19 years are anaemic. According to the 2015 Cost of Hunger (COHA) study in Malawi, 18 per cent of school repetitions are a result of under-nutrition. Hazardous and exploitative child labour, violence against children, early marriage and children with HIV are recognized as issues in need of

41 Malawi MDGs End Line Survey, 2014 NSO.

42 The Education Information Management System (EMIS) Report, 2016, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

43 Ibid.

44 The IHS4

45 Ibid.

46 The Education Information Management System (EMIS) Report, 2016, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

47 Malawi Government, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Violence Against Children survey, 2014.

special protection measures. Approximately 38 per cent of children are engaged in child labour while nearly 93,000 adolescents are living with HIV. Limited opportunities for post-primary education and employment mean that a high proportion of young adults estimated at 22 per cent in the 2013 Labour Force Survey are neither in employment, education or training.

UN CONTRIBUTION

The UNDAF will prioritise investments in the education of adolescent girls and boys but more so for girls to ensure positive impacts in multiple development areas in Malawi. Girl's education has multiplier effects on poverty reduction, slowing down population growth and allowing girls to play a more active role in the political and economic spheres and in the development of their own society.

The UN will strengthen and consolidate the gains made during the period 2012-2018 through the Joint Programme on Girls Education and Adolescent Girls, by continuing to address education and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) concerns of adolescents, together with issues of social protection, gender equality and gender based violence, and providing assistance in developing life skills. Focus will be on strengthening systems that support girls' education and health while in and out of school in a holistic manner.

The Malawi National Nutrition Policy (2017-2022) calls for mainstreaming nutrition within the school curricula and supports implementation of nutrition-sensitive interventions that improve education outcomes. In addition, the School Health and Nutrition Policy guide the inclusion and realization of health and nutrition issues in education institutions. Therefore, school nutrition interventions will enhance nutritional status and educational outcomes of school-going aged children and

adolescents. Additional iron and folate supplementation, deworming and behaviour change communication for adolescent girls will contribute to improved individual health and nutrition outcomes, delayed marriage and improved retention in school, and helping curtail the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

In line with SDG 3, 4 and 5, KPA 5,⁴⁸ and ODA 3 and 7,⁴⁹ and emphasising particularly the programming principles on human rights, sustainability and gender equality, the first set of strategic interventions has six outcome package areas:

- Ensure that adolescent girls and boys acquire foundation and life skills, and are retained in an all-inclusive and gender sensitive environments.
- Provide diversified school meals to school going children and iron and folate supplementation, and deworming for adolescent girls.
- Provide sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) information and services including HPV vaccination for adolescent girls, pursuant to the right to health.
- Support the Government to ensure that schools are safe from violence.
- Build community support and engagement towards girls' education and reducing violence against children and gender-based violence (GBV), especially child marriages aimed at upholding the right to education.
- Provide nutrition support for adolescents with HIV/AIDS.

In line with the programming principle of leaving no-one behind, the second set of strategic interventions will focus on out-of-school children and has three focus areas:

- Provide basic numeracy and literacy skills with a focus on functional skills
- Provide life skills including sexual and reproductive health; and
- Provide vocational skills.

48 KPA 5: Health and population

49 ODA 3: Gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare; and ODA 7: Nutrition

To ensure that integrated services can be delivered there will be an additional focus on strengthening Government delivery mechanisms at national and district levels for improving linkages and referrals. This will entail strengthening of Government coordination structures and engaging in high-level policy and legal dialogue for improved quality education particularly for girls.



**Outcome 6:
Men, women
and adolescents
access high impact
comprehensive
sexual and
reproductive and HIV and
AIDS health rights.**

Malawi is a youthful country with a median age of 17 and approximately 54 per cent of the population under the age of 18. The population has grown rapidly with projections indicating the current number of about 18 million may increase to as much as 30 million in 2030.⁵⁰ This scale of population growth will put enormous pressure on limited land resources, availability of public services, energy and other resources and will make poverty reduction harder.

Malawi has made significant achievements in family planning and has rapidly expanded the use of modern contraceptive methods. The country has adopted many of the necessary policies and strategies to achieve its target of overall national contraceptive coverage by 2020. However, the challenge lies in reaching marginalized groups such as youth where there is a significant un-met need, and for ensuring that women are aware of, and able to, exercise their rights, granting more control and choice for women. Despite improvements, maternal deaths remain high in Malawi, at 439 per 100,000 live births.⁵¹ According to the Ministry of Health's maternal

death review analytical report covering data from 2008-2012, over 30 per cent of deaths are young women aged 13-23.

Malawi has been recognized globally for its remarkable achievements in reducing infant and child mortality and in reducing HIV and AIDS incidence, prevalence and mortality, including the use of innovative approaches such as Option B+.⁵² The results of the Malawi Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA) 2015-16 demonstrate that Malawi has made great progress towards achieving these goals, particularly among age 15-64, with 73 per cent diagnosed and aware of their status, 89 per cent of those diagnosed on sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 91 per cent of those on ART having a suppressed viral load. The introduction of ART for all pregnant and breastfeeding women in 2011 led to rapid acceleration of ART coverage among women of childbearing age, and a dramatic reduction in mother-to-child transmission of HIV. With the number of annual HIV-related deaths estimated at <27,000 in 2015, Malawi continues making progress on the critical path towards achieving epidemic control. However, AIDS continues to be the leading cause of death among adults in Malawi, and there is a disproportionately high HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women with point estimates for HIV incidence eight times higher among females aged 15-24 than males.⁵³

The HIV epidemic has been particularly influenced by social determinants and structural factors within the social, cultural, political, legal and economic environment. Understanding how to change these external factors is key to reducing vulnerability and influencing the social conditions that affect individuals' ability to protect themselves and others from acquiring or transmitting HIV. Strengthening community efforts to address the HIV epidemic can result in creating

50 2017 Root Cause Analysis

51 2015-16 MDHS

52 Under Option B+, all pregnant women living with HIV are provided with lifelong ART treatment regardless of their CD4 count.

53 Ministry of Health, Malawi. Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA) 2015-16: First Report. Lilongwe, Ministry of Health. November 2017.

circumstances that enable behaviour change. In Malawi, external factors contributing to the HIV epidemic include girls' lack of education, unmet demand for family planning, early marriage, violence against women, gender inequity and migration and mobility.

UN CONTRIBUTION

UN Agencies will collaborate with the Government, Community Based Organisations, NGOs and the private sector to build on previous progress and interventions. The UN's "Start Free, Stay free, AIDS Free" framework calls for urgent action to address the HIV-related needs of children, adolescents and young women and for the UN to move to the next stage – through expanding and enhancing community capacities to target the most vulnerable and marginalized populations and with better implementation of a "continuous service" in the life cycle approach.

The UN's efforts, in line with SDG 3, 4 and 5, KPA 5,⁵⁴ and ODA 3 and 6,⁵⁵ and emphasising the programming principles of leaving no one behind and human rights and gender equality, will support increased availability and coverage for the following:

- Family planning.
- Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education.
- HIV and AIDS information and prevention

services, including nutrition, especially for the marginalised and vulnerable.

- Improvement and capability-building of the health service to deliver quality SRHR services.
- Prevention, management and response to GBV.
- Advocacy to address gender norms and harmful cultural practices.

Given the sensitivities surrounding the issues of sexual and reproductive health, this outcome will also incorporate substantial efforts on information, education and advocacy, including on rights. Programme communication and advocacy efforts will be directed to address gender norms and harmful cultural practices. Preventive measures and response to addressing GBV will require specific targeting to those cohorts considered to be at highest risk including adolescents and women and to those who are not reached under existing services. Efforts will be made to strengthen accountability mechanisms related to maternal, neonatal and child deaths. In line with MAPS, the results of this outcome will complement, enhance and accelerate the efforts of other outcomes in reducing child marriage and teenage pregnancy, prevention of GBV and helping to keep adolescent girls in school, thereby improving their future economic potential and access to life choices.

⁵⁴ KPA 5: Health and population

⁵⁵ ODA 3: Gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare; and ODA 6: HIV/AIDS management

2.3 Pillar 3 – Inclusive and Resilient Growth



A predominately agro-based economy, Malawi relies on agricultural production for its macro-economic stability, growth and overall progress on poverty reduction, with over 80 per cent⁵⁶ of the population dependent on rain-fed, smallholder agriculture for food, nutrition, and income security. Households are characterized by high levels of poverty, undiversified sources of income and employment, and low capacity to address basic needs or withstand seasonal fluctuations or moderate shocks.

Characterized by food access constraints, the untapped potential of social protection programmes to reverse chronic vulnerability, and high exposure to seasonal variations, Malawi is committed to pivot away from recurrent cycle of emergency responses to address predictable food and nutrition insecurity. Chronic and acute food insecurity are drivers affecting human capital, economic stagnation, under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, and a steady erosion of resilience to cope, adapt and transform livelihoods. The Integrated Context Analysis in 2014 concluded that 20 of 28 districts experience moderate to high recurrence of food insecurity due to people's vulnerability to shocks, which are expected to increase in frequency and severity in the context of a changing climate.

Despite a strong policy environment, agricultural productivity remains constrained by the highest deforestation rates in southern Africa, driving land and soil degradation and natural resource depletion. Other factors include inefficient farming

methods, population pressures on land and ecosystems, the cost of inputs, and a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture. Multiple structural barriers limit the ability of the majority of the population to effectively sustain their entry into the agricultural, manufacturing, service or industrial market economy. Environmental degradation, resulting from a complex set of factors such as population growth, over-reliance on biomass to meet household energy needs, agricultural encroachment in critical watersheds, and weak institutions to propel sustainable environmental management, is worsening vulnerability while undermining the basis for sustained poverty reduction. Economic development opportunities remain constrained by a weak business environment, low investment in market access and diversification, insufficient and unreliable energy services, and shallow labour markets for skilled labour to take advantage of new business and innovation opportunities. Women continue to be excluded from formal employment, preventing the country from harnessing its full socio-economic potential.

Recognizing the need to arrest and reverse vulnerability and food insecurity, the Government has signalled its intent to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus by adopting a risk-based approach to building resilience for the most vulnerable and the productive poor. While focused on reducing chronic food and nutrition insecurity, protecting lives and livelihoods, and safeguarding development gains, whilst establishing the enabling environment to pull

56 Root Cause Analysis, 2017, United Nations in Malawi.

households out of poverty, the Government's resilience agenda aims to transition toward more inclusive and resilient development.

Under this pillar, the UNDAF will focus on supporting the Government's agenda for more inclusive and resilient development. The UN support will be achieved through inter-related actions concentrating on priorities where the UN has a comparative advantage. All interventions explicitly focus on addressing climate change – both adapting to and recovering from its effects, and reducing further contributions through mitigation measures – as identified as a priority area in the root cause analysis, with some interventions targeted at addressing the other root causes, such as poor governance (through enhancing service delivery, district capacity to implement resilience programmes), negative social norms (through Social Behaviour Change Communication), and weak economic structure (through economic diversification).

Outcome 7: Households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods.



Malawi has a strong institutional and policy framework for dealing with issues of food security and malnutrition. As a result, the Government has made significant strides in reducing some key markers of malnutrition. These include a decrease in wasting, slow but steady improvements to reduce stunting and declines in key micronutrient deficiencies. Yet, Malawi has experienced

numerous food crises and still much of the population is undernourished. Over the past five years, an average of 1.53 million people has required food-related humanitarian support.⁵⁷ This high level of food insecurity points to a high degree of vulnerability and lack of resilience⁵⁸ to shocks including those brought about by food access constraints, food price hikes, and other structural constraints such as poor inputs, poor rural financing, and poor post-harvest handling and storage.

Malawi is severely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, with few resources or institutional mechanisms to adapt or to mitigate them. Malawi is one of the 15 countries in Africa categorized as a population and climate change “hotspot” due to its rapidly growing population, water scarcity and falling food production.⁵⁹ Over half of the population lives below the poverty line and more than 80 per cent practice subsistence agriculture.⁶⁰ Approximately 98 per cent living in rural areas depend on biomass for their energy supply.⁶¹ Major climate and environmental changes are putting substantial risk to Malawi's economic progress, food security and poverty eradication efforts, and further taxing Malawi's disaster risk management systems, livelihoods and people's already low levels of household resilience to shocks.

Many Malawians, particularly those in rural areas as well as refugees and asylum seekers, face serious challenges as a result of poor access to basic water and sanitation services coupled with inadequate hygiene and rapid urbanization without adequate infrastructure and services. Although, there has been a significant reduction in open defecation rates,⁶² many rural households

57 Root Cause Analysis, 2017, United Nations in Malawi.

58 Resilience is the capacity of households, communities and societies to successfully resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from external shocks to their wellbeing in a timely and efficient manner.

59 See for example Population, Climate Change and Sustainable Development – Policy and Issue Brief by AFIDEP and Population Action International also “Mapping Population and Climate Change Hotspots” by Population Action International

60 National Statistical Office. 2014. Malawi MDG Endline Survey 2014, Key Findings. Zomba, Malawi: National Statistical Office.

61 Ibid.

62 2013-14 - Irrigation, Water and Sanitation Sector Performance Report, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, 2014.

rely on high-risk surface water sources such as rivers, ponds and lakes, in areas where open defecation continues, aiding the spread of waterborne diseases.

This outcome therefore aims at a human rights and people-centred approach to increase food and nutrition security, reduce developmental inequalities, promote equitable access to, and benefits derived from healthy ecosystems, and scale-up support for resilient households and livelihoods and WASH activities. In the Malawian context of high vulnerability to seasonal fluctuations and climatic shocks, the UN will adapt social protection systems to promote “shock-sensitivity” and achieve lasting reduction in multi-dimensional poverty and deprivation by:

- Reducing household exposure and vulnerability to risk through refocused program design, (e.g. through more effective watershed management approaches linked to public works and other programmes and productive asset creation projects); and establishing linkages and providing an integrated package of risk-management tools and services (e.g. Village Savings and Loans and credit) to increase productivity and income.
- Developing flexible and scalable response systems to effectively address transitory increases in household livelihood needs, including risk instruments such as insurance.
- Operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus by: improving linkages with disaster risk reduction and early recovery; improving shared metrics on household vulnerability and resilience; strengthening transparency, efficiency and equity of targeting systems, including by improving Malawi’s social registry through linkages to the national ID cards; enhancing accountability to rights holders, national and sub-national partners; and, investing in government capacity to

deliver interventions in partnership with all development actors.

- Reducing water-borne diseases and improving sanitation to yield positive health outcomes.

UN CONTRIBUTION

The five main intervention areas included under this outcome are informed by MAPS, and are in line with SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16 and 17, KPA 1,⁶³ and ODA 2, 5 and 7,⁶⁴ and emphasises the programming principles of sustainability and resilience, accountability and leaving no one behind:

1. Sub-national Government Capacity for Resilience Programmes



Coordinated UN interventions will be established with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the sub-national capacity to implement national laws and policies and to strengthen the sub-national government capacity to deliver services to the public. This will be closely linked to, and complement activities undertaken in Pillar 1.

2. Disaster risk management and early recovery from shocks



Malawi remains highly vulnerable to shocks and disasters, often resulting in humanitarian emergencies. To reduce humanitarian needs, the UN will work to strengthen disaster risk reduction management, including prevention, preparedness, and early response and recovery, with a focus at community level. This will involve a number of interventions aligned to the pillars of the National Resilience Strategy. Notably, this includes strengthening the use of data for identifying vulnerabilities and needs

63 KPA 1: Agriculture, water development and climate change management

64 ODA 2: Vulnerability, disaster risk management and social support; ODA 5: Environmental sustainability; and ODA 7: Nutrition

(i.e. use of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC, adopted in 2017); and harnessing and strengthening data systems for preparatory action, response interventions, and beneficiary management (i.e. use of the National ID, linkages to the Unified Beneficiary Registry etc.).

3. The Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II)



This intervention will focus on coordinated UN support to implementing social protection programmes and strengthening their systems for improved delivery, particularly for vulnerable communities and households as part of the MNSSP, in conjunction with national and local Government partners. This will be closely linked to intervention area 2, to support the operationalization of “shock-sensitive” social protection.

4. Nutrition sensitive Agriculture



The work will involve targeting and scaling-up interventions in nutrition at community level in line with the Multi-Sectoral National Nutrition Policy and continued advocacy for adoption of the Food and Nutrition Bill, aimed at advancing a legal framework on the right to food.

5. Climate resilient WASH programme



-The interventions will focus on provision of sustainable and climate resilient WASH services to communities and institutions. Effort will be made to ensure that regular development interventions are risk informed and strongly contribute to mitigation of climate change related emergencies.

Outcome 8: Malawi has more productive, sustainable and diversified agriculture, value chains and market access



The agricultural sector in Malawi operates far below its potential and the country faces periodic food shortages. Agricultural growth has been highly volatile over the past five years. While growth rates at above 5 per cent were achieved in 2010, 2013 and 2014, lower or negative growth was registered in other years, driven largely by climatic conditions and macroeconomic imbalances.⁶⁵

The value of agricultural exports increased from \$839 million in 2010 to \$925 million in 2015, with substantial fluctuations between these years.⁶⁶ The traditional export crops – tobacco, sugar cane, tea, coffee and cotton – have shown little dynamism in recent years, with fluctuating production and productivity levels. There has been a strong increase of some non-traditional export crops such as cowpeas, macadamia nuts and spices (paprika and chillies). Other crops targeted under the National Export Strategy (NES), such as cotton, soybeans, and sugarcane have not experienced major export growth.

Despite the high dependence of the economy on agriculture, commercialization remains largely untapped. Overall, the sector is characterized by low productivity, low levels of improved farm input use, limited private investment, and low mechanisation levels. The average added value per agricultural worker during 2005-12 amounted to \$209, far below the Sub-Saharan average of \$680.⁶⁷ For private sector development, access to land, high transportation costs, as well as fair and transparent market interventions, including import and export regulations, remain a challenge.

65 The Reserve Bank of Malawi's website – www.tradingeconomics.com

66 The National Agriculture Investment Plan document (NAIP 2017/18 – 2022/23).

67 <http://faostat.fao.org/static/>

Overall, the commercialisation of the sector is impeded by market access constraints and limited integration/coordination of most agricultural value chains, except for tobacco, sugar, tea and some niche products. However, there are some encouraging developments such as commodity exchanges and warehouse receipt systems (including related legal frameworks about to be enacted) and several value chain coordination platforms (e.g. cotton, rice, legumes, roots and tubers).

There is limited diversification of crops among farmers in the country. The dominance of maize and tobacco render the country vulnerable to climate and market risks related to these two commodities. Hence, diversification of production and exports is a priority. The vulnerability of agricultural production to climate risks is exacerbated by the reliance on rain-fed farming. While most of the country has good average annual rainfall levels and there are substantial surface water resources, only around 104,634 hectares are currently irrigated, which is about a quarter of the potentially irrigable area.⁶⁸ Smallholders cultivate slightly more than half of the irrigated land.

The focus of this outcome is to promote sustainable agricultural growth in Malawi to enhance food and nutrition security within the context of climate change. Agricultural growth involving smallholders, especially women, will be most effective in reducing extreme poverty and hunger when it increases returns to labour, promotes resilient livelihoods and generates employment and market opportunities for small-scale and vulnerable households.

UN CONTRIBUTION

The UN's contributions aim to accelerate the achievement of SDGs and support Malawi in attaining improved productivity

and timeliness of agricultural operations, the efficient and sustainable use of resources, enhanced and equitable market access, improved access to agricultural extension and advisory services and an improved ability to mitigate the effects of climate related hazards.

There are four main intervention areas, in line with SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16 and 17, KPA 1 and 2,⁶⁹ and ODA 5 and 7,⁷⁰ and considering in particular the programming principles of leaving no one behind and sustainability and resilience:

1. Agriculture Service Delivery able to address the challenges of modern sustainable agriculture



The UN will support the capacity development of the Government and stakeholders to create a more enabling business environment for effective implementation of agricultural service delivery including agriculture extension workers. Additionally, the UN will also support ICT-based platforms for knowledge and skills transfer, development of modern rural infrastructure and promote modern agricultural production technologies.

2. Value Chains



The intervention will support strategic agriculture value chains and enable them to provide sustainable income opportunities for small-scale farmers and particularly women, young people, refugees and asylum seekers. It will promote private sector-led value addition and support research institutions in development of innovative demand-based, climate-smart and gender-sensitive agricultural technologies and irrigation.

68 The National Irrigation Policy, 2016, Government of Malawi.

69 KPA 1: Agriculture, water development and climate change management; and KPA 2: Education and skill development
70 ODA 5: Environmental sustainability; and ODA 7: Nutrition

3. Enabling environment for agricultural entrepreneurship, agro-processing and commercialisation



Interventions will promote the empowerment of marginalized groups (including women, youth, refugees and asylum seekers), farmer associations, cooperatives and small-to-medium enterprises (SME) through capacity building, mentorship, and improved market access and targeted livelihoods strategies.

4. Tenure rights



The interventions will work on establishing means for protecting and strengthening tenure rights of smallholders resulting in improved access to land and enhanced enjoyment of the right to food for marginalised groups and for commercial agriculture production.

The UN and its partners will work towards supporting greater involvement of the private sector in agriculture, collaboration with agricultural research institutions, focusing on opportunities for creating value added by marginalised groups and women and exploring use of new technologies including in irrigation. In addition, emphasis will be put on improved knowledge transfer particularly in modern climate smart production techniques and technologies for sustained agricultural growth.

Outcome 9: Malawi has strengthened economic diversification, inclusive business, entrepreneurship and access to clean energy

Malawi’s economic progress has been uneven, and marked by robust periods of

growth of 6.5 per cent per year between 2003 and 2014, before sliding down to 3 per cent in 2015 and 2.8 per cent in 2016.⁷¹ There is limited diversification in the economy, and formal employment opportunities are limited, with employment in the formal sector estimated to be less than 10 per cent of the labour force.⁷² Around 130,000 young people enter the labour market each year, yet the formal sector only produces around 30,000 jobs.⁷³ As a result, many young people are left behind. Structural deficits in energy access are undermining business growth, human capital gains, and Malawi’s efforts at economic transformation, with only 10.7 per cent having electricity access (and only 3.2 per cent in rural areas).⁷⁴

Transforming Malawi’s economy to become more competitive, productive and resilient requires targeted action to scale up opportunities for job creation, skills and entrepreneurship development, innovation and robust market and trade systems, and structures that promote inclusive business, especially for women and youth. Accelerating the structural transformation of Malawi’s economy, while tackling the drivers of inequality and low productivity, relies on diversifying the sources of inclusive and job rich growth across the economy, expanding access to renewable energy, and implementing policy actions to improve the country’s business and employment environment by crowding in private investment to ramp up business solutions to development challenges. Most Malawians rely on solid fuels for energy – 99.7 per cent of the rural and 90.3 per cent of the urban populations⁷⁵ – and unreliable electricity continues to undermine business growth, access to effective social services, and the transformational role of energy access in achieving the MGDS III and SDGs.

The UN will focus on economic diversification and accelerating the inclusion of smallholder farmers, women and youth

71 “From Falling Behind to Catching Up”, Country Economic Memorandum for Malawi, World Bank, 2017.
 72 Root Cause Analysis, 2017, United Nations in Malawi.
 73 Ibid.
 74 The IHS4
 75 Ibid.

into supply and value chains by stimulating inclusive business development through blended capital that crowds-in private sector innovation. By scaling up private sector engagement and youth employment through entrepreneurship, the UN will enhance access to decent and sustainable employment opportunities in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

UN CONTRIBUTION

The UN's work under this outcome will, in line with SDG 4, 7, 8, 9, and 17, KPA 1, 2, and 3,⁷⁶ and ODA 1, 3 and 5,⁷⁷ focus on the programming principles of sustainability and resilience and leaving no one behind, and is structured under three key interventions:

1. Enhancing competitiveness and market access



In conjunction with other stakeholders, the UN will work together to support business development services focusing on non-farm opportunities, facilitating access to finance, support to meet quality standards for export and support to local business platforms including the Buy Malawi Strategy and the Buy from Women initiative. By spurring innovation and inclusive business development, the UN will support private sector development, entrepreneurship and job creation, with a focus on economic diversification and market access.

2. Upskilling Malawi for a competitive, productive and resilient economy



The UN will focus on accelerating entrepreneurship skills for women and youth, developing means for promoting women in non-traditional vocations, building a robust Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training (TEVET), strengthening certification standards in selected business sectors, promoting equitable access to skills development and improving information and access to upskilling opportunities.

3. Empowering renewable energy services in Malawi



The UN will support a range of services to exploit the potential of clean energy sources in Malawi, while better addressing key energy needs in the business, residential and social services sectors. The Programme support will include social enterprise development, product standards certification, enhancing access to affordable finance, and supporting incentives to crowd-in private investment to deepen renewable energy markets. The Renewable Energy Services intervention will also provide targeted policy support to Government to improve the regulatory environment to incentivize private investment, while also assisting to put in place mechanisms to facilitate clean energy market development.

⁷⁶ KPA 1: Agriculture, water development and climate change management; KPA 2: Education and skills development; and KPA 3: Energy, industry and tourism development

⁷⁷ ODA 1: Financial services; ODA 3: Gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare; and ODA 5: Environmental sustainability

3. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The Malawi UNDAF 2019-2023 reaffirms the partnership of the UN and the Government of Malawi to achieve the SDGs over the coming years. This UNDAF is different from previous documents in its ambitious approach in seeking transformational change and working as One UN. Breaking new ground introduces inherent risks associated with “the new,” all of which can be mitigated by a strong commitment for shared work and accountability between the UN, the Government of Malawi and other Development Partners and stakeholders.

The UNDAF is based on the assumptions of continued political stability and peaceful transition during and following the 2019

elections; continued effort from the Government to align policies and plans to the Sustainable Development Agenda; the availability of resources to fund the initiatives outlined in the UNDAF and a continued push for a more effective UN and reform of the UN system, facilitating increased coherence and collaboration aimed at achieving development results.

The Root Cause Analysis identified four major categories of risk in Malawi: (1) climatic, natural hazard and environmental risk; (2) political instability; (3) fiduciary risk; and (4) external risk. Below the risks, their cause and effects and the mitigation actions pertaining to each risk are discussed.



1. Climatic, Natural Hazard and Environmental Risks. Climate change is a significant concern for Malawi since many human and environmental systems are already vulnerable to climate variability, including droughts and floods. Higher temperatures as well as unpredictable and more concentrated rainfall are widely seen as the new norm for Malawi going forward. This, along with poor management of the environment, poses a major risk to food security, health, nutrition, livelihoods, economic growth and inflation. Given current trends and forecasts there is a high likelihood of this risk continuing to pose a threat with potentially significant human and economic impact. To mitigate this risk UN agencies will continue to plan and invest in a number of risk mitigating measures including implementation of climate smart agriculture, natural resource management, water management, building resilient communities, diversification of crop production and consumption, efforts to increase smallholder productivity, better linkages of smallholder farmers with commercial farmers and integration into value chains.



2. Fiduciary Risks. The Malawi Economic Justice Network estimates that roughly 30 per cent of funds in the national budget go unaccounted for. Strengthening oversight and financial management systems remains a work in progress as Financial Management Reforms have progressed more slowly than anticipated largely due to capacity constraints. Diversion of funds for unintended purposes at both the national and sub-national levels remains a significant risk to programme implementation, as attention is diverted away from programme implementation to tracking funds. The net result is that human rights are not realized and that poverty-reducing measures fail to have their intended impact as finances, textbooks, medicines and equipment never reach their intended destinations

or infrastructure is not maintained. Mitigation actions for this risk will be advocacy and support for the Government to strengthen oversight and financial management systems and implementation of the Financial Management Reforms and continued harmonization of procedures through Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT). Fiduciary risk has a direct impact on risk of Political instability hence, the mitigation actions taken to control this risk could in turn contribute to reducing the risk of Political Instability.



- 3. Risks of Political Instability.** With elections due in 2019 there is a high risk of political instability going forward. This is reinforced by the current distribution of seats in the Parliament and the low level of trust in Government. The net result is that there is a risk of instability going forward, which would further hinder Government's capacity to deliver. To mitigate this risk international organisations will support an early warning response system, conflict analysis and advocate for the Government to ensure finalisation of development and operationalization of "National Peace Architecture" with the aim of listening to and addressing public concerns.



- 4. External Risks.** Malawi has a high and unsustainable dependence on external development assistance. There is a risk that changes in aid flows can affect implementation of fiscal policy and delivery of development programmes. The rise of populism in western countries is creating uncertainty regarding the future of ODA including for Malawi. For example, the US – the world's biggest bilateral aid donor – is considering refocusing its aid to internal programmes rather than overseas aid. A growing reliance on China for trade and investment could make Malawi vulnerable to China's economy slowing down or if geopolitical factors constrained its economy.

Malawi's economy will remain vulnerable to external shocks, stemming from highly volatile agricultural output, a narrow export base, aid dependency, unstable world economic output and commodity prices coupled with deteriorating terms of trade. To mitigate this risk, the UN will further improve efficiency and ensure value for money and tap into non-traditional donors as well as private partnerships and domestic resource mobilisation.

4. INITIATIVES OUTSIDE THE RESULTS MATRIX

The UN globally, and in Malawi has a proud history of delivering results in a wide range of areas. However, the Agenda 2030 represents a paradigm shift with profound implications on the way the UN works. As stated by the Secretary General in the report on repositioning of the UN system “it is important to adopt a humble approach and recognize that the UN cannot- and should not- be doing everything, everywhere.”

Reaching the ambitious Agenda 2030 and delivering results in the new context requires a strong focus and prioritization

around the root causes of development challenges. It requires moving away from a range of activities to a flexible approach and incorporating focused and concentrated action, together. The UNDAF has hence moved from a compilation of agency mandates and activities to define the most important and urgent areas of focus and is a system wide response to national priorities.

UN agencies, funds and programs will hence not undertake activities outside of the agreed results framework for the duration of the UNDAF.





5. OVERALL FINANCING STRATEGY

The estimated financial resources required to achieve the nine UNDAF outcomes, including for operational costs, amount to US\$1,088,348,001. Details on the estimated resource availability for the UNDAF, including core and other resources, and the projection of resources to be mobilized are presented in the table below, along with the breakdown by UNDAF focus areas. Breakdown by agency is presented in the common budgetary framework in Annex 1. Budgets are indicative, as accurate as possible at the time of UNDAF preparation, and will be reviewed and updated during the UNDAF annual reviews to reflect relevant changes.

To help address the funding gap, the UNCT and the UN Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UNCT, and individual agencies will build on existing partnerships and seek to establish new partnerships, including south-south and triangular cooperation. To ensure better coordination and impact from available funds, a Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy (JRMS) will be developed to accompany the UNDAF. The JRMS will be based on the Development Finance Assessment (DFA), a mapping of public and private financial flows related to development from domestic and international sources, that will be completed before the inception of the UNDAF.

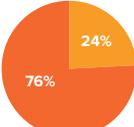
The UN in Malawi has over the past UNDAF period been a pioneer in the use of pooled funding through the One UN Fund and its thematic funding windows. Building on the successful use of pooled funds, the Malawi One Fund will play a stronger role in supporting the multi-sectoral outcomes identified in the UNDAF and a more coordinated UN.

To attract resources, there will be a focus on resource optimization through clearly demonstrated impact and development results. Transformation requires investment

over time, focusing on solid results, demonstrated value for money and a catalytic design of programs and financing. The UN will ensure that existing and potential donors are kept apprised of the organization's work and results and that efforts are in alignment with development partners in order to maximize synergy and impact.

Value for money will be an integral focus of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS). In line with the Secretary General's reform agenda, the UN will in the BOS 2019-2023 raise the ambition of the harmonized business process and cost efficiencies with a focus on constructing a One UN House in Malawi with common back offices, sustainable solutions, effective business processes and a strong monitoring framework to ensure optimal design and use of operational services. The priorities outlined under pillar 1 and 3 – Gender, Human Rights, economic growth and climate change – will be an integral part of the new generation of business services. In line with these priorities, the UN will use its purchasing power to push the market towards sustainable products and solutions, dignified labour conditions for the most vulnerable while also empowering female-owned and small businesses.

Addressing the financing needs of the Malawi UNDAF for the period 2019-2023, particularly considering the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will require integrated approaches and bold moves to attract innovative financing and the resources needed to achieve the SDGs and to help leverage maximum development impact of both national and international resources. This will require the UN in Malawi to transform its traditional attitudes and "culture" of funding. It will need to acquire new skills in order to tap into different sources of public, private, domestic and international finance for the SDGs.

Strategic Pillar	Outcome Contributing UN agencies	Resources Required				
		Available	To be mobilized	Total Budget		
Pillar 1 Peace, inclusion and effective institutions	1. All rights holders in Malawi access more accountable and effective institutions at the central and decentralized levels that use quality disaggregated data, offer integrated service delivery and promote civic engagement, respect for human rights and rule of law	UNDP, ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR & FAO	24,755,588	16,253,000	41,008,588	
	2. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Malawi is enhanced	UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR & WFP	2,550,000	8,150,000	10,700,000	
	3. Malawi has strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace inclusive societies and participatory democracy	UNDP, UNHCR & UN Women	6,840,000	7,900,000	14,740,000	
Pillar 2 Population management and inclusive human development	4. All children 0-5 years will have increased access to comprehensive quality Early Childhood Development Services	UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	95,400,000	76,400,000	171,800,000	
	5. All girls and boys 6-17 years, particularly the most marginalized, benefit from and integrated package of quality education, health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and protection services	ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	66,690,000	226,537,500	293,227,500	
	6. All men, women and adolescents access high impact comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive and HIV and AIDS health rights	IOM, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNHCR, WFP, UN Women, UNDOC & WHO	30,349,600	19,526,9000	49,875,500	
Pillar 3 Inclusive and resilient growth	7. Households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods	ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO & WFP	78,694,545	313,850,000	392,544,545	
	8. Malawi has more productive, sustainable and diversified agriculture, value chains and market access	UN Women, UNIDO, UNHCR, FAO, UNDOC, WFP, UNEP & UNDP	37,250,868	24,750,000	62,000,868	
	9. Malawi has strengthened economic diversification, inclusive business, entrepreneurship and access to clean energy	ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO & UNDP	4,300,000	48,150,000	52,450,000	
Total			346,830,601	741,517,400	1,088,348,001	

6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND STRATEGIES

As a strategic instrument for the UN in Malawi, the UNDAF is the agreed platform of implementation between the Government of Malawi and the UN organisations with a common goal of achieving progress on the SDGs. The UNDAF will be operationalized through Joint Annual Work Plans (JAWP) and where appropriate Joint Programmes (JP) that will set out in more detail the division of labour among UN organizations and contributions needed to achieve the agreed common outcomes. JAWPs will be developed for each of the three pillars and will be multi-agency, multi-ministry and multi-partner in nature. The JAWPs will also provide further clarity on accountability for respective UN agencies, and spell out roles of the Government and other partners in achieving shared results.

High-level oversight and accountability of the UNDAF is the joint responsibility of the Government and participating UN agencies under the **Joint Strategy Meeting**, a high-level forum between the Government of Malawi and the United Nations, which provides oversight of the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations' work in the country. As such, the JSM will approve the Joint Annual Work Plans and assess their implementation at the end of each year. The JSM comprises Senior Government of Malawi officials from key line Ministries and the Heads of UN Agencies, and is chaired by the Chief Secretary, with the UN Resident Coordinator as co-chair. The JSM makes recommendations and decisions based on consensus. When such consensus cannot be reached, the co-chairs make the final decision. The JSM will be supported by joint results groups consisting of UN and government technical staff and will facilitate

the preparation and implementation of the JAWP and report to the JSM.

To ensure coordination and synergies, the following internal coordination mechanisms will be in place for the UNDAF implementation:

The UNCT, consisting of heads of agencies and chaired by the Resident Coordinator, who also represents non-resident agencies, will oversee the UNDAF strategic direction and implementation.

The **Programme Management Team (PMT)**, consisting of deputies and senior programme staff, is responsible for the overall coordination of UNDAF implementation, including between outcomes. The PMT reports to the UNCT and brings together all agencies for coordinated programming and leads the UNDAF review, reporting and evaluation. The PMT will develop and implement a Capacity Development Strategy, ensuring effective and efficient support to national capacity building for higher impact.

Inter-agency **Results Groups** will oversee the three UNDAF pillars with responsibility for integrating planning and implementation efforts, ensuring timely delivery of inputs, organising monitoring and evaluation exercises for each outcome and highlight any challenges or suggestions to the UNCT and PMT.

To ensure increased value for money, harmonized business practices and procedures and enhanced support to programming, the **Operations Management Team (OMT)** will coordinate UN's effort towards enhanced operational efficiency

under the Business Operations Strategy. The BOS runs in parallel with the UNDAF, and will focus on enhanced programme-operations linkages, reduce costs, enhanced quality and operational focus and enhanced ability to track results, while also incorporating human rights, gender and environment into the UN's business operations.

The **Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group (MEAG)**, which is composed of monitoring and evaluation staff from the various UN agencies, will advise and provide technical assistance to the PMT and the Results Groups in tracking progress towards UNDAF results, as well as in conducting the UNDAF reviews, reporting and the evaluation.

Thematic Groups for cross cutting issues will provide advice and guide on mainstreaming relevant needs across all outcomes. The inter-agency **working group on gender and human rights, the youth technical working group** and the **UN Joint Team on HIV/AIDS will advise the PMT**, UNCT and Results groups in their area of focus and ensure that proper consideration is given to vulnerable groups across the UNDAF. Other thematic groups might be established on a needs basis.

The UN's contribution to development results in Malawi will be communicated through the annual One UN Progress Report, developed by the **UN Communications Group (UNCG)**.



7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROVISIONS

The UN is committed to operating and enhancing a strong Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system in all its work, as an integral element in Results Based Management.

To ensure accountability the UN through the Results Groups will design annual work plans, which will detail outputs, indicators and key activities linked to the UNDAF outcomes. The UNDAF results matrix at outcome level along with the work plans at output level will be used for monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the UNDAF. The UN will progressively transfer to the online monitoring and reporting system “UN Info” developed by the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (UN DOCO) to track the progress, and report on the UNDAF implementation.

The UN’s Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group will provide technical support to the entire UNDAF process. In addition, MEAG will create a clear and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan for the course of the UNDAF 2019-2023. This will encompass:

1. Assistance to the Results Groups in designing and establishing appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks including a schedule of data collection and analysis activities that will provide data for the indicators in the UNDAF results matrix.
2. Collaboration with the Government, national and local partners on assessing data needs, data collection and tracking.
3. Provide technical support to the regular monitoring and evaluation systems and approaches for UN interventions.
4. Elaborate and implement a joint data strategy that defines the UNCT’s approach to various data types such as routine, survey, innovative and real-time data and their use in monitoring and evaluation.

The UN Data Strategy 2019-2023 ensures that the UNDAF has a strong focus on data and delivers coordinated support to national statistical systems.

The UN will ensure that the UNDAF monitoring and reporting will be aligned to the SDGs and the MGDS III monitoring activities to the largest extent possible. This will ensure “vertical policy coherence” since various indicators are coming from the national priorities and plans, national SDG strategies and targets, and internationally agreed policy frameworks.

The UN will prepare annual One UN progress reports that will serve as annual reviews of progress towards the UNDAF results and be a chance to assess challenges and emerging opportunities. This UNDAF’s annual review process will be led by the PMT, with inputs from the Results Groups and technical support from the MEAG. The UN will submit these reports to the JSM annually. These reports will provide constant assessment to the UNDAF implementation and offer recommendations for future programming.

The UNCT will commission a final independent evaluation of the UNDAF within one year prior to its completion to assess the performance and contribution of the UNCT towards desired results of the UNDAF. The results and findings of the evaluation will be used to inform the development of the next UNDAF.

The UN is committed to greater transparency in terms of its operations and results. The MEAG will collaborate with UN agencies, funds and programmes and the UNCG to ensure that results from UN activities are clear and that the Government, stakeholders and the public are provided with good quality reports on UN results.



8. COMMUNICATING AS ONE



To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Malawi, effective, joined up communications methods and media are needed. The “Business as Usual” approach is no longer viable and a new bold structure and processes integrating communications and advocacy to produce results are essential to pursue the universal and transformational agenda that the UN has in the country.

Access to information is limited among the most vulnerable in Malawi and particularly in rural areas. Changing negative social norms will be a key focus for the UNDAF, and local stakeholder consultations during the preparation of the UNDAF revealed that better or different means of targeted communication and advocacy efforts are crucial elements to engage rights holders and changing negative social norms. Well-informed stakeholders are better able to take action and help to bring about change. In order to ensure high impact and transformation, communications and advocacy will be embedded from the early stages of program design. Monitoring and

evaluation of programs in the UNDAF will include assessment of the communications and advocacy components to further cement their role in programs.

The UNCG in Malawi, chaired by a Head of Agency, will operate according to the joint Communications Strategy 2019-2023 that will be developed and aligned with and supporting the UNDAF outcomes and will be operationalized through Annual Work Plans. The Communications Strategy will recognize the vital need to promote awareness of the UN, its values, standards and norms while strengthening inter-agency cooperation, and using unified messages for change. The Communications Strategy will explore new media, digital platforms and social media for conveying messages, advocating for change and mobilizing rights holders at every level to claim their rights and duty bearers to meet their obligations. Guided by the 2019-2023 Communications Strategy, the UNCG will produce the annual One UN Report that demonstrates the UN’s achievement of results and impact on people’s lives in Malawi.



9. UNDAF RESULTS MATRIX

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework (US\$)			Reporting Agency
					Total	Projected to be available	To be mobilized	
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Peace, Inclusion and Effective Institutions								
Related national development priority or goal: Education and skills development, health and population, financial services, gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare, peace and security, and governance								
Related SDG(s): 1,5,10,16,17								
Outcome 1: Rights holders in Malawi access more accountable and effective institutions at the central and decentralized levels that use quality disaggregated data, offer integrated service delivery and promote civic engagement, respect for human rights and rule of law	1.1: Existence of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up and implementation of treaty obligations. ⁷⁸	No	Fully operational	MoJCA Annual Reports	\$ 40 348 588	\$ 24 645 588	\$ 15 703 000	UNDP
	1.2: Malawi has a National Statistical Plan that is fully funded and implemented	Available	Funded and implemented	National Statistical Office Annual Reports				UNDP
	1.3. Percentage of Governance institutions perceived as of high integrity and performance.	59.5% (2017)	62%					UNDP

78 http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf

Outcome 2: Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Malawi is enhanced	2.1: Proportion of public resources allocated for gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5.c.1)	0.4%	1%	Government budget documents	\$ 10 400 000	\$ 2 500 000	\$ 7 900 000	UN Women
	2.2: Gender development index (MGDS III)	0.907	0.95	HDR, Annual				UN Women
	2.3: Proportion of positions (by sex, age, and persons with disability) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service and judiciary) compared to national distributions.	Baseline to be determined by end 2018	Parity 60:40 (men:women) or 40:60 (men:women)	OPC-DHRMD Annual Reports				UN Women
Outcome 3: Malawi has strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace, inclusive societies and participatory democracy	3.1: Voter turnout rate disaggregated by sex (%) (MGDS III)	71%	80%	MEC Gazetted Results	\$ 13 790 000	\$ 6 590 000	\$ 7 200 000	UNDP
	3.2: Proportion of seats held by women in national Parliaments and Local Government (SDG 5.5.1; MGDS III)	17%	40%	MEC Gazetted Election Results (2019)				UN Women
	3.3: Prevalence of social unrest	50.9	70	Mo Ibrahim Index				UNDP
PILLAR TOTAL					\$ 66 448 588	\$ 34 145 588	\$ 32 303 000	

Strategic Priority 2: Population Management and Inclusive Human Development								
Related national development priorities: Education and skills development, health and population, disaster risk management and social support, gender, youth development and persons with disability and social welfare, HIV/AIDS, and nutrition.								
Related SDG(s): 3,4,5,10								
Outcome 4: Children 0-5 have increased access to comprehensive quality ECD services meeting national standards	4.1: Percentage of children (disaggregated by sex) receiving early stimulation and responsive care from their parents or primary caregivers	Girls 30% Boys 29%	60%	MICS	\$ 171 800 000	\$ 95 400 000	\$ 76 400 000	UNICEF
	4.2: Percentage of children under five years of age (disaggregated by sex) who are stunted	Girls 35% Boys 39% (MDHS 2015-16)	31% (MGDS)	DHS & MICS				UNICEF
	4.3: Percentage of infants born to pregnant women living with HIV, tested for HIV within their first two months of life	63% (DHIS 2)	90%(HSSP)	MoH HIV database				UNICEF
	4.4: Percentage of pregnant women receiving at least eight contacts with skilled personnel	No data as indicator revised as per new WHO guidelines	New targets to be developed for HSSP-II	DHS & MICS/ HMIS				UNICEF

Outcome 5: Girls and boys 6-17 years particularly the most marginalized receive an integrated package of quality, health, nutrition, HIV, education and protection services	5.1: Transition to secondary school	Girls-36%, Boys-34% (EMIS 2016)	Girls-43%, Boys-41%	DHS & MICS/ EMIS reports	\$ 293 227 500	\$ 66 690 000	\$ 226 537 500	UNICEF
	5.2: Learning outcomes improvement in primary education	English 10%, Chichewa 34%, Math 77%	English 25%, Chichewa 50%, Math 85%	MLA & EGRA				UNICEF
	5.3: Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) in secondary school (to be disaggregated by sex)	17% Girls, 18% boys (MDHS-2015-2016)	Total 22% for both boys and girls (MGDS-III)	DHS & MICS/ EMIS reports				UNICEF
	5.4: Percentage of girls (aged 15-19) who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence and sought help to stop the violence	45%	50%	DHS				UNICEF
	5.5: Percentage of girls and boys (0-14 years) living with HIV who receive antiretroviral therapy	55 estimated (age specific estimates only available for 0-14 and 15-19)	90%	MoH HIV database				UNAIDS
	5.6: Percentage of girls age 15-19 who have given birth or are pregnant with their first child	29%	26%	MIC/DHS				UNICEF

Outcome 6: Men, women and children access high impact comprehensive sexual and reproductive health rights and services	6.1: Modern contraceptive prevalence rate (married & unmarried women)	Married women-58%, unmarried women-44% (MDHS 2015-16)	Married women-73%, unmarried women-60% (2023)	DHS & MICS	\$ 49 876 500	\$ 30 349 600	\$ 19 526 900	UNFPA
	6.2: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	79% (MDHS 2015-16)	85%	DHS & MICS				UNFPA
	6.3: Percentage of women, adolescents and youth utilizing integrated comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services.	33% (MDHS 2015-16)	40% (Health Strategic Plan)	DHS, MOH Programme reports				UNFPA
	6.4: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months	20% (MDHS 2015-16)	10%	DHS				UNFPA
PILLAR TOTAL					\$ 514 904 000	\$ 192 439 600	\$ 322 464 400	

Strategic Priority 3: Inclusive and Resilient Growth								
Related national development priorities: Agriculture, water development and climate change management, education and skills development, energy, industry and tourism development, financial services, disaster risk management and social support, gender, youth development, persons with disability and social welfare, environmental sustainability, and nutrition.								
Related SDG(s): 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,13,15,16,17.								
Outcome 7: Households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to healthy ecosystems and WASH and resilient livelihoods	7.1: Percentage of food insecure households (disaggregated by women headed and child headed households).	37%	31%	IPC chronic analysis	\$ 392 544 545	\$ 78 694 545	\$ 313 850 000	WFP
	7.2: Percentage of children 6-23 months who received 4 or more food groups (SDG 2.2.1)	24%	50%	Survey: 3-5 years (DHS & MICS)				WFP
	7.3: The hectareage of catchment area conserved (*000 ha)	918.5	1001	Annual Reports				FAO
	7.4: Total government spending in social protection as a proportion of the national budget (SDG 8.b.1)	44%	51%	Budget document				ILO
	7.5: Proportion of districts that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (National: Number of DDPs that have integrated DRM) (SDG 11.b.1)	9	19	Annual Disaster Management Report				UNDP
	7.6: Percentage of people using basic drinking water services (disaggregated by location).	67%	80%	WHO/ UNICEF- JMP				UNICEF
	7.7: Percentage of people using basic sanitation services (disaggregated by location).	42%	65%	WHO/ UNICEF- JMP				UNICEF

Outcome 8: Malawi has more productive, sustainable and diversified agriculture, value chains and market access	8.1: Proportion of smallholder women and men farmers adopting climate smart technologies	48%	62%	Agricultural surveys/ APES	\$ 62 000 868	\$ 37 250 868	\$ 24 750 000	FAO
	8.2: Annual growth in Agricultural GDP (MGDS III and NAIP)	4.8%	6%	Documents from the National Accounts				FAO
Outcome 9: Malawi has strengthened economic diversification, inclusive business, entrepreneurship and access to clean energy	9.1: Percentage change in penetration of renewable energy sources (%)	7%	15%	Monitoring Reports	\$ 52 450 000	\$ 4 300 000	\$ 48 150 000	UNDP
	9.2: Unemployment rate (disaggregated by sex) (SDG 8.5.2)	20%	15%	Survey: 3-5 years (LFS)				UNDP
	9.3: Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population (SDG 10.1.1)	0%	7%	Survey: 5 years (IHS)				UNDP
	9.4: Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP (SDG 9.2.1)	9.5%	25%	Annual Trade Reports (MoITT)				UNDP
PILLAR TOTAL					\$ 506 995 413	\$ 120 245 413	\$ 386 750 000	
UNDAF TOTAL					\$ 1 088 348 001	\$ 346 830 601	\$ 741 517 400	



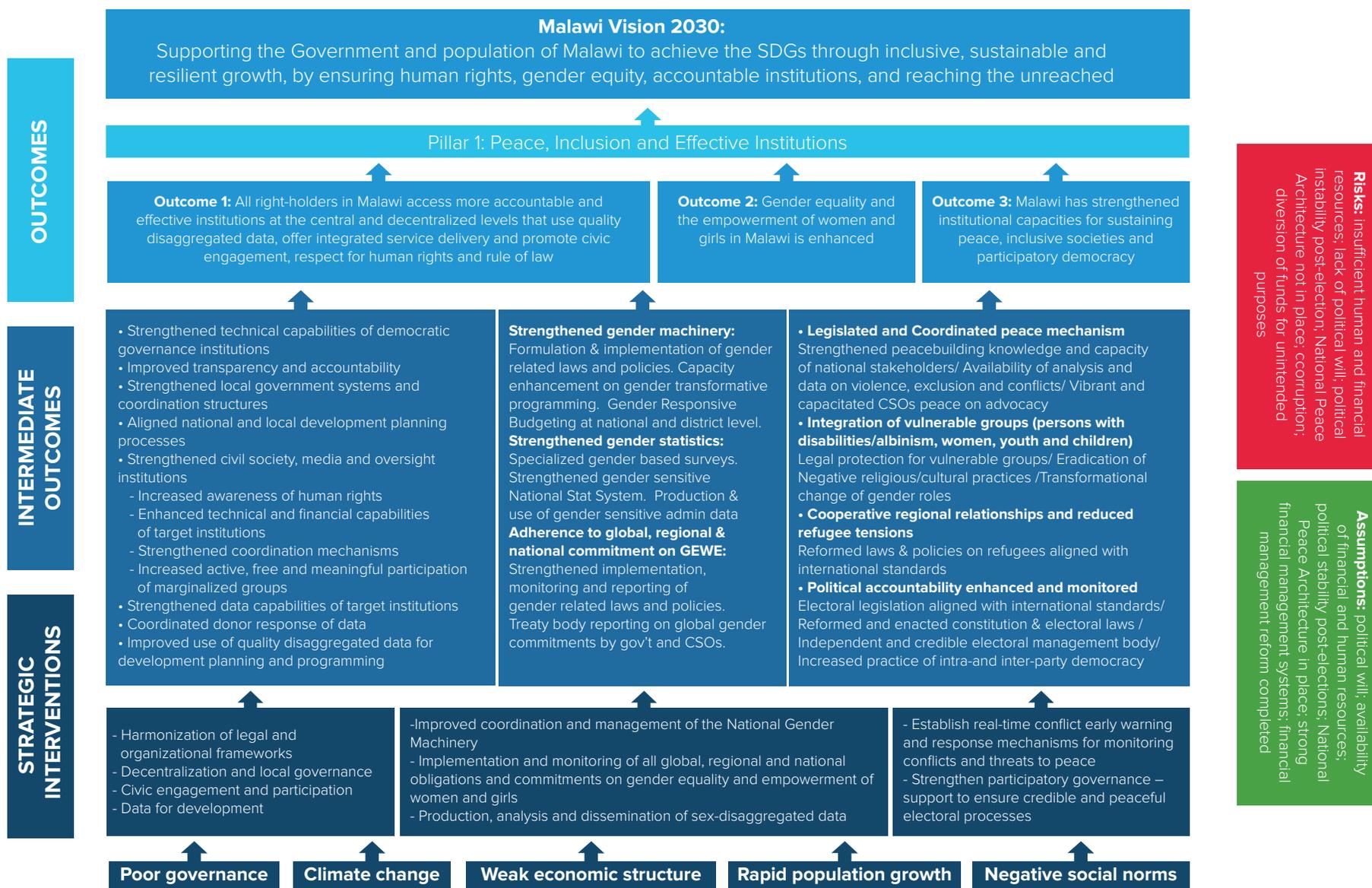
ANNEXES

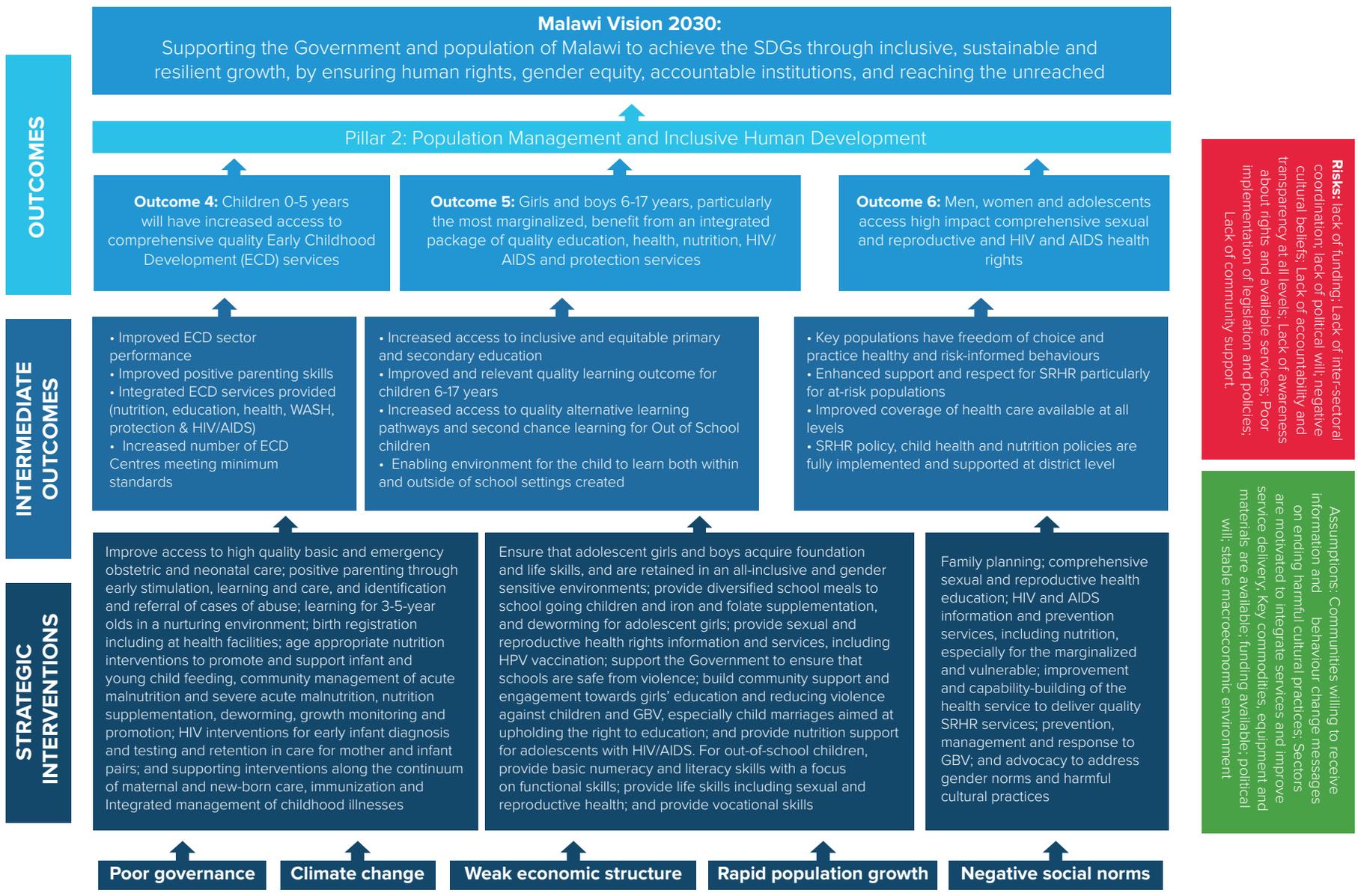
Annex I – Budget per outcome and agency

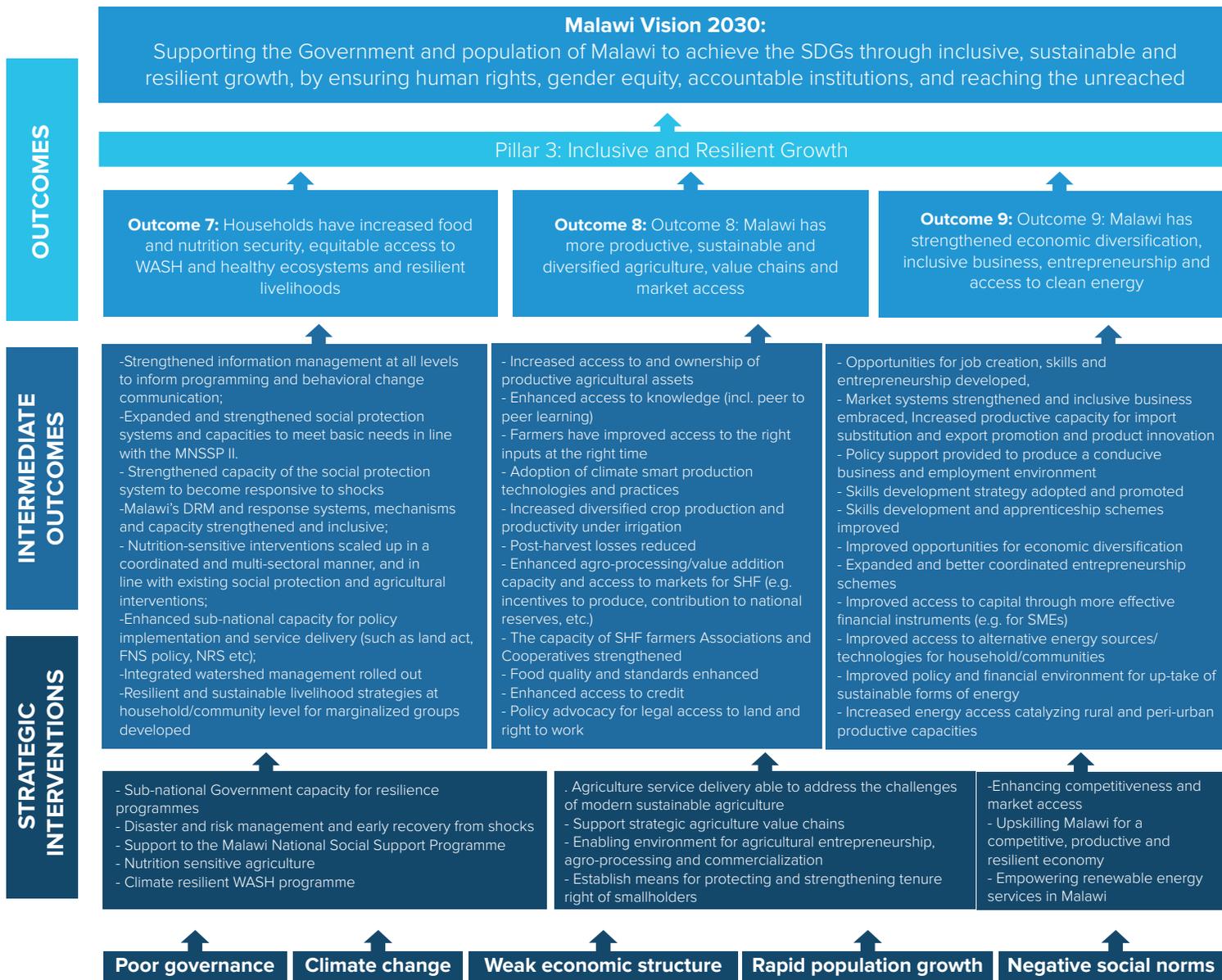
Outcome	UN Partner	Total Cost	Projected to be available	To be mobilized
1	UNDP	\$ 30 573 588	\$ 16 170 588	\$ 14 403 000
	ILO	\$ 300 000	\$ 100 000	\$ 200 000
	UNFPA	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 500 000	\$ 500 000
	UNICEF	\$ 7 625 000	\$ 7 625 000	\$ -
	WFP	\$ 350 000	\$ -	\$ 350 000
	UNHCR	\$ 660 000	\$ 110 000	\$ 550 000
	FAO	\$ 500 000	\$ 250 000	\$ 250 000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 41 008 588	\$ 24 755 588	\$ 16 253 000
2	UN Women	\$ 3 800 000	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 2 800 000
	UNFPA	\$ 6 500 000	\$ 1 500 000	\$ 5 000 000
	UNHCR	\$ 300 000	\$ 50 000	\$ 250 000
	WFP	\$ 100 000	\$ -	\$ 100 000
		\$ 10 700 000	\$ 2 550 000	\$ 8 150 000
3	UNDP	\$ 9 290 000	\$ 5 590 000	\$ 3 700 000
	UNHCR	\$ 950 000	\$ 250 000	\$ 700 000
	UN Women	\$ 4 500 000	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 3 500 000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 14 740 000	\$ 6 840 000	\$ 7 900 000
PILLAR TOTAL		\$ 66 448 588	\$ 34 145 588	\$ 32 303 000
4	UNFPA	\$ 19 000 000	\$ 14 100 000	\$ 4 900 000
	UNHCR	\$ 1 300 000	\$ 300 000	\$ 1 000 000
	UNICEF	\$ 149 000 000	\$ 80 000 000	\$ 69 000 000
	WFP	\$ 1 000 000	\$ -	\$ 1 000 000
	WHO	\$ 1 500 000	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 500 000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 171 800 000	\$ 95 400 000	\$ 76 400 000
5	ILO	\$ 2 000 000	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 1 000 000
	IOM	\$ 60 000	\$ 20 000	\$ 40 000
	UNAIDS	\$ 857 500	\$ 360 000	\$ 497 500
	UNESCO	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 600 000	\$ 400 000
	UNFPA	\$ 29 100 000	\$ 14 100 000	\$ 15 000 000
	UNHCR	\$ 3 210 000	\$ 1 710 000	\$ 1 500 000
	UNICEF	\$ 100 500 000	\$ 42 000 000	\$ 58 500 000
	WFP	\$ 155 000 000	\$ 6 400 000	\$ 148 600 000
	WHO	\$ 1 500 000	\$ 500 000	\$ 1 000 000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 293 227 500	\$ 66 690 000	\$ 226 537 500

Outcome	UN Partner	Total Cost	Projected to be available	To be mobilized
6	IOM	\$ 293 000	\$ 113 600	\$ 179 400
	UNAIDS	\$ 857 500	\$ 360 000	\$ 497 500
	UNFPA	\$ 36 500 000	\$ 26 700 000	\$ 9 800 000
	UNHCR	\$ 1 100 000	\$ 350 000	\$ 750 000
	WFP	\$ 4 500 000	\$ -	\$ 4 500 000
	UN Women	\$ 3 000 000	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 2 000 000
	UNODC	\$ 1 126 000	\$ 826 000	\$ 300 000
	WHO	\$ 2 500 000	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 1 500 000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 49 876 500	\$ 30 349 600	\$ 19 526 900
PILLAR TOTAL		\$ 514 904 000	\$ 192 439 600	\$ 322 464 400
7	ILO	\$ 1 250 000	\$ 1 000 000	\$ 250 000
	UNDP	\$ 37 394 545	\$ 15 094 545	\$ 22 300 000
	UNFPA	\$ 2 000 000	\$ 500 000	\$ 1 500 000
	UNHCR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	UNICEF	\$ 43 500 000	\$ 20 500 000	\$ 23 000 000
	FAO	\$ 40 000 000	\$ 30 000 000	\$ 10 000 000
	WFP	\$268 400 000	\$ 11 600 000	\$256 800 000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 392 544 545	\$ 78 694 545	\$ 313 850 000
8	UN Women	\$ 3 500 000	\$ 2 000 000	\$ 1 500 000
	UNIDO	\$ 2 700 000	\$ 2 000 000	\$ 700 000
	UNHCR	\$ 1 900 000	\$ 400 000	\$ 1 500 000
	FAO	\$ 40 000 000	\$ 29 000 000	\$ 11 000 000
	UNODC	\$ 1 295 450	\$ 1 045 450	\$ 250 000
	WFP	\$ 7 500 000	\$ -	\$ 7 500 000
	UNEP	\$ 1 605 418	\$ 1 305 418	\$ 300 000
	UNDP	\$ 3 500 000	\$ 1 500 000	\$ 2 000 000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 62 000 868	\$ 37 250 868	\$ 24 750 000
9	ILO	\$ 2 250 000	\$ 500 000	\$ 1 750 000
	UNESCO	\$ 1 500 000	\$ 1 500 000	\$ -
	UNHCR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	UNIDO	\$ 2 200 000	\$ 800 000	\$ 1 400 000
	UNDP	\$ 46 500 000	\$ 1 500 000	\$ 45 000 000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 52 450 000	\$ 4 300 000	\$ 48 150 000
PILLAR TOTAL		\$ 506 995 413	\$ 120 245 413	\$ 386 750 000
Grand Total		\$1 088 348 001	\$ 346 830 601	\$ 741 517 400

Annex II – Theories of Change







Risks: Jobless growth; Economic growth dependent on NRM; climate shocks (overwhelm capacity and efforts to build resilience); Land not available for all (living in Malawi); Global economic fluctuations; Insufficiently risk-informed programming; Policies not reformed/implemented; Government lacking resources to stimulate agricultural productivity through market access programmes; Private sector not willing to engage; Reforms in skills development systems not fully implemented; negative cultural and social norms.

Assumptions: Government will be supportive; continued political stability post-elections; Resources available; Organizations, institutions, groups functional; Policies operational; Macroeconomic stability; Willingness to adapt to new technologies; policies being enacted in a timely manner; private sector responsive and accepting of interventions; focus on integrated efforts to achieve outcomes.

Annex III – Basis of Relationship and Commitment of Government

Partnerships, Values and Principles

Whereas the Government of Malawi (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on the 15th July 1977. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 28th June 1994.
- c) With the World Food Programme (WFP) a Basic Agreement (BA) concerning assistance from the World Food Programme, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on 8th April 1968.
- d) With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the Agreement between the UNDP and the Government concluded on 15th July 1977 (the SBAA) apply mutatis mutandis to the activities, premises, assets and personnel of UNFPA in the Republic of Malawi.
- e) With UNAIDS having operated in Malawi since 1st January 1996 also under the UNDP SBAA.
- f) UN Women operates in Malawi since 15 October 2012 under the UNDP SBAA.
- g) With the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Malawi on 28th April 1986.
- h) With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) a Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the GoM and UNHCR on 23rd April 1988.
- i) The Basic Agreement (BA) concluded between the Government and WHO on 6th November 1964 provides the basis for cooperation and respective obligations of WHO and the Government. According to Article I the technical advisory assistance would be provided to the Government subject to budgetary limitation or the availability of necessary funds and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and other organs of the Organization.
- j) UNESCO operates on the basis of the agreement signed with the GoM on 7 September 2002.
- k) the UNCDF operates in Malawi on the basis of the agreement signed with the GoM on 2 February 1982.

- l) IOM operates in Malawi on the basis of the Host Agreement signed with the GoM on 19 February 2018.
- m) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures, in reference to ILO, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, and UNODC.

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

Programme Management and Accountability Arrangements

The programme will be nationally, and jointly, executed under the overall co-ordination of the Government and the UN Country Team through the bi-annual Joint Steering Meeting (JSM). Government Ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. The UNDAF will be made operational through the development of joint annual work plan(s) (JAWPs)⁷⁹ and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed UNDAF and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as

necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the UNDAF and joint or agency-specific work plans and/or project documents.⁸⁰

The remainder of this section refers only to agencies using the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and is VERBATIM.

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs)⁸¹ agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
 - Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

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

79 As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the "Delivering as One" approach.
80 In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-Operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted work plan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a work plan, a Principle Implementing Partner will be identified as who will have responsibility for convening, co-ordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the work plan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the work plan.

81 Refers to Results Groups' or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans.

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

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN⁸² Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

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

Resources and Resource Mobilization Strategy

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the UNDAF, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system agencies' support may be provided to Non-Governmental and Civil Society organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual work plans (WPs) and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the UNDAF. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the work plans (WPs) and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN system agencies, funds not earmarked by donors to the UN system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The remainder of this section refers only to agencies using the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and is VERBATIM.

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

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN

82 For the purpose of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 10 days.

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

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN system agencies'
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

The remainder of this section refers only to agencies using the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and is VERBATIM.

To facilitate assurance activities relating to cash transfers, IPs and the Participating UN Organizations agree to use a programme monitoring and financial control tool allowing data sharing and analysis. Assessments and audits of non-government IPs will be conducted in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Participating UN Organizations

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

Commitments of the Government

The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this UNDAF and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Malawi; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Malawi to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

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

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in the section on Partnerships, Values and Principles above.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and

Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the “Specialized Agencies Convention”) to the Agencies’ property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

- (a) “Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement”.
- (b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary

organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

The remainder of this section refers only to agencies using the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and is VERBATIM.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that the various Participating UN Organizations will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the Participating UN Organizations within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with

international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

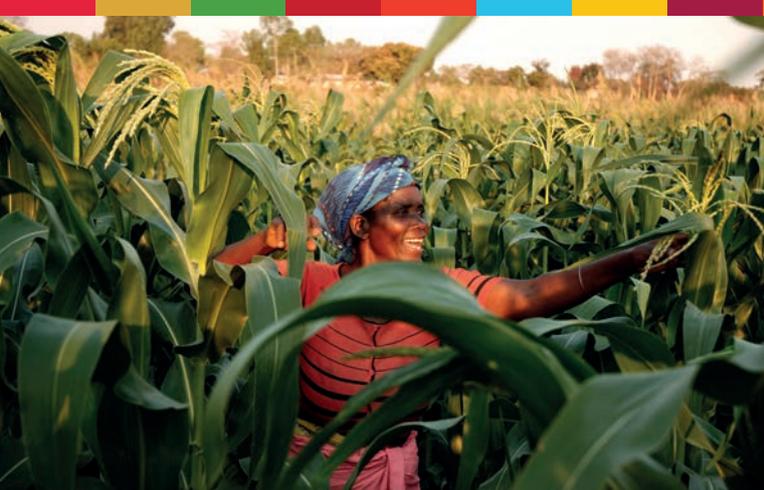
In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the specific ex-com agency within six months after receipt of the funds. To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from the specific Participating UN Organization will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- All financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by the ex-com agency together with relevant documentation;
- All relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's

internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

- The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and UN Participating Organization. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:
- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the Participating UN Organization that provided cash (and to the National Audit Office in case they are the one who conduct the audits) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the Participating UN Organization.
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and to the National Audit Office in case they are the one who conduct the audit), on a quarterly basis.



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