

# UN Malawi 2016 UNDAF Report

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## Contents

Foreword.....	3
Key Development Trends .....	6
Results of the One Programme .....	8
Cluster One: Economic Growth and Food Security. ....	8
Cluster Two: Social and Protection Services.....	13
Cluster Three: HIV/AIDS .....	22
Cluster Four: Governance and Human Rights .....	27
Results of the One UN Fund.....	35
Humanitarian Window.....	35
Right to Food Window .....	37
Human Rights Window .....	38
Results of Operating as One .....	38
Results of Communicating as One.....	39
Financial Overview.....	40

## Table of Figures

Figure 1: 2016 Donor Contributions to the Malawi ONE Fund .....	41
Figure 2: 2016 Humanitarian Funding Window Disbursements .....	41
Figure 3: 2016 Agency Expenditures (US \$).....	42
Figure 4: 2016 Outcome Expenditure.....	43

## List of Tables

Table 1: Total Agency Expenditure by Outcome .....	44
Table 2: 2016 Outcome Budgets Vs Expenditures .....	50

## Foreword

Malawi experienced its worst episode of acute food insecurity in over a decade during the 2016-2017 lean season stemming from an intense El Niño-related drought which adversely affected crop production. This was the second consecutive year of high food insecurity in Malawi. The President of Malawi declared a State of National Disaster on April 12, 2016, and appealed for humanitarian relief assistance from the international community and the private sector. The UN supported the Government in developing the Food Insecurity Response Plan through the Government-led cluster system to respond to the food insecurity faced by 6.7 million Malawians (about 40 percent of the population) at the peak of the lean season. The UN and its partners rallied behind the Government Response Plan by delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance targeting food insecure households and promoting the recovery and resilience of vulnerable households. I would like to thank the donors who partnered with the UN and the humanitarian community to support the Government and deliver a successful response which ensured that no Malawian died of hunger during the lean season.

2016 was the first year in the count down to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The UN supported the government in developing an SDGs roadmap, with clear linkages to the national planning process and synergy with the African Union's Agenda 2063, raised awareness on Agendas 2030 and 2063 across Government Ministries, and supported the development of an integrated SDG model, building upon priorities identified by national stakeholders. Leveraging the UN's comparative advantage as well as expertise available across different agencies, the UN will in 2017 continue to support government in the visioning process for Agenda 2030 and beyond. The UN sees these planning processes as a tremendous opportunity to promote convergence and linkages across sectors which will help to address the root causes of Malawi's development challenges.

The UN opened a Human Rights funding window under the One Fund to provide a channel for quick disbursement of funds to address emerging human rights issues and to serve as the forum for coordination of support. Malawi continued to face an array of human rights challenges ranging from discrimination, gender-based violence, and a lack of gender equality for women and girls along with violence and discrimination against other vulnerable and marginalised groups. The Human Rights window supported interventions to protect the rights of persons with albinism and the (LGBTI) community, and initiated the establishment of a Human Rights Defenders Forum and public opinion research on the death penalty, aimed at moving towards abolition of the same.

The UN appreciates the support it received from all stakeholders in carrying out its mandate. The UN recognises and appreciates Government leadership which allowed for a smooth partnership and looks forward to continuing our collaboration in 2017. While recognizing partnerships and funding support to the various UN agencies, special mention goes to donors who have supported our joined-up UN work on the humanitarian response, the Human Rights and the Right to Food funding windows under the One Fund, the Joint Programme on Girls Education, and the program supporting development effectiveness, better data on aid and better coordination: the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID), Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE), the European Union (EU) and Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA). I would also like to thank the private sector, academic institutions, the media and civil society for their indispensable role as the UN's partners in expanding inclusive business, raising awareness of the SDGs, and advocating for improved social service delivery for all Malawians.

We are looking forward to your support and continued joint efforts to make sure we leave no one behind as Malawi progresses on its development journey.

Mia Seppo

**UN Resident Coordinator**

## Acronyms

AfDB:	African Development Bank	LGBTI:	Lesbians Gays Bisexual Transgender and Intersex
AMP:	Aid Management Platform	LUANAR:	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
CBT:	Cash Based Transfers	MBS:	Malawi Bureau of Standards
CMAM:	Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition	MDG:	Millennium Development Goal
CPI:	Consumer Price Indices	MDHS:	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
CSE:	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	MHRC:	Human Rights Commission
CSOs:	Civil Society Organisations	MHRC:	Malawi Human Rights Commission
DCG:	Development Cooperation Group	MM4P:	Mobile Money for the Poor
DCPC:	District Civil Protection Committee	MoAIWD:	Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development
DFID:	Department for International Development	MoFEP&D:	Ministry of Finance Economic Planning and Development
DNCC:	District Nutrition Coordination Committees	MoGCDSW:	Ministry of Gender Children Development and Social Welfare
DNHA:	Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS	MVAC:	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
ECD:	Early Childhood Development	mVAM:	Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
EHP:	Essential Health Package	NCST:	Nutrition Care support and Treatment
EU:	European Union	NDPC:	National Development Planning Commission
FFS:	Farmer Field School	NECS:	National Education and Communication Strategy
GBV NAP:	Gender Based Violence National Action Plan	NNIS:	National Nutrition Information Systems
GMIS:	Gender Management Information System		
GPEDC:	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation		
HLF:	High Level Forum		

NNMEF:	National Nutrition Multi-Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	SRSG:	Special Representative to the UN Secretary General
NRB:	National Registration Bureau	SUN:	Scaling up Nutrition
NSO:	National Statistical Office	UBR:	Unified Beneficiary Registry
NSSP:	National Social Support Programme	UHC:	Universal Health Coverage
OHCHR:	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNDAF:	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
OTPs:	Outpatient therapeutic Programme	UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
P4P:	Purchase for Progress	UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
PBB:	Programme Based Budgeting	UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
PLHIV:	People Living with HIV	VACS:	Violence against Children Survey
SCTP:	Social Cash Transfer Programme	WB:	World Bank
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals	WHO:	World Health Organization
SFP:	Supplementary feeding programme	WFP:	World Food Programme

## Key Development Trends

As noted by the World Bank (WB) in its May 2016 Malawi Economic Monitor, the sustained higher maize prices increased the inflation rate since food accounts for half of the consumer price basket. The uncertain macro-economic outlook, the strengthening of the US dollar and the poor tobacco marketing season (the biggest forex earner) resulted in the depreciation of the Malawi Kwacha. As highlighted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in its December 2016 Consumer Price Indices (CPI), the average inflation rate for 2016 was 21.7% whilst the headline inflation in December was 20%, a slight increase of 0.1% over November 2015 whilst Food inflation remained high at 24.4%.

The UN supported the drafting of a bill on the establishment of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC). Consultations were made with key stakeholders and the bill was adopted by Parliament during the December 2016 sitting. The mandate of the Commission will have wide scope regarding public policy formulation and economic and development planning in Malawi. It is anticipated that government will table the bill in the upcoming parliament sitting. While awaiting the establishment of the NPC, the UN has supported government to engage a consultant who is supporting in formulating the next National Development Strategy 2017-2022.

In-line with SDG 16 to provide legal identity and birth registration for all by 2030, the UN through the leadership of UNDP completed a one-year Preparatory Assistance Project to assist the Government's National Registration Bureau (NRB) in developing a national identity system for the country. The inability to uniquely identify citizens, and for individuals to prove their identity, is a root problem for development and impacts progress across multiple sectors in Malawi including: elections, financial services and financial inclusion, judicial services, targeting of beneficiaries in the crisis response and social protection programmes like social cash transfers, health, civil service reform, and education. The introduction of the system is widely recognized by national and international stakeholders as a transformative initiative to address the vulnerabilities of long-standing gaps in citizenship identity. The Preparatory Assistance Project has evolved over the past year to become a springboard for a full UN project that is funded to the tune of US \$ 50 million and with the bulk of its implementation beginning in 2017. A principal outcome of the full-scale initiative will be the mass registration and issuance of unique identity cards to 9 million Malawians, while simultaneously developing the institutional capacity of National Registration Bureau to operate and maintain the system and continuous registration.

On HIV/AIDS advocacy work, the UN supported the adoption of a new approach for advancing advocacy work on the HIV bill which is now focusing on transformational dialogues with various key sectors of society to address key population issues. The 'leave no one behind' focus of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is being used as an entry point for engagement to advocate for the inclusion of access to health issues for key populations so that no one is left behind in the fight against HIV and AIDS. A regional 'Think Tank on HIV, Health and Social Justice engaged with stakeholders through a series of eight round table discussions with key constituents i.e. Development partners, NGOs, CSO, UN, academia, Law Society, religious leaders, MPs, traditional leaders and government officials among others. To date more than 300 stakeholders have been engaged in this dialogue through the round table discussions which is expected to lead to more tolerance for dialogue as a starting point to demystify LGBTI issues and address the minimum health package for key populations. A report on the recommendations made by the regional think tank will inform further strategies in 2017 on how to proceed as there is still some underlying resistance to the proposed changes particularly on policy and legal instruments.

To strengthen dialogue on development effectiveness, Government with the support from the UN, convened a High-Level Forum (HLF) meeting with the theme: "Working Together for Sustainable Development in Malawi" to discuss with Development Partners and key stakeholders a range of issues for Malawi's transformation. The HLF meeting had three sessions which provided an opportunity to present and discuss: (i) an update on the national development planning process, (ii) proposals for a solid and ambitious agenda for breaking the cycle of food insecurity for greater development results in Malawi, and (iii) highlights of the 2016/17 Budget. The HLF was

preceded by the Development Cooperation Group (DCG) which deliberated on how to strengthen development cooperation and how different stakeholders can effectively work together for greater development results.

The UN, through the leadership of UN Women, continued to promote women's increased participation in political leadership. Efforts have seen numbers of female members in key parliamentary committees increase. For example, female members in parliamentary constitutional committees increased; from 1 to 3 in the defense and security committee, from 2 to 4 in the legal affairs committee; from 1 to 3 in the public appointments committee and from 1 to 3 in the budget committee. Additionally, for the first time in the history of the country, a woman is chairing the defense committee, a position traditionally dominated by men. Further, one Malawian female member of parliament was selected as Chairperson of the Gender Committee under the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and another as Chairperson for the SADC PF women's caucus. Further, the leadership of the Malawi Electoral Commission is now gender-balanced following the appointment of 4 women and 4 men commissioners in June 2016. Increasing number of women stepping up in political leadership is expected to enhance gender equality through increases support in parliament for tabling and passing of gender-related laws and pushing for public policy reforms that will equally benefit men and women.

Through the UN support, Government officials, parliamentarians, paramount chiefs, civil society and donors were engaged in high-level advocacy towards preventing and responding against harmful cultural practices including child marriage. The Special Representative to the UN Secretary General (SRSG) on Violence against Children (Marta Santos Pais) visit added weight to the UN efforts, to follow up on progress since the launch of the Violence against Children Survey (VACS) and Response in March 2015, with a specific focus on harmful traditional practices.

The UN continued to support improving the policy and legislative environment, with notable ones being: i) the review of Early Childhood Development (ECD) policy and the review of the youth policy, finalisation of the National School Health and Nutrition Policy; ii) the review and upgrading of the School Health and Nutrition Strategic Plan and Guidelines, iii) the review of Teacher's Training curricula and materials on Nutrition, Nutrition Education and School Gardening, iii) finalization and the launch of the Gender Based Violence National Action Plan (GBV NAP); iii) National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan 2017-2021; iv) Food and Nutrition Bill, Nutrition Care support and Treatment (NCST) guidelines and updating of the Scaling Up Nutrition - National Education and Communication Strategy 2017-2021; v) development and launching of the National Gender Policy which will guide the implementation of all gender activities in Malawi and will hold stakeholders accountable to their commitment to mainstreaming Gender in their programmes; vi) enactment of the Anatomy Act which calls for stiffer penalties for crimes related to the possession of body parts of people with albinism; vii) enactment of the Land Act and viii) the drafting of the National Resilience Plan.

## Results of the One Programme

### *Cluster One: Economic Growth and Food Security.*

Following the declaration of the state of national disaster by the President Arthur Peter Mutharika, the UN supported Government with the development and implementation of the Food Insecurity Response Plan, which gave humanitarian food assistance to the food insecure households from July 2016 to March 2017, targeting 6.7 million people. Nutrition, Agriculture and Protection clusters also outlined response activities as part of the Food Insecurity Response Plan. By the end of the peak of the lean season (January to March 2017), the UN in Malawi, through WFP had reached six million food insecure people with lifesaving in-kind food and a hybrid voucher and cash scheme. The remaining 700,000 food insecure people were reached by an INGO consortium.

The humanitarian response received enough support to meet full cereal ration requirements; while for pulses, the rations were halved in some months; for vegetable oil the distribution was also at half ration. The monthly cash transfers were adjusted to correspond with the food response ration cuts. In addition to the contribution from the Government of Malawi, Development Partners who supported provision of food assistance to food insecure households through the UN include the International Monetary Fund, (IMF), World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), Australia, Japan, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) of the European Union (EU), Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Norway and Lithuania.

Through the Humanitarian Funding Window, the United Nations, disbursed a total of US\$ 37,583,639.21 to the UN agencies participating in the El nino response programmes. 1 percent of the total funds that the UN disbursed went to support the food distribution and relocation of the Mozambican refugees, 42 percent supported nutrition activities for the El Niño response; 26 percent supported the recovery and resilience building activities in the communities that were affected by the El Niño and 31 percent supported with twinning costs for the maize distributed to the El Niño affected communities. Table 2 below gives the details.

The UN supported the government (the cluster system) in putting in place preparedness measures for the disaster and emergency response through national and district level contingency planning process.

In December 2015, WFP started implementing a mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) monitoring system to collect real-time food security data from households through short mobile phone surveys. This system has enabled tracking changes in household food security and consumption patterns and collecting food prices that would enhance operational awareness for the humanitarian community. People in the targeted areas reply via SMS to mobile questionnaires that collect real time food security information. The real-time availability of data through this system contributes to increased efficiency in the humanitarian response and better evidence to guide the feasibility and appropriateness of cash or food based transfers in the country.

Reproductive health kits containing lifesaving drugs and equipment, food and other non-food items were procured and strategically positioned in areas for easy access by partners at district level. Apart from giving the humanitarian food assistance (in-kind and cash transfers), the response also supported linking humanitarian aid beneficiaries to longer term development [social cash transfers, Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR), United in Building and Advancing Life Expectations (UBALE) project and NJIRA, another food security initiative] and resilience building activities such as asset creation activities and promoting village savings and loans activities (VSL).

The UN, in partnership with GIZ, continued to support implementation of the National Social Support Programme (NSSP) with enhanced multi-sectoral coordination and information management systems. In this regard, the UN supported with facilitation of Social Support Steering Committee, Technical Committees and Thematic Working

Groups meetings; the creation of best practice guidelines for better coordination across implementers of social protection programmes; as well as the facilitation of the review of the NSSP (2012-2016) and design phase of the successor programme, the NSSP II. Furthermore, in September 2016, the UN, through FAO, ILO and UNICEF, commissioned a cost benefit analysis of agriculture and social protection policy options aimed at informing policy formulation and programming. The second draft report for the assessment has just been produced. Additionally, in 2016 FAO conducted an empirical assessment of the potential impacts of integrated agriculture-social protection programmes using the case of FISP and SCTP aimed at informing the formulation of the successor NSSP, The UN in partnership with GIZ has also supported the development and operationalization of the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) which is aimed at improving beneficiary targeting for social support programmes and promoting complementarities between interventions. In this regard, the UN, through FAO has committed to support 100 percent registration of households in Phalombe district into the UBR.

The UN mentored 189 (143 male and 43 female) extension officers in gender mainstreaming to increase their reach to rural women farmers. Further the UN enhanced capacity of national and district staff by supporting the operationalisation of the Malawi National Social Support Programme Monitoring and Evaluation, developing the Capacity Development and Implementation Plan for the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) for 2016-18. Further support was given to the development of social cash transfer programme communication strategy.

The UN supported strengthening of national, district, community level existing preparedness and timely control mechanisms for key migratory pests (African Armyworm and Red Locust) in Malawi by focusing on monitoring, surveillance and preparedness for future outbreaks.

To promote agricultural diversification through emergency response, the UN, through FAO, supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development to organize 90 seed fairs. These seed fairs were conducted from 6-31 December 2016 in 11 districts most affected by the El Niño induced drought. The UN reached out to 50,922 farmers (of which 64 percent were women) affected by El Nino and who were targeted under the food emergency response. Each farmer received a seed voucher valued MWK10, 500. Financial support came from the Government of Canada, Italian Agency for International Cooperation, the United Kingdom's Department for International Aid (DFID) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of the United Nations. A total of 128 agro-dealers took part in the seed fairs in Balaka, Blantyre, rural, Chikwawa, Kasungu, Mwanza, Mzimba, Neno, Nsanje, Phalombe, Salima and Zomba. Eight partner organizations (Oxfam, COOPI, Concern Universal, COPRED, Blantyre CADECOM, Chikwawa CADECOM and Save the Children), with technical support from Catholic Relief Services, implemented the exercise.

On weather risk mitigation, the UN supported a needs assessment to strengthen the functionality of Climate and DRR Information Centres which also play an important role in early warning at local level. However, the actual establishment of District Weather Related Disaster Warning Centres will be addressed under the upcoming (Green Climate Fund (GCF) project.

The UN supported expansion of District Council-led resilience programmes across seven districts focusing on asset creation and skills development, reaching 14,567 households, to be expanded to over 50,000 households in 2017. An integrated component included in the multi-partner Rural Resilience (R4) programme, which supported 500 rural households to receive index-based insurance payouts following the effects of El Nino, with a further 2,350 households signing up for the 2016/2017 season. This was complemented by a total of 2,135 village savings and loans participants being enrolled, who managed to accumulate over MWK58 million in savings with about MWK80 million shared out in December 2016. In addition, all households received agro-climatic information and services through radio, SMS and extension services to help make improved farming and livelihood decisions. In the same line, the UN has been very instrumental in supporting development of the National Resilient Plan. This is a plan which will guide designing, coordination and implementation of resilient building initiatives in the country.

The UN, through ILO, supported the second National Child Labour Survey of 2016 and the report is being finalised by the National Statistics Office (NSO). Through the ARISE Project, ex-child laborers trained in vocational and entrepreneurship skills are using the skills for economic livelihood and can fend for themselves and their families.

The ILO further supported Government to introduce a methodology for anticipating skills needed to foster export competitiveness called skills for trade and economic diversification (STED). The STED report 2016 helped identify skills challenges in the oilseeds and horticulture sectors and provides recommendations on the skills development interventions that need to be undertaken to foster export competitiveness of the two sectors. The STED methodology is now due for institutionalized to the Malawi Skills Development System. Resulting from the STED research, ILO supported TEVETA to design and implement a value chain work based skills training programme for the horticulture sector. Fifteen lecturers and workplace mentors were trained to deliver the work based learning programme.

Through the ILO, the UN withdrew, prevented and protected 1592 children from child labour in Ntcheu and Lilongwe districts. Of these children, 453 (243 girls and 210 boys) were reintegrated back into the formal primary education and were attending afternoon classes to supplement the normal learning period and catch up with their classmates. A total of 1,163 children (609 girls and 554 boys) were supported with vocational skills training, of which 140 were provided with startup capital after graduation. 460 guardians and parents of ex-child labourers were supported with comprehensive grants for economic empowerment which included training and startup capital.

The UN coordinated the review of ASWAP (the five-year investment framework for the agricultural sector) and the process of formulating its successor, the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), is at an advanced stage. The first draft has just been produced for stakeholders input. The framework is expected to guide investments in the agriculture sector in the next five years and therefore foster agro-based economic growth.

The UN with the leadership of UNCDF through the Mobile Money for the Poor (MM4P) Programme continued to provide technical assistance to the Digital Financial Services (DFS) sector to improve uptake and usage of DFS in the country. In 2016 technical assistance was provided to Airtel Malawi aimed at improving its agent network to increase uptake and usage of DFS. Through UNCDF's support and interventions from other actors, usage of Digital Financial Services in Malawi continued to improve with number of subscribers and active users standing at 2.89 million and 1.43 million respectively. This translates into 15 percent of the Malawi adult population are actively accessing financial services using digital channels an improvement from 8 percent in 2015. Active agents which facilitate DFS improved from 98 to 125 per 100,000 of adult population for the period December 2015 to August 2016.

With support from EU, the UN is also working with the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) on a Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) project, aimed at enhancing the national quality infrastructure to improve Malawi's export base, substitute imports with local products, improve consumer protection and reduce the need for re-testing, re-inspection and re-certification of Malawian products abroad by having an internationally accredited MBS. Some of the achievements under the SQAM project include:

Development and distribution of the National Quality Policy and National Quality Strategy as the basis for building a robust quality infrastructure in Malawi;

Procurement and installation of high technology and modern equipment for MBS laboratories for more efficient testing and calibration services delivered by MBS;

45 percent progress in construction works for the new MBS Laboratory Complex that will house state of the art equipment in preparation for MBS international accreditation;

Out-of-Country Trainings on food safety, microbiology and pesticides at internationally recognized institutions for the Testing Services Department (TSD) at MBS;

Trainings provided by a pool of international experts on international accreditation requirements, principles of metrology, quality management systems and food safety management to ensure the technical competency of MBS laboratory staff in readiness for accreditation.

Through the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF), which seeks to contribute towards transforming Malawi from an importing country to a producing and exporting country by providing marching grant funding for innovative inclusive business projects in the agriculture, manufacturing and logistics sectors in the country, the UN has helped to support:

Agriculture projects contracted by the MICF estimated to create 290 jobs and increase incomes of 11,800 households;

Manufacturing projects contracted by the MICF estimated to create 900 jobs and increase incomes of 21,500 households;

30,000 poor consumers to access low-cost products;

Economic empowerment of women as 30 percent of all targeted grant recipients are female;

Private sector contributions to the matching funds provided by MICF totalling US\$ 3.7 million for agriculture projects and US\$ 6.4 million for manufacturing projects;

50 percent of companies leveraged new external finance in the form of debt finance, private equity and vendor financing.

MICF opened a new round of competition in Agribusiness and Manufacturing & Logistics in 2016 and is contracting additional 10 grantees for a total value of US\$ 5.1 million in funding to the private sector in addition to the US\$ 5.7 million contracted in the first round of competition.

The UN, through FAO and UN Women, supported the enactment of the long-awaited land act and related laws. In June 2016, parliament passed four of the ten land and related laws, namely; the Land Act, Land Survey Act, Customary Land Act and the Physical Planning Act. These were assented to by the President in September 2016. With continued support from the UN, the Government passed the remaining six amendment bills in the November 2016 sitting of parliament. The bills have now been assented to, bringing the total passed laws to 10.

The National Agricultural Policy has been approved, with inputs and consultation from UN Women on the inclusion of women and youth pillars, to ensure that women and youth benefit from equal access and opportunity to move from traditional agriculture to sustainable agribusiness. Through the Gender and Agriculture program and the Agricultural Sector Wide Approach Support Project, UN Women has increased the capacity building of women farmer's and cooperatives through Business Management Initiatives, financial inclusion dialogues and Household Approach visioning.

## Challenges for Cluster One

- Targeting process of beneficiaries for the humanitarian response (food/cash distributions and winter/irrigated cropping) in an emergency faced several challenges ranging from inclusion and exclusion errors. Targeting issues were continuously addressed through beneficiary verification process, consultations with traditional leaders, MVAC secretariat, continuous information sharing with all key stakeholders and implementation of effective and multiple complaints and feedback mechanisms as part of accountability to affected population. Linking of agricultural and food/cash emergency assistance to on-going resilience activities is of paramount importance and it requires a good understanding of pro-poor government programmes. Poor coordination among implementing partners and lack of ownership and shared vision among partners in the initiation stages of programme implementation were some of the challenges that were observed during the year. However, MVAC partners supported by the UN still managed to reach 118,000 households with targeted asset creation support as part of MVAC.

- Lack of meaningful awareness of both financial services broadly and digital financial services amongst most of the population, poor network connectivity and weak agent networks prove to impede advancement of financial services, especially in rural areas.
- While unprecedented amount of resources were mobilised for the food insecurity response, leading to a generally effective response, delayed and inadequate funding to meet full food ration assistance as well as the cash based transfers and agricultural support requirements still affected delivery of the humanitarian response. Delivery delays were also seen due to poor road access and unreliable electricity that lowered the capacity of local food suppliers. For instance, for the food assistance response, beneficiaries persistently received reduced rations for the non-cereal commodities and cash based transfers, while some required agricultural inputs were in short supply or unavailable.

## 2017 Emerging Priorities for Cluster One

- The drafting of the National Resilience Plan by government offers a good opportunity to address the causes and minimize the effects of climate change. Through the plan, a multi-sectoral approach to control floods, reduce food insecurity and grow exports, protect and manage the environment and catchments, enhance early warning system and provide social support interventions using a single monitoring and evaluation framework, enhanced coordination, pooling of resources and prioritization will be emphasised.
- Following the passing of National Agriculture Policy where Farmer Field School (FFS) are recognized as one of the approaches for enhancing livelihood diversification, the Department of Agriculture and Extension Services is keen to harmonise quality controls and assurance of the methodology and enhance coordination. This will help improve agriculture extension services within the framework of District Agricultural Extension Services System.
- Review of the NSSP provides an opportunity to explore potential linkages between social protection systems and the human response. The UN co-commissioned a policy and programme research piece with the World Bank and GIZ to the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre on how to scale up their support to households during a period elaborate social protection/humanitarian response linkages through the concept referred to as ‘shock-responsive sensitive social protection’, to be delivered in March 2017. Linkage between the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative and Purchase for Progress (P4P) is an innovation that the UN would like to test to build resilience of food and nutrition insecure households and sustainably promote smallholder agricultural development. Greater involvement of communities in the implementation and monitoring of humanitarian response and resilience supported projects has the potential to increase accountability by all stakeholders.
- There is need to do more awareness for social behaviour change through the humanitarian response as well further define how best complementary activities can be introduced, formalized and funded using the humanitarian response as a delivery platform linking with recovery, social protection and resilience building activities. More joint learning processes will be needed to inform future humanitarian responses that could be implemented differently.
- The piloting of the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) with the hope of upscaling it up over the coming years by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development will go a long way in enhancing coordination, targeting and documenting initiatives on social protection as well as harmonizing delivery of assistance between humanitarian and social protection as part of the broader resilience programming in the country and promoting complementarities between interventions.
- The Food Security Cluster intends to conduct a stakeholder consultative process to inform revision of the guidelines for provision of humanitarian food assistance to reflect emerging issues including cash based transfers and targeting. In addition, strengthened management capacity of the supply chain is needed for larger scale responses.
- After the enactment of the land and related bills, there is need to focus on developing a comprehensive roadmap for implementation to ensure that all areas requiring attention are addressed and all stakeholders are involved.

This requires continued support as the new land laws bring a lot of changes in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. Coupled with this, the new laws also demand coordination among various government ministries that have a stake in the land laws implementation. Of greater importance is also to establish a coordinating unit for the implementation of the land laws which will ensure that all players are doing their part.

- WFP in coordination with FAO and UNICEF will lead the UN support for the roll out of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in Malawi. The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity of food insecurity and provide actionable knowledge for decision support and is widely used across the SADC region. The IPC is needed to understand the multiple causes of food and nutrition insecurity to then influence program design, which requires several sources of data and consensus whilst bringing together information from various sectors. IPC provides core answers to six key questions: How severe is the situation? Where are the areas that are food insecure? How many people are food insecure? Who are the food insecure? When will people be food insecure? Why are people food insecure? The IPC Global Support Unit has provided Technical Support to the Government of Malawi by recruiting a consultant who is working with MVAC to review the IPC work plan in the country, listing key indicators to be used for analysis and scheduling IPC activities.

### ***Cluster Two: Social and Protection Services***

The UN's support to the government is having positive returns from interventions that include immunisation and treating common illnesses in the community and at health facilities. Malawi is now focusing on achieving the same positive results for maternal and newborn deaths, which have lagged behind. Births attended by skilled personnel increased to 91 percent in 2016 from 87 percent in 2015 and 71 percent in 2010. Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) increased to 58 percent in 2016 from 42 percent in 2010. Fertility rate is now at 4.4 children per woman from 5.7 in 2010. Furthermore, 183 women were repaired of obstetrical fistulae during the reporting period.

Through technical and financial support from the UN, the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement gained further momentum in 2016 as evidenced by a reduction in stunting across the country. Findings of the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) show a decreasing trend from 47.1 percent stunting in 2010 to 37.1 percent in 2015/16. Also noteworthy is the decline in anemia among women of child bearing age from 44 percent in 2004 to 32 percent in 2015/16 (MDHS, 2015-2016).

Significant progress has been made in creating an enabling environment for nutrition in Malawi, evidenced by continued support to the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) in the development of a National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan 2017-2021, the Food and Nutrition Bill, the Nutrition Care Support and Treatment (NCST) guidelines and updating of the SUN National Education and Communication Strategy 2017-2021.

Access to the Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme was maintained at 100 percent in 29 districts of Malawi, while Nutrition Care Support and Treatment (NCST) access was at 60 percent in 15 districts. As a result, the lives of 33,121 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children, 94,937 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) children, 44,228 MAM women and 50,000 ART/TB patients who recovered from SAM have been saved due to the scale up of CMAM and NCST service provision in 2016.

To support the National Food Insecurity Response, advocacy and joint technical leadership efforts helped raise US\$39 million (US\$23 million for UNICEF and US\$16 million to WFP) and an effective nutrition emergency response was scaled up in the 25 drought-affected districts. Coordination of the nutrition emergency response was

supported through UN technical leadership to the Nutrition Cluster.

With UN technical and financial support, a revised National Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation Framework aligned to the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan 2017-2021 is in place. In 2016, notable progress was made in strengthening the National Nutrition Information Systems (NNIS) in Malawi as evidenced by timely availability of critical nutrition situation data and accurate reporting of CMAM programme data.

Additionally, monitoring of the nutrition emergency was strengthened through partnership with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and DNHA, where the UN provided technical and financial support and successfully conducted two nutrition SMART surveys in all the seven livelihood zones in the country.

In districts targeted for nutrition support, capacities of communities and caregivers have been enhanced for community level nutrition counseling and support. A total of 228 community health workers against a target of 100 were trained to support Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling. WHO technical support to update CMAM guidelines in line with recent global updates has contributed to the creation of a conducive environment for the management of severe acute malnutrition.

According to the 2015 Update and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Assessment Report as per the WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), Malawi has met the MDG target on water supply, while making moderate progress towards achieving the MDG sanitation target. The report indicates that 90 percent of the population had access to clean water when compared to 42 percent in 1990 (JMP 2015). In terms of sanitation, 41 percent of the population in 2015 had access to improved sanitation compared to 29 percent in 1990 (JMP 2015).

Malawi is one of the 16 countries that reduced open defecation by 25 percentage points, during the MDG period, to 4 percent. It should be indicated that the situation is not likely to change on annual basis, however efforts are being made to sustain these coverages. Key players in the sector, apart from the UN, that contributed to the outcome include the World Bank, African Development Bank, EU, DFID, Water Aid and JICA.

Communities in rural and peri-urban areas of Malawi continued to benefit from access to integrated safe water supply, sanitation, hygiene and environmental health services in 2016 which was sustained at 2015 levels due to UN support.

There was modest progress in access to quality education and adolescent friendly development services in 2016. The primary net enrolment rate remains high at 98 percent. The primary completion rate for girls and GPI in Standard 8 stayed at 47 percent and 0.88 respectively. The biggest change was notable in early care and development with an increase in Net Enrolment Rate (NER) by three percentage points from 41 to 44 percent.

The UN supported improving the policy environment through:

- i. the development of policy and strategic frameworks such as reviewing of an Early Childhood Development (ECD) policy, review of the youth policy, finalisation of the National School Health and Nutrition Policy completion of sector studies and analyses for advocacy purposes;
- ii. the mobilisation of additional predictable resources: ECD advocacy led to new US\$ 1 million government

allocation, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) allocated US\$ 45 million while a Common Funding Mechanisms (CFM) was initiated with UN support, and there was nearly 300 percent increase in funding for the youth/adolescent sector.

The UN contributed to improving access to quality services in four ways:

- i. Community Based Childcare Centres (CBCCs) increased from 10,000 to 11,000 centres and 21,000 children received school meals through the centres;
- ii. Performance Based Financing (PBF) helped achieve 55 percent of UN targeted schools to meet the quality standards;
- iii. 35,000 adolescents accessed adolescent friendly services;
- iv. Under the School Meals project, the UN supported 748 Primary schools in 13 districts reaching 978,873 learners in 13 districts.

The UN support also improved learning outcomes and a review of teacher training curriculum was initiated while a functional literacy programme for out-of-school adolescents was adopted by the Ministry of Labour, Youth, Sports and Manpower Development.

The UN also contributed to economic empowerment of farmers through creation of markets for supply of diversified food commodities at school level through the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM), a school meals model where locally produced food is sourced by the schools themselves to provide school meals to students unlike a centralised model where food is sourced by UN and delivered at the schools for provision of school meals. The HGSM model is supported by UN's market development support initiative, Purchase for Progress (P4P), which links smallholder farmers to markets.

To improve access to education for rural children in Malawi, the UN supported the government to implement the School Meals Programme (SMP) covering 819 schools (89 on HGSM, 71 Emergency School Meals and 659 on centralised model) and 93 ECDs in two districts of Nsanje and Chikwawa. The programme reached a total of 979,246 learners while the ECD programme reached 18,567 under five children. Take Home Ration (THR) cash was provided to all girls and orphan boys from Standard 5 to 8 in two districts under the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education (JPGE) throughout the year while THR food was provided to the four most food insecure districts upon 80 percent attendance. In response to the food insecurity situation in Malawi, emergency school meals were introduced in 71 schools targeting four most food insecure districts reaching 58,700 learners.

To strengthen government capacity in managing the School Meals Programme (SMP), the UN supported the development of the National School Health and Nutrition (NSHN) policy which was finalised and signed by the four key Ministries of Education, Gender, Health and Agriculture. This will help strengthen the legal framework for the programme and ensure government prioritization of the SMP in the National budget.

In addition, WFP in collaboration with GIZ supported the School Meals Best Practices study which documented key characteristics of the various models and made proposals on how government can implement a successful government owned School Meals programme based on the context. Capacity building for the districts and communities included aspects of financial management, transparency and accountability, school meals and commodity management, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation. To promote quality meals, WFP completed construction

of 44 school meals infrastructure (kitchens, storerooms and feeding shelters) in 44 schools in three districts.

More children, women and adolescent girls were able to access preventative and responsive protection services at national, district and community levels during the year. Further to this, the protective workforce was supported to continue delivering appropriate protective services in the communities. 10 percent more women and children accessed police victim support units. Similarly, 10 percent more people benefited from the national helpline through referrals and counseling services.

Girls in schools benefited from a 40 percent reduction in the incidence of rape in the Safe School pilot districts. 57 percent more child victims of violence had their cases registered at Child Justice Courts.

District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC) members (16 females and 59 males) have been able to provide training to food monitors on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse during the food distribution, which has enabled better implementation of the 18 Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. In addition, 10 district trainers and 159 Area and Village Child Protection Committees (CPCs) are aware of the 18 Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies following the orientation conducted.

40,395 children aged under five years (20,293 boys and 20,102 girls) were registered by the recently established National Registration Bureau (NRB), representing a registration rate of just over 2,500 records per month compared with only 3,485 registrations in 2015.

During the year, the UN, Government officials, parliamentarians, paramount chiefs, civil society and development partners were engaged in awareness raising and high-level advocacy towards preventing and responding to harmful cultural practices including child marriage. This was greatly facilitated by the momentum gained during the visit of the Special Representative to the UN Secretary General (SRSG) on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, to follow up on progress since the launch of the Violence against Children Survey (VACS) and Response in March 2015, with a specific focus on harmful traditional practices. Traditional Authority Mwanza in Salima established itself as a role model on elimination of harmful cultural practices and was shared as a best practice with the SRSG.

Appeals by UN agencies, including a UNCT statement on harmful cultural practices issued in July 2016 and Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare's efforts around harmful cultural practices contributed to advocacy for successful prosecution, conviction and sentencing of the Eric Aniva case under the Gender Equality Act. This was the first conviction secured under the Act.

Furthermore, in terms of advocacy on the age of the child, a draft issues paper was developed to guide the proposed amendments to the Constitution. A total of 1,746 GBV cases were reported following the dissemination of translated gender related laws which strengthened the legal literacy among communities. Out of the reported GBV cases, 178 were brought to formal courts for prosecution, 188 domestic violence cases prosecuted using the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA) in 2016 alone compared to only 47 that were documented in the previous years. The one 'Gender Responsive Bylaw Framework' was further developed with key stakeholders.

The protection of women and children was further enhanced through the finalization and the launch of the GBV National Action Plan (NAP). In terms of normative progress, the CEDAW treaty was translated into vernacular

languages, with the assistance of the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC). In addition, a total of 879 GBV cases were handled in One Stop Centres (OSCs). Out of these, 440 cases were referred to police where 312 of them were successfully concluded, noting a significant improvement through follow up facilitated through UN support.

## Joint Programmes

### *(a) Joint Programme on Girls Education*

In partnership with the Government, the UN in Malawi strengthened the modelling of a Joint Programme on Girls Education (JPGE), which aims to improve access, quality and relevance of education for girls, through a holistic and human rights-based approach. The programme, supported through the One UN Fund by the Royal Norwegian Embassy, focuses on girls from Standard 5 to 8 due to increased risk of dropouts and reduced school retention during this period, targeting 81 primary schools in five education zones across three districts of Salima (34 schools), Mangochi (33 schools) and Dedza (14 schools). The JPGE provided a model of an integrated multi-interventional programme that will be scaled up and replicated in 25 percent of primary schools in the coming year.

Since the joint programme started in 2014, enrolment and attendance have increased in the supported schools as a result of school meals and attendance incentives, reduced violence in schools, improved teacher attitudes and skills, provision of sexuality education and sexual reproductive health services as well as activities aimed at improving communities' attitudes towards girls' education. The following are some of the key results of JPGE:

- Total enrolment has increased by 34 percent in Salima, 20 percent in Dedza and 33 percent in Mangochi. Currently, the total enrolment in supported primary schools per district is as follows: Salima – about 40,000 students, Dedza – about 16,000 students, and Mangochi – about 40,500 students;
- Decline in dropout rates in the three districts from 7.4 percent at baseline to 5.5 percent during the mid-term review, an indication of the effectiveness of its comprehensive approach that simultaneously addresses the key threats to girls' education. Salima district has registered a 69 percent decrease, Mangochi, a 37 percent decrease whilst Dedza has seen a 41 percent decline over a span of two academic years;
- The number of girls sitting for Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations (PSLCE) has increased from the first year of the programme to date. As of the end of the 2015/16 academic year, the number of girls sitting for the PSLCE increased by about 25 percent in Salima, about 33 percent in Dedza, and about 10 percent in Mangochi;
- The pass rate for the PSLCE in supported schools in Salima has significantly improved (with schools in Katelera Zone improving from 70 percent to 77 percent, schools in Lifidzi Zone improving from 82 percent to 93 percent, and schools in Ngolowindo Zone improving from 80 percent to 81 percent). In Mangochi, the pass rate for the two JPGE zones has improved from 53 percent to 71 percent. In Dedza district, Chimbiya Zone has recorded an improvement of girls' pass rate from 76 percent to 79 percent;
- Results show that by December 2016, the programme was providing school meals to more than 96,400 students across the three districts with funding for both Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) and Take Home Rations (THR) continuing to be channeled to schools through the District Councils. By December 2016, the programme was reaching 91 percent of students with THR;
- The Mid Term Review recommended that the HGSM model be expanded to other districts for it has the potential to bring more children to school and help build local economies;

- The Mid Term Review also recommended the need to address the issue of school infrastructure, especially learning space, which has been constrained as a result of project intervention gains such as increased enrolment, reduced dropout and readmission of girls.

### ***(b) Nutrition – REACH***

In 2016, the UN, through the REACH project, strengthened nutrition governance, by supporting the updating of policy and legal frameworks for nutrition. High level advocacy and engagement of key stakeholders in nutrition resulted in the successful updating of the National Nutrition Policy 2017-2021, and adoption of the policy by cabinet in November 2016. To support implementation of the National Nutrition Policy, a National Nutrition Strategic Plan and M&E framework 2017-2021 is now in place which has clear targets for nutrition in line with the global World Health Assembly Targets and the SDGs.

The UN also strengthened coordination of the national nutrition response, as evidenced by the establishment of various nutrition governance structures which are providing oversight and coordination functions, policy and technical guidance, and high level advocacy for resource allocation towards the national nutrition response. Technical support and facilitation of coordination meetings was provided to Cabinet Committee on Sustainable Social Development which includes Nutrition, Principal Secretary Committee on Nutrition HIV and AIDS, Parliamentary Committee on Nutrition HIV and AIDS and the Government Development Partners Committee which resulted in nutrition being mainstreamed into key sectoral policies and strategies.

In 2016, nutrition targets were effectively mainstreamed into ministries of health and agriculture. At sub-national level, technical support was provided towards strengthening the capacity of 20 District Nutrition Coordination Committees (DNCCs) and three City Councils. This has resulted in a systematic process of strengthening of the 20 DNCCs, based on their capacity gaps and resulted in improved DNCC capacity for multi-sectoral nutrition program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The strengthening of the capacity of the 20 DNCCs has also resulted in strengthened collaboration amongst key line ministries and leveraging of other sector resources towards nutrition program targets at district level. Resource pooling by DNCCs towards nutrition, has also resulted in a scale up in the coverage of high impact nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific interventions.

In terms of UN coordination, notable progress was made in strengthening collaboration of UN agencies, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and FAO towards delivering as one. This resulted in effective joint planning and programming for Nutrition under Outcome 2.2 for UNDAF as well as an effective joint implementation of the nutrition emergency response. Progress was made, in strengthening of government capacity for multi-sectoral coordination and ensuring that the National Multi-Sectoral Committee for Nutrition is functional under the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) umbrella.

The UN Nutrition thematic group (UNICEF, WFP, WHO and FAO) extended financial and technical support to the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) in conducting a joint review of progress in implementation of the SUN movement, which resulted in four out of the five SUN networks compiling and preparing the annual SUN Self-assessment progress report for 2015. This stock taking has generated evidence on where gaps still exist in implementation of SUN in Malawi, and guided program prioritization for 2016-2017 for stakeholders in nutrition.

The UN extended its technical support towards strengthening of the national Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks. There is now in existence of the National Nutrition Multi-Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (NNMEF) which has a reduced number of indicators based on concept of essential data and key indicators for nutrition. The NNMEF is aligned with strategic plan and the National Nutrition Policy. Eighteen districts were trained in the use of the NNMEF at district level which has resulted in improved use of data for decision making and program prioritization at district level.

Additionally, REACH support resulted in the integration of nutrition information systems to have a single platform for key sectors (health, agriculture, education, gender) data. Key nutrition indicators have been integrated into the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) for 12 key indicators of nutrition rehabilitation unit (NRUs), outpatient therapeutic Programme (OTPs) and supplementary feeding programme (SFP) which provides district/national status/progress in acute malnutrition. A dashboard is now in existence that enables near real time monitoring of the community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) program.

Parallel data systems and a lack of integration of nutrition indicators into the DHIS2 had resulted in parallel and fragmented reporting of nutrition data which was addressed in 2016 through the integration of CMAM data in the DHIS2. More support is required to ensure the timely submissions of the reports from the district levels.

To strengthen monitoring of budgetary allocation for nutrition programming, DNHA was supported in the development of a financial resource tracking system to track the budget allocations and expenditure of nutrition from various stakeholders. The tracking system is now functional and helps to identify financial gaps and facilitates resource mobilisation for key nutrition program areas. In 2016, there were 20 partners who reported their financial budget allocations and expenditure in the nutrition resource tracking system. Information from the system has been used by Civil Society Network for SUN in Malawi, in the development of parliamentary briefs, and resulted in CSONA conducting two high level advocacy events.

## Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- The allocation to the health budget continues to be low. In the 2015/16 financial year, the sector received MK85.86 billion or about 9 percent of the total budget (below the Abuja target of 15 percent). Allocations to districts do not reflect a needs-based prioritization and the districts face challenges to provide quality health services. Drug theft/pilferage and accountability in public hospitals continues to be a huge problem and this further cripples the health sector from delivering the much-needed services. Low motivation among government staff leads to failure to sustain the gains or results achieved over time. There is need to provide non-monetary incentives to such staff especially those working in hard to reach facilities. Prevention of stock-outs is critical for service delivery.
- Exclusive breastfeeding has dropped from 71 percent from 2010 to 61 percent in 2015-2016 and the same with minimum acceptable diets from 10 percent in 2010 to 8 percent in 2015/16. The contributing factors could be cultural beliefs. A nutrition programme bottleneck analysis conducted in October 2016, showed that capacity for IYCF counseling and support is only 34 percent, hence Front Line Workers (FLWs) may not be providing adequate and relevant IYCF counseling and support to ensure continuity of optimal feeding practices as per the requirement as they lack skills and capacity to deliver IYCF.

- The Nutrition sector has depended on external budgetary support with little contribution from government. Coordination in the Nutrition sector has proved to be a challenge in 2016. The Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS is no longer under the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) and this has created a significant challenge for the multi-sectoral coordination of the nutrition sector. Subsequently, coordination is also weak in some districts.
- The country continues to face multitude of economic and natural disaster related challenges. In view of the limited domestic financial base and following the withholding of budgetary support by donors, the current government allocation towards WASH has further been reduced to about 0.1 percent of the GDP in contrast to the Thekwini Declaration (2008) and Sharm El-Sheik Commitment (2008) which sets an annual expenditure target of at least 1.5 percent of GDP. This has created more difficulties for the government to reach more communities while sustaining the existing WASH services. Most importantly, critical staff at local level do not have the necessary financial resources to monitor programmes and support communities. In such circumstances supervision, follow ups, monitoring and reporting are not undertaken effectively.
- Sanitation faces challenges in achieving the targets due to issues like collapsing of the latrines due to poor soil structures. In some communities, the households are able to reconstruct the latrines while in other communities that does not happen. In these communities, there is no continuity and sustainability which affects the achievement of the targets and defeats the attainment of an Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in Malawi.
- There were changes to the scope of work for water kiosks and for schools' water connections in the targeted urban sites that necessitated changes to the designs which also had budget implications. Identification of extra resources and the need to amend Agreements of Cooperation with implementing partners took some time and delayed delivery of these two components of the project. A project period extension has been agreed for four months ending April 2017.
- Prolonged rains in Mzuzu and Karonga in 2016 adversely affected progress particularly regarding toilets that were at foundation stage and excavation for pipe laying. To overcome this, planning of activities is paying attention to weather conditions at the time of planned execution.
- Intersectoral integration and inter-ministerial collaboration remains a key challenge, in particular for early care and out of school youth and adolescents. Lessons learnt from the JPGE will be adopted to address these underserved groups.
- The economic situation, a limited government budget and donor restrictions such as on use of government systems to channel funds and provision of daily subsistence allowances continued to restrict government participation in key events and capacity building initiatives aimed at supporting Government to implement programmes. Based on previous successes, increasing government budget advocacy and supporting resource mobilisation efforts will be a focus.
- During the drought and refugee emergency, there was notably low participation in the education cluster meetings and activities at national and district levels. In 2017, it will be necessary to recruit a dedicated Cluster Coordinator to strengthen partner and government response to education in emergencies.
- Development of Information Management Systems was slow and the establishment of the Real-Time Monitoring (RTM) was delayed which impacted on progress assessment as well as planning.
- Limited incentive for cross-sectoral planning resulting in weak linkages and referrals across sectors to provide quality continuum of care for survivors of violence i.e. health, police, justice, social welfare.
- Weak coordination points among the line Ministries on joint human rights work with the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) need to be addressed to avoid late submission of reports by key stakeholders.

- Some primary schools under the JPGE fail to adhere to the monthly reporting schedule. This affects consistent flow of funds to the schools and the districts resulting in temporary food pipeline breaks and delays in provision of Take Home Rations. District review meetings, joint monitoring visits and the Annual Technical Review meeting have provided opportunities for discussions and agreements on key actions and deadlines.
- Poor record keeping and lack of adherence to procurement processes in some primary schools under the JPGE were some of the accountability issues identified in risk assessments conducted to identify key risks and ways of mitigating them. Financial spot checks, joint monitoring visits with Government and review meetings at district and community levels were conducted to raise awareness and emphasize the need for transparency and accountability.
- Due to food insecurity, there was a general increase in food commodity prices which affected the JPGE. In addition, the capacity of some farmer organizations to produce and supply adequate and diversified food quantities was limited. This led to procurement of required commodities from other sources at a higher price. The programme is in the process of introducing competitive procurement processes, whilst the Ministry of Agriculture will continuously disseminate food prices and monitor procurement processes.
- Despite some of comprehensive sexuality education topics being integrated into the Malawian Life Skills curricula, open and informed discussions, including on human sexuality, are not commonly taught by teachers in schools. Furthermore, parents do not feel comfortable to discuss sex and sexuality issues with their children. However, the programme has successfully learnt that working with community members (parents, cultural leaders) ensures health and educational programmes achieve their intended aims. Innovative approaches and collaborations are necessary if girls and young women are to realize their fullest potential as useful and responsible citizens of the country.

## 2017 Emerging Priorities

- The new HSSP will provide opportunities to look at the emerging priorities and to revise the Essential Health Package (EHP) in line with the most up to date evidence on the most cost effective interventions and on the burden of disease. Ministry of Health will also need more support to mobilise resources using the Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EMONC) investment plan, and to increase investment on youth friendly health services, to scale up the Human Pappiloma Virus (HPV) vaccine and operationalize the cervical cancer strategy. Malawi is committed to pursuing the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda within the framework of the Vision 2020, Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II & III and the Health Sector Strategic Plan II (2017-2022). The UHC aims to ensure all people access essential and good quality health services they need. The HSSPII broad outcomes include: reducing the following indicators: Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000), Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000), Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000), Under five Mortality Rate (per 1,000), Total Fertility Rate, Adolescent Pregnancy Rate, child stunting, percentage of 1-year-old children fully immunised, and increasing the per capita expenditure on health and the Government total expenditure on health as a percentage of total government expenditure.
- While CMAM programs have a nationwide coverage, there is need to continue strengthening MOH capacity for quality treatment. Nutrition program support, supervision and mentorship on IYCF service delivery has not been implemented over the past five years due to funding constraints, hence quality of service provision is hampered. In 2017, the focus of UN support will be on improving IYCF through community and facility based approaches and monitoring of IYCF activities. Need to improve quality of treatment at NRUs, as there is evidence that the availability of essential materials and access to quality services by staffs are inadequate.

- In mass screening, there is need to improve the referral mechanism and linkages to ensure all the children are admitted at health facilities. The CMAM commodities and supply chain need to be enhanced to ensure the consistent availability of the lifesaving supplies. There is need to make a mechanism to track supplies weekly for establishing effective and efficient supply mechanism.
- The UN will take advantage of the Development Partner Group to co-lead sector coordination along with MoAIWD in leveraging funds, development and review of policies, strategies and guidelines in the WASH sector considering the SDGs. Specifically, the SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) calls for making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Water and sanitation provision especially for the urban poor is central to this. The SDGs and the NUA provide the opportunity to advocate for and mobilise more resources for urban WASH in Malawi. The next National Development Strategy and the UNDAF processes will provide the opportunities to integrate this in the national programming instruments.
- The Joint Girls' Education Project will be a priority for demonstrating joint programming and programme convergence among UN agencies. Also, the existing initiative will be replicated and scaled up.
- Three initiatives to improve quality with a focus on learning outcomes and school learning environments will include the following:
  - i) teacher curriculum reviews;
  - ii) implementation of functional literacy curriculum, and
  - iii) continued piloting of the performance-based financing of the school improvement programme.
- Continued strengthening and development of Management Information Systems (MIS) especially completion of the ongoing capacity building for EMIS and establishment of the YouthMIS.
- Advocacy for development of key policy on teacher development and management as well as strengthening of legal framework for ECD.
- The SRSG's visit brought together various government officials, parliamentarians, paramount chiefs, civil society and donors on Violence against Women and Children with a specific focus on harmful traditional practices. The outcome can build on this momentum to strengthen national commitment towards battling VAC as well as ending harmful cultural practices.
- Intensified media coverage and reporting of the recent human rights violations against persons with albinism, have led to increased support for the national response plan through the UN Human Rights Window which responds to attacks against persons with albinism and implementation of the UN Independent Expert's recommendations, although there is much to be done.
- The new 'One Gender Responsive by law Framework' presents opportunities for partners to now institutionalize the framework and monitor progress and success in ending harmful cultural practices, complementing the monitoring of the gender related SDGs.
- Efforts need to be intensified to increased uptake of contraceptives by sexually active unmarried young women and all women of child bearing age.

### ***Cluster Three: HIV/AIDS***

The UN and its partners supported capacity building of national institutions to deliver evidence-based high impact combination prevention and treatment services. Key among these are the National Sex Workers Alliance, Malawi Police Service, the Judiciary, traditional structures and networks of adolescents and young people living with HIV which are equipped to design, implement and monitor HIV services.

Sex work networks were reconstituted in Dedza, Mchinji, Nkhata Bay, Mangochi and Chiradzulu enabling sex worker communities to gain peer support and access services at 'friendly' drop-in centres. An increasing number of sex workers accessed condoms and other sexual reproductive health (SRH) services, including sexually transmitted infections (STI) treatment. Condom uptake among sex workers increased from below 50 percent in 2015 to 74 percent in 2016. This increased uptake in condoms correlates with a decreasing number of STI cases reported over the same period suggesting that condoms are being used by sex workers. UN Agencies in close collaboration with national partners are establishing the National Sex Worker Alliance to facilitate coordination and management of associations of sex workers and advocate for sex workers rights access to HIV services.

Interpretation of the rogue and vagabond laws is gradually changing especially where magistrates and the Malawi Police Service have been trained and oriented on the interpretation of the laws resulting in fewer arrests and prosecutions. There are reported cases of sex workers who are allowed access to treatment even when they are in police custody unlike previously when they were denied such services.

A critical mass of educators has been trained online on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). This has resulted in fewer Sexual and Gender Based Violence cases being reported in some secondary schools in the country especially where teachers are actively delivering the subject. Sexual and Gender Based Violence are a precursor to the spread of HIV among adolescent and young girls. Reduction of such cases indicates reduction in the spread of HIV among adolescent and young girls. Teachers have also been trained in face to face sessions on how to deliver CSE at classroom level. This has increased teachers' confidence to deliver the subject and especially on sensitive topics.

Young People Living with HIV have been actively engaged in HIV programmes, including Teen Clubs, peer support, and outreach services. The UN supported the establishment of a network of Young People Living with HIV (YPlus), which is advocating for young people access to HIV prevention and treatment services. This has resulted in enhanced positive living as demonstrated through positive outcomes in school grades.

A new approach has been adopted for advancing advocacy work on the HIV bill which is now focusing on transformational dialogue with various key sectors of society to address key population issues. The 'leave no one behind' focus of the 2030 Agenda on SDGs is being used as an entry point for engagement to advocate for the inclusion of access to health issues for key populations so that no one is left behind in the fight against HIV and AIDS. A regional 'Think Tank on HIV, Health and Social Justice engaged with stakeholders through a series of eight round table discussions with key constituency i.e. Development partners, NGOs, CSO, UN, academia, Law Society, religious leaders, Members of Parliament, traditional leaders and government officials among others. To date more than 300 stakeholders have been engaged in this dialogue through the round table discussions which is expected to lead to more tolerance for dialogue as a starting point to demystify LGBTI issues and address the minimum health package for key populations. A report on the recommendations made by the regional think tank will inform further strategies in 2017 on how to proceed as there is still some underlying resistance to the proposed changes particularly on policy and legal instruments.

Several studies, reports and policies have been finalised and disseminated which have generated evidence to inform policy and practice which is key for creating an enabling environment for implementation. The UN supported the implementation of the Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA), the Demographic Health

Survey (DHS) and the Spectrum Estimates, which have provided critical HIV information for effective programming. Additionally, the Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS supported MANET+ to conduct the 2016 stigma index study, which in comparison with the 2012 study shows significant decline in stigma and discrimination against PLHIV in the Country. The Transport Sector; Informal Sector policy on HIV and AIDS; the Occupational Safety Health and Welfare Act of 1997 were reviewed by the members of the tripartite constituents, thus the government, Employers and Workers Organizations. Monthly analysis of nutritional status of the adolescents and adults especially those on ART/TB treatment from the Nutrition Care Support and Treatment (NCST) data in DHIS was supported. This information assisted in projecting the nutritional needs and resource mobilisation to address the nutritional needs. A comprehensive analysis of available data to understand the effects of natural shocks (floods/droughts) on the nutrition status of people living with HIV (PLHIV) is underway.

More equally pertinent studies are underway such as the study on access to health services for Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) undertaken by Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP) in collaboration with College of Medicine. Results are expected in the first quarter of 2017. The study aims to establish information that will help to improve access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) among Key Populations (KPs) to overcome barriers for accessing SRH services, describe the available intervention measures and preferred delivery modalities for and with KPs. Dissemination of the HIV Prevalence and Socio-behavioral Characteristics among Men Who Have Sex with Men in seven sites of Malawi was also done. National Association of People Living with HIV in Malawi (NAPHAM) was supported to operationalise a real-time monitoring SMS platform to compile and address complaints by PLHIV on discrimination and stock-out of ARVs and cotrimoxazole in health facilities.

Progress has been made to involve, support and engage Traditional Leaders in line with the One Chiefs bylaw framework to curb HIV/AIDS and early pregnancies. With support from UN Women and UNAIDS, One Chiefs' Bylaws Framework has been developed under sections 103 to 107 of the Local Government Act (Cap.22:01) of the Laws of Malawi. The framework will guide the local councils when formulating bylaws to facilitate the implementation, enforcement and monitoring of the Gender related laws and HIV and AIDS. The framework will fill in the gaps of enforcement, implementation and monitoring of gender related laws and HIV and AIDS and therefore strengthen the capacity of traditional leaders to develop coherent bylaws that respond to the needs of their communities.

The UN, through UN Women and UNFPA, has facilitated the establishment of Chiefs and Chiefs' Wives councils in some districts of the country (Karonga and Chitipa) as a step towards efforts to address harmful cultural practices and HIV/AIDS, thus, protecting women and girls from abuse. Traditional leaders in Malawi have been central to combating harmful cultural practices, most notably, Senior Chief Kachindamoto. Through the support of UN Women, documentation of effective strategies undertaken by Senior Chief Kachindamoto have been documented and used by fellow chiefs in addressing issues such as ending child marriages, amongst others.

UN Women, in collaboration with UNAIDS and UNICEF, led a coordinated response to a court case against Eric Aniva on harmful cultural practices. Eric Aniva, an HIV positive man was arrested following a BBC report in which he bragged of having slept with 104 women and girls as young as 12 and kept quiet about his HIV positive status in Nsanje District. This harmful practice involved sexual cleansing. The support towards legal representative of the Ministry of Gender Children Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW) in the state prosecution case resulted in the sentencing of Aniva to 24 months for the first count of harmful cultural practices under the section five of the Gender Equality Act. This is the first time that a gender related legislation has been used in the court of

law in the country. The MoGCDSW developed the Gender, HIV and AIDS Implementation Plan to enhance the Ministry's leadership in promoting a gender transformative HIV response and address particularly the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection.

Significant progress has also been made in Institutionalizing demographic and economic modeling of HIV national response and strengthen the decentralized M&E system for the national response. This has been done through generation and disseminated of draft HIV estimates for five regions in Malawi i.e. Northern, Central, Southern, Lilongwe and Blantyre; and production of draft sub-regional fact sheets which will be finalised after the release of the Population Based HIV Survey results in 2017. Support to Government to meet the global commitment and reporting requirements, using data generated from the districts e.g. quarter three of 2016, Malawi placed as many as 42,000 people on life-saving ART.

UNAIDS and UNFPA supported the office of the First Lady, who is the currently the president for Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV and AIDS (OAFLA) to champion high level advocacy on eliminating mother to child transmission of HIV, reducing HIV infection among adolescents and young girls, addressing cervical cancer particularly among young women Living With HIV and harmful cultural practices including child marriage.

In general, Malawi has encouraging results in better controlling the epidemic (MPHIA, routine data) and the UN/UN Joint Team through the work of Cluster Three has been a key contributor to the national response.

### ***Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights***

With the UN support, a country assessment on the cycle of accountability for sexual, reproductive, maternal child and neonatal health and human rights in Malawi, was finalised pursuant to a multi stakeholder process, in coordination with the Ministry of Health Reproductive Health Directorate, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO. Similarly, a Public Inquiry report prepared by the Malawi Human Rights Commission on the status of sexual and reproductive health rights was also finalised.

In line with the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms to Malawi, the Country Assessment and Public inquiry highlighted a number of policy gaps, including the lack of the explicit recognition of the right to health in the Constitution, the lack of a comprehensive law on sexual and reproductive health, the continued criminalisation of abortion under the Penal Code, the criminalisation of same sex sexual relations under the Penal Code, the failure to enact comprehensive HIV legislation, the need to complete the Public Health Act (1949) review and the need to ensure the Constitutional age of marriage rises to 18 in line with the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act. The reports also analysed in depth the issue of service delivery, current mechanism for accountability and redress and budgeting for sexual and reproductive health, and made series of recommendations.

Pursuant to the above reports, an action plan arising from the 2015 multi stakeholder dialogue on sexual and reproductive health rights was adopted in September 2016, followed by dissemination of both reports, open air-sensitisation meetings and trainings of NGOs around the provisions of the reports. Through its work with IPAS, the UN also supported high level meetings around the Termination of Pregnancy Bill with MPs, religious leaders, traditional leaders and Government officials which examined the magnitude of unsafe abortion aimed at ensuring increased support for the Bill, which expands on the exceptions to the prohibition on abortion. In 2016, the UN also supported constitutional litigation aimed at repealing the sodomy law provisions of the Penal Code. In

collaboration with Ministry of Justice, the UN supported work aimed at revising the Constitutional age of marriage, and supported briefings of Members of Parliament aimed at taking forward the draft HIV (Prevention and Management Bill).

## Challenges and lessons learnt

- Punitive laws on key populations and sex work still exist. The existence of these laws in Malawi hampers access to services for key populations in general and sex workers. In some cases, the interpretation of the laws is wrong. A case in point is the well documented case of sex workers in Dedza who were arrested and prosecuted under these laws. The sex workers however successfully sued the government for wrongful arrest and won the case. Although the legal challenge to their arrest succeeded, the wrongful arrests of sex workers raises concern regarding implementation of HIV prevention and treatment services. In 2017 plans are in place to reach out and sensitize the Malawi Police and the Judiciary in all police and magistrate courts on the laws related to sex work and human rights of sex workers.
- The slow rolling out of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) due to cultural factors on sexuality issues and few teachers trained on CSE to deliver the subject is also a challenge. Continued CSE training for teachers will be done and is likely to increase the number of teachers to teach the subject in the school. The online teacher training is cost effective and can reach more teachers than the conventional in service (class) teaching. Also, due to limited budgetary allocations to schools, supplementary text books for CSE beyond the approved textbooks are also not readily available to learners and students. In most cases the duration for the training is very short due to funding constraints and teachers find the training to be inadequate.
- Finalising documents that are key to implementation e.g. the Sector Wide Independent Institutional Review of the National HIV and Aids Response, could address most of the leadership issues that are being experienced particularly from government's side and National AIDS Commission (NAC).
- There is need for more realistic planning with less activities that have strategic focus for efficiency; more joint monitoring missions and stronger linkages with output 3.1 which is on prevention and treatment; and more coordination among agencies where similar cause is being advocated for.
- There is need to enhance mobilization of relevant UN agencies to have a coordinated response to addressing harmful cultural practices an issue impacting negatively on the HIV and AIDS response. It is critical that in 2017 and beyond, we maximize on impact and use resources available by employing this UN coordinated approach strategize together as the UN.
- Continued use of a multi-sectoral approach involving different sectors and NGOs ensures more focused efforts, results and utilization of a pool of varied expertise.
- Frequent follow up on the engagement with traditional leaders, their spouses, students in high tertiary education has been a success in promoting gender equality but at the same time enable the vulnerable to participate in the advocacy of HIV and AIDS response.

## 2017 Emerging Priorities

- The Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment highlighted young women's vulnerability to HIV. Addressing young women's access to HIV prevention services will be a priority in 2017.
- The UN and partners should support the Ministry of Education to train Regional CSE training teams to cascade face to face training into the education divisions so that more teachers undergo the training.

- Given that the current UNDAF ends this December and extension has been granted for up to 2018, more emphasis need to be put on getting clarity on the UN's strategic focus on how it will support the National Response Plan on HIV and AIDS going forward.

### ***Cluster Four: Governance and Human Rights***

UN's technical and financial support has led to a more coherent and structured response to democratic governance challenges. Through financial support, policy advice, thought leadership and technical analysis strategic plans for the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Malawi Prisons Services and the Judiciary but also Office of the Ombudsman were developed and aligned to the Democratic Governance Sector Strategy. These policy documents provide guidance for sector institutions to aggregate results and accelerate impact. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is a critical tool for measuring progress and sustained monitoring of results. Furthermore, UN support has led to the establishment of a human rights unit in Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, providing an entry point for advancing the human rights agenda with the executive arm of government.

With support from the joint UN Development Effectiveness and Accountability Programme (DEAP), funded by the EU and the UN, Malawi successfully hosted the 9th Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). The Programme also facilitated Malawi's participation in international development effectiveness forums, including the Second Round of GPEDC Monitoring Survey. There has been improvement in policy dialogue between Government and key stakeholders including development partners and non-state actors. The Second-High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness was held on 1st June 2016 under the theme 'Working together for sustainable development in Malawi'. The High-Level Forum was preceded by the Development Cooperation Group (DCG) on 23rd March 2016 which deliberated on how to strengthen development cooperation and how different stakeholders can effectively work together for greater development results, including more concerted action on how to break the cycle of chronic food insecurity. This resulted in a commitment by the Government to develop a National Resilience Plan, articulating its priorities for programme alignment in a manner that would improve household resilience to shocks.

Government rolled out Programme Based Budgeting (PBB) to all MDAs and PBB was formally approved by the Parliament. The 2016/17 national budget structure adopted the PBB format and was presented in the State of Nation Address by the President. MDAs and MPs were trained on PBB structures, templates and performance indicators. Principal Secretaries and Chief Directors (Controlling Officers) were also briefed on major PBB concepts. All MDAs have since adopted the PBB which replaces output based budgeting thereby strengthening the linkage between resource allocations and strategic policy objectives.

The improved provision of data through the Aid Management Platform (AMP) which informed the recent Development Cooperation Atlas Report has shown continued commitment by all stakeholders in advancing transparency of aid flows. Through the AMP, the Ministry of Finance is now able to analyze flow of funds, assess sectoral and geographical distribution, and engage in meaningful dialogue on allocation of resources. The data generated from the AMP is key to both donors and government in relation to donor commitments, aid negotiations, and follow up.

A draft bill on the establishment of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) was developed and approved during the December 2017 Parliament sitting. The mandate of the Commission will have wide scope

regarding public policy formulation and economic and development planning in Malawi. With support from the UN, consultants were engaged to support government in formulating the next National Development Strategy 2017-2022 and the establishment of the National Development Planning Commission.

A work plan on the domestication of the agenda 2030 and the SDGs was developed to initiate, in the immediate term, a consultative process that will lay the foundation for the process of localizing and prioritizing Agendas 2030, 2063 and other international commitments into the national agenda. A series of trainings and awareness sessions have been conducted to support Government MDAs to build awareness on the SDGs and capacity on how to integrate them in planning processes.

In the area of human rights, the UN noted with concern a substantial increase in attacks against persons with albinism in Malawi in 2016. Per the Police, 105 incidents were reported between 2014 and 2016, most of them against women and children. The UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of the human rights by persons with albinism visited Malawi, 18-30 April, 2016 at the invitation of the Government highlighting that the atrocities render persons with albinism as an endangered group facing a risk of systemic extinction over time if nothing is done to stem the tide. In June and July, the Parliament adopted the Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2016 and the Anatomy (Amendment) Act 2016 containing new offences and harsher penalties for those that attack persons with albinism. On 15 June, the High Court in Mzuzu sentenced Sam Kaumba to life imprisonment for the attempted murder of a young boy living with albinism, Morton Juma. In May, the President established a National Technical Committee on Albinism chaired by Chief Presidential Adviser Dr. Hetherwick Ntaba.

The UN initiated programmes on the rights of persons with albinism under its newly established Human Rights Window, to follow up on the recommendations of the UN Independent Expert on albinism. Measures introduced included support for community based protection systems, victim assistance and psycho-social support. Community awareness raising, and civic education also took place around the Penal Code Amendment Act. Access to justice was strengthened through the development of a Handbook for prosecutors/magistrates (finalised in November 2016) and training for magistrates and prosecutors. There was also a successful mobilization of 80 organizations to develop a Community of Practice Platform to respond and strengthen community referral mechanisms.

An increase in hate speech and violence against the LGBTI community and human rights defenders working on LGBTI rights was reported. The Centre for the Development of People reported that for the first nine months of 2016 the number of reported cases of violence against the LGBTI community had almost doubled as against the previous year. In January 2016, further to a proposal from the Minister of Justice to impose a moratorium on anti-homosexual laws and review all colonial-era sodomy laws, Mr. Kenneth Msonda the then Spokesperson of the Peoples Party (PP), was arrested for stating on social media that gay people are worse than dogs and should be killed. However, the Director of Public Prosecutions discontinued the case, a decision which was later challenged before the High Court. OHCHR expressed concerns that the failure to prosecute sends a dangerous message that inciting others to kill gay people is legitimate and will be tolerated by the authorities. The High Court of Malawi in Mzuzu on 9 February granted permission to proceed with a legal challenge to the moratorium to the so-called sodomy laws, in a case filed by two members of the Malawi clergy.

A One UN Strategy to end Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) was developed in 2016. This followed a documentary that revealed the extent and effects of HTP on girls in the country, aired by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in July 2016. The strategy is meant to harmonize UN's work in addressing cultural practices

that particularly disadvantaged women and children. The strategy further standardizes the UN messages and enhances the coordination of UN agencies towards addressing harmful cultural practices in concrete terms.

Since 2015, a shrinkage in civil society space has been steadily recorded. The Government's draft NGO policy, produced towards the end of 2016, is inconsistent with Malawi's international human rights law obligations. Concerns include: cumbersome NGO registration requirements; mandatory registration of NGOs; unclear definition of NGOs, including CBOs and faith based organisations; centralised approval of projects and asset disposal. The UN coordinated inputs from development partners and submitted concerns on the draft policy to the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare.

Following a PAC all-inclusive stakeholders conference in Blantyre 17-18 February 2016, several speakers reported receiving anonymous threats and intimidation. On 22 February 2016, Police arrested three Malawi Congress Party opposition MPs, on allegations of having committed treason/ sedition, following a WhatsApp conversation about how President Mutharika might be toppled. On 18 October 2016, a human rights activist Billy Mayaya, together with two other men were arrested whilst engaging in a peaceful protest against the State electricity provider ESCOM, and subsequently charged with two offences under the Penal Code of unlawful assembly and conducting demonstrations without authority. In October following the unexplained extended absence of the President of Malawi from the country, Malawi's Information Minister said spreading false rumours about the health of the President is a criminal offence and the government would not hesitate to bring to book those responsible for rumours.

On 14 December Parliament adopted the Access to Information Act after 12 years of delays, following intense advocacy by civil society. The President subsequently assented to the Bill which is expected to help Malawians access information from Government institutions and empower them to hold duty bearers accountable. In approving the ATI law, Malawi joins 18 other countries in Africa who have similar Acts.

The UN also worked at the local level to improve the ability of citizens to hold duty bearers accountable and organize themselves to improve service delivery. Following over 3000 community sensitization campaigns, held in 22 districts reaching over three million people, on good governance and the right to development, there is now an emergence of a critical mass of people engaging with their local government service providers to find solutions to development challenges. Improved access to justice was also provided for victims of human rights violations through free paralegal services. Other core activities included provision of knowledge and skills on governance, human rights, especially the right to development, fair trade, labour and consumer rights through community based volunteers namely: Community Based Facilitators (CBFs), Community Rights Committees (CRCs) and Radio Listening clubs (RLCs) and through electronic and print media. In this, the final year of the programme, work was undertaken to ensure that techniques and activities would be continued through local NGOs and hence interventions would be sustained.

Most prisoners in Malawi continued to be detained in inhuman and degrading conditions, whilst overcrowding and hunger in Malawi's prisons deteriorated in 2016. As at 29 November the prison population stood at 14 754 as against an overall capacity of 7000. In response to a civil society letter to the President of Malawi expressing concerns about severe overcrowding and severe hunger in prisons in violation of the Malawi's Constitution, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 29 July advised that the President had approved the need to significantly reduce the prison population, and had directed the Minister of Justice to commence the pardons process. Efforts to reduce

prison overcrowding did not result in any overall reduction in the number of prisoners by November 2016, despite the review of thousands of sentences by the High Court and the increased use of camp courts, in the absence of comprehensive reforms to the justice system. At year's end the Law Commission had not yet finalised its review of the Prisons Act nor had it finalised work on the Sentencing Guidelines Bill, which if implemented, could ensure greater use of alternative sentences, pardons and parole.

OHCHR highlighted concerns in April 2016 about the number of people killed in mob attacks in Malawi, with at least nine separate incidents leading to the death of 16 people reported across the country over the previous 2 months. On 1 March 2016, a mob burnt to death seven alleged members of an albino hunting gang found with human parts including bones in Southern Malawi's border district of Nsanje. On 4<sup>th</sup> October, the High Court convicted Police Officer Stewart Lobo of the murder of George Thekere, one of 19 people killed by the police during July 2011 Anti-Government protests, the first such conviction of a member of the law enforcement agencies over the July 2011 killings.

The UN supported the development of the National Gender Policy which was approved and launched and will be expected to guide the implementation of all gender activities in Malawi and will hold stakeholders accountable to their commitment to mainstreaming gender in their programmes. The UN also supported Malawi government to conduct a gender audit in the agriculture sector which has been vital in identifying the gender gaps to inform strategies and interventions for gender mainstreaming. Additionally, 27 senior Government officials (Directors of Planning and Research) were trained in Gender Responsive Budgeting and this will strengthen the capacity of key officers within the targeted sectors in gender mainstreaming. A web based Integrated Gender Management Information System (GMIS) for Gender, Children, Youth and Sports Sector has been finalized and can be accessed on <http://www.childaffairs.gov.mw>. The GMIS will enable Malawi to generate real time data on GBV incidences across the 28 districts of the country to support evidence-based response and programming.

The UN continued to support the institutionalisation of gender studies (Diploma, Bachelors and Master's Degrees) at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and Chancellor College where 160 students have been offered scholarships. This will broaden the pool of gender experts in the country, thereby strengthening the capacity of gender mainstreaming in policies, and programmes in both public and private spheres. Through UN's Development Effectiveness and Accountability Programme (DEAP), further modules on statistics were developed at Chancellor College and to date the first cohort of 19 students (including eight NSO staff) are undergoing the modules as part of capacity building. The UN also supported the training of 70 Social Welfare Officers under the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare through Magomero Community Development College in collaboration with Chancellor College.

The UN, through UNDP, supported the implementation of public sector reforms through the Public Service Reforms Commission. The UN support covered the exchange visit between the Government of Malawi and the Kenya School of Government for the former to learn about the establishment of a Malawi School of Government. Other areas supported included Citizen Engagement and capacity building of the Public Service Reforms Commission, the Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reforms and the Malawi Cabinet and policy makers, delivered in collaboration with UNDP's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence in Singapore. The Government, in coordination with the Commission, established a performance contract system that led sectors to sign performance contracts with the State President.

The UN also supported the government to engage citizens, taking the Public Reforms Agenda to all 35 District councils, especially to Ward Councilors (WCs), Members of Parliament (MPs), Traditional Authorities/Chiefs (TAs), other opinion leaders, and community workers, who have direct contact with people in the villages, to explain the importance of reforms for improved delivery of public services. All 35 councils subsequently developed and signed their reform agenda with the President of the Republic of Malawi.

The UN provided support to a Special Law Commission to review Malawi's electoral laws after nationwide consultations were carried out following the 2014 tripartite elections. Electoral law reform is an ongoing process, with the recommendations of the Commission expected in the first quarter of 2017. The UN also continued to provide support to the Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) which developed a revised Political Parties Bill. The Bill, expected to be put to Parliament in 2017, would enhance political party transparency and accountability in financing, ensure that parties are nationally represented and are actively participating in elections.

In response to a formal request from the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) for continuing assistance on elections, a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was deployed to Malawi in September 2016. The assessment and recommendations of the NAM were endorsed by the UN Focal Point for Electoral Assistance, who approved a new electoral assistance Project for Malawi from June 2017 to December 2019, to ensure support until after the next Tripartite (simultaneous Presidential, Parliamentary and Local) elections in 2019.

In 2016, as part of capacity building and skill enhancement programme for MEC, 16 officers were deployed to Election Management Bodies in the region - Kenya, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Lesotho. A comprehensive peer-review was conducted on 22nd August, 2016 with those who participated to establish lessons learned through the placement programme and the administrative recommendations MEC will be implementing ahead of 2019 tripartite elections as a result – such as recording election results in Arabic numerals and words to avoid changing of results once recorded. The UN also provided financial support to an independent panel of experts who reviewed the MEC audit by Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

To contribute to the Government's efforts to guarantee the fundamental right to identity, the UN launched a USD\$50 million multi-donor National Registration and Identification System Project which will ensure that all Malawians aged 16 years and older are registered and issued with a national ID card. The management information systems and ID cards will enable the strengthening of accountability and verification process within both the public and private sector domains that will enhance service delivery, data driven decision making, financial inclusion and internal administrative systems.

### ***Demographic Dividend***

Malawi's population is estimated to reach 26 million by 2030 from 13.1 million in 2008 (National Statistic Office). This estimated increase will put more pressure on Malawi's limited resources. Land will be under increased pressure which will result in increased food insecurity. The Demographic Dividend (DD) project is looking at harnessing economic benefits arising from a significant population increase to accelerate socioeconomic transformation and economic development in Malawi. The project is looking at how to maximize Malawi's global economic competitiveness, and productive efficiency, and to maximise increases in investments in interventions that reduce family size, including family planning, health and education, while making modest investments in the economic sector.

During the year, the UN raised awareness on the concept of demographic dividend by conducting briefing/sensitisation and advocacy with key stakeholders including politicians, local leadership (traditional and religious leaders) and senior Government officials and technocrats so that they understood and embraced the demographic dividend concept which is now being advocated at the highest level of Government. Some of the authorities that were sensitised included the H.E President Arthur Peter Mutharika, The UN Country Team; The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development; Minister of Labour, Youth and Manpower Development; the Minister of Sports and Culture; Secretary to the Treasury; Principal Secretaries of key Ministries including Education, Health, Labour, Youth and Manpower Development; Directors of key Ministries and the Health Donor Group

The Demographic Dividend Study Report has made available, evidence based information on the status of key demographic dividend issues including the current population situation, vis a vis the high fertility and the growing youthful population and dependency ratio; the current public health status and the need to strengthen health services delivery systems particularly sexual reproductive health to reduce infant, and child mortality and morbidity; education and skills development for the youth; economic reforms to generate jobs and creation of an environment conducive to efficient delivery of services to attain economic development. Six policy briefs have been developed to this effect, in addition to the DD Study Report. It is expected that the information now made available through the demographic dividend study will inform the formulation of Malawi's next medium term plan.

### ***Effective implementation and monitoring of the Gender Equality Act***

The UN, through UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA, supported the elaboration of simplified versions of the GEA and other Gender Related Laws such as the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, Deceased estates, Wills and Inheritance Act, Marriage Divorce and Family Relations Act, which have also been translated into (Chichewa and Tumbuka) and printed for easy understanding by women, men, boys and girls in the rural areas. 5,000 copies of simplified English, 4,000 copies of Chichewa and 5,000 copies of Tumbuka respectively were printed and distributed to communities across the country. This dissemination has increased community awareness on gender related laws and prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and there has been an increase in the reporting of Gender based Violence cases by 50 percent which were directly reported to relevant authorities and documented and were brought to formal courts for prosecution.

A UN Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy has been finalized. The objective of the strategy is to strengthen the UN's work on gender equality and women's empowerment, and to ensure outstanding performance against UNCT Performance indicators on gender equality. The strategy will guide the UN Gender Technical Working Group on how to effectively mainstream gender in policies, plans, programmes, strategies and budgets of the UNDAF.

The UN also supported the strengthening of legal literacy clubs through the dissemination of the simplified Gender Related Laws. During these sessions, complaints on violation of human rights were brought up for discussion. In addition, mobile court sessions and legal aid clinics have been strengthened and supported across the districts in Malawi.

There has been increased mobilization and engagement of traditional leaders to act on modification/elimination of

the harmful cultural practices and ending violence against women and girls in Malawi through sharing best practices and increasing stakeholder and community engagement. Through this process, a one by-law framework was developed for implementation of Gender and HIV/AIDS Related Laws and modification of harmful social and cultural practices. The bylaw framework will guide all districts, Traditional leaders (Paramount chiefs, Senior chiefs and Traditional Authorities and Sub Traditional Authorities) and other stakeholders when formulating their by-laws, in their efforts to enforce and implement the Gender Equality Act, and other Gender Related Laws.

In addition, the new 'One Gender Responsive By-law Framework', presents opportunities for partners to now institutionalize the framework and monitor progress and success in ending harmful cultural practices, complementing the monitoring of the gender related SDGs. The UN, through UN Women and UNDP, supported the preparation and participation of the Malawi delegation to the CSW60 in ensuring follow up in the implementation of the gender agenda in the country. The support to the Government included guidance towards the planning and participation of the delegates as well as preparation of Malawi and UN Malawi side event on "The Role of Cultural Leaders in Ending Child Marriages: The Case of Malawi". Through this side event Paramount Chief Kachindamoto from Dedza District in Malawi, highlighted the importance of collaboration required between different stakeholders in ending child marriages.

In line with the provisions in the GEA, major strides have also been observed in the inclusion of women in key decision making positions; notably, the appointment of four female commissioners to the Malawi Electoral Commission, the increased appointment of female parliamentarians in Constitutional Committees of Parliament, appointment of the first Female Vice Chancellor for the Malawi University of Science and Technology and the appointment of the first female chairperson for the defence committee in Parliament. Such progressive achievements can be attributed to the positive political will to champion gender equality at the executive level. Furthermore, such progress is attributable to the massive gender equality campaigns especially around increasing women representation in parliament.

The UN collaboratively supported the finalisation of the new Malawi Demographic Health Survey (MDHS) 2016/2017 through its partnership with National Statistical office (NSO). The inclusion of the Women's Empowerment chapter in the new MDHS provided NSO with the technical know-how critical to engendering statistics in the country. The UN also supported capacity building initiatives to enable NSO officers to integrate a gendered perspective into statistics as well as enhancing their capacity in data validation, review of tabulation plans, report tabulation and finalisation. As a result, there is an understanding among the officers on how to incorporate a gender perspective into their regular work, from designing data collection tools and field work and throughout all stages of the statistical system.

### ***Joint Annual Workplans***

The United Nations (UN) in Malawi has taken a step to streamline its programme interventions and deliver as one to improve its work through greater transparency and accountability and less transactional costs for implementing partners. This has been done through development of Joint Annual Work Plans (JAWPs) in areas where different UN agencies are working with one implementing partner (IP), as part of the UN in Malawi's efforts to fully implement the Standard Operating Procedures, (SOP's). So far, three areas institutions have JAWPs with the UN; the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Manpower Development, and the Malawi Human Rights Commission.

On both the UN and Government side, joint planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting have improved while duplications and competition among agencies reduced due to improved governance structures. Technical and high level coordination structures were established with Ministry of Gender and Malawi Human Rights Commission. In 2016, improvements in the functioning of the JAWPs, led to the creation of the Human Rights Window under the One UN Fund.

### ***Youth Policy Initiative***

Through strategic collaboration and partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Youth, Sports and Manpower Development, the Joint UN TWG implemented key milestones for the national youth policy initiative that saw the Presidential launch of the first ever Situational Analysis for Adolescents and Youth Report, development and signing of the first ever joint annual work plan for youth between the government and UN agencies resulting in the development of a multi-sectoral response programme—Action 4 Adolescents and Youth. Following the high-level advocacy, a 13 ministry Principal Secretary task force on youth has been formed by the Chief Secretary and Secretary to the Cabinet.

In addition, the Youth sector budget analysis, youth sector policy papers with the Ministry of Youth and OECD has been undertaken. The Information Management System for Youth and Sports is now in place and appropriate ICT infrastructure put in place in all districts in Malawi. A mobile based platform is also available.

## **Cluster Four Challenges**

- Uncertainty on the timelines of the development of the next National Development Plan.
- Although work plans for domesticating the 2030 agenda and localisation of SDGs have been developed, there are delays in initiating some of the key activities which are linked to the development of the MGDS III.
- The Malawi Human Rights Commission continues to face a shortage of resources due to reduced allocations and delayed and erratic disbursements. In the 2016/17 financial year the allocated sum was MK110,000,000 against the requirement of MK359,610,378. With less funding, constitutional bodies' capacities are undermined and projects fail to deliver required results.

## **2017 Emerging Priorities for Cluster Four**

- The process of formulating the next National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2017-2022 has started led by Economic Planning and Development (EP&D). This provides an opportunity to engage further with government on coming up with a more focused and prioritized strategic plan which is key in streamlining policies and plans as per one of DEAP's outcome areas.
- The UNDAF extension period is an opportunity to further develop the UN Human Rights Window established in 2016 and formulate a UN joint Gender Programme that will provide an entry point for both the UN and government for resource mobilization on gender interventions
- The finalization of the review of electoral laws and enactment of the Political Parties' bill offers an opportunity to strengthen democratic institutions such as political parties and the Malawi Electoral Commission. UNDP will continue to work on building capacities that can translate to actions on the ground to implement recommended electoral reforms.

- The roll out of the mass registration exercise to issue National ID cards to all Malawian citizens 16 years old and above – some 9 million people – will be a priority in 2017. Capacity building of the Government to establish the permanent and continuous registration and identification system will also be a priority, in addition to engagement with MDAs to ensure that the system is widely used in Government.
- Growing interest among development partners to support Parliamentary oversight function and the fight against corruption has created an opportunity for the UN to conceptualize UN programming around strengthening Parliament and other constitutional bodies to fight corruption and strengthen oversight functions of democratic institutions such as Parliament and Office of Ombudsman.

## Results of the One UN Fund

### *Humanitarian Window*

Through the Humanitarian Window, the UN supported the government led humanitarian response (through food assistance delivered as in-kind and cash transfers) to reach 6.7 million people in 24 districts who were declared to be food insecure by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) assessment update in October 2016.

The UN, through UN Women, supported a gender sensitive Malawi Drought 2015-2016 Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). The process was supported from data collection to development of the PDNA report. The PDNA has informed the development of the Disaster Recovery Strategy for the country.

Through the nutrition cluster, access to the Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) program was maintained in all the 28 districts of Malawi as part of the nutrition emergency response. The UN supported, through UNICEF, supported 603 health facilities providing Out Patient Program (OTP) services and 104 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRU) totaling 707 facilities, which represents 97 percent geographical coverage against the set target of 731 for 2016. CMAM interventions were reinforced with monthly mass screenings and community mobilization through UNICEF implementing partners in 14 districts; which resulted in enhanced uptake and increased demand for CMAM services for children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

During the reporting period the lives of 14,475 children who recovered between September 2016 and December 2016 were saved representing a cure rate of 92.6 percent. Similarly, a total of 15,533 children under five suffering from SAM against a target of 21,770 children (71.4 percent coverage) which is slightly lower than the expected coverage of 75 percent (16,328) with eight districts reporting low coverage (Likoma 41.8 percent; Chitipa 19.5 percent; Thyolo 21.6 percent; Mchinji 30.8 percent; Karonga 43.9 percent; Mzimba 47.7 percent; Salima 41.8 percent and Mangochi 44.1 percent). The low coverage in those districts was attributed to challenging geographical access (long distances from community to facility). Out of the 1,888 children admitted into NRUs, 1,421 were cured (83.9 percent) and 141 children died presenting a death rate of 8.3 percent. Out of 13,946 of children treated in OTPs, 13,054 were cured (93.6 per cent) and 113 children died (0.8 percent). SPHERE minimum standards of >75 percent cure rate and <10 percent death rate were met. The overall SAM death rate for both OTP and NRU was 1.6 percent which was within the SPHERE threshold.

Overall, the OTP program in all the districts demonstrated cure rates above 75 percent and death rates of less than 10 percent. However, Mzimba North and Mzimba South recorded defaulter rates of 17.0 percent and 19.1 percent respectively which are above the SPHERE Standard of <15 percent. On the other hand, in the NRU Program where the overall death rate was 8.3 percent for all districts the following districts recorded defaulter rates of above 10

percent: Karonga (10.9 percent), Kasungu (10.3 percent), Mzimba North (17.0 percent), Mzimba South (19.1 percent), Nkhata Bay (11.6 percent), and Ntchisi (12.0 percent). The following districts were categorized as NRU Death hotspots considering the number of deaths and the percentages: Blantyre (11.8 percent; 16 deaths), Mangochi (10.6 percent; 9 deaths) Mulanje (19.4 percent; 6 deaths), Mwanza (15.8 percent; 6 deaths), Mzimba North (10.0 percent; 5 deaths), Mzimba South (17.5 percent; 7 deaths) Ntcheu (14.6 percent; 7 deaths), and Zomba (10.9 percent; 10 deaths). These eight districts also contributed to 47 percent of the overall NRU deaths during the reporting period. All the hotspot districts for the period under-consideration did not conduct the monthly mass screening and active case finding, thus children are presenting late for treatment with medical complications and co-morbidities contributing to deaths.

Through the Agriculture Cluster, 240,000 households affected by El Nino-induced drought were reached with inputs (seed and fertilizer) for rain-fed season through seeds fairs or direct distribution as part of the response implementation. This complimented government efforts which has been supporting smallholder farmers with inputs through the Farm Input Subsidy Program (FISP) which covered 900,000 small-scale farmers during the 2016/17 growing season. Potato and cassava planting material distributions, organization of seeds fairs in areas with water availability and livestock restocking are some of the activities planned for the first half of 2017 and irrigation activities were also planned in 11 districts to start in March 2017. The targeting of beneficiaries of agricultural interventions was based on the MVAC food beneficiary register to complement the food security, agriculture, nutrition and protection clusters at district level, with the objective of maximizing the impact of recovery activities. Water harvesting and micro-irrigation interventions will take place in 4 districts during the next months. Further support is required to strengthen disaster reduction management activities in agriculture, information management and strategic decision making processes at district level.

The WASH Cluster provided vital WASH support in the affected communities in Malawi, which resulted in the mitigation of cholera outbreak. An estimated 4,732 people in emergency prone districts had access to safe water using 17,746 bottles of water guard to treat unsafe water at household level. Safe water was further provided by rehabilitation of protected water points, with vital involvement of the community members to ensure sustainability.

The Education Cluster worked hand in hand with the Food and Nutrition cluster in the affected districts to provide school meals in 121 primary schools, reaching 172,400 school children with emergency school meals and take-home rations. Observations from schools with meal programmes have shown an increase in first-time enrolment and a reduction of 70 percent in drop-out figures and absenteeism. 18 tents and learning materials have also been provided to districts affected by storms.

The overall leadership and coordination of the Food Insecurity Response Programme was done by government (with Department of Disaster Management Affairs through the Office of the Vice President providing the leadership and coordination) with other stakeholders supporting government efforts. Other government ministries such as the ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development; Health; and Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare co-led other clusters during the response. The UN co-led the Food Security, Agriculture and Nutrition Cluster. To make sure that the views of the affected populations are heard, the UN through the Protection Cluster, leads a pilot project aimed at creating a national framework on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). The pilot is being implemented in three districts of Balaka, Nsanje and Chikwawa. The UN and the INGO consortium instituted and implemented various measures aimed at enhancing Accountability to Affected Population focusing on increased information sharing to beneficiaries through radio messages and innovative ways to disseminate social behavioural change communication (SBCC) messaging throughout the response; increased participation of District Council and stakeholders as well as

beneficiaries in the response; and enhanced complaints and feedback mechanisms, including the rollout of a thirty party managed toll-free helpline.

The UN through the humanitarian fund supported the Malawi Red Cross Society to lead a capacity building initiative in Building Disaster Preparedness, Planning and Response Capacities at all levels especially at community level. The initiative aimed at strengthening the capacity of Village Civil Protection Committee members and the Malawi Red Cross Volunteers to prepare for and effectively provide First Aid services during flooding situations. The project was implemented in Nsanje, Mangochi, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Zomba districts. The UN also led the verification and mapping of evacuation sites and assessment of community based early warning systems (CBEWS) in Nsanje, Mangochi, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Zomba and Karonga districts, and review and translate assessment tools in local languages so that they are usable by local communities (civil protection committees) to generate first information after disasters.

Since July 2015, Malawi experienced an influx of political asylum seekers across its borders from Mozambique, fleeing conflict mainly from the country's western Tete province. Assessments showed that more than 60 percent of the registered asylum seekers were boys and girls under the age of 18, including many unaccompanied and separated children, child-headed households, orphans and other vulnerable persons with specific needs. Women were estimated at 54 percent of the asylum seekers. The assessment further established that there was high food insecurity, the camp needed WASH amenities and housing materials. The UN distributed 874 metric tons of food commodities (comprised of maize, peas, super cereal, super cereal plus and vegetable oil to an asylum-seeking population from Mozambique at Kapise settlement and Luwani refugee camp) to 8,304 asylum seekers. All asylum seekers received individual monthly rations of maize (13.5 kgs), pulses (1.5kgs), and (0.75 kgs) vegetable oil for a six-month food period. As a measure to prevent malnutrition, children under two years of age received 3 kgs of super cereal plus, reaching a total of 4,413 children.

Through UNHCR, a total of 900 households of the asylum seekers received Non-Food items (NFIs) including blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and plastic tarpaulins. These NFIs made sure that the basic and domestic needs were met as part of the minimum protection requirements and access to basic rights. In addition, the UN also supported the surrounding communities in environmental restoration activities. The surrounding communities were trained in environmental protection and a total of 5000 nitrogen fixing tree seedlings were planted on the site; 400 fruit trees were planted in host community households in Kapise. 100 of the mango trees were grafted, and 300 planted in cocoons. This enabled environmental restoration as well as it instilled positive attitudes towards refugees.

### ***Right to Food Window***

The UN, through the right to food window, under the One Fund, followed up on recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, by supporting three projects. The window, through the joint work of UN and Landnet contributed to increased awareness around land rights, including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Land Tenure, and particularly contributed to the landmark adoption of the ten Land Bills by parliament in 2016. The Land Bills, when implemented will provide Malawi with a modern legal framework on land, and enhance access to land and security of tenure, particularly for marginalised groups.

A joint civil society project on the right to food, increased awareness on the right to food. It also supported the government to revise the Food and Nutrition Bill, integrating a legal framework on the right to food and supported regional consultations on the Bill. The UN also submitted comments to Government from a right to food perspective on the latest draft of the Food and Nutrition Bill.

## ***Human Rights Window***

After noting a growing number of human rights violations in Malawi, in 2016 the UN established a human rights window under the One Fund with funding from DfID, initially to work on the rights of persons with albinism and the LGBTI community and the UN initiated programmes in both areas. The Window allowed the UN to attract un-earmarked funding, tackle sensitive human rights issues and respond to emerging human rights situations.

Working together with the Government, police, judiciary and civil society, protection of human rights of persons with albinism was strengthened, through support for the roll out of community based protection systems, victim assistance and psycho-social support. Increased respect for rights of persons with albinism was also achieved, through support for community awareness raising, and civic education around the Penal Code Amendment Act.

Access to justice was strengthened through support for prosecutions of offences against persons with albinism, the development of a Handbook for prosecutors and magistrates (finalised in November 2016) and training for magistrates (undertaken in December 2016). The work was pursuant to the visit of the UN Independent Expert on enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism to Malawi between 18-29 April and the Government's response plan on attacks against persons with albinism.

The UN also participated and supported national consultations on the revised Anatomy Bill and Penal Code Amendment Bill adopted by parliament in June and July 2016 with new offences and harsher penalties for those that attack persons with albinism. The UN advocated successfully for references to the death penalty to be taken out of the revised legislation, prior to its adoption.

On rights of the LGBTI community, the UN supported ten transformative dialogues with key stakeholders, constitutional and strategic public interest litigation, training for CSOs and LGBTI Community Based Organizations, and the introduction of a real time monitoring and reporting system for human rights violations against LGBTI persons. The work was in part a response to the recommendations of the CEDAW and Human Rights Committee calling on Malawi to repeal the penal code provisions which criminalise same sex relations between adults and at leaving no one behind in the national response to HIV and AIDS in Malawi.

## **Results of Operating as One**

To harness efficiencies and increase value for money in the UN operations, the UNCT launched the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) in 2012. This was launched after observing that different agencies had separate back office functions, separate work planning instruments, duplication of effort and competition for resources. Secondly, by implementing the BOS, agencies would reduce costs (both internal and external transaction costs) while maximising efficiencies in delivery. So far the Malawian BOS is focusing on 5 core business areas, namely: Human Resource Management; Information, Communication and Technology (ICT); Joint Procurement; Transport and Administration and Finance. During the BOS evaluation, it was estimated that a total of US\$2,800,000 would be realised by the end of 2016. Currently, the UN continues to monitor the performance of the Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) that are existing to continually assess the savings that are being realised.

## **2017 Priority Areas for Business Operations Strategy**

**ICT:** The Operations Management Team (OMT) is planning to have a Common Internet Service Provider in all the agencies. This is envisaged that a total of US\$ 122,166 will be saved by agencies having a common Internet Service

Provider (ISP). Harmonisation of ICT maintenance and common ICT Officers' training is also another area that is going to be piloted in 2017.

**Human Resources:** Increasing usage of the common consultancy database (redefining the themes on the database to suit other agencies), Establishment of UN national consultancy rates for all UN agencies in Malawi, building further capacity of UN female national staff to access senior leadership positions are areas that the Human Resources Working group would focus on in 2017.

**Procurement:** Establishing and monitoring common LTAs in security services, air travel, fuel, banking services and Joint procurement of tyres and spare parts for vehicles are some of the main initiatives the Joint Procurement group will implement in 2017.

**Pooled Funding:** Since the UN is using JAWP for the Malawi Human Rights Commission, the pooled funding modality to the commission will continue. This is envisaged to reduce transaction costs to allow greater focus on implementation rather than administration and facilitating genuine joint implementation for UN.

## Results of Communicating as One

### Joint advocacy

In 2016, focus was on raising awareness through high level briefings, engaging with the media, op-ed pieces in the national press, using the UN Day celebrations to publicize and get buy-in of partners to support different priorities, including the SDGs, keeping girls in school, building resilience, HIV prevention and investing in youth. After the 2016 cabinet re-shuffle, the UNCT held Joint briefing meetings with new Cabinet Ministers (Ministers of Information, Agriculture, Gender, Internal Security and Advocacy and Community Services). These briefings meeting were held as another platform where the UN engaged with government on priority areas the UN was working in their respective sectors but also lobbying for political commitment.

The UN jointly advocated for keeping girls in school through the Joint Programme on Girls Education as well as key commemoration days including the International Day of the Girl Child in October 2016. Media coverage on issues affecting girls' education and UN support towards keeping girls in school was mobilised through two joint media visits to UN-supported programme sites in Dedza and Salima districts.

HIV prevention advocacy targeting men and boys was strengthened through outreach activities targeting university students in Malawi during the 16 days of activism. Apart from the outreach events, a television panel discussion on harmful cultural practices and HIV/AIDS was broadcast in December 2016 as a collaboration between UNAIDS and UN Women working jointly with relevant government ministries, the academia and the Malawi Human Rights Commission. This advocacy leveraged the UN's He4She campaign which encourages boys and men to stand up for the rights of girls and women.

An advocacy plan for Demographic Dividend and Investing in Youth was developed and some key activities were implemented in the year 2016. The campaign for demographic dividend and investing in young people in Malawi resulted in the National Youth Conference and the launch of the demographic dividend report by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development. Among other things, there have been extensive dissemination of findings of the demographic dividend report to various stakeholders including the private sector, the youth,

community based leaders and civil society organizations. Special training sessions were also done with media where about 10 media personnel were oriented on the findings of the report. Following the media engagement, a special edition of the report was developed and published in the media addressing key areas of investment among the young people. The report was also simplified into specific themes in addition to visibility materials such as banners and special magazines were produced and disseminated.

The UN also drafted a joint advocacy plan for supporting resilience building in Malawi. The draft is being finalised but key resilience advocacy messages were disseminated through speeches, news stories and press releases on agriculture and food security issues in Malawi. For example, FAO and WFP published a joint feature article calling for a shift from maize-based food to more diversified food production as part of building resilience. Joint resilience messages were also disseminated during the commemoration of World Food Day and International Disaster Reduction Day. A media interface meeting between the Heads of UN Agencies and Malawi journalists where the UN engaged the journalists on how to report better on resilience issues, was organised.

The UN Communications Group (UNCG) supported coordination of UN messages on the issue of harmful cultural practices like sexual cleansing which promote the spread of HIV and AIDS as well as undermine the rights of girls and women, including access to education. With support from the UNCG, the UN managed to train a group of trainers from the Ministry of Information on SDGs, who will in turn help in raising awareness on the goals.

## **Financial Overview**

### **Joint Resource Mobilization**

In 2016, the UN managed to mobilise a total of **US\$ 32, 855, 485**<sup>1</sup> from its traditional donors, Department for International Development (DfID), Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA) and the Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE) into the One UN Fund to support the humanitarian response, human rights (LGBTI and albinism) and Joint Programme on Girls Education. DFID contributed 91 percent of the total, FICA contributed 2 percent of the total, RNE contributed 7.13 percent whilst 0.01 percent were contributed by the private sector. Figure 1 below gives the details of the joint resource mobilisation.

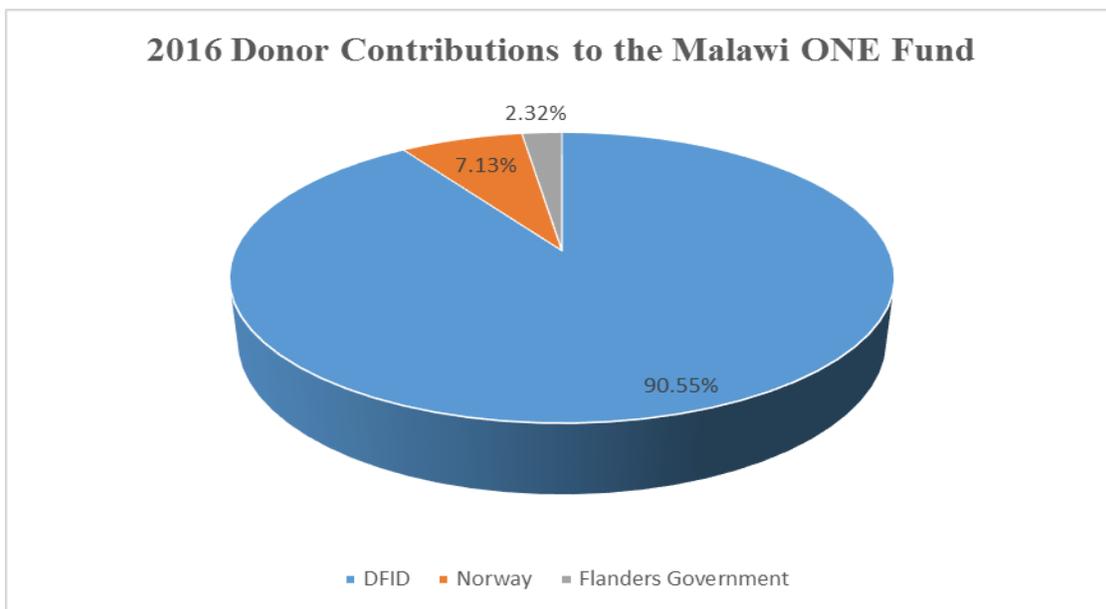
### **Humanitarian Funding Window Disbursements**

In 2016, the Humanitarian Funding Window disbursed a total of US\$ 37,583,639.21. 1 percent of the total funds went to support the food distribution and relocation of the Mozambican refugees, 42 percent supported nutrition activities for the El Niño response; 26 percent supported the recovery and resilience building activities in the communities that were affected by the El Niño and 31 percent supported with twinning costs for the maize distributed to the El Niño affected communities. Table 2 below gives the details.

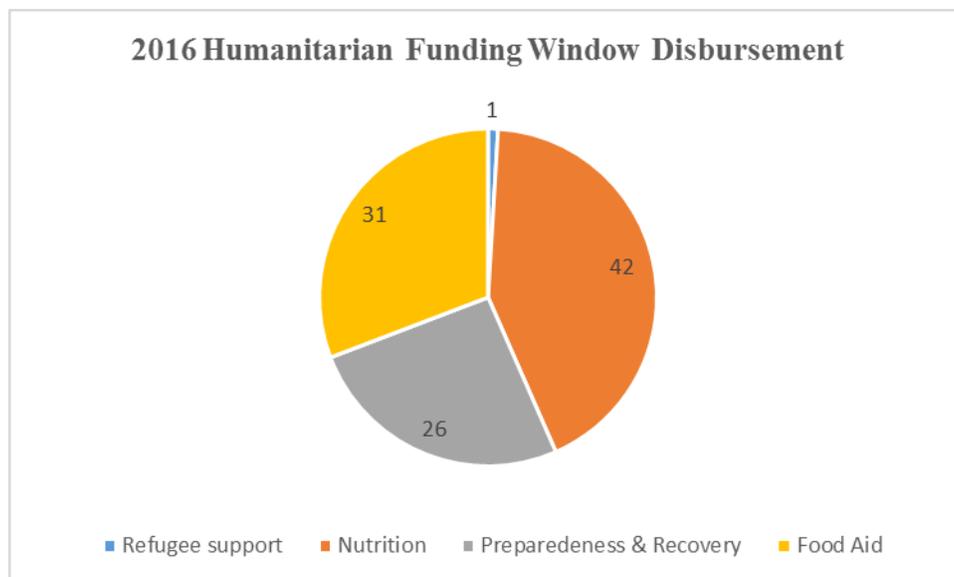
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<sup>1</sup> The figures shown under the Joint Resource Mobilisation and the Humanitarian Funding Disbursement section could be found at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/MW100>

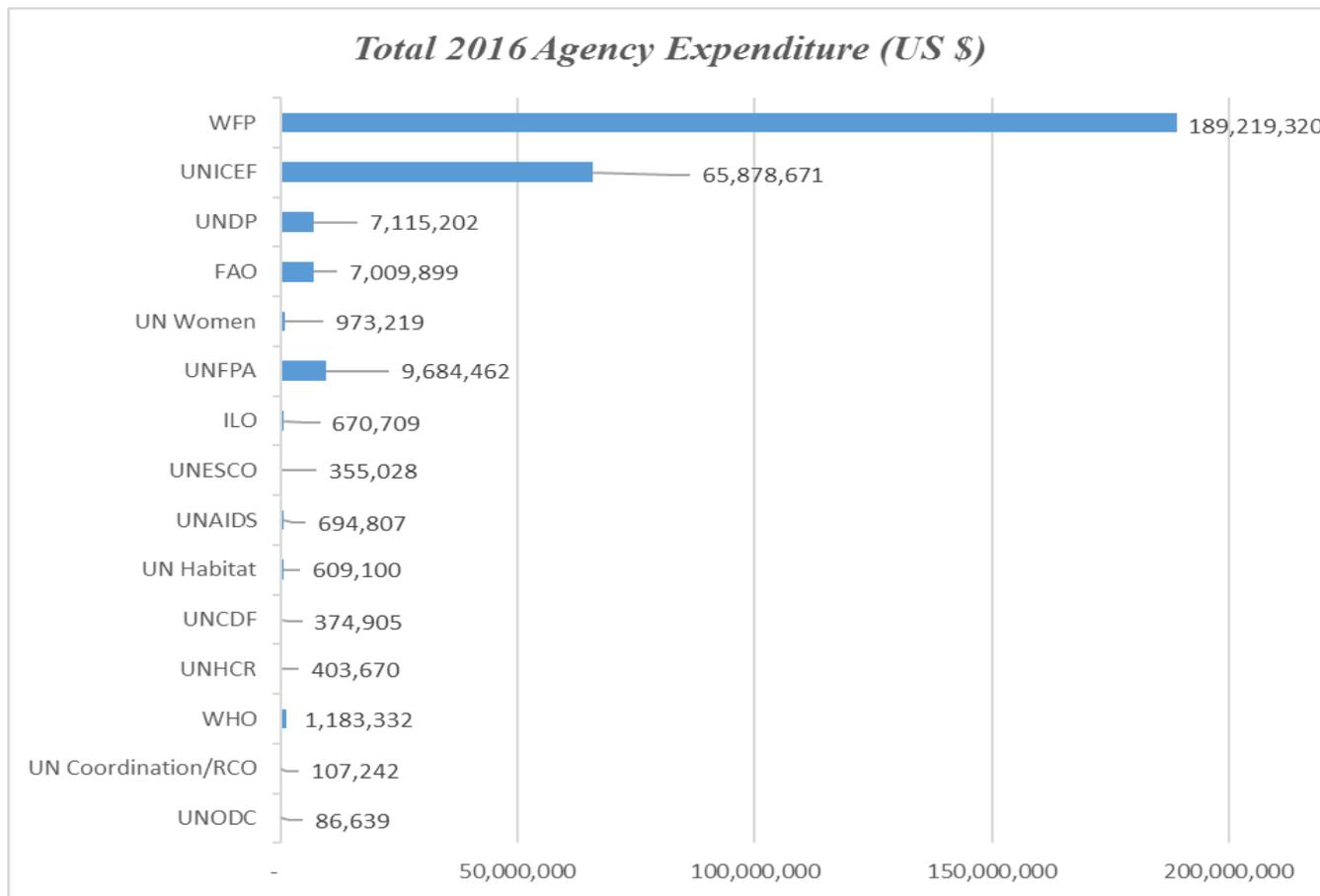
**Figure 1: 2016 Donor Contributions to the Malawi ONE Fund**



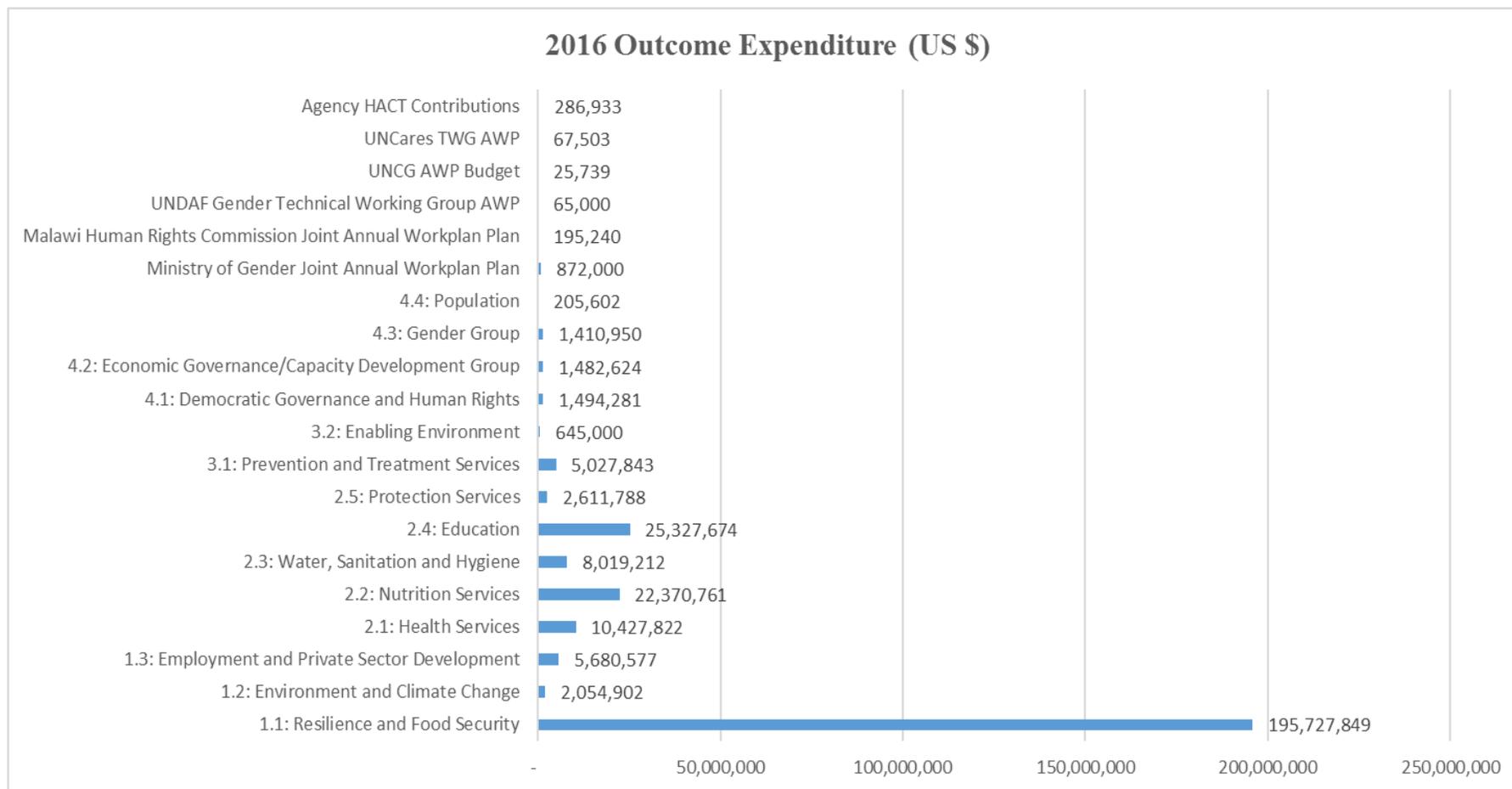
**Figure 2: 2016 Humanitarian Funding Window Disbursements**



**Figure 3: 2016 Agency Expenditures (US \$)**



**Figure 4: 2016 Outcome Expenditure.**



**Table 1: Total Agency Expenditure by Outcome<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>FAO</b>	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	4,247,054
	1.2: Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change	1,082,069
	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	1,488,669
	2.4: Basic Education	170,384
	Common Services Budget	18,223
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
<b>Total Expenditure for FAO (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>7,009,899</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>ILO</b>	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	58,000
	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	397,000
	2.4: Basic Education	210,200
	3.2: Enabling Environment	-
	Common Services Budget	5,509
<b>Total Expenditure for ILO (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>670,709</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>RCO/UNCares/OHHCR</b>	3.2: Enabling Environment	12,000
	4.1: Democratic Governance/Human Rights	-
	UNCares TWG AWP	67,503
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	23,000

<sup>2</sup> The 2016 Agency expenditure figures are as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and reported in the Results Management System (RMS) by Agency Focal Points

<b>Total Expenditure for RCO (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>102,503</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UN Habitat</b>	2.3: Water, Sanitation & hygiene	589,100
	4.4: Population	20,000
<b>Total Expenditure for UNHABITAT (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>609,100</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UN Women</b>	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	100,000
	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	120,000
	2.5: Protection Services	191,000
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	30,000
	3.2: Enabling Environment	15,000
	4.2: Economic Governance/Capacity Development	-
	4.3: Gender Equality	406,325
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
	HACT	4,083
	Gender TWG AWP	65,000
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	20,000
	Common Services Budget	13,311
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	5,000
<b>Total Expenditure for UN Women (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>973,219</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UNAIDS</b>	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	326,000
	3.2: Enabling Environment	355,000
	UNCG TWG AWP	-

	HACT Contribution	8,533
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	-
	Common Services Budget	5,274
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	-
<b>Total Expenditure for UNAIDS (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>694,807</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UNCDF</b>	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	374,905
<b>Total Expenditure for UNCDF (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>374,905</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	1.2: Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change	747,833
	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	2,945,140
	3.2: Enabling Environment	198,000
	4.1: Democratic Governance/Human Rights	1,390,181
	4.2: Economic Governance/Capacity Development	1,240,842
	4.3: Gender Equality	456,625
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
	HACT Contribution	50,104
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	-
	Common Services Budget	44,977
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	38,000
<b>Total Expenditure for UNDP (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>7,115,202</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UNESCO</b>	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	354,863
	Common Services Budget	165

<b>Total Expenditure for UNESCO (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>355,028</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	30,000
	2.1: Health Services	3,127,302
	2.4: Basic Education	1,479,787
	2.5: Protection Services	655,000
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	2,531,300
	3.2: Enabling Environment	-
	4.3: Gender Equality	668,000
	4.4: Population	185,602
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
	HACT Contribution	23,240
	Ministry Gender JAWP	867,000
	Common Services Budget	23,731
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	90,000
<b>Total Expenditure for UNFPA (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>9,684,462</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UNHCR</b>	2.4: Basic Education	363,812
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	30,000
	Common Service Budget	9,858
<b>Total Expenditure for UNHCR (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>403,670</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	21,307,613
	2.1: Health Services	6,145,051

	2.2: Nutrition Services	13,273,972
	2.3: Water, Sanitation & hygiene	7,400,112
	2.4: Basic Education	14,617,268
	2.5: Protection Services	1,765,788
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	767,364
	3.2: Enabling Environment	-
	4.1: Democratic Governance/Human Rights	104,100
	4.2: Economic Governance/Capacity Development	241,782
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
	HACT Contribution	151,709
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	-
	Common Services Budget	76,173
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	24,240
<b>Total Expenditure for UNICEF (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>65,878,671</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>UNODC</b>	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	85,179
	3.2: Enabling Environment	-
	Common Services Budget	1,460
<b>Total Expenditure for UNODC (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>86,639</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>WFP</b>	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	169,985,182
	1.2: Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change	225,000
	2.2: Nutrition Services	9,096,789
	2.4: Basic Education	8,486,223

	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	1,248,000
	3.2: Enabling Environment	65,000
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
	HACT Contribution	19,313
	Common Services Budget	90,313
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	-
<b>Total Expenditure for WFP (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>189,219,320</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016 Expenditure (US \$)</b>
<b>WHO</b>	2.1: Health Services	1,155,469
	2.2: Nutrition Services	-
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	10,000
	3.2: Enabling Environment	-
	Common Services Budget	17,863
<b>Total Expenditure for WHO (from RMS as of 31/12/2016)</b>		<b>1,183,332</b>

**Table 2: 2016 Outcome Budgets Vs Expenditures<sup>3</sup>**

Outcome	2016 Budget (US \$)	2016 Expenditure (US \$)	% Expenditure
<b>Cluster One: Economic Growth &amp; Food Security</b>			
1.1: Resilience and Food Security	272,734,620	195,727,849	72
1.2: Environment and Climate Change	3,628,061	2,054,902	57
1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	7,225,666	5,680,577	79
<b>Total Cluster One</b>	<b>283,588,347</b>	<b>203,463,328</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Cluster Two: Social and Protection Services</b>			
2.1: Health Services	17,677,161	10,427,822	59
2.2: Nutrition Services	16,978,955	22,370,761	132
2.3: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	11,340,684	8,019,212	71
2.4: Education	29,748,985	25,327,674	85
2.5: Protection Services	6,125,789	2,611,788	43
<b>Total Cluster Two</b>	<b>81,871,574</b>	<b>68,757,256</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Cluster Three: HIV/AIDS</b>			
3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	5,664,096	5,027,843	89
3.2: Enabling Environment	751,500	645,000	86
<b>Total Cluster Three</b>	<b>6,415,596</b>	<b>5,672,843</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Cluster Four: Governance and Human Rights</b>			
4.1: Democratic Governance and Human Rights	1,993,333	1,494,281	75
4.2: Economic Governance/Capacity Development Group	1,853,124	1,482,624	80
4.3: Gender Group	2,304,730	1,410,950	61
4.4: Population	214,365	205,602	96
<b>Total Cluster Four</b>	<b>6,365,552</b>	<b>4,593,457</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Programme Groups</b>			
Ministry of Gender Joint Annual Workplan Plan	8,262,210	872,000	11
Malawi Human Rights Commission Joint Annual Workplan Plan	272,890	195,240	72
UNDAF Gender Technical Working Group AWP	-	65,000	0
UNCG AWP Budget	31,000	25,739	83
UNCares TWG AWP	86,000	67,503	78
HACT TWG	336,360	286,933	85
<b>Total Programme TWGs</b>	<b>8,988,460</b>	<b>1,512,415</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total 2016 UN Expenditure</b>	<b>387,229,529</b>	<b>283,999,299</b>	<b>73</b>

<sup>3</sup> The 2016 Outcome expenditure figures are as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and reported by the Outcome Agency Focal Points in the Results Management System (RMS).