

2017 UN Malawi UNDAF Report

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Foreword

The UN Malawi endeavored to strengthen its cooperation with the Government of Malawi to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the national development priorities through the UNDAF 2019-2023 and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy 2017-2022 (MGDSIII). Sustained support has been directed to achieve SDG16 through support to the national peace policy, SDG 13 on climate change and environmental management, and institutional capacity building in medium to long term planning.

As noted by the World Bank in its October 10, 2017 Economic Outlook, Malawi's GDP was projected to grow by 4.5% in 2017, an increase from 2.6% in 2016. Improved weather patterns with increased rainfall in 2017 resulted in improved productivity of maize (a staple food crop) which doubled over 2016 levels. According to the Ministry of Agriculture Production Estimates Survey (APES) figures, the country produced a total of 3,464,139 metric tons of maize against a national maize requirement of 3.2 metric tons, giving a surplus of about 260,000 metric tons). Despite this better production, the 2017 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) Annual Assessment report identified a total of 1,043,000 people in 20 districts to be missing their food entitlements and requiring humanitarian food assistance. Most of those food insecure people (887,655 people) are from the Southern Region spread over all the districts in the region. The country's headline inflation rate decelerated to 7.1 in December 2017, as compared to 20 percent in December 2016. This downward trend was largely due to a sustained decline in food prices resulting from the increased availability of maize, and a stable exchange rate. The World Bank also noted that sustainable growth was predicated on sound macroeconomic management and structural reforms which would lay the foundations for a more resilient and diversified agriculture sector. For Malawi's economy, the weather remains a major part of the economic cycle, with the negative impact of bad weather compounded by factors such as population growth and environmental degradation. For the 2017/18 production season, the outbreak of Fall Army Worms which have damaged close to 300,000 ha of maize, some cases of reported flooding especially in the Northern Districts and the serious dry spells which have seriously affected Southern Region districts pose fears of a looming hunger during the 2018/19 consumption season.

In view of the growing risks from recurrent floods, erratic rainfall patterns and deepening vulnerabilities, the UN will continue to play a more pro-active role and aim to continue to be the trusted coordinator and partner on disaster risk reduction and resilience building across the UN, Development Partners and government, including through resource mobilization. The UN will continue with the implementation of the project that is supporting with climate information and early warning systems being financed by the Green Climate Fund. The project aiming at saving lives and protecting agriculture-based livelihoods by improving access to climate information to inform decision making on economic activities. In 2018, the UN will continue with efforts to integrate poverty, gender and environment initiatives, including adaptation to climate change. These efforts will be realised by implementing the UNDAF 2019-2023 which has been aligned to national sub-national development plans but more importantly to the SDGs.

The development of the National Resilience Strategy and its Implementation Plan by the government offers a good opportunity to address the causes and minimize the effects of climate change and food and nutrition insecurity. 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 emphasized.

In the 2017, the UN supported the Political Parties Bill to be passed by Parliament. The Act aims at re-organising the political environment by strengthening the functioning of political parties by ensuring only strong and sound parties exist, that are transparent in their financing, membership, and inclusion of women and youth. The Act will also ensure that the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties is independent, through a transparent process of recruitment spearheaded by the Public Appointment Committee of the National Assembly and endorsed by the Executive arm of Government. The Act will foster a culture of intraparty democracy and issue-based politics as opposed to personalized politics as is the case now.

During the year, the UN also supported the development of the National Peace Policy which was launched by the State President on 29th November 2017. The policy seeks to serve as a pillar for proactive conflict prevention, management, resolution and transformation and it proposes setting up platforms for national dialogue on social, economic, political, ethnic and religious challenges. The dialogue platforms are both at National level through the Malawi Peace Commission (MPC) and District level platforms called District Peace Committees (DPCs which have been piloted in Karonga, Kasungu, and Mangochi). It is envisaged that the DPCs will promote sustainable peace and unity at community level while the MPC will coordinate dialogue on national level discussions. Both structures are apolitical and the membership is inclusive of Women and Youth with high integrity and gravitas.

The absence of accurate and timely information about population has been limiting government in its ability to inform policymaking and critical decisions with evidence-based approaches. Malawi rolled out the mass registration exercise of its citizen through the UN supported National Registration and Identification System (NRIS) which registered a total of 9,168,689 citizens. Apart from supporting policy making, the national identification system will also support government to improve the targeting in social and public services. The timing of the NRIS roll out also coincides with another UN supported initiative, the National Population and Housing Census (by UNFPA which will take place in 2018) which will provide statistical data about the characteristics of the population. The NRIS will be a universal and central reference point for personal identification, voting, social security, employment eligibility and authentication, entitlement to social services and for financial transactions.

While Malawi continues to face human rights challenges including rising inequalities and recurrent food insecurity, as well as gender based violence; it has pioneered in the region a legal ban of child marriages. Violence, and discrimination against women and girls is commonplace, rooted in a lack of gender equality, harmful practices including one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, and high -maternal mortality. Violence and discrimination against other groups including persons with albinism and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community is also widespread including hate speech against the latter. There is also a lack of access to justice, widespread vigilante justice, and severe overcrowding in Malawi's prisons. Civil society space is narrowing, with increasing threats and harassment of civil society actors and increasing political violence, as the country moves towards 2019 elections.

Lastly, the UN appreciates the continued support it receives from all stakeholders (the Government of Malawi for its leadership and guidance, Development Partners, Civil Society Organisations, International and National Non-Governmental Organisations) in carrying out its work. Special mention should go to the Department for International Development (DfID); the Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE), the Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), KfW, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Irish Aid, The European Union (EU) and the Chinese government.

The UN also partnered with several organisations and institutions to support the implementation of its work. The notable ones being; (a) Graça Machel Trust which hosted discussions on *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*; (b) academia (University of Malawi and the Millennium Institute from Washington) who strengthened the evidence

base to inform appropriate prioritization, leveraging synergies and trade - offs within the SDGs for the national development plan; (c) the private sector is expanding inclusive business development and helping poor households to access and benefit from their participation in commercial supply chains and (d) the local media (both print and electronic) in raising awareness of the SDGs.

Maria Jose Torres
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Acronyms

AECDM	Association of Early Childhood Development	NNIS	National Nutrition Information Systems
ASP	Area Stakeholder Panels	ODF	Open Defecation Free
CBCC	Community Based Child Care Centers	PACHI	Paediatrics and Child Health Association of Malawi
CBE	Complementary Basic Education	PICSA	Participatory Integrated Climate Service for Agriculture
CFM	Common Funding Mechanism	PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
CMAM	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition	PSI	Population Services International
DNHA	Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS	PWA	Persons with Albinism
ECD	Early Childhood Development	SAM	Severe Acute Malnourished
ESMP	Emergency School Meals Programme	SCI	Save the Children International
JPGE	Joint UN Girls' Education Program	SCREAM	Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Arts and the Media
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	SCTP	Social Cash Transfer Programme
MAD	Minimum Acceptable Diet	SHN	School Health and Nutrition
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition	SIA	Supplementary Immunization Activity
MHEN	Malawi Health Equity Network	SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
MNSSP	Malawi National Social Support Programme	THR	Take Home Rations
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender Children Disability and Social Welfare	YONECO	Youth Net Counselling
MRCS	Malawi Red Cross		

Key Development Trends

The year 2017 witnessed some positive developments on the macroeconomic front. After years of double-digit inflation rates, the headline inflation in December 2017 declined to a single digit of 7.1 percent compared to the headline inflation of 20.0 percent same month in 2016, being 12.9 percentage points lower. The headline inflation declined by 0.6 percent from November 2017. The decline in the headline inflation was driven by a significant drop in the food inflation rate, which fell to 4.3 percent from 4.7 percent in November 2017 while non-food inflation stood at 10.0 percent from 11.0 percent. The downward trend was largely attributed to the sustained decline in food prices, resulting from the increased availability of maize due to increased production to 3,464,139 metric tons against a national maize requirement of 3.2 metric tonnes, giving a surplus of about 260,000 metric tonnes. The decline was further influenced by the stability of the exchange rate.

The annual headline inflation rate for 2017 stands at 11.5 percent compared to the annual headline inflation of 21.7 percent in 2016. The continued easing of inflation paved the way for the Reserve Bank of Malawi to reduce the base lending rate to 16 percent which exerted pressure to the commercial banks to reduce interest rates. This in turn was expected to encourage borrowing for investment. Real GDP growth rate was projected to rise to about 4.5 percent due to the increase in agriculture productivity. However, unreliable electricity and water supply remained key constraints hindering private sector development and investment undermined the realization of the projected economic growth. Further the increase in debt stock at Debt/GDP ratio of 54 percent raised concern on future growth prospects.

To promote inclusive growth, the 2017/18 National Budget prioritized infrastructure developments. These developments included irrigation infrastructure covering among others most of small scale farmers to sustain production even in unfavorable conditions, and energy infrastructure to provide adequate power for industry, agro-processing, mining, and irrigation. The Government also prioritized transport and communication activities to foster public and business development.

However, despite better maize production, the 2017 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) Annual Assessment report identified a total of 1,043,000 people in 20 districts missing food entitlements and requiring humanitarian food assistance. Most of those food insecure people (887,655 people) were in the Southern Region districts. Because of this projected food insecurity, the Government of Malawi in collaboration with its partners developed the Food Insecurity Response Plan (FIRP), which identified food security, nutrition, agriculture, health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as the key priorities for immediate assistance. About 159,800 children aged 6-23 months, pregnant and lactating women and people leaving with HIV and AIDS were particularly identified as at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition and assisted.

In support of the overarching objective of accelerating achievement of SDGs through MAPS, intensive campaigns were conducted to raise public awareness on 2030 Agenda and SDGs. This included sensitizing government officials, Parliamentary committees and other stakeholders on the SDGs through a series of workshops, radio communication, and government and UN-sponsored meetings and forums. These activities created partnerships among multi-stakeholder bodies on the SDGs. Technical support was provided to integrate SDGs in the successor National Development Plan, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy 2017-2022 (MGDSIII) whose aim is to accelerate Malawi's transition to a productive, competitive and resilient nation. Localization of the SDGs was done through local councils and SDGs fair to prepare the ground to integrate agenda 2030 in District Development Plans. An SDGs Baseline Report was initiated to reflect disaggregated data (by sex, age and other salient socio-economic characteristics) on the indicators to ensure application of the principle of leaving no one behind. The report provides baseline data for the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the MGDSIII whose implementation together with formulation of vision 2050 for Malawi would be coordinated by the newly established National Planning Commission.

The Government, through the National Registration and Identification System project launched in 2016, registered a total of 9,168,689 citizens. Following the official closure of mass registration exercise, the project

was handed over to the National Registration Bureau for continuous registration and discussions are underway with various stakeholders to optimize the results to improve services through multiple use of the IDs.

Regarding governance and resilience, Parliament passed the HIV and AIDS (Management and Prevention Bill) after removing contentious provisions that would criminalize the transmission of HIV, violate the right to informed consent to treatment and testing and require compulsory testing for some segments of the population. The Government also launched the National Peace Policy in December 2017 which will establish a framework for stakeholders involved in conflict prevention for more collaboration, response to early warning signs of conflict and promotion of peace. The Government also launched the National Resilience Strategy (2018-2030) in November to make the country resilient to economic and environmental shocks and able to sustain inclusive growth, food and nutrition security.

The above notwithstanding, incidences of corruption (reflected in Malawi's ranking of 120/176 and a score of 31 on the Corruption Perception Index), incidents of violent attacks, and misuse of public funds continued to manifest regularly despite public-sector reforms under implementation. Political tensions continued throughout the year, which was a manifestation of weak intra- and inter-party democracy. Support to strengthen political parties was provided through Centre for Multi-Party Democracy, which advocated for and lobbied for the adoption of the Political Parties Bill by Cabinet and Parliament. The Political Parties Act will completely ban the use of handouts by candidates and is a step forward to ensure transparency in the electoral system including the political parties themselves. Public Sector Reforms were further reinforced with the development of a Public-Sector Reforms Policy that was approved by Principal Secretaries. The sectoral reform programs and contracts that were signed with the State President in 2016 were subsequently implemented in 2017 and performance contract evaluation results revealed an improvement in the performance of some sectors. Local Councils' reform plans were also adopted and will be supported under a new UN program on support to strengthening local government systems to ensure the rolling out of decentralization.

Results of the One Programme

Cluster One: Economic Growth and Food Security.

Malawi continued to respond to short-term needs, including the historic humanitarian caseload of 6.7 million people (approximately 40% of the population) in the first quarter of 2017. The humanitarian response was effective in improving household food security as evidenced by the findings under the Food Consumption Score, Coping Strategies Index as well as the Food Expenditure Share. The results show that the proportion of targeted households with poor food consumption was reduced by 68%. However, this prompted reflection by government and its development partners on the need for policy shifts, new approaches that reorient and expand existing programmes to strengthen household resilience to shocks, accelerate access to economic opportunities, expand the benefits from agricultural growth, chart a course for new partnerships and redouble its commitment to target complementary programmes in a manner that contributes to measurable change in household resilience. The UN therefore supported government with the formulation of the National Resilience Strategy (NRS) which now serves as a common programming framework to guide key programmes and investments to work better together to tackle chronic food security and poverty by actively reducing chronic vulnerability and risks. The NRS is a 12-year strategy aligned with the MDGS III, the SDGs and it focuses on four main pillars, i.e. Resilient Agricultural Growth; Risk Reduction, Flood Control, and Early Warning and Response Systems; Human Capacity, Livelihoods, and Social Protection; and Catchment Protection and Management. Some of the interventions within the four pillars are already being implemented and yielding results delivered by the national government through sector plans, sub-national authorities, district development plans, department partners, the private sector and non-governmental organizations and by communities as outlined in the subsequent paragraphs.

The UN worked with partners to promote complementary productive asset creation activities during the humanitarian response to contribute to reducing emergency caseloads for the 2017/18 lean season. The asset creation activities under Food Assistance for Asset creation (FFA) improved social services for the greater community. Partnerships with NGO partners, microfinance institutions and the insurance association enhanced delivery of Village Savings Loans, Credit and Weather Index Insurance to beneficiary households. The promotion of integrated watershed management practices has resulted in increased biomass, reduced erosion, improved moisture retention and enriched water table which has resulted in improved household crop and dietary diversity and increased income for targeted households through sale of produce.

Through the Gender and Agriculture program, rural women farmers have gained skills in business management, market literacy, financial management, and gender equity in all the target districts. This was achieved through the business management trainings that UN and the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development supported in all the gender and agriculture target districts. A total of 146 rural farmers (94 women, 52 men) have developed business plans, which will act as a road map for their efforts in transforming their farming activities into business enterprises. As a result of these training, almost all the 50 producer groups have been linked to markets, with (10) linked to well established agro-based markets such as Exagris Ltd, Chibuku Products Ltd and Export Trade Ltd.

Through the right to food window, the UN supported the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in developing a pilot land reform implementation plan. The plan provides direction to all actors involved in the land law implementation and is a key instrument for resource mobilization. Support was also provided for the development of the subsidiary legislation for the Customary Land Act of 2016, a prerequisite for operationalizing the law. The UN supported the development of a training manual on Responsible Land Governance and used it to strengthen the capacity of 60 field based trainer of trainers from 20 Civil Society Organizations in eight districts in Malawi. Further, the UN supported CSOs to raise awareness on the newly adopted land related bills. Among others, these efforts resulted into increased awareness and understanding of the changes contained in the new land related laws especially among traditional and religious leaders and

members of parliament and hence a stronger willingness among these leaders and the general population to support the enactment of the new land bills.

The UN supported the promotion of integrated watershed management capacity building to support resilience under the MNSSP II. This included the creation of best practice guidelines on Public Works and Productive Asset Creation Programmes as a step towards the harmonization of tools across implementers. The UN also supported implementation of a shock sensitive social protection (3SP) model in partnership with the Department of Climate Change and Met Services (DCCMS) and with technical support from Columbia University International Research Institute (IRI) hosted a multi-stakeholder workshop on “Using Forecasts as Triggers for the Expansion of Support” to the Most Vulnerable to inform contingency support. The UN in partnership with WB, and GIZ commissioned a piece of work on 'shock-sensitive social protection in Malawi' to the Overseas Development Institute and Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, in support of the Government, to develop policy and programmatic recommendations. The UN (through WFP and UNICEF) also worked on the vertical expansion of the Social Cash Transfer Programme in the context of 2017/2018 lean season support. The UN is contributing to a Public Expenditure Review and Returns on Investment analysis with the World Bank and UNICEF respectively to continue to develop the evidence base for the implementation of a 3SP approach in Malawi. The UN and United Purpose also worked with its partners, including the INGO Consortium and GIZ, among others, to operationalize a trial linking the Government’s developing Unified Beneficiary Registry to humanitarian targeting processes.

Under the Integrated Resilience project, the UN through District Councils and NGO cooperating partners supported 132,000 vulnerable households with labour in 10 food insecure districts of Malawi. The support enhanced community skills and knowledge development and assisted them to create different productive assets of their priority. Among the assets created were: 87,000 kitchen gardens; 66,000 pit latrines; 65,000 improved cook stoves; 1,300 shallow wells; 17 micro irrigation schemes; 740 tree nurseries; 5 million assorted seedlings and 900km community access roads.

Through the Strengthening Community Resilience to Climate Change intervention, the UN supported Farmer Field School (FFS) Approach through a tailor-made FFS curriculum which was agreed with the Department of Agriculture Extension Services (DAES). At least 42 Community Based Facilitators were trained in the FFS approach for improved effectiveness who in turn established 159 FFS groups taking at least 4,693 households through field studies on good agricultural practices with a climate change adaptation lens including land and water management, soil fertility enhancement, pest and disease management, post-harvest handling, processing and preservation of vegetables, varietal trials and agroforestry among others. The project has promoted agroforestry in all the FFS groups training 2,345 community members in tree nursery establishment and management who raised 563,938 seedlings of different species and supported out planting of 424,052 trees. In addition, about 147 hectares of deforested lands have been put under village forest areas to allow natural tree regeneration as an afforestation approach. Natural tree regeneration was promoted in about 27 village forest areas spanning 147 hectares. A total of 26,686 meters of gullies have been reclaimed as part of the integrated watershed management in areas identified during the hotspots mapping. FAO also trained 825 community members in the construction, use and management of fixed fuel saver kitchen stoves who have since constructed 368 fixed saver stoves and are in use. A total of 82 FFS groups initiated the Village Savings and Loans component, savings as at 30th September 2017 grossed MK8,258,898 for the four districts and membership to VSL groups stood at 2,475 members.

60 Producer Groups have reported improved governance and management as a result of incorporating women into leadership positions. Improved governance and management of these producer groups has enabled them to effectively get linked to markets. Women producer groups have improved their knowledge and understanding of gender issues that affect agricultural value chains and cooperative management and are able to develop strategies to address them. Various trainings were conducted to build capacity of staff and producer groups on business management, gender, product promotion, packaging and labelling to meet the market standards and increased understanding of new practical skills set of producer groups for analysing agricultural value chains.

The UN provided technical assistance to the expanded access by rural communities to affordable renewable energy services, including the design of two new clean energy mini-grids to service over 2,100 households, as well as businesses, health clinics and schools. The assistance improved resilience of households in 5 districts to climate-related shocks and their ability to adapt to climate change. The UN also deepened its support to scale up inclusive business by enabling more poor smallholders to be integrated into market-driven agricultural supply-chains and to diversify their income. Despite a challenging environment for private sector growth, the UN increased its portfolio of domestic private sector partners from 10 to 20, and launched new innovative products on the domestic market (such as affordable water filters), leading to the creation of over 300 new jobs benefiting men, women and youth.

Informed by the need to address multidimensional poverty, climate change, and natural resource degradation, with UN support, the Government adopted the Buy Malawi Strategy, National Trade Policy, National Industrial Policy, National Resilience Plan, Renewable Energy Strategy, policies and operating procedures focused on early warning and climate information systems. A budget tracking system was designed for regular reviews of climate-change related public expenditure, evidence-based budget allocation, effectiveness, and impact on reducing GHG emissions and strengthening investment in community- and natural-based climate adaptation.

Through enhanced awareness of weather, climate and environmental issues accompanied by agriculture advice, households were able to make farming decisions to adapt to the changing conditions which resulted in positive impact in their farming activities. Communities made changes to their cropping practices e.g. households switched to new varieties to fit the climate of their area, households changed dates of planting in line with the historical climate information and the seasonal forecasts. The climate services activities changed the household's way of thinking and made them more curious to seek information from their agricultural extension workers and other sources on how to improve their agriculture practice. To ensure continuation, 110 Government Agricultural Extension Officers and NGO Staff from Blantyre, Chikwawa and Nsanje districts were trained in Participatory Integrated Climate Service for Agriculture (PICSA) methodology. PICSA is a tool that builds capacity of extension officers to access, understand, interpret and disseminate climate information to farmers in a way that is useful and usable. The weather and climate information (accompanied by agriculture advice) were also disseminated to vulnerable households through radio (Zodiac) and SMS platforms. So far 11,000 farmers registered their mobile contacts and received climate information; more than 10,000 farmers have been reached through radio and more than 7,000 farmers have been reached by extension officers with weather, climate information and agriculture and natural resource management advice.

With UN support, the average number of days taken by government to initiate disaster response assistance has reduced from 10 days (2014) to 4 days (2017). The UN supported the formulation of the National Resilience Strategy and Operational Guidelines for Disaster Response. The UN also supported development of disaster risk management and adaptation plans for three cities and districts. Malawi Government is piloting integration of adaptation planning at local level through these three districts to inform reforms in the national development planning process. The UN also supported government efforts to develop a national climate change fund which will coordinate and enhance access to climate finance. A total of 23,000 people in 5 disaster prone districts were supported with flood mitigation structures and four evacuation centres. These facilities will reduce vulnerability of communities who are affected by floods annually and provide evacuation facilities for displaced populations.

The UN provided new information on the present status of the aquatic system of Lake Malombe including changes in the depth profile, perimeter and area including the nature of the bottom. From limnology results, Lake Malombe was classified as "mesotrophic". The water depth, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus and other carrying capacity parameters are indicative of a productive ecosystem which is generally not suited for cage culture. The continuing decline of fish catches from a high of 12,000 tons (in 1990s) to less than 3,860 tons currently shows that implementation of fishing regulations remains a top priority; without which other interventions are unlikely to succeed. The fish resource has faced the plight of, "Tragedy of the Commons" since 1990s and little has changed. Other notable ecosystem changes included invasion of snails (>40% in fish

catches), a significant shift in fish species composition. The Lake Malawi pelagic sardine fish species known as Usipa (*Engraulicyprus sardella*) has recently invaded the lake; possibly driven by overfishing and warming surface waters favouring short-lived fish.

The UN supported the Government on Safe disposal of POPs and other obsolete pesticides and remediation of heavily contaminated sites. A total of 238 metric tonnes and 13 methyl bromide cylinders were repackaged and shipped to disposal facilities in Europe and Uganda in December 2017. Additionally, 14 facilitators were trained in safe alternatives to conventional pesticides such as IPPM through FFS extension and have since established over 50 farmer field schools in Shire Valley, Machinga and Salima ADDs.

Through the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund, 250,100 poor people experienced a net positive income; 900 low income and unskilled people got permanent employment; 25,000 smallholder households benefited from new or enhanced income generating, or livelihood improvement opportunities and 25,000 low income direct consumers are utilizing new or enhanced products/services that impact on their basic human needs. New products entirely manufactured in Malawi as an import substitute and for export include, amongst others, a Water Filtration System for drinkable water; a non-refrigerated margarine; a specialty tea (herb and flower flavored) that is 100% small-holder led and a UHT (long shelf life) flavored milk with a 100% small-holder dairy supply chain.

Through the Gender and Agriculture Program, there has been increased access to extension services. Women have doubled their access to agricultural extension from 20% to around 40%. This has resulted from five (5) major gender mainstreaming trainings that the UN provided to 219 extension officers in three districts under the Gender and Agriculture programme in Malawi. Because of these trainings most extension officers have expressed confidence and improved capacity to reach out to women and other vulnerable farmers. In this regard extension officers have trained 1101 lead farmers to help increase rural women and vulnerable farmers access to extension services. This has led to increased agricultural productivity among rural women in Malawi.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry was supported with the formulation of the Buy Malawi Strategy Marketing and Communication plan. Some of the efforts undertaken include; development of a dedicated website for the Ministry of Trade and Industry, efforts for the enrollment into the campaign of the private sector are also underway, registration of Buy Malawian, Build Malawi logos for use from the private sector on compliant locally produced goods has been completed, major retailers have been engaged to embrace the initiative and start displaying the “Buy Malawian, Build Malawi” slogan and eligible products on supermarket shelves. The Buy Malawi Strategy (BMS) is aiming at promoting consumption of locally produced goods and services, enhanced local firms’ trade and business competitiveness, stimulate local production to create jobs, and propel industrialization.

On Skills and Technical Education Programme (STEP), the UN supported the drafting of a Training, Development and Assessment manual and the establishment of a National Association of TEVET Principals. So far, a set of Level 1 teaching and learning materials in five construction trades (each of which have been validated by a respective trade advisory committee from industry) have been developed. STEP champions are working to promote technical education in general and construction trades as viable career choices. Further, discussions are being held with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) to establish a career guidance system at secondary schools that recognizes TEVET as an option.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, the Gender HIV/AIDS Strategy was disseminated. The dissemination provided guidance to stakeholders and partners in the agricultural sector to mainstream gender, HIV and AIDS through strategic objectives and action plans. The strategy aims to promote gender equality, prevent the spread of HIV, mitigate the impact of AIDS, and to ultimately contribute to increased agricultural productivity. The meetings provided a platform for stakeholders to develop strategies and ideas for bolstering implementation and dissemination of GHA Strategy at different levels.

Challenges for Cluster One:

- The main challenges with building resilience for vulnerable households focus on the Government and NGO partners' insufficient capacity to provide regular technical and supervisory support to communities; lack of accountability and difficulty in getting accurate and reliable financial report as well as poor quality and inconsistent reporting. This includes lack of knowledge required to implement programmes, for example, for the Insurance Programme, there is lack of capacity regarding the technical aspects of index insurance product design among key stakeholders in the country resulting to slow progress in developing market for index insurance.
- Despite the pivotal role which Area Stakeholder Panels (ASPs) play in facilitating the consolidation of farmer's demands, most ASPs have limited functionality due to scarcity of financial resources at district councils to build their capacities to execute duties diligently in agricultural development. Partners have worked to address these capacity gaps, for example three Technical Assistants are being seconded to government to support financial management, ICT and communication. Additional staff were also recruited to support implementation of the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) and the linkages and referral component.
- A main lesson learned from policy-level social protection/resilience work is the value of working together with relevant UN agencies, as exemplified by the close cooperation of ILO, UNICEF, WFP and FAO in various evidence creation and policy development processes. It is recommended that this cooperation should be further strengthened and that the implementation of the new social protection framework (the MNSSP II) will be done on the basis of joint programming.
- Lessons were also learnt with the humanitarian response, for example, WFP and partners engaged MVAC beneficiaries from the onset of emergency operation, to implement complementary productive assets and smoothly transitioning them to multiyear project reducing the lean season caseload. This has enabled households to boost their agricultural productivity, improve their food and nutrition security, and helped to reduce future humanitarian need.
- Due to a very rapid deterioration of the macro-economic environment, making access to foreign exchange and finance was particularly difficult for all companies in the MIFP portfolio. Also, production was slowed down due to the relatively low energy supply in the country.
- Creating synergies with other projects implementing similar interventions is key in unlocking bigger impact and leveraging on the resource utilisation. For instance, the on-going related interventions to climate change adaptation implemented in Zomba and Neno districts by other development partners including the UN are fostering synergies and complementarities to the climate change adaptation intervention.
- There is need for proper mechanism to integrate indigenous knowledge (local weather forecasting) and the scientific knowledge. The climate services program has performed well in areas where it has been integrated with other Resilience programs such as Food Assistance for Asset (FFA) and Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) - this has to be encouraged and sustained.
- Planning for projects where new knowledge is to be generated requires careful thought, otherwise opportunities are lost for innovation and creativity. Too much time is wasted on crisis management and especially the procurement process. Missed time frames meant missed opportunities for new ideas with respect to an evolving ecosystem like Lake Malombe where seasonal information is crucial.

2017 Emerging Priorities for Cluster One:

- The key opportunity in 2018 will be the implementation of the MNSSP II and the positioning of the UN as the driving force behind the framework's implementation and support towards Government on social protection, ensuring a coherent implementation on the basis of a strong internal UN coordination framework. WFP, UNICEF, ILO, and partners are working towards a vision of 3SP (shock-sensitive social protection) in Malawi, to anchor learnings to date, and inform additional evidence required to transition towards a 3SP approach.
- With additional funding from Government of Netherlands, the UN will continue supporting the scale up of the SCTP linkage and referral programme-cash plus, a component that links SCTP beneficiaries to other service providers. Donors' interest to continue financing multiyear and integrated resilience projects and local buy-in of the programme provides an opportunity for sustainability and scale-up of the UN's integrated approach towards building resilience.
- There is a push to make Climate Services activities mainstreamed into national and district level plans and budgets as one way of sustainability measures (beyond the project period). More discussions will be required at national and district level to ensure that there is a concrete strategy in place. Enhanced collaboration and coordination amongst stakeholders in climate service activities implementation i.e. Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD), Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), FAO, UNDP, University of Reading, LUANAR, NGOs and communities provides room for innovation and sustainability.
- There is an opportunity to integrate PICSA methodology as a topic into extension courses at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) as a sustainability mechanism, with the potential of enhancing innovation in climate services. DCCMS commitment to support climate services activities in the country by providing necessary information as required provides room for innovation backed by the increasing demand for climate information in different sectors i.e. health, agriculture, construction, transport for planning and decision-making purposes.

Cluster Two: Social and Protection Services.

On 14th February 2017 parliament passed Bill No 36 of 2016 amending section 22 of the Constitution, raising the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years of age in line with Malawi's international human rights law obligations. Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with 1 in 2 girls married by the age of 18. The process of harmonizing legislation in line with the amendment has commenced. Community awareness and mobilisation to end child marriage has been catalysed through a national mass media campaign to end child marriage launched through Zodiak National Broadcasting Station.

More children, adolescent girls and women accessed preventative and responsive protection services at national, district and community levels. Over 15,000 children benefitted from child protection case management services through front-line government social workers. From January to October 2017, over 56,000 victims were assisted through Community and Police Victim Support Unit (VSU). The workforce was supported to continue delivering quality protective services. Multi-sectoral service delivery is being strengthened through the Essential Services Package for GBV, which has been rolled out to 40 service providers.

Over 239,000 children received psycho-social services through Children's Corners. Over 50,000 children (25,673F, 26,275M) under 5 had their births registered. A total of 353 persons with albinism (PWA) (101 children; 252 adults – 193F, 160M) received protection strengthening materials and 125 women with disabilities received training on the prevention of GBV and promotion of their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SHRH).

Support continued to the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW) to implement child protection case management in 10 districts. In 2017, 18% of all cases of violence reported related to child marriages. Community structures continued to be engaged in the efforts to end child marriages and other harmful cultural practices. Three district based dialogue sessions took place, providing an enabling environment for youth to interact with authorities and leaders and share their lived experiences. A research partnership with the University of Zurich commenced to build the evidence on harmful practices, especially harmful sexual initiation rites and child marriage, to provide the basis for programming and policy advocacy.

There was modest progress in access to quality education and adolescent friendly development services in the first half of 2017. The primary net enrolment rate remains high as 98%. The primary completion rate for girls and Gender Parity Index (GPI) in STD8 stayed at 47% and 0.88, respectively. Gross Enrolment Rate for Early Childhood Development (ECD) increased from 44% to 45%. On the other hand, refugee camp schools registered lower enrolment with 63% overall enrolment, and 49% were girls. Preschool enrolment was approximately 10% with 52% of the children being girls.

The UN supported improving the policy environment through: i) the development of policy and strategic frameworks such as the development of the national School Health and Nutrition (SHN) Policy and Strategy, ii) the mobilisation of additional predictable resources: supporting ECD advocacy resulted in USD 865,385 government allocation to this sector, the common funding mechanism was signed and it catalysed the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) fund worth 45USD million, and there was nearly 300% increase in funding for the youth/adolescent sector. The National Inclusive Education Strategy was being prepared for its launch and the national reading programme was being implemented. Finally, the capacity for results tracking was enhanced through a various statistical capacity building support such as the establishment of Real Time Monitoring (RTM) and improvements in Education Management Information System (EMIS) equipment.

The UN contributed to improving access to quality services in four ways: i) Community Based Cares Centers (CBCC) increased from 10,000 to 11,000 centres in which 18,567 children received school meals; ii) 61% of UN targeted 255 school met the quality standards aimed at reversing low survival, high repetition, and achievement of pupils. Consequently, while survival rates stagnated at 32%, the dropout rate of girls and boys maintained at 4% under the UN Joint UN Girls' Education Program (JPGE); and iii) 36,500 adolescents accessed adolescent friendly services, iv) Emergency school meals programme reached 62,000 learners in four districts. The UN also improved learning outcomes through a review of teacher training curriculum initiated while a functional literacy programme for out of school adolescent was adopted by the Ministry of Labour and Youth.

To improve the quality of education, the UN agencies supported the government to embark on three initiatives: i) first, the piloting of a performance-based financing initiative for effective school improvement. 61% of UN targeted schools now meet quality standards aimed at reducing repetition and improving survival rates. This will also inform the National School Improvement Programme (NSIP) and nationwide replication; ii) the review of the initial primary teacher education curriculum and development of a Continuous Professional Development framework. The aim is a reflective teacher who is also well supported/mentored; and iii) finally, supported the piloting of a decentralized procurement of teaching and learning materials (TLMs) to ensure better textbook availability.

Towards the expansion of youth friendly services, the UN collectively contributed to i) establishment of alternative education pathways for out of school children including the provision of afternoon classes to 1224 children (617 boys and 607 girls), vocational training for 1163 youths (627 boys and 536 girls), and Complementary Basic Education (CBE) that focused on child labour and literacy for a collective total of 19,561 children through 540 learning centres; ii) establishment of youth and adolescent friendly centres via an expanded partnership with WV, AGLIT, AYISE, etc.; and iii) the adoption of a functional literacy programme in which 24,000 youth were enrolled. A total of 515 children have been mainstreamed back into formal primary education.

288 schools in Lilongwe, Ntcheu, Dowa and Kasungu have been trained in child labour using the UN tool Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Arts and the Media (SCREAM methodology) and how they can promote child participation in their schools. In a bid to promote child participation and giving a voice to children, child rights clubs were established.

Increased demand for quality youth-friendly services were created through; i) community mobilisation and training on the issue of child labour; and ii) through utilising multimedia communication strategies for girl's education, 85 percent of selected communities were reached, 60% of Chiefs took effective action, 19 by-laws were established and the re-admission policy implemented. In schools, action plans are in place incorporating commitments of teachers, parents, and children.

Access to ECD improved from 44% to 45%, and a total of 1.5 million children accessed quality ECD services. Regarding quality, 59% of children 36 to 59 months are developmentally on track in at least three of the following domains; literacy and numeracy, physical, social-emotional and learning. On the contrary, access to ECD in Dzaleka camp for refugee children was at 10% due to limited capacity. Efforts were made to map privately owned ECD centers in communities to build their capacity.

UN contributed to improving the policy environment with the successful coordinated advocacy with development partners which has raised the profile and relevance of ECD. As a result, allocation of government funding of USD865,385 to ECD despite the declining public financing for children in the 2017/18 financial year. This amount representing 18% of the overall budget allocation of the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare compared to 9% allocated in 2016/17 financial year.

As part of quality improvement, UN contributed to an integration of care for child development into functional literacy classes that has enhanced positive parenting skills for teen mothers on top of the nutrition, literacy, numeracy and hygiene principles acquired in functional literacy classes. Also, an incorporation of ECD into the teacher training curriculum took place, and it enabled teachers to teach children within a developmental phase effectively. Finally, UN supported a development of a stand-alone module on early care, learning, and stimulation for national care group approach for the health sector. This will enhance the provision of positive parenting skills to pregnant and lactating mothers

UN supported 93 ECD centres with onsite meals to improve enrolment, attendance, and understanding of the importance of nutrition amongst parents in collaboration with the government and Association of Early Childhood Development (AECDM) reaching 18,567 children. Other key activities included training of 85 caregivers, strengthening of the ECD networks in Chikwawa and Nsanje and provision of farm inputs and improved farming methods to ECD centres for establishment of gardens for improved nutrition status of children and sustainability of the programme. School Meals Program (SMP) was scaled up in 35 new schools and reached a total of 783 schools in 13 districts contributing to overall national coverage of 44% of learners receiving school meals. Emergency School Meals Programme (ESMP) was implemented in 71 primary schools reaching 62,000 learners in four most food insecure districts from November 2016 to April 2017 as part of a historic humanitarian response where 40% of the population were identified as requiring lean season support. A total number of 94,000 learners including girls and orphan boys in eight districts were supported with Take Home Rations (THR) as an incentive to keep them in school during the lean period. An ESMP case study demonstrates that schools maintained a 20 percent improvement in daily attendance for both boys and girls in February 2017, while the rate in schools which did not implement ESMP dropped by 12 percent since August 2016. On the sector policy advocacy, following support to the drafting process, the UN supported the government to launch and disseminate the National School Health and Nutrition Policy which was endorsed and approved by four key ministries. To ensure strong linkage between SMP and social protection policy, UN agencies supported the development of second Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II).

The UN supported the Malawi Government to review the School Health and Nutrition Strategic Plan and Guidelines, which has since been finalized and awaits validation, printing and dissemination. The UN also

supported the review of the nutrition education curriculum to complement the school feeding program in the national schools. This will lead to inclusion of Nutrition Education as a standalone subject at teacher training level in Malawi. Teaching nutrition to children is key to developing healthy eating habits. School based nutrition is an important component of comprehensive school health. Therefore, the upcoming generation of teachers in Malawi will be comprehensively prepared to transfer comprehensive nutrition education to the thousands of Malawian young learners. Additionally, nutrition education curriculum materials have been developed to support the teaching of the newly introduced subject, the materials include a teaching syllabus, teacher and learner handbooks, sourcebooks on Nutrition Education and School Gardens, Big Books for specific topics within nutrition education that required special emphasis, and posters. The curriculum materials will be used for not only Teacher Training but also for Primary Schools. The primary schools in Dzaleka camp continued to benefit from the school meals provided through Mary's Meals.

As a result of the UN direct support, a total of 30,250 people (15,428 women and 14,822 men) gained access to improved water source through 126 boreholes that were either constructed or rehabilitated in 2017. The government was supported with the provision of WASH services in institutions, which consisted of rural primary schools, health centers, and community based child care centers (CBCCs). A total of 69,600 children (35,496 girls and 34,104 boys) were supported to access safe water, gender appropriate and improved latrines and urinal facilities in 116 schools.

UN in Malawi played a critical role in ensuring that there is continued coordination in the implementation of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) strategy at national level despite major staff turnover in the Ministry of Health which affected the operations of the National Task Force on ODF and hand washing strategy in 28 districts. The National ODF Task Force certified that over 71 out of 263 Traditional Areas as being ODF; 28 of these attained ODF status with financial support from the UN. In contribution to this result, the UN supported Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) triggering in 2,467 villages in this reporting period. This resulted in 1,200 villages becoming ODF, representing a 49% conversion rate, which is above the national average of 40%. This means that over 300,000 people (159,000 women and 141,000 men) now live in safe and clean environments free of faecal matter, thereby contributing to reducing the risk of diarrhea and other water-borne diseases.

As a result of the UN support through partners, a total of 2,467 communities and 616,750 people (326,878 women and 289,872 men) acquired knowledge on hand washing with soap in the 15 targeted districts. The hygiene promotion interventions also resulted in the installation of 74,943 hand washing facilities in communities. UNICEF Malawi also supported 182,000 people in institutions (schools, CBCCs and health facilities) to access appropriate hand washing facilities.

The UN supported the National ODF Task force in revising the National ODF and Hand Washing Strategy which is scheduled for completion in 2018. Three critical studies namely (1) Evaluation of the Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene Programme in Malawi; (2) Assessing Hand Washing Practices among Lactating Mothers in ODF Villages: A case study of Dowa and Kasungu Districts; (3) Research study into Open Defecation Free (ODF) sustainability" were commissioned in 2017. Findings from these studies will greatly inform the next UNDAF and UN agency specific country programmes in the WASH sector.

Malawi has made significant strides in reducing stunting in children under five years from 47.1% in 2010 to 37.1% in 2015-16 (Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, 2015-16) and vitamin A deficiency in pre-school children has decreased from 22% in 2009 to 3.6% in 2015 (MDHS, 2015-16).

The lives of over 44,000 children under five years who recovered from Severe Acute Malnutrition and 139,378 under twelve children, pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) were saved in 2017. Universal coverage of vitamin A supplementation and de-worming was achieved. Micronutrient powders (MNPs) were introduced in two districts and a nutrition information system further in reducing stunting strengthened.

As per the National Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) database, 47,447 children (23,248 M, 24, 199 F) representing 77 per cent of the targeted 61,381 children with Severe Acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated from January to December, 2017. In addition, 153,162 (47,556 PLW, 51,745 girls and 53,861 boys) beneficiaries with Moderate Acute Malnutrition representing 79 percent of the targeted 194,232 have been treated. The cessation of active case finding in May 2017, coupled with the improvement in food security across the country contributed to reduced number of SAM children and MAM children and PLW admitted. This was also evidenced by the SMART survey conducted in May 2017 which showed improved nutrition situation compared with same season in 2016. A total of 47,834 children were discharged from SAM treatment of which 44,778 (94 per cent) recovered which is above the minimum SPHERE target of 75 per cent and is also higher than the recovery rate recorded during the same period in 2016 (91 per cent). In addition, a total of 153,616 children, PLW were discharged from MAM treatment of which 139,378 (91 per cent) recovered which is above the minimum SPHERE target of 75 per cent and is also higher than the recovery rate recorded in 2016 of 88.4 per cent. This is indicative of improved CMAM program performance. District health workers received mentoring and supportive supervision in all the 618 Out-patient Therapeutic Feeding Program (OTPs), 104 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) and 586 Supplementary Feeding Program sites across the country by the 21 Nutrition Field Monitors (NFM) positioned at district level through UNICEF and 21 Food Monitors through WFP support to improve CMAM service delivery. This addressed key bottlenecks for infant and young child feeding which included the lack of capacity of health workers to provide counselling and support to mothers, lack of the enabling environment to support breastfeeding in facilities and poor access to quality complementary food. To address these bottlenecks of suboptimal breastfeeding, UNICEF successfully advocated with Ministry of Health for the adoption of the policy for the establishment of the breastfeeding corners in maternity hospitals for mothers/caregivers access support and counselling to improve skills for optimal breastfeeding, which will be rolled out in 2018 in all maternity facilities in 28 districts across the country.

Attainment of a minimum acceptable diet among children 6-23 months remains a challenge in Malawi. According to the recent MDHS, only about one in ten children (8%) meet the requirements for frequency and diversity of meals. To address this challenge, an innovative approach was adopted to improve the quality of complementary feeding of children aged 6-23 months through home fortification with Micronutrient Powders (MNPs). Technical and financial support for the roll-out of MNPs and finalization of the National MNPs guidelines and implementation plan resulted in launch of this initiative only in Nkhatabay and Ntcheu districts. This resulted in a total of 47,713 children aged 6-23 months (23,914 boys, 23,799 girls) benefitting from an improvement in the quality of their diets. The number of children reached accounted for 84 percent of 6-23 months olds against a target of 80 percent in the two districts. Registered improved food security indicators in 6 districts (Phalombe, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Zomba, Blantyre and Karonga) enrolled onto WFP's resilience programmes evidenced by a majority of the households (90%) had acceptable food consumption score, 12% minimum acceptable diet (MAD) of the children aged 6 to 24 months higher than 8% national average. Ntchisi registered 36.4% MAD in 6 to 24 months children.

To address micronutrient deficiency disorders, micronutrient interventions for children 6-59 months were successfully delivered through the integrated Measles-Rubella campaign conducted in June 2017 (first semester). During this campaign, a total of 2,943,501 children (1,398,188 boys and 1,545,313 girls) were reached with vitamin A supplementation boosting their immunity which represented 100 per cent coverage exceeding the target of 90 per cent. About 2,783,044 children 12-59 months (1,330,970 boys and 1,452,074 girls) were reached with de-worming representing a 100 per cent coverage compared to a target of 80 per cent (Integrated Measles-Rubella SIA Report, MoH). The preliminary results of second round conducted in December 2017 reached a total of 2,848,156 children (1,327,882 boys and 1,520,274 girls) with vitamin A supplementation and 2,306,609 children (1,064,640 boys and 1,241,969 girls) de-wormed representing a 99% and 100% coverage, respectively. Full coverage is reported for the Vitamin A and deworming coverage although the physical counted figures surpassed the projected targets as the denominator was established using NSO projections. According to the 2015/16 Micronutrient Survey, 90 per cent of the households in Malawi use iodized

salt. Continued technical and financial support to the government ensured that salt iodization is continually monitored to ensure that the targets for universal usage are achieved.

During the reporting period, the National Nutrition Information Systems (NNIS) was further strengthened which significantly helped to ensure timely availability of critical nutrition situation data and accurate reporting of CMAM program data. Additionally, monitoring of the nutrition emergency situation was strengthened through partnership with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA). Through this partnership, the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey was conducted for all 7 livelihood zones in the country in May 2017. The results of the SMART survey showed an improvement in the nutrition situation compared to the same period in the 2015/2016 season. Timely availability of data on the nutrition situation, ensured that evidence-based decisions were made and nutrition emergency response plans were realigned throughout the 2017 emergency period.

Using the evidence generated by the periodic SMART surveys, UNICEF and WFP advocated for the development of nutrition cluster emergency plans which received 100 per cent funding. This resulted in the implementation of an effective nutrition emergency response in all 28 districts, where UNICEF and WFP ensured that nutrition supplies were distributed even in hard-to-reach CMAM sites. The placement of 21 Nutrition Field Monitors and 21 Food Monitors at district level and partnerships with 7 Non-governmental Organizations resulting in improved coordination of the emergency response at sub-district level. This ensured that monthly mass screening was conducted which resulted in early identification of children with SAM and MAM before they developed medical complications. During that period, 5,723,721 children aged 6 to 59 months were reached through mass screening against a target of 6,594,988 children representing a coverage of 87 per cent exceeding the target of 80 per cent. However, the cessation of active case finding in May 2017, coupled with the improvement in food security across the country resulted in 11 per cent decrease in SAM admissions from 53,054 children in 2016 to 47,447 same period in 2017 (National CMAM Database, 2016/2017).

Malawi is making steady progress in utilization of high impact maternal, neonatal and child survival services such as Ante Natal Care (ANC), skilled birth attendance, immunization and treatment of common childhood illnesses including diarrhea, pneumonia and malaria as seen by a continued downward trend. During the year proportion of children immunized with DTP3 increased to 89% from 84% and BCG vaccination coverage increased to 89% from 86%. A total of 473,871 and 465,448 children received the recommended doses of DPT and measles containing vaccines respectively. Malawi succeeded to achieve high coverage of measles-rubella (MR) vaccination (100%) through Integrated MR Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) in 2017.

During the year 30% of the Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEMONc) facilities remained fully functional, 35 Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) committees remained functional and addressed most of the recommendations from maternal death reviews which helped in reducing maternal deaths. 169 fistula patients were repaired successfully and focus districts were supported with Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) equipment and IP materials and supplies including uniforms. Stockouts were reduced to a minimum at 5% at all levels. 520,325 young persons (318,225 F: 218,100M) were reached with Adolescent sexual and reproductive health??

ASRH information and services and 24 health facilities providing Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) were accredited. The skills lab at Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN) was strengthened, AMAMI strategy reviewed and validated, Midwifery standards, Scope of practice and Code of Ethics have been disseminated to practicing midwives and tutors.

UN approach to social mobilization focused on promoting early health care seeking behaviour, facilitating the engagement of communities, especially pregnant mothers, to report for ANC in the first trimester to have effective maternal care. To improve early care seeking behavior, health promotion messages were delivered both

at household and community levels. This created awareness on immunization benefits. The awareness campaign included printing and distribution of print materials, radio messages and TV spots as well as public announcements using fliers. This has resulted high coverage of measles-rubella vaccination and vitamin A supplementation during Integrated Measles Rubella campaign in 2017.

Malawi made major strides in cold chain management, provision of care for sick children at the community and health facility level, to continue reducing deaths amongst children and new-born focused in low performing districts. Major achievement is that the country has maintained a status of no-stock out for vaccines. Cold chain management was ensured through the introduction of 480 solar refrigerators and freezers and through improved skills of health workers through training on vaccine and cold chain management. Low performing districts were also enabled to reach more children through Periodic Immunizations campaigns. The country was also technically and financially supported for the official introduction of measles second dose into the routine EPI delivery system.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- There continues to be challenges in accessing services, especially for women and children in rural areas who are constrained by limited mobility to service points and negative social norms including those related to gender, violence and bribery. The provision of transport, such as bicycles and vehicles provided to service providers has addressed some of these mobility issues. In order to overcome the entrenched challenges relating to harmful gender norms that perpetuate violence, there is a need to invest in evidence-based programming – working with both males and females – to shift attitudes and practices such as the work being undertaken through the UN Joint Programme on Girls' Education. To address bribery etc. there is a need for further work to increase transparency and accountability.
- Most Persons with Albinism (PWA) have withdrawn from economic activities due to insecurity including stigma and discrimination in their communities. PWA rarely participate in economic activities such as Malawi Social Action Fund and public works programs. Few are participating in Village Savings and Loans Associations and Small Medium Enterprises because they lack start-up capital. Women are disproportionately affected as men run away from their households when a child with albinism is born in the families. There is a need to engage PWA in income generating activities and build their skills to manage enterprises while at the same time ensuring secure spaces for them.
- Limited government capacity paired with lack of ownership; economic situation (limited government funding) and donor restrictions on using government systems continued to restrict government participation and had an impact on the implementation of some projects. Based on some successes, increasing government budget advocacy and supporting resource mobilisation will be a focus in 2018.
- To strengthen emergency response and coordination in education cluster, hiring a dedicated Cluster Coordinator should be considered. It was challenging to rapidly respond to the drought and refugee emergency over the 2016/17 lean season without preparedness in the education cluster.
- Setting up/development of Management Information Systems by the government was slow, more specifically, the establishment of the Real-Time Monitoring (RTM) took some time and is still delayed which impacted on progress assessment as well as planning.
- Insufficient infrastructure in camp schools is a major challenge and causes overcrowding, low enrolment, as well as affecting quality of education. The fact that camp schools are not integrated in the nationwide education system makes it difficult to access support from other donors as they fund Government directly.

- Inadequate capacity of health workers to provide counselling and support to mothers, lack of the enabling environment to support breastfeeding in facilities and poor access to quality complementary food are some of the challenges facing infant and children feeding. To address these bottlenecks of sub-optimal breastfeeding, the UN successfully advocated with Ministry of Health and adopted establishment of the breastfeeding corners in maternity hospitals for mothers/caregivers access support and counselling to improve skills for optimal breastfeeding, which will be rolled out in 2018 in all maternity facilities in 28 districts across the country.
- Inadequate supervision from government and delays in rolling out of CMAM guidelines affected the quality of service delivery. Enhanced coordination and partnerships has resulted in high coverage of service delivery for maternal, infant and young child feeding practices; UN provided technical and financial support and advocated the development of nutrition cluster emergency plans informed by the periodic SMART surveys which secured 100% funding of the response plan; the UN also established eight partnerships with Civil Society which resulted in improved coordination of the emergency response at sub-district level and ensured that monthly mass screening was conducted which resulted in early identification of children with SAM before they developed medical complications.
- Challenge on immunization coverage remains with continuity of immunization as measles vaccination (82%) and Td2+ vaccination among women of child bearing age is very low (21%). The less than desired progress on immunization was mostly due to inadequate fuel and transport to conduct outreach sessions. Traditionally outreach sessions occurred once a month, are now down to 4 times a year. Furthermore, challenges around the accuracy, timeliness and completion of administrative data has contributed toward poor reporting of antigen coverage.

2018 Emerging Priorities

- Malawi has extremely low birth registration coverage, estimated at 5.6%. The UN successfully advocated for the inclusion of children under 16 in the mass national ID registration campaign and the linking of the national ID and birth registration databases. Civic education to increase children's registration as part of the mass ID campaign was rolled out and the campaign registered 4.5 million children below 16. The linking of the birth registration and ID systems is now required to increase birth registration coverage and enable Malawi to better plan, implement and monitor policy affecting children.
- High rates of teenage pregnancies and child marriages persist in Malawi. A number of significant steps have been taken and supported by the UN to address these interconnected issues, including the Constitutional amendment on the age of marriage, the launch of the nationwide end child marriage campaign, the development of a strategic plan on child marriage, the commencement of research into the behavioural economics relating to harmful practices including child marriage, as well as important developments in strengthening the response to sexual abuse and exploitation in humanitarian contexts. Continued momentum, investment, and coordination will be necessary to effectively address these issues.
- Collaboration and harmonization among UN agencies are essential to maximize impacts of the intervention. The UN Joint Programme on Girls' Education (JPGE) demonstrated joint programming and programme convergence among UN agencies. Additional partnerships were also reached among WFP, UNICEF and World Vision to bridge work on literacy promotion. WFP and UNICEF also worked to develop concepts and strategies to improve nutritional outcomes for adolescent girls which also effect on education outcomes and succeeded to include in proposal for next JPGE.
- 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 a legal framework for ECD.
- Despite very good progress in terms of households gaining access to sanitation facilities by constructing their own latrines and achieving an open defecation (ODF) status, sustaining a ODF rate continues to be a challenge. At the technical level, the UN is working with Mzuzu University Smart Center to develop better latrine designs and marketing strategy. District partners continued to face financial, logistical and capacity challenges to supervise, monitor and manage the programme. Another challenge has been the low financial absorption capacity of district councils which ultimately has implications on achievement of results. The UN continues to engage NGO and the private sector that have demonstrated efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery to provide back up support and complement district efforts. The UN will also take advantage of the Development Partner Group to advocate for the review of outdated policies, strategies and guidelines in the WASH sector while considering the SDGs.
- The joint UNICEF and FAO AFIKEPO program which is nutrition sensitive and specific supported by European Union to enhance synergy is a great opportunity for an effective delivery of integrated nutrition services across the sectors. Evidence generation on barriers to consumption of minimum acceptable diets by children 6 - 24 months its key emerging priority, as the indicator remains very low, and complementary feeding contributes to stunting.
- Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) integrated with nutrition interventions into the campaign enhancing the benefits from the financial and human resource investments. UNICEF is working with its partners namely the MOH, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Luke International Norway, Malaria Alert Centre at College of Medicine, Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN), Malawi Red Cross (MRCs), Parent and Child Health initiative, Paediatrics and Child Health Association of Malawi (PACHI), Population Services International (PSI), Save the Children and Youth Net Counselling(YONECO) to support the government both technically and financially in expanding and sustaining the reach as well as quality of essential health services for community and home-based care, as well as in health facilities, including in emergency response.

Cluster Three: HIV/AIDS

The UN successfully supported the lobbying of HIV and AIDS Management and Prevention Bill that Parliament passed in November 2017 after many years of consultations. The HIV and AIDS Management and Prevention Act will provide an enabling policy environment for inclusive planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national HIV response. The other related support was on the international high-level meeting on “Promoting Policy Coherence on Health Technology Intervention and Access in the ARIPO Region” that produced a communique on agreements and the way forward.

The UN also supported a study on Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services by key populations that reports indicate is limited due to stigma and discrimination, lack of responsive services, negative attitudes against them in public and among health personnel, and criminalization of same sex sexual practices. The study found the following barriers: criminalization and constrained legal environment, negative and stigmatizing attitudes of health workers; lack of information on available health services; human rights violations; and internal or experienced stigma and discrimination. Recommendations include integrated services provided by

well-trained and supported health workers; dedicated clinics or service points for specific key populations and pre- and in-service training for health workers.

27 National Association for People with HIV and AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM) District Care Takers and 27 Senior Nutrition and AIDS Officers (SNAOs) were trained as master trainers together with 420 NAPHAM Community Facilitators and 458 Support group leaders to conduct nutrition screening. 882 Community sensitization meetings on nutrition assessment and screening took place, of which 21,267 (6,983 males and 14,284 females) people in the support groups and community were reached. Because of the training, Community Facilitators nutritionally screened 16,687 PLHIV (4,833 males and 11,854 females). Out of those screened 4,379 PLHIV (1,170 males and 3,209 females) were referred to the nearest health facilities for nutrition support and 3,185 (945 males and 2,240 females) have been enrolled in NSCT programs.

Partnerships, coalitions and networks were strengthened among COWHLA members, the STAR circles and the Gender Based Violence Technical Working Group at District level, and the District Councils in all the targeted districts. These partnerships were strengthened through: regular scheduled meetings; taking advantage of ongoing activities e.g. District Executive Committee (DEC) meetings, GBV technical Working Group meetings and targeted district level project review meetings. The end of project assessment revealed that for many STARS Circles the opportunity for improved networks and collaboration with other actors in the fight against GBV was one of the key benefits of the project.

Further, the cumulative savings from all the 87 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA's) groups have increased to MK6, 305,166 at close of the project in September 2017 from MK4,761,295 in 2016 at the first quarter of implementation of the project. This increase in savings has allowed some women survivors of GBV to diversify their business enterprises into service delivery including grocery shop and value addition of their produce. The increase in income has increased self-esteem of the women as well as improved education status of children by sending them to school. Further, the income has provided the women with the means to disposable income.

The UN engaged Paramount and senior chiefs in the development of a one by-law framework aimed at filling in enforcement gaps, implementation and monitoring of gender related laws impacting on HIV and AIDS notably the harmful cultural practices. Though the one chief's bylaw was developed, it needed input of other stakeholders. The UN convened a consultative meeting of 24 senior female chiefs, 8 mother groups and 14 Paramount chief's spouses, which aimed at enhancing chief's awareness on the draft national bylaw framework, sensitize the Chiefs on harmful cultural practices and its linkages to HIV and AIDS and SHR meant to champion against gender-based violence, early and forced child marriages and HIV and AIDS.

Children who are HIV positive were integrated into early detection and the treatment programmes. Evidence informed programmes were designed to address the needs of both adults and children to ensure treatment access and adherence. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services with a working referral system to the Ministry of Health (MOH) district hospitals were ensured and made available to pregnant mothers in the camps equal to the surrounding populations.

The UN supported mapping of 'men having sex with men', which revealed a proportion of 1.84% of overall male population aged 20-39 years; high HIV prevalence rate (24%) among them and a good proportion of bi-sexual (31.5%). Other reports show that people injecting drugs and female sex workers also have the highest HIV prevalence and contribute to a third of new HIV infections. Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services is limited among key populations due to stigma and discrimination, lack of responsive services, negative attitudes against them in public and among health personnel, and criminalization of same sex sexual practices.

Increased support was provided for point of care diagnosis and follow-up by ensuring HIV testing capacity at the health facility level and providing at least one facility with a portable CD4 machine (PIMA). The benefit of this strategy largely extended to the general population. Furthermore, community mobilisation, involvement of

PLHIV, is prioritized in the design and implementation of all programmes, although there are some challenges with stigma

Challenges and lessons learnt:

- Low absorptive capacity and delayed execution of commitments (i.e. recruitment of the remaining 650 health workers out of the agreed 1,400, remittance of the willingness to pay funds from the national coffers etc.) proved to be significant bottlenecks in the implementation of the GFATM grant over the past year. The UN system however continues to provide support and guidance to PRs and government alike to ensure that grant is implemented efficiently.
- Lack of UBRAF funding in 2017 affected implementation of some key capacity building activities. This can compromise the positive strides and efforts made in HIV response especially gender related prevention initiatives.
- Sectoralism amongst partners affected the implementation of activities. It is important that the agencies that are working together on joint initiatives plan, implement and monitor together for better results and improved coordination.

2017 Emerging Priorities

- The Nutrition survey for children provides an opportunity to integrate comprehensive nutrition indicators for adolescents and adults including PLHIV. One key emerging issue on nutrition is the increase in overweight clients which is a risk factor for non-communicable diseases.
- The new UNDAF foundation is aligned to the new Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (2017-22), as the new UNDAF has enjoyed significant buy-in from the Government of Malawi at all levels. This situation presents an opportunity for agencies to develop relevant programmes as support to the national response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- There is need for comprehensive capacity building sessions in human rights, GBV and HIV, conflict management as well as, training female chiefs and spouses of chiefs in gender related laws for. The input from the female chiefs and spouses of the paramount chiefs from the 2017 trainings will be included in the bylaw framework which a task team will finalise in 2018.
- The operationalization of HIV and AIDS Management and Prevention will need UN Support to ensure regulations are developed and key stakeholders are capacitated to utilize the Act in their work and also ensure the public is aware of it.

Cluster Four: Governance and Human Rights

In 2017 the UN managed a USD\$50 million project, which created a civil registry that registered 9,168,689 aged over 16 years were issued with biometric ID cards. With this support, Malawi is on steady path to achieve SDG 16 target 9. The UN also supported the review of electoral laws, among them the recommendation for Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) to migrate from an outdated optical mark recognition system to biometric voter registration. Consequently, MEC entered into an agreement with National Registration Bureau to use biometric ID for 2019 elections. In 2018 and beyond, more Ministries, Departments and Agencies such as Health, Agriculture, will engage with the National Registration Bureau to roll out the multi-purpose utilization of the National IDs.

The UN provided advisory and technical support to the revision of the Political Parties (PPs) Bill and its passing by Parliament. The PP Act will strengthen PPs transparency and accountability ahead of 2019 elections and beyond. Through Centre for Multi-Party Democracy, PP were assisted to strengthen intra-party and inter-party democracy through training of political party leaders. Further, a National Peace Policy, produced with the UN support, will enable the institutionalization of a National Peace Architecture. Pilot District Peace Committees were training on conflict prevention and management. Support was also given to access to justice through support to the Office of Ombudsman that developed partnerships with community-based organizations to facilitate referrals of complaints on maladministration. This will enhance systemic investigations and strengthen accountability and responsiveness in public service delivery. Public sector transparency and accountability also improved with program-based budgeting, public sector performance evaluation and the online aid management platform fully adopted by Government.

Following the finalisation of the country assessment on the cycle of accountability for sexual, reproductive, maternal child and neonatal health and human rights and related public inquiry report, an action plan arising from the multi stakeholder dialogue on sexual and reproductive health rights was adopted, followed by open air-sensitization meetings and tracking of implementation of relevant recommendations. Through IPAS, the UN supported high level meetings around the Termination of Pregnancy Bill with MPs, religious leaders, traditional leaders and Government officials and examined the magnitude of unsafe abortion and ensuring increased support for the Bill. The Bill expands on the exceptions to the prohibition on abortion in Malawi.

In the context of the narrowing of civil society space in Malawi, the UN supported civil society and the Law Society to hold a roundtable discussion on civil society space and the national launch of the Human Rights Defenders Forum (HRDF) in Lilongwe on 20th December 2017. The Forum creates an engagement platform for human rights defenders in Malawi to exchange information, confront ongoing threats against defenders and respond with recommendations and action points to strengthen the protection of defenders and widen civil society space in Malawi. The UN also led development partner comments on draft NGO Policy, which if adopted have the potential of shrinking civil society space, which may be in violation of the right to freedom of association.

Through the Development Effectiveness and Accountability Programme, public institutions were enabled to plan, reform and develop interventions; coordinate sector-level interventions and development aid; and develop program-based budgets. The new national development plan, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III that integrates Sustainable Development Goals and targets was formulated and adopted by stakeholders. As such, the district development plans to be developed in 2018 will be based on an SDG-based national development plan. The iSDG modelling helped prioritise efforts for SDG achievement. The National Planning Commission which was established in late 2017 is expected to provide oversight of the MGDS III implementation. Sector Working Groups continued to provide a coordination forum for sectoral interventions thus reducing duplications in funding and development partner interventions. Further, programme-based budgets have been used to focus Government and donor funding. The Aid Management Platform was maintained and efforts to include NGO reporting have been initiated, thus increasing transparency and accountability. High Level meeting on development financing was supported and public institutions rated high in performance contract evaluation received awards for improvement in their performance.

With the technical support from the UN, Councils of 4 public universities approved and launched their Gender policies. These policies will ensure the participation of women in senior management, ensure that the selection of students and staff is compliant with the gender equality act and that gender is mainstreamed in the curriculum of all courses. The capacity of the University of Malawi was enhanced as evidenced by the development of an implementation plan of its policies and all its constituent colleges are developing their specific gender policies implementation plans. Two (2) constituent colleges (Kamuzu College of Nursing and College of Medicine) have already finalized and approved their gender equality implementation plans.

The UN supported the Ministry of Gender to develop a web-based information management system with three operational modules namely women empowerment, child protection and gender-based violence modules. This will assist the country in evidence-informed decision making through availability of disaggregated data in the system.

On the issue of prisons, the UN embarked on new project in 2017 aimed at addressing health, nutrition, prison management and the legal and policy framework pertaining to prisons. In this regard, the Law Commission is being supported to finalise the review of the Prisons Act and finalise Sentencing Guidelines.

Cluster Four Challenges:

- The policy framework for advancing human rights was limited due to Malawi Government's delays in approving the National Human Rights Action Plan, developed in a participatory manner and envisaged to be the road map for human rights. The delays in the finalization of the Malawi Human Rights Strategic Plan and Charter further created un-enabling policy environment for the advancement of human rights in the country.
- In terms of building capacities for national entities to sustain peace and prevent conflicts, progress of achieving desirable results was limited due to lack of human capacities in the National Peace Architecture Secretariat to roll out to additional 6 district peace committees as envisaged at the beginning of the year.
- Additionally, UN's support towards review and development of a 2018-2022 strategic plan for the Malawi Electoral Commission was delayed due to a prolonged procurement process to identify the right expertise to carry out the assignment. The strategic plan has a bearing on how MEC reforms its functions, to ensure institutional efficiency and effectiveness, ahead of the 2019 elections.
- Institutionalization of Aid Management Platform (AMP) could not be finalized due to limited technical capacities of the lead Ministry to host the data management server for the AMP. Further, capacity and understanding of NGOs was limited on the importance of entering data in AMP to ensure NGO accountability.

2017 Emerging Priorities for Cluster Four:

- In 2018, projects contributing towards gender and human rights will ensure corrective actions and budget allocations to gender activities are undertaken. This will be achieved through operationalization of institutional gender strategies such as the gender strategy for Center for Multiparty Democracy to enhance women political participation in Political Parties and rollout the implementation of the MEC gender strategy. Furthermore, the UN's human rights interventions aimed at ensuring no one is left behind including persons with disabilities, albinism and the LGBT community will be further strengthened with the operationalization of the HIV and AIDS Management and Prevention Act. The Malawi Human Rights Commission will be supported to implement the Gender Equality Act and the Access to Information Act. Additionally, all activities related to women's political empowerment will be implemented through a comprehensive electoral assistance project to ensure it is part and parcel of the electoral process to avoid fragmentation and to enhance visibility of women during elections, either as candidates or electoral administrators.
- Support to the Ministry of Gender to undertake a gender audit of all ministries in collaboration with department of human resources to generate baseline data on the status of gender equality in public service to ensure evidence-informed decision-making uses sex disaggregated data. The UN support to the Ministry of Gender will also look at the development of the Joint Sector Strategic Plan, which will be used to advance gender equality in the country for the next 5 years following the development of the new country's strategy.

- Operationalization of Access to Information Act and Gender Equality Act will be supported to ensure that the public is aware of the acts and stakeholders have the tools for utilization of these acts.
- Support will be provided to strengthen complaints handling, investigations and state party reporting to ensure that Malawi clears backlog of Human Rights cases and reports.
- Formulation of Joint Programmes in areas of Accountability, Human Rights and Financing and Data for Management.

Results of the One UN Fund

(i) *Humanitarian Funding Window*

In 2017 Malawi experienced improved food production due to favourable rainfall conditions. Productivity of Maize, which is the staple crop, doubled over 2016 levels. According to the Ministry of Agriculture Production Estimates Survey (APES) figures, the country produced a total of 3,464,139 metric tons of maize against a national maize requirement of 3.2 metric tonnes, giving a surplus of about 260,000 metric tonnes) leading to substantial decline in food inflation which in turn reduced headline inflation to 7.7% in November 2017 compared with 19.9% in November 2016. Although this boosted consumer purchasing power, it negatively impacted the household income of subsistence farmers with a reduction in food retail prices.

According to the June 2017 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) Annual Assessment report, a total of 1,043,000 people in 20 districts were identified to be missing food entitlements and requiring humanitarian food assistance. Most of those food insecure people (887,655 people) are from the Southern Region districts. Because of the food insecure households, the Government of Malawi in collaboration with its partners developed the Food Insecurity Response Plan (FIRP), which identified food security, nutrition, agriculture, health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as the key priorities for immediate assistance. About 159,800 children aged 6-23 months, pregnant and lactating women and people leaving with HIV and AIDS were particularly identified as at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition and nutritional treatment.

In-order to inform the response options for the 2017/18 Consumption Season, the MVAC had also commissioned the Market Assessment Study to understand market dynamics (number and capacity of traders in a market, availability of stocks – food items, response capacity of markets, access to source and destination markets and price projections). The study recommended that the Lean Season Response be a “Cash Based Response” as it had noted that; (a) market prices were still low in many areas with traders having some maize in stock; (b) Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) and the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) were active on the market such that in case of emergency they could be able to offload maize on the market and (c) that physical access to most markets was good. But more importantly most of the affected Traditional Authorities had caseloads of less than 50,000 affected people.

Through the humanitarian fund, the UN used a total of **US \$ 2,477,509.09** to support the 2016/17 government led humanitarian response. Specifically, the UN supported in the following areas; (a) Response Coordination where a Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Coordinator was recruited; (b) re-location of Mozambican refugee relocation from Kapise village to Luwani Camp; (c) procurement of pesticides for the Fall Army Worm (FAW) control; (d) the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee during the MVAC/IPC assessment and analysis; (e) meeting twinning costs for maize bought by Government of Malawi which was being distributed to beneficiaries during the 2016/17 humanitarian response and (f) the Comprehensive Evaluation of the 2016/17 Humanitarian Response. The response also continued to link humanitarian beneficiaries to longer term

development and resilience building activities such as household and community asset creation activities and promoting village savings and loans activities (VSL) and promotion of livestock production through restocking programme.

(ii) *Right to Food Window*

The UN, through the right to food window of the One Fund, contributed to build national capacity and increased awareness around land rights in Malawi, including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Land Tenure and ten landmark Land Bills, adopted by parliament in 2016. The UNCT, also advanced the right to food agenda in Malawi, through supporting the Department of Nutrition to revise of the Food and Nutrition Bill, thereby integrating a legal framework on the right to food and supporting briefings on the Bill for a wide range of stakeholders.

(iii) *Human Rights Window*

The UN, with support from the Human Rights Window of the One UN Fund, strengthened programmes on the rights of persons with albinism and the LGBT community aimed at building national capacity. Protection of human rights of persons with albinism was strengthened, through the strengthening of community based protection systems, together with increased awareness raising on the rights of persons with albinism, Access to justice was strengthened through support for prosecutions. In addition, the Government was supported by the UN to review its albinism national response plan, and investigations and prosecutions have been supported. On the rights of LGBT persons, the UN also supported training for CSOs and LGBT Community Based Organizations, a real-time monitoring and reporting system for human rights violations against the LGBT community. The UN successfully supported briefings and meetings of MPs on the HIV (Prevention and Management) Bill from a human rights perspective thereby contributing to the adoption by parliament in November of the long-deliberated with amendments rejecting initial provisions which would criminalise the transmission of HIV, violate the right to informed consent to treatment and testing and require compulsory testing.

Results of Operating as One

2018 Priority Areas for Business Operations Strategy:

ICT: The ICT will continue to explore on finding a better 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 ISP. Harmonisation of ICT maintenance and common ICT Officers' training is also another area that is going to be piloted in 2018.

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 would implement.

Pooled Funding: Since the UN is using JAWP for the Malawi Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Gender, 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.

Common Mailing and Transport system: The Transport and Administration TWG will continue to use common mailing system for agencies located in Evelyn Court that houses 4 Agencies (FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNWomen and UNDSS). Exploration of the car-pooling will also be explored in 2018

Results of Communicating as One

Joint advocacy:

In 2017, 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 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), keeping girls in school, building resilience, HIV prevention and investing in youth. UNCG helped to coordinate child marriage advocacy as well as commemoration of key UN days like World Food Day and Disaster Reduction Day where messaging was coherent. After the 2017 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 briefing meetings 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 being led by UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA as well as key commemoration days including the International Day of the Girl Child in October 2017. 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.

The UNCG engaged youth on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through music shows conducted at two tertiary institutions, reaching over 1,600 youth.

On social media use, 127 and 29 updates were posted/shared on UN Malawi Twitter and Facebook platforms. Twitter and Facebook reached 6,588 and 5,628 users, respectively. 66 success stories and 9 publications were published on UN Malawi website. The publications recorded 11,133 downloads. The 2018 UN Calendar was designed, printed and distributed (2000 copies). 4 Results Updates for general circulation were produced and circulated in January, April, June and November, while 3 Results Updates for non-resident donors were produced and circulated in January, March and August.

The UNCG conducted the first SDG Fair to commemorate the UN Day on 24th October and advocate for the SDGs. The Fair brought together over 50 organisations which showcased their work contributing to SDGs achievement in Malawi. The Fair brought SDGs closer to people in peri-urban community of Mtsiliza in Lilongwe, raising awareness about SDGs at community level. About 1,000 people, mainly youth, attended the Fair. Three community radio stations in Mzimba (Mzimba radio), Mangochi (Dzimwe radio) and Mchinji (Mudziwanthu radio) were engaged to promote SDGs advocacy/ awareness in their communities. The stations, with combined listenership of about 4.9 million rural Malawians, produced 12 panel discussions aired 32 times. The stations also produced 51 SDG jingles aired about 700 times. This improved SDGs awareness in targeted communities as monitoring showed many people heard about the SDGs on the radio stations, and could mention what the SDGs are about and list some of them.

WFP, UNFPA and UNICEF coordinated advocacy/visibility activities for the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education (JPGE), including production of a special JPGE Booklet, containing human interest success stories from the programme and its overall achievements. WFP and FAO also coordinated messaging on resilience

building during commemoration of the World Food Day, Disaster Reduction Day and launch of the 2017/18 Food Insecurity Response. The UNCG also explored coordination of public information around use of the national IDs, with each agency encouraged to integrate messaging on the multiple uses of national IDs to ensure their maximisation.

Utilization of the UN Website by all UN agencies and the use of community radio stations to advance SDGs advocacy in Malawi coupled with capacity building efforts to ensure improved knowledge and understanding of SDGs on specific SDG themes among journalists are some of the opportunities that the UNCG can use to communicate.

Financial Overview

Joint Resource Mobilization

In 2017, the UN managed to mobilise a total of **US \$ 3, 951, 007.13** from its traditional donors, Department for International Development (DfID) and the Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA) into the One UN Fund to support the humanitarian response and human rights (LGBTI and albinism). Of the total, DFID contributed **US \$ 3,198,574.66** (US \$ 2,545,480.26 towards Humanitarian Funding Window and **US \$ 653,094.40** towards the Human Rights Funding Window) whilst Flanders contributed a total of **US \$ 752,432.47** (of which **US \$ 189,893.97** went into the Humanitarian Funding Window and **US \$ 562,538.50** supported the Right to Food Funding window).

Figure 1: 2017 Agency Expenditures (US \$)

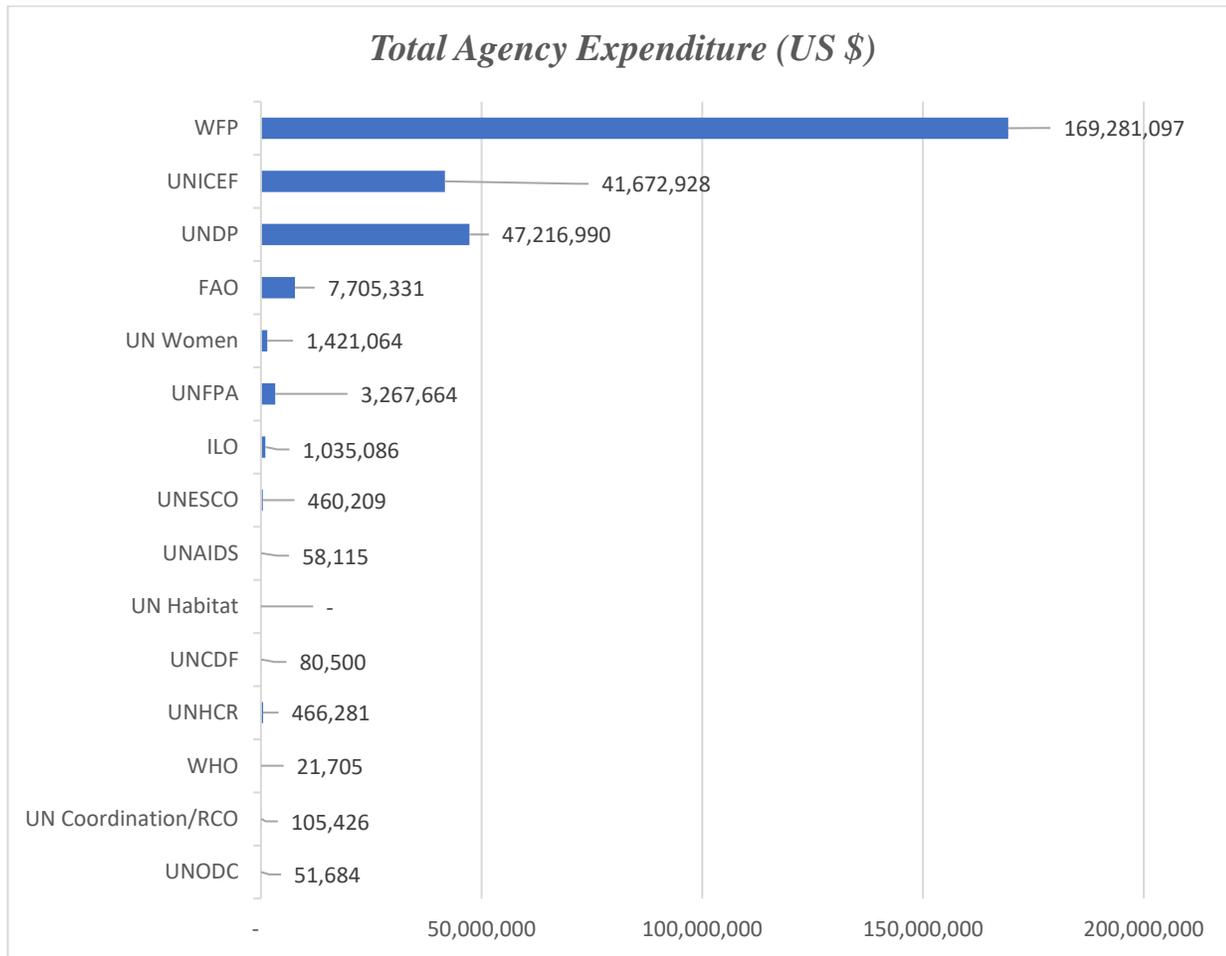


Figure 2: 2017 Outcome Expenditure (US \$)

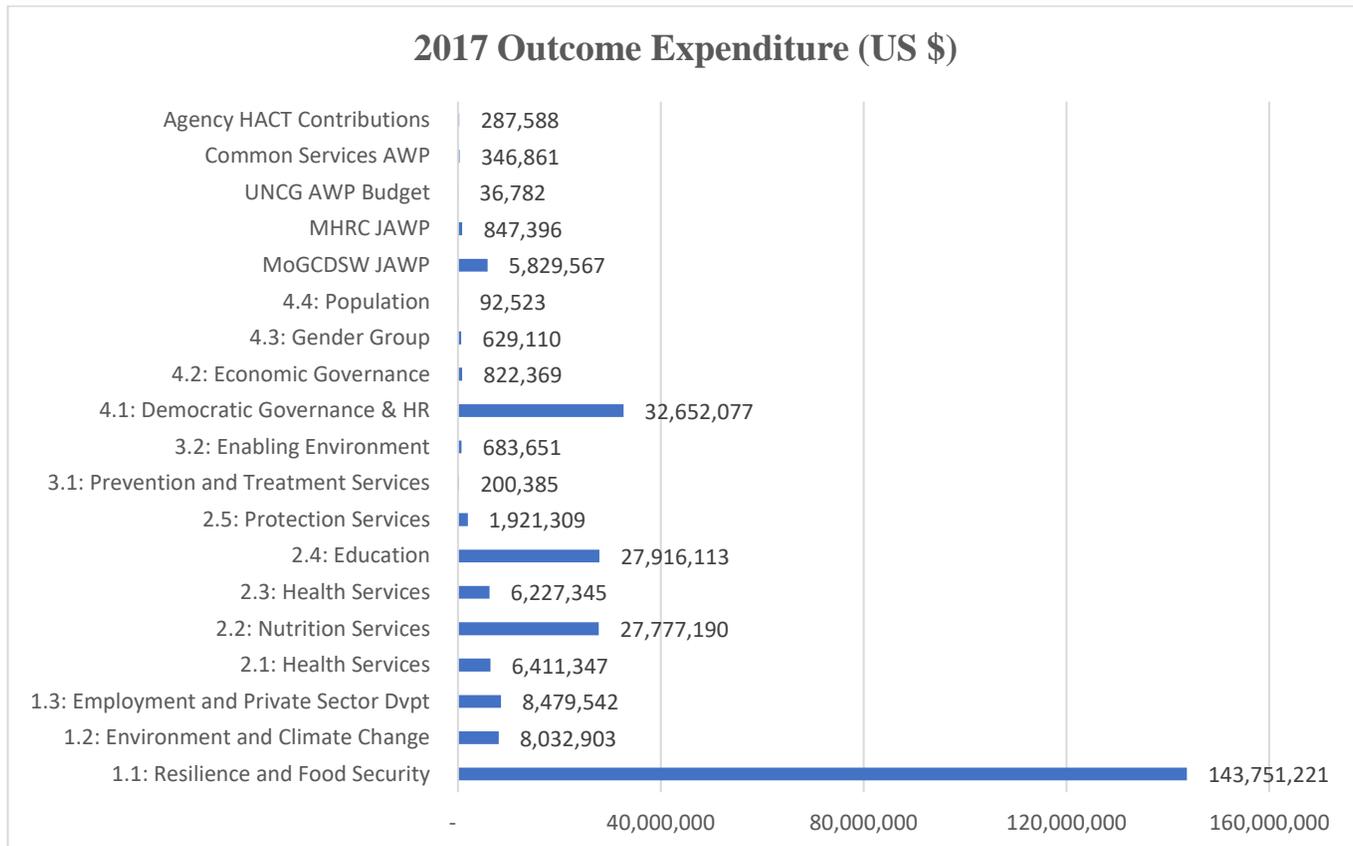


Table 1: 2017 Total Agency Expenditure by Outcome

Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
FAO	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	5,085,704
	1.2: Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change	1,393,303
	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	1,068,707
	2.4: Basic Education	131,091
	Common Services Budget	23,026
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
Total Expenditure for FAO (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		7,705,331
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
ILO	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	250,000
	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	697,100
	2.4: Basic Education	82,250
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	-
	Common Services Budget	5,736
Total Expenditure for ILO (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		1,035,086
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
UN Women	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	425,685
	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	305,000
	2.5: Protection Services	138,000
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	130,000
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	60,000
	4.2: Economic Governance/Capacity Development	-
	4.3: Gender Equality	233,110
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
	HACT	11,056
	Gender TWG AWP	-
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	21,000

	Common Services Budget	10,713
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	83,000
Total Expenditure for UNWomen (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		1,421,064
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
UNAIDS	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	-
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	4,000
	UNCG TWG AWP	1,500
	HACT Contribution	6,556
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	40,000
	Common Services Budget	6,059
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	-
Total Expenditure for UNAIDS (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		58,115
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
UNCDF	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	80,500
Total Expenditure for UNCDF (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		80,500
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
UNDP	1.2: Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change	6,437,670
	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	5,872,042
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	16,000
	4.1: Democratic Governance/Human Rights	32,292,807
	4.2: Economic Governance/Capacity Development	822,369
	4.3: Gender Equality	416,000
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
	HACT Contribution	92,281
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	596,117
	Common Services Budget	56,574
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	611,630

Total Expenditure for UNDP (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		47,216,990
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
UNESCO	1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	456,193
	Common Services Budget	4,016
Total Expenditure for UNESCO (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		460,209
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
UNFPA	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	40,000
	2.1: Health Services	1,812,932
	2.4: Basic Education	900,000
	2.5: Protection Services	154,000
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	-
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	-
	4.3: Gender Equality	83,000
	4.4: Population	92,523
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500
	HACT Contribution	40,380
	Ministry Gender JAWP	86,000
	Common Services Budget	28,329
	Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	27,000
Total Expenditure for UNFPA (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		3,267,664
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
UNHCR	2.4: Basic Education	398,023
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	50,000
	Common Service Budget	14,758
Total Expenditure for UNHCR (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		462,781
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)

UNICEF	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	2,083,156
	2.1: Health Services	4,598,415
	2.2: Nutrition Services	14,368,703
	2.3: Water, Sanitation & hygiene	6,227,345
	2.4: Basic Education	10,768,836
	2.5: Protection Services	1,629,309
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	-
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	573,565
	4.1: Democratic Governance/Human Rights	278,193
	4.2: Economic Governance/Capacity Development	-
	UNCG TWG AWP	5,500
	HACT Contribution	181,374
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	770,730
	Common Services Budget	73,220
Malawi Human Rights Commission JAWP	114,582	
Total Expenditure for UNICEF (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		41,672,928
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
UNODC	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	20,385
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	30,086
	Common Services Budget	1,213
Total Expenditure for UNODC (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		51,684
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
WFP	1.1: Food & Nutrition Security	135,866,675
	1.2: Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change	201,930
	2.2: Nutrition Services	13,133,176
	2.4: Basic Education	15,635,913
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	-
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	-
	UNCG TWG AWP	3,500

	HACT Contribution	18,058
	Common Services Budget	128,126
	Ministry of Gender JAWP	4,293,720
Total Expenditure for WFP (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		169,281,097
Agency	Outcome	2017 Expenditure (US \$)
WHO	2.1: Health Services	-
	2.2: Nutrition Services	-
	3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	-
	3.2: Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS	-
	Common Services Budget	18,205
Total Expenditure for WHO (from RMS as of 31/12/2017)		18,205

Table 2: 2017 Outcome Budgets Vs Expenditures

Outcome	2017 Budget (US \$)	2017 Expenditure (US \$)	% Expenditure
Cluster One: Economic Growth & Food Security			
1.1: Resilience and Food Security	166,994,912	143,751,221	86
1.2: Environment and Climate Change	10,422,736	8,032,903	77
1.3: Employment and Private Sector Development	9,467,570	8,479,542	90
Total Cluster One	186,885,218	160,263,665	86
Cluster Two: Social and Protection Services			
2.1: Health Services	6,400,600	6,411,347	100
2.2: Nutrition Services	43,268,933	27,777,190	64
2.3: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	5,204,000	6,227,345	120
2.4: Education	34,133,080	27,916,113	82
2.5: Protection Services	4,291,000	1,921,309	45
Total Cluster Two	93,297,613	70,253,303	75
Cluster Three: HIV/AIDS			
3.1: Prevention and Treatment Services	2,155,679	200,385	9
3.2: Enabling Environment	859,000	683,651	80
Total Cluster Three	3,014,679	884,036	29
Cluster Four: Governance and Human Rights			
4.1: Democratic Governance and Human Rights	42,232,595	32,652,077	77
4.2: Economic Governance/Capacity Development Group	868,822	822,369	95
4.3: Gender Group	873,515	629,110	72
4.4: Population	172,523	92,523	54
Total Cluster Four	44,147,455	34,196,079	77
Programme Groups			
Ministry of Gender Joint Annual Workplan Plan	9,077,000	5,829,567	64
Malawi Human Rights Commission Joint Annual Workplan Plan	917,822	847,396	92
UNDAF Gender Technical Working Group AWP	-	-	#DIV/0!
UN Common Services Budget	395,721	346,861	88
UNCG AWP Budget	41,500	36,782	89
HACT TWG	337,825	287,588	85
Total Programme TWGs	10,769,868	7,348,194	68
Total 2016 UN Expenditure	338,114,833	272,945,277	81