



UNITED NATIONS
MALAWI



2025

ANNUAL REPORT





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Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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Delivering
Results
Together

Expanded DaO
Funding Window

UN Participating Agencies







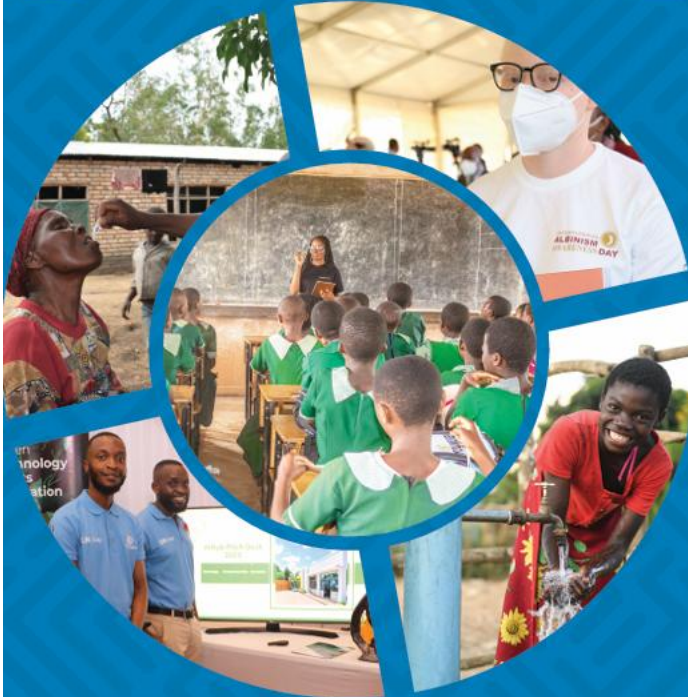
Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGYWs	Adolescents Girls and Young Women
ANC	Antenatal Care
ASRHR	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
MPTF	Multi Partner Trust Fund
CSE	Comprehensive sexuality education
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
BEMONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFA	Food Assistance for Assets
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoM	Government of Malawi
GRM	Grievance and Redress Mechanisms
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
HSA	Health Surveillance Assistants
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
JP	Joint Program
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare
MoH	Ministry of Health
MP4R	Malawi Partnership for Resilience Joint Programme
MPDSR	Maternal Death Surveillance and Response
MW2063	Malawi 2063
NEEF	National Economic Empowerment Fund
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
MW SDG-AF	Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	UN Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
UNSDG	UN Sustainable Development Group
WASH	Water and Sanitation
WHO	World Health Organization
YFHS	Youth Friendly Health Services






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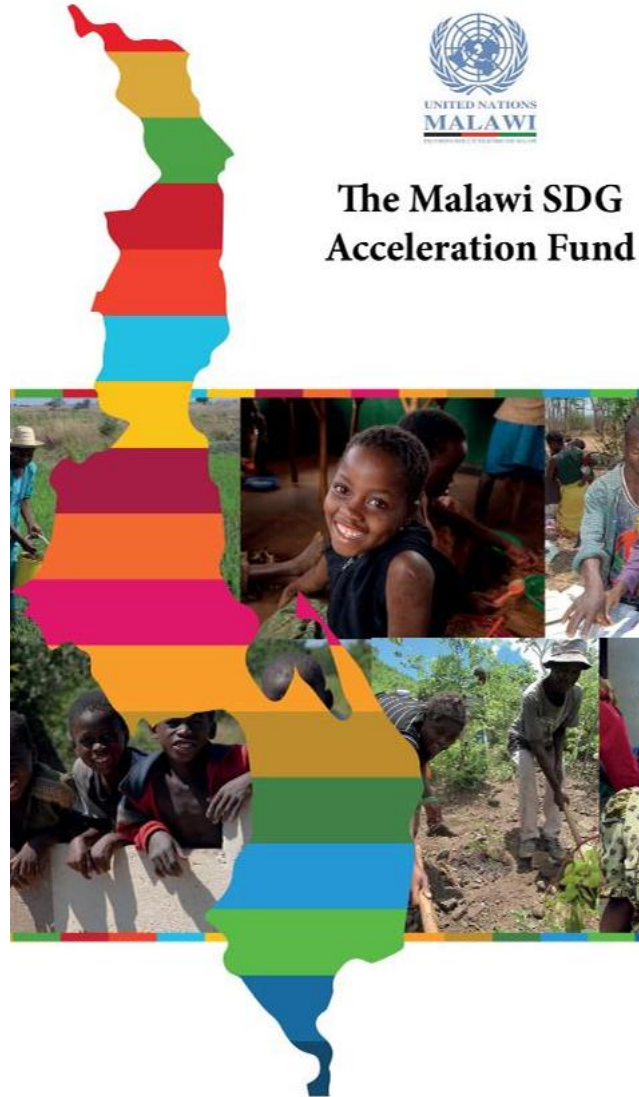


**UNITED NATIONS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
FOR MALAWI**

2024-2028



The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund



Executive Summary

1. Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund – 2025 Annual Report

The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund (MW SDG-AF) continued to play a catalytic role in 2025 in advancing Malawi's national development priorities and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through coordinated, multi-agency United Nations action. Operating within a highly constrained macroeconomic, climatic and humanitarian context, the Fund demonstrated the value of pooled, flexible and results-oriented financing in sustaining development gains while responding to compounding shocks.

2. Context and Rationale

In 2025, Malawi pursued its long-term development vision under Malawi 2063 amid persistent economic fragility, high inflation, foreign exchange shortages and climate-induced shocks, including food insecurity and recurrent cholera outbreaks. Humanitarian needs affected approximately 28 percent of the population, disproportionately impacting women, girls, rural communities and other groups at risk of being left behind. Within this environment, the Fund supported integrated solutions that bridged humanitarian needs, resilience-building and long-term development outcomes, while reinforcing national ownership and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028. In September 2025, Malawi held tripartite elections and the political environment remained largely peaceful, with social cohesion reinforced through UN-supported insider mediation, structured engagement with state and non-state actors and sustained efforts to safeguard civic space, promote accountability and uphold the rule of law.

3. Fund Portfolio and Implementation in 2025

In 2025, the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund focused on completing and closing three strategic Joint Programmes, implemented collaboratively by UN agencies in close partnership with Government and civil society, namely:

- i) Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture in Malawi (EWAYA)
- ii) United Nations Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening for Equitable Health Outcomes (Umoyo Wathu)
- iii) Border Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in Malawi II (Border Security II)

These programmes collectively addressed inclusive economic transformation, peace and governance and human capital development, aligning with core UNSDCF priorities.

4. Key Results and Impact

The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund delivered strong and measurable results in 2025, demonstrating the effectiveness of joint, pooled financing in advancing national development priorities under highly constrained conditions. Through three strategic Joint Programmes, the Fund supported inclusive economic transformation, peace and social cohesion and strengthened health systems. Collectively, these interventions directly reached more than 45,000 people and significantly enhanced the capacities of national and sub-national institutions and frontline service providers, while systematically integrating gender equality, women's empowerment and youth engagement.



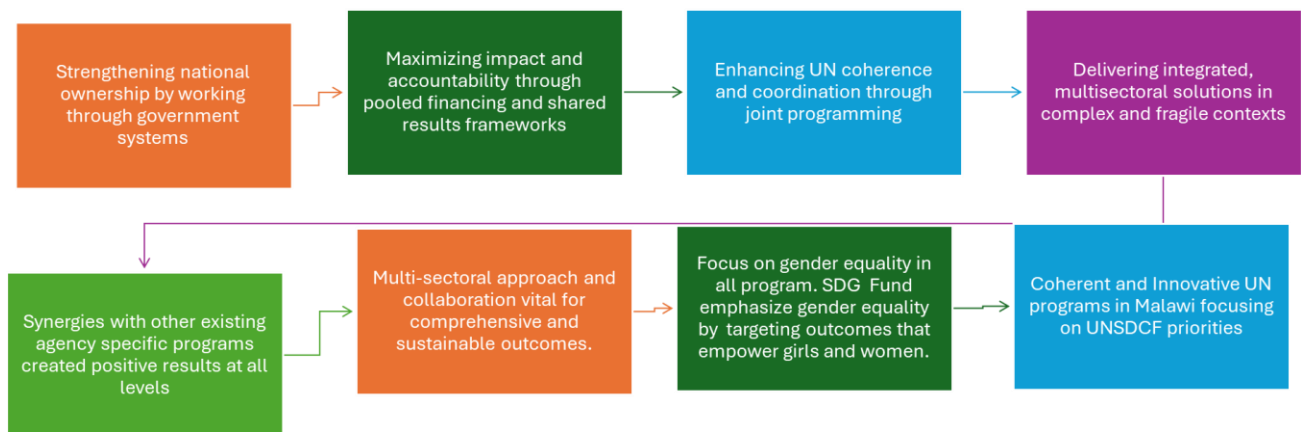
In agriculture and livelihoods, the Fund-supported investments enabled women and youth farmers to transition from subsistence production to commercially viable, climate-smart value chains. Over 1,500 women and youth farmers organized in farmer organizations recorded substantial productivity and income gains, with total revenues exceeding USD 260,000. Equally significant were structural changes in governance and empowerment, as women’s and youth representation in leadership positions increased dramatically, strengthening resilience, market integration and household livelihoods in the face of climate and economic shocks.

The Fund strengthened Malawi’s national peace architecture and district-level conflict prevention mechanisms, expanding access to mediation and social cohesion platforms and contributing to peaceful coexistence, particularly during the 2025 elections. At the same time, joint investments in six districts reinforced primary health care systems through improved planning, enhanced data use, strengthened workforce capacity, and better emergency preparedness, while expanded outreach and service delivery increased access to essential health services for underserved populations and improved district readiness to respond to climate-related and epidemic risks.

Together, these results highlight the Fund’s added value in delivering integrated, sustainable development outcomes through coordinated action aligned with national priorities.

5. Added Value of the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund

The 2025 results underscore the Fund’s comparative advantage in UN driving impact in Malawi.



6. Strategic Outlook

As the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund approaches the end of its current lifecycle (extended to 2027), the report emphasizes the need to:

- Design and operationalize a successor country-level pooled fund aligned with the 2024–2028 UNSDCF

- Strengthen Fund governance and Secretariat capacity to improve timeliness, risk management and learning
- Develop a strategic programme pipeline for 2026–2027 focused on scalable, high-impact interventions



UN@80 Dialogue Session | UNMalawi 2025

7. Conclusion

Despite a challenging operating environment, the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund delivered strong development results in 2025, demonstrating that coordinated, flexible and strategic financing remains essential for accelerating progress towards the SDGs. The Fund’s experience provides a solid foundation for a next-generation pooled financing mechanism capable of supporting Malawi’s ambitious development agenda through 2030 and beyond.

1. Introduction

1.1 Strategic Framework

In December 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to reposition the United Nations Development System (UNDS) as more strategic, accountable and results-oriented in delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This vision was operationalized through the 2018 UN development system reform led by Secretary-General, António Guterres, which introduced the Funding Compact as a mutual commitment between Member States and the UN system to address structural funding challenges. Updated in 2024, the Funding Compact strengthens the quality, predictability and transparency of development financing, with an emphasis on flexible, multi-year and pooled funding to enhance coherence and impact. In this context, the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund, established in 2018, supports the effective use of non-core resources to advance national development priorities through coordinated, multi-agency interventions. The Fund complements existing financing mechanisms by enabling joint, results-oriented initiatives that strengthen integrated policy capacity, support the national SDG financing ecosystem and catalyze sustainable development outcomes at both national and sub-national levels.

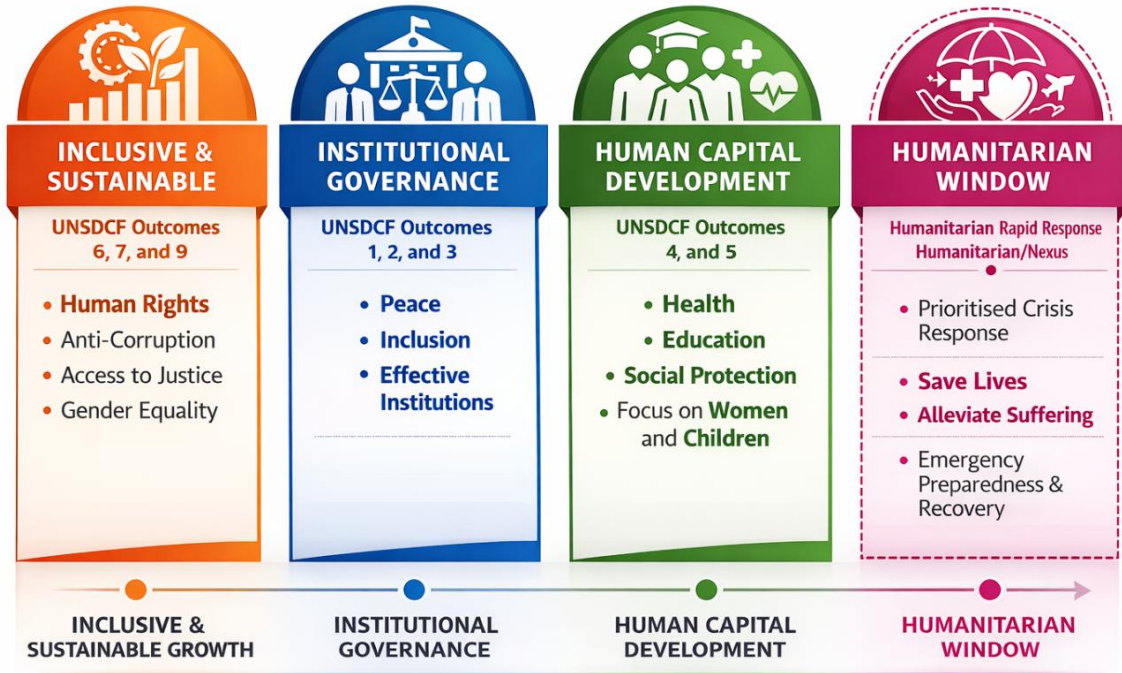
1.2 The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund

The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund is a multi-stakeholder financing and partnership mechanism that supports Malawi's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by enabling the Government of Malawi, Development Partners, and the United Nations to align on joint priorities and mobilize resources for high impact interventions. Anchored in the principle of leaving no one behind, the Fund promotes coherent and strategic resource mobilization, particularly for underfunded cross sectoral areas where the UN has a comparative advantage in delivering integrated joint programming. It focuses on financing coordination, co financing, and the catalytic deployment of resources to drive innovative, transformative, and scalable results, while strengthening synergies, improving coordination, and supporting agile responses to national priorities. By shifting from fragmented approaches to more strategic and predictable funding modalities, the Fund enhances the collective impact of UN entities in Malawi. Initially established for the period December 2018 to December 2023, the Fund was extended by its Steering Committee to December 2027, operationalized in September 2023, to align with the forthcoming UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and to ensure the effective completion of ongoing joint programmes.

1.3 Operation of the Fund

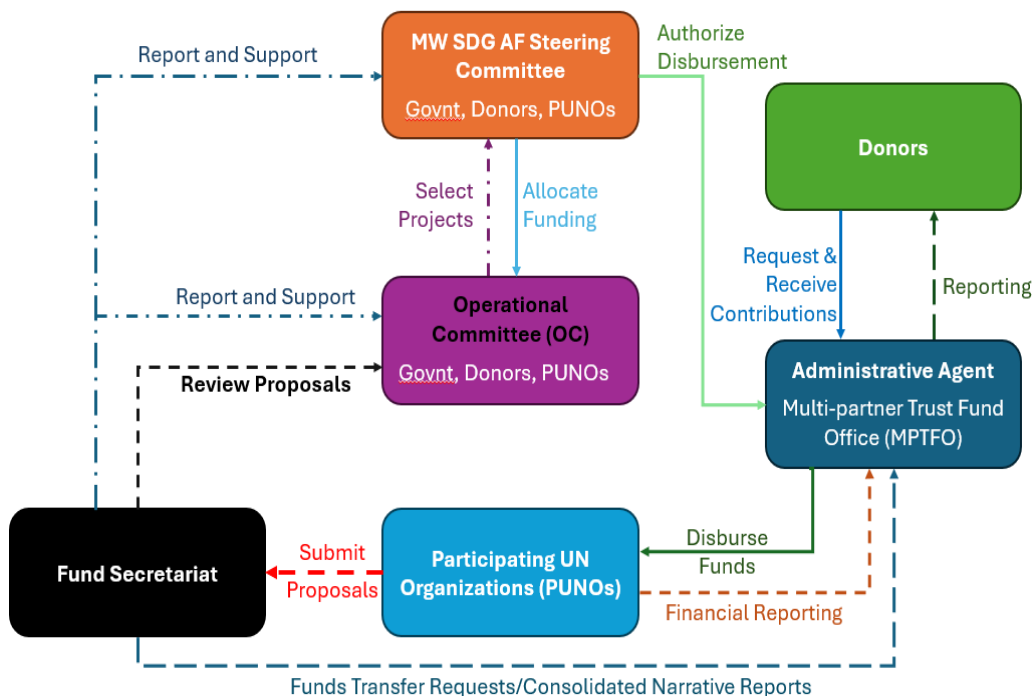
1.3.1 Structure of the Fund

The structure of the Fund is aligned to the key outcome areas of the 2019-2023 UNSDCF and has three thematic windows (that are aligned with the pillars of the UNSDCF and related outcomes), and one special funding window that supports humanitarian rapid response actions as demonstrated in the diagram below:



1.3.2 Governance of the Fund

The governance structure of the Fund has three levels: decision-making, oversight, and coordination (Steering Committee, Operational Committee and Secretariat), design and administration (MPTF Office), and implementation (Participating UN Organizations). The diagram below demonstrates the levels of governance.





Steering Committee: The Steering Committee provides strategic guidance and performs oversight of the Fund. The SC is the highest decision-making body of the Fund, and it makes decisions by consensus.

Operational Committee: The Operational Committee (OC) is the authority in charge of performing technical reviews and initial endorsement of joint programme proposals submitted to the Fund. The OC is also in charge of reviewing and approving requests for changes (scope, budget) to joint programs under implementation. The UN Agencies will designate thematic experts for peer review of proposals to help ensure the technical quality of the proposals submitted for endorsement.

Fund Secretariat: The Fund Secretariat, hosted in the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, is set up to support the Fund’s operational functioning. The Secretariat provides technical, management, and administrative support to the Steering and Operational Committees and is responsible for organizing the Fund’s processes related to programme review, approval, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

Overall governance structures of the Fund: As the current MW SDG AF is coming to an end, processes are underway to establish a successor fund that will be aligned to the 2024-2028 UNSDCF that reflects the ambitious nature of the global development goals, responds to the competitive funding landscape and the need to move from funding to financing of sustainable development, and towards actions that can accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda in the country.



Overall, the new Fund will aim to complement other resources already in implementation by i) providing targeted resources for multi-agency initiatives that strengthen national capacities for integrated policy; ii) developing the country’s SDG financing ecosystem; iii) implementing catalytic SDG programming and investments; and iv) ensuring effective and sustainable development results at national and sub-national levels.



1.4 Cross Cutting Approaches

To ensure the Fund's goal to enable transformative changes through tailored and specific actions to achieve the goals of SDGs, the Fund prioritizes interventions such as cross-cutting approaches to include a Human Rights Based approach that emphasizes the empowerment of women and youth. The Fund has a cross-cutting priority to ensure no environmental damage results from any of its supported interventions. These approaches are incorporated and evaluated in each programme according to the characteristics of each intervention.

The Fund promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women through their participation in decision-making and contributes to the protection of women and girls from all forms of violence, while aiming to allocate a minimum of 30% of its resources to related activities. The Fund also integrates a gender-sensitive approach throughout all phases of the UNJP, from formulation to implementation and evaluation.

2. OPERATING ENVIRONMENT AND RESULTS OF THE FUND IN 2025

2.1 Overview of Country Context in 2025

In 2025, Malawi continued to advance its development aspirations under Malawi 2063 and MIP 1 amidst compounding economic, climatic and humanitarian pressures. The peaceful conduct of the tripartite elections on 16 September 2025 marked a significant milestone for democratic governance, while landmark judicial developments, including the decriminalization of defamation and a ruling affirming girls' rights to health and remedy in cases of sexual violence, strengthened human rights protections. Malawi's engagement in the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in November 2025 provided a platform for continued accountability dialogue and established jointly agreed priorities to guide Cooperation Framework implementation.

Economically, the country faced persistent macroeconomic fragility, with inflation averaging 28.5 percent, severe foreign exchange shortages and deteriorating fiscal space limiting Government's capacity to finance essential services. The global tightening of development financing further constrained predictable resource flows for both humanitarian and development programming.

Climate and environmental pressures intensified, consistent with broader Southern African patterns of erratic rainfall and increased frequency of extreme weather events. Localized flooding and drought reduced agricultural output, particularly maize, contributing to food insecurity affecting over 4 million people. Recurrent cholera outbreaks, driven by inadequate WASH infrastructure and climate variability, placed additional strain on an already fragile health system. Combined, these shocks expanded humanitarian needs to approximately 28 percent of the population, disproportionately affecting women and girls, rural communities, persons with disabilities, and others at risk of being left behind. Poverty remained above 70 percent, with entrenched gender inequalities and limited access to productive assets further undermining human capital development.

These overlapping crises required the United Nations Country Team to adapt its support, with a greater share of programming oriented toward life saving interventions while efforts continued to protect long term development gains. Civic space remained relatively open, supported by UN backed insider mediation and accountability initiatives that helped sustain public trust during a period of significant stress.



2.2 The Fund's Joint Programmes in 2025

The Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund continued to play a catalytic role in reinforcing UN Reform and advancing more effective joint programming in support of Malawi's national development priorities. In 2025, the Fund strengthened UN coherence by enabling joint action across agriculture and livelihoods, peace and governance, and health systems strengthening—areas central to the Malawi 2063 agenda and the UNSDCF 2024–2028.

Through pooled financing and coordinated implementation, the Fund enhanced collaboration among the Government of Malawi, UN entities, development partners and civil society. Joint programmes supported under the Fund demonstrated the value of integrated, multisectoral approaches by aligning resources with national priorities, strengthening government systems, and fostering shared accountability for results. The Fund's architecture enabled stakeholders to jointly design, implement, and monitor high-impact interventions, improving efficiency, transparency, and sustainability of development investments.

Within the broader portfolio of Joint Programmes implemented by the Fund in Malawi, 2025 marked the implementation and completion of three ongoing strategic Joint Programmes—Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture in Malawi (EWAYA), the Border Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Programme (Border Security 2), and the United Nations Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening for Equitable Health Outcomes in Malawi (Umoyo Wathu). Together, these programmes demonstrated the Fund's contribution to inclusive economic growth, strengthened institutional governance and peace architecture, and improved access to quality and resilient health services for underserved populations.

The work of the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund is made possible through the contributions of 11 partners, which have collectively provided \$122,034,210 since 2019, including \$1,511,373 in 2025. In 2025, programme implementation was supported specifically by contributions from three Member States—Flanders, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. The full list of UN Joint Programmes (UNJPs) supported by the Fund can be accessed on the MPTFO Partner Gateway at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/mw200>.

2.3 Key Results for 2025

This section presents an overview of the key actions, outputs and outcomes achieved by programmes supported under the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund in 2025. The results demonstrate how Fund-supported joint programming delivered measurable contributions to Malawi's development priorities, while also strengthening UN coordination, coherence, and system-wide effectiveness.

During the reporting year, the Fund supported three Joint Programmes, whose combined results advanced inclusive economic transformation, peace and social cohesion and sustainable investments in human capital. Collectively, these programmes directly reached over 45,000 people, strengthened the capacities of more than 2,200 frontline government and community actors and reinforced national and subnational systems critical to long-term development outcomes. All interventions deliberately integrated gender equality, women's empowerment and youth engagement, ensuring that women, youth and other groups at risk of being left behind benefitted from development gains.

Through the EWAYA Joint Programme under the agriculture and livelihoods component, the Fund enabled 1,509 women and youth farmers organized in 20 farmer organizations to transition from subsistence farming to commercially viable, climate-smart value chains in Kasungu and Mzimba. Supported interventions led to annual income gains exceeding USD 262,000, with yields surpassing targets for tomatoes, beans, and honey, and the combined representation of women and youth in leadership roles increasing significantly from 15 percent to 65 percent. These results increased household incomes and



strengthened market integration and resilience to climate shocks, while embedding sustainability through government extension systems.

In peace and governance, the Fund reinforced Malawi’s national and subnational peace architecture by supporting the operational capacity of the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) and establishing or reconstituting six District Peace and Unity Committees. Over 2,900 people gained access to formal and informal conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms, while 226 grassroots peacebuilders, 160 youth peace ambassadors and 163 women peace actors were trained to mediate disputes, prevent gender-based violence and promote social cohesion. Enhanced border management tools, including population mobility mapping and displacement tracking, further strengthened evidence-based conflict prevention and contributed to peaceful coexistence during the 2025 tripartite elections.

In health, joint investments reinforced district-level health systems across six districts, strengthening service delivery, governance and resilience. The Fund supported the training and mentorship of over 1,000 health workers, upgraded and maintained four key health facilities and expanded access to essential services through 168 integrated outreach clinics, reaching more than 40,000 underserved people. District planning, data use, and emergency preparedness were enhanced through evidence-based District Implementation Plans, integrated performance dashboards and strengthened public health emergency response mechanisms improving readiness for climate-related and epidemic shocks.

Collectively, these results underscore the added value of joint programming under the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund: stronger national ownership, demonstrable improvements in service delivery, enhanced accountability and more sustainable development outcomes achieved through coordinated UN action aligned with national priorities.

3. RESULTS OF FUND-SUPPORTED JOINT PROGRAMMES

The following section presents a consolidated overview of the results achieved by the Fund-supported Joint Programmes in 2025, highlighting key outputs, outcomes and development impacts delivered through coordinated UN action in support of Malawi’s national priorities.

3.1 Empowering of Women and Youth in Agriculture in Malawi (EWAYA)

Participating UN Agencies:	FAO, UNDP	Geographic Scope:	Kasungu (Mkanakhoti and Kaluluma EPAs) Mzimba (Eswazini and Champhira EPAs)
Government Partners:	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Mzimba District Council Kasungu District Council The Ministry of Trade and Industry’s (MoTI) Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW) Ministry of Youth and Sport; Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)	Budget:	US\$ 2,965,064

Other Partners:		SDG targets:	SDG 1: No Poverty ; SDG 2: Zero hunger SDG 13: Climate action SDG 17: Partnerships
Duration	September 2022 to September 2025		

The *Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture in Malawi (EWAYA)* project is a flagship Flanders-funded initiative aligned with Malawi 2063, designed to increase women’s and youth participation in agricultural production and commercialization. Implemented in Kasungu and Mzimba districts, the project worked with 20 Farmer Organizations (FOs) across high-potential value chains through improved innovation, finance, extension services and markets.



Farmer field school in Mzimba| *FAO 2025*

3.1.1 Key Results Overview

The project expanded its reach by supporting 1,509 farmers, including 712 women and 618 youths, while successfully transitioning farmer groups from subsistence production to structured commercial entities through USD 215,000 in matching grants. Market integration was strengthened through 28 off-taker agreements that generated over USD 262,000 in revenue for tomato and bean farmers, alongside significant productivity and income gains, with income targets exceeded by 27.2% for tomatoes, 33.3% for beans and 50% for honey; tomato volumes reached 74 tons against a 60-ton target, while honey production reached 56 tons against a 60-ton target. All 20 farmer organizations received grants for productive infrastructure, including seven greenhouses and honey processing equipment and 100% adoption of promoted climate-smart agriculture technologies was achieved. In parallel, progress toward gender and youth empowerment outcomes was observed, as increased representation of women and youth in farmer organization leadership from 15% to 65% contributed to addressing entrenched structural inequalities.



Outcome	Key Results Achieved
Outcome 1: Strengthened Government Extension Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 government extension officers trained in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), marketing, and the household approach, meeting project targets. • 100% of frontline government extension staff in target areas trained in climate-smart agriculture. • Strengthened extension capacity enabled full uptake of promoted technologies by women- and youth-led farmer organizations. • Gender-transformative approaches (Dimitra Clubs and the household approach) strengthened joint household decision-making, financial inclusion and intra-household planning.
Outcome 2: Farmer Organizations Strengthened for Value Chain Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained yield and income growth achieved across prioritized value chains (tomatoes, beans, honey, poultry) despite macroeconomic volatility. • 20 farmer organizations strengthened with improved aggregation systems, value addition capacity and de-risking mechanisms to attract private sector buyers. • Women and youth leadership in farmer organizations increased from 15% to 65%, resulting in stronger governance structures, enhanced agency, and greater commercial orientation.
Outcome 3: Competitive and Market-Oriented Value Chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,473 farmers trained (73% women and youth) in climate-resilient production, greenhouse horticulture, post-harvest management, honey processing, business skills, and the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) market-first approach. • Irrigation schemes rehabilitated to enable year-round production and improved market responsiveness. • Formal finance access achieved by 50% of farmer organizations (target: 80%), constrained by high interest rates and collateral requirements; financing gaps partially mitigated through National Economic Empowerment Fund (Limited) support.

On overall impact, EWAYA delivered measurable gains in productivity, incomes and market participation while institutionalizing climate-smart and gender-transformative approaches. The project demonstrates that targeted finance, strong extension systems and inclusive value-chain development can sustainably shift women and youth from subsistence farming into competitive agribusiness.



3.1.2 Challenges, Lessons and Best Practices

a) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture (eWaYA) project applied targeted analytical assessments to inform design choices and enable adaptive management throughout implementation. A comprehensive **Gender Assessment** revealed persistent structural inequalities within farmer organizations, notably that although women constituted approximately 75% of direct project participants, only 12% held leadership or decision-making roles or had access to finance. These findings directly informed the adoption of **gender-transformative approaches**, including the household planning model and Dimitra Clubs, which addressed power relations at both household and organizational levels.

In parallel, a **Value Chain Needs Assessment (VCNA)** using geo-tagging and qualitative interviews identified critical governance and financial management gaps across 20 farmer organizations. These findings informed investments in organizational strengthening, aggregation systems and de-risking mechanisms. While the terminal report confirms substantial progress across all outcomes, it also notes that some infrastructure and institutional arrangements were still being finalized at project closure. As such, a comprehensive external evaluation is anticipated to confirm full attainment and sustainability of targeted outcomes once all interventions reach operational maturity.

b) Program Challenges and Mitigation Measures

The project faced several contextual and operational challenges that affected implementation timelines and delivery efficiency:

- **Macroeconomic volatility (currency depreciation):** Exchange rate fluctuations between project design and fund disbursement affected the real value of resources available to farmer organizations, influencing the scale and specifications of some planned investments.



Mitigation: Farmer organizations adapted investment plans by prioritizing essential infrastructure and optimizing resource use, ensuring that core programme objectives remained on track despite the evolving economic context.

- **Timing of fund disbursements:** The sequencing of disbursements for Letters of Agreement (LoAs) and direct beneficiary grants influenced the pace of implementation and the timing of certain activities.

Mitigation: The programme leveraged existing government systems by channeling resources through District Agricultural Offices (DAOs), which helped maintain implementation continuity, strengthen oversight, and ensure sustained technical support from extension services.

- **Access to formal finance:** Prevailing financial market conditions, including interest rates and collateral requirements, limited access to formal credit for some farmer organizations.

Mitigation: The programme strengthened linkages to alternative financing mechanisms, including the National Economic Empowerment Fund (NEEF) and Village Savings and Loans (VSLs), enabling farmer organizations to access more suitable and flexible financial options.

- **Capacity constraints in emerging value chains:** Adoption of new technologies in certain value chains, such as honey processing, required additional time and technical support to achieve desired quality and productivity levels.

Mitigation: Continued capacity building and targeted technical support were provided to farmer organizations, facilitating gradual improvements in skills, adoption rates, and product quality.

- **Operational coordination at local level:** Delivering infrastructure and value chain interventions in a dynamic environment required strong local-level coordination and governance mechanisms.

Mitigation: Management committees for irrigation schemes and greenhouse operations were established, strengthening transparency, accountability, and community-led oversight of project assets.

c) Lessons Learned and Best Practices

The eWaYA project generated several important lessons and best practices with relevance for future programming:

- **Leveraging Existing Institutional Systems:** Working through established government extension services rather than creating parallel structures proved highly effective. This approach strengthened institutional ownership, enhanced service continuity, and ensured that technical skills and practices would be sustained beyond the project lifecycle.
- **Integrated and Cluster-Based Value Chain Development:** The project demonstrated that transformational outcomes are most effectively achieved when farmer organization strengthening, climate-smart agriculture, market linkages and gender-transformative approaches are implemented simultaneously within geographically clustered areas. This integration created mutually reinforcing impacts across productivity, incomes, governance, and market engagement.
- **Adaptive Management in Volatile Contexts:** The experience underscored the need to embed stronger adaptive management mechanisms in project design, including flexible budgeting, built-in contingencies for macro-economic risks and decentralized decision-making authority to enable rapid responses to economic shifts.



3.2 Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening Equitable Health Outcomes in Malawi

Participating UN Agencies:	WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF	Geographic scope:	Rumphi, Mzimba, Ntchisi, Kasungu, Chikwawa, and Nsanje
Government Partners:	Ministry of Health	Budget:	US \$ 19,320,717
Other Partners:	Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS), Chancellor College, Christian Health Alliance of Malawi, Banja La Mtsogolo (BLM), Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM), Staff Development Institute (SDI), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Parent and Child Health Initiative (PACHI)	SDG targets:	SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing SDG 5: Gender equality SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
Duration	2020-2025		

3.2.1 Key Results Overview

The programme delivered strong results across quality of care, integration, resilience and governance, significantly contributing to strengthened primary health care (PHC) systems in six districts.¹ All districts adopted evidence-based, risk-informed planning through District Implementation Plans (DIPs) aligned with national priorities, supported by Direct Facility Financing (DFF) in 29 facilities and strengthened performance oversight mechanisms. Data-driven management was institutionalized through integrated Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (SRMNCAH+N) dashboards within the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2), achieving high data completeness and improved local decision-making. Over 1,000 health workers were mentored or trained in Quality of Care (QoC), Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC), Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), and data use, while an online Continuous Professional Development (CPD) platform was scaled nationwide. Essential service delivery was expanded through infrastructure upgrades, referral support and integrated outreach clinics, reaching more than 33,000 people. Health system resilience was strengthened through hazard mapping, operational Public Health Emergency Management Committees (PHEMCs), improved disease surveillance, and last-mile supply chain strengthening, enabling districts to better anticipate, prepare for and respond to public health emergencies and climate-related shocks.

Result Area	Key Results Achieved
Output 1: Strengthened Capacity of PHC Facilities to Deliver Quality Services	
Governance & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Annual Review (JAR) framework institutionalized with MoH as a national performance and accountability mechanism.

¹ <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/programme/GB-GOV-1-300150/summary>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSSP III Monitoring & Evaluation Framework (2024–2030) finalized, strengthening transparency and results tracking.
District Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 6 districts developed evidence-based, risk-informed District Implementation Plans (DIPs) for 2024/25 through participatory, multisectoral processes integrating climate and epidemic risks. • Risk analysis institutionalized in annual planning, with replication beyond the project in districts such as Chikwawa and Ntchisi.
Decentralized Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Facility Financing (DFF) operationalized in 29 facilities (16 Rumphi, 13 Ntchisi), improving autonomy, predictability of funding, and operational efficiency.
Performance Oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS) institutionalized, with 21 supervision visits completed, strengthening accountability, mentorship, and use of routine data.
Health Information Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRMNCAH+N scorecard integrated into DHIS2 (DHSS2 platform). • District dashboards operationalized in all 6 districts; 5 achieved >97% data completeness.
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 564 personnel trained in DHIS2 and scorecard use (341 male, 223 female). • Facility leadership (in-charge, nursing officer, HSA) trained in dashboard use across all districts.
Community Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 557 Health Centre Advisory Committee members and 37 Trainers of Trainers capacitated in financial governance, procurement, and accountability, strengthening local oversight.
Performance Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dashboards enabled real-time monitoring, improved resource allocation, and service quality improvements, with documented gains in stock management and ANC coverage in Chikwawa and Mzimba South.
Output 2: Equitable Access to Integrated, High-Impact PHC Services Strengthened	
Quality of Care Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stepwise Quality of Care (QoC) standards integrated nationally, introducing a single facility assessment and unified quality improvement plan aligned with HSSP III.
Workforce Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,002 health workers mentored in QoC and MPDSR processes. • 568 health workers trained in data management and scorecard use.
Digital Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National CPD e-learning platform (Moodle-based) rolled out in 29 districts; 924 health workers trained (574 male, 340 female), primarily in QoC, BEmONC, and data use.
Community-Level Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 282 HSAs and Community Midwife Assistants trained in clinical skills and standardized documentation, strengthening frontline SRMNCAH+N delivery.
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity ward expanded at Bulala Health Facility (Mzimba South). • General renovations completed at Rumphi District Hospital. • Investments in solar power and WASH strengthened IPC and service continuity.
Referral Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,934 patient referrals supported through fuel facilitation in 2025.
Outreach Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 168 integrated outreach clinics conducted across 6 districts in 2025. • 33,617 people accessed SRMNCAH, immunization, nutrition, HIV, family planning, NCD screening, and iCCM services.
Output 3: Health Systems Resilience Strengthened Against Public Health Emergencies	



Preparedness & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi Seasonal Hazard Risk Calendar developed, enabling systematic mapping of epidemiological, climatic, and environmental hazards. • All UNJP districts mapped and prioritized hazards; cholera ranked as a top risk across all districts.
Governance & Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multisectoral Public Health Emergency Management Committees (PHEMCs) operationalized in all 6 districts, strengthening emergency coordination.
Emergency Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard-specific preparedness and response actions integrated into 2025–2026 DIPs, aligned with One Health and HSSP III frameworks.
Health Commodities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 281 frontline health workers trained (199 male, 82 female) in forecasting, quantification, and storeroom management for SRMNCAH commodities.
System Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved data-driven stock management and reduced risk of stock-outs at facility and district levels through targeted mentorship.



Expectant Theresa , 36, and her guardian Matilda at Mndinda Health Centre in Ntchisi| UNICEF 2025



BEmONC and MPDSR Implementation (by District)						
District	Chikwawa	Nsanje	Kasungu	Ntchisi	Rumphi	Mzimba South
Total number of health facilities	33	14	40	17	18	33
Number of BEmONC sites	9	7	9	3	8	12
Functional BEmONC sites	5	7	9	3	2	12
Facilities conducting perinatal death audits	1	13	1	2	2	12
MPDSR recommendations followed up	24	13	20	17	2	33
Facilities implementing MPDSR	3	13	2	2	2	30
IDSR Capacity Building						
IDSR & HMIS focal persons trained	95	42	195	80	100	180
IDSR & HMIS focal persons mentored	57	40	68	36	74	28

3.2.2 Challenges, Lessons and Best Practices

Despite strong progress, several systemic challenges constrained the pace and scale of results. Human resource shortages, particularly of midwives, laboratory staff, health information officers and pharmacy personnel, continued to limit full-service readiness and sustainability of quality-of-care gains, especially in hard-to-reach areas. Supply chain weaknesses, including recurrent stockouts and long national replenishment cycles, disrupted continuity of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (SRMNCAH+N) services and slowed implementation of audit recommendations. Facility readiness gaps, especially in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), infection prevention and control (IPC), and essential equipment, persisted beyond available programme resources. Additionally, financial and administrative delays and heightened macroeconomic volatility reduced purchasing power and constrained timely implementation, while variability in district capacity affected the consistency of data use and planning quality.

a) Lessons Learned

- Improvement in **Local ownership drives sustainability**: Embedding mentorship, supervision and quality leadership within facility and district teams delivered more durable results than reliance on external or national-level support.



- **Data use improves performance when paired with capacity and leadership:** Integration of SRMNCAH+N scorecards and dashboards into routine systems strengthened decision-making, but effective use depended on leadership engagement, digital literacy and follow-up mechanisms.
- **Integrated approaches yield higher impact:** Linking quality of care, service integration, governance and resilience interventions within the same districts created mutually reinforcing gains, particularly for outreach, referrals and emergency response.
- **Risk-informed planning strengthens resilience:** Districts that integrated hazard mapping and multi-hazard analysis into planning responded faster and more effectively to outbreaks and climate shocks.



A child receiving routine vaccine | UNICEF 2024

b) Best Practices

- **Leveraging existing government systems:** Working through established Ministry of Health structures—such as District Implementation Plans, Integrated Supportive Supervision, and Joint Annual Reviews—enhanced alignment, accountability and sustainability.
- **Mentorship-focused supportive supervision:** Shifting from checklist-driven supervision to mentorship and problem-solving improved provider confidence, quality improvement uptake and service readiness.
- **Direct Facility Financing:** Channeling predictable funds directly to facilities with functional Health Centre Management Committees strengthened accountability, responsiveness and local prioritisation.
- **Low-cost, high-impact investments:** Targeted improvements in IPC, WASH, supply-chain management and digital tools delivered meaningful gains despite resource constraints.



- **Integrated outreach and referral models:** Combining SRMNCAH, nutrition, HIV, immunisation and non-communicable disease services through outreach clinics expanded coverage while maximizing efficiency and strengthening access.

3.3 Border Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Malawi II

Participating UN Agencies:	UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, IOM. UNWOMEN	Geographic scope:	Nkhotakota
Government Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi Peace and Unity Commission • Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture • Ministry of Youth and Sports • Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare • Ministry of Homeland Security 	Budget:	US\$ 367,444
Other Partners:	Public Affairs Committee;	SDG targets:	SDG 5 -Gender equality SDG 16 -Peace, justice & strong institutions
Duration	01/12/2023 to 31/03/2025		

3.3.1 Key Results Overview

The project significantly advanced the operationalization of Malawi’s National Peace Architecture, strengthened border management capacities and enhanced community-level peacebuilding, directly contributing to national stability and inclusive development. This strongly supported peace, co-existence and transition during the 2025 tripartite elections. At the national level, the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) was supported to develop three strategic instruments, namely, the Strategic Plan (2024–2028), Resource Mobilization Strategy, and Communication and Advocacy Strategy (2024–2027), providing a clear roadmap for fulfilling its mandate and strengthening visibility, partnerships and sustainability. MPUC also expanded collaboration with civil society and political dialogue platforms, positioning itself as a central actor in national conflict resolution.

Outcome	Key Results Achieved
National peace architecture strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established 1 new District Peace and Unity Committee (DPUC) in Nkhotakota and reconstituted 5 DPUCs in Kasungu, Salima, Karonga, Mulanje and Nkhata Bay. • DPUCs operationalized as inclusive, decentralized peace structures, integrating women, youth, persons with disabilities and traditional leaders. • Strengthened national peace infrastructure through development of MPUC Strategic Plan (2024–2028), Resource Mobilization Strategy, and Communication & Advocacy Strategy.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalized multi-stakeholder coordination among government, civil society, faith actors and UN agencies, reinforcing national ownership and sustainability. • Trained 226 grassroots peacebuilders in Nkhotakota, expanding trusted community-based mediation and dialogue mechanisms.
<p>Institutional capacity to manage borders improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced border governance in Nkhotakota through Population Mobility Mapping and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), generating real-time data on migration flows and conflict risks. • Integrated migration-related conflict analysis into district planning, strengthening early warning and prevention aligned with the Peace and Unity Act (2022). • Capacitated 92 local actors (village development, beach committees, community policing forums) to monitor and respond to migration-related tensions. • Strengthened coordination, reporting and role clarity among ministries, district authorities and implementing partners, reinforcing peace architecture at border areas.
<p>Community capacity to mitigate and respond to conflict enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established 4 Women’s Movement Groups and trained 163 women (including youth, women with disabilities and women with albinism) in mediation, leadership, and peacebuilding. • Women’s groups successfully mediated 51 disputes and advanced women’s participation in local governance structures (DPUCs, ADCs, VDCs). • Trained 160 youth peace ambassadors (50% female) who mediated peer disputes and promoted peace messaging, reaching approximately 1,000 learners. • Strengthened Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) referral pathways, training 252 service providers and disseminating user-friendly referral tools across four Traditional Authority areas. • Improved survivor-centred, gender-responsive responses through stronger linkages between community actors and formal institutions (health, social welfare, law enforcement).

3.3.2 Challenges, Lessons Learned and Best Practices

- Budgetary pressures, particularly unanticipated increases in government-regulated allowances effective July 2024, reduced the number of beneficiaries reached under some activities, notably community-level trainings.
- At local level, limited and unpredictable funding for District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) constrained their ability to fully implement work plans and respond rapidly to emerging conflicts. In addition, institutional eligibility requirements, such as minimum education thresholds for DPUC membership, risked excluding trusted traditional mediators, while logistical barriers (distance, transport costs, lack of identification) limited the reach of women peacebuilders, despite strong community demand for their services.

a) Lessons Learned

- **Locally embedded peace structures are effective when capacitated:** DPUCs that received hands-on training and opportunities to apply mediation skills were able to resolve active disputes and build legitimacy within their communities.
- **Community trust is as important as formal mandates:** Resistance from some traditional leaders highlighted that formal peace mechanisms require continuous sensitization and relationship-building to complement—not compete with—customary authority.



- **Women’s participation delivers tangible peace dividends:** Trained women mediators resolved disputes and improved GBV response, confirming that gender-responsive peacebuilding strengthens both prevention and protection outcomes.
- **Evidence-based tools strengthen early warning and prevention:** Population Mobility Mapping and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data improved understanding of migration-related risks and informed district planning and conflict prevention responses.
- **Logistical realities influence inclusion:** Without addressing practical barriers such as transport and recognition, trained community actors—especially women—cannot fully realize their peacebuilding potential.

b) Best Practices

- **National ownership with UN facilitation:** Implementation led by the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC), supported by multiple UN Agencies, ensured alignment with the Peace and Unity Act (2022) and strengthened sustainability.
- **Hybrid peace architecture approach:** Linking formal institutions (MPUC, DPUCs, border agencies) with informal community structures created accessible and trusted conflict resolution pathways.
- **Inclusive composition of peace structures:** Intentional inclusion of women, youth, persons with disabilities, traditional and religious leaders enhanced legitimacy and cultural relevance of peace mechanisms.
- **Learning-by-doing mediation support:** Allowing DPUCs and community peacebuilders to apply skills to real disputes reinforced capacity retention and credibility.
- **Integrated protection and peacebuilding:** Strengthening GBV and SRHR referral pathways alongside conflict prevention embedded survivor-centred and gender-responsive approaches within peace systems.
- **Data-driven border governance:** Routine sharing and use of DTM flow monitoring dashboards enabled early identification of migration-related risks and informed coordinated prevention actions.

4. Strategic Recommendations for 2026 - Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund

Building on the achievements, implementation experience and lessons learned from the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund in 2025, the following strategic recommendations are proposed to guide priorities for 2026 and beyond. These recommendations aim to consolidate gains, strengthen delivery during the remaining Fund lifecycle and position Malawi for a smooth transition to a successor pooled financing mechanism.

- Design and Operationalize a Successor Country-Level Pooled Fund Aligned to the 2024–2028 UNSDCF:** Work is underway to advance the design of a successor country-level pooled fund, building on over 14 years of experience with pooled funding mechanisms in Malawi. The focus will be on strengthening partnerships, fostering collective ownership and widening the contribution base by engaging a broader range of development partners. The successor fund will be positioned as a collaborative platform that promotes flexible financing and sustained partner engagement over time.



- ii) **Strengthen the SDG-AF Secretariat and Governance Structures:** Experience from earlier phases of the Fund shows that a dedicated, adequately resourced Secretariat is critical to effective fund performance. Such a structure enables consistent partner engagement, credible fund management and sustained operational oversight. Priority in 2026 should, therefore, be given to strengthening the SDG Acceleration Fund Secretariat, including:
- Enhanced technical, fiduciary and coordination capacity to respond to evolving financing modalities and partner expectations.
 - Continued strengthening of support to governance bodies to ensure predictable, timely and well-informed approval and decision-making cycles.
 - Further enhancement of monitoring, reporting, risk management, learning and communications functions.
 - Strengthened resource mobilisation and partnership engagement capacity, enabling more strategic engagement with existing partners, outreach to new contributors and adaptation to shifting donor priorities and financing trends.
- iii) **Develop a Strategic Programme Pipeline for 2026–2027:** A structured **pipeline of high-impact, scalable interventions** should be developed for the 2026–2027 period. Pipeline development should focus on:
- Alignment with UNSDCF priorities and national development strategies
 - Evidence-based interventions with clear potential for scale and sustainability
 - Cross-sectoral and inter-agency initiatives that drive SDG acceleration
- iv) **Prepare for a Structured and Responsible Fund Closure by 2027:** As the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund approaches its planned closure in 2027, early and structured closure planning should be prioritized to:
- Document and disseminate lessons learned, good practices and proven models
 - Support institutionalization of successful approaches within government and national systems
 - Ensure clear transition or handover pathways for ongoing initiatives
- Proactive closure planning will safeguard development gains and strengthen sustainability beyond the Fund’s lifecycle.
- v) **Enhance UN Inter-Agency Coordination for Coherent and Timely Delivery:** Continued efforts are needed in 2026 to **strengthen coordination among UN agencies**, including:
- Clearer role delineation and shared accountability for joint programming
 - Incentivizing collaboration around cross-cutting priorities
 - Improved alignment of planning, implementation and reporting cycles
- Stronger coordination will enhance efficiency, reduce transaction costs and maximize the collective impact of the UN system in Malawi.
- vi) **Intensify Resource Mobilization and Financing Approaches:** Resource mobilization efforts should be further strengthened in 2026 to support continued progress on SDG acceleration priorities. Emphasis should be placed on maintaining predictable and flexible financing while identifying opportunities to broaden the resource base in a balanced and realistic manner. Key actions include:
- Sustaining existing financing arrangements that support multi-year, programmatic SDG interventions
 - Exploring complementary sources of support where alignment with SDG acceleration objectives exists
 - Considering financing approaches that enhance flexibility, timeliness and results orientation



Strengthened and well-coordinated resourcing will contribute to improved continuity, scalability and sustainability of SDG-focused interventions during the remainder of the Fund life cycle and future programming.

Annex 1: Indicator Based Performance Assessment

1. Empowering of Women and Youth in Agriculture in Malawi (EWAYA)

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1; Improved well-being and livelihood of women and youths engages in Agriculture in Malawi.			
<p>Outcome 1.1 Percentage of beneficiary households (youth and women) using at least 3 climate smart technologies combinations.</p> <p>Baseline: 75% Planned Target: 90%</p>	85%	<p>Farmers with access to irrigation schemes engaged tomatoes and beans production, employing climate-smart technologies such as the use of organic manure, improved seeds, and botanicals for crop protection. Farmers also supported green houses to improve production. These practices are cost-effective, gender-sensitive, and scalable, aligning seamlessly with the objectives of the project.</p> <p>The project also facilitated successful marketing efforts among farmers, with many engaging in value additional activities, such as packaging honey to enhance its market appeal and profitability. These initiatives led to significant improvements in agricultural production across various farmer groups, highlighting the project's transformative impact.</p>	District Agriculture data; Project data.



<p>Outcome 1.2 Proportion of direct beneficiaries (youth and women) having improved livelihoods options to cope with climate related hazards (forest products, irrigation, livestock rearing, VSL, small scale business)</p> <p>Baseline: 78.3% Planned Target: 80%</p>	84%	<p>Women and youth have made notable strides in improving their livelihoods by engaging in value addition activities that enhance the profitability of their agricultural products. These efforts, coupled with initiatives such as Village Savings and Loan schemes, have provided them with greater access to financial resources. This empowerment is not only boosting their economic resilience but also contributing to sustainable improvements in their standard of living.</p>	
Output 1.1: Government extension officers supported to deliver trainings to Farmer Organisations (FOs)			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of trained government extension workers supporting FO.</p> <p>Baseline: 22 Planned Target: 28</p>	28	<p>Extension workers have been instrumental in supporting farmers to enhance production and improve access to markets</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring reports.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1. 2; Government Extension officers trained in good agricultural practices (climate smart agriculture, marketing).</p> <p>Baseline: 22 Planned Target: 28</p>	28	<p>Fully delivered though the planned target of 50 not reached due to unfilled vacancies.</p>	<p>Project reports; Training reports.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1. 3 Percentage of women and youth led farmer organizations in the targeted districts adopting modern technologies.</p> <p>Baseline: 80% Planned Target: 90%</p>	85%	<p>Under achieved with 5%. The slight variance reflects gradual uptake of technologies across some farmer organizations, given differing starting points and implementation timelines</p>	<p>Gender dynamics and land ownership determines adoption of new agricultural technologies.</p>
Output 1.2 Increased market access, value addition, trade and access to finance by women and youth.			



<p>Indicator 1.2.1 Average volume of commodities traded by value chain(in tons)</p> <p>Baseline: Tomatoes(46); Beans (7); Honey (53.1); Chickens(250) Planned Target: Tomatoes (60); Beans (10); Honey (60); Chickens (265)</p>	<p>Tomatoes (74); Beans (10); Honey (56); Chickens (0)</p>	<p>Chicken sales have not yet started</p>	<p>Farmers had challenges in processing honey to meet minimum standards. The project supported FO with modern technologies to improve their productivity and access better markets.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.2 Average income realized by value chains (in Million MKW)</p> <p>Baseline: Tomato (20.5); Beans (14.45); Honey (2.40) Chicken eggs (26).</p> <p>Planned Target: Tomato(25); Beans (15); Honey (5), Chicken eggs (40)</p>	<p>Tomatoes (45.8); Beans (16); Honey (2); Chicken eggs (0)</p>	<p>Chicken eggs sales has not yet started</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring reports.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.3 Proportion of women and youth led Fos with access to financing their value chains</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: 30%</p>	<p>55%</p>	<p>The target was exceeded due to stronger-than-expected linkages between women- and youth-led FOs and MFIs, supported by project capacity-building and active facilitation by District Agriculture Offices, which increased access to financing beyond initial projections.</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring reports.</p>
<p>Output 2: Farmers' organizations strengthened for engaging in value chains</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1 Percentage of women and youth led FO's in the target districts with access to appropriate and modernised productive assets and equipment.</p> <p>Baseline: 30% Planned target: 70%</p>	<p>83%</p>	<p>The higher-than-planned result reflects better overall uptake of productive assets by women- and youth-led FOs during implementation than initially anticipated.</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring reports.</p>



<p>Indicator 2.1.2 Percentage of women and youth led FO's in the target districts with access to appropriate and modernised productive assets and equipments (improved livelihood khola)</p> <p>Baseline: 35% Planned target: 55%</p>	58%	The slight overachievement reflects higher access to improved livelihood kholas by women- and youth-led FOs than initially anticipated during implementation.	Project Reports; Monitoring reports.
<p>Indicator 2.1.3 Proportion of women and youth in key leadership positions in FO's</p> <p>Baseline: 18% Planned target: 65%</p>	68%	The target was marginally exceeded due to stronger participation of women and youth in FO leadership structures than originally planned.	Project Reports; Monitoring reports.
Output 3: Farmers receive increased profits from value chains they are engaged in.			
<p>Indicator 3.1. Number and value of off-taker deals signed and honoured.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned target: 28</p>	0	Assessments are still being finalized	Project Reports; Monitoring reports.
<p>Indicator 3.2 Number of women and youth led FO's with access to markets</p> <p>Baseline: 10 Planned target: 22</p>	15	The target has only been partially achieved as market access was constrained by seasonality, with some value chains not reaching peak production or marketing periods by project closure.	Project Reports; Monitoring reports.

2. United Nations Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening Equitable Health Outcomes in Malawi



Indicators	Achieved Indicators	Reasons for variance with planned target	Source of verification
Improved health outcomes for the poorest in Malawi, particularly women and children, that contributes to building human capital and reducing poverty			
1. Maternal Mortality Rate Baseline: 439	350 (Y2024)	Targets in line with initial 2028 project end date. More reliable data to be provided by the incoming MDHS 2026/2017.	MDHS 2015/16, District data.
2. Neonatal mortality Rate Baseline: 27	19 (Y2024)	Progress is associated with improved EmONC and skilled birth attendance, but neonatal mortality remains constrained by weak emergency referral systems, particularly affecting rural/poor	MDHS 2015/16, District data.
3. Child Mortality Rate Baseline: 64/1000	50/1000	The observed decline is linked (in the trend summary) to immunization and nutrition improvements, supporting faster-than-planned reduction.	HSSP3, 2024.
4a. Total fertility rate Baseline: 4.2	4	The trend is described as a continuous long-term decline in fertility, indicating faster progress than anticipated.	HSSP3, 2024.
4b. Adolescent Fertility Rate Baseline: 136	100	The trend analysis notes teenage pregnancy is rising again, driven by factors including high rates of child marriage and limited control over sexual and reproductive health among girls.	HSSP3, 2024.



Outcome: Increased access to and use of free, quality, essential life-saving and preventive health, and nutrition services by poor and vulnerable women of reproductive age, newborns, children and adolescents, delivered by an increasingly resilient, responsive, and accountable public health system Malawi government budget for health increased

Outcome 1: Government budget for health increased

Outcome 1.1 Proportion of government budget allocated and disbursed to the health sector (% and absolute USD)²

Baseline: 10.8% Target: 12% Achieved: 8%	8% (National budget USD 5billion and USD 400 million allocated to health)	Health sector allocations remain below the Abuja Declaration target of 15% of total government expenditure ³ .	Ministry of Finance National Budget Estimates; Ministry of Health Budget Reports; Parliamentary Budget Appropriation Act; Public Expenditure Reviews (PER); Health Sector Resource Mapping Reports.
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Outcome 1.2 Proportion of government budget allocated and disbursed to DFF increased (% and absolute USD)

Baseline: 0% Target: 1% Achieved: Less than 1%	>1% USD288,453.61	The Direct Facility Financing mechanism is still being operationalized, is still being operationalized, leading to limited allocations in the current fiscal year. However, there is promising move to allocate domestic financing for DFF and FP commodities but this needs to be tracked; spending on health	Direct Facility financing reports: Ministry of local government budget reports; treasury disbursement records; district council financial statements; public financial management (PFM) reports.
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² Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlines in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc

³ Fiscal pressures due to rising public debt servicing, which accounted for 24.5% of the 2024/25 national budget, limited the fiscal space available for social sector investments including health. Competing national priorities and macroeconomic constraints reduced the proportion of government spending directed to health. Continued reliance on external financing for health programmes reduced pressure on domestic allocations.



		hindered by rising debt servicing (24.5% of the 2024/25 budget)	
Outcome 1.3 Proportion and value (US\$) of MOH health budget allocation and expenditure for family planning commodities increased			
Baseline: Not available Target: 1.1%	1.1% USD444,218.55	Budgetary limitation within Ministry of Health constrained larger domestic allocations	Ministry of Health Budget and Expenditure reports; Central Medical stores Health Commodity Procurement Records; UNFPA reproductive health commodity reports, Ministry of Health Financial statement.
Outcome 1.4 Expenditure on health by government as % of total expenditure on health (HSSP 3)			
Baseline: 36.20% Achieved: 25.1%	25.1%	Macro-economic pressures reduced public spending capacity.	National Health Accounts (NHA) reports; Health Sector Strategic Plan 3 (HSSP 3); Project monitoring reports.
Outcome 2: Improved capacity of health workers			
Outcome 2.1: Improved capacity in the following technical areas of the IHR Core Capacities			
Overall IHR Score; 22/60 C5: Surveillance, Human Resources. C7: Health Emergency Management (Emergency Preparedness; Emergency Response Operations)	Malawi Average 57% against 51% regional average and 59% Global average ⁴ . C5: Human Resources Surveillance - 80% C7: Healthy Emergency Management 85%	Although the JEE mission was conducted in 2024, the final validated report has not yet been released , which limits confirmation of the official updated score. Preliminary findings from the December 2024 JEE sessions indicate improvements in several core capacities, suggesting that final results may show a higher score once the report is validated and published ⁵ .	Joint External Evaluation (jee); IHR Score per capacity AFRO Malawi 2025 (WHO Espar)

⁴ Electronic States Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (eSPAR)

⁵ The **eSPAR self-assessment** and the **JEE external evaluation** use slightly different methodologies, which may result in differences between expected and reported scores.



Outcome 3: Number of marginalized women and girls receiving quality maternal services			
Outcome 3.1: Proportion of pregnant women with 4+ antenatal care visits			
Baseline: 26% Planned target: 65%	Endline: 62%	No district level data available; the national data MDHS 2025/26 was used instead.	Malawi Demographic Health Survey (MDHS)
Outcome 3.2: Demand for family planning satisfied with modern family planning methods by age.			
Baseline: 79.9% Planned target: 81%. Achieved: Data not available	Actual number of projects supported WCBA using contraceptive methods is 639,277.	Misalignment in reporting periods between the programme implementation cycles and the national reporting framework leading to incomplete capture of data.	District Health Information System (DHIS2); Ministry of Health Family Planning Programme Reports; National Family Planning costed implementation plan monitoring report.
Outcome 3.3 Number of abortions averted			
Baseline: 90,000 (2023/24) Planned target: 92,000	40,000 (2024/25)	Target not achieved because of delayed SRHR service transition from TLPaUW misalignment of programme reporting period resulted in partial capture of service data for the reporting year ⁶ .	Ministry of Health Family Planning and SRHR programme reports; District Health Information System (DHIS2): routine service statistics, Health facility service registers, and reports.
Output 5: Proportion of people Satisfied with the services of health facilities increased			
Baseline: 59.5% (2020) Planned: 70%	58.4% (2024/25)	Findings from the People's Voice Survey are yet to be presented by the Learning Centre for Quality Management Directorate (LCQMD). Only 2 project districts represented in the sample	People's Voice Survey report

⁶ The indicator historically performed well during implementation under the TLP programme, suggesting that **the decline reflects reporting and transition challenges rather than a sustained reduction in programme performance**



3. Border districts and community-based conflict prevention and peace building in Malawi (Border Security 2)

	<u>Achieved Indicator Targets</u>	<u>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</u>	<u>Source of Verification</u>
Outcome 1: Malawi has strengthened institutional capacities for sustaining peace and inclusive societies and participatory democracy and the indicator prevalence of social unrest (UNSDCF Pillar 1)			
Indicator 1: Number of people that have access to formal and informal mechanisms for conflict resolutions in the targeted districts. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1,103	2,927	More people were reached by trained local and community leaders.	Activity reports, case registers
Output 1.1 Strengthen national peace architecture Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1	3	Expanded implementation, more national and district peace units were operationalised than initially planned.	1. Strategic Plan (2024–2028), 2. Resource Mobilization Strategy, 3. Communication and Advocacy Strategy (2024–2027),
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of local leaders and community members who were outreached through sensitization activities and increased their knowledge on peacebuilding and conflict prevention work in Malawi. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 314	440 (175 Males; 265 Women)	More women reached by women and youth movements.	Training report, Project report
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of community members who increased their knowledge and skills in conflict prevention and peacebuilding Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 270	351 (162 Male; 189 Female)	Beyond training community members, the project also conducted training for districts level stakeholders and District PUC members.	Training survey and report, project report



Indicator 1.1.3 Number of peace architecture units (national and district) providing conflict resolution services in target district Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1	1		District council report, meeting minutes, DPCP reports
Output 1.2 Improve institutional capacity to manage boarder			
Indicator 1.2.1 Number of border agents and security officials that have improved skills in cross border threats and risks. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 10	14 (10 Male; 4 Female)	Project further reached out to four 94 community-based district officials to support boarder and beach management at local level.	Nkhotakota district council annual plans and reports. Training report
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of key target population (border officials, UN counterparts and community members) utilizing information about key cross-border human mobility issues related to conflict prevention and peace building. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 20	25	The training targeted district officials who reported to be working on boarder security.	Training report
Indicator 1.2.3 Number of Mobility Mapping Exercise Conducted to identify key mobility Access and areas of congregations. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1	1	Informed by the participatory mapping exercise, only three strategic points were identified and proposed for migration flow monitoring.	Activity report
Indicator 1.2.4 Number of Trained enumerators deployed at key border crossings Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4	3	In line with the identified migration access points only three enumerators were engaged.	Survey reports



Indicator 1.2.5 Number of Flow Monitoring Reports from key border crossings following IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 6	5	Reports completed and published on the DTM website.	Published reports
Indicator 1.2.6 Number of stakeholders and Government institutions utilizing Nkhotakota migration flow monitoring data: Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 6	4	All district level relevant institutions are capacitated and the DTM initiative will be sustained by the district council beyond the project timeline.	
Output 1.3 Enhance Community capacity to mitigate and respond to conflict			
Indicator 1.3.1 Number of people who were reached out through the sensitization activity and increased their knowledge on peacebuilding and conflict resolution schemes. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 189	184 Direct 5,200 indirectly	5,200 reached by trained stakeholders and institutions (Women and Youth movements). The project directly trained 189 stakeholders.	Activity report
Indicator 1.3.2 Number of women that actively participate in the peace institutions. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 200	292		Survey reports

HUMAN STORIES

Online Articles

<https://www.undp.org/malawi/blog/melifa-matilda-mhone-turning-honey-household-dignity-eswazini-mzimba>

<https://www.undp.org/malawi/blog/john-gwayi-youth-turning-beans-business-mzimba>

<https://www.undp.org/malawi/stories/tomato-built-home>

<https://www.undp.org/malawi/stories/hives-harvests-how-youth-and-women-are-rewriting-agriculture-champhira>

<https://www.undp.org/malawi/stories/growing-change-how-women-and-youth-eswazini-mzimba-are-turning-agriculture-opportunity>

<https://www.undp.org/malawi/stories/growing-change-how-women-and-youth-eswazini-mzimba-are-turning-agriculture-opportunity>

<https://www.unicef.org/malawi/stories/reaching-underserved-communities-healthcare>

<https://www.unicef.org/malawi/stories/community-steps-new-funding-model-transforms-mndinda-health-centre>

<https://www.unicef.org/malawi/stories/restoring-hope-through-rapid-responses-disease-outbreaks>

<https://www.unicef.org/malawi/stories/caregivers-learn-newborn-deaths>



A mother with her newly delivered twins at Chikwakwa District Hospital| UNFPA 2023

1. “We Now Know Where to Go”: Bringing Peace Architecture Closer to the People in Nkhotakota

For many communities in Nkhotakota District, particularly in Traditional Authorities (TAs) Malengachanzi and Kanyenda conflict resolution was often informal, inconsistent, and limited to traditional leaders or local police. Many community members lacked awareness of the newly established Malawi Peace and Unity Commission (MPUC) and its structures, including the District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs). As a result, disputes often escalated or remained unresolved, fostering mistrust and community tension. Women and youth were particularly unaware of how they could report conflict risks or participate in peacebuilding.

In March 2025, the SDG Acceleration Fund (SDG-AF) project supported the MPUC to conduct a community-wide sensitization campaign in Nkhotakota. The campaign combined a dynamic community radio interview on Nkhotakota Community Radio with an interactive roadshow that covered 11 stops across two Traditional Authorities. The road show featured music, drama, public dialogues, and Q&A sessions led by MPUC officials and local facilitators. The outreach aimed to explain the role of the Commission, the functions of the DPUC, and how local communities including women, youth, and persons with disabilities can report conflicts or participate in resolving them.

For many, it was their first time hearing about the MPUC and its role in conflict prevention. One young woman, Patricia Banda, shared during a stop in TA Mphonde:

“I am happy to know that we now have a committee for peace here. Now, I know where to go.”

The DPUC, which had recently been constituted, trained, and formalized, took note of a number of cases being cited by participants in the communities and intended to begin scheduling follow-up meetings with local leaders. The campaign not only raised awareness but also generated practical entry points for the DPUC to begin engaging with the communities it serves.



The road show and radio engagement demonstrated the power of localized, culturally relevant communication in breaking information barriers. While policies and structures may exist at the national level, people often remain disconnected from them without intentional, face-to-face communication. Additionally, the joint visibility of MPUC officials, police and DPUC members helped build community trust in the peace architecture. A key takeaway for the



Programme was the importance of combining traditional and modern outreach methods, radio, drama, and dialogue, to reach diverse segments of the population, especially in rural areas.

2. Story of Change and Long-term Impact at National, District and Community level.

The data and insights generated through IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) played a key role in supporting national-level stakeholders, including the governments of Malawi through the ministry of homeland security, foreign affairs among others, by informing bilateral discussions on cross-border cooperation. These discussions encompassed critical areas such as trade facilitation, protection mechanisms, and migration management.

At the district level, IOM's migration reports informed the Development of District Development Plans (DDPs), providing evidence to address challenges related to irregular migration across Lake Malawi. This data-driven approach enabled local authorities to understand the impact of irregular movements across the lake and assisted with designing targeted interventions that advances conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts across the districts.

Through High-level stakeholder meetings, joint supervisions and community engagement sessions, key community structures have been identified, strengthened, and capacitated to develop strategic interventions that will monitor and proactively respond to migration indicators with potential of threatening the social cohesion disturbance. In operational terms, Ngala, Kanyangale, Msamala and Kaliba lakeshore communities have established a community-based long-term cross-border migrant and boat verification check system. This initiative has assisted in identifying and reporting irregular cross-border movements to authorities, mitigating risks to community instability. Through DTM interventions, these empowered communities have also established robust communication networks that rapidly disseminate alerts regarding irregular migration activities and security concerns to neighboring beach communities; a localized community-led early warning system. These measures have demonstrably reduced conflict risks at community level and established long-term measures that will support sustainable border governance, enhancing evidence-based peacebuilding, conflict prevention and cross-border coordination.

4. Enhancing service delivery through strengthened communications and vaccine scheduling in Nsanje.

Integrated Supportive Supervision in Nsanje District identified a critical service delivery gap at Sorgin Health Centre, where village clinics had not ordered Amoxicillin syrup for over two years. The last time Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) attempted to order the drug, they were informed it was out of stock, which led to a complete halt in further requests. Consequently, children under five were referred to private pharmacies, creating financial and health access barriers for families.

During the supervision visit, the DHMT discovered that both the health centre and the Nsanje District Hospital Pharmacy maintained a regular stock of Amoxicillin syrup, with no prolonged stockouts. The root cause was a breakdown in communication between HSAs and the facility. Immediate action was taken to resolve this issue. The facility provided feedback and guidance, and HSAs placed new orders for Amoxicillin and other essential supplies. Follow-up monitoring is now ongoing via physical visits and phone calls to ensure continuity and QoC.

Furthermore, the ISS revealed another critical issue at Sorgin and Tengani Health Centres regarding BCG vaccine administration. Despite the district achieving over 100% vaccine coverage, some facilities scheduled BCG vaccinations only once or twice per week to avoid ampoule waste.

This scheduling discouraged mothers, especially those living far from health facilities, from returning for immunization, as the vaccine was not perceived as urgent. Upon clarification from the EPI team, facilities were advised to provide



BCG vaccines daily, regardless of the number of births. Health workers welcomed this feedback and implemented the change immediately. This new approach has since been scaled across all district facilities, ensuring timely access to immunization and improving child health outcomes.

5. From the brick: A mothers's fights against eclampsia in Kasungu

At just 26 years old, Susan (not her real name) of Kasungu district faced a terrifying journey, one that would test her strength, her will to live, and the system was meant to protect her. It all began during her antenatal check-up at Kasungu District Hospital, where midwives noticed worrying signs: swollen feet, high blood pressure and protein in her urine. She was diagnosed with pregnancy-induced hypertension at 23 weeks, a condition she had never encountered in her previous pregnancies. Despite being sent home with medications, her condition continued to worsen. One vigilant midwife refused to let her slip through the cracks. She followed up, monitoring Susan's condition closely. When it became clear that her health was deteriorating, she was brought back to the hospital. There she was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia, and labor was induced with misoprostol in the labor ward, and she also started on magnesium sulphate to manage the condition. Tragically, she delivered a 25-week preterm male baby who did not survive. Her own condition, however, took a dramatic turn- her entire body had become swollen, her blood pressure was dangerously unstable, and she had problems with breathing.

She was rushed to the High Dependency Unit (HDU) at Kasungu District Hospital. But even there, her condition continued to decline. Recognizing that her life was in imminent danger, the medical team made the critical decision to refer her to KCH for advanced care. Thanks to the strengthened referral system supported by the United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP), fuel was readily available, and an ambulance was dispatched quickly. The swift response may have saved her life.

At KCH's HDU, Susan. spent ten tense days under specialized care. Slowly but surely, her condition stabilized. From the brink of death, she began to recover. When she was finally discharged and returned home to Kasungu, she was unrecognizable- healthy, smiling, and full of life.

"I never thought I would be able to care for my two children again." She now says with gratitude in her voice.

Today, she is not only back on her feet but actively participating in her own health care decisions. During her follow-up visits, she opted for Jadelle, a long-acting hormonal contraceptive implant, to give her body the time it needs to heal. Her case will soon be reviewed as part of a near-miss audit, a vital process to learn from severe maternal complications that could have ended in death but didn't. It's a story of survival, but also of a health system strengthened by the mentorship and training provided through the KUHeS. The KUHeS mentorship initiative has empowered frontline health workers in Kasungu with the skills and confidence to manage high-risk cases like this. It was their vigilance, quick decision-making, and teamwork- backed by a functional referral system that saved Mrs. Susan's life. Her journey is a testament to what happens when training, dedication and system support come together, and a powerful reminder of how many lives can be saved with the right care at the right time.



6. *Breaking Barriers, Brick by Brick - The story of Bernadetta Banda*



Banda standing in her tomato field | *FAO 2025*

At Kahelere Irrigation Scheme in Kasungu District, Bernadeta Banda's journey reflects the transformative impact of the eWaYA project. Once struggling with low yields, disease, and food insecurity, she now farms confidently using solar-powered irrigation and improved production practices learned through EWaYA implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with FAO and UNDP, with support from the Government of Flanders. From selling tomatoes and beans, Bernadeta earned MWK 1 million, enabling her to buy solar panels and a bicycle and begin renovating her home. Supported by strong irrigation and greenhouse committees that promote women's leadership and shared responsibility, her story shows how access to skills, tools, and collective organisation is helping rural women move from vulnerability to independence and build more secure futures for their families.

Before the implementation of the eWaYA project, women and youth in Kasungu and Mzimba South faced a "double burden" of systemic exclusion. While women contributed approximately 80 percent of the agricultural labour force, only 12 percent held decision-making roles or had access to finance, leaving them as laborers on their own land with no control over the proceeds. Similarly, youth were largely disenfranchised, lacking the capital and technical skills to view agriculture as a viable career. This was compounded by a reliance on subsistence rain-fed farming, which left households highly vulnerable to climate shocks and fluctuating farm-gate prices, trapping them in a cycle of low productivity and persistent poverty. To address these barriers, the program deployed a dual strategy of technical modernization and social transformation. The technical intervention centered on the deployment of MWK 376.5 million in competitive matching grants, which allowed farmer organizations to invest in climate-smart infrastructure like greenhouses, honey processing units, and temperature-controlled warehouses. Parallel to this, the program introduced gender-transformative tools such as the "household approach" and Dimitra Clubs. These social interventions were designed to break down patriarchal norms by promoting joint financial planning and leadership training, while a government-led extension model ensured that all local frontline staff were equipped to provide specialized advisory services tailored to the needs of women and youth. The observable change has been a fundamental shift from subsistence farming to organized agribusiness. Leadership representation for women and youth within farmer organizations rose dramatically from 15 percent to 65 percent, signalling a structural change in community governance.



Economically, the transition to high-value chains and climate-smart technologies led to significant income gains, with revenue from tomatoes and beans alone exceeding \$260,000 across targeted groups.

A critical lesson learned from this intervention is that technical and financial capital are most effective when paired with social behavioural change. Providing a greenhouse or a grant is insufficient if the underlying social structures prevent women and youth from managing those assets. The success of the "household approach" demonstrated that inclusive planning at the family level is a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth at the cooperative level. Furthermore, the project underscored the importance of integrating interventions into existing government extension frameworks; by building the capacity of local district councils, the program ensured that the technical support remains available to farmers beyond the project's lifecycle, providing a durable foundation for future agricultural transformation.



Young farmer supported by the EWAYA project| *UNDP 2025*