Joint Programme Document

A. COVER PAGE

1. Fund Name: Joint SDG Fund

2. MPTFO Project Reference Number

3. Joint programme title: Social Protection for the SDGs in Malawi: Accelerating inclusive progress towards the SDGs

4. Short title: SP4SDG - Social Protection for the SDGs in Malawi

5. Country and region: Malawi, Africa

6. Resident Coordinator: Maria Jose Torres, maria.torres@one.un.org

7. UN Joint programme focal point: World Food Programme, diana.king@wfp.org

8. Government Joint Programme focal point: Lloyd Muhara, Chief Secretary, Office of the President and Cabinet

9. Short description:

By 2022, the JP will ensure that the Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector to reduce the vulnerability of those left behind. It includes an iterative design of new shock-responsive social protection model with the testing in a real-life crisis, with the immediate impact on 5,000 households that are most vulnerable to shocks. The JP will also support the development of a financing ecosystem and national financing infrastructure toward increased domestic resource mobilization, and seeks the adoption of new legal framework to ensure the institutional and financial capacity for sustaining the results. The JP directly support the key social protection framework – the Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II), and thus has Government's commitments, whilst ensuring that key donors and partners (e.g. the World Bank) will be engaged.

10. Keywords:

- Shock-responsive social protection
- Legal framework
- Financing
- Malawi
- SDG
- LNOB / Leave no one behind

11. Overview of budget

Joint SDG Fund contribution	**USD 1,999,937**
TOTAL	**USD 1,999,937**

The programme's activities will be co-financed by on-going programmes of the PUNOs, amounting to USD 1,140,827.

12. Timeframe:

Start date	**End date**	**Duration** (in months)
01 January 2020	31 December 2021	24 Months

13. Gender Marker:
Overall Score: 1.8

14. Target groups *(including groups left behind or at risk of being left behind)*

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	**Direct influence**	**Indirect influence**
Women	X	
Children	X	
Girls		X
Youth		X
Persons with disabilities	X	
Older persons	X	
Rural workers	X	
LGBTI persons (sexual orientation and gender identity)		X
Persons affected by (HIV/AIDS, leprosy…)		X
Persons with albinism		X

15. Human Rights Mechanisms related to the Joint Programme

- CESCR, general comment No. 19 (2007) on right to social security (art. 9)
- CEDAW, Concluding Observations on the 7th periodic report of Malawi CEDAW/C/MWI/CO/7 (CEDAW, 2015)
- UPR on Malawi (2nd cycle) A/HRC/16/4 (UPR, 2011), recommendations from Malaysia and Hungary
- UPR on Malawi is to presented on the 3rd cycle, 36th session

16. PUNO and Partners:

Information included where appropriate

Org.	**Last name**	**First Name**	**Position**	**Email**	**Phone**	**Skype**
PUNO						
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Ministry of Gender, Children, Disabilities, and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW)	Kansinjiro	Laurent	Deputy Director	laurentkansinjiro@gmail.com	n/a	n/a
Malawian Parliament	Mwenye	Jeff	Clerk of Parliament	jeffmwenyeheli@gmail.com	n/a	n/a

Civil society

MANEPO	Kavala	Andrew	Executive Director	akavala@manepo.org	n/a	n/a

Private Sector - to be identified
IFIs

World Bank	Msowoya	Chipo	Social Protection Specialist	cmsowoya@worldbank.org	n/a	n/a
IMF	Gwenhamo	Farayi	IMF REP	FGwenhamo@imf.org	n/a	n/a

SIGNATURE PAGE

Resident Coordina [redacted] Maria Jose Torres Date an [redacted]	**National Coordinating Authority** Office of the President and Cabinet Chief Secretary Lloyd Muhara Date 2019-11-04 Signature and seal [redacted] OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET (HEADQUARTERS) 04 NOV 2019 PRIVATE BAG 301, CAPITAL CITY LILONGWE 3, MALAWI
Participating UN Organization (lead/convening) WFP Benoit Thi [redacted] Date 5/11/2019 Signature and seal World Food Programme Marco CAVALCANTE Deputy Country Director wfp.org	
Participating UN Organization UNICEF Rudolf Schwenk [redacted] Date Signature and seal Rudolf Schwenk sentative [redacted]	
Participating UN Organization ILO George Okutho [redacted] Date Signature and seal	

B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. Call for Concept Notes: 1/2019

2. Relevant Joint SDG Fund Outcomes

- Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

3. Overview of the Joint Programme Results

Joint Programme

3.1 Outcomes

- Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector
- Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending
- Malawi Social Protection System is more comprehensive and integrated

3.2 Outputs

- Social protection system is reviewed and updated in line with humanitarian response needs
- The Malawi social protection system, together with the humanitarian sector, contributes to assisting an emergency caseload as identified by the Malawi government
- Malawi Government Social Protection Financing Strategy Finalized and Informing Domestic Funding
- Malawi Government has Improved Knowledge and Commitment to Invest in Social Protection
- Malawi Government has Improved Capacity for Social Protection Expenditure
- Malawi has a comprehensive social protection Draft Legal Framework agreed by all stakeholders
- Malawi has updated the scope and objectives for the Social Protection System
- The basic Social Protection measures are defined to respond to the needs of all men, women, boys and girls

The results framework of the JP feed into the UNDAF Outcome 7, and its two intermediate outcomes:

3.3. UNDAF Outcome 7

- Outcome 7: By 2023, households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods

3.4 Intermediate Outcomes

- Expanded and strengthened social protection systems and capacities to meet basic needs in line with the MNSSP II
- Strengthened capacity of the social protection system to become responsive to shocks

4. SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme

4.1 List of targets

- SDG target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. Specifically, the Joint Programme seeks to strengthen the operational capacity

of the government social protection system whilst reforming its financing structure and legal framework.
- SDG target 1.a: Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.
- SDG target 1.b: Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.
- SDG target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- SDG target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

4.2 Expected SDG impact

The Joint Programme is expected to help ensure that future emergency food assistance (SDG 2.1) is provided by leveraging the social protection system, where appropriate (SDG 1.3). As part of the JP, a prototype for doing this will be tested, reaching approximately 5000 shock-affected households with emergency food assistance, leveraging and strengthening the social protection system to do so. The Joint Programme is also expected help Government increase the allocation of domestic resources to social protection, ensuring a gradual increase and improved efficiency (SDG 1.a, 17.1). Furthermore, the Joint Programme is expected to ensure that the legal framework of social protection defines and streamline the essential measures and systems to enhance protection throughout all stages of life for all, with due attention to women and marginalized groups (SDG 1.b), and advances the right to social protection in line with Malawi's human rights treaty obligations (1.3).

5. Relevant objective/s from the national SDG framework

Relevant objectives from the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III are:
- To reduce vulnerability and enhance the resilience of the population to disasters and socio-economic shocks.
- To improve health and quality of the population for sustainable socio-economic development.

6. Brief overview of the Theory of Change of the Joint programme

6.1 Summary:

Linking up humanitarian and social protection processes, actors, and systems while reinforcing the financial and legal framework of social protection will pave the way to ensure adequate resources are allocated and efficiently used, streamline policies, implementation and operational mechanisms, coordination and governance arrangements and provide the blueprint for a domestically financed, comprehensive and integrated social protection system which if implemented will enhance quality of life and improved resilience of vulnerable populations in Malawi.

6.2 List of main ToC assumptions to be monitored:

The theory of change makes the following assumptions, that:

i) Government, DPs and private sector will have continued interest in social protection, including SRSP with targeted attention to the most vulnerable;
ii) DPs and implementation partners are supportive of integration of systems for social protection;
iii) Social protection system including the Management Information System continues to function as normal;
iv) Stakeholders freely share information critical for making a business case for social protection particularly on social protection expenditure;
v) Donors and development partners support the programme and therefore delineate the fragmented approach to social protection programming in the country; and
vi) Government officials are available and supportive of the programme implementation given the strained capacity in the relevant government departments.

7. Trans-boundary and/or regional issues

Not applicable

C. JOINT PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

1. Baseline and Situation Analysis

1.1 Problem statement

Country context
Malawi relies on agricultural production for its macro-economic growth with over 80% of the population dependent on rain-fed smallholder agriculture for food, nutrition, and income security. Households are characterised by high levels of poverty; with female headed households with a poverty incidence of 58.7% in comparison to male-headed households with 49.1%. Female-headed households are represented disproportionately in the lowest quarter of income distribution and have more dependents, lower income earning capacity and fewer assets and other resources. Also featuring in the highly vulnerable groups are older persons and people with disabilities. Those living in below the ultra-poverty line (approx. 25% of the population) are those unable to meet their basic consumption need; meaning poverty and food insecurity in Malawi are inherently linked and therefore the strategic role of social protection.

Malawi Social Protection Sector
The Malawian social protection system is guided by the Malawi National Social Support Policy (NSSP), from 2012, which defines social protection in the country. It sets the guidelines for designing, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of social protection and social support programs. The policy gives a holistic picture of what social protection entails and how it is linked with other policies, such as disaster risk management, economic growth, economic and social policy. The main objective of National Social Support Policy is to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the poor and the most vulnerable, which it defines as "orphans and other vulnerable children, the chronically sick, persons with disabilities, elderly and destitute families". This indicates an orientation for social safety nets interventions, and do not encompass the right to social protection for all.

Given the high levels of needs, a nascent developing social protection system, coupled with increasing frequency of shocks, Malawi has been experiencing annual food insecurity, with an average of 1.73 million each year over the last ten years, predominately delivered through an international humanitarian system.

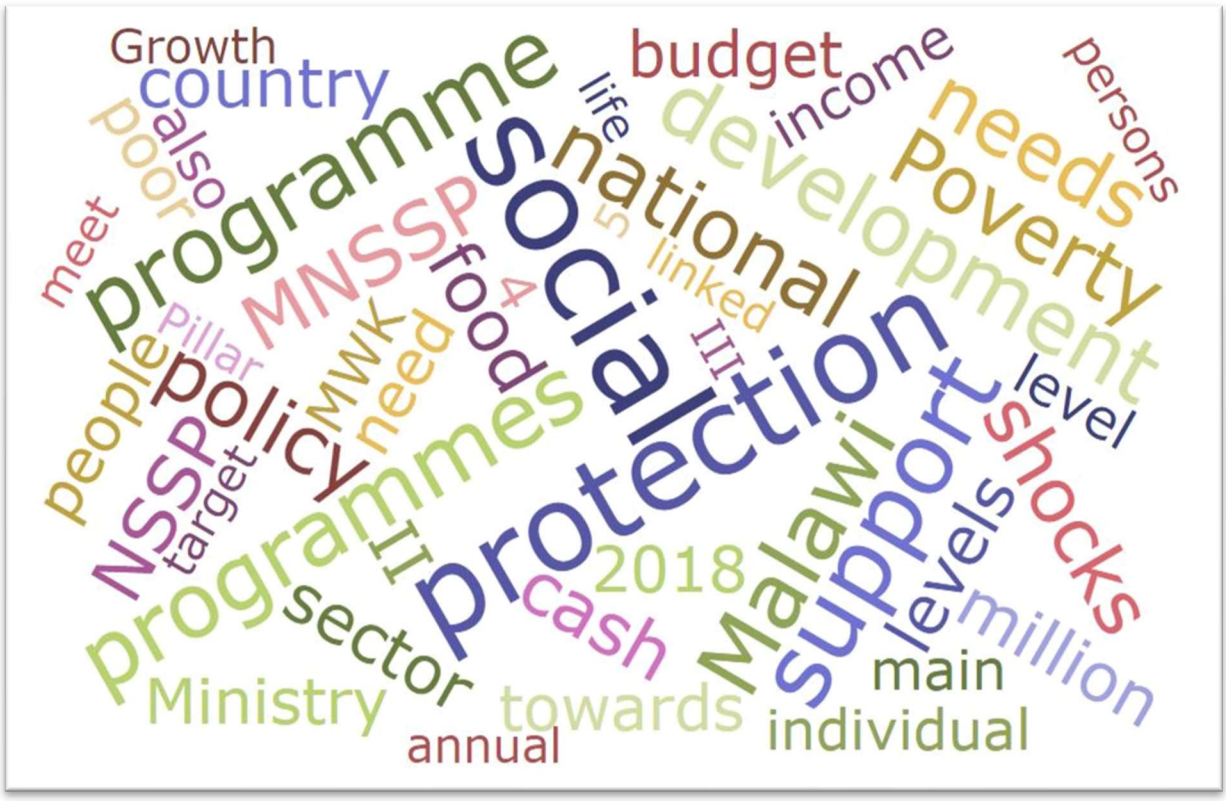


Figure 1 Graphic on Malawi's Social Protection Portfolio

Social Protection in Malawi is anchored into the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MGDS III) abroad development framework for the country. Specifically, the National Social Support Policy provides ground for the Malawi National Social Support Program II (MNSSP II) that is built around integrated and comprehensive social protection system. MNSSP II is organized in five thematic pillars: consumption support, resilient livelihoods, shock responsive social protection, and system strengthening.

Currently the MNSSP II covers 5 programmes. Of these 4 are directly managed by government with the fifth, Microfinance initiatives, run by the private sector or NGOs. The Government led programmes are:

1) **Social Cash Transfer Program**: an unconditional cash transfer programme that targets ultra-poor and labour constrained households in all 28 districts paying an average MWK 7,000 (roughly US$ 10) per beneficiary householdIn 2018, the programme reached 279,242 households, where in about 195,000 the main beneficiary was a woman. The Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability, and Social Welfare is responsible for the programme.

2) **Public Works Programme**: provide cash or in-kind support in exchange for labour to ultra-poor and poor households. The programme has 4 cycles throughout the year, running a few weeks at a time to act as an alternative source of income during specific times of planting, growing, and harvesting seasons. On average a household works for 24 days and receives MWK 16,400 (about US$ 22.15) during that period. In 2018, the programme covered 451,000. The National Local Government Finance Planning Committee is responsible for the programme.

3) **School Meals Feeding Programme:** provides meals to pupils in selected schools in the country. The main objective is to enable pupils to meet their nutritional needs and improve education outcomes. As of 2018, the program was reaching out to 2,607 out of 6,065 primary schools, providing meals to about 2,966,394 million students (52% are girls). The Ministry of Education is responsible for implementation in 801 schools with the World Food Programme implementing directly or through partners in 784 schools.

4) **Savings and Loan Groups (SLG):** support the establishment and operations of community-based savings and credit groups. As of 2018, 1.1 million individuals (859,000 women). The Ministry of Civil Education, Culture and Community Development is responsible for the programme.

Social Protection Institutional Framework

The governance structure of the national social protection system is established in the NSSP with the Cabinet Committee on Social Development and HIV/AIDS, responsible for presentation of Social Protection issues to the full cabinet for decision making. However, the Cabinet has often left strategic and programmatic decision making to the National Social Support Steering Committee, which oversees the implementation of the NSSP. The Steering Committee is supported by the National Social Support Technical Committee, and related working and technical groups, for technical guidance and programme implementation recommendation.

In terms of implementation, at central government level, line ministries are responsible for top-level implementation of programmes, including the design and implementation of operational systems, and collaboration towards policy development. The Ministry of Local Government coordinates implementation of social support activities at district level. They have direct mandate to play an oversight role on how districts implement programs, projects and interventions.

The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development through the Division of Poverty Reduction and Social Protection (PRSP) has the mandate over the coordination and policy orientation for social protection. The PRSP also acts as the secretariat of the Committees linked to the NSSP and MNSSP II.

Problems to be addressed

Despite the existence of well-crafted policy documents, progress towards improved social protection implementation in Malawi continues to face a number of challenges.

Firstly, even in years without major shocks, Malawi experiences cyclical food related needs. Due to the way targeting for programmes is understood by communities, communities tend not to target beneficiaries for multiple entitlements; this is a critical barrier against movement towards a lifecycle and rights-based approach to social protection. As such, social protection beneficiaries are frequently not targeted for emergency food assistance - even though evidence demonstrates their eligibility. As such, those furthest behind in need of additional support during periods of shocks and stressors are unable to meet their consumption needs, affecting their wellbeing and reversing hard won development gains through social protection.

Secondly, the emergency responses often use cash as the suitable modality. These responses are overwhelmingly met with international humanitarian systems in the absence of a national emergency cash system. Using international parallel systems for responding to annual need

is neither desirable nor sustainable over the long-run; particularly when there is a nation-wide social protection cash system which overlaps with the affected population.

The third challenge is around financing for social protection. The coverage of support is low in comparison to needs, whilst benefit levels are too low for those who do receive support. Insufficient resources can also hinder operations and harm the regularity and reliability of interventions. Moreover, as financing of social protection is heavily reliant on development partners who are at liberty to fund programmes of their choice, which can lead to sudden changes in coverage or benefit levels and question the long-term sustainability of the existing interventions. Government has committed to increase contributions to the social protection budget, but without a clear roadmap and strategy to ensure adequate fiscal space is created, little advance was made. Ultimately, at present, most Malawians in need are still left without protection, which contributes to the cyclical emergency responses.

These issues are exacerbated by the lack of more robust legal framework for social protection in Malawi. The NSSP, MNSSP II and MGDS III play important roles in policy direction and implementation, however they do not mandate which are the minimal levels of protection that need to be offered, define clearly coordination, governance and accountability mechanisms, nor compel the State to progressively allocate resources from annual national budget. In practice, social protection in Malawi is not a right, but a set of government interventions that can cease if there are changes in political direction or in donor interest.

What's being proposed and why?

This Joint Programme will address the key issues highlighted to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, and ensure that human-rights are uphold, particularly the right to social protection. This Joint Programme will contribute directly to Pillars 3 and 5, but will also indirectly support activities from Pillars 1, 2 and 4 of the MNSSP II.

To address the challenges identified in the current social protection system (above), the joint programme will:

- **Define and streamline the most appropriate way to operationalise SRSP** in Malawi promoting the achievements of SDG target 2.1. Linking up humanitarian and social protection interventions is seen as appropriate in Malawi in lieu of the status quo (international humanitarian responses), and can also be a pathway to enhanced social protection as it:
    - **Reduces exclusion errors –** evidence shows the target populations for both social protection and lean season food assistance overlaps; using social protection systems to deliver this assistance to existing social protection beneficiaries is seen as acceptable by communities, could help to address exclusion errors, and ensure that considerations are made for the compounding and intersecting vulnerabilities of specific groups (e.g. female headed households).
    - **Advance the right to assistance** – work on individual agency strengthening and establishing the right to multiple entitlements supports the movement towards a lifecycle approach based on differentiated vulnerabilities;
    - **Leverage investments in national systems -** there is a nationwide social protection cash system which could be leveraged;
    - **Improve national capacities to lead and strengthening national systems for this:** SRSP contributes to meeting the Grand Bargain through improving national capacities to lead; whilst using and supporting the social

protection system improves its capacities to respond not only to emergency caseloads, but to provide regular social protection as well;
    - **Produce time efficiencies -** using existing systems (e.g. registries for targeting) can help to reduce the time it takes to register households and respond to temporary need. These time savings have implications for communities, reducing their opportunity costs.
    - **Produce cost efficiencies –** using existing systems (e.g. the government contracted financial service provider) for the delivery of emergency assistance reduces operational costs. Providing top ups to existing beneficiaries creates further savings on transactions.
    - **Inform the scale up of regular social protection -** Demonstrating areas receiving humanitarian assistance each year complements the existing base to advocate for shock-sensitive social protection at scale.
- Support the **reinforcement of the financial framework for social protection to ensure adequate resources are allocated and efficiently used** in the sector (including for predictable 'shocks'). Whilst, reforming the strategic and legal framework for social protection in Malawi, in line with its human rights obligations, will support Malawi to catalyse on existing social protection policies and projects, and streamline them into a more coherent, rights-based, engendered and life-cycle sensitive social protection framework that fully reflects the principles of non-discrimination (including the principle of gender equality), transparency, accountability and participation and the procedural obligations thereon.
- Facilitate the development of a **robust legal framework for social protection** ensuring improved protection to all, advancing the right to social protection, whilst providing a blue-print for a better coordinated, integrated, efficient, accountable and domestically financed system. Moreover, these elements will ensure that vulnerable groups are systematically prioritized in social protection measures, and received regular and reliable assistance, including in times of shock.

These interventions will directly impact vulnerable households. Female-headed households, older persons, people with disabilities and rural workers in general stand to benefit the most from these outputs. These measures will enable more reliable and sustainable social protection system, contributing to SDG targets 17.1, 1.a and 1.b. Providing more predictable support will also support in reducing the emergency need. All outcomes contribute to SDG 1.3.

1.2 Target groups

Target groups for the entire joint programme
The joint programme will be serving a wide range of target groups as Malawi moves towards the development of a social protection floor, with improved coverage and protection for vulnerable groups. It is guided by key principles of universality of protection, adequacy and predictability of measures, non-discrimination, gender equality and responsiveness to special needs, social inclusion, transparency, accountability and sustainability.

Specifically, each component works on improving the coverage, and predictability of social protection to ensure the needs for those furthest behind are met. Component 1 on SRSP contributes to Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity to Leaving No-One Behind in crisis contexts, ensuring the most vulnerable receive necessary support. Outcome 2, working on securing financial sustainability will help improve the coverage of social protection, extending benefits to groups across the life-cycle. Outcome 3, with the development of a legal framework enshrines the rights to social protection for all. Financial and legal strengthening will improve the equality and equity of social protection provision.

Given that the process of development of the financial and legal frameworks will reflect national priorities and wide-consultations, the exact groups that will be directly covered under the new frameworks will be defined as the programme is implemented. Nonetheless, the joint programme will work to ensure that an inclusive approach is taken, and that vulnerable groups and those susceptible to shocks are threated as priority. Thus, potential target groups who will benefit over the longer-term as a result of the specific work in this joint programme include may include households headed by: rural workers; women (including pregnant and lactating); girls; older persons; persons with disability (including persons with albinism); chronically-ill persons; working poor (including subsistence rural workers); youths, and including for emerging needs as a result of idiosyncratic and covariate shocks.

Direct target groups
The prototyping of the shock-responsive social protection model will focus on some specific target groups who are vulnerable to temporary food insecurity, and who without this programme, may fall into further deprivation.

What is the need?
Temporary food insecurity in Malawi is identified through the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). The (IPC) is a set of protocols to classify the severity of food insecurity situations and provide actionable knowledge to facilitate response decision-making processes. The IPC consolidates wide-ranging evidence on food insecurity to provide core answers to the questions of: How severe? Where? When? How Many? Who? Why? Given the inherent complexity of food security analysis, the IPC protocols include practical tools and processes to ensure these questions are answered—as best as possible--in a comparable, transparent, reliable, relevant, and consensus-based manner. The IPC is designed around the needs of decision makers and contributes to making food security actions more effective, needs-based, strategic and timely.

IPC analysis is conducted under the umbrella of the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC). This committee draws its membership from Government Ministries, UN agencies (World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, etc), Technical Agencies (e.g. Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)), International NGOs, Academia and Local NGOs. It was established by the government and is housed under the Ministry of Finance in the Economic and Planning Division (EP &D).

IPC classification is based on the merging of evidence upon analysis of four outcome elements: Food Consumption, Livelihood Change, Nutrition Status and Mortality. There are five phases for acute food insecurity classification (1-5). Emergency lean season assistance is usually activated in Malawi when the population reaches phase 3: crisis. This means that households either have food consumption gaps that are reflected by higher or above usual acute malnutrition, or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis coping strategies.

The IPC provides an overview of the food needs in terms of the number of affected population; the duration of required assistance (in months); the transfer value and modality.

Who is eligible?
Emergency food insecurity in Malawi can be driven by a number of factors - extent and type of shock, market functionality, or utilisation of food. However, each year Malawi registers on average 1.73 million people who are predictably food insecure over the lean season - even in

times without a shock, or with surplus food reserves in the country. These people are clustered in the same districts in Southern Malawi, where compounding vulnerabilities are highest.

In a context of cyclical emergency food needs, partners have been exploring linkages between the emergency and social protection systems, processes, and actors. In addition to supporting national leadership and national capacities to respond, using the Government social protection system with humanitarian processes can also support with improved emergency targeting.

Targeting guidelines for emergency programming utilise community-based processes to identify eligible households. These are characterised as those who both who are least able to cope - a high dependency ratio, limited or low external support, low capacity capacity driven by chronic illness, disability, or age; and at risk of limited food - those with the smallest harvests and limited-to-no land.

Evidence in Malawi has shown a correlation between poverty and food-insecurity, with the poverty line comprised of deficit against a food consumption line. Those who are most poor are often therefore most eligible for temporary food assistance.

There is empirical evidence that social protection beneficiaries experiencing a situation of acute food insecurity are often automatically excluded from emergency responses by communities for being perceived as already receiving assistance, especially when assistance is provided through two different mechanism - even if that assistance is inadequate to meet the needs. Such a situation not only means that those furthest behind - the ultra-poor who have higher-dependency ratios, orphan headed households, female-headed households, or households headed by persons with disabilities or older persons - are not receiving the support required during times of stress and shocks, but also fails to protect any development gains brought about by the national social protection system.

As such, part of the innovative around the SRSP prototype is improving the way targeting is done to ensure that the right people receive the right support at the right time.

As such, the SRSP prototype focuses on how leveraging national social protection targeting systems and ensure coherence of support across the humanitarian-development spectrum. Those on existing social protection programmes and non-social protection beneficiaries whose underlying status correlates with higher food related vulnerability, would receive cash-based food support through the national social protection system to meet their needs over the identified food gap. Pregnant lactating women and children under two would be recorded at the point of registration to tailor assistance to their differentiated needs to ensure their unique needs are factored into the design of the process. Approximately 5000 households would be provided with support as part of this joint programme.

Relevant recommendations of human rights mechanisms

The framework for this Joint Programme is the legal and normative human rights obligations that bind GoM, including treaty obligations under the ICESCR, CEDAW and CRC, particularly:

- ICESCR - general comment No. 19 (2007) on right to social security (art. 9)
- CEDAW, Concluding Observations on the 7th periodic report of Malawi
- UPR on Malawi (2nd cycle) A/HRC/16/4 (UPR, 2011), recommendations from Malaysia and Hungary
- UPR on Malawi is to presented on the 3rd cycle, 36th session

Attention will be paid to the cross-cutting human rights principles including non-discrimination (including the principle of gender equality), transparency, accountability and participation and the procedural obligations therein.

The RCO, through the SHRA, will provide technical advice for human rights and gender mainstreaming, initially advising on the disaggregated analysis of data (by age, gender, disability, household level vulnerabilities) allowing for an assessment of the specific vulnerabilities of women, girls and other marginalised groups in the target population using HRBA to data.

The project design will consider the vulnerabilities of the most marginalised including intersectionality of such vulnerabilities, so they can be prioritized accordingly. The Joint Programme will focus on the multiple forms of discrimination that women and girls experience, ensuring that the project delivery addresses women's specific needs throughout the different phases of their life-cycle and the accompanying roles as providers of (unpaid) care. This is both to inform the key foundations of social protection being advanced (e.g. financing, legal framework) but also to ensure that the SRSP prototype is responsive to those most in need and furthest behind.

A mechanism to ensure transparency and meaningful participation of the beneficiaries will be embedded, to ensure the broadest participation possible by the most marginalised (taking into account the gender and power dynamics) so that the JP is responsive to their particular needs.

To mitigate the risks of wrongful exclusion of beneficiaries, possible abuses in the provision of assistance at the local level, e.g. sexual harassment, and possible misappropriation, the project will have in a place an accessible and effective accountability/complaints mechanism that include an appeal process that is independent, accessible and effective.

According to the CCA, there are a few key groups who are left behind in the broader development process:

- The majority of people in Malawi are living in poverty. Among them, those living in extreme poverty have the biggest deficits in the realization of rights. People in the lowest wealth quintile often have the worst outcomes in most areas of development;
- Those who are excluded from utilizing social or other services due to stigma and discrimination due to their health status or sexual orientation;
- Those with low education are often associated with the worst social outcomes and denial of rights;
- People with physical, intellectual and emotional disabilities.

The approach in this joint programme focuses not only on those living in extreme poverty but the intersectionality of different vulnerabilities as it pertains to critical consumption support both year -round and during times of stressers and shocks.

1.3 SDG targets

The joint programme will contribute for the acceleration of several SDG targets. The main target to be influenced by this programme is SDG 1.3, relating to the appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, to which all activities and outputs contribute to. The outputs related to the three outcomes also relate directly with the acceleration of other SDG targets. However, specific outcomes will also focus on other SDG targets.

Outcome 1 focuses predominately on accelerating progress towards leveraging the social protection system to cater for emergency needs, as part of a larger strategy of improved provision of social assistance. This works towards SDG 2.1. By strengthening the links of the social protection system to humanitarian interventions will improve human resilience at individual, household and community levels. This, in turn, contributes to the elimination of

hunger and malnutrition, while increasing awareness and improving institutional capacity to prepare for, and respond to the effects of climate change.

Outcome 2 focuses predominately on improving the financing framework for social protection, including the increase of the domestic share in resources invested in the sector, thus targeting SDG 17.1, 1.a and 1.b. There is immediate need for sustainable financing of social protection through increased domestic funding with targeted attention to the most vulnerable, including for predictable annual emergency caseloads. Exploring new and/or innovative funding solutions through public and private financing are critical to addressing this need and accelerating action on the SDGs. Lessons from this component can be applied to other sectors for improved financing for a whole-of-society approach.

Outcome 3 focuses on enhancing the strategic and legal framework for social protection, thus supporting SDG target 1.b. A robust legal framework that defines social protection, its scope, goals, measures, implementation and management aspects and financing arrangement allows for the regular, gradually expanding, coherent and sustainable delivery of social protection for all, including in times of shock. The lack of a legal framework threatens the sustainability of the sector, and hampers the proactive action to a nationally defined poverty reduction agenda. By crafting social protection in law, the State will be guided to act and the right to social protection will be advanced for all, maintaining increased attention to those most vulnerable, to gender equity, and to social inclusion in line with human rights principles.

SDG Target	**Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Source/Means of Verification**
1.3	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	TBD*	MNSSP II M&E Framework; Social Security Inquiry
1.a	1.a.1 Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes; 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection);	1.a.1 TBD 1.a.2 = 34.51%[1]	National Budget
1.b	1.b.1 Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups	TBD*	National Budget
2.1	2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on	TBD (pending 2019/20 report)	MVAC reports

[1] 2018/2019 National Budget. Expenditure in Education was 23.7 percent of government spending, 9.75 percent in the Health Sector, and 1.06 percent in social protection. Source: UNICEF, 2019. 2018/19 Social Welfare Budget Brief – Malawi.

	the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)		
17.1	17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	17.1.1 = Total Revenues = 24.88% of GDP[2] (20.76% domestic revenues; 4.12% grants) 17.1.2 = 62.49%	National Budget

* Data collection for the baseline is expected to occur in Q1 of the implementation of the project.

Current extrapolation of trends or expected progress until 2022,
The Government of Malawi is one of the countries that ratified and adopted the Agenda 2030 which aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms, inclusively and irreversibly to achieve sustainable development. Malawi domesticated the SDGs in its National Development Plan, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy 2017-2022 (MGDS III) to accelerate the pace of economic growth and create wealth for the citizens. According to the tracking report in 2018, which aims to keep the country on track in achieving the SDGs and also facilitate implementation, monitoring, and reporting on the SDGs, the above indicators were predominately showing insufficient progress.

For outcome 1, it is expected that the proportion of households identified to receive emergency food assistance (IPC based) served via government social protection channels will have improved. Whilst consumption towards SDG 2 will have been stabilized through responses using this system, it is expected that Malawi will continue to register emergency food assistance over the lean season due to the underlying vulnerability and increasing frequency and severity of shocks. However, through improved evidence base, and in combination with the other outcomes, outcome 1 will also be able to inform the scale up of social protection in a risk-informed manner.

There is a great commitment from development partners to provide resources towards social protection. Malawi Government is providing some financial support to the sector, but still a small percentage of the total investments. The SDG report in 2018 noted that the proportion of total government spending on essential services had stagnated. This scenario is likely to change, either with government increasing its share in the contributions to social protection and humanitarian interventions – with donor investments maintained or balancing the increasing domestic allocations; or with donors reducing support, especially if they do not see progress from Government side. In either case, without government action to increase the domestic share in financing of social protection, essential support maybe be disrupted and vulnerable population may be left without protection – impeding progress towards the SDGs.

Both the work towards the financing and legal frameworks contribute to accelerating the positive trends. The latter further enhances the protection offered to vulnerable groups, and protects their rights against political changes.

[2] GDP 2018.

Brief analysis of interlinkages amongst the targets
All outcomes will contribute to SDG Target 1.3 on expanding social protection to all. The progress towards target 1.3 will necessarily contribute towards the achievement of target 2.1 to end hunger.

The JP element on SRSP will support the achievement of target 2.1 directly, which in turn also contribute indirectly to the achievement of SDG 1.3, and will inform the work towards the improve financing and legal frameworks.

The activities related to the financial framework will contribute directly to targets and 1.a and 17.1, which in turn will support the achievement of all other SDG targets related to this JP. As more resources will be available and better structured to support essential programmes on social protection, resilience and emergency response

The development of a more robust legal framework will contribute to target 1.b, which in turn will accelerate the achievement of targets 1.3, 1.a, 2.1 and 17.1. Well-designed legal and strategic frameworks for the social protection sector will support the mobilization of resources, and also improve coverage and benefit adequacy towards offering social protection for all, and ending hunger and malnutrition.

Opportunities for systemic, accelerated change with the emphasis on bottlenecks, trade-offs and synergies, multiplier and catalytic effects
This programme holistically addresses operational, financial, and legal gaps through its three components. The first fast-tracks the development and application of a Shock-responsive Social Protection 'SRSP Prototype'. This will transform piecemeal investments in SRSP into the design and initial development of a collaborative process for using the government social protection system –its social registry, MISs, and GRMs etc. - to respond to emergency needs in Malawi - instead of using an international humanitarian structure. The critical output of this work is the development of operational guidance for SRSP for future application (and adaptation where necessary), so that future investments can be strategic, and channelled towards strengthening the social protection system, in support of one coherent vision for SRSP, that is embedded in LNOB concept.

The second component reinforces financing architecture and ecosystem for social protection, which is currently heavily donor dependent. This is a major constraint to the Government when increasing the coverage of social protection. Without addressing it, a donor-driven, fragmented social protection system will likely persist. The critical output of this component is a financing strategy with increased domestic financing, including for predictable seasonal shocks.

The third component enshrines the right to social protection in law. Whilst Malawi has a strong policy base, it lacks a legal framework for social protection, making the system vulnerable to political changes. The critical output of this component is igniting the establishment of long-overdue legal frameworks, with the development of a draft law that is in line with Malawi's human rights treaty obligations.

1.4 Stakeholder mapping

Stakeholder Group	Involvement, interest and relationships
National Government	The Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Ministry of Gender Children Disability and Social Welfare

	(MoGCDSW), and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) are the primary stakeholders for this joint programme. The Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Division of the Economic Planning Development (EPD) Department under the Ministry of Finance is responsible for coordinating policy and common systems for Social Protection. MoGCDSW implements one of the 5 Government social protection instruments - the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP), the systems for which would be leveraged to respond to temporary food needs. DoDMA coordinates Humanitarian Responses, and chairs pillar 3 of the MNSSP II on shock-sensitive social protection. Other ministries contributing to social protection who would be interested in the legal and financial components of this programme include Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), who implement School Feeding, and National Local Government and Financing Committee who implement the Public Works Programme.
District Government	District Councils are responsible for the implementation of social support activities at district level. Within each district council a few structures are essential for the Joint Programme. The District Executive Committee (DEC) whose membership are heads of government departments, development partners and representatives from civil society organizations. This committee is responsible for making all development decisions in the district. Below this committee there is district social support sub-committee (DSSC) which is responsible for coordination of social support programs. Program secretariats report to the district council through this sub-committee. This being a technical sub-committee it is chaired by the Director of Planning and Development (DPD) who is officially referred by as Chief Planning and Development Officer. At community level there are two harmonized structures; Area Development Committee (ADC) which is at traditional authority level and the village development committee (VDC) as the lowest recognized structure. At VDC level there is a community social support sub-committee (CSSC) which coordinates social support programs at that level. This is the ideal system which was meant to smoothen coordination and implementation of social protection programs. The CSSC is responsible for identification of potential program beneficiaries and be involved in tracking them whenever the need rises like retargeting.
Development Partners	In addition to the Government-led national social protection institutional arrangements in Malawi, Development Partners

	supporting social protection/ MNSSP II coordinate themselves through a forum that meets monthly to discuss agenda points of strategic importance, including the development of both core systems and frameworks (incl. registries, legal, financial etc.), programmes (e.g. coverage, transfer values), and linkages (e.g. to the humanitarian sector). Both the social protection and humanitarian sectors in Malawi are heavily donor funded. Attendees in the DP coordination forum who have a stake in the development of the social protection system (either financially or technically) and including links to the humanitarian sector include: World Bank, German Government through KFW, European Union (EU), Irish Aid, DFID, GIZ, ILO, UNICEF, and WFP.
UN Agencies	UN Agencies including the ILO, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, FAO provides Technical Assistance around Systems Strengthening under the MNSSP II.
CSO	Several CSOs including CARE Malawi, Concern Worldwide, Save the Children, United Purposes, Goal Malawi amongst others support social protection in line with MNSSP II. Their primary focus is resilience building (pillar 2 of the MNSSP II) and humanitarian response (MNSSP II). Malawi Network of Older Persons Organization (MANEPO) has been an active player in Social Protection advocating for Domestic Funding, Efficient Social Protection Expenditure and Legalization of Social Protection. MANEPO works closely with ILO.
Private sector	The private sector has been instrumental in advancing the social protection agenda in Malawi with a focus on systems development including the UBR, MIS and Payment Systems. Key players include the Financial Institutions (Banks, Microfinance and Insurance), Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and the Fintechs (Money Transfer Agents, System Developers).
Academia and Research Institutions	Both the Government and Development Partners have heavily engaged the academia and research institutions in evidence generation for social protection programming. The PUNOS have Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with leading national and international research institutions. Such LTAs include, Centre for Social Research, University of North Carolina, Development Pathways. The National Statistics Office (NSO) internally leads on research needs for the Government.
Parliament	The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), Office of Clerk of Parliament, Parliamentary Committee for Social and Community Affairs have been identified as the key stakeholders for this JP particularly on matters social protection financing and draft law.

UN joint programmes	PROPER is a DFID funded Resilience Building Initiative comprised of a 9- member consortium, including UN - RCO, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, Private sector- Kadale, and three NGOs - Concern Worldwide, United Purpose, and Goal. PROSPER makes part of a larger DFID programme called BRACC, which also includes work by GIZ. As such this programme is a key strategic coordination hub with which to ensure that the actions of this joint programme are maximised, in line with other initiatives in-country. In particular, the joint programme will leverage some investments by DFID on foundations for SRSP through WFP and UNICEF; as well as systems strengthening for social protection by GIZ.

2. Programme Strategy

2.1. Overall strategy

The Joint Programme is structured around three interlinked components that seek to accelerate SDGs 1, 2, and 17 while at the same time promoting the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) commitment. In line to the UNDAF (2019-2023) on coordinated support to social protection through the Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II) the Joint Programme adapts a systemic change approach for the social protection system in Malawi to cause **enhanced quality of life and improved resilience to shocks**. The Joint Programme acknowledges the need to alongside strengthening of existing systems address the long-term sustainable financing needs for social protection while ensuring that social protection enshrined into law as a right. The JP is structured into three components as described below thus:

i) **Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector**: This constitutes the largest component of the JP. Global commitments have been made to link humanitarian-development action, such as those articulated in the Grand Bargain; these commitments have been localized in Malawi. The UN and GoM together have departed to identify, test, and adapt the most appropriate way to operationalize SRSP in Malawi. Yet, increasing donor appetite and a yet to be defined coordination structure for SRSP at national level is producing numerous piece-meal SRSP initiatives.

The Joint Programme seek to build on previous investments to fast-track the development of an SRSP prototype in one district. From this, operational guidance can be developed as a living document, so future investments in SRSP can be catalyzed behind one integrated and coherent operational vision with appropriate mechanisms embedded within to ensure transparency, accountability and meaningful participation of the beneficiaries. This ensures that the most vulnerable not only receive temporary assistance in times of shocks, but that the social protection system is strengthened and can better provide routine entitlements to the poorest of the poor and, the most marginalized among them.

Critically, by focusing on this now will enable substantial progress towards achieving this objective, which can inform the mid-review of the MNSSP, enabling priorities to be refocused towards the end of the MNSSP II and ahead of the MNSSP III.

ii) **Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending**: The social protection sector in Malawi is largely donor funded (at 93%), heavily fragmented with minimal coordination of disbursement processes and mechanisms and inadequate for needs, leaving the most marginalized behind in the process. There is immediate need for sustainable financing of social protection through increased domestic funding with targeted attention to the most vulnerable, including for predictable annual emergency caseloads. Exploring new and/or innovative funding solutions through public and private financing are critical to addressing this need and accelerating action on the SDGs. Lessons from this component can be applied to other sectors for improved financing for a whole-of-society approach.

iii) **Malawi Government is advancing towards a more comprehensive Social Protection Legal Framework**: This component is in line with Malawi's human rights treaty obligations. The lack of a legal framework threatens the sustainability of the sector, even though the poverty levels in the country point towards social protection as a critical intervention. The existing social protection system is fragmented, highly donor dependent (93% of resources are provided by donors), and not anchored in a comprehensive legal framework. This leads to confusion around who should have access to social protection and how the system should respond to the needs of the people. This justifies the need for a transformative action towards a sustainable, efficient, better coordinated, domestically financed, and nationally owned social protection system, thereby accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

The Joint Programme is informed by solid evidence generated through public expenditure reviews, local economy-wide impact evaluations[3], cost efficiency analyses of payment systems, budget analyses, and assessments of return on investment on social protection undertaken by PUNOs and partners. The proposed action is further informed by evidence on the role played by social protection legal frameworks in increasing government investments in social protection, as recently witnessed in neighbouring Mozambique.

Additionally, the recent elections present an opportunity to work with the new cabinet and Parliament Members to review and update the legal framework for social protection in Malawi that will catalyse existing social protection policies and projects, to fully reflect the principles of non-discrimination (including the principle of gender equality), transparency, accountability and participation and the procedural obligations thereon.

The joint programme seeks to ensure that the social protection system in Malawi leaves no one behind, by gradually extending the protection offered to the population in a sustainable manner, within the operational and financial capacity of the Government of Malawi. This will be realised through short and long-term measures including: 1) reviewing the effectiveness of the current poverty targeting mechanisms towards a lifecycle-based and gender-sensitive approach; 2) streamlining governance, coordination and delivery infrastructure to ensure regular and predictable support; 3) Translating these elements into a robust legal instrument (law or sectorial policy) that clearly defines the priority vulnerable groups to be supported, the goals and nature of the basic provisions of the social protection system, the governance, coordination and delivery structures, and financing and accountability mechanisms that will govern the sector.

[3] For example: GoM, FAO, ILO, UNICEF, 2018. Local Economy Impacts and Cost-benefit Analysis of Social Protection and Agricultural Interventions in Malawi. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---ilo-lusaka/documents/publication/wcms_629575.pdf

The strength of the proposed Joint Programme lies in blending innovative Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) interventions with enhancing essential components of a robust, comprehensive and sustainable social protection system. This will entail prototyping a streamlined shock-responsive operational framework, reinforcing financing structures and advancing existing policies into legal frameworks. Additionally, the action will leverage existing structures of the social protection sector for coordination and implementation, such as the Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II), while addressing governance issues and policy gaps. Further, the action aims to strengthen the operational capacity and efficiency of existing social protection systems, so that they can be used to deliver humanitarian assistance for the poorest and most vulnerable in a more effective and less costly manner

Value of the UN
Both WFP and UNICEF co-chair critical groups with the GoM, including social protection, and the emergency food security. Working together provides an unparalleled convening power across the humanitarian-social protection nexus to facilitate coordination on SRSP and ensure uptake of the proposed prototype.

UNICEF Malawi is the lead agency in Malawi on public expenditure reviews and fiscal space analysis to influence increased national budgetary allocation for social welfare and has been instrumental in strengthening financing infrastructure. WFP brings experience to work with its sister agencies on financing for more predictable crises. The ILO brings extensive regional and global experience in financing and costing analysis of social protection measures, and providing technical assistance in long-term sustainable financing.

UNICEF and ILO have strong comparative advantages on social assistance and social security and convening powers for legal framework development. For example, ILO has been instrumental in the drafting of a bill on universal social old age pension in Malawi. The ILO can tap its networks with diverse stakeholders, including CSOs, to ensure a nationally-consulted process.

As part the coordination role of the RCO, the Senior Human Rights Adviser (SHRA) will provide technical expertise for the human rights and gender mainstreaming at all stages of the joint programme, including with respect to aligning the legal and policy framework for social protection in line with Malawi's international human rights treaty obligations.

Relation to related initiatives
The Joint Programme has identified related initiatives to include (annex 1) that provide strategic leverage/entry points. Most importantly, the Joint Programme seeks to extend the achievements made by related initiatives for instance adaptation of existing MIS and or UBR system to address the need to ensure that the LNOB commitment is realized. Both UNICEF and WFP are implementing SRSP activities under another joint UN programme for resilience - PROSPER. The key pieces of work under this grant includes honing coordination mechanisms to mitigate the emergence of a fragmented SRSP landscape, developing beneficiary sensitization materials, and adapting the GoM MIS for SRSP. The Joint Programme further identifies related initiatives on component 2 in line to the long-term financing of social protection through domestic and innovative funding mechanisms including the development of a business case for social protection to stimulate domestic financing in addition to advancing the agenda of enshrining social protection as a right in law.

Link to UNDAF
Activities in the proposal are also committed by the UN. Supporting the MNSSP II is under Outcome 7 of Malawi's UNDAF, which focuses on nutrition, food security, and resilient

livelihoods, notably: By 2023, households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods

The intermediate outcomes are:

- Expanded and strengthened social protection systems and capacities to meet basic needs in line with the MNSSP II
- Strengthened capacity of the social protection system to become responsive to shocks

The JP has a detailed results framework, which then feeds into the intermediate outcomes of the UNDAF.

Link to Government initiatives and expected situation after the joint programme
The intervention is strongly informed by the government's acknowledgement of the need to review the current social protection financing and governance ecosystem. Specifically, the proposed action will advance the operationalisation of key national policy frameworks, particularly the MNSSP II and the National Resilience Strategy contributing to realizing the vision of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. At the same time, the intervention will expand the utility of existing operational systems such as the Unified Beneficiary Registry, Management Information Systems, and Electronic Payment Systems for a more efficient delivery of social protection programmes. The Joint Programme is as mentioned before aligned to the government's agenda on efficient, effective and impactful social protection hence the potential for scale out.

The Theory of Change for this Joint Programme, posits the potential for impact at scale post the project period. The three components combined are expected to cause:; i) enhanced social protection systems able to respond timely, efficiently and effectively including in times of temporary need, ii) a sustainable domestically financed social protection system that ensures inclusive and resilience growth by aligning social protection to the broader poverty reduction agenda; and iii) sustained access and protection of social support as protection by the law.

2.2 Theory of Change

Summary: Linking up humanitarian and social protection processes, actors, and systems while reinforcing the financial framework of social protection and the establishment of a Social Protection Law will pave the way to ensure adequate resources are allocated and efficiently used, streamline policies, implementation and operational mechanisms, coordination and governance arrangements and provide the blueprint for a domestically financed, comprehensive and integrated social protection system which if implemented will enhance quality of life and improved resilience of vulnerable populations in Malawi.

Detailed explanation: The Joint Programme is cognizant of the fact that causing the systemic change needed for social protection in Malawi requires broader a multiagency approach including adapting the technical specification of key social protection systems while at the same time addressing emerging capacity needs and grounding of social protection in the political agenda with a particular interest on increased and efficient domestic funding and the protection of citizens right to social support. The Joint Programme will therefore contribute towards the development objective through three outcomes including:

- Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector

- Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending.
- Malawi Government is advancing towards a more comprehensive Social Protection Legal Framework

The three outcomes are aligned to ongoing social protection initiatives under the realm of both the Government and the three PUNOs. The outcomes seek to strengthen existing social protection systems and address emerging capacity needs as the social protection landscape evolves. The JP includes activities that seek to increase government capacity and commitment to address the needs of the most vulnerable through social protection, including in times of shock, contributing to meeting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The results framework of the JP directly feeds into the intermediate outcomes of the UNDAF Outcome 7.

To cause the three outcomes of the JP, eight outputs have been identified including:

- Social protection system is reviewed and updated in line with humanitarian response needs.
- Social protection system delivers timely support to targeted households in times of lean-season related shocks.
- Malawi government social protection financing strategy finalized and informing domestic funding.
- Malawi government has improved knowledge and commitment to invest in social protection.
- Malawi government has improved capacity for Social Protection expenditure.
- Malawi has a comprehensive social protection draft legal framework agreed by all stakeholders.
- Malawi has updated the scope and objectives for the social protection system.
- The basic social protection measures are defined to respond to the needs of all men, women, boys and girls.

The Joint Programme includes an array of strategic actions assumed to lead to the outputs in line with the three key outcomes as below:

- Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector: i) training government staff (TRANSFORM application), ii) coordination and communications, iii) interim Grievance Redress Mechanisms, iv) development of operational guidance, v) key research on predictability of crises, vi) M&E for the prototype, vi) learning event, vii) innovations for updating the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR), viii) testing social accountability tools, ix) individual agency strengthening, x) crisis modifier [lean season].
- Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending: i) support the Government to strengthen its social protection financing architecture, ii) evidence generation, investment case making and budget advocacy, iii) strengthening Government capacity on social protection expenditure.
- Malawi Government is advancing towards a more comprehensive social protection legal framework: i) situation and gaps analysis, ii) visioning and strategic development, and iii) drafting law.

TOC Assumptions: The theory of change is underpinned by the following assumptions: i) Government will take ownership and leadership of the programme; ii) Government, DPs and private sector will have continued interest on social protection, including SRSP with targeted attention to the most vulnerable; iii) socio-economic conditions are stable; iv) the emergency

response is launched; v) DPs and implementation partners are supportive of integration on social protection; vi) social protection systems (e.g. the Management Information System - MIS) continue to function as normal; vii) stakeholders freely share information critical for making a business for social protection particularly on social protection expenditure; viii) donors and development partners support the programme and therefore delineate the fragmented approach to social protection programming in the country; and ix) government officials are available and supportive of the programme implementation given the strained capacity in the relevant government departments.

2.3 Expected results and impact

This proposal will accelerate progress to achieve the SDGs in Malawi, particularly SDG target 1.3, strengthening the operational capacity of the government's social protection system whilst reforming its financing structure and legal framework. This ensures that sustainable, nationally-owned systems are robustly established through a participatory approach and gradually expanded to ensure access to social protection for all, with particular attention to the most vulnerable. To accelerate the adoption of SDG implementation, this proposal holistically addresses operational, financial, and legal gaps in the current social protection system in Malawi.

The first **fast-tracks the development and application of a Shock-responsive Social Protection 'SRSP Prototype'.** This will transform piecemeal investments in SRSP into the development of a collaborative and standardised process for using social protection systems –its social registry, MIS, and GRMs etc. - to respond to emergency need in Malawi. This prototype will be tested during the upcoming emergency response, reaching approximately 5000 affected households with emergency food assistance delivered through the social protection system, with targeted attention to the most vulnerable. The critical output of this work is the development of operational guidance for SRSP for future application, so that future investments can be strategic, and channelled towards strengthening the social protection system, in support of one coherent vision for SRSP, that is embedded in LNOB concept.

Global commitments have been made to link humanitarian-development action, such as those articulated in the Grand Bargain; these commitments have been localised in Malawi. The UN and GoM together have been identifying the most appropriate way to operationalise SRSP in Malawi. Yet, increasing donor appetite is producing numerous piece-meal SRSP initiatives that, in practice, strain the underlying social protection system rather than strengthen it.

The UN secured some funds for SRSP, including under a joint UN programme for resilience. Funded work includes honing coordination mechanisms to mitigate the emergence of a fragmented SRSP landscape, developing beneficiary sensitisation materials, and adapting the GoM MIS for SRSP.

The UN aims to build on previous investments to fast-track the development of an SRSP prototype in one district. From this, operational guidance can be developed, so future investments in SRSP can be catalysed behind one integrated and coherent vision with appropriate mechanisms embedded within to ensure transparency, accountability and meaningful participation of the beneficiaries. This ensures that the most vulnerable not only receive temporary assistance in times of shocks, but that the social protection system is

strengthened and can better provide routine entitlements to the poorest of the poor and in particular, the most marginalised among them.

The second component **reinforces financing architecture and ecosystem for social protection, which is currently heavily donor dependent**. This is a major constraint to the Government when increasing the coverage of social protection. Social protection currently is largely donor funded (at 93%); fragmented with minimal coordination of disbursement processes and mechanisms; and inadequate for needs, leaving the most marginalised behind in the process. There is immediate need for sustainable financing of social protection through increased domestic funding with targeted attention to the most vulnerable, including for predictable annual emergency caseloads. Exploring new and/or innovative funding solutions through public and private financing are critical to addressing this need and accelerating action on the SDGs. Lessons from this component can be applied to other sectors for improved financing for a whole-of-society approach.

Without addressing it, a donor-driven, fragmented social protection system will likely persist. The critical output of this component is a financing strategy with increased domestic financing, including for predictable seasonal shocks.

The third component advances **the right to social protection by strengthening the legal framework of the country.** Whilst Malawi has a strong policy base, it lacks a legal framework for social protection, making the system vulnerable to political changes. The lack of a legal framework threatens the sustainability of the sector, even though the poverty levels in the country point towards social protection as a critical intervention. In a donor-financed sector, confusion emerges around who should have access to social protection and how the system should respond to the needs of the people. A robust legal framework can support the implementation of the financing strategy of Outcome 2, towards a domestically financed, sustainable and affordable social protection system.

The recent elections in 2019 present an opportunity to work with the newly established cabinet and Members of Parliament and develop a robust legal framework for social protection in Malawi that will catalyse existing social protection policies and projects. Moreover, legally defined target groups, programme parameters and design, governance, coordination, accountability, and delivery mechanisms will streamline interventions, and ensure a more coherent, effective and efficient system, that fully reflects the principles of non-discrimination (including the principle of gender equality), transparency, accountability and participation and the procedural obligations thereon.

The critical output of this component is igniting the establishment of long-overdue legal frameworks, with the development of a draft revised legal frameworks that is in line with Malawi's social protection human rights treaty obligations.

In 2016, the GoM underwent a nation-wide consultative review of the social protection system, ahead its successor programme, the Malawi National Social Support Programme II (2018-2023). These three components were listed as critical to focus on over the medium term.

The results are framed around three outcomes and eight outputs which together aim to contribute towards households in Malawi having enhanced quality of life and improved resilience to shocks by 2030. The results framework of the JP directly feeds into the intermediate outcomes of Outcome 7 of the UNDAF.

Outcomes and outputs of the JP		Accountable PUNO*	Key Activities
1	Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector	WFP	Training Govt staff on Social Protection and SRSP Key research on predictability of crises Operational systems preparedness Operational guidance developed Accountability and agency strengthening Transfers Regional learning for Govt staff (e.g. regional conferences)
1.1	Social protection system is reviewed and updated in line with humanitarian response needs	WFP, UNICEF, ILO	
1.2	The Malawi social protection system, together with the humanitarian sector, contributes to assisting an emergency caseload as identified by the Malawi government	WFP	
2	Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending	UNICEF	Fiscal space analysis, including new innovative funding options (e.g. insurance/ pooled funds) Social protection business case/ financing strategy for increasing domestic revenue for social protection, including in times of shocks social protection expenditure diagnostics and Bottle Neck Analysis to identify financing architecture needs for strengthening social protection financing architecture
2.1	Malawi Government Social Protection Financing Strategy Finalized and Informing Domestic Funding	UNICEF	
2.2	Malawi Government has Improved Knowledge and Commitment to Invest in Social Protection	UNICEF	
2.3	Malawi Government has Improved Capacity for Social Protection Expenditure	UNICEF	
3	Malawi Social Protection System is more comprehensive and integrated	ILO	Situation and gap analysis of social protection Working with Parliamentarians and the Government to undertake a visioning and strategy
3.1	Malawi has a comprehensive social protection Draft Legal Framework agreed by all stakeholders	ILO	

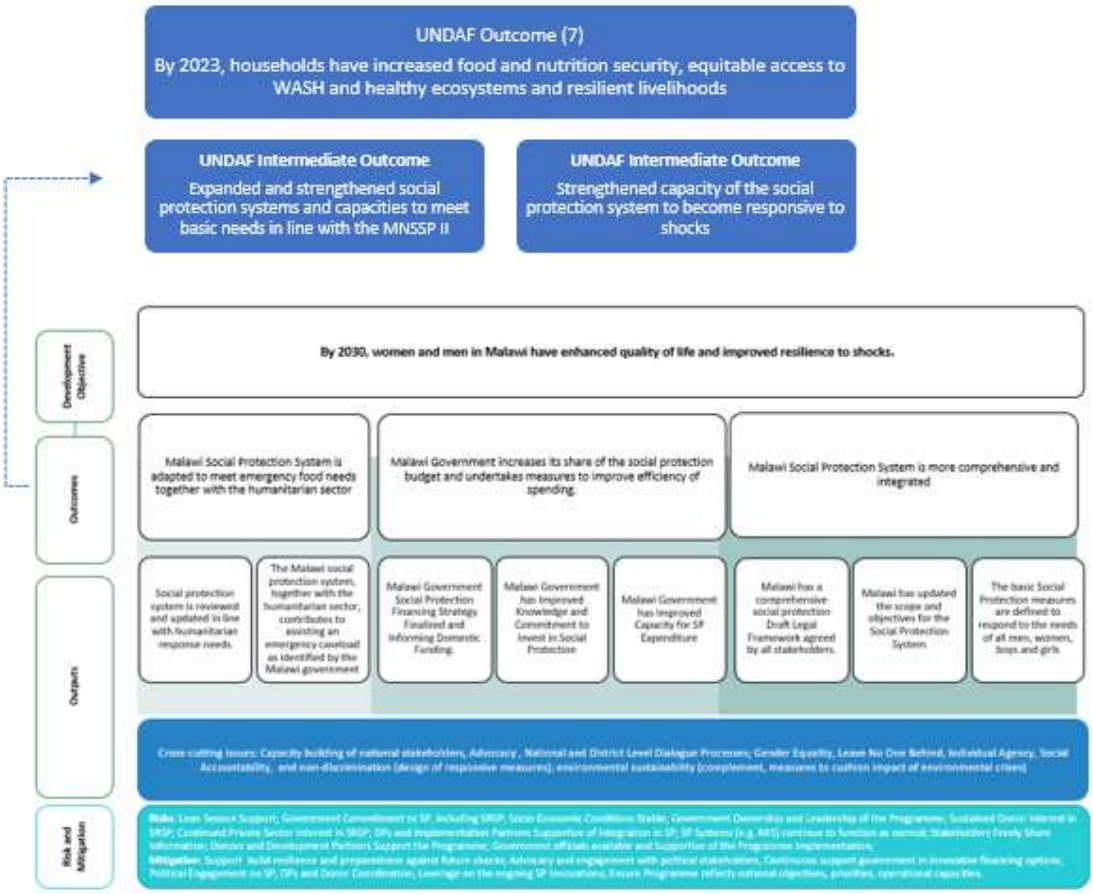
3.2	Malawi has updated the scope and objectives for the Social Protection System	ILO	development for the legal framework for social protection Developing a draft social protection law/ legal instrument
3.3	The basic Social Protection measures are defined to respond to the needs of all men, women, boys and girls	ILO	

*Whilst the PUNOs contribute across the three outcomes, even when done jointly, each activity will have a PUNO lead who will be ultimately responsible for delivering the desired results, mapped against their comparative analysis to undertake the data collection for each respective outcome on behalf of the other PUNOs.

How do the outcomes relate?
The three project outcomes or pillars together lead to contributing to the overall project objective that by 2030, households in Malawi have enhanced quality of life and improved resilience to shocks, through the Malawi National Government having a social protection system that upholds the right to social protection for all and meets the needs of vulnerable households. Pillar one addresses required modifications/adjustments to the way that emergency assistance is delivered in Malawi, looking at ways to leverage the social protection system for national ownership and capacity, and improved efficiency and effectiveness in targeting and delivering assistance to at-risk households. Pillar two strives to support the government in increasing budget commitments for social protection, allowing for regular funding to support its activities. Pillar three addresses the need for a comprehensive legal framework for the Social Protection System.

These three outcomes – revised programme, financial availability, and an enhanced legal framework – together pave the way for a government-led system that can increasingly meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

These directly link to one UNDAF outcomes (outcome 7 of UNDAF) which is *By 2023, households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods,* and contributes to two immediate outcomes: a) Expanded and strengthened social protection systems and capacities to meet basic needs in line with the MNSSP II and b) Strengthened capacity of the social protection system to become responsive to shocks – see image below for this link.



Capacity and preconditions of government to sustain the results:
To sustain the results, broad engagement with key stakeholders will be central. This includes with government and state institutions, such as the National Parliament, EP&D, MoGCDSW, DoDMA, the UNCT, DPs, CSOs and communities. Meaningful participation of the beneficiaries, particularly women and other marginalised groups at all stages - from design, implementation to monitoring - will be critical in the operationalisation of LNOB as well as ensuring local and national ownership.

Despite the short-term domestic budget constraints, the development of a long-term financing strategy for the sector offers a roadmap to the gradual increase in domestic public funding in line with Government capacities. The development and subsequent enactment of a social protection legal framework will reinforce the commitment to maintain and expand domestic investment in social protection, and support the adoption/replication of the revised tools/mechanisms for shock responses.

Fortunately, the proposal aligns entirely to key Government plans, strategies and programmes, ensuring Government commitment to the activities, and sustainability of the initiatives. It contributes to the MGDS III, ODA 2: "Reduce vulnerability and enhance the resilience of the population to disasters and socio-economic and shocks." It also contributes substantially to the MNSSP II Pillars: 1-Consumption Support, 3-SRSP, and 5-Systems.

Activities in the proposal are also committed by the UN. Supporting the MNSSP II is under Outcome 7 of Malawi's UNDAF, which focuses on nutrition, food security, and resilient livelihoods.

What happens next?
The MNSSP II has an implementation plan for its 5 pillars, running until 2023. The work under the JP will fast-track progress measured against the MNSSP implementation plan. The mid-review of the MNSSP II in 2021 presents a window of opportunity. Successes and lessons learned will inform the mid-review, and contribute to a more articulated and refined implementation plan for the remaining years of the MNSSP II, and as thinking turns towards the successor MNSSP (MNSSP III).

Expected progress of SDG targets:

- Future emergency assistance (SDG 2.1) is provided by leveraging the social protection system (SDG 1.3).
- Government increases the allocation of domestic resources to social protection, ensuring a gradual increase and improved efficiency (1.a, 17.1).
- The legal framework of social protection defines the essential measures of the systems to ensure adequate protection throughout all stages of life for all with due attention to women and marginalised groups (SDG 1.b);
- The legal framework for social protection advances the right to social protection in line with Malawi's human rights treaty obligations and supports the expansion of coverage and improving the adequacy, integration, and coherence of the system (1.3);

To assess SDG acceleration, indicators will be aligned to the above frameworks and SDG Indicators. Some components (e.g. legal framework) allow for baselines (e.g. SDG Indicator 1.3.1) to be established and measured.

What is the expected impact in terms of the changed situation for the target groups?
In early 2022, women and men in Malawi have enhanced quality of life and improved resilience to shocks, through a more comprehensive and sustainable social protection system which has the flexibility to provide additional temporary assistance in times of stressors and shocks.

The social protection system was adapted in line with humanitarian needs, to ensure that key national cash-systems could be leveraged to provide additional assistance to affected households in line with their emerging needs.

Due to these adaptations, the approximately 5000 households identified as the most vulnerable (using human rights and gender-based approach to data) received emergency cash assistance via government social protection systems to address lifesaving food consumption needs during the 2020-21 emergency food assistance response. These households who were part of the SRSP prototype had their food consumption smoothened during the 2020-21 lean season (as part of the joint programme), and not required to engage in negative coping strategies.

Due to this success, the social protection systems were shown to have increased capacity to deliver adequate and reliable support to vulnerable populations, including in times of shock, with specific operational preparedness undertaken, including the development of operational guidance developed jointly with the Government. This ensured that when emergency assistance was identified for the 2021-22 lean season, the key Government systems were already in place for the Government to provide the necessary support in a timely and cost-efficient manner. As a result of the preparedness work, key Government systems like the Unified Beneficiary Registry, could be leveraged so that the food assistance could use a human rights and gender-based approach to data, ensuring that no-one is left behind.

The JP theorizes that a sustainable social protection financing system comprising domestic financing and efficient financial architecture would ensure that Malawians are assured of uninterrupted social protection support that is largely domestic financed and that continues to attract the attention of the political system given its efficient management through effective systems including e-payment.

Reinforcing these results, the strengthening of the social protection legal framework will provide the mandate for gradual increase in investments in the sector. In particular, the definition of a basic social protection package, defining which measures should be available to citizens and how each group of the population should be covered by social protection measures, will set the benchmark for the minimal levels of protection that the State provides, and thus setting the direction for the gradual expansion of social protection for all and advancing towards the right to social protection.

How does this bring change to women?
This proposal will bring change to women in direct critical ways:

- Providing a transfer will mitigate and reduce the need for households to engage in negative coping mechanisms, which often adversely affect women disproportionately more than men. For example, evidence shows that women - as the custodians to family health, as prescribed by societal norms - are often the first to engage in negative coping strategies affecting wellbeing such as skipping meals to ensure other family members meet their consumption needs.
- The assistance being provided to meet needs over the lean season will be calculated in a way to ensure gender and nutrition-sensitivity, providing an additional cash-transfer value to pregnant and lactating women, and children under two years to ensure that the nutritional needs of both mothers and children are met. The value is approximately 7USD per household, but dependent on prevailing market prices at the point of implementation and agreed through the humanitarian structure in Malawi.
- The assistance will also be provided in a way that ensures safe access to cash for women
- The development of the legal framework be based in the principles of gender equality, women's empowerment and attention to special needs. A dedicated gender analysis of the sector is planned to support gender sensitive decision making. This will ensure not only equitable treatment in the right and access to social protection to men and women, but also observe women's specific needs. This will result in gender-sensitive distribution of investments from social protection programmes.

2.4 Financing

The programme understands that only through an integrated approach for operations, programme and financing the social protection system in Malawi can become truly sustainable and offer adequate and broad coverage to ensure the right to social protection for all.

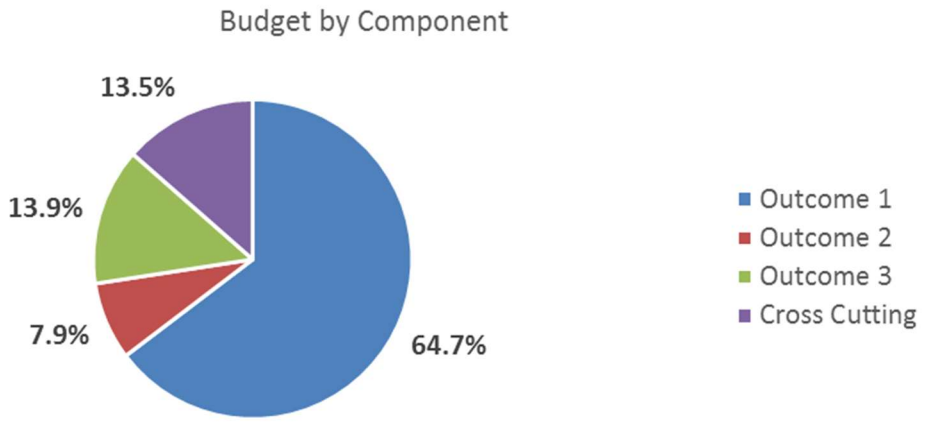
The activities of this programme would not happen in the timeframe without the Joint SDG Fund resources. Whilst some funding has been secured, the UN would likely miss the window of opportunity without this injection to fast-track work, particularly for Outcome 1. The programme will allow the UN and Government to leverage all the investments made thus far and focus efforts around one vision and one model for SRSP that is squarely centred in the LNOB concept. Parallel to this, the Joint Programme will support the strengthening of financial and legal frameworks (Outcomes 2 and 3, respectively) for the social protection sector as a whole, including for SRSP.

With this approach, the programme will accelerate the development of more efficient and effective operational guidelines for delivery of social protection, including in times of crisis, and lay the foundations to a domestically financed and rights-based social protection system – Three elements essential to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the short and long terms.

Without this programme, it is expected that the structural changes required to improve the integration, coverage and overall comprehensiveness of the social protection system of Malawi will not be implemented in the short term. This would mean that the UN and Government will instead have to focus on coordinating multiple models for SRSP with insufficient targeted attention to vulnerable groups that will have developed in the absence of this prototype. It is also expected that without a clear financing strategy and a robust legal framework, the system will continue to operate in a fragmented manner, mostly financed by international aid as it does today.

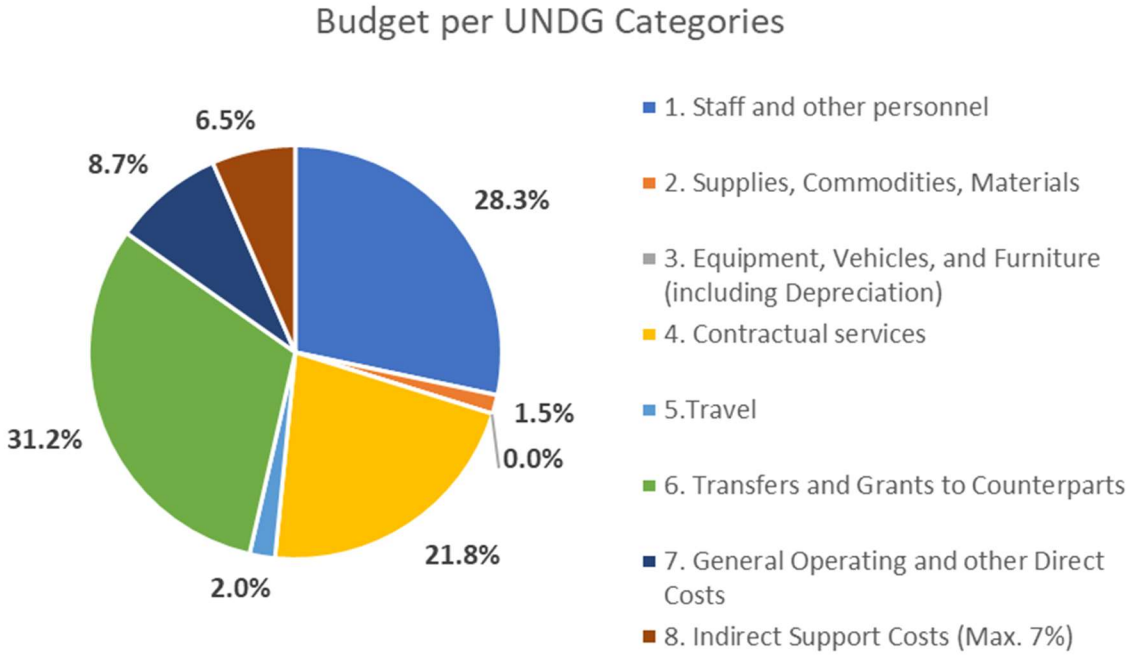
To realize the project objectives, the three PUNOs require a total budget of **USD 1,999,937** spread across three outcomes and cross-cutting components, specifically:

- Outcome 1: Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector = USD 1,293,523 (64.7%);
- Outcome 2: Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending = USD 157,825 (7.9%);
- Outcome 3: Malawi Social Protection System is more comprehensive, inclusive and integrated and measures are taken to enshrine the right to social protection in law = USD 277,879.73 (13.9%);
- Cross-Cutting: Includes coordination, communications, M&E and impact evaluation = USD 270,710 (13.5%)[4].



Key inputs identified across the three outcomes include: i) Staff and other personnel - 28.3%; ii) Supplies, Commodities, Materials - 1.5%; iii) Contractual services – 21.8%; iv) Travel - 2%; v) Transfers and Grants to Counterparts – 31.2%; vi) General Operating and other Direct Costs - 8.7%; and vii) Indirect Support Costs - 6.5%.

[4] Of which: Communications USD 47,000 (2.3%); M&E USD 56,000 (2.8%); and Impact Evaluation USD 75,000 (3.8%).



Long Term Financial Sustainability

The main contribution to long-term financial sustainability by the Joint Programme are linked to Outcome 2. The development of a long-term financing strategy for the sector paves the way to gradual increase in domestic public funding for social protection, including for SRSP. This on itself intends to mitigate the risks of donors withdrawing investments and reduces the dependency in foreign aid to the regular operation of social protection programmes.

Reinforcing these results, the outputs under Outcome 3 will provide the legal basis to mandate increased investments in the sector. In particular, the definition of a basic social protection package will set the benchmark for the minimal levels of protection that the State needs to work towards achieving. Activities under Outcomes 2 and 3 will also engage with key decision makers to ensure higher-level strategic support.

And lastly, the streamlined operational framework for SRSP under Outcome 1, will serve as basis for its replication all 28 Districts in Malawi. Moreover, strengthening the delivery capacity and efficiency of the social protection system to be able to successfully be leveraged to deliver emergency food need, will lead to an overall more effective, responsive and robust social protection operational framework.

Gender equality

Gender equality is at the heart of the Joint Programme's objectives. Women are the majority of the recipients of the proposed cash transfers aimed at lean season consumption smoothing. It is estimated that around 75% of them are female-headed, as they are over-represented among the most vulnerable. Considering the estimated share of transfers that will be directed

to female-headed households, these transfers represent around 23.6% of the total project budget.

Moreover, the Joint Programme will support women's empowerment through increased access to grievance and redress mechanisms related to social protection programmes, and by implementing activities which aim to increase individual agency and community voice. These are geared to ensure girls and women's right to social protection are respected and empower them to hold service providers accountable to high standards of service quality. The activities linked to social accountability and individual agency strengthening represent about 8.5% of total budget.

Thus, the Joint Programme will dedicate a significant portion of its budget to activities that promote gender equality and women's empowerment, representing at least about 32%[5] of the total budget. Other activities will contribute indirectly, such as the work on the legal framework will take into account the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment to ensure equality of treatment in the right and access to social protection. In particular during the stages of definition of the basic social protection measures, the situation of girls and women and their specific needs will be on the forefront of the work.

UN capacity to deliver and Leveraging of resources
The three PUNOs and the RCO have in-house technical expertise around the three key outcomes, substantially reducing the need for outsourced technical expertise. Experience has shown that leveraging in-house expertise is a highly effective way of quickly advancing a specific area of work, building on ongoing contextual relationships and experience with working with the Government to provide locally appropriate solutions.
The three PUNOs have ongoing related work across the three outcomes to leverage on. Thus, the programme will build on substantial investment of other initiatives already under implementation to fast-track progress and improve the value-for-money of the JP. This programme's activities will be complemented by on-going programmes by the PUNOs, amounting to USD 1,140,827 of leveraged resources directed to the achievement of the outcomes and outputs of the JP.

Related initiatives linked to Outcome 1 include the PROSPER programme, a DFID-funded SRSP joint UN programme on resilience building, including funding for preparedness for SRSP in the Balaka District, by WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, and FAO; the development of the SRSP Module for the TRANSFORM Training Package by WFP, UNICEF and ILO; and the development of social accountability tools for application in Malawi for social protection, supported by the ILO, through an Irish Aid-ILO Global Partnership.

Outcome 2 builds on work done by UNICEF on Systems Strengthening for SCTP Implementation, particularly the adaptation of the programme's MIS and the development of a harmonized ePayment System, with co-financing from Irish Aid. While Outcomes 2 and 3 draws on investments in supporting the implementation of the MNSSP II by the PUNOs, in particular the costing of the programme's implementation plan and the development and support for the implementation of its M&E Framework; and a Learning Journey for Coordination & Leadership of Social Protection, a medium-term capacity building exercise to review and enhance social protection coordination at all levels, led by UNICEF, GIZ and ILO. The RCO/SHRA's technical advice to the JP will be provided at no-cost. Details of these related activities are in Annex 1.

2.5 Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

[5] Considering 23.6% from cash transfers, plus 8.5% from social accountability activities.

How the government will lead the implementation of the joint programme
From the Government, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (EP&D) manages the ongoing overall multi-sectoral coordination of the social protection sector. EP&D and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs serve as current co-chairs of a taskforce on SRSP and provide the ongoing oversight.

The unique contribution of PUNO and broader UNCT
The UNCT currently has three joint programmes in Malawi; WFP and UNICEF are members of two, and WFP is the technical lead (convening agency) for both. There is in-country expertise around the development, implementation, and reporting for JPs cornered around LNOB, including the important function of working with the Government to ensure Government leadership.

The three PUNOs were three of four DPs responsible for supporting Government in developing the MNSSP II. This demonstrates a track record of working together and leveraging different comparative advantages in support of social protection in Malawi. The three are among the key institutions supporting the Government in its efforts to build a more integrated, efficient, better coordinated, adequately financed and reliable system.

UNICEF and WFP have expertise in providing both direct implementation as well as in-country technical assistance for social protection, including for SRSP and financing. ILO in Malawi has a social protection team that has direct expertise and is engaged in systems strengthening and policy development activities. Together, the three UN agencies have internal in-country and regional capacities on developing social protection strategy and programming, SRSP, public finance and strategy, and tailor-made legal advisory services, as well as supporting the development of national strategies and policy frameworks. In the event of a shortfall, the expertise can be drawn from regional specialist pools on demand. WFP and UNICEF maintain LTAs with leading research institutions on social protection, easing the process of capacity outsourcing.

SHRA attached to the RCO will draw on the expertise of OHCHR in human rights and gender-based mainstreaming in social protection programming, to ensure technical operationalisation of LNOB in this JP. As part the coordination role of the RCO, the Senior Human Rights Adviser (SHRA) will provide technical expertise for the human rights and gender mainstreaming at all stages of the joint programme, including with respect to aligning the legal and policy framework for social protection in line with Malawi's international human rights treaty obligations.

Both WFP and UNICEF co-chair critical groups with the GoM, including social protection, and the emergency food security. Working together provides an unparalleled convening power across the humanitarian-social protection nexus to facilitate coordination on SRSP and ensure uptake of the proposed prototype.

UNICEF Malawi is the lead agency on public expenditure reviews and fiscal space analysis to influence increased national budgetary allocation for social welfare and has been instrumental in strengthening financing infrastructure. WFP brings experience to work with its sister agencies on financing for more predictable crises.

UNICEF and ILO have strong comparative advantages on social assistance and social security and convening powers for legal framework development. For example, ILO has been instrumental in the drafting of a bill on universal social old age pension in Malawi. The ILO can tap its networks with diverse stakeholders, including CSOs, to ensure a nationally-

consulted process. The ILO has supported the Government of Malawi in systemic and specific analyses of key components of the social protection system by conducting an Assessment-Based National Dialogue and producing analyses on coordination, targeting, and economic impacts of existing programme. The analyses influenced policy and programming towards a more comprehensive and adequate provision of social protection to the Malawian population.

Strategic contributions from other partners
PUNOs are lead technical advisers to the Learning Taskforce on Coordination of Social Protection in Malawi. The Learning Taskforce led by DODMA and MoFEPD is leading an initiative that seeks integrated implementation of the MNSSP II through harmonized social protection and humanitarian actions.

The UN Country Team recently signed an MOU with the Parliament. The MOU will systematize engagement between the PUNOs and parliamentarians with a view to enhancing their legislative and financial oversight role on social protection. In particular, the Parliament will be instrumental in the enactment of social protection legislation and in advocating for increased domestic funding. The PUNOs will prioritize engagement with three key parliamentary committees (legal, social welfare, budget and finance) critical to creating the needed political traction for the proposed initiative.

For the SRSP component, the PUNOs have existing partnership cooperation agreements with CSOs, ensuring timely response during emergencies. Further, the PUNOs have long term agreements with national and international research institutions in addition to access to expert pools at regional and HQ to fill in emerging capacity needs.

The PUNOs have ongoing joint work with the World Bank, IMF, and other development partners on social sector spending. These includes Public Expenditure Reviews, budget and fiscal space analyses and other initiatives that can be further leveraged for this action. The PUNOs intend to capitalize their convening power to mobilize stakeholders such as tripartite social partners, civil society, representatives of beneficiary groups, local communities and other players of critical importance to the success of the proposed action.

The PUNOs are members of regional learning hubs including TRANSFORM, Social Protection Community of Practice and Transfer Project. These platforms provide an opportunity to engage with multiple stakeholders in collaboration with the government thereby fostering broad-based participation in social protection.

How other stakeholders (in particular, the target group/s) will be involved, including eventual tools/methods for participatory dialogue, co-design, and co-delivery
Participation is at the heart of this proposal. Transforming the social protection system so that it delivers faster results towards nationally-set objectives (e.g. MNSSP) and strategies (e.g. MGDS III) but also the SDGs will require buy-in from a range of stakeholders. At the national level, this includes participatory processes towards establishing the direction of social protection with respect to financial and legal frameworks, but also unpacking the details of the MNSSP (e.g. when and how systems should be rolled out; how they can be leveraged; consensus on what this means operationally). Without this consensus on co-designing and co-delivery, the social protection system will be further fragmented. Key stakeholders include Government as lead – both at the national and district levels, but also development partners, the financial service providers, CSOs and NGOs to name a few. Key established fora will be utilized for these participatory processes as outlined in the learning and sharing plan (annex 7).

The project design will consider the vulnerabilities of the most marginalised including intersectionality of such vulnerabilities, so they can be prioritized accordingly. The JP will focus on the multiple forms of discrimination that women and girls experience, ensuring that the project delivery addresses women's specific needs throughout the different phases of their life-cycle and the accompanying roles as providers of (unpaid) care. This is both to inform the key foundations of social protection being advanced (e.g. financing, legal framework) but also to ensure that the SRSP prototype is responsive to those most in need and furthest behind.

A mechanism to ensure transparency and meaningful participation of the beneficiaries will be embedded, to ensure the broadest participation possible by the most marginalised (taking into account the gender and power dynamics) so that the JP is responsive to their particular needs.

To mitigate the risks of wrongful exclusion of beneficiaries, possible abuses in the provision of assistance at the local level, e.g. sexual harassment, and possible misappropriation, the project will have in a place an accessible and effective accountability/complaints mechanism that include an appeal process that is independent, accessible and effective.

How the joint programme will pool and mobilize expertise from across the UNDS

The Resident Coordinator provides overall oversight of the implementation of the Joint Programme in Malawi and ensures that technical expertise from the most relevant UN agencies is leveraged in an impartial and inclusive manner, with a focus on achieving results. The programme implementation will benefit from the substantive contribution of the recipient UN organizations' technical experts, who will play an important role in the establishment of links with similar UN and other projects in Africa and other regions in the world. The RC will also ensure that existing and potential donors are kept appraised of the Joint Programme's work and results and that efforts are in alignment with development partners in order to maximize synergy and impact.

3. Programme implementation

3.1 Governance and implementation arrangements

With the long-term sustainability in mind, the Joint Programme on Social Protection (JP) will **focus on leveraging existing structures for coordination to the extent possible**. There will be an internal structure (UN) to manage day-to-day operations, as well as an external structure with the Government.

The JP is designed to advance the Government's vision of social protection in line with Malawi's international human rights treaty obligations. The Government's existing social protection coordination mechanisms and developing SRSP mechanisms at both the national and district levels will be the primary forum for engagement for this JP. Other existing fora (e.g. emergency clusters, cash working group) will be included where required to ensuring meaningful engagement with relevant stakeholders, including the beneficiaries. Parallel to the implementation of this programme, the ILO and UNICEF are supporting an 18-month learning journey with key government officials from the social protection sector to build capacity and develop tools to improve coordination and leadership in the sector. The work under the JP, as well as other JPs, will also be integrated into this learning journey.

3.1.1. External structure (existing)

The key anchoring structure for the JP will be the Government's social protection framework, the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) II. The MNSSP II runs from 2018 to 2023 building on the successes and lessons learned during the implementation of the first MNSSP. It is organized around thematic priority areas and provides policy guidance on promoting linkages, strengthening systems and improving monitoring activities at both national and district levels, including different social protection policy and programmatic activities, as well as linkages to the humanitarian structures.

The overall workplan of the JP will feed into the implementation plan for the MNSSP II. To articulate this alignment in detail, the UN agencies will develop a detailed joint work plan in collaboration with the Government, where the Government will be at the forefront of the implementation. For example, for component 1 on SRSP, the entire modus operandi centres on strengthening and leveraging government social protection systems to deliver emergency assistance, with Government staff taking lead and UN agencies providing technical assistance. The Government SRSP learning taskforce, which constitutes a range of different government, UN, NGO, CSO, and DP stakeholders, will also help to inform the design of the prototype.
This structure has existing Terms of Reference, and ongoing activities to support their functioning.

Malawi National Social Support Steering Committee - MNSSSC:

- The Joint Programme will leverage the existing MNSSP Steering Committee, which meets bi-annually.
- The MNSSSC is chaired by the Chief Secretary, with EP&D as the secretariat, and high-level membership across Government, the United Nations (WFP and UNICEF), and Development Partners.
- The MNSSSC provides strategic direction to the implementation of the MNSSP, which this JP will directly contribute to.
- Advisory in nature, the MNSSSC appraises the different activities planned under the MNSSP, and provides strategic direction, reviews implementation progress and evaluation reports and provides steer in alignment with national programmes and policies.
- For the duration of the JP, the RC would be asked to attend, or in her absence, the CA CD would be asked to provide updates on behalf of the JP.

Malawi National Social Support Technical Committee - MNSSTC:

- The JP will leverage the existing MNSSP Technical Committee, which meets quartlery.
- The MNSSTC is chaired by EP&D with technical membership across Government, the United Nations (including WFP, UNICEF, ILO), and Development Partners, with NGOs and CSOs.
- It provides technical direction to the implementation of the MNSSP, which this JP will directly contribute to.
- It draws on Government and stakeholders expertise and enables synergies with other related initiatives.
- The MNSSTC reports to the MNSSSC.
- For the duration of the JP, the WFP coordinator would be asked to attend to provide updates on behalf of the JP in the absence of an update by the pillar working groups.

Malawi National Social Support Pillars Working Groups- MNSSPWG:

- New under the MNSSP II are 5 'pillars' in which to discuss cross-cutting technical elements (design, learning, M&E, workplans etc.) for 5 higher level objectives:
    - Consumption Support
    - Resilience
    - Shock-sensitive social protection

    - Linkages
    - Systems
- These pillar working groups meet quarterly.
- The JP workplan will feed directly into Pillar 3 (shock-sensitive social protection) and 5 (systems), ensuring that the activities are represented in the Government overarching workplan, ensuring that the activities contribute directly to the overarching vision as articulated by the Government.
- The Pillar working groups report to the MNSSTC.
- PUNOs from the JP would be expected to attend the relevant pillar meetings and provide updates for the meetings as necessary, in accordance with their regular participation at these meetings. Participation and inputs in these meetings should be documented and provided to the JP coordinator in case of her absence.

The MNSSP II at the district level:

- At the district level, there are the District Social Support Committees and the Community Social Support Committees which oversee the coordination for the implementation of the MNSSP.
- Any district-specific implementation would be coordinated as part of this structure.

National Parliament of Malawi

- The JP also links to the legal space, strategically engaging Members of Parliament and specialized committees. Information sessions and advocacy work will be conducted, in particular, for the enactment of social protection legislation and in advocating for increased domestic funding. Engagement will prioritized with four key parliamentary committees (legal, social welfare, budget and finance, women's caucus) critical to creating the needed political traction for the expansion of social protection in Malawi.

The JP also links to the humanitarian space. Whilst there are aspirations for the MNSSP II to include coordination with the humanitarian sector, the learning journey for this new coordination structure has not yet been completed. Thus, it is expected that for outcome 1 (on shock-responsive social protection) the coordination is also done with the relevant coordination bodies, including:

- **Food Security Cluster**, which meets monthly during the lean season/ during emergencies. It is chaired and co-chaired by DoDMA and WFP respectively. It is comprised of technical members from the Government, UN, DPs, and NGOs regarding the implementation of the lean season response. Final decisions regarding the implementation of the SRSP activities would be made within this forum.
- **Cash Working Group**, which meets monthly year-round. It is chaired and co-chaired by WFP and Oxfam respectively. It is comprised of technical members from the Government, UN, DPs, and NGOs regarding cash-based interventions. As well as providing a space for learning, it also helps to standardize the design of the lean season response (e.g. transfer values), and will be a forum for discussing the SRSP prototype.
- **Joint Emergency Food Assistance Programme (JEFAP) Taskforce**, which meets ad hoc throughout the year. It is chaired and co-chaired by DoDMA and WFP respectively. It is comprised of technical members from the Government, UN, DPs, and NGOs regarding the design of the lean season response (called 'JEFAP').
- **Shock-responsive Social Protection Learning Taskforce,** which meets ad hoc throughout the year. It is chaired and co-chaired by DoDMA and EP&D respectively. It is comprised of technical members from the Government, UN, DPs, and NGOs regarding the design and vision of SRSP in Malawi.
- **Civil protection committees** at the district and community levels responsible for the implementation of the lean season response.

3.1.1. Internal Structure

For the internal management structure, to ensure coordination across the UN agencies, including with other complementary Joint Programmes, the JP will leverage the UNCT.

At the fund level, the roles of fund administration (Administrative Agent), fund operations, and programme implementation (PUNOs) are segregated.

Administrative Agent — The MPTF Office at UNDP New York (MPTF-O) will be the administrative agent for the JP.

Fund Operation (Secretariat — Resident Coordinator's Office)

- Administrative support, through the Joint Coordination Unit, to the Steering Committee, which has overall accountability for fund allocation and achieving results.
- Signing the Standard Administrative Agreements with Donors and the Memorandum of Understanding with Participating UN Organisations.
- Strategic leadership of portfolio performance, recommendations for which will be brought to the Steering Committee for remedial actions.

The UN Resident Coordinator will lead advocacy efforts for social protection at the highest level of government. The UN RC will also ensure linkages between the JP with other related JPs (e.g. BRACC) and other UNDAF pillar activities. As a strategic entity, the RC will ensure harmonisation and stronger coherence within the UN,

Programme implementation Units (PUNOs — WFP, UNICEF, ILO):

- Each PUNO is accountable for own programmatic and financial results; with organisations jointly responsible for achieving the Joint Programme goal
- Project cycle management (eligibility assessment, formulation, supervision)
- Procurement of services and equipment for project activities
- Financial management for assigned programme component(s), with narrative and certified financial reports annually and at the end for their components of the programme
- Each PUNO is responsible for monitoring its contributions, while the Convening Agency oversees and coordinates to ensure all targets are monitored.
- A Joint Monitoring Plan will include roles and responsibilities for monitoring, timing and methodology
- Monitoring throughout the year; culminating in the joint annual review of joint work plan
- Application of environmental and social safeguards
- Results based and knowledge management

In terms of implementation of the JP, WFP will take the responsibility as overall technical lead as the convening agency, and each of the three components will be managed by WFP, UNICEF, and ILO respectively. Whilst it is envisaged that the UN agencies will implement the three components jointly, different activities will leverage the different combinations of UN agencies, as informed by the comparative advantage of each UN agency.

Convening Agency (CA — WFP[6]):

[6] **Selection of the Convening Agent (CA):** Selected jointly based on merit in a comparative review by all participating UN organizations. PUNOs in the Joint Programme will select the CA, taking into consideration the following element: i) UN organization with country presence; ii) thematic, functional and geographical area of

- Accountable to RC for coordination, impact and coherence among PUNOs, including at district level;
- Responsible for consolidating narrative reporting, through the Joint Coordination Unit, to the RCO and donors;
- Responsible for operational and programmatic coordination: coordinates all the PUNOs, coordinates and prepares annual work plans and narrative reports, coordinates monitoring of annual targets reports back to the Steering Committee, and other planning of joint processes
- Prepares annual and final consolidated narrative progress reports based on the reports submitted by each participating UN organisation, and shall provide those consolidated reports to the Administrative Agent for further submission to each donor that has contributed to the Joint Programme, in accordance with the timetable. The narrative reports should describe in a coherent manner what is being done jointly at outcome and output level. The generic annual and final programme narrative progress report template shall be used (http://mdtf.undp.org/document/download/5390).
- Involved in day-to-day coordination, but does not hold any financial or programmatic accountability for the other PUNOs
- Responsible for development of terms of reference for the Joint Coordination Unit, for endorsement by all PUNOs
- Updates will be provided to the RC via the HoA of the CA CD.

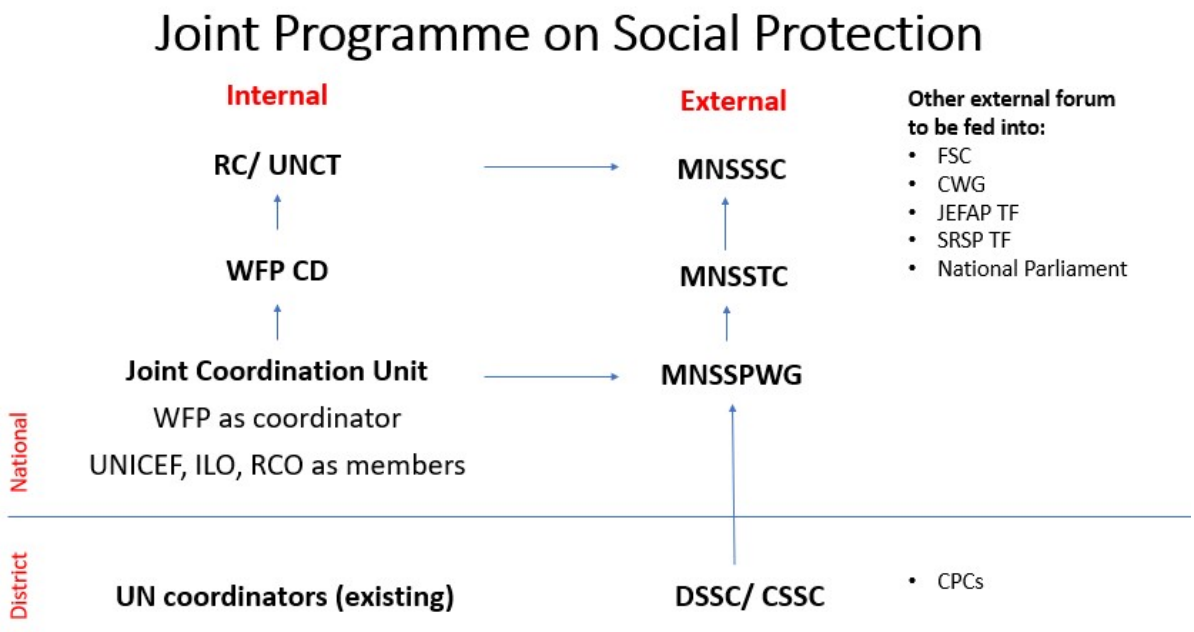
Although the three UN agencies already meet frequently with respect to ongoing joint work, monthly meetings with participation of the SHRA will be held specifically for the internal coordination of this work to maximise the coherence and efficiency of the programme. This set-up is already working well for other joint programmes being implemented in Malawi.

Joint Coordination Unit (JCU) - monthly:

- A Joint Coordination Unit (JCU) will be setup to support day-to-day operational and programmatic coordination activities including the following:
    - coordination of the joint project partners;
    - compilation of annual work plans and narrative reports;
    - coordination of monitoring and evaluation activities towards achievement of annual targets;
    - facilitate reporting to steering committee, donor and government counterparts;
    - assist data analysis and data management in regard of programme activities; and
    - provide guidelines for partnership with NGOs and other stakeholders.
- The JCU will be composed of a representative from each of the PUNOs, supporting a coordinator from the CA to fulfil functions relating to work planning, reporting, communications, operational support, and M&E.
- Each of the outcomes will be led by a separate PUNO (outcome 1 on SRSP by WFP; outcome 2 on financial sustainability by UNICEF; and outcome 3 on legal framework by ILO), with overall coordination by the CA (WFP).
- The JCU will be involved in day-to-day coordination matters, including at district level, but it will not hold any financial accountability in regard to implementation, which will be held by the Administrative Agent.
- The JCU will align work plans, joint targeting processes, monitoring and evaluation of project activities, communications and ensure overall coherence across the different components.

expertise in the area covered by the programme; iii) convening capacity to interface between Steering Committee and participating UN organizations.

- The JCU will also include members and/or establish related M&E and communications working groups for:
    - Donor relations and communications
    - M&E who will lead the development of joint M&E framework in which empirical evidence is collected in a harmonised manner and where cross-cutting issues are considered by all implementers and partners.
- For cost efficiency, the JCU will foster the use of common resources, facilities and partnerships with external service providers when feasible.
- Each UN agency participating in the project will be accountable following the operational guidance of the JCU, particularly in planning the annual work plans established for implementation, and will be programmatically and financially accountable for the activities they implement.
- Monthly meetings will be held to raise issues or concern, discuss any delays or variances in activities or budget spend, and agree solutions and ways forward, as well as to set the technical direction for the programme, and feed into engagements with key stakeholders like government and donors.
- Any time-sensitive issue or disputes that cannot be resolved at the technical level would be directly flagged to the CD of the CA (WFP) to raise at the UNCT, or directly with the RC, keeping the other HoA in copy. Budget will follow the proposal – required changes will be addressed at the UNCT, and then with the Government signatory if significant changes are required to be made to the proposal.
- For the implementation, existing UN Staff in the district will be responsible for overseeing coordination, as advised by the JCU.



3.2 Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be results-oriented, and evidence based. Each PUNO will provide the Convening/Lead Agent with the following narrative reports prepared in accordance with instructions and templates developed by the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat:

- *Annual narrative progress reports*, to be provided no later than. one (1) month (31 January) after the end of the calendar year, and must include the result matrix, updated risk log, and anticipated expenditures and results for the next 12-month funding period;
- *Mid-term progress review report* to be submitted halfway through the implementation of Joint Programme[7]; and
- *Final consolidated narrative report*, after the completion of the joint programme, to be provided no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the activities of the joint programme.

The Convening/Lead Agent will compile the narrative reports of PUNOs and submit a consolidated report to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, through the Resident Coordinator.

The Resident Coordinator will be required to monitor the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data and information when requested. As a minimum, joint programmes will prepare, and submit to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, 6-month monitoring updates. Additional insights (such as policy papers, value for money analysis, case studies, infographics, blogs) might need to be provided, per request of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat. Joint programme will allocate resources for monitoring and evaluation in the budget. All PUNOs will allocate adequate and sufficient resources for monitoring the process and achievements of the JP.

Data for all indicators of the results framework will be shared with the Fund Secretariat on a regular basis, in order to allow the Fund Secretariat to aggregate results at the global level and integrate findings into reporting on progress of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs will be required to include information on complementary funding received from other sources (both UN cost sharing, and external sources of funding) for the activities supported by the Fund, including in kind contributions and/or South-South Cooperation initiatives, in the reporting done throughout the year.

PUNOs at Headquarters level shall provide the Administrative Agent with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with its accounting and reporting procedures, consolidate the financial reports, as follows:

- Annual financial reports as of 31st December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint SDG Fund Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period; and
- A final financial report, after the completion of the activities financed by the Joint SDG Fund and including the final year of the activities, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closing of the project activities.

In addition, regular updates on financial delivery might need to be provided, per request of the Fund Secretariat.

[7] This will be the basis for release of funding for the second year of implementation.

After competition of a joint programmes, a final, *independent and gender-responsive*[8] *evaluation* will be organized by the Resident Coordinator. The cost needs to be budgeted, and in case there are no remaining funds at the end of the joint programme, it will be the responsibility of PUNOs to pay for the final, independent evaluation from their own resources.

For the Malawi Joint Programme, the final evaluation will be commissioned by WFP and managed by WFP, together with the PUNOs, and key inputs from all. The evaluation will be budgeted for at the start of the programme, and the amount to be budgeted will be informed by the three agencies past experiences in commissioning similar evaluations. An estimated 75,000 USD (not including 7% ISC) has been allocated to WFP for this work in the budget.

Paragraph on Joint evaluation of JPs

The joint programme will be subjected to a joint final independent evaluation. It will be managed jointly by PUNOs as per established process for independent evaluations, including the use of a joint evaluation steering group and dedicated evaluation managers not involved in the implementation of the joint programme. The evaluations will follow the United Nations Evaluation Group's (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System, using the guidance on Joint Evaluation and relevant UNDG guidance on evaluations. The management and implementation of the joint evaluation will have due regard to the evaluation policies of PUNOs to ensure the requirements of those policies are met and the evaluation is conducted with use of appropriate guidance from PUNOs on joint evaluation. The evaluation process will be participative and will involve all relevant programme's stakeholders and partners. Evaluation results will be disseminated amongst government, development partners, civil society, and other stakeholders. A joint management response will be produced upon completion of the evaluation process and made publicly available on the evaluation platforms or similar of PUNOs.

3.3 Accountability, financial management, and public disclosure

The Joint Programme will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent (AA) under which the funds will be channeled for the Joint Programme through the AA. Each Participating UN Organization receiving funds through the pass-through has signed a standard Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

Each Participating UN Organization (PUNO) shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Programme in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. Each PUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs will be 7%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs.

Funding by the Joint SDG Fund will be provided on annual basis, upon successful performance of the joint programme.

[8] How to manage a gender responsive evaluation, Evaluation handbook, UN Women, 2015

Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

Each PUNO will take appropriate measures to publicize the Joint SDG Fund and give due credit to the other PUNOs. All related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, provided to the press or Fund beneficiaries, will acknowledge the role of the host Government, donors, PUNOs, the Administrative Agent, and any other relevant entities. In particular, the Administrative Agent will include and ensure due recognition of the role of each Participating Organization and partners in all external communications related to the Joint SDG Fund.

3.4 Legal context

The JP directly contributes to the new Malawi UNDAF (2019-2023), particularly under outcome 7: "Households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods".

UNDAF outcome 7 aims at a human rights and people-centred approach to increase food and nutrition security, reduce developmental inequalities, promote equitable access to, and benefits derived from healthy ecosystems, and scale up support for resilient households and livelihoods and WASH activities. The UN will adapt social protection systems to promote "shock-sensitivity" and achieve lasting reduction in multi-dimensional poverty and deprivation. Related to the JP, it proposes to reduce household exposure and vulnerability to risk, including through and integrated package of risk-management tools and services and watershed management programmes; Develop flexible and scalable response systems to effectively address transitory increases in household livelihood needs; Operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus by improving linkages with disaster risk reduction and early recovery, improving shared metrics on household vulnerability and resilience, strengthening transparency, efficiency and equity of targeting systems, enhancing accountability to rights holders, and investing in government capacity to deliver interventions in partnership with all development actors.

Still under Outcome 7, the JP contributes specifically to interventions 2 (Disaster, risk management and early recovery from shocks) and 3 (The Malawi National Social Support Programme). Regarding the disaster and risk management, the UN will work to strengthen disaster risk reduction management, including prevention, preparedness, and early response and recovery, with a focus at the community level. The activities for the MNSSP II "focus on coordinated UN support to implementing social protection programmes and strengthening their systems for improved delivery, particularly for vulnerable communities and households as part of the MNSSP, in conjunction with national and local Government partners. This will be closely linked to intervention area 2, to support the operationalization of "shock-sensitive" social protection".

All PUNOs guide their work in Malawi through the UNDAF (2019-2023). The UNDAF is the only document guiding cooperation between the Government and UNICEF and WFP.

The ILO is the only PUNO that holds a separate agreement with Government to guide its cooperation activities, the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). This is due to the

tripartite nature of the ILO, which has Workers and Employers representative organizations as its constituents beyond the Government. Currently, the Malawi DWCP 2011-2016 is still in force, while the next phase DWCP is being developed. The current DWCP dedicates its Pillar 3 to Social Protection, with a focus in contributory and employment-related programmes. The draft of the 2019-2022 DWCP expands the scope of the focus of the ILO, by observing not only contributory schemes, but non-contributory measures too with priority to "Enhancing and Extending the Coverage and Quality of Social Protection".

Agency name: ILO
Agreement title: Malawi Decent Work Country Programme 2011-2016
Agreement date: June, 2011.

D. ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of related initiatives

Name of initiative/project	**Key expected results**	**Links to the joint programme**	**Lead organization**	**Other partners**	**Budget and funding source**	**Contract person** (name and email)
PROSPER	Resilience Building SRSP Prototype Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection National Strategy	Leverage for SRSP in Balaka District with a Focus on Horizontal Expansion	WFP	UNICEF. UNDP, FAO	USD 86,000,000 DFID	Sarah Kohnstamm sarah.kohnstamm@wfp.org
Learning Journey for Coordination & Leadership of Social Protection	Coordination Structures for Social Protection	Provides a Platform for Coordination and Learning	UNICEF	ILO	USD 150,000 (Irish Aid, ILO, GIZ)	Brian Kiswii bkiswii@unicef.org
Malawi Social Support for Resilient Livelihoods Project	Social Protection System strengthening including SRSP and Payments mechanism	Includes Social Cash Transfer, Public Works, Epayment, Scalable Social Protection Financing	World Bank	GoM	USD 187M (World Bank)	Chipo Msowoya cmsowoya@worldbank.org
FARMES Programme	Graduation from Extreme Poverty	Broader LNOB through Social Accountability and Individual Agency	IFAD	GoM	USD 52M	Dixon Ngwende dngwende@farmse.org
Graduation Programme	Evidence of Poverty Escape through Graduation Programming.	Leverage on Emerging Lessons on LNOB, SRSP	Irish Aid	Concern Worldwide	USD 20M	Yousaf Jogezai <yousaf.jogezai@concern.net>

	Evidence on LNOB in Malawi.					
SoSURE	Resilience Building. System Strengthening. Social Protection Coordination.	Leverage on SRSP Experiences from Previous Responses.	European Union	NGO Consortium, GIZ and Ministry of Finance	Euro 50M	REGO Carlota (EEAS-LILONGWE) <Carlota.Rego@eeas.europa.eu>
Operationalizing linkages between social protection and humanitarian action	Capacity of the SCTP to scale up vertically	Leverage for SRSP in Balaka District with a Focus on Vertical Expansion	UNICEF	ILO, WFP	Irish Aid USD 420,000.00	Maren Platzmann mplatzmann@unicef.org
TRANSFORM	Social Protection Capacity Building including SRSP	Aligns to the SRSP TRANSFORM Module	ILO	UNICEF, WFP, GIZ	USD 250,000 (Irish Aid, GIZ, UNICEF)	Andre Bongestabs bongestabsa@ilo.org
Social Accountability	Community Monitoring Tool for Social Protection Developed.	Align with the Individual Agency Strengthening of Beneficiaries and Testing Social Accountability Tools. Including GRM.	ILO	UNICEF, GIZ	USD 80,000 (ILO/Irish Aid)	Andre Bongestabs bongestabsa@ilo.org
Systems Strengthening for SCTP Implementation	District and Central Capacities for Effective Implementation. MIS Adaptation.	Align to the SRSP Prototype and Social Protection Financing Architecture.	UNICEF	GoM	Irish Aid Euro 400,000	Sophie Shawa sshawa@unicef.org

	ePayment Systems.					
Support to the Implementation of MNSSP II.	Costing of Implementation Plan. M&E Framework. Broader Social Protection Financing.	Aligns to SRSP, Financing and Draft law.	ILO. UNICEF.WFP	CSOs/UN Agencies/Academia/Donors/Private Sector	USD 200,000	Various
Support for the Creation of Social Pension Scheme for Elderly.	Social Pension Scheme Established	Draft Law. Financing	ILO	CSOs, Helpage International	USD 40, 000	Andre Bongestabs bongestabsa@ilo.org

Annex 2. Overall Results Framework

2.1. Targets for Joint SDG Fund Results Framework

Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Indicators	**Targets**	
	2020[9]	2021
1.1: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope[10]	0	2
1.2: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale[11]	0	0

[9]

[10]Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

[11]Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

Joint SDG Fund Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021
3.1: # of innovative solutions that were tested[12] (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	0	3
3.2: # of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	0	3
3.3: # and share of countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened	0	1

Joint SDG Fund Operational Performance Indicators

- Level of coherence of UN in implementing programme country[13]
- Reduced transaction costs for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other joint programmes in the country in question

- Annual % of financial delivery
- Joint programme operationally closed within original end date
- Joint programme financially closed 18 months after their operational closure

- Joint programme facilitated engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector)
- Joint programme included addressing inequalities (QCPR) and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind"
- Joint programme featured gender results at the outcome level
- Joint programme undertook or draw upon relevant human rights analysis, and have developed or implemented a strategy to address human rights issues
- Joint programme planned for and can demonstrate positive results/effects for youth

[12] Each Joint programme in the Implementation phase will test at least 2 approaches.

[13] Annual survey will provide qualitative information towards this indicator.

- Joint programme considered the needs of persons with disabilities

- Joint programme made use of risk analysis in programme planning
- Joint programme conducted do-no-harm / due diligence and were designed to take into consideration opportunities in the areas of the environment and climate change

2.2. Joint programme Results framework

Notes:

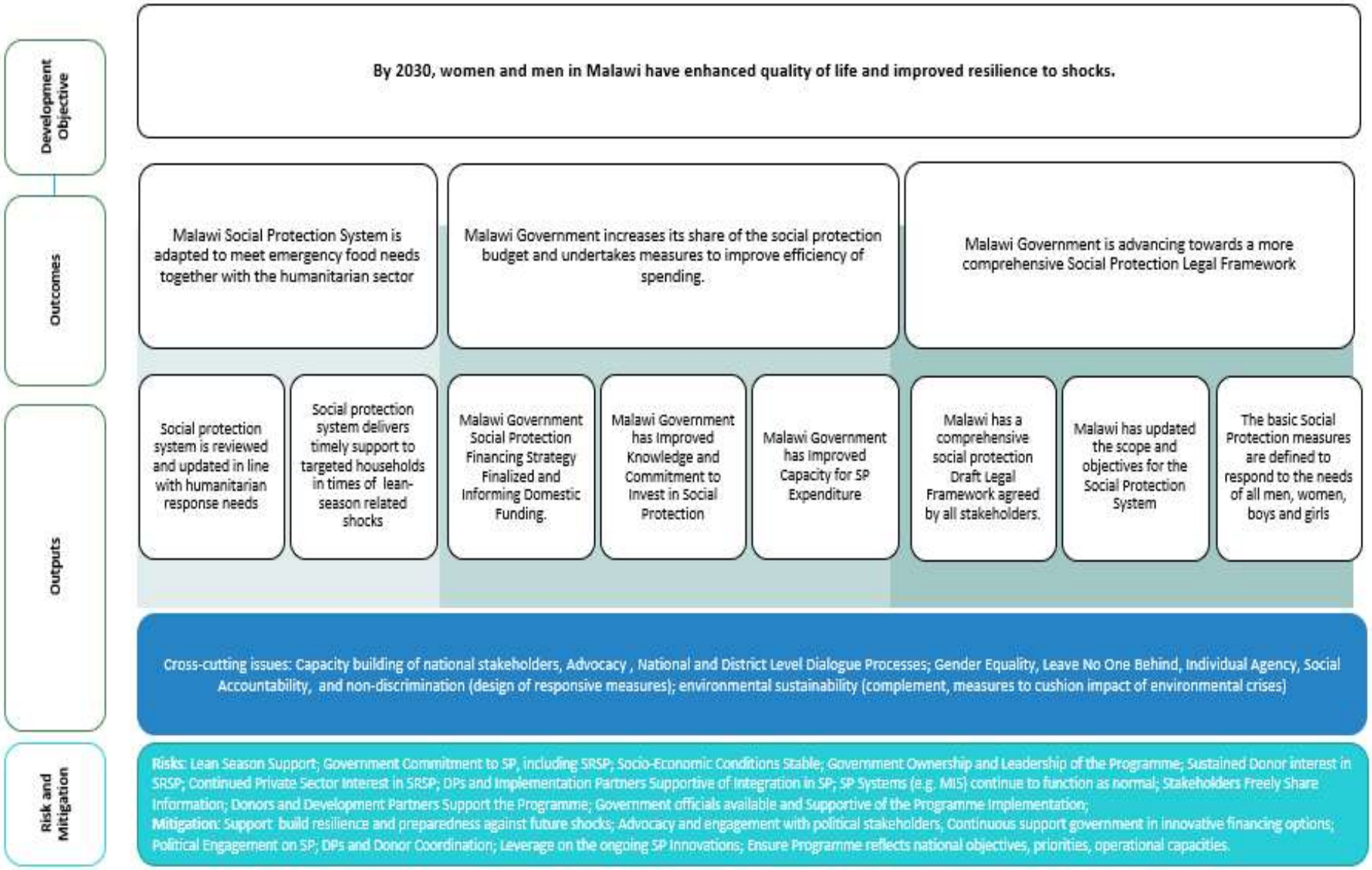
- The table denotes the partner responsible for data collection, based on their expertise. However, the activities listed for each of the three pillars are reliant on the joint programming amongst all the PUNOs.
- All baseline values are to be determined at the beginning of the project, however those denoted with an asterisk will be set prior to the start of the lean season response, 2020-2021
- Data for outcome 1 will come from dedicated food and nutrition surveys which will be led by WFP in close coordination with the Government of Malawi prior to the beginning of the lean season, and at the end.
- Livelihood coping strategy index (lCSI) assesses longer-term household coping and productive capacities. Households are classified according to the severity of strategies applied: the higher the phase, the more severe and longer-term the negative consequences. Each strategy is associated with a level of severity (none, stress, crisis or emergency).
- Indicator 3.1 is a standard SDG indicator. The ambition in Malawi is to reach 50%.

Result / Indicators	Baseline	2020 Target	2021 Target	Means of Verification	Responsible partner
Outcome 1: Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector					
1.1 Percentage of targeted households with borderline to acceptable food consumption (FCS), disaggregated by age, and sex,	TBD*	n/a	90%	Dedicated food and nutrition surveys	WFP
1.2 Percentage of targeted households not engaged in negative coping strategies (rCSI), disaggregated by age, and sex	TBD*	n/a	80%	Dedicated food and nutrition surveys	WFP

1.3 Percentage of targeted households not engaged in livelihoods-based coping strategies, disaggregated by age, and sex (Livelihood coping strategy index (lCSI).)	TBD*	n/a	80%	Dedicated food and nutrition surveys	WFP
1.4 Proportion of households identified to receive emergency food assistance (IPC-based) served via government social protection channels	TBD*	n/a	90%	Dedicated food and nutrition surveys	WFP
OUTPUT 1.1: Social protection system is reviewed and updated in line with humanitarian response needs					
1.1.1 Percentage completed of operational guidance informing how the social protection system can be used with the humanitarian sector to address emergency needs	30%	50%	100%	Operational Guidance	WFP
OUTPUT 1.2: The Malawi social protection system, together with the humanitarian sector, contributes to assisting an emergency caseload as identified by the Malawi government					
1.2.1 Proportion of target beneficiaries to receive emergency food assistance reached through government social protection channels disaggregated by age, and sex, as a % of planned	TBD*	n/a	95%	M&E reports, SCOPE, FSP reconciliation	WFP
1.2.2 Proportion of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries disaggregated by age, and sex, as % of planned,	TBD*	n/a	95%	M&E reports, SCOPE, FSP reconciliation	WFP
Outcome 2: Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending					
2.1: Percentage Share of Government Contribution to Social Protection Programmes.	7%	10%	10%	PER	UNICEF
Output 2.1: Malawi Government Social Protection Financing Strategy Finalized and Informing Domestic Funding.					
2.1.1 Social Protection Financing Strategy Finalized.	0	50%	100%	Strategy Document	UNICEF
Output 2.2: Malawi Government has Improved Knowledge and Commitment to Invest in Social Protection					
2.2.1: Proportion of total transfer value going to beneficiaries in relation to total programme costs	TBD	10%	8%	Evaluation/PER	UNICEF
Output 2.3: Malawi Government has Improved Capacity for Social Protection Expenditure					

2.3.1: Proportion of Social Protection Payments delivered through Harmonized Payment System by sex	7%	15%	50%	PER/Evaluation	UNICEF
Outcome 3: Malawi Social Protection System is more comprehensive and integrated.					
3.1: Percentage of population with legal coverage under the draft SP legal framework, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	TBD	0	50%	Evaluation	ILO
Output 3.1: Malawi has a comprehensive social protection Draft Legal Framework agreed by all stakeholders					
3.1.1: Social Protection Draft Legal Framework Developed.	0	30%	100%	Draft Law	ILO
Output 3.2: Malawi has updated the scope and objectives for the Social Protection System					
3.2.1: Social Protection scope and objectives revised and updated	0	100%	100%	Scope and Objectives Report	ILO
Output 3.3: The basic Social Protection measures are defined to respond to the needs of all men, women, boys and girls					
3.3.1: Basic Social Protection Instruments and Measures Defined	0	60%	100%	Basic Measures Document	ILO

Annex 3. Theory of Change graphic



Annex 4. Gender marker matrix

Indicator		Score	Findings and Explanation	Evidence or Means of Verification
N°	*Formulation*			
1.1	Context analysis integrate gender analysis	**2**	The JP includes gender analysis in all its key areas of work, Shock-responsive social protection, financing for social protection and legal framework. Moreover, the project strategy will ensure that delivery addresses women's specific needs throughout the different phases of their life-cycle and the accompanying roles as providers of (unpaid) care. The JP is guided by human-rights principles, including gender equality, and closely aligns to several of SDG 5 targets – in particular to the economic and social empowerment of women, fight against discrimination and strengthening legal rights of girls and women. The majority of key data used in the JP is disaggregated by gender (if applicable) and a gender-sensitive approach was used to set targets and indicators.	- JP Problem Statement - JP Programme Strategy - UNDAF Malawi 2019-2023 - Social Security Inquiry 2018 for Malawi.
1.2	Gender Equality mainstreamed in proposed outputs	**1**	The JP has 8 outputs under three project outcomes. Gender is visibly mainstreamed across some outputs, while all intend to promote gender equality in their delivery. Throughout the outputs, content has substantial reference to gender equality and the promotion of women empowerment.	Theory of Change

			Outputs 3.1 and 3.3 aim directly at promoting gender equality, in particular the promotion of equal rights to social protection for men and women. Other outputs are focused in system's strengthening elements which follow the principles of gender equality, but do not make visible reference to them.	
1.3	Programme output indicators measure changes on gender equality	**2**	Of the 9 Output indicators, 3 (33%) track progress towards gender equality results. Gender sensitive indicators are present in Outputs 1.2 (2 indicators) and 2.3 (1 indicator). None of the output indicators under Outcome 3 includes disaggregation by sex or gender specific definition, as they are all mostly policy development outputs – however, the outcome indicator for Outcome 3 is disaggregated by sex, age and disability, monitoring gender equality from the perspective of legal coverage of social protection programmes.	JP Results Framework Output Indicators: 1.2.1; 1.2.2; and 2.3.2
2.1	PUNO collaborate and engage with Government on gender equality and the empowerment of women	**2**	The JP team has collaborated with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development. The MoGCDSW holds the mandate over gender issues in Malawi, it is one of the key implementers in the social protection sector, being responsible for the Social Cash Transfer's Programme, and Pillar Lead on Consumption Support of the MNSSP II. The MoFEPD has the mandate over coordination of social protection policy, and is the policy holder of the MNSSP II.	MNSSP II Implementation Plan

2.2	PUNO collaborate and engages with women's/gender equality CSOs	**2**	The JP did not consult directly any NGO/CSO that is dedicated exclusively to gender equality and women's empowerment during the development of the PRODOC. However, the project responds directly to Strategic Action 5.8 of the MNSSP II 5.8. "Mainstream Gender across MNNSP II", developed together with various CSOs, including those dedicated to GEWE. The JP will be leveraged on ongoing work on the Spotlight with CSO engaged on gender equality actively engaged specifically on the social accountability and strengthening individual agency (giving women an economic voice). Moreover, the JP will ensure the participation of such institutions in the consultations and participatory components of the implementation – they will be central to ensure balanced discussions, especially in Gender Analysis and related activities.	MNSSP II Implementation Plan JP Progress Report

3.1	Program proposes a gender-responsive budget	**2**	The JP will dedicate a significant portion of its budget to activities that promote gender equality and women's empowerment. About 32% of total budget will be directly linked to gender. Other activities will contribute indirectly. Women are the majority (estimated that around 75% of them are female-headed) of the recipients of the proposed cash transfers (31.4% of the total budget) - representing a 23.6% of the total budget directed to promote women economic empowerment. Related to the cash transfers, activities geared towards grievance and redress mechanisms, social accountability and individual agency strengthening represent about 8.5% of total budget, are geared to ensure girls and women's right to social protection are respected and empower them to hold service providers accountable to high standards of service quality.	JP Budget
Total scoring		**1.8**		

Annex 5. Communication plan

1) Overall narrative of the joint programme

Short description: By 2022, the JP will ensure that the Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector to reduce the vulnerability of those left behind. It includes an iterative design of new shock-responsive social protection model with the testing in a real-life crisis, with the immediate impact on 5,000

households that are most vulnerable to shocks. The JP will also support the development of a financing ecosystem and national financing infrastructure toward increased domestic resource mobilization, and seeks the adoption of new legal framework to ensure the institutional and financial capacity for sustaining the results. The JP directly support the key social protection framework – the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II), and thus has Government's commitments, whilst ensuring that key donors and partners (e.g. the World Bank) will be engaged.

Pitch: The joint programme on social protection combines the expertise of UN organizations to enhance the capacity of the Government of Malawi to strengthen and leverage its social protection systems to protect its most vulnerable populations, including in times of shock, leaving no one behind. The emphasis of the programme centers on building an enabling environment and sustainable structures – particularly streamlining implementation, and strengthening financial and legal frameworks - for the Government of Malawi to realize the objectives set out in the MNSSP II.

To achieve this goal, the communications strategy will advocate for unity and collaboration among the various stakeholders in the social protection landscape while equally informing beneficiaries of the national social protection systems, thus building public consensus that can support government commitment for social protection. The primary narrative of the programme will focus on the importance of government-owned, coherent, and sustainable social protection systems in Malawi in ensuring that vulnerable people are protected and no one is left behind.

This narrative is in line with Objective 1 of the UNDAF Communications Strategy (2019-2023) to communicate the UN's work for the development and people of Malawi, including supporting the Government to deliver the SDGs, leaving no one behind – and will help to achieve Outcome 1, which states that rights holders in Malawi have access to more accountable and effective institutions at the central and decentralised levels.

2) Strategic approach to key audiences

With a focus on capacity building and strengthening national social protection systems, the key audiences the programme will communicate to are the key stakeholders that play a fundamental role in the design and implementation of Malawi's social protection programme,

as well as those receiving social protection in order to hold these stakeholders accountable. This includes:

- **Government and Parliamentarians** – As the targeted recipient of capacity strengthening in this joint program, as well as the key actors in realizing the legal framework, the government and parliamentarians are key target audiences for communications. Consistent communication and knowledge-sharing between the PUNOs, relevant ministries, and Members of Parliament is paramount, especially considering the concurrent prototyping, financial, and legal components. The programme will ensure that government officials and parliamentarians receive consistent messaging across relevant workstreams through regular communications outlined in the activities section.

- **Donor Community and Social Protection Practitioners** – Presently, the social protection system within Malawi is heavily donor-dependent and reliant on delivery by INGOs and UN organizations. The sustainability of the impact of this joint programme relies on the buy-in, support, and contribution of the donor community and their development partners in Malawi. The PUNOs will employ advocacy tools to the donor community and social protection practitioners to build commitment to support harmonized, government-led social protection systems.

- **Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Recipients –** Vulnerable populations that are consistently impacted by seasonal food insecurity will be reached through during the prototyping of the SRSP model. This provides a prime opportunity to communicate the goals of the programme and create understanding among vulnerable populations about the systems available to them. The programme will aim to communicate to communities receiving social protection through appropriate media sources to build awareness and knowledge about social protection systems in Malawi.

3) Objectives of strategic communication plan

The communications plan aims to achieve the following objectives, measured with the following indicators:

- Increase awareness and understanding of the sources and benefits of social protection among stakeholders and beneficiaries, including those identified in Item 14
    - # of programmes produced and syndicated through community radio, TV
    - # of articles featured in newspapers

- # of attendees to learning events
- # e-newsletters distributed (and metrics)

- Build buy-in for the government-led system of social protection among donor community and social protection practitioners
  - # of signatures on commitment cards
  - # of attendees to learning events

- Broadcast the impact of the Shock-Responsive Social Protection Prototype during and after the lean season
  - # of programmes produced and syndicated through community radio, TV
  - # of articles featured in newspapers
  - Video dissemination, including usage in events, views online, and reactions on social media
  - Social media metrics, such as impressions, retweets, and likes, on SRSP posts

4) Main activities

To reach the different key audiences effectively, the programme will apply a variety of communications activities targeted to each audience:

- **Learning Events** – Information sessions occurring in the morning and evening in an informal setting are proven efficient techniques in engaging parliamentarians, government officials, and institutional stakeholders in Malawi. The joint programme will host these sessions to introduce the programme and report on progress to key decision-makers and stakeholders. In addition to presentations and Q&As held during the sessions, the meetings will be an opportunity for direct and targeted advocacy, media coverage and social media visibility, and for participants to sign a commitment card to demonstrate their buy-in to advancing social protection and accelerating achievement of the SDGs.
  - **Budget**: $6,000 for 4 events over the course of the programme (2 events targeting donors and government; 2 events targeting parliamentarians)
  - **Responsible Organization**: WFP and UNICEF (one each per year)
  - **Timeline**: 2 Kick-Off Meetings within the first quarter of the programme; 2 Wrap-Up Meetings at the conclusion of the event

- **Quarterly E-Newsletters –** With concurrent components in the joint programme and various stakeholders working on social protection in parallel, it is vital to keep all

relevant government ministries and international organizations up-to-date with programme developments along the different workstreams. By distributing a quarterly news blast through a short and interactive E-newsletter, the programmes can broadcast the progress made to targeted audiences.
    - **Budget:** 0 (covered through internal resources)
    - **Responsible Organization:** UNICEF
    - **Timeline**: 8 e-newsletters, one each quarter from the start of the programme

- **Radio and TV Programming –** The majority of Malawians, including the vulnerable populations listed in Item 14, listen to the radio. To increase awareness of the impact the joint programme and social protection generally, the programme will sponsor existing radio and TV programming on major broadcasters and community radio stations to discuss themes around social protection while taking advantage of their popularity to reach a wider audience. Community radio programming will allow better outreach to vulnerable populations in rural areas and will be utilized in tandem with the SRSP Prototyping.
    - **Budget:** $15,000
    - **Responsible Organization:** WFP
    - **Timeline:** Biannual radio and TV programmes on commercial stations, monthly radio programmes on community radio during SRSP Prototyping (November – March)

- **Media Field Visits –** During the SRSP Prototype roll-out, the joint programme will sponsor media field visits to raise awareness and amplify coverage of the programme's benefits and impacts to government officials, social protection practitioners, and the general public.
    - **Budget:** $3,000
    - **Responsible Organization:** WFP
    - **Timeline**: Annually during SRSP Prototyping

- **Members of Parliament Field Visits –** During the development phase of the Legal Framework, the joint programme will sponsor field visits with representatives of key Parliament Committees to raise awareness and highlight the need to extend coverage and adequacy of social protection programmes, through a SP Law.
    - **Budget:** $4,000
    - **Responsible Organization:** ILO
    - **Timeline**: Annually, during Legal Framework development

- **Press Releases –** The programme will issue press releases during key milestones of the programme, such as during SRSP prototyping and the completion of the draft law, to mark achievements in the programme to key stakeholders and the public.
    - **Budget:** 0
    - **Responsible Organization**: WFP and UNICEF
    - **Timeline:** At least two throughout programme cycle based on programme achievements

- **Media Training – ** The programme will hold training workshops for journalists and members of media houses to increase their capacity to critically assess Malawi's social protection, and encourage media stakeholders to regard themselves as champions for change and advocates for improvements to Malawi's social protection system, including SRSP.
    - **Budget:** $ 2,000
    - **Responsible Organization**: ILO
    - **Timeline:** Annually, one focused in SRSP and a second on the Financial and Legal Frameworks

- **Visibility Items –** To add an element of visual communication during the SRSP Prototype roll out and events, the programme will produce visibility items that can be displayed and distributed to beneficiaries, government officials, and stakeholders. This can include roll-up and tear drop banners, social media post boosting, backdrop banners, leaflets, folders and targeted briefs for different stakeholders (e.g. government briefs, beneficiary info sheets).
    - **Budget:** $14,700
    - **Responsible Organization and Focal Point:** UNICEF
    - **Timeline**: Within the first 6 months of programme launch

- **Video** – The SRSP prototyping presents an opportunity to collect visual assets that can tell the story of what leaving no one behind looks like on the ground. A videography team will be deployed during and after the SRSP prototyping to document the impact that social protection can have on vulnerable households during times of disaster. Video content can then be posted online, edited for social media, and produced
    - **Budget**: $8,000 for 2 videos
    - **Responsible Organization and Focal Point:** UNICEF
    - **Timeline**: One video during SRSP prototyping, one video a year after.

As the lead organization, WFP will be responsible for the overall monitoring and reporting on the communications plan. The focal point for the WFP will be Barbara Fang, Partnerships Officer, and the focal point for UNICEF will be Lulutani Tembo

Annex 6. Learning and Sharing Plan

1) Strategic approach to learning and sharing

The approach to learning and sharing during and from this JP will be people-centred and utility-driven, with technology used as a tool to facilitate learning and exchanges.
The scope of learning and sharing will include 6 key audiences:

1. JP key technical Focal points – to ensure all Govt and UN staff are informed of progress and lessons learned
2. UN (UNCT; UNDAF; technical staff) – to ensure best practices are adopted at the technical and strategic levels
3. DPs – to ensure best practices inform donor business cases
4. National stakeholders (Govt at national and district levels; Parliamentarians; CSOs; Private Sector) – to ensure best practices are institutionalised
5. Media – to increase broader public awareness of best practices
6. Regional / Global social protection practioners – to cross-pollinate best practices across different contexts
7. Communities – to ensure that communities are informed of their entitlements and understand the channels to hold government and service providers accountable

Acknowledging that the PUNOs use different approaches to learning and knowledge management, the approach will be to leverage existing good practices and approaches within and between the participating agencies (both UN and Government). To: a) identify and capture lessons, learning insights, new practices, etc.; b) consolidate and systematize them; c) share and facilitate learning; and d) inform programme and policy, a 4x4 approach to learning will be followed.

The 4x4 approach to learning will be to create and capitalise knowledge to respond to increasing challenges and objectives as well as the expectations of the PUNOs. This will be done systematically initially through a 4-step process, done at the beginning of the joint programme as part of the detailed development of the workplan for the 2-year programme:

1. **Embark on critical research ventures.** The learning and sharing plan will focus on three critical areas: i) SRSP; ii) financing for social protection; and iii) legal framework for social protection.

2. **Systematise the evidence produced.** There has been a lot of evidence generation both nationally and globally on the 3 critical areas of learning. These will be reviewed again to ensure that learning builds on lessons learned and drives the learning agenda forward.

3. **Respond to immediate and practical needs strategically.** The specific learning needs for the 5 audience groups will be identified to ensure that learning meets the needs of the programme and can drive forward better programming that reaches the furthest behind.

4. **Emerging evidence yields new opportunities for dissemination, research, and action.** Discussion will take place with key partners to ensure that recent evidence, including from evaluations both nationally and regionally, are factored into the learning plan. In addition, recent evaluations from other joint programmes in Malawi (e.g. Joint Programme on Girls Education) will be reviewed for lessons learned to maximise the success of the joint programme on social protection.

Once this has been done, a more detailed learning plan will be developed to support the activities of the joint programmes, that is both explicitly and purposely linked to and builds the knowledge base of critical stakeholders with the end goal to informing better programming and policy. This detailed plan will include 4 steps:

1. **Mainstream the learning plan into externally validated platforms.** As stated in section 2, there already exists as number of mechanisms and structures that reflect the convening power of both the Government and its relationship with the UN in Malawi. These includes working groups chaired or co-chaired by the Government and UN agencies. The learning strategy is to utilise these mechanisms to enhance UN's contribution to knowledge creation, storage and sharing in relation to social protection in Malawi, in as far as this will enhance progress towards achievement of the national SDG priorities. Noting UN as a thought leader, participating agencies will also use relevant regional social protection forums and networks to advance global best practices.

2. **Absorb, take stock, and compare technically and pedagogically.** Acknowledging that real learning happens when individual staff are incentivised and encouraged to share knowledge and learn, the approach will involve deliverable efforts to create space for staff involved at different levels in the implementation of this JP to interact both virtually and in person, and staff efforts to share knowledge and break silos will be acknowledge and encouraged. Within the JP implementation work plans, templates

and tools for reporting and sharing information will be developed; and used in combination with other methods and tools, including:

3. **Build and update the learning needs.** As the joint programme continues, critical lessons learned will be discussed to identify gaps in learning needs to inform updates to the learning and sharing plan.

4. **Institutionalise the learning into policy, programme design.** Lessons learned will feed into discussions on the overall workplan ensure adaptive programming that meets the needs of the vulnerable in an informed, evidence-based manner. Critical to this will be aligning Knowledge Management activities to the work plan – deliverables and milestones. Knowledge sharing activities are designed to take place through-out the program to build up a collection of Lessons and Stories for the close out report.

During the inception period, in combination with the detailed workplan, the "learning and sharing plan" will be fleshed out, with a summary that shows what will be shared, from/by whom, when, how and for what purpose. See below an initial learning and sharing plan, to be expanded during a consultative process with a diverse group of stakeholders to maximise its effect.

Learning and sharing opportunities will be built into the coordination and implementation of the Joint Programme, including having as a standing agenda in coordination meetings space and time to share "emerging lessons". These could be a brief update on what will already have been shared based on the learning and sharing, or other tacit knowledge that involved staff will have gather in the course of their engagement with the programme. Specific learning events, including after action reviews will be used after completion of specific aspects of the implementation of the programme.

There are a number of actors working on related activities/within the communities that will be targeted by first component of the joint programme, with specific activities also being done on individual agency strengthening and social accountability in order to reinforce key messages. The complaints and feedback mechanisms provide space for a two-way dialogue with communities as well.

Parallel to the implementation of this programme, the ILO and UNICEF are supporting an 18-month learning journey with key government officials from the social protection sector to build capacity and develop tools to improve coordination and leadership in the sector. The work under the JP, as well as other JPs, will also be integrated into this learning journey

In addition to immediate learning and sharing related to the programmatic components of the JP, the learning and sharing plan will also ensure that the knowledge generated during the two years of in-country work financed by the SDG Fund does not only meet practical and immediate needs but also strategic long-term capacity-development of Government and the UN system. Needs and capacity development, that by ensuring the global dissemination of lessons learned and good practices on social protection beyond the countries of focus, will inform a wider global community of organizations, policy-makers and practitioners in this field.

2) Objectives of learning and sharing

The overarching objective of the learning and sharing plan is to enhance knowledge creation, storage and transfer, as an integral part of the implementation of the JP to enhance continuous learning and improvement towards achievement of the results;
The specific objectives for each target group are:

1. JP key technical Focal points – to ensure all Govt and UN staff are informed of progress and lessons learned
2. UN (UNCT; UNDAF; technical staff) – to ensure best practices are adopted at the technical and strategic levels
3. DPs – to ensure best practices inform donor business cases
4. National stakeholders (Govt at national and district levels; Parliamentarians; CSOs; Private Sector) – to ensure best practices are institutionalised
5. Media – to increase broader public awareness of best practices
6. Regional / Global social protection practioners – to cross-pollinate best practices across different contexts
7. Communities – to ensure that communities are informed of their entitlements and understand the channels to hold government and service providers accountable

For each of the elements in the summary learning and sharing plan in section 1, progress will measured through specific indicators and indicated in the table below.

3) Main activities

Overall monitoring and reporting on the learning and sharing plan will be held by WFP to ensure cohesion of the learning and sharing in line with the roll-out of programmatic elements.

Method	**Frequency/ Timeline**	**To whom**- Target group or individuals / position	**What level** Organizational e.g. strategic, operational, field etc.)	**From whom** [individuals or organization entities]	**How (in what way)** means of sharing (e.g. Virtual meeting, face-to-face interaction, written report, email etc.)	**Why**-Purpose (e.g. solicit feedback/ inputs; share lessons)	**Indicator for measuring progress**	**Data source**
JP coordination forum with minutes of meetings with agreed actions	Each month	JP staff (Govt and UN)	Technical	PUNO JPs*	Email using established mailing list	Keep people informed, and facilitate actions to address issues identified in meetings	#of meetings for which the minutes have clear actions and are readily accessible to all those involved with the programme	PUNO minutes
Quarterly E-newsletters and Press releases	Quarterly	National stakeholders, DPs	Technical and Strategic	UNICEF and WFP Comms FP	Email using established mailing list	Keep key stakeholders informed	# e-newsletters and press releases	Newsletters and press releases
Online platform for sharing and storing information for the JP	Ongoing	JP staff (Govt and UN)	Technical	PUNO JPs	TEAMS space	Improved knowledge management	Functional knowledge management systems being used	PUNO

Field Visits	Annually	Media / Parliament	Strategic	WFP Coms Team/ ILO Coms Team	Visit to the field	Raise awareness of the JP	# field visits	PUNO
MNSSP coordination forum with minutes of meetings with agreed actions	Quarterly	National stakeholders	Both Strategic and technical	Chief Secretary (MNSSSC) EPD (MNSSTC)	Email using established mailing list	Keep people informed, and facilitate actions to address issues identified in meetings	#of meetings for which the minutes have clear actions and are readily accessible to all those involved with the programme	Govt minutes
Presentation to DP coordination forum	Quarterly	DPs	Technical	PUNO JPs	Presentations/ updates	Keep people informed, to inform investments	#of presentations/ updates to DP coordination forum	DP coordination minutes
Presentation to UNCT	Once a year	UN	Strategic	PUNO JPs	Presentation	Keep strategic stakeholders informed to ensure best practices are informing UN thinking	#of presentations to UNCT	UNCT minutes

Update national workplans	Quarterly	National Stakeholders	Technical	UN	Attend pillar meetings/ MNSSTC	To ensure JP workplan is aligned and feeds into national workplans	National workplan includes inputs from JP	MNSSP implementation plan
Radio and TV programming	Biannual	Media, general population		WFP Coms	Radio and TV programming	To increase awareness		PUNO
Social Accountability	Quarterly	Communities	Technical	ILO SP team	Information sessions	Raise awareness of SP entitlements, GRMs and community monitoring tools	#of learning events	PUNO minutes of meetings
Evidence generation pieces	Twice a year	National Stakeholders and DPs	Technical	UN and Govt	Consultancies	Develop evidence to inform better programming and policy	# reports	Reports
Technical learning events/ brown paper bag	Twice a year	National Stakeholders and DPs	Technical	UN and Govt	½ day meeting	Raise awareness of best practices to inform policy, programming, and investments; reach consensus	#of learning events for which the minutes have clear actions and are readily accessible to all those involved with	PUNO minutes of meetings

						with key stakeholders	the programme	
Strategic learning events	Twice a year	National Stakeholders and DPs	Strategic	UN and Govt	Information sessions	Raise awareness of JP	#of learning events	PUNO minutes of meetings
After Action Review	After the 2020-21 lean season	National stakeholders/ DPs	Technical	UN and Govt	Learning event	Raise awareness of best practices to inform policy, programming, and investments; reach consensus with key stakeholders	#of meetings for which the minutes have clear actions and are readily accessible to all those involved with the programme	AAR report
Visibility Items (incl. video)	Ongoing	All	Strategic and technical	UNICEF Coms team	Video, banners, social media etc.	To raise awareness		PUNO
Regional conferences	Once a year	Regional/ Global social protection practioners	Technical	UN and Govt	Attend a regional conference, presenting Malawi experiences	To cross-pollinate emerging lessons learned	# of regional events where Malawi presents best practices from JP	Documents of papers
Regional / Global platforms (e.g. socialprotection.org; Southern Africa Social Protection	Once in 2 years	Regional/ Global social protection practioners	Technical	UN and Govt	Feed into webinars/ Host a webinar	To cross-pollinate emerging lessons learned	# of webinars	Online

Experts Network (SASPEN) and The Transfer Project)								

*where listed PUNO JPs, the main focal point will be Diana King (WFP), with other focal points as alternatives/ supporting - Andre Bongestabs (ILO), Brian Kiswii (UNICEF), and Chimwemwe Msowoya (RCO)

Resources for all are mainstreamed throughout the programme, with specific budget lines (e.g. 25,000 USD for regional sharing) specifically on learning and sharing.

Annex 7. Budget and Work Plan

7.1 Budget per UNSDG categories

The JP total budget of USD 1,999,937.00 is distributed between the 3 PUNOS: i) WFP USD 1,240,237 (62%); ii) UNICEF USD 378,780 (18.9%); and iii) ILO USD 380,920 (19%).

The majority of the budget is concentrated in the first year of the project (USD 399,783 – 69.9%). This is because the SRSP prototype will be developed and applied in the lean season, which starts around November, every year.

The distribution of the budget on the UNDG Categories is shown in the table below.

IUNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	WFP	UNICEF	ILO	
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	**Joint SDG Fund (USD)**
1. Staff and other personnel	251,269	174,300	141,000	566,569
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	-	15,700	14,000	29,700
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	-	-		
4. Contractual services	156,106	164,000	115,000	435,106

5.Travel	25,338		14,500	39,838
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	571,049		53,500	624,549
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	155,338		18,000	173,338
Total Direct Costs	**1,159,100**	**354,000**	**356,000**	**1,869,100**
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	*81,137*	*24,780*	*24,920*	*130,837*
TOTAL Costs	**1,240,237**	**378,780**	**380,920**	**1,999,937**
1st year	**1,040,147**	**181,579**	**178,057**	**1,399,783**
2nd year	**200,090**	**197,201**	**202,863**	**600,154**

The largest concentration of resources is on the "Transfers and Grants to Counterparts" category (USD 624,549 - 31.2%), which are being used to the test the prototype outlined in this proposal.

Staff costs make up 28.3% of the total budget (USD 566,569). A project coordinator will be recruited to ensure the overall management of the JP. The Coordinator will sit on the lead agency – WFP. The PUNOs have specialized teams established in Malawi, which will implement the programme. The presence of in-country experts in the PUNOs saves time and resources that would otherwise had to be applied to additional recruitment processes or hiring consultants. Contractual services represent USD 435,106- 21.7% of the total budget. This category includes expenses on the delivery of the emergency cash assistance, specialized consultancy services, and conference services for the consultative and advocacy meetings of the project.

The other budget categories represent smaller shares of the total project cost. Supplies, Commodities, Materials sum USD 29,700 (1.5%) and entail costs with communication materials, and supplies required for activities. The Travel of the JP team comprises USD 39,838 (2%), which includes missions to delivery points, and monitoring and evaluation missions. General Operating and other Direct Costs (USD 173,338 – 8.6%) cover basic operational expenses of the PUNOs such as office costs. Indirect Support Costs sum to USD 130,837.00 (6.5% of total). No investment will be required for Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture.

The PUNOs will also leverage a total of USD 1,140,827.00 in additional resources from own sources and synergies with complementary ongoing initiatives.

7.2 Budget per SDG targets

All activities in the JP contribute directly or indirectly to SDG Target 1.3. The components linked to Outcome 1 seek to strengthen the social protection system's delivery capacity so it can be leveraged to better deliver emergency assistance. Improvements towards SRSP contribute to social protection as a whole. The components linked to Outcomes 2 and 3 will further contribute to Target 1.3 by enhancing two key elements of a comprehensive and appropriate social protection system – adequate funding to ensure timely and regular delivery of protection measures; and a robust legal framework to nationally define the social protection system and ensure all enjoy equal rights to social protection. Thus, it is considered that about 35% of total budget will contribute to achieve target 1.3.

The components related to Outcome 1 will further contribute to SDG target 2.1, by providing direct assistance to vulnerable households during times of shock. The emergency assistance is expected to directly enhance food security of these households, and reduce harmful coping mechanisms against shocks – in turn improving resilience. As transfers represent a large share of the JP's budget, it is considered that about 25% of total budget will contribute to achieve target 2.1.

The project's components relates to Outcome 2 will contribute also to SDG targets 1.a and 17.1. The development of a financing strategy, improving spending efficiency and raising awareness of the importance of social protection will facilitate the mobilization of domestic and international resources for the sector. In particular, increases in domestic resources allocation for social protection will greatly contribute to ensure continued support by donors and development partners. It is considered that about 10% of total budget will contribute to achieve target 1.a, and the same 10% to target 17.1.

The outputs under Outcome 3 will contribute to the achievement of SDG Target 1.b, as they will focus in the strengthening of the policy and strategic frameworks for social protection. These activities will ensure that political and legal instruments are in place to push the expansion of the social protection system in the country, reducing poverty and LNOB. It is estimated that about 20% of total budget will contribute to achieve target 1.b.

A summary table of budget distribution towards SDG targets is presented below.

SDG TARGETS		%	USD
1.3	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	35%	699,978
1.a	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions	10%	199,994
1.b	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions	20%	399,987
2.1	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	25%	499,984
17.1	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	10%	199,994
TOTAL		**100%**	**1,999,937**

7.3 Work plan

The work plan to the JP has been developed within the precepts of the theory of change alongside outputs aligned to the three components (outcomes) with either of the three PUNO assuming a lead or participating role. Specific activities are strategically placed in either one or spread across several quarters in the two-year project period. For all outputs the JP assigns a related cost to either a cluster of activities or a single action with the matching PUNO contribution included. A key assumption to this workplan is that at least a shock of a magnitude that requires humanitarian action delivered through the existing social protection system will occur within the two-year project period. Further, the workplan has in certain

cases identified prerequisite actions (or activities) that are foundational to the other. For instance, activities under output 1.1 relate to the readiness of the existing social protection systems to respond thus out 1.2.

The JP further identifies related monitoring, reporting and communication costs at the outcome level. This have been elaborated further under annex2, 5 and 7. Based on this arrangement outcome level PUNO lead will be responsible for the monitoring and communication actions related to the specific outcome.

Outcome 1			Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector													
Output	**Annual target/s**		**List of activities**	**Time frame**								**PLANNED BUDGET**			**PUNO/s involved**	**Implementing partner/s involved**
	2020	**2021**		**Q 1**	**Q 2**	**Q 3**	**Q 4**	**Q 1**	**Q 2**	**Q 3**	**Q 4**	**Overall budget description**	**Joint SDG Fund (USD)**	**Total Cost (USD)**		
Output 1.1: Social protection system is reviewed and updated in line with humanitarian response needs	One TRANSFORM SPPR tranining Delivered; Prototype Social Accountability Tool deployed;	One TRANSFORM SPPR tranining Delivered; Prototype Social Accountability Tool reviewed;	Training Govt on Social Protection and Shock-responsive									Contractual, staff, transfers, travel	586,749	1,193,849	WFP, UNICEF, ILO	TBD
			Learning for Govt capacity strengthening													
			Operational systems preparedness (GRM, M&E, UBR, Bank accounts)													
			Development of Operational Guidance and Packstopping													
			Testing Accountability and Agency Strengthening													
Output 1.2: The Malawi social protection system, together with the humanitarian sector, contributes to assisting an emergency caseload as identified by the Malawi government	Disaster prone vulnerable households pre-identified, registered and linked to payment system	Existing social protection system effectively deployed to transfer cash to 5000 vulnerable households.	SRSP Prototype									Transfers, Contractual	607,100		WFP, UNICEF	TBD
Outcome 2			Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending													
Output 2.1: Malawi Government Social Protection Financing Strategy Finalized and Informing Domestic Funding.	Fiscal Space Analysis Produced; Budget Brief Produced;	Budget Brief Produced; Research Piece on Innovative Financing in Malawi;	Fiscal Space Analysis, Innovative Funding									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel,	97,500	172,500	UNICEF, ILO, WFP	TBD
Output 2.2: Malawi Government has Improved Knowledge and Commitment to Invest in Social Protection	One inclusive social protection training is delivered to top level government	Evidence Compendium Produced; Disseminated.	Social Protection Business Case Development									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel	45,000		UNICEF	
Output 2.3: Malawi Government has Improved Capacity for SP Expenditure	At least one SP Expenditure Workshop is	Proposals towards Efficient, Effective SP Expenditure	SP Expenditure Diagnostics and Bottle Neck Analysis									Staff, Supplies, Contractual	30,000		UNICEF	
Outcome 3			Malawi Social Protection System is more comprehensive and integrated													
Output 3.1: Malawi has updated the scope and objectives for the Social Protection System	Situation Analysis conducted; Effectiveness, and Needs and Gaps analysed; Gender Analysis of SP System Report; Concepts and Glossary of SP developed;	Report on Revised SP Objectives and Priorities Produced;	Landscape Analysis - mapping of existing instruments, coverage, adequacy, resources and									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	119,700	271,700	ILO, UNICEF	TBD
			Review of SP including setting the boundaries.													
			Review of inspirations/objectives and priorities for SP in Malawi													
Output 3.2: The basic Social Protection measures are defined to respond to the needs of all men, women, boys and girls	Internal and External Expertise/Resources on SP Identified. SP Landscape Analysis Completed.	Report on Policy Options Produced; Costing and Microsimulation of Policy Options Produced; Report on Reviewed SP Governance Structures;	Review of Policy Options and Measures									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	106,000		ILO	TBD
			Definition of governance structures of the SP Sector													
Output 3.3: Malawi has a comprehensive social protection Draft Legal Framework agreed by all stakeholders	Meetings with Key Stakeholders Conducted. Components to the Legal Framework	Draft Reviewed SP Legal Framework;	Drafting of Reveiwed the SP Legal Framework									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	46,000		ILO	TBD

7.4 Updated Workplan as of June 2020

Outcome 1			Malawi Social Protection System is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector													
Output	Annual target/s		List of activities	Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET			PUNO/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved
	2020	2021		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	Total Cost (USD)		
Output 1.1: Social protection system is reviewed and updated in line with humanitarian response needs	Knowledge for SRSP managed; Operational systems prepared;	Prototype Social Accountability Tool reviewed; LSR with social protection conducted; Operational guidance drafted	Support to CUCI (verificaiton, registration, communications etc.)									Contractual, staff, transfers, travel	586,749	1,193,849	WFP, UNICEF, ILO	TBD
			Learning for Govt capacity strengthening													
			Operational systems preparedness (GRM, M&E, UBR, Bank accounts)													
			Development of Operational Guidance and Backstopping													
			Testing Accountability and Agency Strengthening													
Output 1.2: The Malawi social protection system, together with the humanitarian sector, contributes to assisting an emergency caseload as identified by the Malawi government	Affected households targeted and enrolled	Targeted households have needs met through new prototype	SRSP Protype (for a HE)									Transfers, contractual, staff	607,100		WFP, UNICEF	TBD
Outcome 2			Malawi Government increases its share of the social protection budget and undertakes measures to improve efficiency of spending													
Output 2.1: Malawi Government Social Protection Financing Strategy Finalized and Informing Domestic Funding.	Fiscal Space Analysis Produced; Budget Brief Produced;	Budget Brief Produced; Research Piece on Innovative Financing in Malawi;	Fiscal Space Analysis, Innovative Funding									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	97,500	172,500	UNICEF, ILO, WFP	TBD
Output 2.2: Malawi Government has Improved Knowledge and Commitment to Invest in Social Protection	Evidence Compendium Produced;		Social Protection Business Case Development									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	45,000		UNICEF	
Output 2.3: Malawi Government has Improved Capacity for SP Expenditure			SP Expenditure Diagnostics and Bottle Neck Analysis									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	30,000		UNICEF	
Outcome 3			Malawi Social Protection System is more comprehensive and integrated													
Output 3.1: Malawi has updated the scope and objectives for the Social Protection System	Situation Analysis conducted; Effectiveness, and Needs and Gaps analysed; Gender Analysis of SP System Report; Concepts and Glossary of SP developed;	Report on Revised SP Objectives and Priorities Produced;	Landscape Analysis - mapping of existing instruments, coverage, adequacy, resources and									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	119,700	271,700	ILO, UNICEF	TBD
			Review of SP including setting the boundaries.													
			Review of inspirations/objectives and priorities for SP in Malawi													
Output 3.2: The basic Social Protection measures are defined to respond to the needs of all men, women, boys and girls		Report on Policy Options Produced; Costing and Microsimulation of Policy Options Produced; Report on Reviewed SP Governance Structures;	Review of Policy Options and Measures									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	106,000		ILO	TBD
			Definition of governance structures of the SP Sector													
Output 3.3: Malawi has a comprehensive social protection Draft Legal Framework agreed by all stakeholders		Draft Reviewed SP Legal Framework;	Drafting of Reveiwed the SP Legal Framework									Staff, Supplies, Contractual, travel, transfers	46,000		ILO	TBD
Cross cutting - communications, impact evaluation, knowledge learning and sharing, monitoring													361,888	361,888	WFP, UNICEF, ILO	

Annex 8. Risk Management Plan

There are three key elements that will influence the successful acceleration of the SDGs through this JP, with each element having a set of risks associated with it.

The first is the sustained capacity and interest of government to lead and implement the programme and build on its results after it is concluded. True ownership and leadership by the government, at all levels, is essential to ensure delivery of the activities of the programme

and ensure that the programme's results have lasting impacts in the operational, financial, and legal capacity of the social protection system. Moreover, broad political support, from within Government, from Parliament and from the donor and development partners community is also key for the realization of the programmes' objectives and even more for long term sustainability of its outcomes. The lack of interest or resistance from these stakeholders can delay, or even prevent the successful implementation of the programme.

To mitigate these risks, the JP was designed from robust consultations with all key government stakeholders and alignment with nationally defined priorities and policies (e.g. MNSSP II, MGD III). The programmes' implementation will follow close engagement with national and district-level government counterparts. Moreover, the programme will continue to actively engage with all major political parties to ensure that social protection will remain a key political priority throughout the political spectrum. These mitigation strategies will also contribute to reducing the effects of possible economic downturns or austerity measures that may compromise the national budget. Among activities specific to reduce or mitigate these risks are regular meetings with senior government officials to follow-up on the programme's progress and results; advocacy and capacity building activities for Members of Parliament and Political Parties; Close and regular engagement with local level leadership and stakeholders; and communication activities to raise the general awareness and support for social protection. The programme team will monitor closely the engagement and support from these stakeholders during these regular meetings.

The second influence element is the relation with the DPs involved in the social protection sector. This programme intends to set the cornerstones for the transition of a donor-driven social protection sector and international humanitarian structures towards nationally-owned systems. The results of the development of the legal framework may require changes in priorities and areas of investment, which might not fit with all donors' objects and programmes, risking reduced funding or active advocacy against some changes. Moreover, shifts in operations of social protection instruments may find resistance in DPs that are operating their own instruments to deliver their programmes.

To mitigate these risks, the programme will engage the donor and DP community in all stages of its implementation, ensuring that programme delivery is aligned with national priorities, which are broadly supported by DPs. Moreover, the JP will include regularly all relevant donors and DPs in the process and activities of the programme to ensure their inputs are received and thus minimizing the risk of resistance of insufficient support and collaboration to the programme. Regular meetings with the donor and DP community will be held, in particularly through the Social Protection DP Coordination Group.

The third are environmental and socio-economic factors. There is an unlikely scenario where the annual lean season does not occur. Nonetheless, the planned activities largely contribute to the improvement of the regular social protection as a means to contribute to better shock responses. Activities will be delivered even without an emergency, and its results will remain for future shocks. Moreover, in case no emergency arises, the programme will identify alternative interventions that build resilience and preparedness against future shocks.
An independent risk from these elements is the misuse or abuse of funds directed to the cash transfers. These risks include tampering with targeted beneficiaries' lists (e.g. to include family, friends or allies of local leaders or service providers; "ghost" beneficiaries), mishandling of payments (e.g. appropriation of resources from beneficiaries who did not collect payments), or intimidation tactics by local authorities or thugs against beneficiaries to collect "fees" or straightforward theft. To mitigate these risks, a set of measures will be taken. The JP will base beneficiary selection in government systems, which includes elements of community consultation to minimize inclusion errors. Moreover, deliver of payments will be closely monitored and robust operational procedures enforced. As broader measures to reduce these fiduciary risks, the programme will implement grievance and redress mechanisms, actively work with communities to strengthen individual agency and pilot community monitoring tools for social protection that are under development.

Lastly, the programme is grounded in UN principles including the principles of non-discrimination (including the principle of gender equality), transparency, accountability and participation, and are closely aligned to international instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Convention 102 in the Minimal Standards for Social Security, and ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors. Moreover, the programme will be managed and implemented according to the highest standards of quality and ethics, to ensure no significant reputational risk to the UN.

Risk Matrix

Risks	**Risk Level:**	**Likelihood:**	**Impact:**	**Mitigating measures**	**Responsible Org./Person**
Contextual risks					

Socio-economic conditions do not remain in a positive or stable trend over the long term	Medium (6)	Unlikely - 2	Moderate - 3	Continuous support government in innovative financing options and build the investment case for SP in times of crisis	UNICEF/ILO
Continued Government and Political endorsement of social protection, including SRSP	High (5)	Rare - 1	Extreme – 5	efforts to increase Political Parties' commitment; Advocacy and engagement with political stakeholders throughout the programme implementation	RCO & PUNOs
Donors lose interest and reduce/stop support for humanitarian and social protection assistance, including SRSP	Medium (4)	Rare - 1	Major - 4	Include DPs and Donors in the process and activities of the programme	RCO & PUNOs
Lean season emergency food need is not identified	Low (2)	Rare - 1	Minor - 2	Identify alternative Cash+ interventions that build resilience and preparedness against future shocks	WFP
Programmatic risks					

Government does not lead the process and truly own its results and products	High (10)	Unlikely - 2	Extreme - 5	Continuous engagement with political actors in Government and Parliament - Leverage in ongoing Capacity building efforts for coordination and leadership for government officials in social protection	RCO & PUNOs
Government officials are not available and willing to work with the programme in its implementation	Medium (8)	Unlikely - 2	Major - 4	Ensure programme is reflecting national objectives, priorities, operational capacities	RCO & PUNOs
Underlying social protection systems (e.g. MIS) experience failures or significant constrains, impeding that the systems function as normal	Medium (3)	Rare - 1	Moderate - 3	Strategic engagement with stakeholders and government to maintain and continue the development of existing systems	RCO & PUNOs
DPs and Implementation partners do not support the process of integration of social protection at policy, programmatic, or at operational levels	Medium (3)	Rare - 1	Moderate - 3	Include DPs and Donors in the process and activities of the programme	RCO & PUNOs

Donors and Development partners reject the programme and do not support its development	Medium (3)	Rare - 1	Moderate - 3	Include DPs and Donors in the process and activities of the programme	RCO & PUNOs
There is insufficient or no cooperation from the many different actors in the sector to provide information and inputs to the different stages of the process	Medium (8)	Unlikely - 2	Major - 4	Engage closely with stakeholders to ensure understanding, ownership and support of the process, and plan in advance for delays and challenges in accessing information on implementation of SP - leverage on work on PER and costing of MNSSP II IP	RCO & PUNOs
Institutional risks					
The programme's implementation brings reputational damage to the UN and/or PUNOs	Medium (3)	Rare - 1	Moderate - 3	Programme is grounded in UN principles including the principles of non-discrimination (including the principle of gender equality), transparency, accountability and participation, and are closely aligned to international instruments, and with national priorities, such as the MGD III and MNSSP II;	RCO & PUNOs

Fiduciary risks					
Misuse and abuse of funds of cash transfers, by service providers, local stakeholders, or opportunistic individuals	High (8)	Unlikely - 2	Major - 4	Programme implementation to follow best practices in transparency, accountability and participation; use of robust monitoring mechanisms for delivery of payments; Close cooperation with local authorities and stakeholders to ensure on-the-ground awareness and transparency; Leverage on the ongoing works on payment solutions modelling towards better inclusion of the private sector service providers	RCO & PUNOs