

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN MALAWI



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ADDRESSING POVERTY AND VULNERABILITY

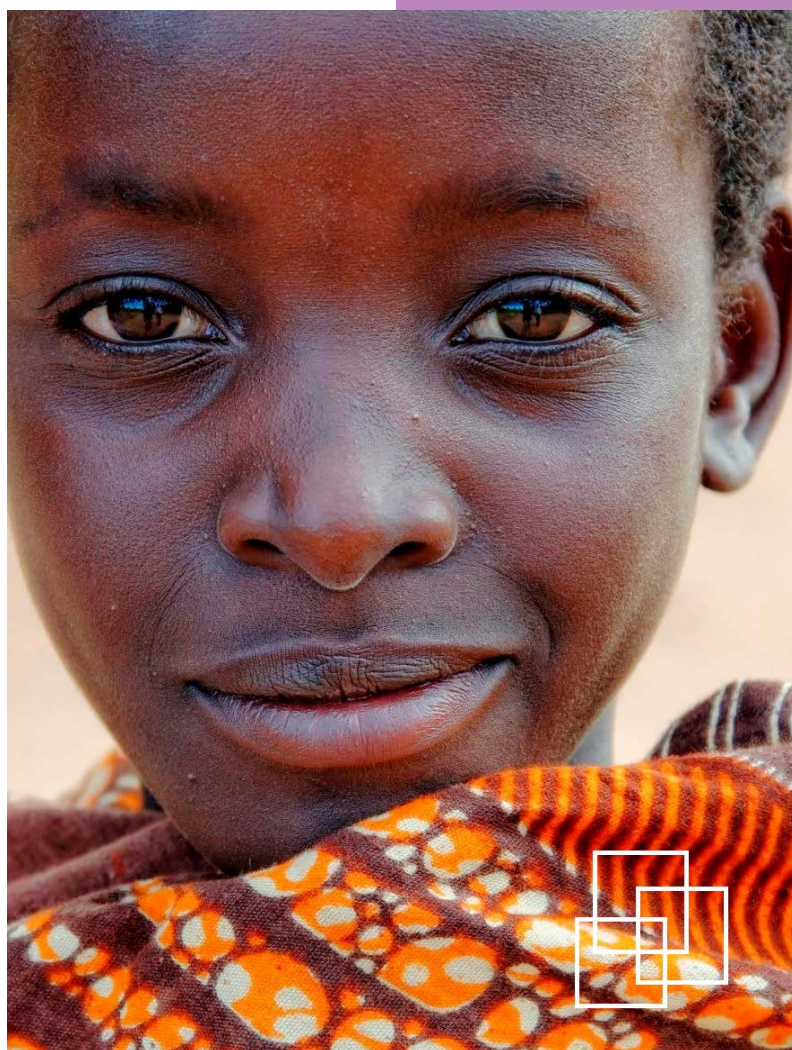
Malawi has experienced significant economic growth over the last decade. However, poverty and vulnerability have declined only minimally. Poverty is both widespread and deep, with 51 per cent of Malawians living below the national poverty line and 73 per cent below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day.

The Government of Malawi has identified social protection as a key instrument to address the endemic poverty and vulnerability. The Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) provides a wide-ranging framework for the development of the social protection system in the country. Approved in March 2013, the MNSSP focuses on five key social support programmes: 1) public works; 2) social cash transfers; 3) school meals; 4) microcredit; and 5) village savings and loans schemes.

Since the inception of the MNSSP, investment in social protection has increased significantly. The Social Cash Transfer programme, piloted in 2006, has seen a large extension of coverage. Likewise, public works, school feeding, and village savings and loans programmes have grown considerably and provide increasing protection to vulnerable Malawians.

IMPROVING SOCIAL PROTECTION IN MALAWI

Despite the progress made over the last few years, there are significant gaps in covering all the different groups of people. As a whole, Malawi's social protection system falls significantly short of the social protection floor (SPF) guarantees on health care and income security throughout the life cycle. Existing social assistance programmes provide insufficient protection to a small number of poor and vulnerable households. Total spending on social protection for the elderly and children is low compared to spending on programmes for the working age population. Moreover, there are no specific interventions that directly address the needs of Malawi's children besides school feeding programmes.



Closing the design and implementation gaps will require additional fiscal space. However, despite the insufficient coverage, total social protection spending is quite high, at 6.8 per cent of GDP. Therefore, in addition to increasing fiscal space, rationalizing social protection programmes and expenditures and exploiting linkages between programmes and complementary services, such as agriculture, health and education, are crucial for having sustainable impact.

Furthermore, efforts have to be undertaken to develop capacity in the Government to oversee, coordinate and monitor social protection programmes and have ownership of the national social protection system.

REVIEW THE MNSSP AND DESIGN THE MNSSP II

Social protection in Malawi is guided by the National Social Support Policy (NSSP) and operationalized by the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP), a set of social protection interventions implemented under a policy framework emphasizing coordination and harmonization.

The MNSSP expired in June 2016. In cooperation with UNICEF and GIZ, the ILO is supporting the Government to review the MNSSP and develop a successor programme.

The ILO has designed a multi-level review process that will allow stakeholders to arrive at a consensus on key lessons from the MNSSP that are relevant for the MNSSP II.



Beneficiaries of Malawi's Social Cash Transfer Programme waiting to receive their transfer in Mchinji District.

FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The ILO has extensive experience in supporting countries to provide social protection for all. With your help, we can make the SPF a reality for all Malawians and achieve SDG target 1.3 on social protection.

With your support, we can:

- Support the Government to draft the MNSSP II.
US\$ 150.000
- Design a plan and estimate the cost of implementing the MNSSP II, and design an M&E framework.
US\$ 150.000
- Support improved coordination and government ownership through an institutional review of the social protection sector at the national and decentralized levels.
US\$ 200.000
- Support the establishment of an Employment Injury Insurance Scheme in line with Malawi's Worker's Compensation Act, 2000.
US\$ 200.000
- Support the Ministry of Finance to develop a Social Budgeting tool to guide the allocation of funds across social protection interventions.
US\$ 75.000
- Build capacities of the Government, social partners, and civil society related to the implementation of non-contributory social protection programmes.
US\$ 100.000

- Share the country's experience at Malawi's Social Protection Week and through country briefs, web pages, and videos.

US\$ 50.000

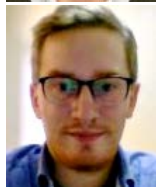
LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular reports on the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can support stakeholders in Malawi and improve millions of lives, you can contact:



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