

Summary of DFID's work in Malawi 2011-2015

May 2012

Why we work in Malawi

Malawi is a small landlocked country in Southern Africa. It is also one of the world's poorest economies ranking 153 out of 169 in the Human Development Index (HDI). Its population is rapidly increasing and is expected to reach 23 million by 2025. Up to 40% of the population lives below the national poverty line. In recent years, Malawi has made some progress on its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These include progress on poverty and hunger, under-five and infant mortality, HIV treatment and access to water. However, this progress is from a low starting point, and the country's development needs remain huge. Maternal mortality remains high with 10 women dying daily. About 3 million people have no access to clean drinking water. One in five children of school going age is still out of school. Gender inequalities persist in every sector.



Flora and her baby at Balaka Hospital. More women are now delivering their babies safely at hospitals. *"I delivered my baby with the help of well skilled nurses and doctors. Giving birth is no longer dreadful".*

Agriculture accounts for one third of the country's GDP. 90% of the poor are small or medium scale farmers. Population growth combined with the effects of climate change are causing severe stress on agriculture and undermining food security. While economic growth was impressive in the past, it has deteriorated significantly over the last two years, crippling large parts of the private sector. A recent currency devaluation has left the economy extremely fragile. Achieving economic recovery in the short run and making Malawi less aid dependent in the long run is therefore a crucial priority. Formal democratic institutions are still relatively weak. Basic rights, including freedom of expression, freedom of association and due legal processes could not be taken for granted in recent years.



Primary school pupils and their teachers in Dedza. DFID's education programme will train more teachers; build more classrooms; reduce repetition and dropout rates; and support all 5,500 primary schools with new School Improvement Grants.

We will work with the new Government of Malawi to revive the stalled economy, protect the poor and improve the lives of Malawian citizens. Our priorities in Malawi include support to agricultural livelihoods; improving access to financial services and increasing economic growth and private sector opportunities. We will continue to ensure that more Malawians enjoy better services in health, education, water and sanitation. We will give citizens the ability to better hold decision makers to account and to participate fully in democratic processes. We will do more to increase the economic opportunities available to girls and women, and improve their life chances through increased access to social services and other opportunities.

What we will achieve

- An additional 15,100 people given access to credit;
- 350,000 people helped to improve their ability to cope with natural disasters and increasing climate shocks;
- 113,600 safe births delivered with the help of skilled health workers;
- An additional 22,500 women helped to access and use modern methods of family planning;
- 443,000 children, of which 233,000 are girls, helped to attend primary school;
- 15,000 girls provided with bursaries to attend secondary school;
- An additional 750,000 people provided with sustainable access to clean drinking water sources;
- 406,900 girls and women provided with improved access to security and justice services.



Access to water: The Kasumbu and Mpando Water and Sanitation Project has, to date, provided 326 safe water points serving 61,500 people.

Who we will work with

We will work with a wide range of partners who are best placed to deliver results and value for money. Our partnerships will be based on strong principles that focus on improving the lives of Malawian citizens and include strong commitments to human rights, transparency and sound financial management. As far as possible we will work jointly with others to achieve mutual development goals. Our partners will include the Government of Malawi, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), the private sector, think tanks, research organisations and other donors.

How we will work

More than ever, and in the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money for every hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development. We will do this by:

- Working with the Government of Malawi and our partners to improve value for money and results across our work, and adopting a zero-tolerance approach to corruption;
- Ensuring that all design, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our programmes undergo regular and rigorous internal and external scrutiny;
- Providing feedback mechanisms to help Malawian citizens have a say on how UK aid has impacted their lives.
- Ensuring information about our projects and policies are accessible and accurate.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Malawi's Operational Plan, please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/malawi
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