



Summary of DFID's work in Malawi 2011-2015

June 2013

Why we work in Malawi

Increasing Poverty and Inequality: Malawi is one of the world's poorest economies ranking 171 out of 187 in the Human Development Index (HDI). Malawi has made some progress on its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but is still unlikely to meet most targets. Poverty levels in Malawi remain at 51% and have not registered a significant reduction since 2004. Rural poverty has increased to 56.6% as has income inequality. There has been some progress on under-five and infant mortality, HIV treatment and access to water and sanitation. Maternal mortality remains high with 10 women dying daily. One in five children of school going age is still out of school. Gender inequalities persist in every sector. Rapid population growth combined with the effects of climate change are causing severe stress on agriculture and undermining food security.



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.



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".*

A Fragile Economy and Need for Economic Recovery: The economy has deteriorated significantly over the last four years, crippling large parts of the private sector. A recent currency devaluation and the adoption of a floating exchange rate regime has triggered economic hardships as prices have risen, leaving 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.

Political Risks and Opportunities: Malawi has witnessed inconsistent progress on key governance indicators. Formal democratic institutions are weak and often bypassed. Local elections, important for accountability, have been repeatedly postponed since 2005. Problems of systemic corruption and patronage based politics continue to undermine service delivery. A change in leadership following the sudden death of President Mutharika in April 2012, led to his Vice President H.E Joyce Banda being appointed President, providing a new opportunity to radically reform Malawi's political system. The extent to which there is a fundamental transformation in political governance and whether political reforms are sustained and consistent will need to be monitored closely. Electoral institutions remain weak and will need major external support in the run up to the

National elections which are due in 2014.

Three priorities underpin our work. Firstly, we are committed to addressing the poverty and inequality facing large parts of the population through our health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation, climate change and humanitarian programmes. Secondly, we are committed to supporting economic growth and wealth creation to turn the economy around and sustainably help people out of poverty through our growth and private sector development work. Thirdly, our governance programme aims to promote an open society and more capable, accountable and responsive governance in Malawi by supporting initiatives that give citizens the ability to better hold decision makers to account and to participate fully in democratic processes. We are also supporting the strengthening of institutions of democratic governance.

What we will achieve

- An additional 27,000 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.
- 14,000 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.

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 implementing 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;
- Innovating with 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.gov.uk/government/world/malawi
DFID Malawi, c/o British High Commission, Convention Drive, PO Box 30042, Lilongwe 3, Malawi
General Enquiries: enquiry@dfid.gov.uk

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