



# PEOPLE'S SCORECARD FOR **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

MALAWI 2021





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# Acknowledgement

The 2021 People's Report on Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs is a product of a participatory process, which involved targeted community groups and civil society organisations working in different sectors across the country. It builds on the 2020 report, which was the first in the series.

The report is a civil society mechanism for policy dialogue on efforts to end poverty, reduce inequality and protect the planet in line with the SDGs. The report presents a status on each of the SDGs and makes recommendations that need to be considered. It touches on roles to be played by all stakeholders including the Government, citizens, civil society, private sector, donors and development partners. The report also unearths opportunities and challenges which Malawi should capitalise on and resolve respectively as the country attempts to develop economically and socially.

CONGOMA would like to thank immensely the people of Traditional Authority Khombedza in Salima District, Central Region of Malawi for the initial community perspectives on the implementation of SDGs, and The Hunger Project Malawi and Salima District Council for linking the consultation team to the People of Khombedza. More appreciation to civil society sector networks for their contribution to the report. Without these groups, the report could have been challenging to produce due to lack of technical support and information.

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# Foreword

Government of Malawi produced first SDGs progress report in 2018 and first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report in 2020. From the 2020 VNR report, it is evident that Malawi might not attain the SDGs, just as it happened during the era of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), at which only 4 of the 8 MDGs were achieved. Additionally, the country seems not to learn from the inaccuracies done during the MDGs era that led to failure to their achievement. The Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee that was established by the Government for the MDGs was disbanded in August 2014, and has never been resuscitated to ensure a multi-sectoral approach to implementation of the SDGs. Sporadic reporting on SDGs is likely to impact negatively on catching registered progress and lessons along the way. Consistent annual reporting might be critical in this regard.

Council for NGOs in Malawi (CONGOMA) in partnership with the National Civil Society Taskforce on SDGs in Malawi facilitated production of People's Scorecard Report on SDGs in 2020 to give citizen perspectives on SDGs progress. CONGOMA is the secretariat for the National Civil Society Taskforce on SDGs in Malawi. Opinions from the citizens showed that Malawi is significantly off-track in achieving SDGs, hence, necessary to scale up and scale out implementation.

The report for 2021 is a follow up to check on how much progress has been registered in the past 12 months. It is envisaged that outcomes of the 2021 report will inform engagement areas with the Government and United Nations in 2021 and beyond.

The report demonstrates that civic participation has been limited and has affected uptake of citizens' responsibility towards achieving the SDGs. Considering the framework for SDGs, some people are likely to be left behind, particularly those furthest behind including children and other socially excluded groups

Bringing into fray the 2021 People's Scorecard Report, it is a consolidation of citizen perspectives in the attainment of SDGs and provides meaningful insights into existing national reporting mechanisms. The ambiance of the report was created through a community consultation done in one of the rural settings of Salima District in Malawi's Central Region. This was followed by comprehensive review of frameworks and policies that revolve round each of the SDGs with technical experts from civil society organisations, both local and international. More guidance came from Sector Networks, which apart from reviewing responses from the community consultations, provided more background information to the recommendations which the report proffers herein.

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# Acronyms

<b>ACB</b>	Anti-Corruption Bureau
<b>ADC</b>	Area Development Committee
<b>ADMARC</b>	Agricultural Development and Marketing Cooperation
<b>AfCFTA</b>	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>CABS</b>	Common Approach to Budget Support
<b>CCTV</b>	Closed-Circuit Television
<b>CONGOMA</b>	Council for NGOs in Malawi
<b>COVID 19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DAD</b>	Debt and Aid Division
<b>DoDMA</b>	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
<b>EGENCO</b>	Electricity Generation Company Malawi Limited
<b>EMIS</b>	Education Management Information System
<b>ESCOM</b>	Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi
<b>ESIP</b>	Education Sector Implementation Plan
<b>FIA</b>	Financial Intelligence Authority
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>HIPC</b>	Highly Indebted Poor Country
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HSSP (II)</b>	Health Sector Strategic Plan
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology
<b>IPP</b>	Independent Power Producers
<b>IYCF</b>	Infant and Young Child Feeding
<b>JSR</b>	Joint Sector Review
<b>MANEPO</b>	Malawi Network of Older Persons Organisations
<b>MALGA</b>	Malawi Local Government Association
<b>MAREP</b>	Malawi Rural Electrification Programme
<b>MCC</b>	Millennium Challenge Corporation
<b>MEJN</b>	Malawi Economic Justice Network
<b>NERA</b>	Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority
<b>MDG(s)</b>	Millennium Development Goal(s)
<b>MIF</b>	Malawi Investment Forum
<b>MIP-1</b>	Malawi 2063 First Implementation Plan
<b>MITC</b>	Malawi Investment Promotion Centre
<b>MNSSP (II)</b>	Malawi National Social Support Programme
<b>MoEST</b>	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
<b>MoGCDSW</b>	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
<b>NAO</b>	National Audit Office
<b>NBSAP (II)</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and action Plan
<b>NCD(s)</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases
<b>NCST</b>	Nutrition Care Support Treatment

<b>NEEF</b>	National Economic Empowerment Fund
<b>NESP</b>	National Education Sector Plan
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NICE</b>	National Initiative for Civic Education
<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>NSO</b>	National Statistical Office (Malawi)
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>PMTCT</b>	Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission
<b>PPDA</b>	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority
<b>SDG(s)</b>	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
<b>SCTP</b>	Social Cash Transfer Programme
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprise
<b>SWAp(s)</b>	Sector Wide Approaches
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>TEVETA</b>	The Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>VAP</b>	Village Action Plan
<b>VDC</b>	Village Development Committee



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# Executive Summary

While the respondents applauded Government for institutionalising policies and frameworks for the implementation of most SDGs, they expressed disappointment with relevant implementation. The dissatisfaction sprouts from poor implementation frameworks or lack thereof, which limits focused implementation of programmes in tandem with both the MIP-1 and the SDGs.

The report reveals the furthest behind are still being left behind in the implementation of the SDGs. Reflecting on what happened during the MDGs era, the goals that focused on women and girls were not achieved. The same situation is being repeated as the nation is struggling to register remarkable progress in SDGs related to women empowerment, disability, children and the elderly. Efforts therefore, need to be stepped up to reverse the trend if Malawi is to achieve success in targets related to vulnerable groups.

Notwithstanding the enactment of Access to Information Act, the State is yet to demonstrate high level voluntary disclosure of public information on SDGs which is required to cascade to citizens for improved knowledge, understanding and embracing in their community development plans. Limited awareness has hampered uptake of citizens' responsibility towards achieving the SDGs. For the SDGs to be realised, citizens should play a critical role in ensuring that development decisions are made at individual, family, village, community, district and national levels. In this regard, Village Action Plans – VAPs as building blocks for District Development Plans have to be acknowledged at district level and supported accordingly as a way of motivating communities to take development seriously as enshrined in national and global development frameworks such as the MIP-1 and the SDGs. Accordingly, popular mobilisation campaigns, translations of development frameworks into local languages and community debates on their role in development need to be intensified.

Mind-set change remains far-fetched, yet critical for the achievement of SDGs in Malawi. Both duty bearers and rights holders lack seriousness in shaping what is needed for the country to make progress due to lack of interaction on common interests. Most citizens and duty bearers have accepted the fate that Malawi is poor amidst opportunities from the resources the country has.

Duty bearers are yet to show commitment towards prudent usage of resources while the citizens lack monitoring skills for public expenditure. To reverse this, citizens need to be empowered with all the necessary information as per Access to Information Law which the Government promulgated in 2020. The State needs to build capacities and provide financial resources to oversight institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Financial Intelligence Unit, Fiscal Police, Auditor General and the Ombudsman in order for these institutions to perform their statutory obligations.

Poor harmonisation and fragmentation of programmes continue to weaken impact of development initiatives. This is triggered by competition for visibility, resources and beneficiaries. It is crucial for all players to ensure all the initiatives they implement are known by relevant stakeholders to avoid duplication and overpopulating projects in same areas while others remain deserted. Whether at local or national level, the players should harmonise efforts in line with existing instruments. For example, District Development Plans should be embraced by all stakeholders implementing programmes at district level while national stakeholders should dwell their efforts on MIP-1, Malawi 2063 and the SDGs, among others. Such harmony will ensure development initiatives are complemented and monitored accordingly.

Being a country that has been ranked among the top 20 poorest countries by the UN's Human Development Index for the past two decades, Malawi's development needs are colossal. Yet, resources remain insufficient. In this case, prioritising priority among priorities is required to register progress. Spreading resources so thinly across all priorities has resulted in minimal impact.

Hazy availability of data for monitoring progress on SDGs has affected reporting at local and national levels. There are weak systems for capturing official data required for reporting under each of the 232 indicators and the 169 targets. It is therefore imperative for the Government to begin to recognise unofficial data from other sources including civil society organisations which continually do research. More importantly, stakeholders should explore establishing data centre through which various institutions including academia, NGOs, Government, Development Partners and Private Sector can deposit data for further processing or analysis. Alternatively, the National Commission for Science and Technology can be designated to perform this role while looking for a longer term solution.

COVID 19 has disrupted and affected development efforts at national level. Almost all development sectors have been affected, including mobilisation of resources by public institutions. In the short and long term, the pandemic is likely to affect implementation of the SDGs as the country continues to grapple with mitigating its impact on the economy by diverting resources meant for other development programmes. However, duty bearers should not exploit on this weakness by giving excuses on failure to meet obligations. Citizens expect leaders to rise above the COVID 19 scourge and deliver basic necessities to all.





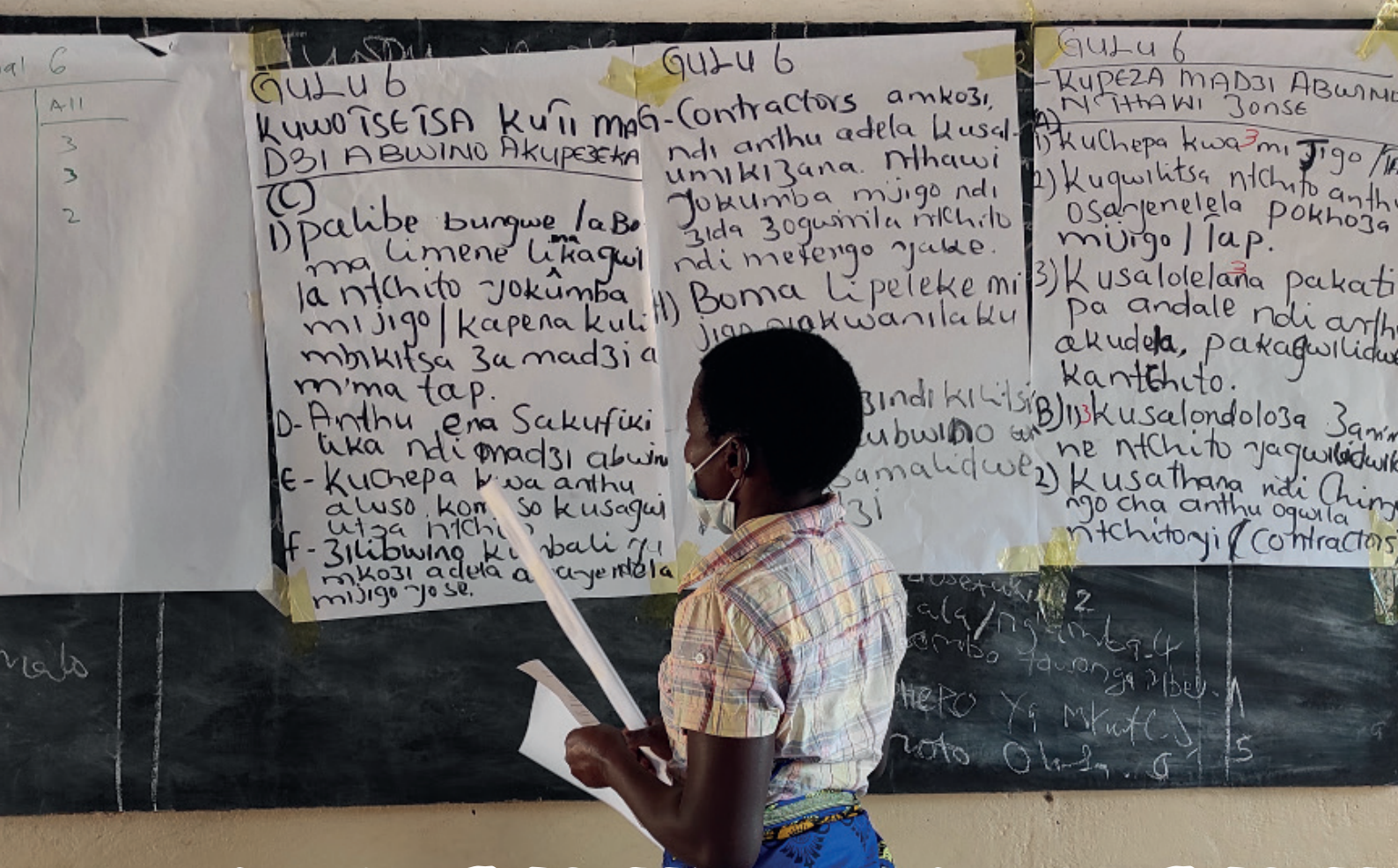
Some of the participants during the SDGs scorecard process in Salima District, Central Malawi

## 1.0. Assessment Methodology

This report is an outcome of a rigorous exercise that involved collecting primary data from communities in Salima district, Central Region of Malawi and civil society organisations operating in different development sectors from across Malawi. Specifically, the civil society organisations involved were sector networks and international Organisations which constitute the National Civil Society Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals in Malawi. The Taskforce went through the same process as the communities in Salima.

CONGOMA Secretariat triangulated the information it gathered from the communities and civil society organisations with available literature, reports and development frameworks at national, regional, continental and global levels. The assessment's limitation is that it did not involve communities from various districts, other than Salima. This was due to resource and time constraints. However, the report is building on previous efforts by the Taskforce and the interaction with citizens and civil society.





A lady presenting group perspectives in Salima district

## 2.0. PROGRESS OVERVIEW

### SECTION A: OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT IN MALAWI

#### A1. OVERVIEW OF SDG PROGRESS

##### i. Background

Malawi is one of the 186 United Nations Member States that adopted and ratified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. The Agenda encompasses the 17 Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs, which focus on fostering peace and prosperity for citizens in all member states of the UN and enhancing global partnership for development for developed and developing member states.

The agenda hinges on boosting economic growth through ending poverty and various forms of deprivations while tackling climate change and preserving natural resources. The common beliefs and principles behind the Agenda include People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. The SDGs require key transformation of key sectors of development and leaving no one behind, starting with the furthest behind. Achieving the SDGs is premised on high level of cooperation from member states and local mobilisation of resources.

Malawi was one of the 50 countries which provided preliminary information on 2030 Agenda, mainly highlighting critical development sectors which needed attention. It further participated in second phase of consultations



and suggested frameworks for implementation of the agenda. Based on such immense consultations, Malawi has no excuse for not meeting the SDGs. Malawi has to demonstrate how the proposals it advanced during the preliminary submissions really work by ensuring the SDGs are met by 2030.

Government of Malawi is domesticating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its current ten year national development plan, the MIP-1, which has replaced the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III. Additionally, the nation adopted the Malawi 2063 to accelerate the pace of economic growth and wealth creation for the citizens.

## **ii. Achievements**

Malawi has so far produced one progress report published in 2018 and one Voluntary National Review report produced in 2020. The VNR process involves countries assessing themselves on SDG progress and sharing the findings with fellow member states of the UN for peer review.

From both reports, Malawi has registered progress on 29 of the 162 SDG targets, translating to 17% of the goals. It is imperative to note, however, that no target has been achieved satisfactorily. This implies more work has to be done if the country is to register remarkable achievements in relation to the targets. Delving into what happened during the MDGs era, this trend is not new to Malawi, hence, the report on MDGs by civil society that no MDG was satisfactorily achieved. Should the trend continue, then Malawi might be heading for a sad reality of not achieving the SDGs.

The 17% progress includes achievements registered under SDG 2: 'End hunger,

achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture'; SDG 3: 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages' and SDG 4: 'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.' Some of the targets Malawi is making significant progress on include Target 3.2 where under-five mortality rates are significantly declining and likely to be met by 2030; Target 4.5 showing gender parity in primary schools is already equal to parity, and net enrolment in Primary Schools which is close to desired target. Some of the programmes that have contributed to the progress on SDG 2 include the Farm Input Subsidy Programme / Affordable Inputs Programme and social protection interventions including social cash transfers to vulnerable families and school feeding programme. SDG 3 has yielded from support provided by various bilateral / multilateral institutions in the health sector. SDG 4 has benefited from free primary school education, provision of school fees for vulnerable girls in secondary schools, and construction of new school blocks.

Moderate progress has been observed in 59 targets (35%), involving SDG 2 specifically targets on stunting, underweight and wasting, among others. The reports further show insufficient or poor performance in 81 of the targets (48%) covering SDGs 1: 'Eradicating poverty and ending all its forms', with most targets towing the negative end. As a result, the proportion of the population below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day is distressing as it stood at 71.4% in 2016, 51.5% in 2017 and 50.8% in 2020. The reports, however, show that extreme poverty is a mixed bag i.e. 24.5% in 2010, 16% in 2017 and 20.5% in 2020.



Inequality degree has worsened from 0.423 in 2017 to 0.379 in 2020. Some of the factors attributed to the negative trends include insufficient investment in empowerment programmes for the impoverished; recurring disasters; poor policies on COVID 19; compromised war against corruption; and poor harmonisation of efforts among stakeholders.

### **iii. Way forward**

The implementation precursor for SDGs is mobilisation of resources at local level. As such, domestic revenue is of prime importance if Malawi is to attain the SDGs. The 2018 UNDP Audit, however, revealed significant financing gaps which should be addressed if the country is to achieve the SDGs. The domestic revenue should be coupled with targeted budget allocations to SDG targets through local development blueprints such as MIP-1 and the Malawi 2063. Further, Official Development Assistance should be primarily aligned to national frameworks for synchronised efforts on SDG targets. This sprouts from the understanding that Malawi's Development Budget has been significantly benefitting from Official Development assistance - ODA since the advent of democracy (Government of Malawi 2014a).

The foregoing is bound to work well if Malawi truly establishes a multi-stakeholder platform for development planning, designing, implementing and monitoring involving Government, civil society, faith based organisations, development partners, private sector and the citizens themselves. Most stakeholders are left out in these processes, a situation which creates challenges to harmonise efforts amidst the meagre resources generated at local

level. The National Planning Commission is better placed to host the stakeholders under the proposed platform. However, its ability to convene such a platform is yet to be established. The stakeholders needed to meet on quarterly on bi-annual basis to assess harmonisation efforts and recommend improvements.

## **A2. OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **i. Effects of climate change**

Achieving SDGs in Malawi is closely linked to managing climate change effects and environment management at all levels. The high population density and high population growth are seriously contributing to environmental degradation through soil erosion and rapid deforestation as citizens embark on seeking more land for agricultural production and settlement (USAID 2016).

Being largely an agrarian economy, the sector has been susceptible to climate change effects characterised by erratic rains, droughts, flash floods and increase in temperature. As years pass by, it is likely that food production and supply will be highly affected thereby denting the prospects of achieving the SDGs. Consequently, there is need to intensify efforts for climate resilient development by ensuring low carbon emissions and implementing deliberate measures to combat deforestation by creating alternative sources of income for vulnerable households; promoting sustainable sources of energy; and enhancing forest management (IrishAid 2016, Government of Malawi 2018). The Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources, NGOs in the sector, organised communities and individuals require



adequate capacity to help them gallantly fight climate change.

## **ii. Factors that contribute to climate change**

The impact of human activity and consumption on the environment is high, and if not controlled will lead to intergenerational poverty and deprivation that will result in a vicious cycle of poor living standards (Government of Malawi 2020). Land degradation and deforestation are huge challenges facing the environment and contribute to climate change. High levels of deforestation and land degradation are caused by, among other things, charcoal burning and unsustainable farming practices that include poor soil fertility and land management practices (USAID 2016). As Malawi is battling high population density, there is a huge concern on the pressure being exerted on the land by human activities.

## **iii. Malawi's adherence to Paris Agreement**

The Government of Malawi is party to the 2015 Paris Agreement, which among other things, strengthens a global response to climate change. As a signatory, Malawi is expected to contribute to keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (Government of Malawi 2017). Although Malawi is not a big contributor towards the temperature rise, it should ensure that actions of citizens and businesses do not aggravate the situation.

Efforts to domesticate the Paris Agreement have included enacting laws and formulating policies which include the

National Environmental Policy (2004), Climate Change Learning Strategy (2013) and the National Climate Change Investment Plan (2014). Additional plans, strategies and laws for attaining SDG 13 have included the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (2015); Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (2015), National Climate Change Management Policy (2016); the Nationally Determined Contributions (2016); the Environmental Management Act (2017); National Adaptations Plan Framework (2020); and the revised Strategy on Climate Change Learning (2021). The revised Strategy on Climate Change Learning is expected to contribute to the National Climate Change Resilience Programme through the strengthening of human resources skills development and institutional arrangements for the advancement of green, low emission and climate resilient development.

Government of Malawi further signed and ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol committing to reduce the onset of global warming by reducing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the environment and climate. In light of this, sensitisation, knowledge and skills on climate change across all socioeconomic sectors, as stipulated in Articles 6 and 10 of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol respectively are required.

## **iv. Way forward**

Malawi is endowed with a litany of laws, policies and strategies that govern the environment and climate change. However, implementation and mainstreaming climate change adaptation concerns into ministerial level

planning and activities; increasing data collection and monitoring of climate-related changes; and addressing capacity and financial constraints to carry out climate change adaptation at the local level; remain an uphill task. Charcoal burning and unsustainable agriculture methods remain major hazards to the environment and contribute significantly to climate challenges.

Accordingly, there is need to develop and implement sustainable energy policies notably the use of solar and wind electricity, and the strengthening of already available hydroelectric power. Mechanisms that promote clean and affordable energy should be explored and pursued. As of 2021, Government of Malawi had no deliberate mechanism to make solar panels and other clean energy instruments affordable to every citizen. Absence of such deliberate mechanisms demonstrates lack of Government seriousness towards advancing cheaper, affordable, clean and sustainable means of energy to citizens. Around 12% of citizens of the population in Malawi have access to electricity; with 85% of the population using biomass for energy needs. In rural areas, around 3.9% access electricity (United Nations in Malawi 2021).

### **A3. CONSTITUENTS THAT ARE MARGINALISED**

One of the central and transformative promises enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is bringing on board the excluded, marginalised and vulnerable. Achieving this promise entails implementing programmes that target the poorest of the poor, combating discrimination and rising inequalities, including root causes. Battling persistent forms of discrimination should be multi-

sectoral and should involve isolating practices which leave vulnerable groups, individuals, families and communities marginalized and excluded. Development practitioners and community leaders have to reach out to those furthest left behind. Malawi being one of the least developed countries has so many groups left behind, which include the elderly, girls and women, ultra-poor families in rural and urban settings, prisoners and human rights defenders.

In view of this, Malawi requires an inclusive approach aimed at profiling groups being left behind and why; creating effective measures to address the identified root causes; and conducting monitoring to measure progress. This requires free, active and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, particularly those perceived to be left behind furthest.

#### **i. Persons with disability**

People with disability in Malawi encounter numerous challenges including poor access to fundamental social, political and economic rights (Government of Malawi 2006). As a result, they face exclusion from society and are denied an opportunity to contribute to national development. Due to such exclusion, the persons disability become vulnerable in various forms as they suffer from being neglected, malnourished, impoverished, abandoned, uneducated and discriminated against. They further suffer exclusion from accessing essential services with most of them subjected to social isolation, poverty and unemployment as a result of economic, environmental, institutional and attitudinal barriers. These factors coupled with community experiences expose them to exploitation and abuse.



The foregoing discriminatory experiences are taking place in an environment saturated with laws, policies and frameworks that guard against the same including Malawi Constitution, regional continental and international conventions. These instruments are meant to promote equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities and advancing their rights; ensuring their full and equal participation in communities; and promoting the integration and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. One of the commitments at national level is the formulation of the National Policy on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disability that is intended to meet the challenges and aspirations of people with disability. However, the challenge has been the foreseeable poor implementation.

## **ii. Vulnerable children, girls and women**

Vulnerable children, girls and women face numerous barriers to access services, resources and equal opportunities. This is exacerbated by discriminatory laws, policies, economic, political, social and cultural practices that leave these groups further behind. There are many children that lack proper protection from adults and security agencies. Eventually, they become easy targets for exploitation as they look for financial and food opportunities; and exclusion from important decision making processes that involve them. The rise in number of children patrolling the streets in semi-urban and urban place is evidence enough of how vulnerable children have become due to society that does not care much about them.

Girls living in poverty across the country are much more likely to experience

violence than their male counterparts. Most of them walk long distances to access services including water and education in societies where household chores are entirely given to them while boys are given an opportunity to study. As such, vulnerable girls are more likely to marry in childhood than their peers from wealthy families. Through the work of NGOs and Government, the situation is improving but at a snail's pace. The slow response has resulted in so many girls dropping out of school, getting married at a tender age and getting trafficked. The girls further encounter cultural practices such as *lobola* and initiation, which impede on their progress.

Subsequently, Malawi has the 11th highest rate of child marriage in the world, with 47% of women marrying before the age of 18 (AFIDEP 2017). Malawi is eighth amongst the top 20 countries with the highest child marriage rates in the world. There is a dramatically high proportion of girls who are already in marriage by the age of 18. Currently, 50 per cent of adolescent girls get married by the age of 18, compared to only 9 per cent of boys. Girls get married as young as 12 years. Malawi registers about 106, 600 teenage pregnancies annually (29%). Roughly, 30% of girls give birth before age 19. On the other hand, one in five females is sexually abused before age 18 (NSO 2017)

The SDGs call for urgent action to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. Reflecting on what happened during the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Malawi failed to achieve 4 of the 8 MDGs. The 4 SDGs that could not be achieved included MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education; MDG 3:



Promote gender equity and empower women; and MDG 5: Improve maternal health. These four MDGs had indicators directly linked to women and girls in the society. 6 years since adoption of the SDGs, the trend is not different from the MDGs experiences (Government of Malawi 2014)

If Malawi is to end poverty, gender based discrimination has to end. Experiences from Malawi over the years have proven that gender inequality makes and keeps depriving women and girls of basic rights and opportunities for well-being. Women and girls are the fulcrum for family, community and national development, yet they are not given the equal opportunities when it comes to accessing services including agricultural inputs, positions of influence and loans, among other things. Women in Malawi are also likely to face hurdles on possessing assets such as land due to cultural traditions. All these factors make women less resilient to political, economic, cultural and social risks. To address this predicament, more programmes aimed at empowering women and girls are required to equip with knowledge and skills so that they contribute effectively to community and national development.

### **iii. The elderly**

Almost 48% of the elderly persons in Malawi experience or hear abuses of older persons in Malawi; with most of them condemned as witches and wizards in their households and communities, resulting in discrimination, being chased away or death (Kazeze 2008). Most of the abuses are hardly reported or noticed, making them suffer in silence. Majority of the elderly persons have not worked in the formal sector, hence do not have any pension scheme

to cushion old age needs, including better health services. In all these, elderly women are more affected due to aggravated ill health and economic hardships (Kazeze 2008). Most elderly persons are being left behind when it comes to digital technology. While the youth are benefiting from technology through online shopping and sharing information on various issues including COVID (Kidron and Yang 2021), most of the elderly, particularly in developing countries like Malawi are not able to. This is due to lower levels of education, lack of knowledge and skills and lack of funds to buy smart phones (Anderson and Perrin 2017).

Physical conditions of the elderly disable them from carrying out tough physical work and fend for themselves. They lack capital for business as they are discriminated against by micro finance organisations. The institutions fear the elderly might not repay the loans and that most of the elderly have no tangible property as collateral. The older persons rarely access Government social cash transfers, as the programme is marred with vested interests of the Government administrators and local leaders. The elderly who live alone are straddled in domestic chores and sometimes they have to cultivate in their fields to survive while taking care of grandchildren.

However, there is a glimmer of hope as Government, NGOs and international institutions have embarked on supporting and protecting the elderly, led by Malawi Network of Older Persons Organisations - MANEPO. Deliberate inclusion of the elderly in development instruments such as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, provides hope for programmes that relate to the needs of the elderly. Signing of the

Livingstone Call for Action on Social Protection in 2006, formulation of the National Policy for Older Persons in 2016, pension scheme for the elderly and the social protection mechanisms need to be applauded and encouraged (Nyasa et al 2019). Accordingly, all citizens require a self-introspection on how best rights of older persons can be promoted to reduce instances of abuse of the elderly.

#### **iv. Prisoners**

People in Malawi prisons face many challenges ranging from poor nutrition, appalling living conditions and fast spread of diseases and infections due to the increasing number of inmates. Almost all prisons are crowded, with their capacity exceeding by over 200%. This entails extremely unsanitary conditions occasioned by foul stinking toilets and intermittent shower rooms. The combination of unsanitary conditions, poor nutrition and unsafe water is a cause for high death rates among the inmates.

Consequently, prisoners are denied their human rights. An estimated 1,400 murder suspects have been awaiting trial since 2006, but are still languishing in overcrowded cells with poor ventilation i.e. Maula has 3900 inmates in cells meant for 600 persons. According to Malawi Human Rights Report (2019), Malawi Prisons have around 14,000 prisoners instead of the 7,000 required in detention. This has led to overcrowding, resulting in life threatening conditions, including mental disorders. In this regard, it is imperative for Government of Malawi to issue clear instruction to prison officials to forbid them from torturing prisoners and refrain from meting out cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments.

Interventions by non-governmental organizations such as United Purpose on nutrition; paralegal services; irrigation; energy for cooking and lighting are assisting prisons to provide better services. Government is hence urged to speed up trials and expand prisons to address some of the challenges being experienced by prisoners.

#### **v. Human rights defenders**

Human rights defenders endeavor to promote and protect civil and political rights of citizens through advocacy and activism while contributing to realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Although a typical human rights defender in Malawi cannot be classified as a poor person, they are vulnerable. Since they focus more on governance, other stakeholders view them as advancing the agenda of opposition parties or simply aiming at toppling Government, hence discriminated against by Governments. For example, the Human Rights Defenders Coalition was in bad books with the previous Government of Professor Peter Mutharika for organising demonstrations against the May 2019 tripartite elections, which the Malawi courts eventually annulled. Individual human rights defenders were either arrested, received threats of physical harm, or had their properties destroyed. Offices of Human Rights Defenders have also been broken into to frustrate them.

### **A4. CIVIL SOCIETY PRIORITIES**

Civil society organisations in Malawi are an integral part of the process for implementation of SDGs. They have worked tirelessly towards ensuring achievement of SDGs through



implementation of projects and initiatives; pursuing advocacy which unveils gaps in the implementation process; sharing knowledge and best practices; and conducting monitoring of projects by public and private institutions. In this regard, civil society in Malawi has crucial demands to the government and other stakeholders to ensure effective attainment of the SDGs. The demands embody what should be done to enable the civil society and other stakeholders effectively contribute to the attainment of sustainable development. Some of the priorities being peddled by civil society include:

**i. Address unsustainable debt levels and reduce borrowing**

Malawi as a Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) qualified for external debt cancellation, after meeting conditions set by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund - IMF and some rich country governments in 2006 (Jubilee Debt Campaign 2017). At that time, Malawi's annual debt repayments fell by around \$40 million a year, which enabled the country to roll out various development initiatives including training of teachers and social protection programmes, among others. However, debt has been increasing from 2011 due to fall in price of commodity exports and the increasing value of the US Dollar. Consequently, the Kwacha has been falling in value, a situation which has increased the size of debt.

In 2020, Malawi had a total debt of MK4.7 trillion representing 54% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). With a GDP of MK8.9 trillion (US\$11.2 billion), the net wealth for the country is estimated at MK4.1 trillion. The situation has forced the country to continue borrowing for

consumption which eludes repayment capacity building as evidenced by 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021 financial years. Average monthly borrowing has increased from K68.7 billion in 2020/21 to K79.8 billion in 2021/22, against a monthly expenditure of K194.3 billion in 2020/21 to K221.1 billion in 2021/22 financial years (MEJN 2021a, MEJN 2021).

The foregoing debt levels are worrisome as they have devastating consequences on Malawi's economy and citizens, whose majority are plunged in poverty. Due to unsustainable debt levels, the Government has not been able to provide basic needs in essential sectors of education, agriculture and health; has not been able to provide needed infrastructure; and has not been able to protect the economy from weakening. Should the racking of debts continue at the current alarming rate; Malawi as a least developed country is likely to tip into an irreversible debt crisis. Such levels can only be treated by debt cancellation, which is at the mercy of the lenders. While debt cancellation is usually feasible to external creditors, it is challenging for local debtors to cancel loans. This implies Malawians will continue to repay the loans at the expense of citizen development needs.

**ii. Reverse decisions on closure of civic space**

The status of civic space in Malawi is largely life threatening despite the realisation that civil society and citizen involvement are important actors in policy planning and delivery in a democratic society. Civil society and citizens have to be recognised and supported due to their enormous contributions to political, social and economic transformation of the country. Despite the existence of



legal and policy commitments towards the safeguarding of freedoms and rights of all the citizens as well as good governance, the civic space continues to shrink. This is evidenced by the negative politics around the amendment of NGO Act (2001) that smacks of deliberate efforts by Government to further shrink civic space and curtail civic rights.

Further attempts include exorbitant fees paid to the Government to be recognised as an NGO legally operating in Malawi through the NGO Board of Malawi; excessive disclosure of information to the District Councils; a cumbersome approval process of projects by NGOs; and forcing NGOs to hand over assets to public institutions, even when NGOs with little or no capacity. Such efforts to exclude and over-regulate the civil society sector are perceived as deliberate ploy by Government to silence critics and intimidate citizens with unwarranted arrests, which eventually result in exclusion of civic actors from policy formulation and implementation, including implementation of the SDGs.

To address the foregoing, there is urgent need for Government to formalize and institutionalize an inclusive dialogue mechanism with the civil society through conducive platforms and procedures that can create mutual accountability. The dialogue mechanism should concentrate on harmonising policy demands on civic space from local to national levels. Government is also being called upon to guarantee protection and safety of civic space actors, including civic leaders and journalists. More so, Government is requested to drop any attempts to gag citizens and civil society through the ongoing amendment process of the NGO Law (2001) and implementation of the NGO Policy.

### **iii. End corruption in public procurement**

With almost 80% of the national budget spent on public procurement, it is the largest spending process for Government of Malawi and hence, influences socio-economic development. Existing public procurement traits require immediate redress as more resources are lost to corruption. Billions of Malawian Kwachas are lost to the vice in the process of procuring goods and services at various levels of public service. It is not surprising therefore, that most of the corruption cases in Malawi revolve around procurement i.e. *Cashgate*, *Maizagate*, Malawi Police food rations, electricity generators and tractor gate, among others. This is contrary to what citizens expect from public procurement. It is aimed at satisfying public interest through provision of services in the correct quantity, appropriate quality, at the agreed time, from the best supplier, with the optimum terms, and under appropriate contractual obligations.

The impact of corruption in the procurement of public services is atrocious in Malawi. It has pushed citizens into poverty due to compromised services. Additionally, it has diverted public funds away from social needs, distorted markets and competition, raised prices and costs, and increased likelihood of poor quality of services in public institutions. Resultantly, sustainability of public services has been compromised, citizens' lives have been hugely risked, human rights have been trampled upon, value for money has not been secured, services have not met public expectations leading to loss of trust in government, and distorted environment for private sector development. The extreme case is loss



of lives due to compromised public services.

Corruption in public procurement at district and national levels has occurred through manipulation of bids, political interventions, exclusion of qualified bidders, twisted/rigged specifications and unbalanced bidding. Despite this situation, Malawi's public procurement system is essentially sound. Government enacted the Public Procurement Act of July 2003 and amended it in 2017 to establish the Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority – PPDA to monitor and oversee public sector procurement activities. The office is empowered to oversee procurement decisions made by Controlling Officers, Heads of departments and Chief Executives of Statutory Corporations assisted by their Internal Procurement Committees (IPCs) and Specialized Procurement Units (SPUs). However, the execution, compliance, monitoring and enforcement of these instruments are weak. Citizens want enforcement of and reporting on the procurement framework to ensure contracts to suppliers are awarded fairly to the advantage of citizens i.e. satisfactory quality, service and price in good time, from a public service that is economical, rational and fair. Further, these institutions should ensure they provide access to information and effective complaints mechanisms on procurement as a way of inducing citizenry to report suspected procurement corruption confidentially and without threat. Otherwise, the continued incidences of corruption, fraud, and public plunder as well as impassive response by Government and its agencies to arrest the vice are not giving any hope for achieving SDGs.

#### **iv. Finance social protection interventions**

Social protection interventions in Malawi are espoused in the National constitution, National Social Support Policy (2012), Malawi National Social Support Programme II (2018), MIP-1, Malawi 2063, SDGs and various instruments at regional, continental and global levels.

Social protection has proven to be one of the effective ways to bail vulnerable groups out of poverty. With 50.8% of the population below poverty line (NSO 2021), it is imperative to champion social protection to cushion the shocks which the vulnerable groups face. A lot of financial support is required to meet the huge demand for social protection programmes. However, mobilising resources in Malawi is associated with low capacity to collect taxes, political interests and high importation bill. There are also emerging issues which choke resource mobilisation such as population growth, climate change, natural disasters, influence of transnational institutions, poor governance and/or corruption. Government needs to step up efforts to fight illicit financial flows, develop more accommodating macroeconomic framework, re-allocate public expenditures, seek international support, and use fiscal and central bank foreign exchange reserves, among others.

Adequate resources will ensure social protection is affordable and sustainably financed while strengthening resilience, accelerating equity, human and economic development. It will further address social and economic vulnerabilities and contribute towards integrating social protection systems. What is required is the political will to make social protection



investment realise gains in both short and long terms. What has been observed so far in Malawi is Government's lack of seriousness to support social protection. Out of 8 existing projects under MNSSP and MNSSP II covering the period 2009 – 2021, Government of Malawi gave or is giving 0% for 7 of the projects, while 1 out the 8 projects gets 10% of costs from Government of Malawi. Civil Society organisations are implementing some of the social protection projects, targeting various vulnerable groups.

Theregularsocialprotectioninterventions in Malawi include the Social Cash transfer, Schools meals, Public Works, Village Savings and Loans, and Micro Finance as guided by the National Social Support Programme II (2018-2023). Through the flagship unconditional Malawi Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP), the poorest 10% of households that are ultra-poor and at the same time labour-constrained are targeted. Government of Malawi should harmonise all social protection interventions (MEJN 2021). For example, farm subsidies and disaster support should be part of mainstream social protection interventions managed by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development through the Social Protection Unit. Harmonising it will enhance targeting and programme efficiency.

As the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development reviews the National Social Support Policy in 2021, it will be important for stakeholders to reflect on inclusion and targeting of key vulnerable groups in the life cycle such as children from poor households, youths, people living with disabilities and the elderly. Additionally, it is imperative for stakeholders in the sector to ensure relevant formulation of policies and regulations; formulation of

relevant programmes; coordination and harmonisation of interventions; fiscal discipline and stability, mobilisation of resources and building partnerships with bilateral/multilateral institutions. Other issues to be considered to assist vulnerable groups access the services at manageable levels are introduction of tax policies on insurance and other basic items/services, price regulation, employee benefits, labour standards and access to financial services. On graduation for the able bodied, deliberate interventions aimed at moving a household out of poverty on a sustainable basis should be seriously considered.

## **A5. CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT**

### **i. Call for effective policy dialogue**

Attainment of SDGs requires immense dialogue on policies and frameworks that impact on each of the indicators. Civil society organisations have a vital role in engaging Government and intergovernmental bodies to influence policy on what citizens want. The civil society are anticipated to engage the arms of Government (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) local councils, media, fellow CSOs and local Government associations to influence them on resources allocated to each of the indicators. They are further expected to propose policy recommendations that would assist Government efficiently localise the SDGs in tandem with the Agenda 2030.

Opportunities arise at local and national levels for civil society to influence Government policy. Membership to the Sector Wide Approaches – SWAs; Sector Working Groups – SWGs;



Technical Working Groups and various Government-led taskforces and/or committee allow for participation of civil society. However, the challenge has been poor report-back mechanisms for the civil society that sit in those structures. Such lack of report-back mechanisms implies the rest of the NGOs not participating in those structures are not aware of what is happening in relevant sectors. Government should deliberately ensure that CSOs sitting in those structures are mandated to report back to fellow CSOs.

CSOs at district level sign MOUs with district councils as recommended by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, CONGOMA and the NGO Board of Malawi. It is envisaged that any CSO working outside the MOU is not granted an opportunity to implement its programmes. The idea is to ensure that all NGOs become part of CSO district networks to ease policy dialogue between the council and the CSOs. However, situations abound where some districts have no active MOU for a prolonged period of time, which affects policy dialogue on development policies at council level which include the District Development Plan, Social Economic Profile and other sector specific strategies. These are affected by regular transfer of key staff in councils such as the District Commissioners and the Directors of Planning and Development.

Despite the opportunity to engage Government at various levels, many local NGOs are failing to engage effectively due lack of resources. The local NGOs need resources to be able to raise awareness on SDGs and demand accountability from duty bearers. A new practice has emerged where donors provide resources to international NGOs which sub grant to local NGOs. Moving

forward, there is need to review the channel for funds to enable local NGOs build their capacity. The capacity building can equip the local CSOs with skills and knowledge on how to undertake policy analysis; policy formulation processes; policy analysis; policy advocacy; monitoring and evaluation; and stakeholder engagement.

#### **i. Addressing data gaps in monitoring SDGs implementation**

Availability of data assists policy makers and development stakeholders in identifying existing challenges; generating proposals to resolve them; and advancing best practice. The SDG indicators differ in their reporting; with some requiring data at country level and others at global level.

Malawi is not an exception in as far as data challenges are concerned. Limited data is available to cater for some of the SDG indicators. Yet, for the country to report effectively, there is need for accurate, timely and comparable data for all SDG indicators. The data sources in Malawi are therefore, expected to be robust, participatory and transparent in the way they compile the data in all Government systems.

Other sectors such as health are saturated with data while others are not. In this regard, the National Planning Commission which is entrusted with reporting on SDGs needs to identify the indicators that have sufficient data and ascertain the availability of disaggregated data in line with the 'Leave no-one behind' principle. The commission further needs analysis on the coverage of the data and identify ways for boosting investment in generating



data at all levels. It is envisaged that addressing the data gaps will assist in the monitoring and evaluation of Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) launched on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. MIP-1 is expected to expire in 2030, the year SDGs will come to an end (Government of Malawi 2021).

Poor data quality and data unavailability make it difficult to analyse all targets and indicators for the SDGs reporting. In 2018, data was available for a total of 168 global indicators out of 232, representing 72% availability. Data is captured by mainly the National Statistical Office (NSO) through the Population and Housing Census, integrated household surveys and multi-dimensional poverty analyses. However, not all data is captured thus the glaring gaps. The challenge is that Government considers data from civil society and other stakeholders as 'unofficial' and such data is not used in the monitoring and reporting of SDGs. In the same vein, civil society considers some of the data from Government as unreliable, as there is mismatch between data collected by NSO and data collected by civil society organisations. As such, there is need to develop a clear road map and a national data operational plan for monitoring and evaluation. This can be achieved through increased investments in improving national statistical system. Additionally, the State should be encouraged to interlink all data using the National Registration Bureau system which is meant to keep data for all registered Malawians. A National Consolidated System should address these challenges. There are indicators with sufficient data, insufficient data and no data at all. One of the ways to reduce data challenge is for Government to consider 'unofficial data' from other stakeholders in the

monitoring and reporting of SDGs. To facilitate easy accessibility of the data, a depository of research finding from all stakeholders including the academia and NGOs is recommended. Thus a Generic standardised training could be undertaken to certify all data collection officers for their data to be considered as credible in line with the training offered. There is need to develop guidelines for the Access to Information Law, to enable easy access to Government data by the civil society and citizens. Currently, civil society organisations do not easily get data on SDGs from some Government agencies. Consequently, civil society mostly use uncharted and unofficial channels to access the information. Additionally, the National Commission for Science and Technology should be vigilant in coordination research activities in Malawi.

## **A6. PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Raising awareness on SDGs creates an enabling environment for accountability, participatory and inclusive processes. It contributes to ownership building of SDG implementation processes while nurturing mechanisms for citizens to follow up and review progress. As institutions that work directly with citizens, civil society should be capacitated to raise awareness on SDGs with a motive of enhancing understanding of existing laws, policies and frameworks which have a bearing on realising the SDGs. Empowered citizens are enabled to participate fruitfully in public consultation on SDG implementation and monitoring.

### **i. Assisting CSOs align their work to local frameworks and SDGs**

Civil society is an important element in the implementation of SDGs. The Civil



Society Taskforce on SDGs has a catalytic role to ensure members and the citizens they work with understand all sectors of development in relation to the SDGs. As such, their equitable participation in policy making processes and effective collaboration in the implementation of the frameworks has to be promoted. Influencing from the peripherals does not yield much results compared to sitting at the table. In this regard, CONGOMA, as an umbrella body of NGOs in Malawi, has to ensure that information on SDGs is shared and that members align their programmes to SDGs.

Most donors' funding to civil society is mostly aligned to the SDGs. The role of CONGOMA in augmenting such efforts is to amplify civil society and citizen concerns by conducting research and action learning; facilitating participatory processes to support civil society inclusion; advancing innovative capacity building initiatives (including training and mentoring); and applying lessons learnt over the years in implementing local, regional and global development frameworks (through facilitation of networking and knowledge sharing). By constantly referring to SDGs in the implementation of their programmes, the beneficiaries of the interventions will increasingly become familiar with the 2030 Agenda and begin to decipher their role in achieving them.

Since most of the civil society organizations get support from bilateral and multilateral institutions, it is necessary for the donors to ensure that their support speak to local priorities. These local priorities are enshrined in the MIP-1, Malawi 2063 and various sector based frameworks. The district councils have own local priorities. Hence, the donors should understand what the

district priorities are before allocating funds. Furthermore, the councils should guide the civil society on their priorities as outlined in their local frameworks i.e. District Development Plans. The solace found in the SDGs is that they cater for every citizen's need. Looking at the poverty situation in Malawi, all activities civil society organizations undertake are linked to particular SDG indicators.

## **ii. Ensuring Academia and researchers dig out more information on the implementation of SDGs**

For Government, CSOs, private sector, donor community and citizens to understand local context of the SDGs better, it is important to have informative research done by educational bodies and researchers. Information is needed to enable stakeholders develop positions on each of the indicators; mine reliable data that is required to assess progress on each of the indicators; actions required to mobilise and encourage stakeholders to support implementation, reporting and contribution to achievement of the SDGs; the nature of partnerships required to effectively implement SDGs; and the effective participation required for civil society and citizen groups in prescribed national mechanisms orchestrated by Government for them to contribute efficiently towards realising SDGs.

Educational bodies and researchers may contribute to monitoring SDGs attainment. The University of Malawi, Chancellor College, has a vibrant Centre for Social Research capable of conducting research to inform the implementation of the SDGs. There are many private think tanks and researchers that can contribute effectively to the attainment of the Agenda 2030 by providing



the much needed data. However, the educational bodies and researchers are poorly funded and side-lined. National Commission for Science and Technology and National Planning Commission need to coordinate research dissemination at sector (e.g. Sector Working Groups, multi-stakeholder groups) and national levels. Furthermore, efforts should be made by all researchers (Government, think tanks, civil society, Development Partners, private sector) to make findings user friendly i.e. easy to understand summaries, translations and actionable recommendations.

### **iii. Translation of the SDGs and engagement of Local Governments**

For citizens who may not be able to understand the SDGs in a foreign language, it is necessary to have translations for SDGs and their indicators. In Malawi, efforts to translate the SDGs have been made in 3 main local languages of Chichewa, Tumbuka and Yao by UNDP in collaboration with the Government. The translated

versions are used for sensitizing masses at grassroots level. Local governments are engaged in the implementation of the MIP-1 which is aligned to the SDGs. Ministry of local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) and the Malawi Local Government Association (MALGA) had a project on sensitization of SDGs at local level, but in selected districts.

Nonetheless, not all the people have been reached with the translated information. Distribution of the publicity materials is sporadic. Stakeholders need to step up efforts to ensure all citizens get the publicity materials in various forms including printouts, radio and Television programmes. Engagement has to start with Local Government structures which include the Village and Area Development Committees. These structures require special capacity to understand how the village action plans they develop can be aligned to both local and international development frameworks. To motivate them, Government should finance the plans through the national budget via the district councils.

## SECTION B: GOAL PROGRESS

### B1: SUMMARY OF PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVES

Description of the scores:

	Strong progress (4-5 score)
	Moderate progress (3 score)
	Insufficient or No progress (1-2 score)

GOALS NUMBER	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	Policy & Legal framework	Plans and Strategies	Government Agencies	Implementation	Capacity Building	Monitoring Evaluation & Reporting	Transparency & Accountability	Budget allocation	Overall Progress
	Rate 1(no progress)-5(strong progress, on target)									
1	No Poverty	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	2
2	Zero Hunger	5	5	5	2	4	2	3	2	3
3	Good Health & Wellbeing	4	4	4	2	2	3	2	1	2
4	Quality Education	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	3
5	Gender Equality	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	3
6	Clean Water & Sanitation	4	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3
7	Affordable & Clean Energy	4	4	3	3	2	3	3	2	2
8	Decent Work & Economic Growth	3	3	3	2	2	1	3	2	2
9	Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
10	Reduced Inequalities	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2
11	Sustainable Cities & Communities	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	2
12	Responsible Consumption & Production	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
13	Climate Action	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	2
14	Life Below Water	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
15	Life on Land	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
17	Global Partnership for the Goals	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2



## B2. SUMMARY OF THE SCORES

Rating	Description	Number of Goals	%
<b>1-2</b>	Insufficient or No progress	<b>13</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>3</b>	Moderate progress	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>4-5</b>	Strong progress	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## B3. DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SCORES

### SDG 1: END EXTREME POVERTY IN ALL FORMS BY 2030

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						<p>Malawi has developed a number of Policy documents to localize the SDGs including the MIP-1, National Agriculture Policy (2017) and Malawi National Social Support Programme II (2018).</p> <p>The Goal has 7 targets and 14 indicators. Therefore, Malawi government needs to develop more policies and review other policies like Microfinance policy so that they are aligned to the indicators.</p>
Plans and strategies						<p>Malawi established the National Planning Commission (NPC) to formulate and review policies and strategic plans; Malawi National Resilience Programme (2018-2030) aimed at breaking the cycle of food insecurity; Social Cash Transfer Programme which is unconditional programme targeting the ultra-poor and the labour constrained; and the Public Sector Reforms Programme which was formulated to address bottlenecks in service delivery. Likewise, Malawi has the National Agriculture investment plan; National Strategy for financial inclusion; and develops annual development plans through local structures to respond to the needy of the poor e.g. District Development Plan, Area Development Plan and Village Development plan. However, most of these plans have insufficient or no budget allocation to finance implementation.</p> <p>Additionally, some strategies are not locally owned like Malawi Social Support Programme II which Malawi Government contributes 10% of the whole programme while the rest come from donors a situation which is sustainable.</p>

Government agencies					Despite having the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, National Planning Commission, Sector Wide Approaches, Sector Working Groups and Technical Working Groups, there is poor coordination and exchange of information among Government Agencies responsible for sectoral implementation of the SDGs.
Implementation					Poor implementation is characterized by inadequate resource allocation, weak capacity and coordination among stakeholders implementing the SDGs in Malawi. Implementation lacks inclusive, cross-cutting and multi-stakeholder approach which results into poor coordination and systems.
Capacity building					Despite capacity to develop plans, strategies and policies, Malawi lacks implementation capacity to guarantee a labour force that is well educated, skilled and economically engaged. In this regard, there is need for adequate capacity for all public officers and institutions.
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting					To ensure effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting of SDGs in Malawi, Government has developed a National Statistical System Strategic Plan (2020-2023) to enable evidence-based planning and timely available of official statistics for monitoring and evaluation of MIP-1 and SDGs. However, there is no effective implementation and monitoring systems in place of all global, regional, national obligations and commitments to empower citizens. Public officers and relevant institutions require adequate capacity and financing to enable them monitor public programmes and their efficiency.
Transparency and accountability					The implementation lacks transparency and accountability as there is inadequate systems and strategies to strengthen the capacity of Government and implementing stakeholders to access and track progress in the implementation of SDG in Malawi. Failure to implement the Access to Information Act has contributed to this lack of transparency and accountability.
Budget allocation					Pro-poor budgeting has been challenging due to a myriad of challenges to address. Poverty eradication programmes are riddled in poor financing and governance. It is not surprising therefore, that the number of people living in poverty is still high i.e. 50.7%. Government needs serious investment in programmes that directly benefit the poor to avoid the poor perennial performance under the Human Development Index.
Overall progress on this goal.					Malawi lacks effective mechanism to ensure that policies, strategies and plans are well implemented, monitored and evaluated. Lack of proper budget allocation to the plans suffocates ambitions to achieve the global 2030 agenda for development.



**SDG 2: END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION  
AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

ASPECT	GROUP RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						<p>Availability of National Agriculture policy, National Agriculture Extension Policy and Agriculture Sector Plans are some of the frameworks in ending hunger. However, rolling out these policies is on demand-driven basis, contrary to what used to happen in the past two decades where extension officers were the ones visiting farmers in communities.</p> <p>Some of the instruments meant to improve nutrition are the National Multi-Sector Nutrition Policy 2018–2022 and Malawi National Social Support Programme II 2018–2023 (MNSSP II). However, Government's commitment towards implementing these remains implausible.</p>
Plans and strategies						<p>Some of the available plans and strategies are the Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP), National Extension plan and Agriculture Investment plan and projects such as the Agriculture Commercialization Project. These plans are not well popularized to the general populace and they do not solve the problem of scarcity of extension workers in rural communities, Agricultural industrialization and poor mechanization of agriculture. If there is progress, then it is too limited to be noticed. Other interventions include Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), Micronutrient; Adolescent Nutrition, School Health and Nutrition, Early Childhood Development, Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), Nutrition Care Support and Treatment (NCST), Prevention and Treatment of nutrition-related Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the 2019–2023 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).</p>
Government agencies						<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Extension Services, Research Department, Livestock and Diseases Control Department and flagship projects jointly supported by donors and Government.</p>

Implementation					<p>Despite the existing strategies and policies, implementation has been lacking. Most of the frameworks are dependent on funds from donors, who mostly might not focus on local needs as stipulated in the documents. For initiative that are largely supported by Government such as AIP, politics and corruption have crept in resulting in poor implementation.</p> <p>In addition, there are poor extension services as small holder farmers are not adequately assisted in the rural areas. Research findings are not well disseminated to various stakeholders and reports are not simplified for end users.</p>
Capacity building					<p>The Lead Farming concept seems to be yielding positive results. However, most stakeholders including farmers, CSOs and policy makers (i.e. Members of Parliament) have less capacity to understand agriculture policies and strategies. Most of these are not even aware of the instruments in the sector. These impact negatively on implementation.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting					<p>Despite the readily available and accessible data and reports Agriculture programmes are not well monitored by all stakeholders. So far monitoring reports have not been shared to stakeholders and to the general populace for them to understand and take action on issues that concern them.</p>
Transparency and accountability					<p>The agriculture sector has mechanisms for verification at all levels, including reporting lines. However, stakeholders and Community members are not provided with information regarding the agriculture programmes. Research findings are not mostly shared with end-users, which renders the findings not fruitful. Operations of Agriculture Agencies such as the Agricultural Development and Marketing Cooperation (ADMARC) are questionable as they are not usually focused on needs for the vulnerable.</p>
Budget allocation					<p>Government allocated 10.5% of the MK1.989 trillion to the sector in the 2021/22 national budget. 49% of the allocation is for AIP, leaving the 51% for administration and other integrated sectors such as water and climate change. With this allocation, dismal performance is expected i.e. some people will experience pockets of hunger and poor nutrition due to poor harvests and increasing prices of farm inputs and high prices of food on the market. It is imperative therefore, for Government to ensure more flagship projects in the sector</p>
Overall progress on this goal.					<p>Government is committing to achieve the goal through application of different strategies and plans. However, financing and implementation of the instruments are humbling the sector.</p>



**SDG 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						The sector is governed by the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi (1995), Public Health Act, HIV and AIDS Act of 2018, Mental Treatment Act of 1948 Community Health Policy, Maternal Health Policy, Reproductive Health Policy, SRHR policy and TB policy among others. However, effectiveness of these policies has been questioned in some public health instances i.e. early pregnancies, high staff turn-over, failure to recruit trained officials timely, limited human resource, drug stock outs, delayed procurement and poor infrastructure for specialized treatment.
Plans and strategies						The sector is endowed with various plans and strategies such as the Health Sector Strategic Plan II (HSSP II) 2017-2022, Demographic and Health Survey Reports, the National Community Health Strategy, the National Strategy for Adolescent Girls and Young Women, National HIV and AIDS Policy, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Option B+ Policy, the Health Sector Strategic Plan II (HSSP II) 2017-2022, Demographic and Health Survey Reports Cancer Strategy, Condom Strategy, TB Strategy and Maternal Health Strategy, among others. However, not all these are availed to partners on the ground.
Government agencies						Some of the agencies include the Ministry of Health, Medical Council of Malawi, TB Control Program, District Health Offices and Office of the Ombudsman. Support in the sector also comes from Christian Health Association of Malawi and various private institutions which provide services on behalf of Government.

Implementation				<p>Implementation has been poor. Health structures not adequate in rural areas, which makes citizens travel long distances to access treatment. There is slow progress on sexual and reproductive health of Adolescents and young people as it is more of personal responsibilities and choices. Most interventions lack better monitoring and evaluation systems as well as community support and engagements in order to instill responsibility in the people. The sector is largely hit by corruption and pilferage of medical equipment and drugs. The absence of medical insurance for many and user fees makes attainment of universal health coverage a tall order.</p> <p>Despite this laxity, there are other initiatives which are being implemented fruitfully especially those involving HIV, Vaccines, malaria, TB and some Cancers.</p>
Capacity building				<p>The sector has highly trained personnel with necessary capacities, but it is let down by a huge vacancy rate to the extent that the ratios of personnel to citizens are appalling i.e. doctor-patient ratio is over 88,00 against World Health recommended 1,000 patients; while nurses-patient ratio hovers around 34 nurses for every 100,000 patients instead of WHO's recommended 500:100,000. There is also less knowledge of the universal health coverage and poor capacity building for citizens in communities on their health rights.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>The health sector is more organized on reports and data, though limited dissemination is made to stakeholders, including the citizenry. However, stakeholder involvement in monitoring the Government programmes is a challenge. i.e. TB and Maternal Health Programme. There is need to strengthen coordination with stakeholders to ensure effective and efficient monitoring and reporting on the SDGs, more importantly on monitoring drugs and equipment in all health facilities.</p>
Transparency and accountability				<p>Theft of already insufficient resources in the health sector and corruption in accessing of public health services especially treatment emanate from lack of transparency and accountability in the sector. Drug theft is on the increase peddled by syndicates and cartels on the supply of drugs. Further, most of the personnel in the health sector are operating their own businesses which eventually benefit from the poor transparency mechanisms in the sector</p>



Budget allocation						The sector was allocated 9.4% of the national budget in the financial year 2021/22. Most of the finances for the sector come from donors who support specific interventions such as TB, Malaria and COVID 19. Still, more funds are required for addressing staffing gaps and lack of supply of essential health equipment (drugs, equipment) and installing CCTV cameras in public health facilities drug stores.
Overall progress on this goal.						Although the Ministry of Health is performing well in various activities, it needs to address corruption in the sector and take necessary measures to comply with the Abuja Declaration. The health facilities are sparsely distributed in rural areas with poorly equipped district health facilities. There is need for fully fledged district hospitals in Lilongwe and Blantyre to decongest central or referral hospitals in the two districts.

#### SDG 4: ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Generally, Malawi has a supportive domestic policy framework for the education sector. Firstly, SDGs are aligned to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MDGS) III. This development blue print places education as one of the priority sectors. Secondly, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) developed the National Educational policy (2016) which champions specific indicators within the SDG. Thirdly, the National Strategy on Inclusive Education (2017) as well as the National Education Standards (2016) seek to provide equitable, inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all. Fourthly, Malawi has the National Girls education Strategy (2018) which aims at ensuring that girls have equal access to quality education in Malawi. There are also good policies and regulations on the ground, which propel the sector to better performance.
Plans and strategies						The country has the National Educational Sector Plan (NESP) and the revised Education Sector Implementation Plan (ESIP), including Girls Education Strategies and the Child Friendly Schooling Strategy.

Government agencies					Some of the Government Agencies include the Ministry of education, Science and Technology; public universities and public research institutions
Implementation					Despite good policies and strategies, implementation remains the biggest challenge as evidenced by more primary schools learners still learning under the tree while some in grass thatched classrooms. Lack of child-friendly schools, materials and infrastructure (teacher houses and classrooms) in most schools has to poor education standards.
Capacity building					<p>Most of the capacity building initiatives are limited to Government agencies. It does not embrace that of non-state actors and decentralized structures such as School Management Committees (SMCs), Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs), Mother Groups, Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Area Development Committees (ADCs).</p> <p>Inadequate capacity is also an outcome of the weak coordination with government agencies. Consequently, non-state actors are not fully integrated in Government's capacity building initiatives. Donors too are doing very little to enhance the capacity of non-state actors.</p> <p>Pupil / teacher level not tallying as triggered by inadequate infrastructure. The shifting system reflects lack of forward planning and incompetency of technocrats due to poor selection criteria to the positions (unskilled. Most of the technocrats lack analytical skills.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting					<p>Although Government uses the Education Standards and Service Charter (2016) guidelines to monitor progress, the process is tailor made to paint a good picture. The joint sector reviews (JSR) that Government undertakes each year are not consultative enough and civil society is not involved.</p> <p>Although Government also maintains the Education Management Information System - EMIS which provides data in different areas of education (enrolment, dropout, retention, completion etc.); the information does not reflect the reality on the ground. In addition, the information is collected by the central Government with less involvement of the local councils. The local councils' roles are limited to the validation of the data that is captured.</p>



Transparency and accountability					<p>The sector is hampered by poor transparency and accountability on reporting. There is little to no involvement of the civil society in the JSR and EMIS processes. MoEST rarely consults other stakeholders especially the CSO in budget formulation. Disclosure of finance or budget information does not usually happen.</p> <p>Further, most of recommendations by the Parliament Committee on Education are either not taken on board or are deemed irrelevant. This challenge undermines the oversight function of the Committee</p>
Budget allocation					<p>Financing to the education sector still remains inadequate. The education budget provides very little for development as over 80% represents statutory payments. The sector was allocated 21% of the national budget (for the 2021/22 financial year) meant to address the pupil qualified teacher ratio in primary schools, pupil permanent classroom ratio, transition from primary to secondary schools, special needs education in secondary schools, youth unemployment and achieve 10,000 university enrollment capacity. These tasks are enormous but doable, hence the need to ensure attention on these diverted. It will also be important for the Ministry to address emerging issues such as teachers' strike and COVID 19 for education institutions to remain safe for both teachers and pupils.</p>
Overall progress on this goal.					<p>Equity and inclusiveness still remain a challenge. The marginalised groups such as children with disability are consistently left behind, though components of the quota system were supposed to address such. Declining efforts by NGOs due to lack of funding from donors further exacerbates the situation as government lacks capacity to fully guarantee inclusiveness and equitable quality education</p> <p>The sector is further characterized by Inequalities, which are too wide at all education levels i.e. infrastructure, teacher allocation, learning materials etc.</p>

## SDG 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						<p>Some of the instruments in the sector include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Deceased Estates Act (wills, inheritance and protection) among many Acts and policies that government developed</li> <li>ii. Malawi has Gender Equality Act</li> <li>iii. Gender Policy (need to be Reviewed)</li> <li>iv. Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act.</li> <li>v. The Ministry of Gender, Children Disability and Social welfare (MoGCDSW) created a good platform to respond to the global agenda.</li> <li>vi. HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Management) Act (2018)</li> <li>vii. Land Act (2016)</li> <li>viii. Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act (2015)</li> <li>ix. Trafficking in Persons Act (2015)</li> <li>x. Disability Act (2012)</li> <li>xi. Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance and Protection) Act (2011)</li> <li>xii. Child Care, Protection and Justice Act (2010)</li> <li>xiii. Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2006)</li> <li>xiv. Chapter XV of the Penal Code: Offences Against Morality (1930)</li> <li>xv. Witchcraft Act (1911)</li> <li>xvi. National Social Welfare Policy Promoting Social Inclusion and Human Dignity (2018)</li> <li>xvii. National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy</li> </ul> <p>Despite existence of these instruments, not much progress is being made as evidenced by domestic violence and limited presence of women in positions of influence.</p>



Plans and strategies				Plans and strategies include the National Gender Policy of 2015, Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II) (2018–2023), National Strategy on Ending Child Marriages (2018–2023), National Action Plan for Women Economic Empowerment (2016– 2021) and the National Plan of Action to Combat Gender- Based Violence in Malawi (2014–2020).
Government agencies				The availability of MoGCDSW shows commitment of the Government to achieve SDG 5. There are various institutions civil society organization supporting Government initiatives on gender equality and women empowerment in various parts of the country.
Implementation				There are serious challenges related to implementation of the programs on gender, because the Government depends on resources from donors. The Ministry of Gender is poorly funded to implement gender related interventions. Likewise, most grassroots CSOs fail to effectively support the government due to resource constraints.
Capacity building				There is low capacity to implement policies and programs related to gender. The available skills are not used optimally. The MoGCDSW failed to implement 50/50 campaign which sought to promote women empowerment by increasing the number of women in influential positions. However, the presence of Gender Officers in all District Councils is a sign of commitment to achieve the SDG.
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				There is need for Government to promote monitoring and evaluation and reporting of programmes. The challenge is that when most policies and strategies expire Government does not evaluate their implementation progress.
Transparency and accountability				<p>There is inadequate transparency and accountability on programmes that have an aspect of promoting gender equality and equity like the Social Cash Transfers; Safety Net Fund on COVID 19 for women doing business (amounting to MK 2 billion); Economic Empowerment Fund for women and girls; and other social protection programmes that the Government is implementing. To date, there is no disability fund although the Government has been mentioning it in its plans and statements.</p> <p>Further, the ministry usually gives reports on the donor finances they use, not funds from mainstream Government.</p>

Budget allocation					Government allocates limited finances to MoGCDSW and Government. Being a cross cutting issue, more resources were anticipated in order to address all the gender related gaps in public institutions.
Overall progress on this goal.					The MoGCDSW and its departments do not effectively promote transparency and accountability on the management and allocation of funds to the departments at district level. Huge sums of funds on social cash transfers have not been explained to stakeholders. Thus the ministry has not performed well in achieving SDG 5. The sector is largely funded by donors, who prioritise on what they need to support.

## SDG 6: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Some of the instruments in the sector include the Water Works Act of 2005, Water Policy of 2005, Sanitation Policy of 2008 and the Water Resources Act of 2015. However, some instruments that regulate the management of water resources and infrastructure are deliberately flouted or hardly adhered to by various stakeholders, including Government.
Plans and strategies						Government formulated the National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy (2018 -2024) and the National health Sector Strategic Plan (2017-2022) among others, to operationalize the sector. MIP-1 further prioritises the water and sanitation Sector.
Government agencies						Leadership for sanitation and hygiene is loosely provided for across two ministries and there has been a standoff between the two ministries for several years now which has affected sector progress. While the National Sanitation Policy clearly states who the policy holder is Ministry of Agriculture, leadership for sanitation has been a bone of contention between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture. There is need to empower District Water Officers to effectively play their gatekeeper/coordination role in the districts



Implementation				<p>Several citizens are still using water from unprotected sources, despite sinking boreholes in most areas. Some of the boreholes are not functioning or are sparsely allocated in some areas. On sanitation, not all citizens are using latrines. Hence, they resort to open defecation. still using bore-holed water, open defecation is minimized on the local level.</p> <p>This signifies poor implementation of programmes and poor adherence to guidelines and regulation. NGOs have come in to provide the much needed support in the sector by sinking boreholes and empowering communities to practice hygiene and sanitation.</p>
Capacity building				<p>There has been no meaningful action to capacitate the Directorate of water Supply and Sanitation in the (then) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development. A window which central government opened for capacitating district water offices by employing Water Monitoring Assistants (WMAs) was not fully utilized, ending in blame-game as to who is responsible/mandated to recruit the WMAs. Further, there are few experts in the sector, which makes it challenging to reach out to every household.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>The sector should be applauded for initiatives such the joint Sector review process and development of a sector improvement plan; review of sector headline indicators to ensure alignment with SDGs; and national mapping of water points. However, commitment by the line ministry to ensure that these inputs and processes yield full results seems to be lacking. There is no urgency to implement recommendations from such process to develop the sector. Further, the sector is mired in data management challenges, which in most cases, does not match with the situation on the ground.</p>

Transparency and accountability				While sector coordination and accountability frameworks and structures exist, accountability processes, especially for sector performance is weak. There is limited functionality of a national coordination, monitoring and accountability system, which every stakeholder should use. There is no meaningful implementation of sanctions or rewards to ensure satisfactory performance of public officers responsible for ensuring functionality of coordination, monitoring and accountability structures. Moreover, there is political interference in the management of utility companies, which compromises functionality and makes the utilities not accountable to the citizenry. Additionally, there is lack of access to information on the sector's performance areas.
Budget allocation				The target in the current budget (2021 / 22) is to ensure 87% of the population is accessing safely managed drinking water. There is no catchy sanitation target. Budget for the sector is usually combined with other sectors which clouds out its performance. The programmes in the sector have largely been influenced by politics, resulting in unequal distribution of water and sanitation programmes. Budget allocation to district councils should be tailor-made to ensure challenges are addressed. This implies more resources required for the sector.
Overall progress				Politicisation of interventions in the sector needs to be minimized if all citizens are to be reached with clean and portable water. Reliability of the interventions needs to be tightened, including the statutory corporations in the sector. Further, all CSOs and stakeholders should ensure their activities are aligned to master plans for each district and/or community.



**SDG 7: ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL.**

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Malawi has a National Energy Policy (2018), Water Resources Act 2013, Environmental Management Act 2016, Water Resources Act 2013, National Forestry Act 1997, Independent Power Producers (IPP) Procurement framework, and Energy Regulation Act (2004). These create a conducive legal and policy framework capable of guiding investment and services in the energy sector. However, many Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with no serious movement towards Independent Power Production IPP). Unfortunately critical stakeholders in the sector are advancing challenging demands on Malawi Government towards increasing its electricity tariffs for any Independent power producer to make profits as at the current rate. The IPPs claim they will operate at a loss hence, less interested producers to take up the opportunity.
Plans and strategies						Ambitious investment plans remain on paper and unfunded, for example the Malawi Renewable Energy Strategy, Sustainable energy for all, 2017- 2035 Integrated Resource Plan and Malawi Rural Electrification Programme (MAREP). Malawi has high potential for solar and new hydro technologies that can enter into the power market. However, as a major donor recipient, the energy sector has major challenges including non cost-effective tariffs, access to finance, and the off-grid sector strategy which discourages new investors in the sector.
Government agencies						Although there is strong investor interest and political will for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to enter the market, ESCOM and EGENCO, MERA and MAREP remain highly controlled by Government. These entities require huge capital injections which Government has not provided resulting in the firms engaging in huge borrowings. Hence, commitment to attain the SDG is low, as interference by the political elites hampers progress in the two entities.

Implementation				<p>The incentives to attract investors and make them stay remain weak. Most Investors have stiff conditions not favourable to the people of Malawi i.e. the desire for the electricity tariffs to be increased to above MK250 per kilowatt as opposed to the current one, i.e. MK95.10 for domestic use and MK132.28 for business entities.</p> <p>Power Africa is actively engaged in the development of the Malawi's power sector and has signed an MOU with government and other players to increase the generation and supply of electricity. Malawi is implementing the Malawi Rural Electrification Programme (MAREP) On the other hand; the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA) evaluated ESCOM's tariffs and revised them upwards September 2018. The revision to an extent puts the country in a better position for attracting investors in the sector.</p>
Capacity building				<p>Malawi's capacity to attain the desired goal remains farfetched. There is installed capacity of 439 Mega Watts (MW) (Hydroelectric: 384 MW and Solar: 55 MW) against a demand of over 720MW resulting in huge load shedding. Environmental degradation remains high thereby affecting investments and sustainable provision of energy resources to Malawians.</p> <p>There is though good will from USAID-funded activities that complemented the \$350 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Malawi Compact, as well as broader U.S. Government electrification efforts. ESCOM and EGENCO remains priority entities that need to be freed from Government to promote independence and free programme implementation strategies to meet the gap.</p> <p>Issues of energy in terms of technology; policy; legislation; and commitments at national, regional and global levels are going through rapid changes. It will therefore be very important to continue reviewing the policy periodically to ensure it remains relevant and keeps pace with those developments at all times.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>More work needs to be done to enhance monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in the energy sector. The public is not fully aware of the current plans and progress in the sector. As such, the contribution to the sector is very limited.</p>



Transparency and accountability					The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) supported the development of the procurement framework that has increased the trust and confidence in firms working in the energy sector among the donors and other stakeholders. The involvement of Anti-Corruption Bureau in the procurement processes and other operations has increased transparency in the firms.
Budget allocation					Government has not allocated enough funds in the sector, although it generates more finances through tariffs. If Government is serious with clean energy, then it has to reduce costs for other energy sources such as solar panels and gas.
Overall progress on this goal.					Potentially, IPPs are expected to add 185 MWs to the grid, a 43 percent increase in Malawi's installed generation capacity. Public Private Partnerships (PPP) remains vital in the sector, as more targeted investments such as solar and wind propelled energy remains an option for Malawi. For example, the 300 MW Mpatamanga hydro project expected to be commissioned in 2025 will be a game changer for Malawi

**SDG 8: PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT ORK FOR ALL.**

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Malawi has conducive labour laws, notably the National Employment and Labour Policy launched in 2018, National Gender Policy, Workers Compensation Act (2000), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Workplace Policy and the Progressive Employment Act amended 2010.
Plans and strategies						Malawi decent work country programme is in place. A Mandatory Pension Act exists and Decent Work Monitoring and Evaluation plans are available, The Malawi Investment Forum (MIF), Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund and some tax incentives, National Economic Empowerment Fund (NEEF), Industrial Research and Technology Development Centre. However, implementation remains challenge.

Government agencies					<p>The Ministry of Labour takes charge in providing policy direction for attaining SDG 8. Malawi also has Industrial Relations Court that handles many disputes related to employment and labour, there is also Workers compensation Directorate under the Ministry of Labour, Malawi Economic Planning and Development, Malawi Investment Promotion Center – MITC and Department of Value Addition.</p>
Implementation					<p>Government is putting more effort to ensure that Malawi realizes economic growth, i.e. Implementation of Affordable Input Programme, NEEF, construction of road networks.</p> <p>However, some jobs are yet to be decent and employee rights at work are not fully recognized in some workplaces. Effort to implement labour inspections is not adequately executed. There are numerous work place related injuries due to unsafe working environments. The afflicted workers do not get relief in time due to delays in accessing justice in the courts. Access to health remains a challenge as there is no universal health coverage. Poor coordination among agencies and departments result in increased lawsuits by workers against government entities. Moreover, there is inadequate support to promote employment creation, and to reduce dependence on donors for economic support.</p>
Capacity building					<p>The Ministry of Labour, employers and trade unions have not effectively built the capacity of stakeholders on SDG 8. Global economic trends coupled with COVID 19 pandemic have reduced the support from developed countries to build the capacity of institutions, workforce and stakeholders. Inadequate staffing at all levels slows the delivery of services for the promotion of decent work and full employment. Likewise, youth capacitation programmes are riddled with political interference. These programmes are either selective or restrictive such that not all youth can access the services let alone finances to enhance capacities.</p> <p>There is a need for capacity building and a stronger human capital policy to support technological innovation and entrepreneurship amongst employers.</p>



Monitoring, evaluation and reporting						Monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programmes related to SDG 8 is irregular. Implementation is ad hoc and the institutionalized structures set to monitor the attainment of the goal are weak. Due to inadequate capacity, the Ministry of Labour does not regularly report on the goal. Consequently, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development relies on projections in its development planning as no real data is available on exact jobs created or number and categories of the youths being empowered.
Transparency and accountability						The Ministry of Labour tries its best to share programmatic areas of the agenda, but is restrained by scarcity of resource. Social dialogue forums used to be intense because of donor support. However, since Lo-Norway withdrew its financial support, interactions between the social partners remain ad hoc. As a result, it takes the Unions or Employers to issue statements of condemnations on matters affecting labour for Government to respond as opposed to round table, open and transparent sessions which used to take place
Budget allocation						The sector is hugely underfunded amidst challenges, which has affected implementation of the instruments in the sector. Most departments and Agencies are not adequately funded, hence they are slow in addressing worker grievances. The agencies further need monitoring of child labour across the country.
Overall progress on this goal.						Malawi remains behind in attaining the full and sustainable employment which is decent by 2030. The legal framework is conducive but enforcement and implementation remains a challenge. Thus policies speak to the attainment of this goal but there is need for more work and effort to the Formal Economy.

## SDG 9: BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Introduction of SMEs policy which caters for registration of companies; Malawi 2063; mechanisms for increasing access to safe, affordable and sustainable transport and ICT; MIP-1 and the National Development Planning Framework are expected to contribute towards attaining SDG 9.

Plans and strategies				<p>The nation launched the Financial Sector Development Strategy II (2017-2022) which increases the agricultural productivity and enhances expansion of small, medium and micro enterprises. This will eventually create employment, increase household income and consumption.</p> <p>The MIP-1 has provisions to transform the country in the long and medium terms. These include provisions on infrastructure development and industrialization.</p>
Government agencies				<p>The National Planning Commission (NPC), Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development are in the forefront championing this SDG. There are also supporting agencies such as The Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training (TEVET) Authority (TEVETA), Roads Authority, City Councils, town councils, district councils, Malawi Housing Corporation and Ministry of Lands. Outside these agencies, ruling political manifestos guide infrastructural programmes.</p>
Implementation				<p>Most of the country's infrastructural programmes remain sub-standard. Most companies are closing down; an indication that the country needs to improve on taxation policies and investment. Further, most manufacturing companies are not owned by indigenous Malawians, which results in externalizing profits. Some campaigns to promote Malawian goods have not fully picked up due to poor quality of the products.</p> <p>Additionally, there is no strategy to empower Malawians on industrialization or innovation. Contracts with smaller amounts are given to indigenous Malawians while most with big sums are given to foreigners. In this regard, Government should ensure such foreign institutions partner with local companies.</p> <p>Corruption has marred the infrastructural sector. Therefore, PPDA and ACB need to address all concerns for the country to make progress on the SDG.</p>



Capacity building				Due to poor application of the Public Finance Act Management Act of 2003, there is limited capacity to finance big infrastructural projects and promote industrialization. The same applies to commercial banks which rarely finance projects for locals. Although Government has directed that 60% of contracts be given to local Malawians, there is nothing being done to build capacity for Malawians to take up the challenge. Other than building technical colleges to enhance skills for Malawians, there is not much being done to finance activities in the sector.
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				On infrastructure or industrialization there is little or no monitoring. The public needs to know how much money is collected by councils and how it is used. The same applies to all infrastructural projects. There is need to deliberately monitor factors that are hindering growth in the sector i.e. access to finance and access to markets. It is also imperative to develop frameworks that would assist in policing and regulating the sector. Such lack of frameworks has resulted in mushrooming of projects not approved by relevant authorities. The relevant officers move in too late to restore order in the sector, which is unfair to the public. The sector further needs robust research, which could contribute to monitoring parameters.
Transparency and accountability				There is little or no transparency and accountability as plans in districts and cities are only known to public officials. Continued keeping of plans under wraps is not consistent with modern development as it excludes citizens from participating. Due to such secrecy, the sector is associated with shady deals which result in substandard work. Generally, it is difficult to access information from Government especially on budgets on infrastructure and industrialization despite having Access to Information Law.
Budget allocation				Big chunk of the budget allocation to the sector goes to roads construction neglecting other infrastructure initiatives. The deficit budget also means less allocation to the SDGs in favour of other imminent issues requiring redress. Access to loans is restrictive, starting from collaterals, interest and other conditions, which make local investors, fail to boost their industries and delivery of good quality infrastructure projects.

Overall progress						There is very limited progress in the sector due to poor coordination of projects. Such coordination is needed for Resilient Infrastructure, Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Innovation. Government needs to take a step in financing relevant frameworks to contribute to quality infrastructure and promote industrialization. Deliberate efforts should also be made to boost trade at local and regional levels i.e. adding value to goods.
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## SDG 10: REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						The Constitution of Malawi (including Bill of Rights), Penal Code and sector specific instruments such as gender aim at ending inequality among Malawians. However, there are still gaps to protect the poor from being exploited. This has led to the poor becoming poorer and the richer becoming richer. If the country is to achieve equality, policy and legal frameworks should be developed to ensure those left being due to such inequalities are targeted.
Plans and strategies						Government is implementing the National Social Support Programme II (2018-2023) which has seen the expansion of social support provision in the country with mechanism for reducing inequalities. Other sector specific interventions on gender, disability and promoting girls educations have assisted in making strides in the sector.
Government agencies						Some of the Government entities include Ministry of Finance Economic Planning and Development; Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development; Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare; and Ministry of Foreign Affairs which works on strengthening bilateral relations for reduced inequalities among countries.



Implementation				<p>Social Support programmes such as Social Cash Transfer, Public Works Programme, School Feeding programme and Village Savings and Loans are aimed at reducing inequality. However, these initiatives are only reaching out to 10% of the population. With over 20% living in extreme poverty, not all are targeted with the interventions. Additionally, the increasing gap between the rich and the poor, and the increasing cases of domestic violence allude to the indication that minimal positive results are being yielded from the initiatives the country and stakeholders are implementing.</p> <p>Public services which are accessed by poor people are not of good standard, which prompts ministers, members of parliament and high ranking civil servants access their services from private institutions. As such, they care less on the status of public institutions providing services in some sectors i.e. education, health etc., thereby compromising the principle of “leave no one behind”.</p> <p>There is also a very huge gap in promoting rights of a boy child. The full focus in this sector is on feminist point of view making the boy child suffer in silence. Thus, there are no equal rights for boys and girls.</p>
Capacity building				<p>Heads of State and Government agreed to combat inequality by empowering citizens and promoting basic fundamentals of human rights. However, there is limited effort in the sector in Malawi. Citizens have to be empowered to demand their rights in all sectors. All institutions in the sector require capacity building to reverse the inequality.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>Malawi has increased efforts towards the elimination of violence at all levels more especially violence against women and children through interventions such as the Spotlight Initiative where girls and women that are at risk of violence are able to access essential services including sexual reproductive health. However, most institutions lack capacity to monitor i.e. National Initiative for civic Education – NICE, Ministry of Civic Education and district councils. The National Statistical Office (NSO) needs further empowerment on collecting data around inequality to enable the country draw lessons and implement programmes towards reversing inequality. So far, most of these monitoring initiatives are sponsored by bilateral / multilateral institutions.</p>

Transparency and accountability						Much of economic information which is very important to the local people is not disclosed despite existence of the Access to Information Law. However, there is more information on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, which has resulted in successfully tracking perpetrators of domestic violence.
Budget allocation						Government is committed towards ending inequality, but the allocation makes minimal impact due to high levels of inequality. More funds are required to reduce inequalities in all their forms if the country is to register progress in the sector.
Overall progress on this goal.						Government needs to exert more efforts by developing relevant policies that will help to reduce inequalities within and among countries. More funds are required from Government, donors and civil society to reduce the inequalities.

## SDG 11: MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Instruments for district, town, municipality and city planning are available. Additionally, Malawi has National Urban Policy (2019) which seeks to create an enabling environment for the attainment of sustainable urbanization. There are also frameworks that promote partnerships between and among Government, the private sector, research organization's and the community to build resilient and urban structures. These are expected to boost capability of urban communities to absorb the migration rate from rural areas to urban centres.



Plans and strategies					<p>Generally, most of the dwelling units in Malawi, specifically rural areas are not resilient and sustainable. They are constructed using mud and roofed with grass. The District Councils do not monitor construction of these dwelling units. As such, the houses are prone to disasters during the rainy season.</p> <p>The sector has several players guided by their own plans and strategies. The National Urban Policy advances good strategies, which once implemented, would address some of the major challenges associated with urban development and management in the country. However, due to poor coordination, the players in the sector compete.</p> <p>Despite recognising human settlement and physical planning as key focus areas in local instruments, positive results are hard to come by as Government agencies are not working as a team.</p>
Government agencies					<p>Malawi has Department of Urban Development within the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development which provides Policy guidance and institutional framework for urban development in the country. Others are City Councils, Municipal Councils, District Councils and Malawi Housing Corporation.</p>
Implementation					<p>Implementation of the existing human settlement plans across Government agencies is horrendous. Buildings are mushrooming all over the place under the watch of regulatory agencies. They move in so late after citizens have already haphazardly constructed buildings. This affects road network as well as electricity and water plans.</p> <p>The coming in of private institutions, which acquire land to sell to citizens has made urban planning worse. It may be challenging to stop private entities from planting manufacturing companies in these dwelling units, which might expose citizens to some hazards. With an annual growth rate of 3.8% for urbanization, well planned cities or towns are required.</p> <p>Construction of ware houses all over the place is a result of poor planning. Some of these structures are owned by foreigners who keep acquiring land dubiously with support from public officers. In this regard, land laws should be reviewed to protect land from being grabbed by foreigners. Speedy implementation of the National Urban Policy is required to address some of these concerns.</p>

Capacity building				<p>All Government agencies are not doing the best for the country on making cities or towns inclusive. This is a clear sign that they lack capacity to seriously implement the instruments at their disposal. There are cases where Government agencies disagree on who should take lead. For example, the Lilongwe Sanitation Project Saga where Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Sanitation disagreed on which ministry should take the project.</p> <p>An opportunity has arisen through the Malawi 2063. The National Planning Commission should move towards building capacity of Government agencies and traditional / block leaders in the sector for them to pursue instruments in the sector. This will curb construction of sub-standard structures and development of unplanned settlements governed by traditional or block leaders. These institutions should plan in advance and act faster than they do i.e. awaiting citizens to settle first before they act.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>Although only 15 percent of Malawi's total population lives in urban areas and cities, there are so many problems in cities resulting from poor planning. Of late, perennial flash floods have hit cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu due to compromised construction. Under the watch of cities, citizens have constructed along river banks and hilly areas. If Government agencies were monitoring such construction, construction of such houses could not have taken place. Such lack of monitoring emanates from lack of efforts to construct resilient and sustainable dwelling units.</p> <p>The evidence of numerous land wrangles is a clear testimony that Government agencies have lost control of making urban centres sustainable. Some of the wrangles are even perpetrated by employees of relevant Government agencies. Eventually, there is no reporting to the general public on the efforts being done by the Government agencies. Such slackness has led to citizens paying twice for the land they procured privately from individuals, and then to the Government agencies.</p> <p>Evidence of land corruption attests to the view of relaxed or lack of stringent rules that govern land in Malawi. These land settlement cartels need to be banished if Malawi is to make progress on SDG 11.</p>



Transparency and accountability						There is limited transparency and accountability in the allocation of land and monitoring of projects. As a result, cities are saturated with substandard buildings that cannot withstand natural disasters. If citizens follow the right procedure to procure land from the Government agencies, they wait for a long time in excess of 10-20 years before they are formally given land, or they never receive feedback on what has happened with their application. This is caused by corruption. Those that bribe or those that have positions of influence in society get the land faster, at the expense of prudent land applicants.
Budget allocation						The sector is self-sustaining as they make some proceeds from land sells. However, Government should still allocate adequate funds to urban planning and monitoring to enable the agencies implement instruments in the sector. Such Government support would assist in sanitizing the sector resulting in improved construction across the country.
Overall progress						The country is not doing well in this sector. Improvements in services and infrastructure developments including urban public transport system are needed. There is limited adherence to policies and frameworks in the sector, which has contributed to bad performance and feeble monitoring.

## SDG 12: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTIVE PATTERN.

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Some of the instruments include Malawi 2063, MIP-1, Framework on Sustainable Consumption, National Forestry Policy and Forestry Act 1997. Although such instruments exist, there is need to review them to accommodate new challenges engulfing the sector i.e. Cannabis production and consumption

Plans and strategies				Malawi developed the National Resilience Strategy to ensure sustainable consumption; Buy Malawi Strategy to encourage production and consumption of locally produced goods and services; and Value Addition Strategy to promote value addition for both traditional and non-traditional crops. However, the quality of the products is not very good, which induces to buy items produced in other countries.
Government agencies				Notable agencies include Department of Forestry, National Planning Commission, Department of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Malawi Bureau of Standards and Competition for Fair Trading Commission. These institutions contribute to responsible consumption and production. However, some of their activities are tied to urban areas. They need to reach out to all communities to protect Malawians from consuming items brought into the country using unchartered routes. They further need to focus on waste and sanitation marketing, collection and recycling.
Implementation				Malawi is poorly implementing a 10 year framework on sustainable consumption and production, which if implemented properly, could have improved waste management, improved resource efficiency and encouraged sustainable consumption and production patterns. Although Malawi is supposed to increase demand for recycled goods and waste through investment in waste-to-energy projects, the opposite is true as the country's 90% of waste is not recycled. Perhaps more policies and strategies are required to address issue-specific components of the sector.



Capacity building				<p>There is limited capacity in Government agencies to address production and consumption. The country depends much on subsidies and free products, hence, when the prices of very important items like fertilizer get hiked the production in agriculture sector goes down.</p> <p>More capacity is needed in waste management, which has remained a big challenge for most of the urban centers in the country. Duty bearers in the sector need to be capacitated with recycling equipment. Additionally, citizens need capacity on how they can manage waste in their localities.</p> <p>The sector further requires coordination and collaboration to reach a production and consumption balance.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>There is no clear coordinated approach to monitoring, evaluation and reporting on developed strategies. Data remains low or unavailable making reporting for the SDG difficult. Government agencies need to develop monitoring indicators for consumption and production patterns to inform future productivity and consumption.</p>
Transparency and accountability				<p>The sector is largely shrouded in secrecy. Citizens need information on how they are affected by production and consumption patterns and how they can participate in controlling the same. The institutions entrusted with this agenda need to have their capacity built for them to reach out to all citizens with important messages on production and consumption. Indicators for the SDG need to be internalized by reviewing relevant instruments governing the sector to enable the country report on progress.</p>
Budget allocation				<p>The fees collected by the institutions in the sector might not be adequate to meet all their obligations. Further, Government does not invest much in the sector amidst various priorities. In this regard, Government should deliberately empower agencies in the sector with adequate funds to enable them carry out their mandates.</p>

Overall progress						The speed of consumption is faster than that of production and Malawi continues to import more goods and services, than it exports. More investment is required for the country to make progress in the sector, starting with citizen and community empowerment.
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### SDG 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT.

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Government formulated the Environmental Management Act (2017); National Climate Change Management Policy (2016); National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2015) and National Environmental Policy (2004). These have been guiding the nation in protecting the environment and reversing effects of climate change. However, the Government still relies on the old Disaster Relief Act of 1999 to manage disaster including climate related disaster which advocates for reactive approaches of response rather than proactive approaches of risk management. The Government also has not developed a climate change management act despite adopting a climate change policy in 2016
Plans and strategies						Some of the policies and strategies that guide implementation of the SDG include the National Environment and Climate Change Communication Strategy (2012); Malawi's Climate Change Learning Strategy (2012); National Climate Change Investment Plan (2014); National Adaptation Programmes of Action (2015); Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (2015); and National Adaptation Plans (being developed), National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, establishment of the National Climate Change Management Fund and National Resilience Strategy 2018-2030. Malawi also developed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (DRM, 2016) in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2015. However, it has to be pointed out that formulation of most strategies in the sector has been supported by donors, which may have a bearing on their implementation.
Government agencies						Key Government agencies include Department of Climate Change and Metrological Services (DCCMS), Environmental Affairs Department, Malawi Environmental Protection Authority and Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA).



Implementation				<p>The agencies have concentrated more on the prevention of degradation of the environment in districts, which has left the population prone to effects of climate change. Mitigation measures have not been seriously internalized. A good example is the tree planting season, where more trees are planted, but looking after them is a challenge.</p> <p>Other failed strategies include the Polluter Pays Principle, which has faced implementation hiccups. The polluters are still polluting rivers and other water bodies without sanctions.</p> <p>Failure to operationalize the National Climate Change Management Fund by capitalizing it using the established carbon levy is compounding the problem of low level of resourcing from national budget towards implementation of crucial environment and climate change programmes aimed at reducing emissions and supporting adaptation.</p> <p>When disasters strike, citizens see more of a reactive approach other than a proactive one. There is need for serious localization of early warning systems to avoid loss of life and property.</p> <p>Poor implementation of initiatives in the sector can also be attributed to lack of proper coordination, collaboration and networking among players in the sector. The agencies require an entity to properly guide them on actions in the sector, including those done by civil society and private sector.</p> <p>The saga of thin plastic bags is still raging on. Presence of thin plastics on the market denotes Government failure to impose a thin plastic ban. As companies continue manufacturing the thin plastics, extreme damage is being caused to the environment.</p>
Capacity building				<p>Capacity building in areas of climate change adaptation, risk assessment, project prioritization and monitoring and evaluation, which reduce capacity challenges being faced at the local government level, has improved in recent years. However, citizens deserve more capacity building on Climate Change mitigation, adaptation and resilience as they face the effects.</p>

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting					<p>Some improvements have been noted as Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services has been providing climatic change information such as effects and how they are impacting sectors i.e. how it is affecting agribusiness, agricultural production and households. Additionally, Malawi is among few countries in Southern Africa producing reports in line with the Sendai Framework with tangible figures attached.</p> <p>However, there is need to coordinate activities in the sector for improved monitoring. Harmonized reporting will ensure all data is captured.</p>
Transparency and accountability					<p>There is poor transparency and accountability in the sector. The country needs to adhere to assessment findings before embarking on projects that are likely to impact on climate change. An example is that of Kayerekera mining, which revealed that the project was not viable due to environmental impact; but Government went ahead in favour of the money it foresaw. Everything associated with the environment should be clear to all stakeholders, including citizens for them to take appropriate actions in a responsible manner.</p>
Budget allocation					<p>Development partners and civil society have been key financiers of interventions in the sector. It is high time Government started taking the sector seriously by providing adequate funds which can be supplemented by what donors and civil society give. The funds that District Forestry Officers get for environment and climate change are not only meager, but also unrealistic. Government needs to show serious commitment towards environment and climate change beyond paying salaries for officers in its agencies.</p>
Overall progress					<p>Government has necessary frameworks to guide implementation of climate actions. However, capacity is necessary for sustainable implementation of the actions. Further, coordination needs to be enhanced among players involving Government, private sector, civil society and communities.</p>

#### **SDG 14: CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						SDG 14 is domesticated through the MIP-1, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2016), Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (1997) and Water Resources Law (1969).



Plans and strategies				Government has the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Agenda to guide local and international researchers, the National Fisheries, Aquaculture Communications Strategy to help guide the spread of messages to fishers, and the Participatory Fisheries Management Sub-Policy which promotes fisheries, training, enforcement and riverine and floodplains management. Malawi has also adopted the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II (NBSAP II), in response to management of biodiversity and/or environment. Among others, strategies and plans in NBSAP II address the management of marine resources for sustainable development. Malawi also developed the National Resilience Strategy: Breaking the Cycle of Food Insecurity of 2018, which has components that focus on expansion of fisheries for commercial purposes.
Government agencies				<p>Key agencies include Department of Fisheries under Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development and Department of Marine. Academic institutions such as the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources have further taken a leading role in the sector as it has launched The Africa Excellence in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science centre. Other institutions include the World Fish Centre, which provide input into fish production and protection of their habitat. Other private institutions such as MALDECO Fisheries under Press Corporation have come in to support the sector.</p> <p>However, there is not much on protecting the water sources such as rivers and lakes. There is rapid siltation which has led to drying of rivers. This implies the lakes are becoming shallower and shallower each rainy season.</p>
Implementation				<p>Lake Malawi is being polluted with plastics and other insoluble substances, which tarnish the image of the Lake Malawi as a World Heritage and tourism attraction site. Worse still, it affects marine life, resulting in reduction in forex through tourism and low production of fish respectively. Had it been the laws and policies were adhered to, the effect of human activity on the lake could have been minimal.</p> <p>Department of Fisheries disseminates regulations through meetings and radios. However, there is high non-compliance of rules and regulations by fishers and lake users. There is inadequate and ineffective coordination among relevant players and departments in the sector such as the Department of Police Service (Marine), Department of Forestry, Department of Fisheries and Beach village Committees.</p>

Capacity building				<p>Through the recent budget (2021-2022), the Government has motivated fish farmers by removing taxes on fish feeds and fish production machines. Effectiveness of these tax measures is yet to be gauged. This is a direct response to inadequate capacity to promote and sustain aquaculture as evidenced by unavailability of hatcheries or bleeding grounds for fish, which affects the availability of fingerlings needed for ponds.</p> <p>However, there are problems of capacity to monitor compliance among fishers in the lakes.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>There is minimal monitoring, evaluation and reporting on marine resources, related research, stories and other important information. Fisheries Department lacks enough resources to monitor activities carried out in Malawi's lakes. There is limited attention to monitoring unnecessary deposits into the national waters, to the extent that dead fish were seen floating on the lake.</p>
Transparency and accountability				<p>Lack of systems and strategies to track progress in the implementation of SDG14 in Malawi provides a challenge in monitoring progress. The situation is worsened by corrupt practices by officials from Fisheries Department, who demand money from fishers to allow them fish during off season.</p>
Budget allocation				<p>Insufficient budget allocation to the sector makes it difficult to implement programmes efficiently. Government agencies are not committed to sharing challenges which can trigger partners to contribute funds towards the plight.</p>
Overall progress				<p>Malawi has good policies, strategies and plans which, if properly put into action, the country can achieve the SDGs Goal 14. However, the country lacks effective mechanisms to ensure that policies, strategies and plans are well implemented, monitored and evaluated. Lack of coordination among players, corruption, poor commitment and improper budget allocation suffocate ambitions to achieve the SDG.</p>



**SDG 15: PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT THE REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY.**

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Some of the policy and legal frameworks include the National Forestry Policy 2016, National Climate Change Management Policy 2016, Environmental Management Act 2017, Malawi National Environmental Policy, Environmental Act 2017, Natural Resources Policy, Carbon Tax Policy, and Solid Waste Management Policy.
Plans and strategies						The plans and strategies include the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, National Forest landscape Restoration Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Ecosystem and Biodiversity Plans, Land and Lakes Strategy. However, these plans and strategies are not popularized. Malawi also developed the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy, which provides ways of implementing the policies aforementioned.
Government agencies						The SDG is being championed by the following Ministries and Departments; Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Lands, Department of Wildlife and Environmental Affairs, Climate Change Department, Fisheries Department, and Department of Forestry .
Implementation						<p>Protecting ecosystems on land and water has not been taken seriously by Government agencies. There is little commitment to life on land and water, or at least the agencies are overwhelmed by the work they are supposed to do. Forests continue being ravaged, including protected forests while life in water continues to be threatened to the extent that Malawi is struggling to have enough and affordable fish. The drying of Lake Chilwa a couple of years ago alludes to this predicament.</p> <p>Forestry officers snatch bags of charcoal from those selling it, instead of engaging the citizens that are producing the charcoal illegally. Further, the officers are expected to encourage communities to establish family woodlots as it used to happen before 1994.</p> <p>Government should scale up dissemination of policies and instruments governing land, environment and water bodies through television, posters, radios and meetings.</p>

Capacity building				Other than sporadic apprehension of those found compromising the laws and regulations, there is not much the agencies are doing. Materials to enable the agencies are seriously lacking to enable the country achieve the SDG. As such, Government should ensure that all agencies are well equipped with materials to enable them carry their work on both land and water.
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				Despite the fact that there is high non-compliance to adhere to rules and regulations in the country, Government through its relevant departments is trying to monitor implementation as evidenced by a number of people being apprehended due to ivory, being found with protected species of animals and transporting Charcoal and other forests products.
Transparency and accountability				There is minimal stakeholder involvement in the sector, which makes it challenging for citizens to know more about what is going on, and how they can make leaders account for the actions in the sector. There is inconsistent sharing of information which leaves out stakeholders in reversing the side effects that are being observed on both land lakes.
Budget allocation				The SDG is one of the least funded. To address challenges in the sector, Government has removed electricity connection fee for rural and semi-urban residents through 2021-2022 budget. This will enable more people to be connected to electricity, although chances of them using electricity for cooking and domestic chores to serve the environment are minimal due to high electricity tariffs. However, not much is done to protect water bodies and their products. The boats for patrolling unscrupulous fishermen are not adequate.
Overall progress				Agencies should start implementing all instruments available for the SDG. Central Government should ensure all agencies are well funded to revive the already choked sector.



**SDG 16: PROMOTE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE.**

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						The Malawi Constitution, The Corrupt Practices Act (Cap 7:04), Ombudsman Act, the Penal Code, Malawi Police Service Act, Gender Equality Act, Malawi Prisons Act, Employment Act, Disability Act, the Malawi Human Rights Commission Act and the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act are some of the legal instruments that protect citizen and promote justice and Rule of Law.
Plans and strategies						The Malawi Judicially Strategic Plan (2019-2024) targets an Expanded, Inclusive, Accessible and Speedy Justice for All. Other than the general strategy for the Judiciary, individual entities have their own strategies which strengthen the delivery of justice.
Government agencies						Government agencies are Office of the Ombudsman, Malawi Human Rights Commission, Courts, Legal Aid Bureau, Judicially, Malawi Police Service, Registrar General, Anti-Corruption Bureau and Malawi Prisons, among others
Implementation						<p>Despite the existence of a robust justice system in Malawi, many Malawians are still denied justice, or at least have their justice delayed. There are several people in Malawi prisons yet to be served with justice. The courts have been overwhelmed by backlog of cases, which in principle allude to the fact some people are being denied justice.</p> <p>The access to get justice in Malawi, more especially the poor is a challenge. Prisons are congested with remanded citizens (most of them poor) because they are still waiting for the courts to intervene. Money is required for the case to go to court.</p> <p>The coming in of paralegals in the sector is expected to address some concerns on backlog cases is a welcome development, though their proposal is facing hitches. The Chilungamo Project has also contributed a lot in the sector to ensure the judiciary responds to the challenges being experienced.</p>

Capacity building				<p>The backlog of cases is an indication that there is limited capacity to handle them. As such, there is need to build capacity for all justice systems to ensure citizens are served with justice timely and adequately. The sector also requires more human resource so that costs can be affordable to citizens, even those from poor background.</p> <p>Traditional justice systems should also be strengthened to ensure they deliver justice fairly. Most of the people presiding over cases in villages are not familiar with judgment processes. Hence, there is need to regularly train them on justice delivery.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>Monitoring, evaluation and reporting is very poor as evidenced by reports that some prisoners are remanded for many years without facing justice. The coming in of civil society is assisting in generating data in the sector. For example, Monitoring and evaluation is being done regularly by special agencies and organizations. For example Tilitonse Foundation in collaboration with European Union and Norwegian Embassy supported Find your Feet to do an end line evaluation on promoting participatory and inclusive development in Likoma and Rumphi. The report captures issues on rights of people and access to justice.</p>
Transparency and accountability				<p>With several citizens having justice delayed and denied, the sector lacks transparency and accountability. Mechanisms should be put in place to clear the backlog of cases. The Judiciary is also associated with corruption, which favours the rich. Most of the cases involving high profile people are quickly concluded, while those involving poor people are delayed or untouched.</p>
Budget allocation				<p>The Government of Malawi has allocated MWK37.9 billion representing 1.9% of 2021-2022 budget to the governance and rule of law sector which also includes the construction of judicial complex in Lilongwe. This is a decrease in budget allocation to this sector as compared to last fiscal year 2020-2021, which saw the sector allocated MWK52.8 billion. The funds allocated to the sector are not adequate. More funds are required to recruit more staff to handle the numerous outstanding cases.</p>
Overall progress on this goal.				<p>Many vulnerable Malawians are experiencing injustice. They need money to access justice. Additionally, they have to travel long distances to claim their inheritance through bureaucratic Government systems. Justice should be served to those who need it in a timely manner.</p>



**SDG 17: STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

ASPECT	RATING					REASONS FOR RATING
	1	2	3	4	5	
Policy or legal framework available						Malawi's readiness to the goal is concretized by the Country Partnership Framework which was launched in April, 2021, MIP-1 and Malawi 2063.
Plans and strategies						Malawi has established Country Development Cooperation Strategy to strengthen partnerships.
Government agencies						Key agencies include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of Malawi, National Planning Commission (NPC), Embassies and Malawi Revenue Authority
Implementation						<p>The partnership is still weak as it does not generate enough resources to augment the national budget. Still, there are positive results from the partnership Government has entered into with development partners, private sector and civil society in the delivery of public services. Government needs to create a conducive operating environment the partnership to grow and yield more results. Government should lead in the implementation of frameworks, rather than waiting for donors to pump in more resources.</p> <p>Partnerships with neighboring countries need to be enhanced, particularly on trade. For someone to transport commodities from one country to another, they are subjected to various taxes, instead of harmonizing the taxes. The coming in of COVID 19 has even worsened things due to the persistent tests one has to take. Malawi should take advantage of the SADC Chairmanship to address some of these concerns.</p>
Capacity building						<p>The Goal lacks commitment from Government to ensure that global partnerships benefits Malawians. Most partners or donors are not preparing local implementers on how they can continue with the implementation upon expiry of projects.</p> <p>The learning visits undertaken by public officials should translate into tangible actions that seriously benefit Malawians.</p>

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting				<p>Data from National Statistical Office (NSO), Reserve Bank of Malawi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Parliament reveals the extent to which Malawi is cooperating with other countries in terms of financial, material and technical support. Most of the cooperation is in form of loans and grants for specific projects.</p> <p>However, monitoring, evaluation and reporting remain problematic as outcomes from these processes are not easily accessible to the general public. There is need therefore, to make such information available backed by the Access to Information Law. CSOs should also be involved in monitoring the partnerships, specifically those involving ODA.</p>
Transparency and accountability				<p>With effort to show commitment towards this SDG, Malawi uses Debt and Aid Division (DAD), which is under Aid Management Platform (AMP) to store financial information from different donors or funders. This is a good system, which is planned to allow donors access and follow the way finances are being managed. However, there is little publicity for the information, which presents a problem to engage donors that are not aligning their support to existing development strategies.</p>
Budget allocation				<p>The sector is not given adequate funds. More funds are required to allow other partners monitor partnerships with various stakeholders and assess their impact on the lives of Malawians. However, initiatives such as the Duty Free Week introduced by Government in the 2021/22 budget are expected to boost trade among SMEs as they will be allowed to import goods worth US\$3,000 duty free.</p>
Overall progress on this goal.				<p>Locally mobilized resources are abused at district and national levels through corruption, fraud and embezzlement. The situation has been worsened by late audits of accounts. Perpetrators of abuse of public funds, particularly those with political connections, have been treated leniently.</p> <p>Donor funds are also abused in a similar manner. There is need to revive the common budgetary support (CABS) so that audit is done on the donor funds to bring confidence to development partners and Malawians.</p> <p>Oversight institutions such as the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA), Fiscal Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), National Audit Office (NAO) and Directorate of Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets (PPDA) are captured by political elites. There is need to detach these oversight institutions from the political executive to make them independent and effective.</p>





Community members participating in discussions on SDGs scorecard

## 3.0. CONCLUSIONS

- a. Citizens have ranked Malawi's progress on SDGs as wanting due to the limited achievements registered so far. Majority of the indicators are yet to undergo significant progress. Government and stakeholders should resultantly focus on how SDGs can be traced within the existing development frameworks. Otherwise, it remains a far-fetched dream that Malawi can overturn the existing implementation pattern in the next 9 years to 2030. All development interventions should have a back-up within the 2030 agenda so that every stakeholder aligns their programmes to the SDGs. Data is instrumental as a basis for measuring progress.
- b. National development laws, policies and strategies for various sectors abound, including overall frameworks such as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III and Malawi 2063. However, there is limited political will to translate the frameworks into action at all levels, including the district councils. The councils formulate plans, but meager results are realized due to limited funds and poor governance.
- c. There has been increased civil society involvement in service provision. This has been helpful to citizens as Government has not been able to reach out to all citizens with development interventions. The civil society has



taken advantage of their work in communities to build awareness, consensus, and alliance for poverty reduction. Other than providing the services to citizens, civil society organizations have been protectors of human rights, particularly the vulnerable groups.

- d. Civil society alignment to SDGs has tremendously improved over the four years. Local CSOs however need to involve themselves more in SDGs, through strategic partnerships with international NGOs such as The Hunger Project Malawi, World Vision International, Save the Children, ActionAid, Oxfam, Care International, Water for People and WaterAid which have already clearly aligned their activities and strategies to the SDGs. The CSOs that have already fully embraced the SDGs are encouraged to build capacity of public institutions they work with to improve their receptiveness of SDGs. It is imperative, therefore, that Malawian civil society organisations should continue to enhance their partnerships arrangements with the northern NGOs to open windows for learning.
- e. Although the civil society organisations operate in all sectors of development, contribution of civil society towards the SDGs is not evenly distributed. Some SDGs have more CSOs working on them compared to others. This has implication on achievement of the SDGs. For example, there are more Faith Based Organisations and NGOs delivering services in sectors of health, education, HIV/AIDS, food security, HIV and AIDS, children, gender, and water and sanitation. However, there are a few focusing on climate change, environment, trade and in general SDGs 16 and 17 which have a bearing on equality, resource mobilization, aid management and governance.
- f. SDGs have proven to be a yardstick for measuring progress in poverty reduction and several civil society networks have taken a lead in monitoring the development initiatives. Their campaign strategies and advocacy are more focused towards the SDGs, which can, in summary, be said to have legitimized the presence of such CSOs. A number of CSOs carry out surveys to get evidence on SDG progress to support their campaigns.
- g. Not all Sector Working Groups, Sector wide Approaches (SWAp) and Technical working groups are performing. It has been observed that functionality of most groups depends on donors. Since each of these groups is important in the synchronization of efforts at sector level, Government has to ensure all groups are functioning properly by allocating funds to each group as required. Failure to do so has serious repercussions on the respective SDGs, in terms coordination, implementation and monitoring.
- h. There is limited awareness on SDGs among development players, including politicians, public officials, civil society officials, religious leaders and citizens. More awareness is required to ensure all players embrace the



SDGs in their family, community, district and national plans.

- i. Allocation of resource to specific SDG targets has been sporadic, with some sectors far below internationally agreed standards. Consistency in allocation is required if Malawi is to wholly attain the SDGs. Bilateral and multi-lateral institutions have to support the SDGs implementation by providing resources and boosting investments. Debt relief should also be considered as Government of Malawi is spending more resources in servicing debts accumulated locally and internationally. Private sector in Malawi should be roped in as they carry out their corporate social responsibility tasks.





Some community members discussing the SDGs scorecard

## 4.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

### ***Civil society organizations***

- a. CONGOMA, with support from sector networks should conduct a mapping of NGOs in each sector for improved NGO contribution to development sectors. This approach will assist in tracking contribution of NGOs to the SDGs and ease sharing of reports with Government and other stakeholders.
- b. CONGOMA, sector networks and district networks should assist their members to align their programmes to the SDGs. To achieve this, there need for SDG sensitization for them to understand how they can align their programmes to the global framework.
- c. CONGOMA, sector networks and district networks should collectively identify civil society priorities for sustainable development. The priorities have to be rights-based, locally-driven and environmentally sustainable. In most instances, civil society has become vulnerable due to competition for resources and visibility. The situation prompts NGOs to accept funds for any activity for survival.
- d. CONGOMA and sector networks need a stronger voice on governance and partnership on SDGs attainment. The civil society need to become a model for collaboration, engagement and innovative advocacy, with



the SDGs as the bedrock to share and exchange knowledge. The CSOs have to participate more effectively in SDG advocacy and implementation at all levels. For this to happen, they need to be well informed about the SDGs and inspired by what other stakeholders are doing within and outside Malawi.

- e. Media should assist in popularizing SDGs and relevant local frameworks for Malawians to embrace and own development
- f. Media should continue with their role of exposing poor governance

### **Government**

- a. Office of the President and Cabinet should ensure that institutions that made pledges on Malawi 2063's MIP-1 (2021 - 2030) presents bi-annual reports to make them meaningful. As partners, all stakeholders need to adhere to their commitments with evidence on progress. The Presidency may also receive such reports during the annual national development conferences.
- b. National Planning Commission, as an institution mandated to guide domestication of the SDGs and champion implementation of Malawi 2063 together with its First 10-Year Implementation Plan (2021-2030); should initiate a process of doing a mapping for policy, strategy and programme gaps for each of the SDGs. There are SDGs with adequate instruments while others lack as demonstrated in this report.

However, the SDGs need to be achieved in totality, not in piecemeal

- c. Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of Finance and National Planning Commission should prioritise on annual basis which SDGs will be focused on. This will ensure adequate resources are allocated through the national budget. Furthermore, it will be easier for the three public institutions to increase allocations where necessary for improved performance in line with international commitments. The prioritizing should go hand in hand with economic growth generating sectors for remarkable economic growth rates.
- d. National Planning Commission should ensure all programmes are aligned to the SDGs through the MIP-1 and the Malawi 2063. Any activities by development stakeholders outside the three frameworks should be discouraged if the country is to register sustained progress on SDGs.
- e. National Planning Commission should take a central role in promoting SDGs and communicating more effectively on the same. It should be a continuous process to ensure citizens/stakeholders are reminded of their roles in both local and international development frameworks
- f. National Planning Commission – NPC and Ministry of Economic Planning and Development need

to build working relationships for each SDGs by identifying synergies, gaps, opportunities and improvements for working together so that no stakeholder is left behind.

g. National Planning Commission, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Community Development should do a mapping of stakeholders in women empowerment, and facilitate agreement on what should change in current programmes to achieve all women empowerment related SDG targets. Although Malawi has enhanced activities towards the elimination of violence against women and children through various initiatives, including the Spotlight Initiative whereby girls and women that are at risk of violence are able to access essential services including sexual and reproductive health; some perpetrators get soft punishments. As such, the two institutions are encouraged to partner with civil society in promoting participation of women and youth in decision making at local levels such as family, village and local assembly.

h. The Executive, Legislature and Judiciary and Government Ministries, Departments and agencies should deliberately:

i. create spaces for CSOs to be formally represented in decision-making bodies and structures

ii. include civil society representatives on national delegations to

intergovernmental fora at regional and global levels

iii. engage civil society in formal monitoring processes, while recognizing independent monitoring and review reports by civil society i.e. People's report on SDGs.

iv. support capacity building of civil society for effective representation and voice from citizens

v. institute spaces for knowledge exchange and sharing to help build capacity and visibility nationally and wider region

i. National Planning Commission should consistently produce reports on SDGs for citizens and stakeholders to appreciate the progress made and ascertain ways of contribution i.e. Annual Reports or Voluntary National Reviews

j. The Executive, the Accountant General, Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Director of Public Prosecution, Fiscal Police and relevant agencies should ensure transparency, prudence and accountability in the utilisation of resources earmarked for SDG specific expenditures. Most resources are lost through corruption by different duty bearers at district and national levels. Citizens deserve justice in such situations.

k. Ministry of Trade should advocate fair trade practices which have



potential to boost foreign exchange and thus support the SDGs. All trade agreements including the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), should be reviewed by the Ministry and see how best the country can benefit from such. Cross-border traders and micro finance enterprises should be encouraged to promote production of goods for trade. The Ministry of Finance should put in place friendly tax regimes to enable people export and import without hurdles while regionally sorting non-tariff trade barriers.

- I. The Executive should ensure political stability in order to woo both local and foreign investors. Eventually, more jobs will be created and unemployment reduced. Further, deliberate efforts should be made to empower local entrepreneurs in social economic activities, including infrastructure.

## Donors

- a. Donors or development partners should scale up and fulfill aid commitments. Malawi as a least developed country has a huge annual budget gap of up to 30-40 (Annual Budget Statement 2021/22). Some of the commitments in the budget are dependent on support from donor agencies which pledged contribution. As such, any lapse in fulfilling the commitments or bringing in new support has negative implications on the performance of the proposed budget. Donors are further

encouraged to support activities aligned to the national budget to achieve tangible development in the country. Donors should further be encouraged to increase support towards productive sectors. Additionally, donors should improve coordination, transparency and accountability in resource use as stipulated in the Aid Management Platform (AMP). On adherence to financing agreements, donors should strive to have their financial support predictable; and deliberately empower civil society to monitor progress on SDGs.

- b. Data remains critical in Malawi. Although multiple sources of data have been initiated by different donors at sectoral and national levels, data is still scarce for some SDG indicators as there is no central dashboard. Further, not all public institutions are able to capture disaggregated data, which results in challenges to identify the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the communities. In this regard, the donors should establish data generation systems in line with each of the indicators to ensure each indicator is reported on for a specific period of time. Further, the donors should deliberately support civil society to generate data where government is not able to. Efforts should be made to consider usage of unofficial data where official data by sector agencies and NSO is missing.

Additionally, the donors should support implementation of the National Statistical System

Strategic Plan (2020-2023), which will eventually lead to evidence-based planning and timely availability of official statistics for monitoring and evaluation of the MIP-1, Malawi 2063 and SDGs.

- c. IMF, World Bank and rich countries should consider cancelling all the debt that Malawi owes them. A trend was already set in 2006 when some of the external debts for Malawi were cancelled at the time the economy struggled. The donors should therefore consider expediting cancellation of Malawian debt and generate a charter for responsible lending. If this is challenging, the donors should consider a nine-year freeze on all debt repayments from low income countries like Malawi and provide grants to enable them meet immediate development needs so that they are not left behind in attaining SDGs.
- d. Agriculture remains the backbone of Malawi's economy, yet majority of the subsistent farmers use hand hoeing to cultivate the crops. Old farming practices are also pursued in rearing farm animals. To boost agricultural production, donors should assist the country in mechanizing agriculture.

## **Citizens**

- a. Citizens should own development initiatives taking place in their communities. Since most of the initiatives have been top down, it has been challenging for citizens to embrace development at local level. Such has led to poor ownership of development in communities.

Citizens should hold duty bearers accountable for any development lapses in their communities. All stakeholders including Government, donors, private sector, civil society organisations and community groups should be held accountable for the initiatives they implement in the communities.

## **Private Sector**

- a. Private sector should harmonise corporate social responsibilities and indicate which SDGs they aligning to.
- b. Private should regularly conduct monitoring and evaluation of their interventions to capture key economic data critical for implementation of SDGs.



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