

Management Response from WFP, UNICEF, and ILO Malawi to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of the SDG Fund Joint Program - Social Protection for the Sustainable Development Goals in Malawi: Accelerating Inclusive Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals in Malawi from January 2020 to December 2021

1. This document, finalized in July 2022, presents the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation of the SDG Fund Joint Programme (JP) - Social Protection for the Sustainable Development Goals (SP4SDG) in Malawi: Accelerating inclusive progress towards the SDGs (2020-2021).
2. The evaluation, which was jointly commissioned by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), covered two levels: firstly, interventions on strengthening the national social protection system, and secondly implementation of project activities at local government district level. The JP targets two categories: The Social Protection system as one target group, and in the context of programme implementation, the second group is the Lean Season Response (LSR) beneficiaries. The evaluation covers the period January 2020 to September 2021. The three outcomes¹ of the JP were covered during the evaluation, with an emphasis on cross cutting issues of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).
3. The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning. The specific objectives of the evaluation were to assess the extent of achievement of the targets set out in the joint programme (JP) Results Framework. The purpose of the evaluation was to meet commitments

¹ The three JP outcomes were 1. The Malawi social protection system is adapted to meet emergency food needs together with the humanitarian sector; 2. The Government of Malawi increases its share of the social protection budget and undertaken measures to improve efficiency of spending; 3. The Malawi Social Protection System is more comprehensive and integrated.

to determine the reasons why certain results occurred or not, to draw lessons, derive good practices and pointers for learning and inform operational decision-making.

4. The evaluation made fifteen key recommendations. The matrix sets out whether WFP, UNICEF and ILO agree, partially agree, or disagree with the recommendations and sub-recommendations. It also presents the planned (or taken) actions, responsibilities, and timelines.

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i>	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed, or Not agreed?]</i>	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i>	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
Priority: High Recommendation 1: Improve Value for Money (VfM) analysis of Shock Sensitive Social Protection cash transfer interventions [1-3 years (2022-2024)]	WFP Malawi & UNICEF Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sub-recommendation 1.1 Explore and adopt the use of e-payment systems using electronic platforms by third parties such as banks and mobile money operators to reduce costs incurred in packaging the money, transporting to districts, paying for mileage and daily subsistence allowances, and providing security at every distribution point. E-payments will also speed up transactions and enable beneficiaries to receive their cash instantly in their bank accounts or mobile wallet. Cases of forced sharing induced by local leaders as observed during the December 2020 to March 2021 LSR will be eliminated since the money will go straight to rightful owners. Savings made through reduction of costs incurred when	WFP Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	1. WFP will continue to implement the e-payment standard operating procedures (SoPs) already in place. The SoPs are led by the Government of Malawi.	WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit. (Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare [MoGCDSW], Social cash transfer section)	December 2023
			2. WFP Malawi will strengthen the existing Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) structures through linking the WFP community feedback and response mechanisms to the existing government	WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit. (MoGCDSW Social cash transfer section)	December 2023

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<p>cash-in-transit model is used will enable the programme to extend the support to more ultra-poor households.</p> <p>Irish Aid has been supporting the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW) to implement Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) in Balaka and Ntcheu since 2013. For the past 5 years (2017-2021), MoGCDSW has been reaching out to 23,000 households in the districts and payment of cash was done electronically through a bank-based e-payment model. UNICEF provides technical support to the implementation of the programme. There is need therefore for the JP to take advantage of this involvement and learn how categories of people like the elderly and those in remotest areas who may not have an account with any bank let alone a mobile phone can be served better with electronic platforms to ensure they are not left behind.</p> <p>Also, ensure that the costs of e-payments such as bank charges, opening account balance, transport to and from the banks for the poorest households residing far</p>	<p>UNICEF Malawi</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>GRMs for complementarity/synergy.</p> <p>3. UNICEF to continue supporting the Government of Malawi to ensure that e-payment modalities are inclusive, taking into consideration the needs of the elderly, those who live in remote areas and ultra-poor households.</p> <p>UNICEF recently piloted the use of mobile money payments under the Lean Season 2021/2022 in rural areas (Ntcheu).</p>	<p>UNICEF Malawi Social Policy Section.</p>	<p>May 2022.</p> <p>Completed: Lean Season 2021/2022 Horizontal Expansion in Ntcheu implemented by UNICEF, over 1400 households received their entitlements using mobile money payments via FDH bank. Transfer values were slightly adjusted to cater for transaction costs thus keeping beneficiaries at the centre).</p>

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away from towns are not pushed to the beneficiary. [1-3 years (2022-2024)]					
Sub-recommendation 1.2 In this regard, consult with other UN agencies, development partners and Government of Malawi (GoM) to develop guidelines and modalities for e-payments in Malawi. [1 year (2022)]	WFP Malawi	Agreed	4. WFP Malawi will support the usability of the e-payment solutions being tested by the Government and provide recommendations on the system’s functionality/operations – (leveraging the existing structures and strengthening.	WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit. (MoGCDSW Social cash transfer section)	December 2022
	UNICEF Malawi	Agreed	5. UNICEF Malawi will continue to provide technical support to the testing of a harmonized e-payment solution that has been developed and is currently being tested by the Government of Malawi (with national resources) to be completed by end 2022.	UNICEF Malawi Social Policy Section.	December 2022
Priority: High	WFP Malawi	Not agreed	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

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<p>Recommendation 2: Share results of the MVAC for validation before final publication. The MVAC conducts vulnerability assessment between May and August. The results are published in August to allow planning and timely implementation of shock sensitive social protection (SSSP) between November and December. By the time the assessment is done, people have food in their stock since harvesting takes place from April to May. Social protection organizations complained during the evaluation that they get the results from the MVAC after being officially published as herein quoted; “Almost every year, people are in disagreement with the results because by the time the report is released food insecurity has worsened and many more households are in need of support”. One major recommendation they made is that there is need to involve SP organizations on the ground during vulnerability assessments and share the results for validation before being published. This will help to make the necessary adjustments on time and increase trust in the newly adopted Unified Beneficiary</p>		<p>Delays in social protection organizations to respond go beyond MVAC results, especially due to delays in financing. Even in a “good” year, when results are in time, responses and/or vertical expansion is often delayed.</p> <p>MVAC is a committee and open to allow all interested parties/organisations to be part of the committee. Social protection organizations are encouraged to take part in the MVAC assessments, which are done at different times and validated. They are done during harvest, and second assessments are done within/before the response, including market assessments to</p>			

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Registry (UBR). Even though the LSR covered the whole district, the number of beneficiaries per GVH and TA was considered lower than desired. (Yearly)		support the response processes.			
Priority: High Recommendation 3. Strengthen targeting capacity by validating the UBR yearly to ensure only deserving households' benefit. In Nsanje, the JP's LSR of December 2020 to January 2021 used the unified beneficiary registration (UBR) Proxy Means Test (PMT) to classify households into five categories: poorest, poorer, poor, better, and rich. Most communities described it as a fair, transparent, and unbiased way that should continue to be used to desist from favouritism in the selection of beneficiaries. The current UBR was compiled in 2019 and partially updated in 2020 through the validation exercise that helped to add new households and remove those that were no longer supposed to be on the list. EU funded both exercises and is expected to support a comprehensive update after 4 years	WFP Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	1. WFP Malawi will conduct necessary community validations of the UBR annually before targeting for the LSR at all levels through community meetings led by the Government (funding levels permitting).	WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit. (WFP Malawi Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping [VAM] Unit; MoGCDSW)	December 2022
			2. WFP Malawi will create a feedback loop between the raw data, updated information of the national identification documents (NID) and UBR through the automated Application Programming Interface (API).	WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit.	December 2022
	UNICEF Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	3. UNICEF will complete UBR Updating Report to	UNICEF Malawi Social Policy Section.	December 2022

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<p>e.g., around 2022. Meanwhile, the recommendation for WFP is to collaborate and ensure the UBR is updated before the coming LSR (November 2022-March 2023) and that the whole process involves district officers, community leaders and local committees upfront to remove households that have migrated, relocated, or moved out of the poverty line. According to the Malawi Red Cross Society, which was contracted to disburse the cash, the beneficiary information from the UBR was different from what was recorded on the National Identity Cards (NID). This was distorting the identification of actual beneficiaries by distribution teams. The recommended validation exercise will help address the above stated problem as well. (Yearly)</p>			<p>strengthen targeting capacity. During LSR of December 2021 to February 2022, UNICEF conducted a validation exercise and then used the clean UBR data to target Lean Season 2021/2022 Beneficiaries in Nsanje and Balaka. Building on these experiences, UNICEF Malawi is supporting the Government to identify options to maintain key UBR data information updated.</p>		
<p>Priority: High Recommendation 4. WFP should also intensify sensitization of all local leaders on the issue of beneficiary identification and selection using the new UBR system and the consequences of forcing their subjects to share entitlements with other non-beneficiary</p>	<p>WFP Malawi Government of Malawi</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>1. WFP Malawi will conduct an after-action review (AAR) to support improvements of delivery of the processes during operationalization of horizontal expansion (HE) SOPs) and a</p>	<p>WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit. (Nsanje District Council, Balaka District Council)</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

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households to reduce cases of prosecution which result in hatred among community members. [2 years (2022-2023)]			communication handbook to support sensitization at all levels to ensure smooth operations during implementation are in place.		
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 5. Support full recovery of the most vulnerable households.</p> <p>Nsanje is prone to natural disasters like floods and drought which displace households, damage land, crops, livestock, and household assets among other things. People need humanitarian assistance almost every lean season. The Joint Programme has provided two LSR cash transfers during its 2-year lifespan to meet immediate food needs of the people and it has succeeded. Nevertheless, interventions that can help the affected households recover fully from shocks caused by disasters can help bring more impact. In future programmes, there is therefore need to include the following interventions as</p>	WFP Malawi UNICEF Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

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<p>part of LSR to support recovery and graduation of vulnerable households from yearly support.</p> <p>[1-5 years (2022-2026)]</p>					
<p>Sub recommendation 5.1 Continuing to provide consumption support to safeguard households’ productive assets and prevent asset depletion during times of financial distress</p> <p>[1-5 years (2022-2026)]</p>	<p>WFP Malawi</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>1. WFP Malawi will advocate for LSR shock sensitive social protection (SSSP) where possible, including during times of shocks and distress, through leveraging existing national systems such as unified beneficiary registration (UBR), national identification document (NID) and provide necessary updates/feedback.</p> <p>2. WFP Malawi will implement cash plus/ complementary activities during the LSR. Using the finalized guidance, continue to promote linkages to existing resilience livelihood</p>	<p>WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit.</p> <p>WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit.</p>	<p>December 2023</p> <p>December 2023</p>

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			activities under the integrated livelihood approach, public works programme and graduation pathways.		
	UNICEF Malawi	Agreed	3. UNICEF Malawi will support the Government of Malawi to provide consumption support through national systems to safeguard households' productive assets and prevent asset depletion during times of financial distress.	UNICEF Malawi Social Policy Unit.	December 2022
Sub recommendation 5.2 Strengthening linkages between cash transfers, village savings and loans (VSLs) and small businesses that can help the poor quickly recover. [1-5 years (2022-2026)]	WFP Malawi	Agreed	4. WFP Malawi will develop programme guidelines to support institutionalization, coherence and meaningful linkages and complementarities.	WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit.	December 2022
	UNICEF Malawi	Agreed	5. UNICEF Malawi will strengthen linkages between cash transfers, village savings and loans (VSLs) and small	UNICEF Malawi Social Policy Unit.	December 2022

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			businesses that can help the poor quickly recover in Balaka, and other districts pending resources.		
Sub recommendation 5.3 Promoting linkages with other programmes that support income generating activities and food security. [1-5 years (2022-2026)]	WFP Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	6. See sub action 4 above: WFP Malawi will develop guidelines to support institutionalization, coherence and meaningful linkages and complementarities.	WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit	December 2022
	UNICEF Malawi	<i>Not agreed</i> This recommendation is a repetition of Recommendation 5.2.	7. See sub action 5 above: UNICEF Malawi will strengthen linkages between cash transfers, village savings and loans (VSLs) and small businesses that can help the poor quickly recover in Balaka, and other districts pending resources.	N/A	N/A

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<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 6. Early planning is important to reduce pressure and work overload</p> <p>Planning for the LSR of December 2020 to March 2021 delayed until around the same time when cash transfers ought to start as reported by SP organisations in the district. A number of activities were done with pressure within a very short period. It was very tight and other activities were reportedly circumvented in the process. The recommendation is to start planning in good time to reduce panic and minimize work overload towards the start of the coming LSR and increase efficiency of service delivery. (Yearly)</p>	<p>WFP Malawi</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p> <p>In SSSP advocacy, WFP takes an initiative to advocate for horizontal expansion (HE), which is more complicated targeting mainly the humanitarian partners and UNICEF advocates for vertical expansion (VE) top-ups. In addition, WFP co-chairs the food security cluster and the coordination of all the partners to have a coherent response including, building capacities of the councils - irrespective of who is providing transfers - through sensitization and communication.</p>	<p>1. As soon as MVAC releases the acute Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) results, WFP will get an approval from Government to use the results for advocacy and resourcing.</p>	<p>WFP Malawi Social Protection, VAM and Crisis units.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>
			<p>2. WFP will continue to hold coordination meetings to make sure all partners/stakeholders are aware of the IPC results.</p>	<p>WFP Malawi Social Protection, VAM and Crisis units.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>
			<p>3. WFP will provide guidance and inputs to the response plan and draw a master workplan for all stakeholders to feed in their activities including the social protection partners and NGOs.</p>	<p>WFP Malawi Social Protection, VAM and Crisis units.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>
			<p>4. WFP will support government with a communication handbook for SSSP which</p>	<p>WFP Malawi Social Protection, VAM and Crisis units.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

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			is used for sensitizations and communicating implementation processes for smooth running of the response.		
	UNICEF Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	5. Through its position as co-Chair of the Development Partners Group for Social Protection, promote early planning and commitment of resources for Lean Season Response.	UNICEF Malawi Social Policy Unit.	December 2023
Priority: High Recommendation 7. Provide arrears to households that are absent According to WFP policy, once a household is not available on the day of cash distribution due to some reasons beyond its control, the beneficiary household is not given a second chance to receive its entitlement during the next distribution. The assumption is that the	WFP Malawi	<i>Partially agreed</i> As primary beneficiary and alternates are put in place to cover uncertainties on attendance and clear guidelines are in place in case of eventualities of absenteeism. However, where required, and	1. WFP will continue to advocate to social protection partners to ensure understanding of timeliness of the response stipulated in the government guidelines (JEFAP).	WFP Crisis Unit.	December 2023

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<p>household has already managed to survive and there is no need to give it arrears thereafter as reported by beneficiaries in FGDs. This created hatred and lack of trust between communities, financial service providers and SP organisations. The community members believe that the money is taken by stated organisations because under the SCTP by the government, the arrears were given. The District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) suggested that WFP should show uniformity and provide arrears to such households because no household can choose to be absent from cash distribution without any valid reasons. This problem can also reduce if the recommended e-payment is adopted.</p> <p>[1-3 years (2022-2024)]</p>		<p>funding levels permitting, the “mop-up” exercise is usually planned within the cycle; as such, all households should be able to collect their transfers.</p>	<p>2. WFP will advocate for use of E-payments to address the problem of beneficiaries who are absent on day of distribution.</p>	<p>WFP Crisis Unit.</p>	<p>December 2023</p>
	<p>UNICEF Malawi</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>3. UNICEF Malawi will continue to advocate for Government to provide arrears to VE and HE beneficiaries that are absent (with reasonable limits).</p>	<p>UNICEF Social Policy Unit.</p>	<p>December 2024</p>
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 8. Increase gender equality and inclusion by improving the basket to include foods for</p>	<p>WFP Malawi</p>	<p><i>Partially agreed</i></p> <p>Global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence currently stands at under 5 percent; as such, there is</p>	<p>1. WFP Malawi will continue to technically support the assessments – IPC, whose outcome provides pointers for nutrition top-ups.</p>	<p>WFP Social Protection and Nutrition units.</p>	<p>Ongoing – since 2018/2019</p>

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pregnant and lactating women and young children. Explore ways of adding super cereal and super cereal+ to the current basket of maize, pulses, and cooking oil for households with pregnant and lactating women, and children under 2 years of age, respectively (without retrogressing to food distribution which has proven to be costly to implement). These groups of people have additional food and nutritional needs and can be better served if the suggested or similar foods can be included to the food basket. (Yearly)		no automatic inclusion of blanket supplementary feeding for the pregnant and lactating women/children in Malawi. Please note that donors are not willing to contribute to blanket supplementary feeding interventions except in emergencies where acute malnutrition is high.	2. WFP Malawi will continue to integrate nutrition in its regular programming through social behaviour change communication (SBCC), for example in integrated resilience/livelihoods programmes (nutrition sensitive/prevention) and home-grown school feeding. WFP will investigate how best to operationalize nutrition-sensitive social protection.	WFP Social Protection and Nutrition units.	Ongoing – since 2018/2019
	UNICEF Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	3. Promote national system improvements that would allow for the adjustment of transfer levels to meet pregnant and lactating women and young children’s needs.	UNICEF Social Policy Unit	December 2023
Priority: High Recommendation 9. Build sufficient technical capacity in the Gender, VAM and Monitoring and Evaluation units of	WFP Malawi	<i>Not agreed</i> WFP has sufficient technical capacity on the area indicated.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

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UN partner agencies to support programme teams in operationalizing and mainstreaming gender and social inclusion performance targets in joint programmes. [2 years (2022-2023)]	UNICEF Malawi	Agreed	1. UNICEF Malawi will undertake trainings on gender for relevant staff.	UNICEF Social Policy Unit.	December 2023
	ILO Malawi	Agreed	2. ILO Lusaka Country Office will develop tools to support gender mainstreaming and enhance collaboration with partner organizations focusing on promoting Gender equality.	ILO Lusaka Country Office – Social Protection	December 2023
			3. ILO Lusaka Country Office will undertake capacity building Interventions on mainstreaming gender and social inclusion	ILO Lusaka Country Office – Social Protection	December 2023
Priority: High Recommendation 10. Plan of time on how to reach hard-to-reach areas Among other areas, one distribution point at the East Bank namely Makhanga is a hard-to-reach area as it is on the Island. There is need to use a boat to reach there. In the LSR of December 2020	WFP Malawi	Agreed	1. WFP Malawi will put forward an agreement with financial service provider (FSP) to distribute cash in hard-to-reach areas and/or provide food-in-kind distributions.	WFP Malawi Social Protection Unit.	December 2023

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to March 2021, there were some logistical delays in the disbursement of the cash because the service provider was not comfortable in terms of safety and therefore waited to revise the contract agreement first with the donor before using this mode of transport. (Yearly)					
Priority: High Recommendation 11. The social protection sector in the country remains heavily dependent on donors in particular the German government through Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the EU, the World Bank, and Irish Aid. According to interviews with GoM stakeholders, Treasury increased its funding to the social cash transfer programme (SCTP) from MK650 million in 2016/2017 to about MK2.5 billion in 2021/2022, allocating a higher amount each year in the budget for SCTP, from about 0.06 percent of the total budget in 2016/2017 to 0.12 percent in 2021/2022. Over the same period, Government contributions to the SCTP have averaged 5 percent of the total contributions to the programme, against 38 percent from the World Bank, 26 percent from KfW, 21	UNICEF Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

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percent from the EU and 10 percent from Irish Aid. [3 years (2022-2024)]					
Sub recommendation 11.1 Continue to develop a strategy to increase Government financial contribution to the social protection sector [3 years (2022-2024)]	UNICEF Malawi	Agreed	1. UNICEF Malawi will support the costing of the implementation of the SCTP 5-years strategy.	UNICEF Social Policy Section.	December 2022
Sub recommendation 11.2 Support the design and operationalization of a common financing process for SCTP (and the wider array of social support programs) to ensure efficiency gains. [2 years (2022-2023)]	UNICEF Malawi	Agreed	2. UNICEF Malawi will conduct a literature review on financing vehicles options to harmonize SCTP financing.	UNICEF Social Policy Section.	September 2022
Sub recommendation 11.3 Secure additional funding for social protection programs; Thus, allow for a diversified set of financing stream and lobby GoM for additional funding. There is need to continue engaging GoM in all the processes to promote greater participation and ownership. [2 years (2022-2023)]	UNICEF Malawi	Not agreed The text is confusing, and the recommendation content can be covered by 11.2	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i>	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed, or Not agreed?]</i>	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i>	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
Sub recommendation 11.4 Strengthen financial management processes of other key stakeholders beyond the government (CSOs etc.) to reduce the need for central staff to frequently travel to the districts. [2 years (2022-2023)]	UNICEF Malawi	<i>Not agreed</i> Central level Government officers need to carry out certain tasks directly in the field, lead on sensitization, and monitor. (SCTP is a national programme, not NGO-based).	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Priority: High Recommendation 12. Leveraging on the ongoing work of the ILO-Irish Aid Partnership Project and the Enhancing Financial Management and Fiscal Sustainability for Social Protection project funded by the EU, the JP has supported the development of the Social Protection Policy. The policy provides a sound foundation for defining the scope, objectives, and a legal framework for the social protection system in Malawi. ILO and its partners have proposed the introduction of an old age social pension scheme and expansion of contributory social protection in the Social Protection Policy. A Bill has been submitted to the	ILO Malawi	<i>Partially Agree</i> The policy development has reached advanced stage with development of draft policy framework under consideration by government. There is a need to note the development and approval of the legal framework go beyond 2023. Resources need to be mobilized to support introduction of old age pension and development of social	1. ILO Lusaka Country Office will utilise analytical studies and knowledge products developed from the projects to support finalization of the policy and capacity building for the implementing ministries	ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit (Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs)	December 2022
			2. ILO Lusaka Country Office will support resource mobilization for development of legal framework for social protection	ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit	December 2023

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i>	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed, or Not agreed?]</i>	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i>	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
parliament for review and consideration. [2 years (2022-2023)]		protection legal framework.			
Priority: High Recommendation 13. ILO should take a leading role in continuing to support the development of the Social Protection Policy and its full implementation in Malawi, having been involved in the development process. Additional consultations are needed to finalize the Policy Framework Document (PFD) and update the NSSP policy. After it is validated by the GoM, the PUNOs will have to support the GoM to disseminate the updated NSSP to stakeholders. [3 years (2022-2024)]	ILO Lusaka Country office ILO Malawi field office Social Protection	Agreed The development of the draft national social protection policy has reached advanced stage and provides an opportunity for the Government of Malawi to strengthen and broaden the scope of its social protection system. The current discussion on the review of the Malawi National Social Support Policy provides an opportunity to align the two social protection policy and programme documents	1. ILO Lusaka Country Office will finalize the National Social Protection Policy including the Implementation plan and Monitoring and evaluation Framework 2. ILO Lusaka Country Office will support additional consultations processes including with Parliamentarians, Civil Society Organisations and Government line ministries and Departments 3. ILO Lusaka Country Office will develop easy-to-read versions of the policy and support	ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit (Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs Ministry of Labour Employers and Workers Organisations) ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit (Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs)	December 2022 December 2022 December 2023

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i>	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed, or Not agreed?]</i>	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i>	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
			dissemination and implementation at grassroots levels	[Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs (PRSP)]	
Priority: High Recommendation 14. ILO should continue to lobby for the introduction of old age social pensions and expansion of the contributory social protection in the Social Protection Policy. The PUNOs will have to provide support for the GoM to finalize, launch, and disseminate the SCTP strategy. [3 years (2022-2024)]	ILO Malawi	Agreed The concept note on the design and scenarios for the establishment of old age pension provides a good starting point to guide technical discussions on design and costing of the old age pension. There is a need for mobilization of resources to support establishment of the old age pension scheme. The discussions on SCTP Strategy & targeting reforms provide an opportunity to support coverage of the elderly.	1. ILO Lusaka Country Office will strengthen engagements with Civil Society Organisations through strengthened Civil Society network to promote advocacy for social pension scheme	ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit (Ministry of Gender Ministry of Labour)	December 2023
			2. ILO Lusaka Country Office will support the preliminary capacity building of the Department of Elderly and Disability to promote piloting of old Age pension scheme	ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit (Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Labour)	December 2023
			3. ILO Lusaka Country Office will conduct sensitization/ trainings for Ministry of Labour to explore and implement mechanisms for expanding social	ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit (Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning)	December 2022

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i>	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed, or Not agreed?]</i>	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i>	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
			insurance coverage including to the informal economy		
			4. ILO Lusaka Country Office will support the Ministry of Labour and the tripartite partners to progressively work on introduction of the social insurance schemes such as establishment of workers compensation Fund	ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit (Ministry of Labour)	December 2023
Priority: High Recommendation 15. As part of dissemination work, train GoM staff at national and district levels on changes in the SCTP strategy and NSSP to familiarize and further enhance their capacity to implement SP activities on the ground. [2 years (2022-2023)]	ILO Malawi	<i>Agreed</i> The UN Partner Agencies in collaboration with cooperating partners have been rolling out the TRANSFORM leadership and Social Protection Capacity Building programme in Malawi. This is meant to ensure that social protection practitioners	1. ILO Lusaka Country Office will finalise the SCTP Strategic plan and NSSP and develop a capacity building and dissemination plan	ILO Lusaka Country Office (Malawi Social Protection unit)	December 2023
			2. ILO Lusaka Country Office will roll out the TRANSFORM social protection capacity building initiative and incorporate the new NSSP	ILO Lusaka Country Office (Malawi Social Protection unit)	December 2023

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i>	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed, or Not agreed?]</i>	Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i>	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
		are equipped with knowledge needed to advocate and develop sustainable social protection systems appropriate to address the needs of different categories of the population. The roll out of capacity building can be leveraged to incorporate changes to the National Social support policy and the SCT strategic plan	and SCTP Strategic Plan in the training package 3. ILO Lusaka Country Office will support the institutionalization of the TRANSFORM Capacity building programme	ILO Lusaka Country Office Social Protection unit	December 2022