

MALAWI PROGRAMME PLAN 2017

1. Introduction

Malawi is considered among the poorest countries in the world, ranking 173 out of 188 on the 2015 Human Development Index. In 2016, Malawi experienced severe drought due to the El Nino phenomenon. As a result, 6.5 million people out of a total population of 17 million are expected to suffer from food insecurity in 2017. The cumulative effect of two years of shocks (drought and floods) means that household assets have been eroded and their capacity to invest in their livelihoods has been badly damaged. Commercial agriculture continues to be hampered by an uncertain policy environment and disincentives to investment, including a maize export ban and high interest rates.

With the country expected to continue to face climate induced shocks into the future, disaster risk mitigation and building the resilience and productivity of the agricultural sector are essential. This has been acknowledged by the Government of Malawi, which is developing a new 5 year Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, to be launched in mid-2017. Meanwhile, Concern is responding to this situation through promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture at policy and field implementation levels; implementing emergency response measures which include a resilience building element; and generating evidence on the integration of short and longer term social protection measures.

Overall economic performance has been impacted by the weather related shocks and high rates of interest and inflation. The average rate of inflation is projected to be 20.2% for 2017¹. The kwacha remains weak and is expected to continue to devalue until the main harvest period for tobacco and other export crops (April/May 2017). Crises in the power and water supply services are badly affecting consumers as well as private sector confidence and productivity.

In spite of cumulative shocks, Malawi has registered some improvements over a five year period. Stunting among children has fallen from 47% in 2010² to 37% in 2015.³ While still alarmingly high, this continues a downward trend in stunting. Trends in fertility rate also continue to decline, which is positive as population growth is a critical risk for Malawi. However, trends in the rate of teenage childbearing have worsened, with 29% of women aged 15-19 having begun childbearing in 2015, compared to 25.6% in 2010. Investing in reducing early pregnancy and childbearing is therefore critically important and is a priority area for Concern.

Politically, the fallout from the Cashgate corruption scandal, continues to create pressure on President Arthur Peter Mutharika's government. There is a risk that space for open discussion and constructive critique of government policy and approaches will shrink over 2017 and subsequent years, as the 2019 elections approach.

Country Strategic Plan	Timeline: 2014 - 2018
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2. Programmes

The 2014 – 2018 country strategic plan is the basis for all planning and management for the next two years; the following 2017 programme plans are informed by and consistent with the strategic plan.

Livelihoods: Enabling Sustainable Graduation of the Extreme Poor in Southern Malawi.

¹ Economist Intelligence Unit Report for Malawi September 2016

² Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) 2010

³ Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) 2015-2016

The Livelihoods and Resilience Programme starts a new cycle in 2017 aiming to support more than 35,000 extremely poor and vulnerable beneficiaries.

The programme will work across two districts: Mangochi and Nsanje, focusing on sustainable graduation from extreme poverty, increasing household and community resilience to climate shocks and reducing inequalities faced by the extreme poor.

The overall approach of the programme is a graduation model, embedded within a community 'enabling environment'. Within a community, the most vulnerable households receive a full package of support which includes skills training and cash transfers to meet their needs and invest in their livelihoods. Additionally, the programme will adopt a community wide approach ensuring there is an enabling environment for households to 'graduate' into. This involves implementing complementary activities that will benefit the poor and extreme poor in the wider community, including access to credit, adoption of climate smart agriculture practices and advocating for and strengthening of district and national implementation of social protection and sustainable graduation policies.

The programme will work with a variety of partners including: national level organisations (Civil Society Agricultural Network (CISANET), Civil Society Organisation Nutrition Alliance (CSONA), Women's Legal Resource Centre (WOLREC)) and Government Ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Water (MoAIWD) and the Ministry of Gender, Disability, Children and Social Welfare (MoGDCSW). At District and Community level we will work with Government Ministries, WOLREC and additional local CBOs & NGOs.

Health: Support for Nutrition Improvement Component (SNIC) Phase II.

This programme aims to support 91,363 households and 440,006 people to prevent under-nutrition.

The programme, managed by the Government's Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA), takes a holistic approach, with activities designed to improve household food security, promote health nutrition behaviours, improve access to health services, and improve access to safe water and hygiene. In addition, the programme works closely with district stakeholders to improve coordination and governance for nutrition services in the district. This programme also includes district wide active case finding for severe and moderate acute malnutrition through campaigns and regular screening, as well as supporting the provision of quality care at clinics through supervisory visits.

Education: The Right to Learn: supporting girls to achieve their right to education and to freedom from School Related Gender Based Violence (SRGBV) in Malawi.

This programme is supporting 30 schools and approximately 40,000 students to address the root causes of SRGBV.

Building on learning from Concern's previous Education programme in Nsanje District, Concern will continue implementing a holistic School Related Gender Based Violence programme in Phalombe District in 2017. The aim of the project is to contribute to girls and boys in Phalombe having greater access to quality education, free from violence and discrimination. The project also contributes to access to justice for survivors of SRGBV in both Districts.

Targeting change at micro, meso and macro levels, Concern brings together students (girls and boys), school management structures, community members (women and men) and district stakeholders to combat sexual and other violence in schools and ensure improved quality of education for the most marginalised girls in and around those schools.

Concern works in partnership with two partners, Theatre For a Change (TFAC), a National NGO that works to improve the sexual and reproductive health of vulnerable and marginalised groups in Malawi and Women’s Legal Resources Centre (WOLREC), a National NGO that works towards the progressive elimination of GBV as well as promoting women’s and girls’ sexual reproductive health rights.

Emergency: INGO Consortium Emergency & Resilience Building Response to the Food Crisis in Malawi.

Concern aims to support 6,358 households (31,790 beneficiaries) in Mchinji District and 11,055 households (55,275 beneficiaries) in Mangochi through its emergency response activities.

As a member of the INGO Cash Transfer Consortium⁴, Concern is responding to the ongoing food security crisis and will deliver a cash and resilience based response in Mchinji and Mangochi Districts. This programme enables the most vulnerable to meet their immediate food and nutrition needs, while supporting their early recovery from the food security crisis (strengthening livelihoods and productive assets), helping them to avoid adopting negative coping strategies and increasing their resilience to future shocks. A combination of in-kind assistance and conditional cash-based approaches will be adopted.

Nsanje Early Recovery and Resilience Building Project (NERRB):

This programme aims to support 4,500 households (22,500 beneficiaries) in Nsanje District with: access to high quality seeds and planting material for a diverse, nutritious range of crops; climate smart extension advice through a sustainable Lead Farmer model; increased production of crops using small scale irrigation; economic empowerment for women in particular through small livestock pass-on and Village Savings and Loans.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation:

<u>Programme/ project</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>	<u>Donors</u>	Insert timelines for events planned in 2017			
			<i>Contextual analysis</i>	<i>Baseline or end line study</i>	<i>Midterm review</i>	<i>Final evaluation</i>
Livelihood and Resilience	Jan 2017 – Dec 2021	IAFP II		Feb 2017	2019	2021
Health	April 2015 – August 2016 (12 month extension expected)	World Bank through the DNHA, UNICEF				July 2017
Education	Aug 2016 – Jul 2019	Comic Relief		NA	2018	2019
Emergency	April 2016 – August 2017	ECHO, DFID, OFDA	Joint Assessments			DFID – Apr 2017, ECHO – May 2017, OFDA – July 2017

⁴ The Consortium include: Concern Worldwide, Concern Universal, GOAL, Oxfam and Save the Children.