

# Health and Social Protection

## German development cooperation in Malawi

Health and social protection are key elements to secure livelihoods, particularly of the poorest and most disadvantaged population groups. At the same time, they are a prerequisite for unfolding economic potential and increased resilience of the poor.

### Health

#### The challenge

Malawi has shown commendable progress in some areas of the health sector over the past years and is addressing population dynamics in a very constructive way. It reached the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on infant-mortality and the fight against HIV/AIDS. However, as one of the poorest countries in the world, **Malawi still faces substantial challenges in the provision of health care for its growing population.** Health infrastructure and services are poorly accessible and of low quality. There is not enough qualified health personnel. Available resources are not efficiently managed and coordinated. As a result, newborns and mothers in Malawi still face one of the world's highest risks of death during or after birth.

#### Our approach

The goal of German development cooperation in the health sector in Malawi is **to improve universal access to and the use of high-quality essential health services**, in particular in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights. German support covers Malawi's entire population with an emphasis on women, young adults, children and the poor.

This goal is guided by the Malawian health strategy (**Health Sector Strategic Plan II**). Entitled "Towards Universal Health Coverage", it aims at improving the access to high-quality essential health services for all Malawians.

Volume of German funding via Financial and Technical Cooperation for current projects under Health and Social protection

Health:	EUR 75 mio. + EUR 23 mio. under preparation
Social Protection:	EUR 85 mio. + EUR 9 mio. under preparation (in addition EUR 73 Mio. co-financing by EU)

In addition, Germany is a large contributor to both sectors through its financial contributions to the European Union, World Bank, African Development Bank, the United Nations and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Germany supports Malawi by **improving health infrastructure, quality management for health services, human resource management, and improving access to reproductive health services**, especially for the youth. Respective projects and programmes are implemented by GIZ for German Technical Cooperation and via KfW for German Financial Cooperation.

Specifically:

- **Germany supports health sector reforms** aimed at increasing efficiency in the use of scarce resources and improving quality of care. The technical cooperation supports district administrations to improve planning and management in the health sector. It also builds capacity for evidence-driven quality management of health services. With support of the financial cooperation, performance-based approaches are integrated in the health system. The results-based financing pilot to reduce maternal and newborn mortality implemented by Germany until 2018 informs this process.
- **Germany strengthens training institutions** to provide high quality training of medical professionals such as specialized clinical officers, medical students, nurses and midwives. Integrated experts build the capacity of the faculty of the College of Medicine and support central hospitals. Nurses, midwives and clinicians are trained in providing emergency obstetric and neonatal care services.
- **Germany supports the construction and rehabilitation of health facilities and the procurement of high quality medical equipment.** Increasingly, these activities are funded and implemented through the multi-donor Health Services Joint Fund in cooperation with the United Kingdom and Norway.

left: Beneficiaries of the Social cash transfer programme in Machinga district.



right: Clinical Officers' specialist-training is mainly delivered on-the-job.



- In cooperation with international and local NGOs, traditional and religious leaders and private partners, **Germany improves knowledge and acceptance of modern family planning methods and access to sexual and reproductive health services** in the framework of a rights-based and gender-sensitive approach. A special focus for these activities is put on service provision for young people and for Malawians in hard to reach rural areas.
- **Germany supports the umbrella organization for church-based health facilities, CHAM.** The churches are a significant provider of health services in Malawi, particularly in remote areas where public health facilities are not available. This support includes the provision of infrastructure, medical equipment and support to operational management and human resource management in selected health facilities.

## The benefits

With the support of German Development Cooperation, **more Malawians have access to improved health services** – better health infrastructure is available and health staff better trained. More specialist doctors, clinicians, midwives, nurses and other health personnel graduate from training institutions each year. Access to specialized training has also helped to reduce health worker migration to foreign countries. **More Malawians, particularly young women, have access to modern family planning methods** due to Germany's commitment. Together, the improvements in service quality and a reduction in unplanned pregnancies help to reduce the high maternal and neonatal mortality rate.

## Social Protection

### The challenge

**Nearly 25% of Malawians** are considered ultra-poor as per the national poverty line and therefore **cannot afford the basic minimum daily food requirement**. Many of these ultra-poor are also labor-constrained. Moreover, more than one third of all children under five years suffer from stunting which hinders their development and causes high economic losses to the country.

In response to this severe poverty, the Malawi Government has developed the Malawi National Social Support Policy (NSSP) and the **Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II)** which has 3 primary pillars: The **consumption support** pillar aims to provide households with basic welfare support. The **resilient livelihoods** pillar aims to place households on a growth path with focus on livelihoods programmes. The **shock sensitive social protection** pillar aims to build a resilient system to cope for large scale shocks (e.g. drought) and hence reduce the annual emergency response for food secure households. Several sub-programmes, for example the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) or the Public Works Programme (PWP), contribute to the achievement of the overall policy goal to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the Malawian population.

## Our approach

The goal of German development cooperation is **to contribute to the poverty and food insecurity reduction** efforts of the Malawian Government (see fact sheet on the special initiative One World No Hunger for nutrition-related activities that are closely linked to social protection). This goal is **guided by the NSSP and the corresponding MNSSP II**. Germany primarily supports their implementation with capacity building, support to coordination, management, improved delivery and further harmonization of the NSSP sub-programmes and the implementation of the Social Cash Transfer Programme as well as the School Meals Programme (see fact sheet on education).

More specifically, **German Technical Cooperation (GIZ)** supports the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development in implementing the various sub-programmes of the **NSSP** in a more harmonized and efficient way. This includes conceptual work on **linking the various sub-programmes** as well as improving the integration of the emergency response, linkages to complementary interventions and measures for climate change adaptation to enhance beneficiaries' resilience. Furthermore, the programme supports the harmonization of the operational procedures of the sub-programmes e.g. through the development of harmonized electronic payment and grievance instruments and of a common approach to identifying appropriate beneficiaries for each sub-programme and recording them in a single database ("Unified Beneficiary Registry").

Through **Financial Cooperation (KfW)**, Germany supports the consumption pillar of the MNSSP II by **providing unconditional cash transfers** including a school bonus **to 10% of ultra-poor and labour-constrained households in seven districts** in Malawi through the SCTP. Besides the funding of transfers, Germany supports the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare in its role of overall planning, coordination and management of the SCTP. This includes continuous review and improvement of the design, administration and implementation of the SCTP through technical equipment, provision of consulting services and capacity building as well as the introduction of standardized operational procedures, a Management Information System and financial management software. German financial support has laid the foundation and assisted the Malawi Government to set up the institutional systems required to reduce operational costs and facilitate nation-wide scale up of the SCTP.

### The benefits

An external evaluation of the SCTP has shown that beneficiaries have profited in multiple ways from receiving regular and predictable cash transfers. The programme has **positive impacts on food security, school participation, health as well as agriculture and economic productivity**. The evaluation has also stated a multiplier effect of 1.7 demonstrating that every Malawi Kwacha received is translated into 1.7 Kwacha on spending. As increased spending is benefitting local businesses, the Programme is also supporting the development of the local economy and non-recipient households. Through its support to the SCTP as well as the broader NSSP, German development cooperation is well placed to foster best practices and innovations into social protection in Malawi