



MALAWI COUNTRY OFFICE STRATEGIC NOTE NARRATIVE - SUMMARY

UN WOMEN MALAWI 2024-2028 (27TH MARCH 2024)



UN WOMEN MALAWI PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

IMPACT Every woman and girl in Malawi realize their human rights, participate in and benefit from equal access to economic, social and political processes, and live a life free of violence

OUTCOMES (ALIGNED WITH INTERAGENCY FRAMEWORKS)

By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, experience more inclusive good governance, peace, and robust political and civic participation.

By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable groups, including women, youths, and people with disability, participate in and benefit from food and nutrition security and a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth resilient to shocks.

By 2028, more people, in particular women, children, and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are resilient with access to and utilization of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, social and protection services.

By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, experience more inclusive good governance, peace, and robust political and civic participation.

OUTPUTS



Women and girls have increased capacity to participate in leadership and decision-making processes at all levels.
Relevant ministries and local councils and CSOs have capacity to GRB.

National statistical office has capacity to improve the production and use of gender statistics.
Gender responsive disaster prevention response preparedness recovery systems and tools in place.



Increased access to skills development and financial services for women in agriculture.
Women, girls, men and boys are more aware of the unequal burden of unpaid care work.

Private sector and national & local authorities have increased capacity to design and implement legislation.
Women and girls have increased access to comprehensive gender humanitarian protection and livelihood support.



Local institutions have increased capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

National and local governing institutions have increased capacity to implement and strategies ending VAWG.

Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, women with disabilities and living with HIV have improved access to quality essential and comprehensive services.



Enhanced gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNSDCF.

Strengthened collaboration and coordination among gender stakeholders to advance GEWE priority issues in Malawi.

CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN & GIRLS

1 Women's lack of political and decision-making representation due to patriarchal norms and stereotypes, and absence of government structures that advance women rights equally and respond to their specific needs.

2 High poverty levels and social economic disparities, unequal burden of care work, ;lack of capacity to design and implement legislation and policies which promote women economic empowerment, lack of access to financial inclusion services for diverse women.

3 Entrenched gender norms, harmful stereotypes and cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequality and prevent women and girls from accessing quality protection services.

4 Non sustained and nonsystematic coordination on GEWE in addressing gender disparities, lack of strategies and financial support to effectively coordinate initiatives for addressing GEWE and SGBV especially during in humanitarian crisis.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS & EFFICIENCY

OEE 1: Principled Performance

OEE 2: Advancing Partnerships & Resources

OEE 3: Business Transformation

OEE 4: Empowered People

OEE 5: Products, services & processes

© Significant UN System Coordination contribution Significant cross-outcome contribution (non-linear)

Theory of Change

The UN Women Malawi Country Office (CO) strategy is informed by evidence-based gender analysis and developed through a participatory approach capturing a wide range of consultations including with the UN Country Team (UNCT), government, civil society, and development partners. In alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2024-2028), UN Women's Global Strategic Plan, and stemming from the Government of Malawi's Vision 2063, the CO SN articulates the strategic outcomes and corresponding outputs required to deliver results for women and girls in Malawi.

Problem statement

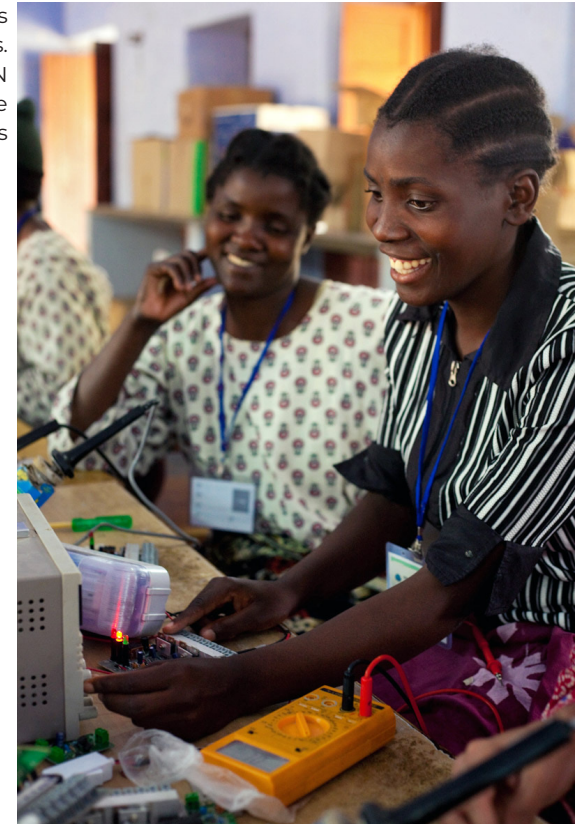
Owing to:

- 1** Patriarchy and the corresponding social norms and behaviors that discriminate and harm women and girls.
- 2** Poverty as an amplifier of gender inequality and discrimination.
- 3** Governing structures and processes which enable barriers to gender equality to persist.
- 4** Increasingly frequent extreme climate events creating recurring humanitarian crises.
- 5** Minimal (international and domestic) resources committed to gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Malawi CO is thus challenged to identify sufficient resources (human and financial) to develop and sustain coordinated interventions responding to these challenges in an often-simultaneous humanitarian and development context.



Photo credit: UN Women/Malawi



Solar engineering student from Malawi. Photo Credit: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh

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| <p>Goal/Impact</p> | <p>By 2028, women and girls in Malawi realize their human rights, participate in and benefit from equal access to economic, social, and political processes, and live a life free of violence</p> | | | |
| <p>Theory of Change Statement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If women and girls have control over and equal access to economic skills development, productive resources, and reduced care burdens. • If women and girls and those most left behind, are more engaged in governance, peace building, decision making and claim their rights. • If women and girls are safe from violence and harmful cultural norms are transformed. • If the GEWE coordination system coherently and systematically advances Gender Equality and empowerment of women and girls and • If decision making is gender responsive and enables resilience building for women and girls affected by disasters and other threats including climate change <p>Then the CO can contribute to governing institutions and a civil society that promotes the rights of and creates equal opportunities for all women and girls in Malawi especially those 'left behind'</p> | | | |
| <p>Outcomes: By 2028</p> | <p>Outcome 1 (CF Outcome 1): By 2028, more people, especially the most vulnerable groups, including women, youths, and people with disability, participate in and benefit from food and nutrition security and a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth resilient to shocks.</p> | <p>Outcome 2 (CF Outcome 2): By 2028, people in Malawi, especially women, youth, and those most left behind, experience more inclusive good governance, peace, and robust political and civic participation.</p> | <p>Outcome 3 (CF Outcome 3): By 2028, more people, in particular women, children, and youth, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are resilient with access to and utilization of quality, equitable, efficient, gender and shock-responsive education, health, nutrition, WASH, social and protection services.</p> | <p>Outcome 4 (Global SP Outcome 7): By 2028, the GEWE coordination system in Malawi coherently and systematically contributes to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of Women and girls.</p> |
| <p>Outputs: By 2028</p> | <p>1.1.1 Increased access to skills development, productive resources, and financial services for women in the agriculture, renewable energy and Information Communication and Technology sectors 1.1.2 Women, men, boys and girls are more aware of the unequal burden of unpaid care work and the impact on redistribution of care work in the home. Private sector and national and local governing authorities have increased capacity to design and implement legislation and policies that promote women's economic empowerment.</p> | <p>2.1.1 Women and young women have increased capacity to participate in leadership roles and in decision-making processes at national and local levels on governance and peace and security. 2.1.2 Relevant ministries, local councils and Civil Society Organizations have capacity to apply on gender responsive budgeting. 2.1.3 Gender responsive disaster prevention, response, preparedness and recovery systems and tools are in place and aligned to international standard (the Sendai Framework).</p> | <p>3.1.1 Local institutions (Traditional leaders, community structures, women groups, religious leaders) have increased capacity to prevent and respond to Violence Against Women and Girls, negative social norms and other forms of discrimination. 3.1.2 National and local governing institutions have increased capacity to implement policies and strategies on ending violence against women and girls and harmful traditional practices.</p> | <p>4.1.1 Enhanced gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the United Nation Sustainable Development Cooperation framework. 4.1.2 Strengthened collaboration and coordination among gender stakeholders (UN, Government, Development partners, Women's Movement) to advance Gender Equality and Women Empowerment priority issues including implementation of National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in Malawi.</p> |

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| | <p>1.1.4 Women and girls have increased access to comprehensive, gender responsive humanitarian protection and livelihood support enabling them to withstand multiple hazards, recover from disasters, and increase their resilience to current and future climatic risks.</p> <p>(Impact area: WEE) (Global SP outcomes: Access to services, normative)</p> | <p>2.1.4 National Statistical Office's technical capacity is strengthened to improve the production and use of gender statistics.</p> <p>(Impact area: WPP) (Global SP outcomes: women's voice, gender data)</p> | <p>2.1.4 National Statistical Office's technical capacity is strengthened to improve the production and use of gender statistics.</p> <p>(Impact area: EAVW) (Global SP outcome: Social norms, access to services, normative)</p> | <p>(Impact area: cross cutting) (Global SP outcome: UN system coordination)</p> |
| <p>Assumptions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Government will prioritize women's economic empowerment as a priority for overall development. ◆ Private sector will prioritize women's skills building and employment in safe and inclusive workplaces to grow their businesses and attract investment. ◆ Families under economic stress will seek positive ways to enable dual income, including redistribution of care work in the home and changes in gender roles. ◆ Extreme climatic events such as floods will not have a negative impact, on the livelihoods and socioeconomic wellbeing of women and girls, increasing poverty and food insecurity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sustained political will from government MDAs to embrace and implement gender equality commitments. ◆ Availability of financial resources to implement planned activities. ◆ Key influencers in various structures and institutions are open to shifting mindsets and behaviors; ◆ Targeted women will engage in substantive representation in and among a system of actors who are supportive of women's increased role as decision-makers. ◆ Data generators can share reliable data for analysis and reporting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Quality data and knowledge management systems on VAWG and GEWE are available. ◆ Strong linkages and synergies within and across outcome areas are developed and maintained. ◆ Chiefs Act that officially operationalizes Chiefs forum to address HP is in place. ◆ Male Engagement Strategy on GBV, SRHR and HIV is mainstreamed across the Gender sector. ◆ WMs are established and vibrant at national, district and community levels. ◆ Sufficient resources are prioritized to implement programme interventions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ UN Women country office will mobilize adequate resources to implement the proposed changes. ◆ Buy-in will be high at both UN agency, among agencies and among government structures. ◆ Upcoming presidential elections will not negate gains currently realized |

| <h2>Risks</h2> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Broad economic conditions challenge operations as financial market instability and or market failures cause wide-spread impact. ◆ Social/cultural/political/trade barriers persist to women's empowerment, including to their leadership in the value chain, accessing financial resources and having preferential access to markets. ◆ Political will and persistent social norms fail to recognize the importance of unpaid care work and refuse gender role shifts in the home. ◆ Recurring national disasters and unforeseen and unpredictable pandemics occur, delaying progress. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Changes in the political landscape impact on UN Women's ability to implement its mandate, e.g., elections, change in government leadership, including low political will to support and implement policies on gender equality and women's empowerment. ◆ Lack of adequate transparency and accountability systems among external partners and stakeholders ◆ Unstable economy with increased cost of living, adversely affecting women and girls and their participation in life outside of traditional gender roles. ◆ Pervasive fraud and corruption combined with political violence against women fosters hostile environment for women's leadership. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There remains limited political will to implement and monitor current and revised GRLs for an improved and efficient legal system. ◆ Inability of the pioneers of Women's Movements to embrace intergenerational continuity. ◆ Slow uptake of mindset changes on social norms is evidence in communities, media and government. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Changes in power structures and key leadership lead to competing priorities and loss of political gains ◆ Macroeconomic and fiscal policy environment remains unstable. ◆ Lack of adequate coordination either between internal functions/offices, or between UN agencies in contributing to the implementation of organization wide initiatives leading to duplication of efforts, internal competition, and friction |
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