



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Annex 8

Gender assessment and project-level action plan

*For the GCF-FAO Project “Ecosystems-based Adaptation for resilient Watersheds
and Communities in Malawi (EbAM)”*

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEDC	Agriculture Extension District Coordinator
AEDO	Agriculture Extension Development Officer
AGRESSO	Agriculture Gender Roles Extension Support Services Offices
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
ASWAp	Agriculture Sector Wide Approach
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CBFOs	Community based financial organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Child
EbA	Ecosystems-based Adaptation
e-MTCT	Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission
DAES	Department of agriculture extension services
DAHLD	Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development
DPoA	Decade Plan of Action
GBV	Gender Based Violence
FFS	Farmer field schools
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GPI	Gender Parity Index
GNI	Gross National Income
HDI	Human Development Index
HHA	Household Approach
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
INC	Initial National Communication
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IHDI	Inequality-adjusted HDI

IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
HIS	Integrated Household Survey
JCE	Junior certificate education
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Study
MANEB	Malawi National Examinations Board
MDHS	Malawi Demographic Heath Survey
MEGS	Malawi Economic Growth Strategy
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategies
MICS	Multiple indicator cluster surveys
MIE	Malawi Institute of Education
MNLS	Malawi National Library Services
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MSCE	Malawi School Certificate of Education
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCMP	National Climate Change Management Policy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEP	National Education Plan
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NESIP	National education sector investment plan
NESP	National Education Sector Plan
NFAP	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy
NGO(s)	Non-Governmental Organization(s)
NLDP	National Livestock Development Policy
NPA	National Plan of Action
PAYE	Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PICSA	Participatory integrated climate services for agriculture
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PSLC	Primary School Leaving Certificate
RHD	Reproductive Health Department
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SADC	Southern African Development Community

SNC	Second National Communication
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TAPE	Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation
TEVET	Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TLMA	Traditional Land Management Areas
TNC	Third National Communication
TSC	Teaching Service Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VMMC	Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision
WASH	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

PART I: GENDER ASSESSMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1. In Malawi, the agricultural sector accounts for about 42 percent of the country's Gross domestic product (GDP)¹. Whilst tobacco, tea and sugar represent important cash crops, about 80 percent of the food is produced by smallholder farmers². Smallholder production is characterized by low levels of inputs on small plots³ and low outputs. Livestock production is small compared to crops, and consists mainly of subsistence grazing of sheep, cattle, goats, poultry and pigs. The high reliance on natural resources makes Malawi particularly vulnerable to climate change. The climate crisis is already triggering more erratic and extreme weather, resulting in chronic water, food, and financial insecurity for millions. Over the past twenty years, droughts and floods have increased in intensity, frequency, and scale, causing devastating environmental, social, and economic damage⁴. Small scale farmers are most directly affected, although the influence of climate issues on food production and costs also impacts urban and non-farm households.

2. Women play a key role in Malawian agriculture. They account for 65 percent of smallholder farmers, perform between 50 and 70 percent of all agricultural tasks and produce 70 percent of locally consumed food⁵. Despite their high involvement in the sector, women face multiple constraints including very limited access and control over land, difficult access to farm inputs and labor-saving technologies and minimal access to financial resources. Women also have lower education levels and limited knowledge of improved agricultural practices, a situation that is worsened by limited access to information, inadequate provision of extension services to support their activities and less ability to practice more labor-intensive farming methods. Female-managed plots are, on average, 12 percent smaller than those of their male counterparts and 25 percent less productive⁶ as a result of differing levels of knowledge and access to inputs for improving farming efficiency⁷. The constraints and barriers highlighted above could also be exacerbated by climate change. Since water security is essential for agricultural production with around 9 out of 10 people in the country depend on rain-fed agriculture⁸, and since women generally have lower levels access to water technologies, such as irrigation, than men; women seems to be more affected by the country's critical water stress.

3. As it is the case for many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, gender inequalities persist in Malawi. Given that patriarchy predominates, women have generally held a less privileged position compared to men. This situation is underpinned by different levels of education and knowledge, access to resources, decision-making authority and economic dependence. Gender roles are defined by traditional and cultural factors that intersect with other social identifiers, such as age, religion and ethnicity, and dictate the deemed appropriate behavior for men and women. Roles and relations are the results of social constructs, gender inequalities are reinforced by social norms, particularly in rural areas. The acceptance of male authority over women is transmitted

¹ Gender, agriculture and climate change in Malawi, Luanar, University of Leeds, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, University of Kwazulu Natal, Kulima

² Ibid.

³ Over 75 percent of smallholder farmers cultivate less than one hectare (Ibid.)

⁴ Climate Change is Putting Women & Girls in Malawi at Greater Risk of Sexual Violence, Relief web, OCHA, August 2022

⁵ Gender, agriculture and climate change in Malawi, Luanar, University of Leeds, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, University of Kwazulu Natal, Kulima

⁶ Levelling the Field: Improving Opportunities for Women Farmers in Africa, Michael O'Sullivan et al., World Bank, 2014

⁷ Caught in a Productivity Trap: A Distributional Perspective on Gender Differences in Malawian Agriculture, Policy Research Working Paper 6381, Kilic et al., World Bank, 2013

⁸ Climate Change is Putting Women & Girls in Malawi at Greater Risk of Sexual Violence, Relief web, OCHA, August 2022

both implicitly and explicitly through various institutions, including in homes, schools, churches and community gatherings.

4. One particular element to be considered in Malawian societies is the variation of succession pattern according to whether the district is governed by matrilineal or patrilineal system. In matrilineal system, women in the family inherit land and the man moves into the woman's family home after marriage. In patrilineal systems, inheritance is passed on to the sons and the woman moves in with her husband's family. Customary law in patrilineal system only gives women land-use rights acquired through kinship relationships and their status as wives, mothers, sisters and daughters. These rights are therefore linked to women's role as household food producers and do not grant enough security of tenure when marriage fails to subsist. Although women tend to have better access to land in matrilineal systems, men (wife's brothers in matrilineal societies) often remain the decision makers regarding access and control over land in both systems⁹. The patrilineal system is predominant in the Northern Region and two southern districts (Nsanje and Chikwawa), and the matrilineal system is prevalent in most of the central and Southern Region districts.

5. Awareness of the gender differences is essential to identify and address gender differences in agriculture and vulnerability to climate change. The combination of natural resource dependence and gendered challenges in terms of assets and resources' access shows that women are typically more vulnerable than men to climate change. Since the reality in the country could be more nuanced considering the existence of matrilineal and patrilineal societies, understanding prevailing gender context is necessary to determine the specific nature of men's and women's vulnerabilities and develop appropriate project interventions. Addressing gender inequality in agriculture in the context of climate change requires that project support, such as the promotion of integrated natural resources management and Ecosystems-based adaptation solutions, responds to the different needs of men and women farmers.

6. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, "Ecosystems-based Adaptation for resilient Watersheds and Communities in Malawi - EbAM," has the objective to increase climate-change resilience of rural communities at watershed level in Malawi. It aspires to be a catalyst for a broad shift for ecosystem, livelihoods and agriculture in the country, from their state of very high vulnerability to an alternative paradigm in which watershed ecosystems are restored, well-functioning and sustainably managed. The Gender Assessment conducted as part of the project design studies the socioeconomic conditions of women, men and youth targeted by the proposed project to shed light on gender-specific constraints, needs and opportunities for a strategic approach to the integration of gender dimensions into the project. The assessment has highlighted a number of climate change adaptation barriers facing women and youth that are of social, technical, commercial, financial and institutional nature; the project will address them to make sure that (i) women, men and youth have meaningful participation in the planning and implementation process to increase the climate resilience of integrated landscape/watershed ecosystem, (ii) women and female youth farmers' productivity and incomes are stabilized thanks to more resilient livelihoods and food systems, and that (iii) a gender-sensitive enabling environment (finance and policies) is enhanced to sustain and scale-up gender-sensitive and socially inclusive climate resilient landscape, watershed ecosystems and agriculture practices. To ensure gender mainstreaming is clearly visible in the design and implementation of project's activities and responses, a Gender Action Plan has been developed. It reinforces all project activities and sub-activities from a gender and social inclusion perspective, and includes clear

⁹ Country Profile Malawi, Landlinks, USAID, August 2010 (<https://www.land-links.org/country-profile/malawi/>)

targets, gender design features and measurable indicators ensuring women's participation and benefits.

7. The underlying theory of change is: the project will recognize the strengths, constraints and needs of the women and youth so that their potential as agents of change will be realized for achieving the best outcomes possible under the proposed project. It will necessarily entail changes in access to and distribution of resources and decision-making power between women and men in the targeted communities. Youth's participation will also be promoted since they could provide valuable contributions that will complement women's and men's inputs.

2. METHODOLOGY

8. The Gender Assessment seeks to understand the situation of women in agriculture, including natural resource management in the context of climate change, in areas targeted by the proposed project namely in the following districts: Karonga, Chitipa, Rumphi, Nkhata Bay, Dedza, Neno, Mwanza, Thyolo, Nsanje, Mangochi and Zomba. It also examines the situation of youth, who constitute another vulnerable social group and are likely to be affected and affect the project.

9. The Assessment has mainly relied on literature review and consultations. The outputs from literature review were discussed with relevant stakeholders and key informant persons through consultations that were held at national, district and field/village levels. The consultations focused on key issues pertaining to the lives of women, the core questions asked are included in Section 7.2. For districts and field consultations, 3 matrilineal and 3 patrilineal districts among the 11 targeted by EbAM considering the representativeness of the North, Centre and South regions were visited. The selection took into account the characteristics, cultural traditions and potential issues in terms of gender. Two other districts non-targeted by the project were also visited as they showcase interesting experiences on watershed and natural resource management that could be scaled-up by the project (Table 1).

Table 1: District and field consultations study areas

Region	EbAM targeted districts	EbAM non targeted districts	Target districts for the gender assessment consultations	Main characteristic
North	Nkhata Bay		Nkhata Bay	Patrilineal
	Rumphi		Rumphi	Patrilineal
	Chitipa			
	Karonga			
Central	Dedza		Dedza	Matrilineal
		Ntcheu	Ntcheu	Patrilineal
South	Neno		Neno	Matrilineal
	Mwanza			
	Nsanje		Nsanje	Patrilineal
	Mangochi		Mangochi	Matrilineal
		Chikwawa	Chikwawa	Patrilineal
	Zomba			
	Thyolo			

Source: Author

10. A total of 333 villagers in the target areas were consulted, of which 211 were women and about a hundred were young people¹⁰. Women's views were collected through women-only and mixed Focus group discussions (FGD). The same applied to youth. Institutional consultations were held at national and district levels. The list of stakeholders consulted are provided in Section 7.1. The results of literature review combined with consultation related information are summarized in this document.

11. To the best extent possible, the assessment is based on official statistics and published research results pertaining to the target regions and field consultations conducted in those regions. Where relevant information could not be found, it relies on that of the whole nation. Where no such information is available, the assessment may refer to the general consensus among the professionals in the field, or anecdotes.

3. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.1 Equality, Inclusion and Protection: Women, Youth and Children

3.1.1 Treaties, constitution and laws

12. The Government of Malawi is a party to most of the International and regional instruments that promote human rights in general and women, youth and child rights in particular. Table 2 below summarizes the core international treaties Malawi legally ratified on the promotion of human rights, equal rights of women and men and the protection of women from all form of discrimination. The country also ratified most of the conventions and protocols designed to protect the rights of children, except the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure, which ratification should have allowed the Committee that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention to receive and consider complaints from a child's representative from its jurisdiction.

¹⁰ Aged 15-35

Table 2: International Treaties on Women, Youth and Children

Title	Description	Status for Malawi
<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> , adopted on December 10, 1948	Declares that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that they are endowed with reason and conscience. Sets a common standard of achievement to promote respect for these rights and freedoms.	Not part of the United Nations at the time of voting
<i>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)</i> , adopted on December 16, 1966	Ensures the equal right of women and men to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights.	Ratified in 1993
<i>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)</i> , adopted on December 16, 1966	Declares that all peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. <i>Together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, they make up the International Bill of Human Rights, which promotes, protects and monitor human rights and fundamental freedoms.</i>	Ratified in 1993
<i>Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</i> , adopted on December 18, 1979	Eliminates discrimination against women in political and public life and promotes equal rights for women and men.	Ratified in 1987
<i>Optional Protocol to the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW-OP)</i> , adopted on October 6, 1999	A signatory state recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women -- the body that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention -- to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction.	Ratified in 2000
<i>African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights</i> , ratified on November 17, 1989	Promotes and protects human rights and basic freedoms in the African continent.	Malawi is a State Party to this Charter
<i>Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)</i> , ratified on May 20, 2005	Ensures promotion, realization and protection of rights of women so that they can fully enjoy their human rights.	Signed as a State Party
<i>Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa</i> , adopted in July 2004	Accelerates the implementation of the Maputo Protocol in areas such as women's health, gender-based violence, gender parity and women's land and property rights.	Malawi is a State Party
<i>SADC Protocol on Gender Development</i> , adopted on August 17, 2008	Encompasses commitments made in all regional, global and continental instruments for achieving gender equality. Enhances instruments by addressing gaps and setting specific, measurable targets where those did not already exist and advances gender equality by ensuring accountability by all Community Member States. Provides a forum for the sharing of best practices, peer support and review.	Malawi is a State Party

Title	Description	Status for Malawi
African Youth Charter (July 2, 2006)	Aims to strengthen and consolidate efforts to empower young people through meaningful youth participation and their equal partnership in driving Africa's development agenda.	Ratified in 2010
Convention on the Rights of the Child , adopted on November 20, 1989	Guarantees the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights that should be enjoyed by any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation.	Ratified on January 3, 1991
Minimum Age Convention (with the specification that the minimum age is 14 for the country), 1979 (N° 138)	Sets the general minimum age for admission to employment or work at 15 years (13 for light work) and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 (16 under certain strict conditions), with the possibility of initially setting the general minimum age at 14 (12 for light work) where the economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed.	Ratified on November 19, 1999
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts (2000)	A signatory state commits not to involve children under the age of 18 in armed conflicts.	Ratified on September 21, 2010
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography (2000)	Strengthens implementation of the Convention and increases the protection of children from involvement in armed conflicts and from sale, prostitution and pornography.	Ratified on October 7, 2009
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (2011)	A signatory state recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child -- the body that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention -- to receive and consider complaints from a child of her/his representative within its jurisdiction.	Not signed
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	Highlights the issues of greater importance to the African continent, such as child marriage and child soldiers, while building on the same basic principles as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.	Ratified in 1999

Sources:

- <http://www.claiminghumanrights.org>
- <http://www.africanchildforum.org>
- <https://www.acerwc.africa/ratifications-table>
- <http://www.policyproject.com>
- *Un résumé des Traités, Conventions et Accords de l'OUA-UA de 1963 à 2014*, African Capacity Building Foundation – African Union, June 2016

13. The Constitution of the Republic of Malawi of 1994 promotes equality between women and men. In its fundamental principles, it recognizes the dignity and worth of each human being and guarantees the protection of their basic rights, according to its terms: "... the inherent dignity and worth of each human being requires that the State and all persons shall recognize and protect human rights and afford the fullest protection to the rights and views of all individuals, groups and minorities whether or not they are entitled to vote...".¹¹ It also prohibits any discrimination based

¹¹ Malawi Constitution – Chap.I (Fundamental principles) - Section 12 (Constitutional principles) Al. 1.d

on “race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, disability, property, birth or other status or condition”¹².

14. The Constitution includes a bill of rights namely in its sections 23 and 24 which invalidate any practice that discriminates against women, and enshrine gender equity, inheritance and guidelines on family and marriage. Section 24 stipulates that “1. Women have the right to full and equal protection by the law, and have the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of their gender or marital status which includes the right: (a) to be accorded the same rights as men in civil law, including equal capacity [...], (b) on the dissolution of marriage [...]; 2. Any law that discriminates against women on the basis of gender or marital status shall be invalid and legislation shall be passed to eliminate customs and practices that discriminate against women, particularly practices such as - (a) sexual abuse, harassment and violence; (b) discrimination in work, business and public affairs; and (c) deprivation of property, including property obtained by inheritance”¹³.

15. The Amendment of Malawi’s Constitution in 2017 emphasized on raising the age of the child from 16 to 18 and testified the will to step towards ending child marriage. The Amendment followed the effort to harmonize all laws on the age of the child given that Malawi adopted in February 2015 the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act which set the minimum age of marriage at 18 for boys and girls.

16. In addition to the Constitution and in order to accelerate progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals as well as the SADC Gender Protocol targets, the Malawi Government has reviewed, enacted and implemented several laws that lead to gender equity outcomes (Table 3). The laws essentially promote and protect women and children rights at all levels.

¹² Malawi Constitution – Chap. IV (Human rights) - Section 20 (Equality) Al. 1

¹³ Malawi Constitution – Chap. IV (Human rights) – Art. 24 (Rights of women)

Table 3: National Legislations on Women, Youth and Children

Title	Description
Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2006	Provides a civil framework for addressing various acts of violence amongst people within a domestic relationship.
Gender Equality Act 2013	Promotes gender equality, equal integration, influence, empowerment, dignity and opportunities, for men and women in all functions of society. Prohibits and provides redress for sex discrimination, harmful practices and sexual harassment. Provides for public awareness on promotion of gender equality and provides for connected matters ¹⁴ .
Marriage, Divorce, and Family Relations Act 2015	Makes provision for marriage, divorce, and family relations between spouses and between married couples, their welfare and maintenance, and that of their children.
Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance and Protection) Act 2011	Provides for the making of wills and the devolution of property under a will; the inheritance to the estates of persons dying without valid wills; the protection of deceased estates; the administration of deceased estates; the prosecution of offences relating to deceased estates; the civic education of the public; the functions of courts in relation to deceased estates and for other connected matters
National Registration Act 2010	Provides for the registration of persons and registration of births, marriages and deaths of persons and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto
Child Care, Protection and Justice Act 2010	Consolidates the law relating to children by making provision for child care and protection and for child justice; and for matters of social development of the child and for connected matters ¹⁵
Education Act 2013	Provide for the establishment, organization, governance, control, regulation and financing of schools and colleges. Provides for the establishment of the Teachers Council of Malawi. Provides for the establishment of the Malawi Institute of Education. Provides for incidental matters thereto.
Trafficking in Persons Act 2015	Makes provision for the prevention and elimination of trafficking in persons. Provides for the establishment of the National Coordination Committee against Trafficking in Persons or the coordination and management of matters related to trafficking in persons; and provides for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

Source: Malawilii.org/akn/mw/act/

17. Considered as the most relevant national legislation relating to our assessment, the **Gender Equality Act 2013** is essentially the domestication of the Maputo Protocol. It aims at empowering women and providing opportunities to women to participate in all spheres of society. Part II of the act related to “Sex discrimination” prohibits discrimination of women on the ground of sex as well as harmful practices. It consists of “(art. 4.a) not treating another person less favourably than he or she would treat a person of his or her own sex; or (art. 4.b) applying to the other person an exclusion, distinction or restriction which applies or would apply equally to both sexes...” (art. 5) or “not committing, engaging in, subjecting another person to, or encouraging the commission of any harmful practice.” Sanctions for contraveners are also specified therein namely fine or imprisonment which value/duration varies depending on the offence.

18. The Gender Equality Act deals with sexual harassment, an act that is considered part of gender-based violence. Section .6.1 of the act defines sexual harassment as “any form of

¹⁴ Gender Equality Act N°3, 2013

¹⁵ Child Care, Protection and Justice Act N°22, 2010

unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in circumstances in which a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would have anticipated that the other person would be offended, humiliated or intimidated” and announces the corresponding sanctions. The Act also proposes measures (art. 7) that the Government shall take to make sure employers develop and implement appropriate policy and procedures to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace. They consist, among other things, of “entitling all persons who have been subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace to raise a grievance about its occurrence and be guaranteed that appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken against perpetrators”, “obliging the person in charge of the work place to implement the policy and procedures and impose disciplinary action against employees who do not comply”, establishing exhaustive internal sexual harassment procedures before prosecution of the offence can be commenced or civil proceedings can be instituted.

19. In terms of access to services, while the Act seeks to promote equal rights for girls’ and boys’ access to education and training (Sections 14 to 18), articles related to fairness in public service appointments could be questioned with the quotas setting of “no less than forty per cent and no more than sixty per cent of either sex in any department in the public service”, and exceptions related to the application of the quotas (Section 11). Part VI of the Act describes the right of women to sexual and reproductive health, and Part VII promotes public awareness of women’s rights.

20. The ***Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2006*** shows the commitment of the State to eliminate gender-based violence that occurs within a domestic/family relationship. Though the provisions of the Act apply to both males and females, this law provides provisions to safeguard and offer redress to women, who are the main victims of domestic violence in the country.

21. The ***Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance and Protection) Act 2011*** makes provisions related to matters regarding inheritance and the administration of estates of deceased persons in Malawi. It applies to the administration of estates of all persons dying and residing, or leaving property in Malawi, on or after the date upon which the Act comes into operation. Except as provided for in this Act, no person shall be entitled under any other written law or under customary law to take by inheritance any of the property to which a deceased person was entitled at the date of his or her death. The Act provides with respect to the making of wills, inheritance in case of intestacy, powers of court, protection and administration of (small) estates, execution of wills and related matters¹⁶. The Act includes some provisions related to women’s right. It gives women legal authority to inherit land if widowed and provides women and girls with equal inheritance rights as male family members. Land grabbing is also considered as a criminal offence by the Act.

22. The ***Marriage, Divorce, and Family Relations Act 2015*** makes provision for marriage, divorce, and family relations between spouses and between unmarried couples, their welfare and maintenance, and that of their children. By enacting the law, Malawi made an important step toward preventing child marriage, and showed its willingness to protect girls from the abuse and exploitation that result from the issue. By setting at 18 the minimum marriage age for boys and girls, the new Marriage Act consolidates all laws on marriage and divorce. It includes a new requirement to register marriages with the government, and recognizes all marriages including civil, religious and customary and marriage by repute or permanent cohabitation. This law also contains strong protections for married women who may find themselves in a situation with no right to succession or inheritance or share of property, maintenance or even custody of children upon termination of family relationships.

¹⁶ FAOLEX Database: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC126344>

23. The Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act was at the origin of the Constitution amendment by Malawi's parliament in 2017. The amendment removed the provision allowing children between the ages of 15 and 18 to marry with parental consent.

24. The ***Child Care, Protection and Justice Act 2010*** is aiming at preventing violence against children under the age of 16 by prohibiting child betrothal, forced child marriage, and harmful practices. Although the Act refers to the Constitution in its Section 3, the definition of "child" in the Act that consists of "a person below the age of sixteen years"¹⁷, is not in line with what the Malawian Amended Constitution calls "a child": "A child shall be a person under the age of eighteen years"¹⁸.

25. In its Part II, not only does the Act provide details about child care and protection by the family, but it also clarifies situations that are considered with substantial risks for children and which result in children needing care and protection. These include child neglect from parent or guardian, sexual abuse, child prostitution, involvement of child in illegal activities, etc. If on one hand the Act makes provision for child protection (Part II), it also includes on the other hand measures dedicated to children who are suspected to have committed offences (Part III). Besides, the Act contains sections related to the determination of age of a child that apply for the purposes of criminal responsibilities (Part IV) and to child legal representation (Part V). Mechanisms related to Child justice courts (Part VI), Child care review board (Part VII) and Reformatory centre and safety homes (Part VIII) are also described.

26. The ***Education Act 2013*** governs Malawi's education system and has the promotion of education as main objective. The minister in charge has the duty to "promote education for all people in Malawi; irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability or any other discriminatory characteristics", some provisions that are entirely consistent with what is stipulated in the Constitution. One of the education goals in Malawi is to "promote equality of educational opportunity for all Malawians by identifying and removing barriers to achievement" (Part II, Section 5). Equality is one of the principles frequently mentioned in the Act in terms of access to education, but no specific mention is made in relation to the access of girls and boys. The Government promotes a generalized access to education by providing free and compulsory primary education to every child aged under 18 through Government schools.

27. The ***Trafficking in Persons Act 2015*** focuses on the prevention and elimination of the issue and complements the provisions related to human rights. It pays particular attention to the protection of children. Considered as an offence, Trafficking in Persons is defined as "recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, receiving or obtaining a person, within or beyond the territory of Malawi, through- (a) threats or use of force or coercion; (b) abduction; (c) fraud or deception; (d) abuse or threats of abuse of power or position; (e) abuse or threats of abuse of position of vulnerability; (f) abuse or threats of abuse of the law or legal process; or (g) giving or receiving of payments to obtain consent of a person having control of the trafficked person, for the purpose of exploitation of that person"¹⁹ by the Act. The law distinguishes different types of offences including trafficking in persons, trafficking in children and aggravated forms of trafficking. The penalties for trafficking in persons and trafficking in children are respectively 14 years and 21 years of imprisonment without the option of a fine. Aggravated forms of trafficking are subject to imprisonment for life without the option of a fine. Section 18 of the Act stipulates that a person convicted of the offence of trafficking in persons or trafficking in children is ineligible to work in any capacity with children for a period of seven years following their conviction. A person who

¹⁷ Child Care, Protection and Justice Act N°22 2010, Part I - Preliminary, Section 2

¹⁸ Malawi Constitution – Chap. IV (Human rights) – Art. 23 (Rights of children)

¹⁹ Trafficking in Persons Act 2015 (No.3 or 2015), Part I, Section 2

intentionally benefits from the exploitation of a trafficked person or causes or enables another person to benefit from exploitation of a trafficked person, commits an offence and shall be liable to five years of imprisonment. Any person suspecting existing or potential offence on trafficking in persons should report it to the Police; any failure to do so is liable to a fine of K500,000 and a year of imprisonment.

3.1.2 Policy Commitment covering Key Domains of Gender and Youth Outcomes

28. As part of the process of implementing the existing laws, the Government of Malawi's efforts to improve gender equality and youth empowerment can be seen through policy commitments that cover key domains leading to gender and youth outcomes.

a. Gender Policy

29. The first Gender Policy 2000-2005 was launched in March 2000 and resulted in increased efforts on promotion of gender equity and equality. It led to some good achievements including (i) the development and implementation of gender mainstreaming guidelines and national strategy to combat gender based violence and national gender programme; (ii) capacity building in gender mainstreaming for public, private and civil society organizations; (iii) an increased number of women in parliament and decision making positions; (iv) the enactment and enforcement of Acts related to Domestic Violence; Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance and Protection); Marriage, Divorce, and Family Relations; Child Care, Justice and Protection; and Trafficking in Persons; and (v) the development and review of legislations with a gender perspective²⁰.

30. Despite the results achieved, a need to review the 2000-2005 Policy was noticed since it did not address a number of challenges and emerging issues such as high HIV and AIDS infection rates especially among women and girls, increasing cases of Gender based violence (GBV), human trafficking, increased environmental degradation, climate change, and high poverty levels particularly among women, etc. The review and the development of the revised National Gender Policy took into consideration the Malawi Constitution with its gender equality principles and related provisions, as well as various international and regional instruments on gender equality and women empowerment to which Malawi is a party. It also has strong linkages with several national policies namely the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II (2011-2016), the Reproductive Health Policy (2017-2022), the Education policy 2013, the National HIV and AIDS Policy 2003, the National Agriculture Policy 2016, the National Environment Policy 2004 and the National Youth Policy 2013.

31. The purpose of the National Gender Policy 2015 is "to strengthen gender mainstreaming and women empowerment at all levels in order to facilitate attainment of gender equality and equity in Malawi" and the policy's goal is "to reduce gender inequalities and enhance participation of women, men, girls and boys in socio economic development processes". The Policy has targeted six priority areas: (i) education and training; (ii) health; (iii) agriculture, food security and nutrition; (iv) natural resources, environment and climate change management; (v) economic development; and (vi) governance and human rights; and puts an emphasis on gender perspective in GBV as well as on the capacity of the national structures involved in the implementation of the gender policy. In terms of outcomes, the Policy aims at the following:

- Increased meaningful participation of women, men, girls and boys in decision making, wealth creation and poverty reduction;
- Reduced gender-based violence at all levels;

²⁰ National Gender Policy, 2015 (Second Edition), Ministry of Gender, Youth and Community Service, Foreword

- Enhanced gender mainstreaming across all sectors; and
- Enhanced institutional capacity of the National Gender Machinery.

32. The Policy recognizes that climate change management is important in the lives of women. It considers as new major challenges: HIV and AIDS; GBV; human trafficking; increased environmental degradation and climate change; and high poverty level. As for agriculture, the Policy aims to ensure to women and other vulnerable groups access to and control over agricultural resources, technologies and markets for cash crops. Under natural resources management, environment and climate change management, the Policy sees that the impacts of deforestation are amplified by gender inequality in decision-making power and access to information. The Policy aims to mainstream gender in natural resources management.

33. The Ministry responsible for Gender is the one in charge of coordinating and providing oversight regarding the implementation of the Gender Policy across all sectors.

b. The National Plan of Action to Combat Gender Based Violence (2014-2020)

34. Considered as the most recent National Plan of Action (NPA) and developed in the framework of the National Gender Policy, the NPA to Combat Gender-Based Violence 2014-2020 has followed the national gender-based response initiatives that consist of the 2002-2006 Strategy to Combat GBV and the 2008-2013 National Response to GBV, and provided comprehensive, multi-sectoral and sustained blueprint for ending violence against women, men and children. The NPA draws heavily on lessons learned from the implementation of its two predecessors and identified the remaining challenges in GBV programming across all sectors, namely:

- Lack of Sufficient Data and un-coordinated research, monitoring and evaluation of outputs and outcomes of GBV interventions;
- Community mobilization behaviour change communication to prevent GBV;
- Limited dissemination and outreach;
- Weak problem and results analysis and lack of results based approach in the implementation of activities
- Failure to include the private sector as a partner with established programmes on gender equality and HIV and AIDS prevention;
- Failure to address violence against children which has risen to unprecedented levels.

35. The 2014-2020 NPA aimed to provide a strong framework for sustainable intervention to prevent and effectively respond to GBV, to increase recognition and unacceptability of GBV, and to improve the quality of services responding to GBV by 2020. The five priority areas of the NPA have been: (i) the prevention of GBV by addressing the root causes and promoting transformation of harmful social norms; (ii) the promotion of an early referral system that identifies violence and thus reduces its impact and continuation; (iii) the creation of an effective response mechanism supporting the survivors of GBV; (iv) the coordination, implementation and sustainable financing of the NPA; and (v) research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation. In order to overcome the weak coordination of the 2008-2013 National response, the 2014-2020 NPA emphasized on the importance of activity coordination and results based approach. The implementation of the Plan relied on the strong leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW) using existing coordination and implementation structures. The particular attention was mentioned on the use of the Gender, Children, Youth and Sports sector Working Group: Joint Sector Strategic Plan (JSSP) 2013-2017 and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) coordinated by the NGO Gender Coordination Network (NGOGCN). The MoGCDSW was also expected to rely on the Gender Technical Working Group at national level, the Gender and

Integrated Community Development at district levels and the existing Government recognized community structures.

c. National HIV/AIDS Policy (2003)

36. The National HIV/AIDS Policy 2003 came as a response to the identification of HIV/AIDS as one of the key development challenges of Malawi as per the UNDP Country Development Report in 2001. It aimed at enabling the high-level engagement, strong cross-sectoral collaboration and sustained action that the HIV/AIDS challenge requires. Among other points, the Policy recognized in its Preamble: (i) the unequal position of girls and women in society; and that women are more likely to become infected and can be more adversely affected by HIV/AIDS than men due to biological, social, cultural and economic factors, (ii) the discrimination and marginalization of people living with HIV/AIDS which lead to a lack of individual and collective well-being, development and human security, and (iii) the strong influence culture and religion have on lifestyle and choices.

37. The Policy's goal was therefore "to prevent HIV infections, to reduce vulnerability to HIV, to improve the provision of treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and to mitigate the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals, families, communities and the nation"; the Policy pursued the following objectives:

- "Prevent HIV infections;
- Improve delivery of prevention, treatment, care and support services;
- Mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals, the family and communities;
- Reduce individual and societal vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the creation of an enabling environment;
- Strengthen the multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary institutional framework for coordination and implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes in the country".

38. Apart from strengthening and sustaining a comprehensive multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS and promoting HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, and support and impact mitigation; the Policy in its Chapter 4 made some provisions related to the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS stipulating that:

- "Government shall respect, protect and fulfil the rights and dignity of people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Government and partners shall ensure a conducive legal, political, economic, social and cultural environment in which the rights of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS are respected, protected and fulfilled;
- Government and partners shall ensure the effective participation of people living with HIV/AIDS in all decision making in relation to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS related policies and programmes;
- Government shall ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS are not discriminated against in access to health care and related services and that respect for privacy and confidentiality are upheld;
- Government and partners shall ensure that HIV/AIDS, whether suspected or real, is not used as a reason for denying an individual access to social services, including health care, education, religious services and employment;
- Sector policy makers, including labour, corporate and social service sectors shall ensure that sectoral policies are put in place that effectively address discrimination on the basis of HIV/AIDS and take steps to effectively eliminate stigma and discrimination in their institutions and in the implementation of their sectoral mandates;

- Government shall ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS, whose rights have been infringed, have access to independent, speedy and effective legal and/or administrative procedures for seeking redress;
- Government and other institutions shall establish mechanisms and services to protect those who choose to disclose their HIV status at family, community or national levels, as well as their families and communities;
- Government shall ensure that orphans living with HIV are not discriminated against access to health care, education or access to be fostering in adoption or placement in institutions.”

39. Chapter 5 of the Policy also made specific provisions towards several vulnerable groups that are considered “underprivileged socially, culturally and economically or legally less able to fully access education, health care and social services and means of HIV prevention and less able to enforce HIV prevention options and to access needed treatment, care and support”. These groups included among other women and girls, orphans, widows and widowers, children and young people, the poor, mobile populations and people with disabilities. Policy statements related to women and girls were as followed:

- “Government shall ensure that women and girls, regardless of marital status, have equal access to appropriate, sound HIV-related information and education programmes, means of prevention and health services including women specific and youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services for all women of reproductive age, including women living with HIV/AIDS;
- Government shall protect the rights of women to have control over and to decide freely and responsibly, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health;
- Government shall ensure that women and girls are protected against violence, including sexual violence, rape and other forms of coerced sex, as well as against traditional practices that affect the health of women;
- Government shall ensure women’s rights to legal capacity and equality within the family, in matters such as divorce, inheritance, child custody, property and employment rights, in particular, equal remuneration of men and women for work of equal value, equal access to responsible positions, measures to reduce conflicts between professional and family responsibilities and protection against sexual harassment in the workplace;
- Government and partners should ensure that women enjoy equal access to benefits of scientific and technological progress so as to minimise risk of HIV infection;
- Government shall ensure that young girls and boys, both in and out of school, have access to life skills education, which addresses unequal gender relations, to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection or live positively with HIV/AIDS if they are already infected;
- Government and partners shall develop and implement gender sensitive HIV/AIDS care programmes that ensure the continuation of care between hospital, clinic, community care and family or household and hospice.”

40. One important point covered by the Policy is the consideration of how customary practices can increase the risk of HIV infection. These practices include “polygamy, extra marital sexual relations, marital rape, first aid to snake bite victims, ear piercing and tattooing and customary practices such as widow and widower inheritance, death cleansing (kupita kufa), forced sex for young girls coming of age (fisi), new born baby cleansing (kutenga mwana), circumcision (jando/mdulidwe), ablution of dead bodies, consensual adultery for childless couple (fisi), wife and husband exchange (chimwanamaye), temporary husband replacement (mbulo), and tattoos

(mphini)²¹. Provisions are made on the involvement and contribution of Government, traditional and religious leaders in the fight against HIV. The Policy also clarifies the implication of Traditional Healers and Traditional Birth Attendants.

41. Several plans and strategies have been developed to support the implementation of the Policy:

- The Malawi HIV and AIDS Extended National Action Framework (NAF), 2010-2012,
- The National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV and AIDS 2015-2020,
- The National HIV Prevention Strategy 2015-2020,
- The Malawi National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2020-2025.

42. Despite that the NSP 2015-2020 had by far fallen short to achieving its prevention goals of reducing new infections from 56,000 in 2010 to 11,000 in 2020 (with 33,000 new infections estimated in 2019), the ongoing Strategic Plan has taken stock on the progress achieved through the NSP 2015-2020. This included among others the tremendous progress towards the 90:90:90 testing and treatment target²², the expansion of the condom and lubricant programming, the availability of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) at selected service delivery points in Lilongwe and Blantyre districts which is considered as an additional prevention intervention, the delivery of a comprehensive package of services²³ that goes beyond the health sector to address the structural inequalities that impact both Adolescent Girls and Young Women's (AGYW) and Adolescent Boys and Young Men's (ABYM) vulnerability to HIV, interventions focusing on Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (e-MTCT) program, and improvements in the health system.

43. The goal of the NSP 2020-2025 is to contribute towards ending AIDS as a public health threat in Malawi by 2030, and its overall objective are to (i) reduce new HIV infections from 33,000 in 2019 to 11,000 in 2025; (ii) reduce HIV and AIDS related morbidity and mortality; (iii) reach 95-95-95 treatment targets; (iv) improve the quality of HIV services; and (v) build resilient health and social welfare systems for effectively responding to the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The Plan has the National AIDS Commission as one national coordinating authority and features a unique agreed monitoring and evaluation system at country level.

d. Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Policy

44. The adoption of a comprehensive and integrated approach to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Malawi constitutes a necessary response to expanding needs that includes increased demand for family planning, increased maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality, and a growing burden of reproductive ill health²⁴. The National Health Policy of 2012 presents a framework that articulates issues that are central to the development of health delivery systems in Malawi. The Policy serves as a point of reference in the provision of sound foundation for the successful provision of a comprehensive range of health services, which includes the sexual and reproductive health services.

²¹ National HIV/AIDS Policy (2003), Chapter 6

²² Referring to the UNAIDS treatment target to help end the aids epidemic by 2020: 90% of all people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression (<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/909090>)

²³ The package consists of information and delivery of HIV prevention interventions, reproductive health services, post-GBV care, violence prevention and perceived HIV risk determination, social asset building, back to school support, and village savings and loans programming. (Malawi National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2020-2025, Sustaining gains and accelerating progress towards epidemic control, National AIDS Commission, 2020)

²⁴ National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy 2017-2022, Ministry of Health, 2017 - Preface

45. In Malawi, the first Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy was formulated in 2002 and revised in 2009. The development of the ongoing National Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy (2017-2022) built on the success of the 2009-2016 SRHR Policy and responded to the need to incorporate emerging issues in the various components of SRHR namely: Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (BEmONC), Community Based Neonatal Care, Cervical Cancer Screening, Youth Friendly Health Services, Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART), Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision (VMMC) and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT). In terms of legislative framework, the Policy is aligned to the Health Sector Strategic Plan (2017-2022) which prioritizes Reproductive and Adolescent Health and acknowledges that adolescent health indicators remain poor. The SRHR Policy is also linked to the Malawi National Youth Policy and Youth Friendly Health Services National Standards, the HIV and AIDS policy and the Malawi Gender Policy.

46. The overall goal of the SRHR Policy has been to provide a framework for provision of accessible, acceptable and affordable, comprehensive SRHR services to all women, men, and young people of Malawi through informed choice to enable them attain their reproductive rights and goals safely. The Policy objectives are as follow:

- “Provide direction to decision makers and programme managers for effective implementation of SRHR services;
- Provide guidelines for capacity building for provision of quality SRHR services;
- Attain equivalence, harmonization, and standardization of guidelines for provision of SRHR services;
- Inform and guide stakeholders and partners on SRHR issues”²⁵.

47. In its purpose to address the prevalent SRHR problems (maternal and neonatal health, family planning, teen age pregnancies and domestic violence), the SRHR Policy considers the different age groups and diverse groups of Malawians. For instance, the policy addresses sexuality education that is provided to youths in schools and youth clubs in the communities. To other groups such as the mentally disturbed and disabled persons, like for every other person, the policy addresses SRHR issues of pregnancy, family planning, STIs and HIV and AIDS. Similarly to the Malawi Health Policy, the SRHR Policy follows the principles of human rights and equity based approach, gender sensitivity, ethical considerations, efficiency, accountability, community participation, evidence-based decision making, partnership and multi-sectoral collaboration, decentralisation, appropriate technology, and responsiveness²⁶. Six topics among the 10 covered by the Policy are particularly relevant to our assessment: (i) family planning, (ii) maternal and neonatal health, (iii) sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, (iv) young people in reproductive health, (v) Harmful Practices/Domestic Violence, and (vi) Male Involvement in Reproductive Health. The Policy makes provisions related to policy goal, statements and strategies for each topic.

48. The implementation of the SRHR Policy goes through the national RH Programme coordinated by the Reproductive Health Department (RHD), which operates under the guidance of the SRHR Technical Working Group at the policy/technical level. The Policy implementation relies on community participation as well as a comprehensive Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Strategy covering all aspects of SRHR. Other institutions involved in the implementation include: the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Agriculture; the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Information; the Ministry of Local Government; the Ministry of Women and Child Development; the Ministry of Labour, Youth,

²⁵ National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy 2017-2022, Ministry of Health, 2017 - 2.4 Policy objectives

²⁶ National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy 2017-2022, Ministry of Health, 2017 - 2.5 Guiding Principles

Sports and Manpower Development; the Department of Energy; the Parliamentary Committee on Health; the Development Partners, the Nurses' and Midwives' and Medical Councils of Malawi; the Training Institutions; the Professional Associations; the Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM); and the Civil Society Organisations.

e. National Male Engagement Strategy for Gender Equality, GBV, HIV and SRHR (2022-2027) (Draft)

49. The formulation of the Male Engagement Strategy for Gender Equality, GBV, HIV and SRHR reflects Malawi's recognition of the needs of men, women, boys and girls' participation to achieve gender equality. The Strategy acknowledges that rigid gender norms about masculinity: (i) act as barriers to achieving gender equality; (ii) encourage behaviours and attitudes of adults and young men that put women and girls at risk of GBV; (iii) contribute to the risk of exposure for men and their partners to HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and (iv) undermine efforts aimed at improving SRHR, including HIV treatment and care. As men and boys still occupy positions of power and influence in both private and public sphere and since their decisions, attitudes and behaviours impact women and girls' lives, male engagement is a critical area of intervention to achieve gender equality. While efforts to engage men and boys have been ongoing in Malawi, many have been sporadic and small-scale without considering the individual, societal, service and policy barriers that limit men's involvement in gender equality, HIV and SRHR. Therefore, the MoGCDSW initiated the process of developing a male engagement strategy in order to provide strategic direction for engaging men and boys and enhancing male participation in gender equality, HIV and SRHR programming in Malawi.

50. In order to develop the Strategy, the Government took stock of promising initiatives that have been engaging men and boys for gender justice. Summarized in Table 4 below, these initiatives have been initiated and implemented through some UN agencies, development partners and civil society.

Table 4: Promising initiatives engaging men and boys for gender justice

Institution	Interventions /strategies	Year	Strategic interventions
Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Gender with support from Royal Norwegian embassy and UNFPA	Launch of the Men for Gender Equality Now (MEGEN)	2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer education through Men Travelling Conferences, Rapid response, Media - Engagement and capacity building of Male champions in addressing issues of GBV, SRHR and Gender Equality as well as encouraging men's participation in care work, - Health including mental health, responsible parenthood, SRHR, HIV and AIDS - Men advocating for women's participation in decision making by deconstructing societal barriers
Ministry of Health with support from UNFPA and UNICEF	Male Champion Model	2004	The MCM works by training male motivators to reach out to men within their communities to encourage them to accompany their wives to get tested for HIV. Since its inception it has trained over 3,000 motivators in six districts in Malawi. ²⁷

²⁷ Dral et al. 2018

Institution	Interventions /strategies	Year	Strategic interventions
Save the Children	Male Motivator Initiative	2008	The project used male motivators (married men chosen from the local community) to target husbands in order to increase uptake of family planning knowledge and contraception. Men were provided with information on modern family planning methods and local facilities offering these methods. The men were also instructed on the correct condom use. After the project, 78% of participants started using family planning with their wives. ²⁸
Ministry of Gender and the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Programme	Men to men groups	2015	Men-to-men groups were set up to engage men and boys in prevention of Gender Based Violence; promotion of Sexual Reproductive Health Rights for women and girls including male involvement in parenthood. Community-based campaigns worked with local leaders and other gate keepers to critically examine and eliminate some of the harmful cultural practices that impinge on women's rights.
UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender	Launch of the HeForShe campaign	2015	A global campaign for engaging men and boys through mobilization of leadership (head of states, MPs, Ministers, traditional leaders, councilors, religious leaders, community leaders and youth leaders) to champion issues of GBV and deconstruct negative socialization
Active Youth Initiative for Social Enhancement (AYISE)	Launch of the youth Work Camps and Boys Brigade programme	2015	Engaging boys and young men for gender transformation and construction of the new forms of positive masculinities in Blantyre, Thyolo, Mulanje and Mangochi through work camps and Husbands schools- Men's SRHR and Responsible parenthood capacity building
SAFAIDS and COWHLA	Stepping stones and Rock Leadership Models	2015	Engaging men and boys in order to reduce HIV and GBV incidences, including SRHR, policies and laws that protect women and girls and gender norms. The group further mobilized men's groups in target areas in order to educate men and capacitate their roles in reducing GBV and HIV. ²⁹
Malawi Council of Churches with support from World Council of Churches	Transformative Masculinities using contextual bible studies	2016	Capacity building of religious leaders to interpret and apply scriptures from a gendered perspective and prevent use of holy scriptures to entrench negative notions of masculinities.

²⁸ Shattuck et al. 2011

²⁹ ALIGHT project report 2017

Institution	Interventions /strategies	Year	Strategic interventions
UN Women Iceland in partnership with Ministry of Gender	Barbershop toolbox.	2018	The toolbox is dialogue-based manual for initiating deliberations between men and women, girls and boys in order to help them examine harmful masculinities, social norms and harmful traditional practices and to advocate for gender equality.
UN Women in partnership with Ministry of Gender, National AIDS Commission and Men for Gender Equality (Now)	Men's Spaces programme- (modelled on the The Tarven Programme of the Episcopal Conference of Southern Africa)	2019	Engaging men to challenge toxic masculinities that predispose men and their families to HIV and AIDS, SRHR issues and GBV by working with men in Blantyre, Mulanje, Zomba and Mangochi where HIV prevalence is higher than the national prevalence rate
World University Service of Canada	Positive Masculinities Platform	2019	Aims to engage men and boys to combat widespread inequality, deep rooted patriarchal traditions and negative cultural norms through advocacy, peer to peer education, and communities in Lilongwe, Msundwe.
Christian AID	Side by Side with Men	2021	Working with male and female religious leaders- Engaging men and women for transformative scripture interpretation.

Source: National Male Engagement Strategy for Gender Equality, GBV, HIV and SRHR (2022-2027) (Draft)

51. Building on these tested models and urging all partners to buy them in and scale them out, the Strategy aims at guiding and standardizing the planning, implementation, coordination and monitoring of programs for engaging men and boys.

52. The Strategy has highlighted the barriers to men's engagement which are patriarchy and masculinities; cultural, traditional and dominant societal norms and religion. From there, it has identified six key areas of focus: (i) challenging of male stereotypes, (ii) male involvement, (iii) increase of male engagement in GBV to HIV and SRHR services, (iv) transformative masculinity, (v) enforcement of an enabling policy and legal framework, and (vi) strengthening of coordination mechanisms. The strategy objectives are:

- "To challenge male stereotypes, dominant negative social norms and construct transformative masculinities that shape male behaviors and attitudes;
- To ensure reinforcement of legal frameworks and implementation of policies;
- To promote male involvement in accessing SRHR services, eradicating GBV and reducing the risk of HIV;
- To enhance coordination of Male Engagement activities at National, District and Community levels; and
- To encourage research, learning and knowledge management on male engagement."

f. National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage (2018-2023)

53. In 2018, the government launched the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage 2018-2023. The strategy advocates for a multi sectoral approach to reduce the prevalence of child

marriage by 20 percent before 2023. Yet, early marriage has continued to be pervasive in Malawi which has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world.³⁰

g. National Education Policy (2016)

54. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2016 was developed to provide proper guidance in the education sector given that no comprehensive policy framework was available to guide the successive education planning. The latter included the Education Development Survey (1964), the first Education Plan (1973-1980) and the second Education Sector Development Plan (1985 - 1995), the Free Primary Education (FPE) Policy in 1994, the Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) (2000), and the National Education Sector Plan (NESP) 2008-2017 that had helped fulfill the aspirations of the national education's long-term vision and provision of guidelines for education development³¹. The NEP was intended to stand out as one guiding living document to inform the education system in all its obligations to achieving relevant and equitable education.

55. The Policy had the purpose of “guiding and providing a coordinated approach to the development of the education system for relevant knowledge, skills, competencies and values necessary for the socio-economic development of the nation”. Its goal was “to promote equitable access to education and improve relevance, quality and governance and management of the education sector”. The NEP outlined 7 priority areas that should guide the development of the education sector in Malawi:

- “Quality, accessible and equitable basic education including early childhood development and education, out-of-school youth education, adult literacy and primary education;
- Accessible and quality secondary education;
- Quality teacher education (primary and secondary);
- Quality and equitably accessed Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training (TEVET);
- Quality and equitably accessed higher education;
- Quality and equitably accessed open and distance learning; and
- Enhanced Science, Technology and Innovation in Education”.

56. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is in charge of the coordination of the NEP planning and implementation. Several other institutions were involved in the implementation such as the Malawi Institute of Education (MIE) for the development and evaluation of the school curriculum and the coordination of in-service teacher training; the Malawi National Examinations Board (MANEB) for the administration of national examinations and development of examination syllabuses for all examinable subjects; the Malawi National Commission for UNESCO for linking government ministries, intellectual and civil societies with UNESCO; the Malawi National Library Services (MNLS) for promoting, establishing, equipping and managing national libraries; the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) for professional development programs, teacher recruitment, promotions, and discipline. The Policy implementation also involved the following Ministries and public Departments: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Information and Civic Education; Ministry of Youth Development and Sports; Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development; Ministry of Lands and Housing; Office of the Director of Public Procurement; National Audit Office.

³⁰ Policy Paper, Realizing the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage: Emerging Lessons from Child Marriage Programming in Malawi and Zambia, IBSA, UN Women, 2020

³¹ National Education Policy, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, October 2016 - Preface

57. Developed in the framework of the NEP 2016, the National education sector investment plan (NESIP) 2020-2030 is the fifth formal education plan for the sector. It builds on the achievement of the National Education Sector Plan (NESP) 2008-2017, the first comprehensive plan developed by the Ministry of Education, takes into account the NESP challenges and defines what needs to be addressed between 2020 and 2030. The NESP achievements includes among others the overall increase in access to education across all levels of education; the review of curricula linkage to Malawi's socio-economic development; and the review of the legal and policy framework, specifically, the development of the National Education Act and the National Education Policy.

58. The NESIP is a long-term strategic document for the education sector and it sets objectives and results, and guides the implementation of key activities to achieve national and international commitments from 2020 to 2030. Taking into account all the subsectors and implementation structures of the entire education sector, it is considered as a tool to bring all education stakeholders together and improve coordination across all levels of education. Relying on the goal defined in the NEP, the NESIP has defined 3 following thematic objectives:

- "Increase access to equitable education programs at all levels of the education system;
- Enhance the quality of learning outcomes that are relevant to Malawi's socio-economic development; and
- Strengthen effective, efficient and accountable governance and management of the education system."

59. The NESIP has been elaborated into 7 sub-programmes related to various levels of education, each sub-programme featuring a general objective relying on priority strategic objectives that are aligned to the below thematic objectives and accompanied by priority actions. Among 3 other sub-programmes, inclusive education, gender and other cross-cutting issues constitute a sub-programme with the general objective of ensuring that inclusive education, gender SHNHA and other crosscutting issues are integrated across all levels of the education system.

60. As it is the case for the NEP, the MoE will lead the implementation of the plan with support from all stakeholders in the education sector.

h. National Youth Policy

61. Drawing from the 1996 National Youth Policy that had guided previous youth programmes and services, the National Youth Policy 2013 considered new challenges and emerging issues that youth had to face in Malawi. Established in accordance with the international commitments to which Malawi is signatory (the African Youth Charter, the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), the African Youth Decade Plan of Action (DPoA), the SADC Youth Protocols, etc.), the Policy sought to provide a framework with guidelines for the facilitation of meaningful youth development programs and services with full participation of the youth themselves at all levels. Its goal consists of "creating an enabling environment for all young people to develop to their full potential in order to contribute significantly to personal and sustainable national development"; and it sought of fulfilling the following objectives:

- "Guide policy makers on issues relating to young people;
- Mainstream youth development agenda in all national development programmes;
- Provide guidance on minimum standards for the design of programmes for youth;
- Guide the adequate allocation and prudent use of resources (financial, human, and material) to youth programmes;

- Provide guidance for the protection of young people;
- Advocate for the active participation of young people in the formulation of legislation and policies affecting the youth at all levels;
- Mainstream gender equity and equality in all youth programmes;
- Provide guidelines for monitoring and evaluation of youth programmes and ensuring youth are included as active participants; and
- Provide for the establishment of multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary institutional framework for coordination and implementation of youth programmes”.

62. While clarifying the rights of youth as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC), the constitution of the Republic of Malawi, the African Youth Charter, the CEDAW, etc., the Policy exposes the responsibilities of youth in terms of health; education; economic, social and cultural responsibilities; environment; as well as other responsibilities. It also described the roles of adults towards the Youth. One particular aspect of the Policy is its advocacy for the review of legislations that do not adequately address the needs of the youth, myths and beliefs on youth with disabilities such as the National Youth Act, National Sports Council Act and Alcohol Policy; it also pled for the enactment of specific legislation to protect youth in specific circumstances namely: prostitution; impregnating school girls that involves other males apart from teachers; sexual abuse/harassment/incest; harmful cultural practices; corporal punishment; drug, alcohol and substance abuse; early, forced, and arranged marriages; universal primary and increased access to secondary school education; juvenile justice; and child trafficking.

3.2 Gender and Youth and Sectoral and Climate Change Policies

3.2.1 Women and Youth and National Climate Change Investment Plan (2013-2018)

63. Considering the adverse impacts of climate change on food security, water availability and quality, and energy that affect mostly rural community’s livelihoods, the formulation of the National Climate Change Investment Plan (NCCIP) responded to the need to develop well researched plans of activities to provide the foundation and basis for implementing comprehensive and coordinated actions geared towards arresting climate change and its hazards.

64. The NCCIP identified four key priority areas to promote climate change management that are adaptation; mitigation; climate change research, technology development and transfer; and capacity building. As shown in the table below, eleven programmes will be pursued to implement concrete actions in the 4 priority areas.

Priority area	Related Programmes
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Watershed Management Programme; - Improving Climate Change Community Resilience through Agriculture Production; - Climate Change Proofing of Infrastructure Development; - Enhancing Disaster Risk Management
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+); - Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme; - Enhancing Energy-Saving Technology Programme

Priority area	Related Programmes
Climate change research, technology development and transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Change Adaptation Technology Development (CCATD); - Malawi's National Climate Change Investment Plan - Climate Change Mitigation Technology Development (CCMTD); - Adaptation and Mitigation Technology Transfer (AMTT)
Capacity building	Capacity Development in Climate Change

65. The NCCIP ensured that the key priority areas of the actions to address climate change and their effects are timely and sufficiently supported with resources in order to ensure that the economy and society in Malawi develop to their full potential within a well-protected and sustainable environment, safeguarded from major climate change effects, and with responsibility towards present and future generations. The NCCIP was expected to guide the Government to allocate budgetary resources based on corresponding requirements and the optimal contribution of the sector to the key priorities of the MGDS II. It also provided a framework for monitoring, reporting and accounting for the resources allocated to the sector by clearly providing strategic priorities and targets. The Plan took stock of existing investment portfolios in climate change and assessed related challenges and gaps.

66. The NCCIP considered gender among the challenges that limit the country's response to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, social, cultural and gender issues are cited among the plan's sustainability factors as the Plan recognized the importance of the participation of key target groups, such as women and the youth, in all parts of the programme cycle. The NCCIP also referred to the need to draw from the experience in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and gender, through the allocation of a minimum percentage of budget to climate-related activities.

3.2.2 Women and Youth and the National Climate Change Management Policy (2016)

67. The Government of Malawi has taken important steps to address climate change issues by signing and ratifying the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol in recognition of the country's vulnerability to adverse effects of climate change. It developed the National Climate Change Management Policy (NCCMP) 2016 to assist the country achieve its long-term goal for climate change management which is to reduce the socioeconomic impacts of adverse effects of climatic change.

68. The Policy's goal was to promote climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building for sustainable livelihoods through Green Economy measures for Malawi; and its medium-term outcome consisted of improved community resilience to climate change through the development of sustainable livelihoods and reduced emissions of GHGs. In terms of objectives, the NCCMP aimed to:

- "Build and sustain the social and ecological resilience of all Malawians;
- Contribute towards the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system within a timeframe that enables social, economic and environmental development to proceed in a sustainable manner;

- Integrate climate change into planning, development, coordination and monitoring of key relevant sectors in a gender sensitive manner; and
- Integrate cross-cutting issues into climate change management through an appropriate institutional framework.”

69. By articulating the goals and objectives for climate change management in Malawi, the Policy stood as a mechanism for harmonizing and enhancing the planning, development, coordination, financing and monitoring of climate change initiatives and programmes in the country.

70. Gender equality is considered among the Policy’s guiding principles given that women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change and are more vulnerable to its impacts. Gender equality must therefore be promoted as a response both in terms of mainstreaming as well as through specific focused interventions. The Policy also relies on the principle of equitable development pointing out the will to address poverty reduction and equity. The notion of inter-generational equity refers to the right of future generations to enjoy a fair level of the common patrimony, while intra-generational equity relates the right of all people within the current generation to fair access Earth’s natural resources. As the participation of vulnerable groups are stated under this principle, specific mention is made to children and the disabled. Special needs and circumstances are also considered as one of the Policy’s guiding principles since the adverse effects of climate change may imply specific constraints and needs to the vulnerable groups such as women - especially poor and/or rural women, children - especially infants and child-headed families; the aged; the sick; and the physically challenged.

71. The NCCMP identified 6 Priority Areas namely (i) climate change adaptation; (ii) climate change mitigation; (iii) capacity building, education, training and awareness; (iv) research, technology development and transfer, and systematic observation; (v) climate change financing; and (vi) cross-cutting issues. This last Priority Area focused on cross cutting issues that may exacerbate vulnerability to climate change and variability or may undermine effectiveness of adaptation programmes. While gender consideration are explicitly mentioned in the Crossing-cutting issues Priority Area, no specific mention on youth is made. The way the document is written makes wonder though if the Policy does not assimilate youth with children. Another cross-cutting issue raised is the population dynamics but it mostly refers to population density, urbanization, reproductive health and family planning. Policy statements related to cross-cutting issues are as follows:

- “Mainstream gender and issues affecting the disadvantaged groups into all climate change strategies, plans and programmes;
- Integrate population issues into climate change management in the development agenda through an integrated approach which would reduce poverty, protect natural resources and reduce inequality;
- Incorporate HIV and AIDS as well as gender considerations in all climate change interventions including adaptation, mitigation, capacity building and technology development and transfer.”

72. Besides, the first Priority Area on Climate Change Adaptation considered women and girls’ participation in the planning and implementation of climate change adaptation interventions, and made it one of its 3 Policy Statements.

73. Key stakeholders for Policy implementation include: government, non-governmental organizations and civil society, the private sector, academia, development partners, local communities, faith based organizations and identified vulnerable groups.

3.2.3 Women and Youth and Malawi's National Adaptation Plan Framework (2020)

74. The national Adaptation Plan (NAP) Framework is intended to guide the country in advancing its NAP process. It constitutes the guiding structure of Malawi's efforts on the development and implementation of its National Adaptation Plan, and outlines how to integrate climate change adaptation into relevant new and existing sectoral and national planning structures³². Its elaboration is part of the NAP process initiated by the Government in September 2014, with the aim to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience.

75. The NAP Framework builds on the NAP Roadmap developed and adopted in 2016, and validates the vision identified which is "A country with people, ecosystems and infrastructure that are resilient and have adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change". It also validates the 5 NAP Mandates:

- Improve community resilience to climate change through enhanced agricultural production, infrastructure development and disaster risk management;
- Enhance sustainable utilization of natural resources especially forest, water, fisheries and wildlife resources;
- Improve environmental management especially soil and land management;
- Enhance conservation and/ or restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems; and
- Provide climate change adaptation advocacy to policy-makers and other stakeholders with a view to enacting, updating and enforcing laws and by-laws on climate change as well as environmental and natural resource management.

76. The 4 building blocks for the NAP process are identified in the NAP Roadmap namely: national development strategies; capacity development; knowledge and information management; and sustainability and partnerships.

77. The NAP Framework is designed to maintain the momentum of the NAP process in advance of receiving adaptation planning readiness funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It provides a basis for engaging stakeholders in the NAP process, presenting an overarching framework for adaptation planning processes to be undertaken by government ministries and sub-national authorities, as well as for dialogue with non-governmental stakeholders.

78. The Framework considers gender in multiple ways. It relies on the NAP Stocktaking which provided the baseline upon which the NAP process is built, and which recommended considering the "inclusiveness of gender, disability and other socially excluded vulnerable groups in the implementation of climate change adaptation interventions" among the thematic areas to be taken into account for the medium- and long-term adaptation planning horizon of the NAP process. Besides, while aligning to the Republican Constitution of Malawi and the country's National Gender Policy (2015), the Framework also emphasizes on the use of gender and human rights approach in the process of formulation and implementation of the NAP. This will be done by ensuring the inclusion of ultra-poor, women, youth and disadvantaged groups in program design as well as their participation in program's implementation at community level. The Malawi NAP also considers the key points highlighted in the Framework for Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan³³ and ensure that women's voices are heard and taken into consideration in planning and implementation of the NAP. Gender inclusiveness including gender parity, women's

³² Malawi's National Adaptation Plan Framework, Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining Environmental Affairs Department, March 2020

³³ A Framework for Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes, Dazé & Dekens, NAP Global Network, 2017: <http://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/napgn-en-2017-gender-considerationsadaptation-planning.pdf>

empowerment and upholding of women's rights, is therefore considered as a critical guiding principle of the NAP process. This inclusiveness also includes youth who are already engaged through various climate change networks. Through the NAP's guiding principle on uplifting the poor and vulnerable, women and children are also considered among the targeted vulnerable groups that should benefit from the planning and implementation of climate change adaptation interventions.

3.2.4 Women and Youth and the 3rd National Communication of the Republic of Malawi to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2021)

79. The Third National Communication (TNC) of Malawi was an improvement, follow-up and continuation of activities under the Initial National Communication (INC) and the Second National Communication (SNC) completed in 2003 and 2011 respectively. It aimed at:

- Enhancing the visibility and impact of climate change issues through increased involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process;
- Enhancing general awareness and knowledge of climate change related issues in Malawi and enabling their incorporation into national planning and policy frameworks as well as helping in building national capacities for participation in climate change activities;
- Contributing to global efforts in better understanding the various sources and sinks of greenhouse gases, potential impacts of climate change, and effective response measures to achieve the ultimate goal of UNFCCC of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system;
- Proposing climate change projects aimed at finding solutions to climate change problems that communities can adapt and/or use to mitigate climate change;
- Strengthening dialogue, information exchange, networking and cooperation among various stakeholders in the public and private sector organizations, including NGOs, and the university, involved in climate change studies in accordance with Article 6 of the UNFCCC.

80. The TNC comprised a stocktaking exercise of the INC and SNC and set priorities for implementation in a manner that ensures effective allocation of resources. The communication focused on:

- Describing the national circumstances that are relevant to climate change;
- Conducting national greenhouse gas inventory in the areas of energy, agriculture, forestry and other land-use, industrial processes and product use, and waste management;
- Conducting Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) Assessments that gave detailed overview of various measures and strategies that can be used by vulnerable communities to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change (in the areas of agriculture, water, human health, energy, infrastructure, land resources, fisheries, forestry, tourism, industry, wildlife and gender);
- Conducting mitigation analysis that provided information on measures and strategies for mitigating climate change (in the areas of energy, agriculture, forestry and other land-use, industrial processes and product use, and waste management);
- Providing additional information that are considered relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;
- Identifying constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs; and
- Proposing climate change projects.

81. The Communication dealt with gender by considering the issue as one of the thematic areas of the V&A assessments. The related section provided some highlights on gender and its link to climate change, a description of the gender context in the country and the importance of gender when dealing with climate change issues, some elements on vulnerability in terms of gender mostly for women, and the potential adaptation strategies namely gender mainstreaming, civic education and public awareness and climate financing. The same chapter on Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) Assessments also touched upon women in the assessment related to human health and wildlife.

3.2.5 Women and Youth and the Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (2021)

82. As part of its commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, Malawi submitted and communicated in 2015 its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and scale-up adaptation actions through the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). The Government's vision is that the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is building Malawi's resilience to overcome challenges of climate change and is embracing the opportunities available to enable the country lay a solid foundation for a sustainable and prosperous Malawi in line with the Malawi Vision 2063. The Updated NDC represents the first revision of Malawi's 2015-2040 NDC. Through the revision, the NDC outlines the country's climate change priorities for the period from 2020-2040 and articulates areas of priority for climate change management through both mitigation and adaptation measures. Being prepared together with accompanying documents that facilitate its implementation, mainstreaming, monitoring and reporting including: Implementation Plan; Mainstreaming Guidelines; Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Framework; and Resource Mobilization Strategy; the NDC provides concrete strategies for addressing the causes of climate change and responding to the adverse effects and impacts in line with provisions established under the Paris Agreement.

83. The updated NDC builds upon the NCCMP in its commitment to tackling climate change through the development of both mitigation and adaption responses, as well as other key national guiding documents including Malawi 2063, the Malawi Economic Growth Strategy (MEGS), and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategies (MGDS) III. It also aligns with Malawi's NAP Framework. As do these reference documents, the updated NDC also indicates gender among the sectors most affected by climate change. Treated with social protection, gender is therefore one of the socio-economic sectors considered in the sectoral vulnerability assessment for the identification, assessment, and prioritization of adaptation actions and measures. As a result from the process, gender has been included in the thematic area of "Healthy and protected people" that aims at promoting public health and social protection in the face of climate change. Treated with the issues of social support, the gender adaptation actions and measures' focus are put on the mainstreaming of the issue in policies, programmes and projects; capacity building programmes for vulnerable groups, civic education and public awareness are also to be supported.

84. The focal point line ministry for the implementation of gender measures of the NDC is the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare. The roles of NGOs/CSOs including gender network are also highlighted. In terms of capacity building for implementation, climate change adaptation measures planned with a gender lens, and capable of tracking and progress and outcomes by gender are needed. The updated NDC has an improved Monitoring and Evaluation framework that includes engendered measure-specific indicators allowing to track the integration of gender and vulnerability across sectors for adaptation activities.

3.2.6 Women and Youth and the National Environmental Policy

85. The Government of Malawi adopted a National Environmental Policy in 1996 to provide guidance and set standards for development of sector policies in environment and natural resources. It provided an overall framework against which relevant sectoral environmental policies were revised and adopted to ensure that these were consistent with the principles of sustainable development. The adoption and enactment of many sectoral environment and natural resources policies and legislation in successive years revealed some policy gaps, conflicts and duplications that adversely affected the effective implementation of the policies; and which combined with the occurrence of new national economic instruments and strategies, prompted the Government to revise the National Environmental Policy.

86. Responding to new challenges and incorporating lessons learned, the revised National Environmental Policy of 2004 recognized the importance of (i) creating an enabling policy and legal framework for cross sector coordination, participation of non-state actors, (ii) strengthening the enforcement machinery, and (iii) decentralizing natural resources and environmental management and governance. Its overall goal consisted of promoting sustainable social and economic development through the sound management of the environment and natural resources. It also defined 12 specific goals focusing on environment and natural resources management, preservation and restoration; enhancement of public education and awareness on various environmental issues as well as public participation in addressing them; integration of sustainable environment and natural resources management into the decentralized governance systems; promotion of local community, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and private sector participation in environment and natural resources management; promotion of the use and application of local knowledge and norms; development and regular update of environmental information systems; facilitation of development and regular review of policies and legislation as well as development of mechanisms for management of conflicts in the environment and natural resources sector.

87. Three of the Policy's guiding principles are oriented on children, youth, women and communities. These principles emphasized on:

- Children and youth awareness of environmental issues to facilitate their participation in the conservation, protection and management of the environment as future custodians;
- Women's effective participation in policy, program and project design and implementation to enhance their role in natural resource use and management activities; and
- Community-based management and revenue sharing from the sustainable utilization of natural resources on customary and public lands.

88. Among its 12 cross-sectoral policy objectives, six subjects are particularly relevant to the project seen from gender and social inclusion perspective: environmental and public awareness; private sector and community participation; gender, youth and children; demographic planning; human settlements and health; and land tenure and land use. The Policy specified proper objective, guiding principles and strategies for each policy objective. The sectoral policy objectives included several areas covered by the project including agriculture and livestock, forestry and fisheries.

3.2.7 Women and Youth and National Land Resource Management Policy and Strategy (2000)

89. Malawi adopted the National Land Resources Management Policy and Strategy in 2000. Its overall goal was to promote efficient, diversified and sustainable use of land-based resources

for both agriculture and other uses so as to avoid sectoral land-use conflicts and ensure socio-economic development. In terms of outcomes, the Policy was developed to assist in:

- “Balancing requirements for different land uses and regulating the competing demand for land by different sectors;
- Designating the best use of land for optimal socio-economic development;
- Providing guidelines and strategies for the sustainable utilization of the land resource base;
- Defining roles of different players in land resources management issues, guide the formulation and review of sectoral policies and legislation related to land use and its management; and
- Enabling the country to determine the priority application of both internal and externally provided resources.”

90. The Policy considered among its guiding principles the full involvement of community based organizations and local communities; the equitable and secure tenure over land and resources for users as a fundamental requirement for promoting the adoption of sustainable natural resource management; the inclusion of women and youth in policy, programme and project design and implementation; and the need to manage the population growth that threatens the carrying capacity of environment, natural resources and the economy; among others.

91. The policy outlined 16 specific objectives in different areas including women and gender. The objective of the policy is to integrate gender issues in policy and decision making on land so that men and women as equal partners have a shared responsibility over sustainable use and management of land resources. To this end, the policy provided for the utilization of positive traditional knowledge of women in sustainable land use and management; the development and implementation of policies that recognize and enshrine the legal rights of women to land on an equitable basis; and the promotion of women’s perspectives, especially women and children, in all programmes addressing land use and management issues.

92. The specific objective on institutional capacity building also highlighted among its strategies the empowerment of rural community to allow these latter effectively manage their land resources.

3.2.8 Women and Youth and the National Forest Policy (2016)

93. The National Forest Policy of 2016 took over from the National Forest Policy of 1996 and the National Forest Programme formulated in 2000 to guide the implementation of the 1996 Policy. The 2016 National Forest Policy aimed at providing guidance to the management of forests, offering an enabling framework for all stakeholders participating in the management of forests, and sustaining the contribution of the national forest resources for the upliftment of the quality of life.

94. “The goal of the National Forest Policy is to improve provision of forest goods and services to contribute towards sustainable development of Malawi through protection and conservation of forest resources.” The Policy aspires to control deforestation and forest degradation and promotes strategies that contribute to increased forest cover by 2% from the current 28% by 2021 as well as to sustainable management of existing forest resources. The overall objectives of the Policy are to:

- “Provide an enabling framework for promoting the participation of local communities, the civil society and the private sector in forest conservation and management;

- Promote the establishment of forest based small and medium scale industries;
- Promote the growing of trees by all sections of the communities in order to achieve sustainable self-sufficiency of wood and forest derived products and services;
- Promote sustainable management of forests for the protection of the environment, conservation of biodiversity and climate change management;
- Promote the development of initiatives for adequate and sustainable short, medium and long term financing mechanisms for the forestry sector and its contribution to GDP;
- Enhance the development of requisite human resource commensurate with the implementation of the policy;
- Promote the sustained management and utilization of forest resources based on research findings and recommendations;
- Promote a well regulated, compliant and monitored forestry sector with clearly defined forest standards and guidelines; and
- Enhance cooperation in forestry related issues at national, regional and international levels to maximize resources and information flows into the forestry sector.”

95. To address sustainable forest management, the Government identified 10 Priority Areas namely: (i) Community Based Forest Management; (ii) Indigenous Forests, Forest Reserves, and Ecosystem Management; (iii) Forest Plantations and Estates Management; (iv) Forestry Regulation and Quality Control; (v) Forestry Knowledge Acquisition and Management; (vi) Capacity Development for Forestry Sector; (vii) Biomass Energy Development; (viii) Development of Forest Based Industries; (ix) Regional and International Cooperation; and (x) Financing Mechanisms. Sustainable Forest Management will ensure continuous provision of forest goods and services, increased forest cover and climate change management.

96. While the only priority area that emphasized on the participation of local communities was the first one related to Community Based Forest Management, the involvement of women or youth was not specified. Priority areas 5 and 6 related to knowledge acquisition and capacity development for the forest sector also related the needs to develop the human resources required for the sector but this mention remained vague. Although the Policy was well developed from a technical point of view, insufficient provisions were made from a gender and youth perspective.

3.2.9 Women and Youth and the Malawi National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2025)

97. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II (NBSAP II) is a framework for action that will guide Malawi to sustainably manage its biodiversity. The Strategy outlines the status of the biological resources in Malawi and provides strategies, targets and actions to be taken to ensure their sustainable management. The strategy is in line with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II, which prioritizes biodiversity management programs among other socio-economic and environmental issues.

98. The goal of the strategy is to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the environment and human well-being. This goal will be achieved through the attainment of the following specific strategic objectives that rely on 16 targets and a set of actions:

- Improved capacity and knowledge on biodiversity issues;
- Increased mainstreaming of biodiversity management into sectoral and local development planning;
- Reduced direct pressures on biodiversity;

- Improved status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; and
- Enhanced access and benefit sharing from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

99. The strategy refers to gender roles and responsibilities of the youth in the strategic objective 5 on the enhancement of access and benefits sharing from biodiversity and ecosystem services. Related Target 15 supports in enhancing the participation of vulnerable groups, the youth, and women in biodiversity management and in ensuring that these groups benefit fully from the ecosystem services that biodiversity provides.

3.2.10 Women and Youth and the National Agriculture Policy (2016)

100. The National Agriculture Policy 2016 sought to sustainably transform the agriculture sector from subsistence to market-oriented in order to increase agricultural production, marketed surpluses of commodities, and real incomes. Since the principal responsibility of agriculture is to produce sufficient diverse and nutritious foods, provide reliable food markets, and increase agricultural incomes; the vision of the NAP to assuring food security and nutrition is based on a more coordinated and diversified approach through the commercialization of agriculture products. A particular focus had also been put on smallholder farmers involved in commercialization in order to optimize resources that go to smallholder subsector, although the policy recognized all types of entrepreneurial farmers and supported them to increase the scale and quality of their production. Pro-poor linkages between large-scale estates and smallholder farmers were also promoted. Since the agriculture sector may not be able to absorb all the skilled and unskilled labor available in the sector, the Government may need to develop accompanying strategies that enable many Malawians to leave the agriculture sector and move into remunerative non-agricultural employment, and provide social protection services for the most vulnerable. The NAP was based on spirit of inclusiveness and coordinated partnerships, and relied on the key consideration related to the place of smallholder farming in the development pathway of agricultural transformation.

101. Standing as a clear and comprehensive policy guidance for the agricultural sector, the Policy aimed to ensure continued and increasingly positive contributions to agricultural development and to the economy as a whole by farmers, processors, and traders. Its main operational rationale was to improve coherence across the wide range of agricultural sub-sector policies that are in place and to better coordinate their implementation.

102. The Policy identified eight priority areas that are: (i) Sustainable Agricultural Production and Productivity; (ii) Sustainable Irrigation Development; (iii) Mechanization of Agriculture; (iv) Agricultural Market Development, Agro-processing and Value Addition; (v) Food and Nutrition Security; (vi) Agricultural Risk Management; (vii) Empowerment of Youth, Women and Vulnerable Groups in Agriculture; and (viii) Institutional Development, Coordination and Capacity Strengthening. While Policy priority Area 1 on Sustainable Agricultural Production and Productivity raised women and youth's inadequate access, control, and utilization of productive assets, such as land and water; Policy Priority Area 4 on Agricultural Market Development, Agro-processing and Value Addition made provisions on the promotion of women and youth's access to financial services and agricultural credit. Policy Priority Area 7 related to the Empowerment of Youth, Women and Vulnerable Groups in Agriculture emphasized on the high involvement of women and youth in the agricultural sector, as well as their inability to effectively contribute to the agricultural growth given their limited access to, ownership and control of finances and productive assets in the sector. The Policy statements and related objectives are as follows:

Table 5: Policy Statement and Objective of Policy Priority Area 7 on Empowerment of Youth, Women and Vulnerable Groups in Agriculture

Policy statements	Policy objectives
3.7.1. Increase women's and youth's access, ownership and control of productive agricultural assets by 50 percent by 2020	Increase profitable participation of youth, women and vulnerable groups in agricultural production
3.7.2. Promote agricultural education and technical training for women, youth, and vulnerable groups particularly those living with disabilities	Improve capacity of youth, women and vulnerable groups to effectively participate in agricultural development
3.7.3. Support agribusiness entrepreneurship among women, youth, and vulnerable groups particularly those living with disabilities	Improve agribusiness skills of women, youth and vulnerable groups
3.7.4. Facilitate access to finance for women, youth and vulnerable groups in agriculture	Reduce gender, age and other inequalities in access to finance
3.7.5. Promote participation of women, youth and vulnerable groups in agro-processing, value addition and agricultural exports	Reduce gender, age and other gaps in agriculture

Source: National Agriculture Policy, 2016

103. In terms of implementation arrangements, the Malawi Government recognized the importance of partnerships involving different stakeholders including various ministries; statutory corporations, trusts, councils, and boards; presidential and cabinet initiatives; farmer-based organizations; the private sector; civil society and development partners. A particular attention is put on the critical role farmer-based organizations play in empowering women, youth and vulnerable groups. The Policy's monitoring and evaluation plan included an indicator on the increase of women's and youth's access, ownership and control of productive agricultural assets by 50 percent by 2020.

3.2.11 Women and Youth and the National Agriculture Investment Plan (2017/18- 2022/23)

104. The National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) is a medium-term investment framework for the agricultural sector covering a five year period. Aligned to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), the African Union Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, and the national development policy blue print, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III), it built on achievements and lessons from its predecessor, the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp) implemented between 2010/11 and 2014/15. The NAIP serves as the main implementation vehicle for the 2016 National Agriculture Policy (NAP), and provides a framework to coordinate and prioritize investments by government agencies, development partners, and non-state actors (civil society, farmer organizations and the private sector).

105. The goal of the NAIP consists of sustainable agricultural transformation that will result in significant growth of the agricultural sector, expanding incomes for farm households, improved food and nutrition security for all Malawians, and increased agricultural exports. It has three mutually reinforcing impact-level objectives that are: (i) broad-based and resilient agricultural growth; (ii) improved well-being and livelihoods of Malawians; and (iii) improved food and nutrition security.

106. Estimated at 3.219 billion US\$, the NAIP is structured around four programs and 16 Intervention areas (IAs). The four programs and related objectives are summarized in the below table.

Program	Objective
A. Policies, institutions and coordination	To improve policy and regulatory environment, stakeholder coordination and accountability
B. Resilient livelihoods and agricultural systems	To strengthen resilience of livelihoods and natural resource base for agriculture.
C. Production and productivity	To increase production and productivity of a more diversified agricultural sector
D. Markets, value addition, trade and finance	To enhance market access, value addition, trade, and access to finance

107. Cutting across the four programs, the following 16 IAs are needed to achieve the objectives of the NAIP: (i) Policy, Program and Stakeholder Coordination; (ii) Farmer Organisations; (iii) Public agricultural services delivery; (iv) Food and Nutrition Security; (v) Food safety and quality standards; (vi) Empowerment and tenure security; (vii) Disaster risk management; (viii) Pest and disease management; (ix) Agricultural innovation systems; (x) Access to inputs; (xi) Natural resource management and Climate Change; (xii) Irrigation development; (xiii) Mechanisation; (xiv) Agricultural markets and trade; (xv) Investments in agribusiness; (xvi) Access to financial services.

108. With regards to gender, the description of the country and sector context gives visibility to women and youth, by highlighting the challenges they have to face in terms of livelihoods. The NAIP also recognizes through its second impact-level objective on improved well-being and livelihoods, the heterogeneous nature of rural communities and the importance of tailoring specific measures to address the needs of vulnerable/poor sub-groups (eg. for closing the gender gap in agriculture, supporting youth employment and entrepreneurship, support labour-constrained households such as those affected by HIV/AIDS, etc.). Besides, the NAIP consider gender and youth as an additional strategic consideration that should be mainstreamed in all parts of the NAIP given women's pivotal role in agricultural production and considering the serious disadvantages both women and youth in rural communities experienced. The NAIP various interventions are therefore expected to properly target the participation of at least 50 percent of women and the occupation of decision-making positions by at least 40 percent of women.

109. Under the IA on farmer organizations, the output contributing to Program A on addressing capacity gaps in gender related aspects; and output contributing to Program B on the establishment of formalized farmer organizations with a particular focus on women and youth, and their capacity building; would support the outcome on strengthening the performance and outreach of farmer organisations at all levels.

110. The IA on empowerment and tenure security clearly identified a gender outcome on "women and youth empowered and land tenure security enhanced" and a gender intermediate outcome on "increased participation of women and youth in agricultural value chains and institutions". This outcome will be achieved through the combined effects of outputs related to Program A: (i) Government staff trained on gender, and (ii) update of agricultural curricula on gender, HIV/AIDS and youth issues; Program B: (i) Intra-household gender relations improved, (ii) women and youth groups strengthened and empowered in relation to land tenure security; and Program D: (i) agribusiness SMEs owned/operated by women and youth trained on various technical and business aspects, and (ii) youth and women agribusiness entrepreneurs receiving business mentorship.

111. Intervention area on access to financial services is also elaborating on women's and youth's improved access to agricultural finance through their capacity strengthening in financial literacy and financial management (contributing to Program C) and support to youth and women start-up activities and adoption of innovative technologies (contributing to Program D).

112. Some examples of gender and youth mainstreaming measures to encourage participation of women and youth include: promotion of gender and youth responsive extension approaches, review of the agricultural sector gender and HIV strategy, training for Government staff in gender and youth mainstreaming, gender and age disaggregation of all performance targets and indicators, targets for gender and youth participation in training programs.

3.2.12 Women and Youth and the Agriculture sector, Gender, HIV and AIDS strategy (2012-2017)

113. The Agriculture Sector, Gender, HIV and AIDS strategy 2012-2017 took over from the first strategy developed in 2003 and implemented between 2003 and 2008. Building on the gaps and lessons identified from the evaluation of the strategy in 2009, the Ministry in collaboration with various stakeholders developed the Strategy to guide the implementation of gender, HIV and AIDS responsive programs and projects in the Agriculture Sector.

114. The empowerment of women was at the core of the strategy goal which consist of "contributing to sustainable and equitable food, nutrition and income security at national, community and household level through the empowerment of women and other vulnerable gender categories". The purpose of the strategy was "to promote gender equality, prevent the spread of HIV and mitigate the impacts of AIDS in order to increase agricultural productivity in line with ASWAp priorities". The Strategy had 3 pillars namely: i) Quality participation of women and other vulnerable gender categories in ASWAp focus areas and key support services; ii) Gender, HIV and AIDS responsive technology generation and dissemination; and iii) Effective coordination, capacity building and resource mobilization. Specific objectives of the Strategy included:

- "To improve food and nutrition security and agro-based income among vulnerable groups, in order to reduce gender disparities and contribute to HIV prevention and mitigation of impacts;
- To strengthen women's access to and control over agriculture resources, opportunities, benefits and decision making processes at household, community and national levels;
- To reduce factors that promote gender inequality and spread of HIV due to agricultural related mobility and migration;
- To promote generation and dissemination of gender, HIV and AIDS responsive technologies and information;
- To strengthen leadership and coordination of the Gender, HIV and AIDS Strategy for harmonized and decentralized implementation;
- To mobilize, track and effectively utilize financial and technical resources for the implementation of Gender, HIV and AIDS Strategy;
- To strengthen the gender, HIV and AIDS responsiveness of agriculture sector monitoring and evaluation system for enhanced accountability, learning and sharing;
- To build and sustain capacity of agriculture sector institutions and vulnerable groups to effectively mainstream gender, HIV and AIDS issues and actions."

115. In terms of implementation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security was in charge of providing policy guidance in the implementation of the strategy through the Executive Management Committee of ASWAp at national level. The Technical Working Group on Gender, HIV and AIDS was responsible of technically guiding the implementation of the strategy. At district

level, the strategy was implemented through the District Agriculture Extension Services System with collective efforts of all stakeholders.

116. Various groups were mentioned as focus of the strategy implementation: Women, Female Headed Households, Orphans and other Vulnerable Children, Child Headed Households, People with Disabilities, People Living with HIV, Mobile and Migrant Workers and the Elderly. Although the Strategy did not explicitly mention Youth, these various women groups could also include young women. The reference the Policy made to Children may also consider Youth since many Acts consider people under the age of 18 as children.

4. GENDER AND YOUTH

4.1 Basics Statistics

4.1.1 Gender Parity

117. With a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.483 in 2019, the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)³⁴ ranked Malawi 174th out of 189 countries and territories and classified the country among the ones in the low human development category. Malawi's HDI increased by 45 percent between 1990 and 2019 with an increase of 18.2 years of life expectancy at birth and an increase of mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling of 2.3 years and 5.8 years respectively. The Gross National Income (GNI) per capita decreased by about 26.3 percent on the same period. Malawi's 2019 HDI is below the average for countries in the low human development group and for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, which are 0.513 and 0.547 respectively.

118. When it comes to Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) - an indicator that takes into account inequality in the three dimensions of HDI by "discounting" each dimension's average value according to each level of inequality, Malawi's HDI stood at 0.345 which represented a loss of 28.6 percent in human development due to inequality (after discounting the 2019 HDI of 0.483 for inequality). The Malawi's Human inequality coefficient of 28.6 percent appears to be lower than the average loss due to inequality of 31.4 percent for low HDI countries and of 30.5 percent for Sub-Saharan Africa.

119. In 2019, the value of the UNDP's Gender Development Index (GDI) - an indicator that considers sex-disaggregated HDI and which is defined as a ratio of the female to the male HDI - was of 0.986 for Malawi with the HDI value of 0.493 for females and 0.500 for males. The GDI value of 0.986 placed the country into Group 1, a category that includes countries with absolute deviation from gender parity of 2.5 percent or less³⁵, considering the three basic dimensions of human development, which are health, education and command over economic resources.

Table 6: Human Development of Women and Men in Malawi in 2019³⁶

Human Development Index	Life Expectancy at Birth	Expected Years of Schooling	Mean Years of Schooling	Gross National Income per capita
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³⁴ UNDP, 2020. Human Development Report 2020, The next frontier – Human development and the Anthropocene, Briefing note for countries on the 2020 Human Development Report Malawi."

³⁵ Malawi National Human Development Report 2021, Delivering Sustainable Human Development and Accountability at the local level: the experience of decentralisation in Malawi, UNDP, 2021

³⁶ UNDP, 2020. Human Development Report 2020, The next frontier – Human development and the Anthropocene, Briefing note for countries on the 2020 Human Development Report Malawi

Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
0.493	0.500	67.4	61.1	11.2	11.3	6.9	5.2	838	1,237

Source: UNDP, 2020

120. Assessing gender-based inequalities in reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity, the Gender Inequality Index (GII) of the UNDP ranked Malawi 142th out of 162 countries in 2019³⁷. This ranking can be illustrated by (i) a maternal mortality ratio that equals to 349 deaths per 100,000 live births, (ii) an adolescent birth rate of 132.7 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19, (iii) 22.9 percent of parliamentary seats held by women, (iv) 17.6 percent of adult women having reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 26.1 percent of their male counterparts, and (v) a female labour market participation of 72.6 percent compared to 81.1 percent for men. Malawi's GII of 0.565 is slightly better than the average of 0.570 for Sub-Saharan Africa and 0.592 for low HDI countries.

³⁷ Ibid.

Table 7: Malawi's Gender Inequality Index in 2019

Gender Inequality Index Ranking	Maternal Mortality Ratio	Adolescent Birth Rate	Female Seats in Parliament (%)	Population with at least some secondary education (%)		Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	
				Female	Male	Female	Male
142 out of 162	349.0	132.7	22.9	17.6	26.1	72.6	81.1

Source: UNDP, 2020

4.1.2 Population

121. Malawi's population increased from 3.6 million in 1960 to 19.6 million in 2021³⁸, and women account for 50.7 percent³⁹. The 2018 Malawi population and housing census reports (2018 PHC) reported a population size that is almost 4 times higher than that of the first census of 1966, and 1.3 times higher than that of the 2008 census. With an intercensal growth rate of 2.9 percent per annum, the total population increased by 35 percent between the 2008 and 2018. When the 2018 PHC estimated the sex ratio - defined as the number of males per 100 females, at 94.2 at national level, four cities were identified with more males than females namely Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba. The Southern region had the highest population with 44 percent of the total population, followed by the Central and Northern Regions which had 43 percent and 13 percent of the total population respectively. From 2008 to 2018 census, the population density for the country increased from 138 to 186 persons per square kilometer. The Southern region had the highest population density (244) followed by the Central (211) and the Northern region (84). The share of population residing in the rural areas of the country amounted to 84 percent in 2018. In urban areas, 12 percent of the total population lived in the four major cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba, and 4 percent resided in other towns and Bomas. The population of the EbAM targeted districts are shown in Table 8.

³⁸ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=MW>

³⁹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS?locations=MW>

Table 8: Population in Target Districts

Region	Districts	Population	Male	Female
Northern Region	Chitipa	234,927	114,392	120,535
	Karonga	365,028	176,197	188,831
	Nkhata Bay	284,681	139,341	145,340
	Rumphi	229,161	112,652	116,509
Central Region	Dedza	830,512	395,882	434,630
Southern Region	Mangochi	1,148,611	545,500	603,111
	Zomba	746,724	356,718	390,006
	Mwanza	130,949	63,534	67,415
	Thyolo	721,456	340,759	380,697
	Nsanje	299,168	143,578	155,590
	Neno	138,291	67,357	70,934
Total		5,129,508	2,455,910	2,673,598

Source: National statistical office, 2018 MPHCS

122. The fifth integrated household survey 2019-2020 (IHS5) reported an average household size of 4.4 persons, with an average of 4.2 persons in urban areas and 4.4 persons in rural areas⁴⁰. Across regions, the household size for Southern Region was lower than other regions (4.3 persons) while it was the highest for Northern region (4.5 persons). Male-headed households had a higher average household size (4.6 persons) than female-headed households (3.9 persons). Female-headed households in the country represented 27.5 percent of all households. In urban areas, 80.6 percent of the households were headed by males and 19.4 headed by females. Across rural areas, female-headed households accounted for 29 percent and male-headed households for 71 percent. The Southern Region had more female-headed households (33.9 percent) than the Central and Northern Regions (22.6 percent and 22.5 percent respectively). Mangochi was the district with the highest proportion of households headed by females (43.3 percent).

123. As for population age distribution, the 2018 PHC reported 2.6 million people aged under five years, 6.3 million people aged 5-17 years, and about 8.7 million aged 18 years or more. The median age of the population in Malawi is 17 years⁴¹.

124. Malawi has a larger population in the younger age groups. The national youth policy defines youth as a person aged between 10 and 35 years⁴². The fifth integrated household survey 2019-2020 (IHS5) estimated that 49.26 percent of the population representing 8, 778,539 persons fell into this age group: young people aged 10-14 accounted for 15.1 percent, those aged 15-19 for 11.9 percent, those aged 20-24 for 8.5 percent, those aged 25-29 for 6.9 percent, those aged 30-34 for 5.6 percent⁴³ and those aged 35 for 1.26 percent⁴⁴. The 2018 PHC reported a higher percentage of youth in urban areas (55.2 percent) compared to rural areas (49 percent)⁴⁵.

125. The 2018 PHC reported some information on tribes. Mainly Bantus, the people of Malawi are divided into several ethnic groups: 6.0 million people (34.4 percent) were Chewa, 3.3 million people (18.9 percent) were Lomwe, 2.3 million people (13.3 percent) were Yao, 1.8 million people

⁴⁰ The fifth integrated household survey (IHS5) 2020 report, National Statistical office, November 2020

⁴¹ 2018 Malawi population and housing census, Main report, National statistical office, May 2019

⁴² National youth policy, Ministry of youth and sports, August 2013

⁴³ The fifth integrated household survey (IHS5) 2020 report, National Statistical office, November 2020

⁴⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Malawi#Age_structure

⁴⁵ 2018 Malawi population and housing census, Children and youth report, National statistical office July 2020

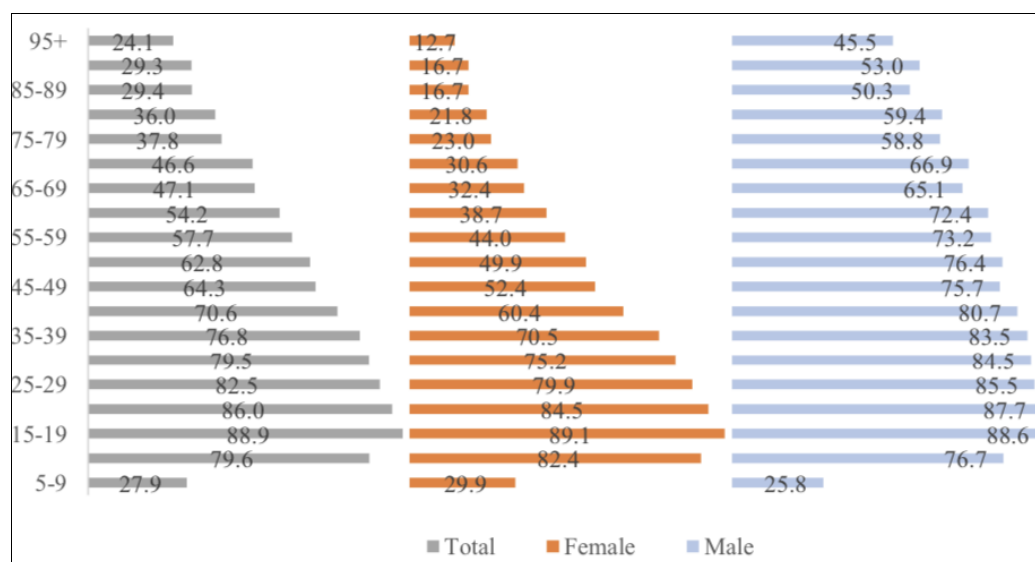
(10.4 percent) were Ngoni and 1.6 million people (9.2 percent) were Tumbuka. English is the country official language but other ethnic languages are used⁴⁶.

4.1.3 Literacy and education

126. **Literacy.** The Education report of the 2018 PHC described literacy as the ability to read and write a simple sentence in any language. Malawi's literacy rate for persons aged 5 years and above was 68.6 percent in 2018. Literacy levels showed an effective improvement based on the increase of 46.6 percentage difference compared to the rate of 22 percent recorded in the 1977 PHC, and of 4.7 percentage difference compared to the rate of 63.9 percent recorded in the 2008 PHC. The literacy rate for females increased more than that of males. The rates for males increased from 69.4 percent in 2008 to 71.6 percent in 2018 (2.2 percentage point difference) whereas the rates for females increased from 58.7 percent in 2008 to 65.9 percent in 2018 (7.2 point difference). The literacy gap between males and females also decreased between 2008 and 2018 considering the 10.7 percentage point difference in 2008 and the 5.7 percentage point difference in 2018. The tremendous improvement in female literacy rate by 2018 could be attributed to the various education initiatives that encourage education for females (UNICEF, 2017)⁴⁷.

127. In terms of age distribution, the national literacy level for the population in the country tended to decrease with the increase of age, regardless of sex. The literacy rate for 95 years and over is the lowest at 24.1 percent, then for the age group of 5 to 9 years old at 27.9 percent. Besides, the literacy gaps between females and males increased as the age increased, with the proportion of literate women decreasing with age, and the trend for men being not as steep as for women.

Figure 1: Proportion of the literate population by sex and age groups, Malawi 2018



Source: 2018 PHC, Education report

128. For youth aged 10-35 years, the national literacy rate estimated at 83.3 percent was higher than the national average. Young men and women literacy rates were estimated at 83.9 percent

⁴⁶ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/ethnic-groups-of-malawi.html>

⁴⁷ 2018 Malawi population and housing census, Education report, National statistical office July 2020

and 78.2 percent respectively. Literacy rate is higher among young people in urban areas (95.6 percent) than in rural areas (80.7 percent). The Northern Region (91.9) had a higher literacy rate compared to Central Region (81.3 percent) and Southern Region (82.7 percent). Available data on children and youth in the 3-35 age group showed a contrasted situation between cities and non-cities districts. The four cities of Malawi, Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Zomba and Blantyre had literacy rates ranging from 81.8 to 85.6 percent and some districts namely Mangochi and Nsanje had the lowest literacy rate of 50.6 percent and 55.1 percent respectively⁴⁸.

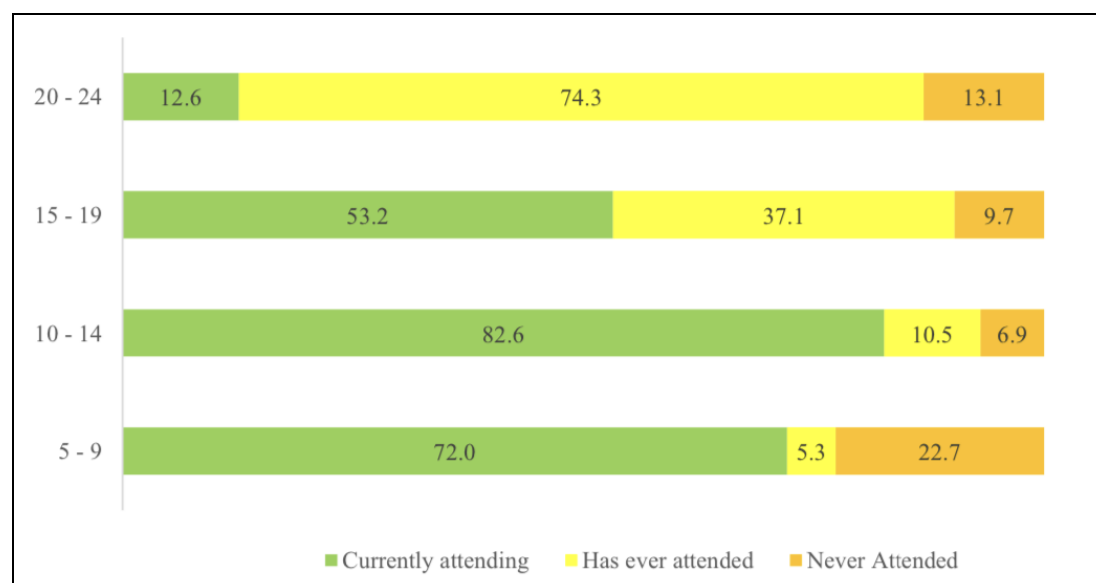
129. **Education.** In Malawi, the formal education includes 8 years of primary school, 4 years of secondary school and another 4 years of university-level education. The official school going ages are 6 to 13 years for primary school level, 14 to 17 years for secondary school level and 18 to 24 years for post-secondary school level.

130. The 2018 PHC observed school attendance for population aged 5-24 years old since some learners enter school at the younger age of 5 years. The school age population was estimated at 47 percent of the total population of which 23.2 percent were primary school age population, 9.5 percent were secondary school age population and 14.6 were post-secondary school age population. No major differences in distributions of these categories were noted by sexes, place of residence or regions.

131. In terms of school attendance, the 3-5 year old children attending preschool represented 29.7 percent in 2018. More children in the urban areas (47.3 percent) attended than in rural areas (27.0 percent). With 34.1 percent, the Northern Region had the highest proportion of children attending pre-school, followed by the Southern Region (32.9 percent) and the Central region (25.1 percent). For persons aged 5 to 24 years old, the highest proportion of population who had never attended school was observed in the 5-9 age group (22.7 percent) compared to the other age groups. The population of those who has ever attended school was highest for youth aged 20-24 years and the highest proportion of those currently attending school was among the 10-14 age group (Figure 2). The proportion of population currently attending school increased from 27.9 percent in 2008 to 34.9 percent in 2018, while those who had ever attended and who never attended school both decreased from 50.5 percent in 2008 to 46.8 percent in 2018 and from 21.6 percent in 2008 to 18.3 percent in 2018 respectively. The Southern and Central regions had the same highest proportions of population that never attended school (19.7 percent), whereas the Northern region had the highest proportion of those who ever attended (53.3 percent) and those currently attending school (37.5 percent). In the three regions, more females than males never attended, and there are more males than females among those who had ever attended and currently attending. School attendance analysed by religion showed that the highest proportion of people (49.3 percent) who never attended school were traditional believers.

⁴⁸ 2018 Malawi population and housing census, Children and youth report, National statistical office July 2020

Figure 2: Percentage of persons aged 5 to 24 years by school attendance status within age groups, Malawi 2018



Source: Malawi Population and Housing Census 2018

132. In 2018, primary school enrolment by age groups revealed that 72.6 percent of learners (74.1 percent were female and 71.1 percent male) fell under the appropriate primary school age range of 6-13 years old, under-aged learners and over-aged learners represented 4.8 percent (5.1 percent female and 4.5 percent male) and 22.7 percent (20.9 percent female and 24.5 percent male) respectively. The Gender parity index (GPI) for primary education remained at 1.0 or slightly above between 2008 and 2018, where some cases showed more girls as reflected in the population gender split in the country. The presence of under-aged and over-aged learners was reflected in the national Gross enrolment rate (GER) of 107.2 percent, which measures the proportion of children enrolled in primary school expressed as a percentage of the total number of children aged 6-13 years old. National GER was 106.4 percent for females and 108.1 percent for males. As for the national primary school Net enrolment rate (NER) that measures the proportion of children of appropriate age enrolled in primary school expressed as a percentage of the total number of children in the same age group, the rate of 77.8 percent (78.8 percent per females and 76.8 percent for males) showed that some children of official primary school age are not accessing primary education. Although the dropout rate for primary education significantly decreased from 11.7 percent in 2009 to 3.2 percent in 2018⁴⁹, retention remains a challenge. Primary completion rate was estimated 52 percent with fewer girls compared to boys completing primary. In addition, since it takes 13 years on average to graduate from the 8-year primary school program, the high repetition rate of 24.5 percent eventually led to dropout and low completion rate that increases the out-of-school children population.

133. Secondary school enrolments depend on primary school education completion and transition rates. In 2018, transition rate from primary to secondary school was at 38.3 percent. Secondary school enrolment rate for the ideal secondary school enrolment age of 14 to 17 years was 40.2 percent, and it was 3.8 percent for young people less than 14 years old and 56 percent for those aged 18 years old or more. Female and male school enrolment rate for youth aged 14-

⁴⁹ Malawi education sector analysis, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, 2019

17 were at 47.7 percent and 33.7 percent respectively. The GPI in secondary level enrolment had raised from 0.88 in 2014 to 0.92 in 2017. The proportion of males of the over-aged was 29.9-percentage point higher than for males aged 14 to 17. The national secondary GER was 40.5 percent with a higher percentage for male (43.1 percent) than for female (37.1 percent). The distribution of GER by sex followed the same trend in all three regions. Considering the youth of appropriate secondary school age of 14 to 17 years old, the NER was 16.3 percent. NER for females was consistently higher (18.1 percent) than that for males (14.5 percent). The 24.2 percentage point difference between the secondary GER and NER confirmed the predominance of over-aged youth among those enrolled. No data on the proportion of GER and NET by place of residence were available.

134. In terms of higher learning (tertiary), 89,665 students were enrolled in 2018 of whom 58.7 were male and 41.3 percent female. 2.6 percent of those who were enrolled were aged below 18 years, 62.4 percent were between 18 and 24 and 35.0 percent were over 25 years. Females have higher proportions than males in the younger ages: 71.7 percent of females enrolled in higher learning are below 25 years old while this percentage is at 60.3 for males. In rural areas, female's proportion for those under 25 years old was at 70.8 percent and males' proportion at 57.1 percent. In urban areas, female and male's proportions are 71.9 percent and 62.1 respectively. Male's proportion is higher than for females for those over 25 years both in rural and urban areas and at national level.

135. In 2018, about 70 percent of the national population had not attained any formal education qualification. This percentage had decreased of 3 percentage point from that of 2008, and the same percentage points of decline are observed both in rural and urban areas. Despite the decrease, the proportion of the rural population with no education attainment remained higher than that of the urban population (76.3 percent versus 44.5 percent in 2018). About 12 percent of the population aged 10 years and older have the Primary School Leaving Certificate (PSLC) of Education, the certificate validating the completion of 8 years of primary school. Females with PSLC were 12.1 percent and males were 12.5 percent. The slight difference of 0.4 percentage point observed between males and females for the PSLC increased for diplomas of higher level. The distribution for males of 8.2 percent was higher of 1.2 percentage point compared to those for females for the Junior certificate education (JCE), the diploma obtained after completing two years of secondary education; and males are approximately twice as likely to hold the Malawi school certificate of education (MSCE), the certificate provided after another two years of upper secondary school education.

4.1.4 Health

a. General health

136. Malawians' total life expectancy at birth has continuously improved from 45 years in 2000 to 65 years in 2020⁵⁰. In 2020, female life expectancy at birth estimated at 68 years exceeds that of men by 6 years. Adult mortality rates have also decreased since 2002, with a reduction of more than half for both male and female between 2002 and 2020⁵¹. According to both indicators, the situation in Malawi in 2020 is worse than the world average. Life expectancy at birth of Malawians and mortality rate for female adults are better than the Sub-Saharan Africa average, but male adult mortality rate is worse than those of sub-Saharan Africa and the world. In 2020, the causes of death in Malawi followed the same trends as in Sub-Saharan Africa: 50 percent of the deaths were due to communicable diseases and maternal, prenatal and nutrition conditions, 40 percent

⁵⁰ World Bank, 2021, "Data on health"

⁵¹ World Bank, 2021, "Data on health"

to non-communicable diseases and 10 percent to injury. While the proportion of deaths caused by communicable diseases had decreased significantly by 24 points of percentage from 74 percent in 2000 to 50 percent in 2019, deaths caused by non-communicable diseases had increased from 22 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2019⁵². The proportion of deaths by communicable diseases and maternal, prenatal and nutrition condition in Malawi is far above the world average.

Table 9: Basic Health Statistics⁵³

Indicator	Year	Female (Malawi/ Sub-Saharan Africa/World)	Male (Malawi/ Sub-Saharan Africa/World)	Total (Malawi/ Sub-Saharan Africa/World)
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2000	48/52/70	43/49/65	45/50/68
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2020	68/64/75	62/60/71	65/60/73
Mortality rate, adult (per 1,000 adults)	2002	543/380/146	640/434/210	
Mortality rate, adult (per 1,000 adults)	2020	202/236/119	313/295/172	
Death by communicable diseases and maternal, prenatal and nutrition conditions (% of total deaths)	2019	50/54/18		
Death by non-communicable diseases (% of total deaths)	2019	40/36/74		
Death by injury (% of total deaths)	2019	10/10/8		

Source: World Bank, 2021

137. The latest data published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2020 ranked HIV/AIDS as the main cause of deaths in Malawi (13.32 percent of total deaths), followed by influenza and pneumonia (8.03 percent), malaria (6.54 percent), road traffic accidents (6.45 percent), stroke (6.16 percent) and diarrhoeal diseases (6 percent)⁵⁴.

Table 10: Prevalence of Major Diseases⁵⁵

Indicator	Year	Malawi	Sub-Saharan Africa
Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49)	2019	8.5	3.6
Prevalence of HIV, female (% of population ages 15-24)	2020	3.7	1.7
Prevalence of HIV, male (% of population ages 15-24)	2020	1.9	0.7
Women's share of population ages 15+ living with HIV (%)	2019	64	n.a
	2016	63	60
Children (0-14) living with HIV	2019	69 000	n.a
Incidence of HIV, ages 15-49 (per 1,000 uninfected population ages 15-49)	2019	2.4	1.3
Incidence of HIV, ages 15-24 (per 1,000 uninfected population ages 15-24)	2019	2	1
Adults (ages 15+) and children (ages 0-14) newly infected with HIV	2019	22 000	n.a
Adults (ages 15-49) newly infected with HIV	2019	18 000	n.a
Children (ages 0-14) newly infected with HIV	2019	2 700	n.a
Young people (ages 15-24) newly infected with HIV	2019	7 800	n.a
ARI Treatment (% Of Children Under 5 Taken To A Health Provider)	2016	77.6	n.a
Incidence of malaria (per 1,000 population at risk)	2019	205.9	214.1

⁵² World Bank, 2021, "Data on health"

⁵³ World Bank, 2021, "Data on health"

⁵⁴ <https://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/country-health-profile/malawi>

⁵⁵ World Bank, "Data on health."

Diarrhea treatment (% of children under 5 receiving oral rehydration and continued feeding) - Malawi	2016	56.7	n.a
	2017	n.a	38

Source: World Bank, 2021

b. HIV/AIDS and related knowledge and behaviour

138. Although Malawi has made significant progress in reducing the number of HIV infection over the last decade - namely with the number of adults aged 15-49 newly infected with HIV falling from 39 000 in 2010 to 17 000 in 2020, HIV/AIDS remains the number one killer in the country. In 2020, 8.1 percent of the population aged 15-49 years were infected with HIV, a percentage that is higher by 4.9 percentage point compared with the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 3.6. The HIV prevalence among men and women aged 15-49 decreased continuously between the three successive Malawi demographic health surveys (MDHS) of 2004, 2010 and 2015-16 with the rates of 11.8 percent, 10.6 percent and 8.8 percent respectively. The 2015-16 MDHS described the prevalence among women to be higher than among men (10.8 percent versus 6.4 percent). The prevalence for young women aged 15 to 24 is almost double that for young men (3.7 versus 1.7 percent in 2020). HIV prevalence among men increases with age from 1 percent for those aged 15-19 to 9 percent in men aged 30-34, with the highest prevalence of 20.5 percent among men aged 50-54. The same trend is observed for women from age group of 15-19 to age group of 40-44 with a prevalence ranging from 3.3 to 19.8 percent, but then a decrease is noted among those aged 45 to 49 (16.9 percent). HIV prevalence was twice as high in urban areas as compared to rural areas for both women and men in 2020: 17.8 percent among women and 11.0 percent among men in urban areas and 9.2 percent and 5.4 percent respectively for women and men in rural areas. Estimated at 12.8 percent, the prevalence in the Southern region was the highest, this percentage is reduced by more than half for the Central and Northern regions where the prevalence is at 5.6 and 5.1 percent respectively. Women in the highest wealth quintile have higher HIV prevalence (14.7 percent) than women in lower wealth quintiles (9.3 percent). HIV prevalence is also influenced by marital status with a higher prevalence among men and women who have ever been married compared to those who have never been for whom the prevalence was estimated at 3 percent. For women and men reporting ever being married, it was at 9.8 for those who were married or living together as married at the time of the survey, 19.1 percent for those who were divorced or separated and 32.3 percent of widowed women and men. Those in polygynous union had also higher HIV prevalence. While HIV prevalence is higher among women who had first sex before age 16 (13.9 percent) compared to those who had sex at an older age (10.4 percent for women who had their first sexual intercourse at age 16 or 17, 9.9 percent for those who had first sex at age 18-19), this trend is reversed for men with a lower prevalence for those who initiated sexual activity before age 16 than for those who had their first sex at older ages (6 percent, 7.8 percent and 8.1 percent respectively for those who had their first sex before 16, at 17-18 and at 19-20). Women and men having a Sexually transmitted infection (STI) or symptoms of an STI had a higher HIV prevalence than those who did not (14.8 percent versus 9 percent). The number of new HIV infections on adults between 15 and 49 years old were estimated at 17 000 in 2020, of which 7 300 concerned young people aged 15-24. HIV and AIDS orphaned 460 000 children who lost their mother or both parents in 2020.

139. With respect to HIV/AIDS related knowledge and attitudes, about three-quarters of women and men aged 15-49 know that using condoms consistently can reduce the risk of HIV. More than eight in ten women and men (86 percent of women and 89 percent of men aged 15-49) know that limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner who has no other partners can also reduce the risk of HIV. The higher education men and women have, the more informed on prevention methods they are: 64 percent of women and men with no education recognised that using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner is a way to avoid getting HIV compared with 74 percent of women and 78 percent of men with more than secondary education.

The percentage of young people aged 15-24 with comprehensive knowledge of HIV appears low compared to the average in the 15-49 age group, and it was slightly higher for men (44 percent) than for women (41 percent) with no significant change noted between the two MDHS of 2010 and 2015-16. Young women and men in urban areas are more likely than their counterparts in rural areas to have comprehensive knowledge about HIV: 47 percent of young women and 54 percent of young men in urban areas compared with 40 percent of young women and 42 percent of young men in rural areas. The behaviour of young people to be with multiple sexual partners also increases the risk of getting HIV. The 2015-16 MDHS estimated at 10 percent the proportion of men who had more than one partner in the last 12 months before the survey, compared with 1 percent of women. Condom use was more common among young men who had more than one partner (52 percent) than among their female counterparts (36 percent).

140. The 2015-16 MDHS found that overall 19 percent of women and 14 percent of men have discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV, these attitudes can adversely affect people's willingness to be tested and treated if they are tested positive. Discriminatory attitudes decrease with level of education and wealth. While a vast majority of women (95 percent) and men (96 percent) knew where to obtain an HIV test, women are more likely than men to have ever been tested for HIV (83 percent versus 70 percent). A substantial increase in HIV testing among both women and men of 37 percentage point ranging from 7 percent to 44 percent were noted from 2004 to 2015-16. The highest HIV testing coverage were observed in the Northern region (50 percent) followed by those of the Southern (44 percent) and Central regions (42 percent). HIV testing coverage among young people aged 15-24 who had had sex in the past 12 months before the survey were 53 percent for women and 45 percent for men.

c. Reproductive health

141. The Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) 2015-16 reported that 66 percent of women and 57 percent of men aged 15-49 were married or living together with a partner as if they are married during the survey period. While the percentage of women married or living together had declined from 72 percent in 1992 to 68 percent in 2010 and to 66 percent in 2015-16, the decrease for men between 1992 and 2010 was very significant: ranging 74 to 57 percent but no change were noted since 2010. Women tend to marry well earlier than men. The median age at first marriage for women aged 25-49 is 18.2 years and it is at 23 years for men within the same age groups. Between the MDHS of 1992 and 2015-16, the median age at first marriage for women aged 25-49 had increased slightly from 17.8 to 18.2 years while no significant variation was observed for men. In 2015-16, urban women married later than rural women with a median age at first marriage of 19.7 and 18 years respectively. Age at first marriage is also influenced by the level of education and poverty. The median age at first marriage for women aged 25-49 with no education was reported to be at 17.6 years while it was at 24.8 years for women with more than secondary education. Women aged 25-49 in the highest wealth quintile first marry at 19.6 years while those in other quintiles do so at 17.8-18.0 years.

142. Thirteen percent of women reported to be in polygynous marriage and the percentage of men who reported to have multiple wives was about half that of women (7 percent). Women living in the rural areas are more likely to report co-wives (14 percent) compared with their counterparts living in the urban areas (5 percent). The Northern region had the highest percentage of women reporting polygyny (18 percent) followed by the Central (14 percent) and the Southern (11 percent) regions. Less educated women are more likely to have co-wives. 21 percent of women with no education reported that their husband has other wives compared with only 3 percent of women with more than secondary education.

143. Comparison of median ages at first sex and first marriage showed that in general both women and men in Malawi have sex before marriage. On average, men initiate sexual intercourse at slightly older ages than women, the median age at first sex for women and men aged 25-49 were 16.8 and 18.5 years respectively and it remained unchanged between 2000 and 2015-16. Rural women aged 25-49 begin having sex about a year earlier (16.7 years) than urban women (17.6 years). The percentages of women aged 25-49 who had first sex at earlier age were higher than for men: 19 percent of women aged 25-49 had first sex before age 15 and 64 percent before age 18 compared to 11 percent and 42 percent for their male counterparts. By age 20, 85 percent of women and 66 percent of men had experienced sexual intercourse. Since the median age at first sexual intercourse for women aged 25-49 is 1.4 years younger than the median age at first marriage (16.8 years versus 18.2 years), many women engage in sex before marriage and may be exposed to the risk of pregnancy and childbearing at an earlier age before getting married. The median ages at first sex and first marriage for men aged 25-49 (18.5 years versus 23 years) show that men are initiating sexual activity five years before marriage. Age at first sexual intercourse increases with level of education and household wealth both for men and women: there is a gap of 3.7 years and a gap of 1.8 years in the median age of first sex between women aged 25-49 with no education and those with more than secondary education and between men aged 25-54 with the same characteristics. Median age at first sex for women aged 25-49 in the lowest wealth quintile was 16.5 years compared to 17.8 years for those in the highest quintile. For men aged 25-54, the median age at first sex in the lowest quintile is 1.1 years younger than in the highest wealth quintile (18.2 years versus 19.3 years).

144. Total fertility rate (TFR) in Malawi declined markedly from 6.7 in 1992 to 4.4 children per woman in 2015-16⁵⁶ and further to 4.1 in 2020⁵⁷. Malawian TFR was lower than the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 4.6 in 2020⁵⁸. Women in rural areas have higher fertility, on average, than women in urban areas (TFR of 4.7 versus 3.0 children in 2015-16). Education level affects the number of children per woman. Women with no education had an average of 5.5 children compared with 2.3 children for women with more than secondary education. TFR also varies with the level of poverty, women in the lowest wealth quintile had an average 2.8 more children than women in the highest wealth quintile (TFR of 5.7 versus 2.9 children).

145. Median age at first birth in Malawi had changed little over the last two decades and it was 19.1 and 19 years respectively among women aged 20-49 and 25-49 in 2015-16. Women aged 25-49 in urban areas had had their first birth, on average, 1 year later than women in rural areas (19.9 years versus 18.9 years). The level of education influences the median age at first birth with women, a difference of 6.3 years were observed among women aged 25-49 with no education and those with more than secondary education (median age at first birth of 18.6 and 24.9 years respectively).

146. With regards to contraception, the MDHS 2015-16 reported that contraceptive knowledge is almost universal in Malawi. 98 percent of women and nearly 100 percent of men aged 15-49 knew at least one method of contraception. Contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) describing the percentage of women between 15 and 49 years old practicing (or whose sexual partners are practicing) any form of contraception was 59 percent for currently married women, this percentage was at 44 percent for sexually active unmarried women. Nearly all married women and sexually active unmarried women using contraception used a modern method⁵⁹, 58 and 43 percent respectively. The use of modern contraceptive by married women showed a significant increase

⁵⁶ MDHS 2015-16

⁵⁷ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?locations=MW>

⁵⁸ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?end=2020&locations=ZG&start=2010>

⁵⁹ Modern methods include male and female sterilisation, injectables, intrauterine devices (IUDs), contraceptive pills, implants, female and male condoms, the standard days method, lactational amenorrhoea, and emergency contraception (MDHS 2015-16)

from 7 percent in 1992 to 58 percent in 2015-16 while the use of traditional methods declined from 4 percent to 1 percent over the same period. Overall, 68 percent of all women currently using modern contraceptives were informed at the time they started the current episode of method use about the side effects of the method, what to do if they experience side effects, and other available methods. Contraceptive use increases with household wealth, fifty-three percent of women in the lowest wealth quintile use any modern method compared with 61 percent of women in the highest quintile in 2015-16. Total demand for family planning among currently married women aged 15-49 had increased over time, rising from 50 percent in 1992, to 61 percent in 2000, 63 percent in 2004, 72 percent in 2010, and 78 percent in 2015-16. The difference between the percentage of married women aged 15-49 who wanted to space births and those willing to limit births representing 37 percent and 41 percent respectively (representing the total demand of 78 percent), and those already using contraceptive methods of 59 percent highlighted some family planning unmet need of 19 percent. The percentage of demand satisfied was higher for married women than for sexually active unmarried ones (76 percent versus 53 percent). Eight in ten married women using family planning reported its use as a joint decision between wife and husband, 13 percent stated it as the wife's decision, and 7 percent mentioned it to be the husband's decision.

d. Teenage pregnancy

147. Teenage pregnancy and child marriage are highly correlated in Malawi. Girls who marry at early age are more likely to become pregnant, and those who become pregnant are often forced to marry. Cultural practices play a significant role in teenage pregnancy as many ethnic groups still rely on gendered expectations regarding women's responsibilities to marry and bear children⁶⁰.

148. Teenage childbearing representing the percentage of women aged 15-19 who have given birth or are pregnant with their first child, were estimated at 29 percent in 2015-16. The proportion of women who began childbearing in rural areas of 31 percent exceeds ten percentage point the proportion of those in urban areas. Teenage pregnancy is affected by household wealth with the percentage of women aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing decreasing from 44 percent among women in the lowest wealth quintile to 15 percent of women in the highest wealth quintile. Among women and men aged 15-19, 13 percent of women and 22 percent of men had their first sexual intercourse before age 15. One percent of women and no men in the same age group gave birth or fathered a child before age 15⁶¹.

149. The teenage years are a critical period in a woman's life when she makes choices that will have long-term implications for her future well-being and productivity. Decisions such as whether and when to drop out of school, get married, or have a child significantly impact women's labor market outcomes later in life - an aspect that has been confirmed by the young ladies members of a fish processing group⁶². Women who begin childbearing at a young age are likely to have more children throughout their lifetime, are less likely to continue their education, and as a result, have worse economic outcomes.⁶³ Low awareness among girls regarding harmful social norms, early marriage and related issues contributes to increased teenage pregnancy.

⁶⁰ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and Southern Africa Gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

⁶¹ MDHS 2015-16

⁶² Focus group discussions with fish farmers in Masasa, Monkey bay, Mangochi District, Southern region, 1st October 2022

⁶³ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and Southern Africa Gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

e. Maternal, neonatal and child health

150. In Malawi, the maternal mortality ratio indicating the number of women who die from pregnancy-related causes while pregnant or within 42 days of pregnancy termination per 100,000 live births, had been reduced by more than half from 749 in 2000 to 349 in 2017. Although the ratio of 349 deaths per 100,000 live births is still considered as high, it remains very low compared to that of sub-Saharan Africa. Neonatal, infant and under-5 mortality rates were slightly higher than those in the world but stayed far behind the average rates in Sub-Saharan Africa. The causes of neonatal mortality (19 per 1,000 live births in 2020) include birth asphyxia, premature birth, and infection; and the under-5 mortality estimated at 39 per 1,000 births are due to malaria, diarrhoea, and pneumonia⁶⁴.

Table 11: Maternal and Children Mortality⁶⁵

Indicator	Year	Malawi	Sub-Saharan Africa	World
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)	2017	349	534	211
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	2020	39	73	37
Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	2019	29	50	27
Mortality rate, neonatal (per 1,000 live births)	2020	19	27	17

Source: World Bank (2021).

151. Malawi has made great improvements in maternal and child health. In both rural and urban areas, very high proportions of pregnant women are receiving prenatal care (98 percent in 2017 compared to 91 percent in 2000) and benefitting from skilled birth assistance (90 percent of births attended by skilled health staffs in 2016 compared to 55 percent in 2000). Institutional deliveries increased from 55 percent in 1992 to 91 percent in 2015-16 while home deliveries decreased from 43 to 7 percent over the same period⁶⁶. The 2015-16 MDHS reported the proportions of mothers and new-borns who received a postnatal check in the first 2 days after delivery or birth at 42 percent and 60 percent respectively. Postnatal check in the first 2 days after birth for new-borns and after delivery for mothers is positively correlated with the mother's level of education. Improved access to sexual and reproductive health services has also contributed to the improvements in maternal health. Contraceptive prevalence rate for married women aged 15-49 -indicating the percentage of women who are practicing or whose sexual partners are practicing any form of contraception, nearly doubled from 31 percent in 2000 to 59 percent in 2016. Knowledge of family planning is almost universal in Malawi with 98 percent of women and nearly 100 percent of men aged 15-49 knowing at least one method of contraception. The most reported problems for women to access health care are the distance to health facility and the payment for advice or treatment⁶⁷.

152. Under-5 mortality rate showed significant decrease ranging from 234 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 63 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015-16. Infant mortality (infant under one year) declined from 135 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 42 deaths per 1,000 births in 2015-16; and neonatal mortality (within the first month of life) fell from 41 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 27 deaths per 1,000 births in 2004 for mortality within the first month of life and remained unchanged from 2004 to 2015-16. Under-5 mortality rate was higher in rural areas than urban

⁶⁴ <https://www.usaid.gov/malawi/global-health/maternal-neonatal-and-child-health>

⁶⁵ World Bank, "Data on health."

⁶⁶ MDHS 2015-16

⁶⁷ Ibid.

areas (77 deaths per live 1,000 births versus 61 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015-16) and it declines with increasing level of the mother's education and household wealth⁶⁸. Most children in Malawi are being vaccinated with 76 percent of children aged 12-23 months reported to have received all basic vaccinations by the 2015-16 MDHS and 70 percent having received the basic vaccinations by the age of 12 months. The same survey described fever to be the most common illness affecting children under the age of 5: 29 percent had fever, 22 percent had a diarrhoeal episode and 5 percent had symptoms of Acute Respiratory Infections in the 2 weeks before the survey. Children with ARI symptoms were most often taken to a health facility or provider for advice or treatment (78 percent) compared to children with fever (67 percent) or diarrhoea (66 percent).

153. With respect to nutrition, the 2015-16 MDHS reported that 37 percent of children under age 5 are stunted (too short for their age), 3 percent of children under age 5 are wasted (too thin for their height), 5 percent of children under age 5 are overweight and 12 percent are underweight (too thin for their age). Stunting is a sign of chronic undernutrition, wasting a sign of acute undernutrition and overweight a sign of over nutrition. The prevalence of stunting and underweight decreased significantly from 55 percent in 1992 to 37 percent in 2015-16 and from 24 percent in 1992 to 12 percent in 2015-16 respectively. The decrease in wasting and overweight had been small over the same period. Stunting prevalence was higher among children in rural areas (39 percent) than in urban areas (25 percent) in 2015-16, and it declines with increasing mother's level of education and household wealth. As for women's nutritional status, 72 percent have a normal weight, 21 percent are overweight or obese and 7 percent are thin. While the proportion of overweight or obese women increased markedly between 1992 and 2015-16 (from 10 percent to 21 percent), the percentage of thin women showed only a slight decrease of 2 percentage point over the same period (from 9 to 7 percent). The proportion of overweight or obese urban women is almost the double of that in rural areas, 36 percent and 17 percent respectively. Overweight/obesity increases with education and wealth.

f. Water supply, sanitation and hygiene

154. In 2019-20, seventy-four percent of households in Malawi had access to improved sources of drinking water. Ninety-one percent of households in urban areas had access to improved water sources compared to 71 percent of households in rural areas. Fifteen percent of rural households travel more than 30 minutes round trip to fetch drinking water compared to 7 percent of urban households. The percentage of rural households using unimproved sources of water (unprotected dug wells and unprotected springs) of 11 percent exceeds that of urban households by 9 percentage points. Direct collection of water from surface waters such as rivers, lakes or irrigation channels concerns only rural households (3 percent)⁶⁹.

155. Regarding sanitation, Multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) 2019-20 reported that 46 percent of Malawian households used improved toilet facilities (43 percent of urban households vs. 46 percent of rural households), which are those designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact and include: flush/pour flush to piped sewer system, septic tanks or pit latrines; ventilated improved pit latrines, composting toilets or pit latrines with slabs. They can reduce the transmission of cholera, typhoid, and other diseases. The use of shared toilet facilities of an otherwise acceptable type are also common, especially for 49 percent of urban households compared with 32 percent of rural households.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), National Statistics Office, USAID, UNICEF, German Cooperation, Norwegian Embassy, Gavi, 2019-20

156. As for hygiene, twenty eight percent of the population had basic hygiene services referring to the availability of a handwashing facility on premises with soap and water: slightly above 1 in 2 urban and 1 in 4 in rural areas. 46 percent of the households had limited hygiene service with significant gap between rural and urban areas (48 percent and 36 percent respectively)⁷⁰.

157. The gender implications of water and sanitation go beyond the safety and adequacy of drinking water and personal hygiene. In fact, since women are much more likely than men to be tasked with collecting water when it is not available on the premises, the time and energy spent on collecting water negatively impact their availability⁷¹ to engage in economic activities. In terms of human capital, lack of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in school settings has been correlated with lower educational attainment for girls as girls may miss school due to menstruation⁷². In addition, lack of access to WASH at home, in clinics, and in hospitals is highly correlated with increased infections that may increase maternal mortality rates.⁷³

4.1.5 Food security and nutrition

158. The 2023 IPC analysis for Malawi indicates that 3 million people are experiencing high acute food insecurity IPC Phase 3, Crisis⁷⁴. No improvement seems to be recorded since the World Food Program reported in its January 2024 Country Brief an acute food insecurity for 4.4 million Malawians, representing 22 percent of the population⁷⁵. As per the latest available national health survey (2015-16)⁷⁶, the nutritional status of children is characterized by 37 percent of children under age 5 stunting (short for their age), 3 percent wasting (thin for their height), 12 percent underweight (thin for their age) and 5 percent overweight (heavy for their height). Levels of child malnutrition are influenced by the mother's Body Mass Index (BMI), mother's level of education, place of residence and household wealth. With regards to feeding practice, only 8 percent of children aged 6-23 months meet the minimum acceptable dietary standards. As to anemia, sixty-three percent of children aged 6-59 months and 33 percent of women aged 15-49 are anemic. These data highlight the need to set up immediate measures to reduce food consumption gaps.

159. The important role that gender plays in accessing affordable healthy diets and its contribution to food and nutrition security is well recognized⁷⁷. Traditional gender norms predict the roles that men and women are expected to play in the household food security and nutrition. Women's contribution consists of productive and reproductive dimensions: (i) a productive dimension referring to women's farming and income generating activities contributing to food production and purchase, (ii) a reproductive dimension, entailing multiple responsibilities such as cooking, processing food, drawing water, cleaning, and collecting firewood, which have direct impact on household food security, but which are often unpaid and less valued. Access to clean water, an important factor that influences children's nutrition, health, and sanitation, and ultimately, the health of the household environment; has also always been considered as women and girls' responsibility. *"Historically, women's productive and reproductive work has been heavier*

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Focus group discussions with women involved in soap making, VNRMC, farming and VSL, Makwezu, Kapalapata Village, T/A Timbiri, Nkhata-Bay District, Northern region, 13th October 2022

⁷² Malawi Gender assessment, Eastern and Southern Africa Gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. IPC Acute food insecurity analysis July 2023-March 2024. Published on 18 August 2023

⁷⁵ World Food Programme Country Brief, WFP, January 2024

⁷⁶ Malawi Standard Demographic Health Survey, 2015-16

⁷⁷ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum, FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2023

than men's'⁷⁸. Men's involvement in household feeding is essentially a matter of putting food on the table. They also contribute to decisions around food choices. During lean season with lack of access to food, coping mechanisms are made by default such as reducing the number of meals, since there is no choice in the matter. The way to prepare food are extremely limited due to limited access to additional ingredients and flavouring. A gender analysis for the GIZ Food and Nutrition Support Programme reported the use of alcohol as a significant gender issue in Salima and Dedza districts⁷⁹. The analysis raised some concerns about men's drinking that includes impacts on nutrition due to misuse of family income, wastage of food since men eat little while drinking and so food are thrown away, increase in GBV, as well as concerns about men's health. Although little evidence of specific gendered norms or cultural beliefs exists around the food that should be eaten by men/women, there are social norms which put women at a disadvantage when it comes to diet (e.g. in times of difficult access to food, women must sacrifice themselves to give priority to eating to other household members; women are not supposed to cook high value food (meat or food which uses a lot of oil such as chips) when their husband is away, etc.).

160. Some evidence from a discussion paper published by IFPRI shows the influence that men and women could have on the household food and nutrition status⁸⁰: households headed by a sole male adult have the lowest Household Dietary Diversity (HDDS) whereas households headed by a sole female adult have the highest levels of food insecurity. As observed in dual-headed households, men and women's joint access to information have appeared to be significant driver of food security than only women's access⁸¹. It is therefore acknowledged that eliminating structural gender inequalities and improving men and boys involvement and knowledge on food and nutrition related issues could be a good entry point to improve household food and nutrition security.

4.1.6 Poverty

161. Poverty levels in Malawi remain high and pervasive. Since 1995, Malawi's annual economic growth has averaged about 5.3 percent. With population growth of close to 3 percent, per capita GDP is growing at 2.2 percent. Malawi's inability to reduce poverty reflects its lack of robust economic growth. With a GDP per capita of US\$ 603 in 2020⁸² and a HDI of 0.483⁸³ in 2019 which is below the average of 0.513 for countries in the low human development category and below the average of 0.547 for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)⁸⁴, Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. The country is categorized among least developed countries by the classification of the Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD), among low-income countries by the classification of the World Bank and among low human development nations by the classification of the United Nations. Based on data from IHS5 2019/2020, the Malawi Poverty Report 2020 estimated that 50.8 percent of the population lived below the national

⁷⁸A qualitative assessment of gender roles, in child nutrition in Central Malawi; Elizabeth Mkandawire et al., 2022.

⁷⁹Gender Analysis for the Food and Nutrition Support Programme, C12 Consultants, June 2023

⁸⁰Does providing agricultural and nutrition information to both men and women improve household food security? Evidence from Malawi, Catherine Ragasa, Noora-Lisa Aberman, Cristina Alvarez Mingote, IFPRI Discussion Paper 01653, IFPRI, June 2017

⁸¹ *ibid*

⁸² National Planning Commission, Malawi 2063, Lilongwe, 2020

⁸³ UNDP, 2020. Human Development Report 2020, The next frontier – Human development and the Anthropocene, Briefing note for countries on the 2020 Human Development Report Malawi."

⁸⁴ Malawi National Human Development Report 2021, Delivering Sustainable Human Development and Accountability at the local level: the experience of decentralisation in Malawi, UNDP, 2021

poverty line⁸⁵ and 20.5 percent were considered ultra-poor⁸⁶. While the proportion of poor showed a slight decrease compared to what was reported during 2016/2017 IHS4 (51.5 percent), the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty increased by 0.4 percentage point. Analysis by place of residence shows that 56.6 percent of people from rural areas were poor compared to 19.2 percent in urban areas, the trend with ultra-poverty was the same with a proportion of ultra-poor of 23.6 percent and of 3.3 percent in rural and urban areas respectively. Prevalence of poverty is higher among female-headed-households than male-headed households⁸⁷. Poverty has remained widespread and persistent particularly among female headed households. Indeed, fifty-eight percent of households headed by women are poor compared to 49 percent of those headed by men⁸⁸. Analysis of poverty by region showed that the Central region had the highest percentage of poor and ultra-poor at 55.8 percent and 25.4 percent respectively, followed by Southern region with 51 percent of poor and 19.1 percent of ultra-poor, and Northern region with 32.9 percent of poor and 8.6 percent of ultra-poor⁸⁹.

162. Income inequality as measured by Gini coefficient showed an improvement by decreasing from 0.423 in 2016/17 to 0.379 in 2019/2020. This value means that 38 percent of national income would have to be redistributed to attain income equality. The richest 20 percent of the population controls 51.7 percent of total income while the poorest 20 percent control 6.4 percent of total income⁹⁰.

163. Through the UNDP global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), deprivations affecting individuals are measured across 10 indicators in three equally weighted dimensions of health, education and standard of living. Referring to 2019/2020, the most recent survey data available for Malawi's MPI estimation revealed that⁹¹ 49.9 percent of the population in Malawi is multidimensionally poor⁹² while an additional 27.5 percent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty⁹³. The intensity of deprivations in Malawi, which is the average deprivation score among people living in multidimensional poverty, is 46.3 percent. Malawi's MPI value was estimated at 0.231 in 2019/2020. This represented the share of population that is multidimensionally poor adjusted by the intensity of the deprivations.

4.1.7 Employment

164. Estimated around 77 percent between 1990 and 2019⁹⁴, the overall labour force participation rate in Malawi remained relatively stable and exceeded by about 10 percentage points the Sub-Saharan Africa average⁹⁵. If the overall rate fell by two percentage point in 2020 as an impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, it showed a modest increase of one percent in 2021. The labour force participation rate observed among men and women do not follow the same trend.

⁸⁵ "Malawi poverty line considered the cost of meeting basic nutritional needs (food poverty line) and the allowance for other basic needs (non-food poverty line). If a person's total expenditure is below the poverty line, the person is considered poor." Malawi poverty report 2020, National Statistical Office, August 2021

⁸⁶ "An individual with consumption below the food poverty line is considered ultra-poor." Malawi poverty report 2020, National Statistical Office, August 2021

⁸⁷ Malawi National Human Development Report 2021, Delivering Sustainable Human Development and Accountability at the local level: the experience of decentralisation in Malawi, UNDP, 2021

⁸⁸ Malawi national gender statistics assessment, UN Women

⁸⁹ Malawi poverty report 2020, National Statistical Office, August 2021

⁹⁰ World Bank (online), World Development Indicators

⁹¹ Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022, Unpacking deprivation bundles to reduce multidimensional poverty, Briefing note for countries on the 2022 MPI Malawi, UNDP, 2022

⁹² With a deprivation score between 33.3 percent and 50 percent

⁹³ With a deprivation score between 20 percent and 33.3 percent

⁹⁴ Labor force participation rate, total (% of total population ages 15+) (modelled ILO estimate) - Malawi, World Bank, from ILOSTAT database, June 2022, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.ZS?locations=MW>

⁹⁵ Labor force participation rate, total (% of total population ages 15+) (modelled ILO estimate) - Sub-Saharan Africa, World Bank, from ILOSTAT database, June 2022, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.ZS?locations=ZG>

Male rate has always been higher than for females; it raised from above 78.5 percent in 1990 to 83 percent in 2013, decreased to 81 percent in 2019 then to 79.5 percent in 2020 and slightly rose to 80 percent in 2021⁹⁶. In contrast for Malawian women, the same rate showed a gradual decline from 75.7 percent to 73 percent between 1990 and 2019, fell sharply by 2.5 percentage points in 2020 and rose to 71.6 percent in 2021⁹⁷. In 2019, Malawi's employment-to-population ratio stood at around 72 percent, women's employment-to-population ratio (68 percent) was significantly lower than men (77 percent). Youth⁹⁸ employment-to-population was estimated at 56 percent with no significant difference between men and women youth. The overall employment-to-population ratio and the ratios for women, men and youth appeared relatively higher than the Sub-Saharan averages estimated at 64 percent, 69 percent, 59 percent and 44 percent respectively⁹⁹.

165. Highlighting the percentage of people of working age who are without work, are available for work, and have taken specific steps to find work, the overall "strict" unemployment rate in Malawi was relatively stable at about 5.8 percent between 1991 and 2019, before raising from 5.8 percent in 2019 to 7 percent in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic¹⁰⁰. Male unemployment rate has been lower than female, it decreased from 5 percent in 2013 to 4.3 percent in 2019 before increasing at 5.2 percent in 2021¹⁰¹. Unemployment for women had gradually increased from 6.5 to 7.3 percent between 1991 and 2019 and reached 8.9 percent in 2021¹⁰². Indicatively, as per the 2013 Malawian National Labour Force Survey, urban areas, Southern region and people with primary and secondary education are the most affected by unemployment. The shares of unemployed women both in urban and rural areas of 15.6 and 7 percent respectively, were higher compared to that of men of 8.2 and 4.9 percent respectively¹⁰³. Youth aged 15-34 unemployment rate was 7.9 percent and this rate was higher (8.9 percent) for younger persons aged 15-24. Female youth unemployment rate of 9.5 percent exceeded that of male of 3.3 percentage points. The percentage of person underemployed¹⁰⁴ were estimated at 26.8 percent, youth aged 15-34 underemployment rate was 12.2 percent in 2013. As for formal and informal employment, 89 percent of employed persons worked in informal employment setups, and women were more likely to be informally employed (93.6 percent) than males (83.8 percent). People engaged in informal employment in rural areas represented 91 percent compared to 69 percent in urban areas¹⁰⁵.

166. The 2013 National Labour Force Survey reported that 64 percent of employment were in the agricultural sector, 7 percent in the industry sector, and 28 percent in the service sector. The agriculture sector had the highest ratio of women (58 percent) followed by the service sector mainly in trade, restaurant and hotel activities (57 percent). As for status in employment, paid employees represented 38 percent, employers 1.1 percent, own-account workers 53.6 percent and contributing family workers 7.2 percent¹⁰⁶. Some significant differences were observed in the

⁹⁶ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+) (modeled ILO estimate) – Malawi, World Bank, from ILOSTAT database, June 2022, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS?locations=MW>

⁹⁷ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+) (modeled ILO estimate) – Malawi, World Bank, from ILOSTAT database, June 2022, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS?locations=MW>

⁹⁸ The Labour Market Profile Malawi observed youth aged 15-24

⁹⁹ Labour Market Profile Malawi – 2022/2023, Danish Trade Union Development Agency

¹⁰⁰ Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate) – Malawi, World Bank, from ILOSTAT database, June 2022, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS?locations=MW>

¹⁰¹ Unemployment, male (% of male labor force) (modeled ILO estimate) – Malawi, World Bank, from ILOSTAT database, June 2022, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.MA.ZS?locations=MW>

¹⁰² Unemployment, female (% of female labor force) (modeled ILO estimate) – Malawi, World Bank, from ILOSTAT database, June 2022, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.FE.ZS?locations=MW>

¹⁰³ Malawi Labour Force Survey 2013, National Statistical Office, April 2014

¹⁰⁴ Those aged 15-64 who worked less than 48 hours and were willing and available to work additional hours than they were currently working in their present jobs

¹⁰⁵ Malawi Labour Force Survey 2013, National Statistical Office, April 2014

¹⁰⁶ Labour Market Profile Malawi – 2022/2023, Danish Trade Union Development Agency

shares of men and women employees of 43.8 and 32.1 percent respectively, and the proportions of women and men own-account workers of 58.7 and 48.7 percent respectively. This situation may reflect women's interest in engaging in their own business considering that household's care and responsibilities require flexibility. Women's self-employment rate of 59.5 percent exceeds that of men by 9 percentage points. Indicatively, self-employment is higher in rural than urban areas, and among persons with less education than among those with more education. Women engaged in wage employment in non-agricultural sector increased from 30 percent of total wage employment in the sector¹⁰⁷ in 2013 to 48.5 percent in 2019¹⁰⁸. The percentage share of women in wage employment in non-agriculture in rural areas was higher than in urban areas. The 2013 MLFS reported that women's and men's shares of employment in senior and middle management were very low at 0.07 percent for women and 0.32 percent for men. The proportions of women and men in senior and middle management positions were higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Representation of women and men in high status occupations was positively related to one's level of education.

167. In terms of earnings, the average monthly mean and the median gross incomes in 2013 are 41,643 and 13,600 Malawi Kwacha respectively¹⁰⁹ (approximately 114.34 and 37.34 US\$). Significant differences are observed between male and female median monthly gross wage of 16,000 MK and 10,514 MK respectively (approximately 43.93 and 28.86 US\$), as well as on male and female average monthly gross wage of 50,253 MK and 30,548 MK respectively. People in urban areas have higher earnings than those from rural areas, their mean monthly gross incomes are estimated at 88,043 MK and 34,182 MK respectively (approximately 242.29 and 93.85 US\$). Earnings are positively correlated with high level of education¹¹⁰.

168. **Wage work.** Due mostly to women's care responsibilities and differences in educational attainment between men and women, women are less likely to participate in the labour market, and have access to lower-quality employment opportunities than men.

169. In Malawi, women are less likely to be engaged in wage work and often receive lower pay when they are. The latest LSMS data for Malawi shows that 9.6 percent of the labour force was engaged in wage, salary, or commission activities. The proportion of men salaried workers of 12 percent is higher than that of women of 4 percent¹¹¹. Individuals with tertiary education are more likely to participate in wage work (63.3 percent) than those without any education (5.6 percent)¹¹². For women employed in agriculture, only 36 percent receive payment for their work. Women are much less likely than men to be employed in unskilled manual labour: about 2 percent of the female labour force compared to 25 percent of the male labour force¹¹³. However, women and men are equally likely to be employed in professional, technical, or managerial occupations (7 percent)¹¹⁴. Women in urban areas are most likely to be employed in the sales and services sector (26 percent), or in the professional, technical, or managerial sector (26 percent), while men in urban areas are most likely to be employed in the skilled manual labour sector (31 percent). Women who have more than a secondary level of education are more likely to work in professional, technical, or managerial positions. Women in rural areas and who are uneducated work mostly in the agricultural sector and are often unpaid.

¹⁰⁷ Malawi Labour Force Survey 2013, National Statistical Office, April 2014

¹⁰⁸ Malawi national gender statistics assessment, UN Women

¹⁰⁹ Average exchange rate in 2013: 1 US\$=364.20 MWK

¹¹⁰ Malawi Labour Force Survey 2013, National Statistical Office, April 2014

¹¹¹ Malawi Fifth integrated household survey, 2019-2020

¹¹² *ibid*

¹¹³ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and southern Africa gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

¹¹⁴ Malawi Standard Demographic Health Survey, 2015-16

170. In terms of gender pay gap, the average difference of monthly earnings between men and women is 36.2 percent, women wage workers earning about 64 cents for each dollar earned by men¹¹⁵. Women's lower earnings in wage employment may be partly due to time constraints related to domestic chores, such as collecting water or gathering firewood, and childcare responsibilities. Indeed, women are more likely to work fewer hours in paid jobs and are willing to accept lower quality jobs than men in exchange for the flexibility they need to fit domestic work around paid work. Better quality jobs in the formal sector, with fixed schedules or full-time work may require a redistribution of domestic responsibilities. Analysis of the latest LSMS data for Malawi finds that women wage workers work fewer hours than men and that women spend more time on non-market activities.

4.1.8 Migration

171. The IHS5 observed the geographic movement of people across rural and urban areas, districts and abroad (outside Malawi) to establish a new residence within the last 5 years. The results show that 8.3 percent of the population moved from one area to another. Migrants in urban and rural areas represented 17.0 percent and 6.7 percent of the population respectively. The proportion of migrants in the Northern Region was the highest (13.0 percent) compared to Central (8.4 percent) and Southern (6.8 percent) Regions. Migrants in male-headed household (9.2 percent) were higher than in female headed households (6 percent). It was observed that the higher the level of education of the household head, the higher the proportion of migrants: migrants represented 23 percent of household head with tertiary education while household head with no education had only 6.3 percent of migrants. In terms of marital status of the head, the higher proportion of migrants were among households whose heads were never married (19.8 percent) followed by households whose heads were either married (8.9 percent), divorced/separated (5.8 percent) and widowed (5.3 percent). Reasons for migrating were mainly parents/family move, marriage, start of work/business/farming, return from work/job transfer. The proportion of male migrants of 22 percent who moved to start a business/work exceeded of 15.2 percentage points that of female migrants moving for the same reason. Percentage of migrants who migrated due to marriage were higher for females (38.6 percent) compared to males (15 percent).

172. Looking at the movement patterns of migrants, the majority of the migrants moved from rural areas to other rural areas (59.0 percent), followed by those who moved from rural areas to urban areas (24.0 percent) and those who moved from urban areas to rural areas (6.1 percent). The same trend was observed for both sexes and for different age groups. Among migrants living in urban areas, 74.8 percent originated from rural areas, 23.6 came from other urban areas and 1.6 were from outside Malawi. 86.9 percent of migrants in rural areas were from other rural areas, 8.9 came from urban areas and 4.1 came from outside Malawi.

4.2 Labour division, decision making and access to economic opportunities

4.2.1 Household labour division

173. In Malawi, social cultural patterns nurture an unequal gender division of labour devoting some tasks as being specific to men and women. Men are mostly involved in intermittent household chores and concentrate much on outdoor productive and money making tasks such as constructing houses, kholas for livestock, or rearing animals¹¹⁶. Women bear the heavy burden of time-consuming routine tasks, which include house cleaning, meal planning and cooking,

¹¹⁵ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and southern Africa gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

¹¹⁶ Gender analysis report, Moyo and Satali, December 2020

laundry, fuel and water collection, yard sweeping and other type of household maintenance. Societal norms also assign to women the reproductive tasks of looking after children as well as caring for the elderly or sick family members. Women are therefore stuck with unpaid domestic work while men tend to specialize more on paid work and are considered to be the bread winners of most families¹¹⁷.

174. Despite the fact that women from matrilineal systems are somewhat spared in certain tasks, studies have shown that household tasks are considered to be for women¹¹⁸. The socialization process in the country has also impacted the division of labour as illustrated in community task sharing for which men are mainly entrusted with administrative activities and women are given the other duties. Within the household, children are raised with the thought that household tasks are for women and girls, and that money and decision making tasks are for men with the help of boys. The Chewa culture from the most predominant ethnic in the country (34.4 percent)¹¹⁹ considers the performing of domestic duties by girls as their preparation for marriage. In contrast to this, the majority of boys grow up in families where fathers would always be away from home or rest when mothers are performing domestic work and small activities to provide for the household's needs. Boys are involved in tasks undertaken by their fathers such as the handling of finance. These boys reproduce the patterns where they have always seen their fathers giving out money to their mothers and children¹²⁰.

175. The significant involvement of women in household tasks does not exclude their participation in income-generating activities with their husbands. Rural women also often apply diversification and multiple livelihood strategies (agricultural crop production, livestock breeding, working for wage in agriculture or other rural enterprises, etc.) in order to increase income and improve the household's well-being. Consequently women working hours per day far exceed those of men. In the context of climate change coupled with population pressure, deforestation and lack of clean water oblige women and girls to walk longer distance and allocate more time to firewood and water collection. Women are also more likely to work fewer hours in paid jobs and are willing to accept lower quality jobs than men in exchange for the flexibility they need to fit domestic work around paid work. Women's time poverty greatly impacts their economic productivity and so their bargaining power within the household¹²¹.

176. Although the majority of women expressed their need in males helping them on household chores and their will for a more balanced distribution of domestic work, voicing out their need remains difficult. Indeed requesting men to contribute to household tasks may be considered disrespectful and may constitute grounds for divorce. In addition, women hardly find support at community level on this issue as society leaders are mainly men, and even when the tradition leader is a woman, men are always consulted¹²².

177. Women and men are triggered to perform their gender roles as per society's expectations. While men get criticized for not being able to provide for the family's needs, women get punished for not fulfilling their domestic and reproductive work. For instance, women can and do get beaten or sent away from their marital home for not performing their gender roles such as not cooking or

¹¹⁷ Gender division of household labour in rural households, M. M. Mambiya, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, August 2015

¹¹⁸ *ibid*

¹¹⁹ 2018 Malawi population and housing census, Education report, National statistical office July 2020

¹²⁰ Gender division of household labour in rural households, M. M. Mambiya, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, August 2015

¹²¹ Factors driving the gender gap in agricultural productivity: Malawi, UN Women, UNDP, Poverty-Environment Initiative, UN Environment, 2018

¹²² Gender division of household labour in rural households, M. M. Mambiya, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, August 2015

burning food, not taking care of children, etc. Social norms could therefore play a role in perpetuating gender-based violence by approving the unequal gender division of labour that has always existed and by continuously giving the power to those who are in charge of money-making within the household¹²³.

178. Apart from societal norms, other factors may also influence women's ability to reduce the time they allocate to household and childcare responsibilities and increase the time allocated to paid economic activities. These includes access to education, higher-paid employment, productive inputs and ability to move. Government policy can also alleviate gender differences, for examples by promoting paid maternity leave or supporting affordable childcare services¹²⁴.

4.2.2 Division of labour in agriculture

179. Both men and women contribute their labour in farming but their roles are clearly differentiated. While men perform roles that are physically demanding like digging, ploughing and making ridges, women play roles like planting, weeding, harvesting and processing, men typically control marketing of the crops than women. There is some little interchange of roles, with both men and women share the roles in some cases but the clear pattern of gender-based division of roles stand. Men dominate productive roles, the economic roles that generate money or gain in return for productivity such as fishing, producing cash crops or trading hence their work attracts more value and is more visible than women's work. The work in which women dominate tend to be of small-scale in nature whether it is related to crops (maize, groundnuts, beans, etc.) or livestock (chickens, pigs, goats)¹²⁵.

4.2.3 Decision making

180. The 2015-16 MDHS considers that women are participating in household decisions if they are involved in sole or joint (with their husband) decision-making within the household in all the three areas of women's health care, major household purchases and visits to women's family or relatives. The survey reported that less than half of women (47 percent) participate in all three decisions while 15 percent participate in none of them. The most common decision on which women exclusively decide or are involved in are on family and relatives' visits (78 percent), followed by decisions about their healthcare (68 percent) and major household purchases (55 percent). Employed women, especially those employed for cash (54 percent), are more likely to be involved in all three decisions compared with unemployed women (39 percent), and so are urban women compared to rural women (56 percent versus 45 percent). The number of women reporting participation in the three decision areas increased from 2010 to 2015-16, and the increase concerns mostly women's involvement in joint decision-making. On women's exclusive decision-making, no improvement was observed in the areas of healthcare and major household purchases and women's sole decision to visit family even decreased from 25 percent in 2010 to 18 percent in 2015-16. Women's participation in decision-making rises with increasing levels of education and wealth. If to some extent, a woman's ability to consensually decide having sexual relations with her husband might reflect in part their ability to choose and enforce their choices within the couple, the survey found that less than half of Malawian women (46 percent) can refuse to have sexual intercourse with their husbands. The World Bank reported the same proportion of women making their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care in 2016¹²⁶.

¹²³ Gender analysis report, Moyo and Satali, December 2020

¹²⁴ Malawi Gender assessment, Eastern and Southern Africa Gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

¹²⁵ Gender analysis report, Moyo and Satali, December 2020

¹²⁶ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.DMK.SRCR.FN.ZS?end=2020&locations=MW&start=2000&view=chart>

181. Since the culture in Malawi expects men to look for household needs - a fact that leads to male domination in money-making tasks, decision making power and control over household resources are generally left in men's hands. A study conducted by the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 2015 showed that 70 percent of men are handling the household finance, which is the main determinant in decision making, access and control over resources¹²⁷. Field consultations confirmed that decisions related to expensive goods' purchase are made by men¹²⁸¹²⁹. Women's access and control over financial resources coming from the family farm are limited. Customarily, while gender roles force women to perform domestic and reproductive tasks, they must also help and assist their husband in the whole farming process. When they face the challenge of finding the balance and distributing their time among the various tasks, they in return have little or no access to the money gained from the farming activities once the products are sold.

182. With respect to income, women who work and are paid in cash have some control over their earnings. Their involvement in decisions about their earnings has increased over time; 58 percent had a role in decision making in 2010 compared with 76 percent in 2015-16. The 2015-16 MDHS reported the proportions of women with sole decision making over their own earnings to be at 28 percent, those who decide jointly with their husband at 47 percent and those for whom husbands control such decisions at 24 percent. Women who earn more than their husband¹³⁰ are more likely to make/contribute in decision-making on the use of their own wages (43.2 percent making their own decision and 40.5 percent deciding jointly with their husband) and that of their husband (21.9 percent deciding solely and 46.8 deciding jointly on husband's cash earnings), than those who earn less than their husband (70 percent of women) of whom 31.1 percent make their own decision and 42.1 decide jointly with their husband on their own wages. For women who earn as much as their husbands (14 percent of women), just under two-thirds of women are involved in joint decisions with their husbands about the use of their cash income (64.3 percent) and that of their husbands (63.8 percent), but the proportion of women who make sole decision on their cash earnings (10.6 percent) is reduced by a third compared to the proportion of men who decide themselves on the use of their cash income (31.6 percent). Younger women, women without higher than secondary school education, and women in the lower wealth quintiles are least likely to have control over their earnings; their husbands are more likely to be the sole decision maker on their wife's cash-earnings. As for control over men's earnings, only 36 percent of men reported to exclusively control their earnings compared with 44 percent of women reporting husband controlling himself his earnings. Some difference was also noted on joint decision on the use of husband's earnings reported by men and women and estimated at 57 percent and 48 percent respectively. Rural residence increases the likelihood of husband's control over his earnings both among men and women: for 38 percent of men and 47 percent of women in rural areas, the husband decides independently on how his earnings and that of his wife will be used compared with 28 percent of men and 31 percent of women in urban areas.

183. In terms of decision-making implications, a World Bank analysis found that women who stand as main or joint decision-maker are less like likely to experience emotional, physical or sexual intimate partner violence, a situation that highlights the positive impact of husbands agreeing on engaging their wife as sole or joint-decision maker. Besides, women participating in decision-making process are more likely to access prenatal services and receive childbirth

¹²⁷ Gender division of household labour in rural households, M. M. Mambiya, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, August 2015

¹²⁸ Focus group discussions with various committee members and community leaders in Sorgen (Magoti EPA) in a patrilineal community, Nsanje District, 3rd October 2022

¹²⁹ Focus group discussions with various committee members and community leaders in Kapingiri Village, Lundu section, Bolero EPA in a patrilineal community, Rumphi District, 14th October 2022

¹³⁰ The majority of women (70%) earn less than their husbands, and 14% earn about the same amount (MDHS 2015-16)

assistance, and are less likely to have unmet family planning or to have their children stunted or malnourished.

4.2.4 Entrepreneurship

184. Women represents a significant part of the entrepreneurial workforce in Sub-Saharan Africa. Many women are constrained to engage in entrepreneurship compared to men as they meet some limitations in pursuing wage work or other economic opportunities due to low level of education and skills and given their time-consuming domestic responsibilities.

185. In Malawi, cultural beliefs and norms that are gender biased against women create stereotypes that continue to hinder more women to engage in business ventures. Pre-established cultural norms include women's reduced likelihood to operate enterprises in more profitable male dominated sectors, lack of exposure to good business practices, lack of credit and other business development services that respond specifically to the needs of women, and limited capacity to adopt advanced business practices, to innovate, or to formalize their business¹³¹. Women owned enterprises are therefore entrenched to produce lower returns than those owned by men.

186. Within the entrepreneurial sector, business inputs used by women and men managers differ significantly. Men's start-up capital usually comes from agriculture saved earnings. In fact, since male plot managers get greater returns to agricultural work, they are able to earn, save and reinvest more money in their business. Women, on the other hand, are more likely to use start-up capital gifted to them from family or friends. Household burdens also widen the gender gap since women dedicate much time that they could allocate to productive activities to household and childcare. Other inputs that may disadvantage women entrepreneurs are workers and wages paid to workers. Unlike men who are more likely to hire male workers and pay higher wages, women are forced to rely on family male and female labour with limited productivity. Women's barrier in hiring more productive workers may also lead them to operate in lower-value sectors that require less skilled workers¹³².

187. Due to cultural norms, women are also constrained to set their business in more traditional locations such as their house or the roadside compared to their male counterparts, since they must fulfil care work and domestic responsibilities and have to operate their enterprises in locations that are considered safer or gender appropriate by the society.

188. The Covid-19 pandemic has been expected to affect more women-led than men-led businesses because (i) women owned firms in Malawi are on average smaller and have lower sales and profits, (ii) women's ability to cope with the crisis may be hindered by their weak professional network and limited access to knowledge, and (iii) school closures and childcare responsibilities prevented women from continuously running their activities¹³³. A World Bank survey also highlighted that women are concentrated in consumer-facing sectors which experienced a more severe demand shock from the pandemic, 93 percent of women's businesses sell to final consumers compared to 87 percent of men's businesses¹³⁴.

¹³¹ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and southern Africa gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Ibid.

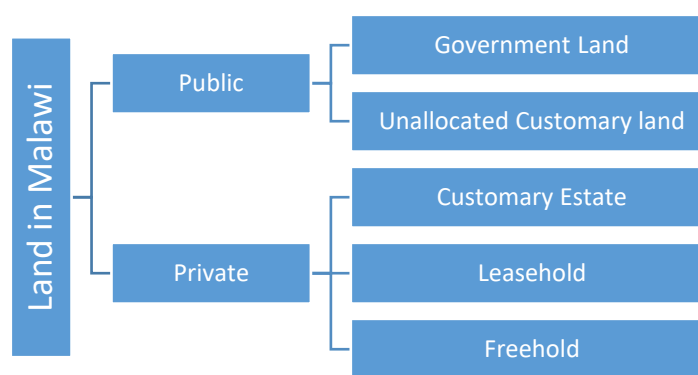
¹³⁴ Ibid.

4.3 Access to and control of resources, assets and services

4.3.1 Land

189. The 2016 Land Act regulates two categories of land: public land that comprises Government or unallocated customary land and private land that includes customary estate, leasehold or freehold (Figure 3). Often acquired in the colonial era through alienation of customary land, private land was used for large-scale production of export crops, such as tea and tobacco. While these estates were favoured in agricultural policy with the privileged right to produce crops for export, smallholder farmers were only allowed to sell their crops at lower prices for local consumption. From Independence in 1964 when these estates passed into the hands of Malawian elite until 1994, the regime of Malawi's first president Banda reinforced the colonial-era dual structure of an agriculture sector made up of large estates and smallholders.

Figure 3: Contemporary categorization of land in Malawi



Source: Land Act 2016

190. The share of agricultural land with respect to total land was at 59.9 percent in 2018. Smallholder farmers are responsible for most agricultural production but most of them are subsistence farmers. More than 40 percent of rural households produce food on less than half a hectare, combining the staple crop maize with a wide array of legumes, gourds and leafy vegetables. Wetland gardens are also cultivated to grow vegetables and fruit. 70 percent of the land cultivated by small farmers is devoted to maize. Rural households hold between one to ten plots, with an average of two plots per household. High annual population growth combined with a limited land base and few fallow periods have led to soil erosion, severe deforestation, pollution of water resources, and general degradation of the natural resource base¹³⁵.

191. Malawians access land through inheritance (52 percent) and marriage (18 percent)¹³⁶. A higher proportion of females were reported to own land nationally (58 percent) compared to males (53 percent), with variations on the regions. Males dominate land ownership in the North with 40.9 percent versus 34.6 percent for females, Central Region has very small gender disparities (38.0 percent for males versus 38.1 percent for females) but the Southern Region has more pronounced gender based disparities since 46.6 percent females own land compared to 37 percent for males. Rights to land through marriage and inheritance are governed by one of two existing family systems in the country: the patrilineal system predominant in the Northern Region and two southern districts (Nsanje and Chikwawa), and the matrilineal system prevalent in most of the central and Southern Region districts. A mixed system borrowing from the two systems is practiced in some areas. In matrilineal system, women in the family inherit land and the man

¹³⁵ Country Profile Malawi, Landlinks, USAID, August 2010 (<https://www.land-links.org/country-profile/malawi/>)

¹³⁶ Ibid.

moves into the woman's family home after marriage. In patrilineal systems, inheritance is passed on to the sons and the woman moves in with her husband's family. Customary law in patrilineal system only gives women land-use rights acquired through kinship relationships and their status as wives, mothers, sisters and daughters. These rights are therefore linked to women's role as household food producers and do not grant enough security of tenure when marriage fails to subsist. Although women tend to have better access to land in matrilineal systems, men often remain the decision makers regarding access and control over land in both systems.¹³⁷ A study conducted in four rural areas of Malawi under matrilineal system showed in 2018 that 69 percent of the farm managers were men. Even in matrilineal societies, men still "own" the land¹³⁸. Besides, in the two systems, land registration and titling for women are not granted and depend much on the interpretation of local customary system. As an example, lead farmers consulted in Ngwere Village in a matrilineal community of Dedza District reported that "Women have more access to land than men"¹³⁹. Women and men farmers met in Mungoti Village in a patrilineal community of Rumphu District said: "land belongs to men, it is allocated to sons because all daughters get married"¹⁴⁰.

192. Other means to access land includes allocation from traditional leaders, land leasing, government resettlement programs, and land purchase. An estimated 20 percent of landholders obtain land from traditional authorities, roughly 1 percent of landholders obtain land through purchase¹⁴¹.

193. Tenure insecurity is evident for women moving to patrilineal societies, men moving to matrilineal societies and orphans. These groups may be forced to leave the land in case of divorce or death of their spouse. The high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the adult population exacerbates the degree of insecurity a spouse may experience¹⁴².

194. With the 2016 Land Act, the 2016 Customary Land Act and the 2016 Registered Land Amendment Act constitute a set of mutually reinforcing laws that were developed and enacted for effective land administration and more equitable access. The 2016 Land Act enables the conversion of customary land into customary estates (private land) and set the foundation of a new land administration framework through the establishment of Traditional Land Management Areas (TLMA) responsible for allocated and unallocated customary estates for communal land. The Customary Land Act (2016) elaborates the legal responsibilities of local land committees established at Group Village Headman level to manage the land within the general boundaries of the TLMA. The Act empowers land committees to allocate customary estates to citizens and corporate bodies if they remain unworked after five years. The Registered Land Amendment Act (2016) provides for title registration throughout the country for all land categories but there is a lack of state capacity to implement this in practice. No specific mention for access and control of land by men and women is observed in legislation.

4.3.2 Agricultural inputs and assets

195. In Malawi, more than 80 percent of the gender gap in productivity is owing to women's low use of inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizers. Although women and men farmers are aware of the importance of their use, women have more difficulty than men in accessing the quality

¹³⁷ Country Profile Malawi, Landlinks, USAID, August 2010 (<https://www.land-links.org/country-profile/malawi/>).

¹³⁸ Factors driving the gender gap in agricultural productivity: Malawi, UN Women, UNDP, Poverty-Environment Initiative, UN Environment, 2018

¹³⁹ Focus group discussions with lead farmers in Ngwere village in a matrilineal community, Dedza District, 17th October 2022

¹⁴⁰ Focus group discussions with lead farmers in Mungoti village in a patrilineal community, Rumphu District, 14th October 2022

¹⁴¹ Country Profile Malawi, Landlinks, USAID, August 2010 (<https://www.land-links.org/country-profile/malawi/>)

¹⁴² Ibid.

inputs needed. A recent study of maize fields in Malawi found that female farmers are significantly more likely to use lower quality seeds, less fertilizer, and farm on lower quality soil than their male counterparts¹⁴³. When female farmers and male farmers use the same quantity of inputs, the former fail to take full advantage and get lower return from them due to inadequate knowledge and skills (for example, incorrect use or use of fertilizer at the wrong time)¹⁴⁴.

196. As for physical assets, the level of access and control men and women have over them varies. Higher value assets such as ploughs, animal carts, fishing boats, etc. are generally owned and controlled by men while women have access to lower-value tools and assets such as hand hoes and knives. Given the difficulties women face to access productive male labour and considering their time poverty due to unpaid care and domestic work, the use of labour-saving technologies and agricultural mechanization may constitute an alternative solution to increase women's agricultural productivity. However, this option remains difficult to implement given the high cost of farming equipments and mechanization, and the restricted access to finance that represent a significant barrier to women's empowerment.

197. The non-availability of male labour to work on female-managed farm plots accounts among the most important contributors to gender gap in farm productivity¹⁴⁵. Indeed, women plot managers deploy fewer household male laborers on their plots than their male counterparts as most of them are not married (70 percent of them being either widowed, divorced or separated in contrast to only 3 percent for men), have smaller household sizes and fewer male household members that could provide labour on their farm. They have no choice but to use less productive available family labour, which includes themselves and their children. Furthermore, the few female plot managers that could afford hiring male labour may not afford better quality labour and may experience lower labour-productivity since hired male workers may work less hard for female plot managers than for male due to cultural bias¹⁴⁶.

4.3.3 Extension services

198. Through the Ministry of Agriculture namely the Department of agriculture extension services (DAES), Malawi has a demand-driven and pluralistic agricultural extension system. The system's vision is that "all farmers demand and access high quality agriculture extension and advisory services from those best able to provide them"¹⁴⁷. The DAES relies on various approaches to ensure that farmers of all gender categories have access to extension services including: the model village approach in which villages are committed to working together with various service providers to achieve their vision; the clusters and Mindandandas¹⁴⁸ used as platforms for technology dissemination where a collection of farmers manage similar agricultural enterprises in the same catchment area or locality; the Farmer field schools (FFS) to enhance the adoption of technologies and practices through training and self-discovery; the Farm business schools (FBS) to promote market-oriented production among smallholder farmers; the Lead Farmer¹⁴⁹ approach to increase extension coverage for the adoption of improved practices and technologies using farmer to farmer extension approach; the Agriculture Resource Centers that ensure recommended practice, technology and information dissemination for easy and equitable

¹⁴³ Malawi Gender assessment, Eastern and Southern Africa Gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Factors driving the gender gap in agricultural productivity: Malawi, UN Women, UNDP, Poverty-Environment Initiative, UN Environment, 2018

¹⁴⁶ Malawi Gender assessment, Eastern and Southern Africa Gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.daes.gov.mw/who-are-we/index.php>

¹⁴⁸ A Mindandanda is a stretch of well managed fields of different crops, <https://agriculture.gov.mw/index.php/departments/agricultural-extension-services>

¹⁴⁹ A lead farmer is described as a farmer who has mastered a specific technology and is willing to support fellow farmers, <https://agriculture.gov.mw/index.php/departments/agricultural-extension-services>

access to farmers and other stakeholders; the Multimedia agricultural campaigns involving the use of different channels for disseminating agricultural information to farmers (radio, mobile vans, drama, flyers etc.); the Household Methodology (called “Household Approach” in Malawi, and also in the rest of the Annex) to promote power relations among adult and youth household members in order to promote equitable access to and control over resources, assets and benefits; the Participatory integrated climate services for agriculture (PICSA) approach that facilitates farmers’ informed decisions based on accurate, location-specific, climate and weather information; locally relevant crop, livestock and livelihood options; and with the use of participatory tools to aid decision making. The Department has five technical branches that are (i) Extension Methodology and Systems¹⁵⁰, (ii) Food and Nutrition¹⁵¹, (iii) Agribusiness Development¹⁵², (iv) Agriculture Gender Roles Extension Support Services¹⁵³ and (v) Agriculture Communication¹⁵⁴. The Department’s structure extends to Agriculture Development Division (ADD) level and District agricultural Extension Services System, where each branch has offices and officers to implement its interventions. ADDs are located in the eight ecological zones of the country namely Lilongwe, Blantyre, Salima, Kasungu, Machinga, Shire Valley, Karonga and Mzuzu and the District agricultural Extension Services Systems cover the 28 districts of the country. Local delivery of extension services is ensured by Agricultural extension development officers (AEDOs).

199. The Household and Community Surveys conducted by the International food policy research institute (IFPRI) in 2017¹⁵⁵ stated that AEDOs remain the dominant players in agricultural extension service provision although farmers also reported receiving advice from other stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based or farmer-based organizations. Ninety-nine percent of group villages indicated the visits by government agents and only 15 percent of group villages mentioned the visits by non-government agents or workers. The non-state service providers are dominated by international NGOs that mostly function on external fundings from donors and operate through short-term projects. The few local organizations involved in the provision of extension service need to be strengthened to become effective service providers. Contrary to what was foreseen in the National extension policy, extension service provision is heavily supply-driven, a significant proportion of farmers who received advice did not request for it. Three-quarters of the households involved in the surveys reported having received some advice on agriculture in the past two years, this percentage was about the half in the last 12 months.

200. The agriculture topics of advice reported included crop production practices, mainly on weather forecasts, early or timely planting, improved varieties, soil fertility management practices, and water harvesting practices. Male respondents were more likely to receive advice on weather/climate forecasts, external inputs use (improved varieties and chemical fertilizer), crop disease control, and irrigation and water harvesting practices. Advice on health, nutrition and dietary diversity (six food groups) in food consumption, washing hands before and after consuming food, and general hygiene and cleanliness were also provided. A quarter of respondents in the IFPRI surveys obtained advice on postharvest practices, a quarter on

¹⁵⁰ Responsible for developing extension approaches and systems for extension delivery, <https://agriculture.gov.mw/index.php/departments/agricultural-extension-services>

¹⁵¹ Responsible for ensuring that households achieve food and nutrition security through diversified production and diets, <https://agriculture.gov.mw/index.php/departments/agricultural-extension-services>

¹⁵² Responsible for promoting commercialization of agriculture, <https://agriculture.gov.mw/index.php/departments/agricultural-extension-services>

¹⁵³ Responsible for mainstreaming gender, HIV and AIDS in Agricultural policies, programs and projects, <https://agriculture.gov.mw/index.php/departments/agricultural-extension-services>

¹⁵⁴ Responsible for developing and distributing print and electronic agricultural messages, <https://agriculture.gov.mw/index.php/departments/agricultural-extension-services>

¹⁵⁵ Malawi Strategy Support Program, The State of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Provision in Malawi, Insights from Household and Community Surveys, Catherine Ragasa and Chiyu Niu, IFPRI, February 2017

livestock, fifteen percent on marketing, and 5 percent on aquaculture practices. Males are more likely to receive advice on agriculture than females. Female members in male-headed households have a lower likelihood of receiving agriculture advice than females who are household head. Females are less likely to receive advice on weather or climate forecasts, external inputs (improved varieties and chemical fertilizer), crop disease control, and irrigation and water harvesting techniques. Females and youth are also less likely to participate in Village Agricultural or Development Committees than males and are therefore less likely to be aware and adopt improved technology. Access to advice is positively correlated to level of education and wealth. Overall, farmers gave very high ratings and are satisfied with the advice that they receive.

201. As for information dissemination, the most common method for disseminating information on agricultural technologies consists of community or group meetings, followed by the use of radio, face-to-face visits, short-term trainings and farm demonstrations facilitated by government or NGO workers. Field consultations also confirmed these information¹⁵⁶. Only 1 to 2 percent of farmers reported accessing information from other sources or through other approaches including farmer field schools, farmer field days, farmer phone or SMS messaging, mobile vans, listening clubs, television, or internet.

4.3.4 Credit

1. Financial service providers in Malawi include commercial banks, Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), licensed microfinance institutions (MFIs) and payday lending companies (PLCs). SACCOs provide basic savings and small working capital/consumer loan products, MFIs and PLCs provide small credit only. Basic mobile money services, particularly money transfers are also available through two mobile network operators TNM and Airtel¹⁵⁷. Although some of the SACCOs operate in smaller towns, no notable agricultural financial products are offered at scale. The FinScope Consumer Survey Malawi 2014 reported the percentage of adults served by formal financial institutions to be at 40 percent¹⁵⁸; this proportion is the highest in urban areas (73 percent), followed by peri-urban areas (54 percent) and rural areas (34 percent). Access to formal financial products/services by gender shows a better access among males (55 percent) compared to females (51 percent). As for access to informal financial services, the same survey indicated its use by 28 percent of adults. As an example, the Community based financial organizations (CBFOs) account among informal service providers and allowed the financial inclusion of 1.1 million members from urban and rural areas, of which about 47 percent are women¹⁵⁹. Both estimated at 5 percent, the proportion of persons who used informal services in urban and peri-urban areas represented about one third of those who accessed informal financial services in rural areas (16 percent). Informal access to finance concerned 16 percent of women and 12 percent of men¹⁶⁰. Farmers are the largest users of informal financial services; they also account for the largest number of adults without access to financial services (35 percent)¹⁶¹. The share of people financially excluded in rural areas (50 percent) is more than double that in urban areas (22 percent). The proportion of women excluded from the financial system of 49 percent exceeded that of men by 4 percentage points.

202. The IHS5 2019-2020 estimated at 23.3 percent the proportion of households that had interactions with credit market, out of which 17.7 percent successfully obtained credit or loans - 18.4 percent for male-headed households and 16.0 percent for female-headed households. 81.4

¹⁵⁶ Focus group discussions with cooperative/community members in Mpamba, T/A Timbiri, Nkhata-Bay District, 12th October 2022

¹⁵⁷ FARMSE Final Project Design, IFAD, Republic of Malawi, February 2018

¹⁵⁸ FinScope Consumer Survey Malawi 2014, Republic of Malawi, FinScope, Finmark Trust, 2014

¹⁵⁹ FARMSE Final Project Design, IFAD, Republic of Malawi, February 2018

¹⁶⁰ FinScope Consumer Survey Malawi 2014, Republic of Malawi, FinScope, Finmark Trust, 2014

¹⁶¹ FARMSE Final Project Design, IFAD, Republic of Malawi, February 2018

percent of credit/loan beneficiaries used the credit/loans to set up businesses and 14.4 percent used them to purchase agricultural inputs for food crops in urban areas. In rural areas, 47.5 percent of beneficiaries invested in business set up, 32.9 percent, 8.4 percent and 5 percent contracted credits/loans for the purchase of agricultural inputs in food crops, cash crops and tobacco respectively. The percentage of women headed households contracting credits/loans for business start-up and agricultural input purchase for food crops, of 59.9 percent and 31.8 percent respectively, are higher than that of men headed households estimated at 49.9 percent and 29.6 percent respectively. Main sources of credit/loans mentioned by recipients were village banks, relatives, neighbours, lenders and NGOs. Loans obtained from village banks were higher in rural areas (42.9 percent) compared to urban areas (37.9 percent). Relatives were a source of credit for 16.3 percent of households in rural areas compared to 8.9 percent in urban areas. Neighbours as a source of credit was higher in urban areas (19.8 percent) compared to rural areas (12.5 percent). No significant difference was observed according to the sex of household head. Households that never applied for a loan represented 76.9 percent; their proportion is lower in rural (75.8 percent) than in urban (82.7 percent) areas. The first reason raised by 22.2 percent of rural households as well as 22.6 percent of households run by women which never applied for a loan is the difficulty caused for what it is worth. Other reasons included absence of need, will to not go into debt, suspicion of a refusal, high cost of service, inadequate collateral and lack of knowledge on lenders. 41.3 percent of urban households indicated the absence of need compared to 21.7 percent of rural households. The percentage of rural households mentioning inadequate collateral of 8.3 percent exceeds that of urban households by 3.4 percentage points, female headed households mentioning inadequacy of collateral (9.8 percent) were higher than male headed households (6.8 percent). While the first reason for not applying for a loan accounting for 41.3 percent of urban households and for 26.8 percent of male-headed households is the lack of need; 22.6 percent of female-headed households and 22.2 percent of rural households reported not willing to engage in a cumbersome process that is not worth it.

203. If the rural poor are usually placed at disadvantage in accessing financial services due to the remote areas they reside in, women's situation is worse. Indeed, women's financial inclusion is constrained by their financial capability as well as social and environmental factors¹⁶². Financial capability encompasses the knowledge (literacy), attitudes, skills and behaviours consumers have about managing their resources, and understanding, selecting, and making use of financial services that fit their needs¹⁶³. It may constitute a barrier given women's very limited knowledge of available financial products and ways to engage with the financial system (for examples: short-term, medium-term and long-term financial savings and investment products, loan products, insurance products, etc.) and affect their attitude towards risks and general financial behaviour.

204. Societal factors consider socio-economic and welfare characteristics such as demographic characteristics, household size, gender, education, economic activity and incomes of individuals, intra-household resource allocation rules, etc. For instance, being a woman may limit the chances to access credit considering the difficulties to present collateral or personal guarantees¹⁶⁴. Indeed, the limitations for women to own, manage, control, or inherit property compared to men may constitute a legal discrimination for their access to finance. Women's lack of formal education also qualifies them as less attractive clients and reduces the interest of formal financial institutions to provide services for them, as opposed to men mostly involved in high-value sectors and enterprises¹⁶⁵. Regarding incomes, people with higher income are more likely to open a bank account to save part of their income, are therefore more likely to use other financial

¹⁶² Determinants of Financial Inclusion in Malawi, Malawi Journal of Economics, 2(1): 1-22, Nkuna et al., 2021

¹⁶³ World Bank, 2013

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ Malawi Gender assessment, Eastern and Southern Africa Gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

products and be financially included compared to low-income earners. The study of financial inclusion in Africa¹⁶⁶ found that being a man, richer, more educated and older favours financial inclusion with a higher influence of education and income. Women's low earnings which impede their ability to save prevent them from accessing financial services and investing in businesses and interesting economic opportunities. Most Malawian rural women entrepreneurs are thus forced to start their business with capital gifted to them by their families, unlike men who are more likely to use their savings. Women consulted in Ngewere village in a matrilineal community reported the lack of working capital among their biggest concerns.¹⁶⁷

205. As for environmental factors, the availability and accessibility of financial products and services are worth mentioning. Since most financial institutions in Malawi are located in urban-cities and urban-district towns and considering the stage of development of formal financial sector in rural areas which leaves much to be desired, women are certainly disadvantaged because of travel and mobility restrictions due largely to care and household responsibilities¹⁶⁸. Women also mentioned the lack of financial products designed to meet their needs during field consultations.

206. Regarding the use of technology to access financial services, men and women's overall use of bank accounts and ownership of mobile phones are low. The 2015-16 MDHS reported men as more likely to own a bank account (17 percent) and mobile phones (52 percent) than women (10 percent and 33 percent, respectively). The likelihood for men and women in urban areas to use a bank account, own a mobile phone and use the phone for financial transactions is higher than for men and women in rural areas. For example, 28 percent of urban women use a bank account compared with 5 percent of rural women; 64 percent of urban women own a mobile phone compared with 26 percent of rural women, and 39 percent of women in urban areas use their phone for financial transactions compared with 21 percent of women in rural settings¹⁶⁹.

4.3.5 Access to markets

207. The gender-based division of assets, commodities and existing market organization allocate to women the less profitable products and markets. In addition, women's access to market is inhibited by several factors including limited access to information, restricted mobility due to household and childcare responsibilities and cultural norms that give men more power and voice in marketplaces. Women have also to bear the consequences of the gender inequalities affecting them all along the production chain. In fact, women have less products due to gender productivity gap related to choice of crops, size of plots, unequal use of inputs such as labour, labour-saving technology, improved seeds, etc.

208. Most of the women involved in FGD commercialize their products and access to markets through producers organizations that collectively sell products on irregular basis in markets located further away from the production site. Few women groups mentioned engaging in commercial agreement with off-takers.

209. Barriers mentioned by most women and youth farmer groups met during field consultations are related to the lack of knowledge on the identification of profitable business, the difficulties to identify buyers and conclude formal agreements, a situation that creates an unwholesome dependence on middlemen and commercial intermediaries. In addition, most women and youth farmers reported the difficulties to comply with the process of certification with the Malawi Bureau of standards. As a result, although few groups were able to identify market

¹⁶⁶ The determinants of financial inclusion in Africa, Zins and Weill, August 2016

¹⁶⁷ Focused group discussions with lead farmers in Ngewere village in a matrilineal community, Dedza District, 17th October 2022

¹⁶⁸ Determinants of Financial Inclusion in Malawi, Malawi Journal of Economics, 2(1): 1-22, Nkuna et al., 2021

¹⁶⁹ MDHS 2015-16

niches, they lose the opportunity to explore them and fail to compete with certified traders who are in most cases international traders in Malawi.

4.3.6 Access to information

210. As per the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-20, women and men in Malawi had low access to the three forms of mass media (newspaper, radio and television), their exposure were at 2 percent and 5 percent respectively. The proportion of men exposed to radio of 59 percent was significantly higher compared to that of women of 38 percent. Men's exposure to television and newspaper of 22 percent 11 percent respectively, exceeds women's exposure by 7 and 3 percentage points respectively. Apart from gender difference, huge differences were noted in terms of exposure to the three mass media by place of residence for both men and women: 1 percent of women in rural areas vs. 9 percent of women in urban areas, and 3 percent of men in rural areas vs. 15 percent of men in urban areas. Exposure is positively correlated to increasing levels of education and wealth¹⁷⁰.

211. The same survey (2019-20) reported that fifty eight percent of households owned a mobile phone. Household ownership in rural areas (52 percent) was low compared to that in urban areas (88 percent). The percentage of men and women who reported the use of mobile phone the last 3 months preceding the MICS was of 71 and 53 percent respectively. Place of residence also accentuated the gender disparities in the use of mobile phone: 47 percent of rural women use mobile phone compared to 80 percent of urban women, and 67 percent of rural men use mobile phone compared to 86 percent of urban men¹⁷¹.

212. Regarding access to information on agricultural technologies, the survey conducted by IFPRI in 2017 highlighted as most common means of information community or group meetings, radio, face-to-face visits, short-term trainings and farm demonstrations facilitated by government or NGO. A very small proportions of farmers reported accessing information from other sources¹⁷².

4.4 Social participation of rural women

4.4.1 Political voice and leadership

213. In Malawi, contemporary formal state politics is constructed as a masculine domain in which women can only participate to a limited extent. Traditional cultural beliefs relegate women to non-political roles, the society assigning them to roles in the private and domestic sphere rather than in public life. The entire socialisation process prevents women's participation in politics. Girls are treated differently from boys and the focus of their upbringing is on domestic tasks; a setting that limits time available for education, blunts ambition and lowers self-esteem. Women's lack of resources and lower economic status compared to men hold them back from political leadership¹⁷³.

214. Since female voice and leadership are needed in government to promote and enforce policies pertaining to women, women's participation in national as well as local government is essential to creating opportunities for women to articulate their needs and concerns. Even though Malawi engaged in numerous international and national commitments to gender equality and equal representation through quotas, elected political representation in the country remains unequal and female political participation has seen little progress. Indeed, at central government,

¹⁷⁰ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), National Statistics Office, USAID, UNICEF, German Cooperation, Norwegian Embassy, Gavi, 2019-20

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Malawi Strategy Support Program, The State of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Provision in Malawi, Insights from Household and Community Surveys, Catherine Ragasa and Chiyu Niu, IFPRI, February 2017

¹⁷³ Malawian women's participation in State politics: what are the constraints?, Alinane Priscilla Kamlongera, October 2008

Malawi has had only one female president (Joyce Banda, 2012-2014) among six presidents since its independence in 1964. As of 2019, only 23 percent of elected parliamentarians were female¹⁷⁴. Within local government, as the system in Malawi includes local councils that are responsible for proposing activities, examining government policies, and overseeing their implementation, women elected to local councils can advance and advocate women's interests, concerns and issues. Available data shows a different situation because few women have been elected to local government councils since 1998, when local government councils were created through decentralization. The proportion of women elected to local councils has not changed significantly from 2014 when it stood at 13.4 percent, to 2019¹⁷⁵ when it was estimated at 15 percent¹⁷⁶ (67 seats for women among 460 elected seats¹⁷⁷). This proportion remains low compared to the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 25.3 percent¹⁷⁸. Low female participation at the local level has a negative impact on female representation at the national level as local government is a valuable path to gaining political experience before running national campaigns. In addition to unequal representation in elected positions, 60 percent of positions with decision-making responsibilities in the public sector are held by men. The persistence of gender inequity within ministries are motivated by the lack of qualified women available¹⁷⁹.

215. Another significant barrier that is also worth mentioning for women to access elected positions is the cost of campaigning. Male candidates were found to spend 14 percent more money than their female counterparts in electoral campaigns¹⁸⁰.

4.4.2 Women's participation in community-based and farmer organizations

216. The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) which is the largest smallholder owned membership organisation in Malawi, registers 36 percent of female members. This low proportion of female membership translates well the crop production patterns of NASFAM's members that include 60 percent of cash crops and 40 percent of food crops. A case study analysing gender equality in co-operatives in Malawi reported that traditions holding back women in business participation, lack of information as well support from their life partners are the causes of non-participation in cooperatives¹⁸¹.

217. The FGD have shown that existing farmers organizations support smallholder farmers in providing essential services all along value chains (access to inputs, marketing, etc.) that would otherwise be not affordable to them. Although the FGD did not allow assessing their effectiveness in managing to serve and deliver services to poor and vulnerable people (including women and youth), these organizations seem to constitute a good mean to enhance the inclusion of women and youth within farmers' communities.

218. In terms of natural resource management, various natural resources committees could exist, function in an isolated manner or collaborate in a coordinated/integrated way. Women are usually active in natural resource management committees where they usually assume the role

¹⁷⁴ Information on Head of State and Government as of 24 October 2022, Data on share of women in the single/lower chamber of parliament as of 1 January 2022, Data on share of women in ministerial positions as of 1 January 2021, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women: <https://localgov.unwomen.org/country/MWI>

¹⁷⁵ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and southern Africa gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

¹⁷⁶ Data on share of women in local government as of 1 January 2022, UN Women

¹⁷⁷ Data compiled by UN Women in partnership with UN Regional Commissions, 2022, <https://localgov.unwomen.org/sdg-551b-country-ranking>

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and southern Africa gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ Gender equality in co-operatives: A case of selected agricultural and marketing co-operative societies in Malawi, Nyanjige Mbembela Mayala & Neema Penance Kumburu, European Journal of Business, Economics and Accountancy, 2018

of Secretary. Men often occupy the positions of President or Treasury considering their level of literacy compared to women. [To be completed].

4.5 Gender-based violence and other harmful practices

4.5.1 Gender-based violence including sexual violence

219. The UN Declaration on Violence against Women 1993 defined violence against women as “acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life.” Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is not only manifested as physical and/or domestic violence, but also as structural violence that excludes women, girls and children from acquisition and control over resources such as land, jobs, education, credit and other goods and services based on their sex and statistics¹⁸². Despite the number of interventions the Government has taken to address GBV, the four main types of GBV (physical, sexual, emotional or psycho-social and economic) are still prevalent in varying degrees in Malawi. Several factors influence the relatively high prevalence of GBV including early child and forced marriage, harmful cultural practices, patriarchal systems, rigid gender roles, religious beliefs, illiteracy and low education levels, and low economic empowerment of women, imbalance of power in intimate relationships among others¹⁸³.

220. The most common form of physical violence among both females and males in Malawi was beating, hitting or battering¹⁸⁴. According to the 2015-16 MDHS: 34 percent of women aged 15-49 experienced physical violence since age 15 and 5 percent of women aged 15-49 who had ever been pregnant reported experiencing physical violence during pregnancy. Youngest women aged 15-19 are less likely to experience physical violence than the other age groups. The proportion of 38 percent women experiencing physical violence in urban areas was higher than that in rural areas (33 percent). By region, the highest percentage of physical violence on women was observed in the Northern region (40 percent), then in the Southern (34 percent) and Central regions (33 percent). Perpetrators of physical violence against ever-married women were current and former husbands (53 percent and 31 percent respectively); nearly all never-married women reported perpetrators to be family members (including mothers and step-mothers, fathers or step-fathers, sisters or brothers, and other relatives), current boyfriend for 6 percent and teacher for 6 percent¹⁸⁵.

221. With regards to sexual violence, the Gender Based Violence Survey¹⁸⁶ reported unwanted touch, marital rape, sex deprivation, forced early marriage, attempted rape, incest, defilement and the exchange of sex for coupons as the most common form of sexual violence in Malawi in 2013. The most prevalent form of sexual violence experienced by males was sexual deprivation, while the most prevalent form experienced by females was marital rape. As per the 2015-16 MDHS, 14 percent of women experienced sexual violence the year before the survey and 21 percent of women experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives (including 4 percent who experienced it before the age of 18). The lowest proportion of sexual violence on women were observed among the 15-19 age group, and highest proportion among the 25-29 (13.5 and 27.2 percent respectively). Women's experience with sexual violence had a non-linear relationship with age. As for family status, divorced, separated, and widowed women are most at risk (31 percent) compared to never-married women (10 percent). This category includes women

¹⁸² National Plan of Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Malawi 2014-2020, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, July 2014

¹⁸³ Ibid.

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ Malawi DHS, 2015/16

¹⁸⁶ Gender Based Violence Survey: A baseline report of 17 districts in Malawi, MoGCDSW, NSO, UNFPA and UN Women, 2013

as employees in the workplace facing sexual harassment and other forms of violence. The proportion of sexual violence was higher in rural (21 percent) than in urban areas (17 percent). The prevalence of sexual violence varies by region with the highest rates reported in the Central region, followed by the Northern Region and Southern Region (24.5, 20.8 and 17.1 percent respectively). Regarding perpetrators of sexual violence, 63 percent of ever-married women indicated current husband, 31 percent former husband and 5 percent strangers. As for never-married women, current or former boyfriend is the most common perpetrator¹⁸⁷.

222. Never-married women were less likely to experience physical and sexual violence (23 and 10 percent respectively) compared to married women (33 percent and 22 percent respectively). The experience of physical and sexual violence was more common among employed than unemployed women. While sexual violence declines with increasing level of wealth, its variation with women's level of education was non-linear.

223. Overall, 40 percent of all women who ever experienced any type of physical or sexual violence sought help to stop violence, and 49 percent never sought help. Women who experienced both physical and sexual violence were more likely to have sought help (55 percent) than women who have experienced only physical violence (35 percent) or only sexual violence (30 percent). Sources of help could be woman's own family (62 percent), husband's family (33 percent) or a friend (10 percent). At institutional level, 10 percent of women solicited the police and 2 percent turned to religious leader or doctor/medical personnel. Help seeking is more common in the Central Region than either the Northern or Southern Regions¹⁸⁸.

224. Under the umbrella of GBV, Intimate partner violence (IPV) constitutes a serious concern, with over 40 percent of ever-married women having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence¹⁸⁹. An important aspect of IPV is the attitudes of both men and women about the justification of husbands beating their wives. The Malawi DHS 2015-16 highlighted that 16 percent of women and 13 percent of men found justifiable husband beating his wife in certain circumstances. Attitudes towards acceptance of wife beating are higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Tolerance of wife beating decreases with increasing levels of wealth and education. Husbands' alcohol consumption is a significant factor that increases the risk of IPV, 79 percent of women whose husbands are often drunk have experienced IPV, compared to 34 percent of women whose husbands do not drink. IPV also demonstrates intergenerational effect since women whose father beat her mother are more likely to experience IPV themselves.

225. Despite increased legal protections, GBV continues to be a significant challenge throughout the country. Even though Malawi has referral guidelines on child protection and gender-based violence developed in July 2020, victims of domestic violence demonstrate a continued preference for seeking help through informal channels rather than reporting to formal authorities, such as the police. Women met during field consultations said that "Vyakumdimatuwulura yayi", meaning literally that "these are marriage's secrets" and that GBV is one of the things that happen in darkness. They also reported to sometimes have the chance of questioning their husbands when the latter are not treating them well, but once women tell them about their misconduct, women get beaten up¹⁹⁰. These women mentioned to know the differences between the various GBV cases and where to report them to (marriage counselors, community leaders, police, etc.). The preference for informal versus formal reporting is likely due in part to a low

¹⁸⁷ Malawi DHS, 2015/16

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Focus group discussions with members of various farming groups, lead farmers, committee members in patrilineal community, Mungoti Village, Rumphi District, Northern region, 14th October 2022

understanding of women's rights and is likely indicative of women's lack of confidence in formal recourse.

4.5.2 Child marriage

226. Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world with about half of girls married before their 18th birthday, and 12 percent of girls married before their 15th birthday¹⁹¹. A significant gender gap is observed between the women and men's first age of marriage estimated at 18.2 and 23 years respectively¹⁹². Women in urban areas marry later than women in rural areas, and women in the Central region marry at a slightly later age than those in the Northern and Southern regions. Women from poorer households and uneducated women are more likely to engage in marriage earlier than educated and wealthier women. The circular relationship between marriage and education is worth noting since women who marry early often drop out of school and the likelihood for women who are not in school to marry at a younger age is very high¹⁹³.

227. Early child and forced marriage are a deeply embedded practice in Malawian society. Child marriage is underpinned by traditional customs. Girls undergo a common practice of initiation into adulthood upon reaching puberty¹⁹⁴, a practice that is often considered as encouraging early sexual activity. In fact, young girls are viewed as ready for marriage at an early age and are pushed to get married since marriage is also seen as a financial insurance mechanism considering the payment of a dowry to the bride's family. Some families may therefore use child marriage as a coping mechanism that helps reduce the burden of feeding their family following any shock. Aside from social norms, poverty is one key driver of child marriage, with children from poorer families being twice as likely to marry early than children from less poor ones. As confirmed during field consultations, men are in general (husbands in patrilineal societies and brothers in matrilineal societies) the ones who decide on the marriage of family members¹⁹⁵¹⁹⁶¹⁹⁷.

228. Early marriage has significant and long-term consequences for girls and women: high probability of school drop-out that would significantly (i) lead girls to give birth at a young age, present higher risk for complications during pregnancy and before and during childbirth, and increase the likelihood to have more children throughout their lifetime, (ii) limit women's level of literacy and economic opportunities and become more dependent on their husbands, (iii) reduce women's decision making power within their homes and increase the likelihood of experiencing IPV.

4.5.3 Child labour

229. Although the laws prohibited all forms of child labour in Malawi, for instance the employment act which provides a list of hazardous work for children accompanied by a fine or imprisonment for violations, sets the minimum age for employment at 14, and prevent children between 14 and 18 from working in hazardous jobs; the country is characterized by extensive

¹⁹¹ National Plan of Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Malawi 2014-2020, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, July 2014

¹⁹² Malawi DHS 2015-16

¹⁹³ Ibid

¹⁹⁴ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and southern Africa gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

¹⁹⁵ Focus group discussions with committee members, lead farmers and FFS beneficiaries in matrilineal community, Lisungwi, Neno District, Southern region, 5 October 2022

¹⁹⁶ Focus group discussions with lead farmers in matrilineal community, Ngwere Village, Dedza District, Southern region, 17th October 2022

¹⁹⁷ Focus group discussions with members of maize groups and cooperative members in patrilineal community, Mpamba Village, T/A Timbiri, Nkhata Bay District, Northern region, 12th October 2022

child labour¹⁹⁸. One out of two (52 percent) Malawian children is a working child and most of them (58 percent) started to work before the age of ten years old¹⁹⁹. High prevalence of child labour is due to high levels of poverty and difficulties to access education at intermediate and above levels. Many children are therefore forced to engage in child labour in the informal economy. Child labour is much higher in rural areas (15 percent) than in urban areas (7 percent)²⁰⁰. Eighty-eight percent of the children engaged in child labour live in rural areas and the remaining 12 percent are in urban areas²⁰¹. The significant gap is related to the dominating agricultural sector in Malawi's employment structure.

230. Child labour was most prevalent with tea, tobacco and livestock herding, brickmaking and construction, and domestic service. Forced child labour also occurred, particularly in agriculture, construction, forced begging and street work, illicit activities, and commercial sexual exploitation. Children often worked 12-hour days, frequently for little or no pay. Many boys worked as vendors, and young girls in urban areas often worked outside their families as domestic servants, receiving low or no wages. Further analysis and development on child labour are available in Annex 6 on Environmental and Social Management Framework.

4.6 Coping with Hardships

231. Most groups met during field consultations have mentioned that economic hardships are due to heavy family responsibilities - particularly for women head of households (high number of children, care to extended families, etc.), increasing cost of living and price volatility. The financial problems reported are related to school fees, food items, access to sanitation materials and farm inputs. The most critical times during the year are the rainy season corresponding to the planting and cultivating season, the irrigation season and after school holidays when students need to be sent back to school. To respond to these constraints, one of the most frequently used strategy to deal with subsistence and daily economic constraints is the sale of small livestock.

232. The second coping mechanism mostly reported by the FGD participants is the "ganyu". Described as a range of short-term rural labour relationships, the most common of which is piecework weeding or ridging on the fields of other smallholders, or on agricultural estates; "ganyu" constitutes the most important coping strategy and source of livelihood for most poor households in the crucial hungry period between food stores running out and the next harvest.²⁰² While ganyu labour participants in Malawi may have better access to food as a result of cash income from the ganyu²⁰³, the need to do ganyu to obtain an immediate supply of food may conflict with own-farm production that could lock poor households into a vicious cycle of food insecurity. Ganyu may also constitute a response to address an immediate crisis or to handle various structural anomalies such as small land sizes, credit constraints and labour and fertilizer shortages²⁰⁴. Less educated males are more likely to supply ganyu labor. Ganyu labor supply increases with household size, while it decreases with the level of crop farming and size of land owned.²⁰⁵

¹⁹⁸ "The prohibition of child labour does not apply to work done in homes, non-commercial farms, vocational-technical schools, or other training institutions." Labour Market Profile Malawi – 2022/2023, Danish Trade Union Development Agency

¹⁹⁹ Labour Market Profile Malawi – 2022/2023, Danish Trade Union Development Agency

²⁰⁰ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), National Statistics Office, USAID, UNICEF, German Cooperation, Norwegian Embassy, Gavi, 2019-20

²⁰¹ Labour Market Profile Malawi – 2022/2023, Danish Trade Union Development Agency

²⁰² Ganyu labour in Malawi and its implications for livelihood security interventions - an analysis of recent literature and implications for poverty alleviation, Martin Whiteside, January 2000

²⁰³ Informal "Ganyu" Labor Supply, and Food Security: The Case of Malawi, Sitinei et al., January 2016

²⁰⁴ Ganyu Labour in Malawi: Understanding Rural Households' Labour Supply Strategies, Dimova et al.

²⁰⁵ Informal "Ganyu" Labor Supply, and Food Security: The Case of Malawi, Sitinei et al., January 2016

233. Village savings and loans associations (VSLAs), a transparent, democratic and structured version of the informal savings groups²⁰⁶, are also considered by some poor and less poor as a mechanism that helps face economic hardships. In fact, such groups allow their members to save their own money in safe place, to access loans and to obtain emergency insurance. Members can take out loans to cover expenses such as school fees and medical bills without selling productive assets, or they can use the loans to invest in income generating activities to raise household income. As a result, VSLA members experience significant improvements in household health and wellbeing, and an overall improved quality of life.

234. Another coping strategy some women reported during the FGDs is the diversification of income generating activities. This option cannot be accessible to the most vulnerable since its implementation requires fairly consistent inputs. For instance, women engaged in soap making diversification activities mentioned the need to invest in 10 large soap moulding trays of 10m by 5 meters, one big 3 metres long wooded stick for stirring, 2 drums of 200litres for storage of water, etc. as well as some capacity strengthening on how to make soap²⁰⁷. This strategy is obviously difficult to implement for the poorest who cannot invest in the medium/long term and who are less educated.

5. GENDER INEQUALITIES EXACERBATED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

235. Most of the women, men and youth farmers and community members consulted during the project design process indicated to have noticed changes in the frequency or severity of climate related disasters (drought, diseases, floods etc.) that have affected their area over the past years. Gender inequalities exist in all societies in the country and shape the ways in which climate change impacts play out in society. Climate change could be considered as a “threat multiplier” that exacerbates existing social systemic inequalities. Although most communities must face climatic risks and hazards, vulnerability of individuals varies depending on their gender, geography, class, ethnicity, and age.

236. Global warming and environmental damage are gendered because the ability of women to adapt is hampered by several factors. Women are more likely to live in poverty than men and commonly have lesser access to information, livelihood resources, extension services, improved technologies, income and decision-making authority to be able to cope with climate shocks and stresses. Women and men have different social status and different access to physical resources like land, social resources such as networks, and financial resources like income generating activities and credit. Therefore, men usually have multiple strategies and options for coping with climate change effects; women are faced with a weak asset base and are less able to adapt to climate change issues. Besides, since women are often more dependent on natural resources, loss of assets due to climate change impact also weakens their bargaining position in the household as their assets are depleted, their income-earning options become inferior. This situation leaves men in a stronger “fall-back position” during crisis²⁰⁸.

237. Women are considered responsible for food security in Malawian societies. When food is limited due to climate change impacts and families must restrict consumption by adults for the benefit of children; it is women who get the smaller food portions within the family and mothers are the ones most likely to miss out on a nutritional diet in favour of children. When the women taking the food and dietary cuts are those in their childbearing age, a cyclic process is kicked in

²⁰⁶ <https://www.vsla.net/>

²⁰⁷ Focus group discussions with women engaged in soap making, Makwezu, Kapalapata Village, T/A Timbiri Nkhata-Bay District, 13th October 2022

²⁰⁸ Gender Analysis Report, A comprehensive data collection and analysis of gender In the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation, Wezi Moyo & Leonard Satali, December 2020

motion where women who were themselves stunted in childhood will be unable to meet the food needs of their children and thus condemn their growth, creating an intergenerational cycle of poverty and reduced human capital that is difficult to break²⁰⁹.

238. When climate change leads to lower yields and crop productivity, poor and subsistence farmers have little or no surplus to sell to earn money for purchasing basics like medicine, clothes, sanitary products, schooling, as well as agricultural inputs for bolstering farming production. Food production for family feeding or income generation becomes a challenge that puts women head of households or simple member of households under intense pressure to find alternative sources of income. This renders them more susceptible to sexual exploitation, which can take various forms such as transactional sex in exchange for goods or being trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation. Girls are also frequently pressured and are disproportionately affected by family financial hardship compared to boys. They are forced to drop out of school to take care of domestic work and to find paid employment. In addition, girls are often victims of early and forced child marriage as parents may view marriage as a coping strategy to overcome monetary difficulties. It is estimated that around 1.5 million girls in Malawi are at risk of becoming child brides as a direct result of climate change²¹⁰.

239. As is the case across sub-Saharan Africa, gathering water and firewood is widely deemed the responsibility of women and girls in Malawi. Since environmental degradation leads to a lack of clean water and depletion of natural resources, women and girls have to travel further to acquire scarce resources and see their exposure to rape and sexual assault heightened. In some cases, they must contend with sexual exploitation and abuse by those who control access to limited natural resources, for instance at water collection points²¹¹.

240. The impacts of climate change also increase women's burden within the household. With natural resources degradation, water and fuel wood collection becomes more challenging and impacts women's time management. In addition, as the traditional configuration of gender roles attributes to women the task of caring for the sick, climate related disasters worsen their workload considering that the number of persons injured or becoming ill grows as a result of epidemics increase. Women are therefore highly disadvantaged since they must fulfil reproductive and caring tasks to the detriment of beneficial activities such as income generation or education. To access better income opportunities, especially in times of crisis, men migrate to urban areas, other cities or to other countries. In addition to the labour constraints this situation entails, women are forced to become heads of households and must care for children and earn a living on their own, often without the help of their migrant husbands who rarely send remittances²¹².

241. Climate change also adversely affects women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change often disrupt water systems or sources, as well as sanitation facilities, leading to clean water shortages and water pollution²¹³. In these circumstances, women are inclined to save water for household use for the detriment of appropriate daily hygiene practices. They may also not be able to fulfil their personal needs, particularly those related to menstruation. Family cut of food consumption may also affect general and maternal health.

²⁰⁹ Ibid.

²¹⁰ Climate Change is Putting Women & Girls in Malawi at Greater Risk of Sexual Violence, OCHA, August 2022

²¹¹ Ibid.

²¹² Gender Analysis Report, A comprehensive data collection and analysis of gender in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation, Wezi Moyo & Leonard Satali, December 2020

²¹³ Ibid.

242. Although women smallholder farmers are considered vulnerable to climate change, they are at the core of the fight against climate change. Women account for 65 percent of smallholder farmers and stand as active actors and agents of change in relation to both climate change adaptation and mitigation²¹⁴.

6. TAILORING PROJECT ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE GENDER ASSESSMENT

243. The field consultations conducted in the project area during the design process which involved potential project beneficiaries and partners including Government representatives, ongoing project, non-governmental agribusiness association, social enterprise acting as demonstration and training center to promote EbA solutions; confirmed the existing gender inequalities and barriers facing women that have been highlighted by the literature review and described in the above sections. These barriers are summarized as follows.

244. **Social barriers and human capital.** The cultural norms and the socialization process in the country nurture an unequal gender division of labor. Women and girls basically bear the heavy burden of unpaid domestic and reproductive tasks, and men and boys are mainly entrusted with outdoor productive and money-making tasks. As men are generally considered as the head of household and given their domination in money-making tasks, decision making power and control over household resources are left in their hands. Besides, women and girls are equally limited by other social factors: women's lower level of literacy and education compared to that of men, increased number of school drop-out driven by early marriage and teenage pregnancy and vice versa, time poverty resulting from time-consuming domestic workloads that prevents them from exploring economic opportunities. Women's lack of economic independence plays in turn a role in exposing them to more unequal and riskier sexual relationships that in turn increase their exposure to GBV and HIV²¹⁵.

245. Women involved in VNRMC, farming and VSL in Makwezu Kapalapata village confirmed women's roles in domestic tasks such as fetching water and cooking fuel²¹⁶. They shared their main challenge in having their sources of water at 2 km walk from their village.

²¹⁴ African Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP), GCCASP of Malawi, NEPAD, September 2014

²¹⁵ Malawi gender assessment, Eastern and southern Africa gender platforms, World Bank Group, March 2022

²¹⁶ Focus group discussions with women involved in soap making, VNRMC, farming and VSL, Makwezu, Kapalapata Village, T/A Timbiri, Nkhata-Bay District, Northern region, 13th October 2022

“A women fetching water in a beautiful borehole with inside a deep forest”



246. Some young ladies met in Masasa Monkey Bay reported that their source of motivation for starting a group business was that most of the group members were school drop outs for different reasons like early pregnancies, lack of motivation for higher education and lack of school fees due to poverty²¹⁷.

247. **Knowledge and technical barriers.** Although both women and men in Malawi generally have low access to information through the various forms of mass media, a significant gender gap is noted (e.g. proportion of men exposed to radio was 59 percent compared to that of women of 38 percent in 2019-20). In terms of advisory services, females are less likely to receive advice on weather or climate forecasts, external inputs, crop disease control, and water harvesting techniques. Women's limited access to information and extension services results in lower level of awareness and knowledge (e.g. limited knowledge of CCA and catchment/landscape, especially among the vulnerable) and weak technical capacity (e.g. limited capacity to integrate catchment into VLAPs). Knowledge and technical barriers combined with limited access to inputs prevent women from implementing new techniques such as EbA solutions.

248. **Market and financial barriers.** Gender-based division of assets, commodities and existing market organization allocate to women the less profitable products and markets. In addition, several shortcomings have been identified in women's marketing skills and knowledge namely in terms of identification of profitable business as well as identification of buyers and conclusion of formal agreements. Cultural norms and household and childcare responsibilities limit women's mobility, a situation that gives men more power and voice in marketplaces. Another constraint raised by most women and youth farmers is the difficulty to understand and comply with the process of certification with the Malawi Bureau of standards. Besides, women's access to finance constitutes also a significant barrier that is worsen by factors like low level of formal education, difficulties to present collateral or personal guarantees, etc. Many women, men and

²¹⁷ Focus group discussions with fish land ladies in Masasa, Monkey bay, Mangochi District, Southern region, 1st October 2022

youth involved in FGD mentioned not to be interested in accessing formal financial services as they do not want to be trapped with formal financing institutions and their tedious procedures.

249. Women farmers in matrilineal Mpalale village shared their biggest concern on their poor access to land compared to men, lack of working capital, high cost of farming and poor access to markets²¹⁸.

250. **Institutional barriers.** Women's and youth's effective involvement and participation in policy elaboration process and consultations appear limited, due in part to insufficient mechanism in place to take the vulnerable's point of view into account. Policy drafters and approvers and law makers do not seem to be fully aware of the importance of social inclusion in sustainability.

251. The analysis of the CCA barriers in the gender assessment has thus contributed to the construction of the project's theory of change. The identification of upstream barriers helps ensuring that the project's activities and responses proposed through the components are relevant to the context and potential beneficiaries' constraints and needs.

252. Field consultations also allows to identify lessons learnt and opportunities that the project can explore and put at scale. For instance, women's knowledge on interesting local species for CCA, existing adaptation coping mechanisms, improvement resulting from capacity strengthening on gender and social inclusion, etc.

“The woman farmer explaining more about the a precious tree known as Mng’ona tree”



253. FGD with women members of VNRMC in Makwezu, Kapalapata Village²¹⁹ shedded light on a precious tree called Mng’ona tree that has special roots with a very good soil and water holding capacity along river banks and in catchment areas.

²¹⁸ Focus group discussions with fish farmers in Mpalale village in a matrilineal community, Dedza District, Central region, 17th October 2022

²¹⁹ Focus group discussions with women members of VNRMC, Makwezu, Kapalapata Village, T/A Timbiri, Nkhata-Bay District, Northern region, 13th October 2022

254. Women involved in NRM reported using alteration of practices/crop types and occupation as adapted coping mechanism.²²⁰

255. The FGD conducted with fish farmers in Mpalale village in a matrilineal community confirmed that gender trainings have improved men's and women's controls over assets, while men were still dominating in the past few years²²¹.

256. Under Component 1, EbAM will promote socially inclusive and meaningful participation of the vulnerable in the planning and implementation processes of Integrated Landscape Management (ILM). To this end, the project will promote the use of the Dimitra Clubs as an entry point for mobilizing and engaging women, men, female and male youth community members in the entire catchment/landscape management process. In addition to capacity building activities that are related to climate change adaptation and the integration of catchment/landscape into village-level action plans, the project will support the evolvement of societal norms by (i) improving the skills of the vulnerable and (ii) promoting equitable sharing of decision-making power at household and community levels. The use of Dimitra Clubs and household approach (HHA) will create space for dialogues both in the households and communities that will allow discussing and challenging gender and social norms as well as other issues and challenges and finding solutions; and will promote effective participation of all community members including the vulnerable. Gender and social inclusion issues will be discussed with a specific focus on (i) gender and sex; (ii) advantages and disadvantages of gender-specific roles and tasks; (iii) gender-based violence (GBV) and Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), including masculinities and patriarchy; (iv) origin/history and merits/demerits of social inclusion Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process; (v) examples, motives and results of gender discrimination and social exclusion; and (vi) gender and social inclusion in community development and welfare, including food and nutrition security. The Clubs will also facilitate information sharing and knowledge dissemination within the community. The project will support 1 110 clusters of Dimitra Clubs and implementing the HHA through the training of 30 ILM facilitators on Dimitra Clubs facilitation and Household methodology, to support the spread of the approach at village level through "Dimitra Clubtakers". Some religious and traditional leaders will also participate in the trainings. Besides, the processes for VNRC and SCMC revision charter, member selection and capacity development will include awareness raising on gender and social inclusion including SEAH and GBV. The project will make sure that the EbA-based ILM Plans or VLAPs and catchment management plans are gender and youth sensitive and socially inclusive. For the implementation of the plans, the project has also to secure the vulnerable's effective participation, and make sure that they benefit from the project's technical as well as inputs and equipment support.

257. Under Component 2, from a gender and social inclusion perspective, EbAM will promote resilient livelihoods and food systems by (i) ensuring the use of gender/youth sensitive mechanisms and inclusive approaches in the promotion of EbA-based production systems, (ii) enhancing the business and market access conditions for better participation of EbA-trained women, men and youth farmers and strengthening their entrepreneurship and marketing skills, and (iii) developing and delivering financial services that are adapted to the various project's target groups.

258. For the promotion of EbA-based production systems, the project will ensure gender balance among extension workers and FFS facilitators for the delivery of EbA agricultural extension services. In addition, the project may need to consider implementing women-only/youth-only FFS and pay particular attention on how to better involve the vulnerable (ultra-

²²⁰ Focus group discussions with women involved in Masasa, Monkey bay, Mangochi District, Southern region, 1st October 2022

²²¹ Focused group discussions with fish farmers in Mpalale village in a matrilineal community, Dedza District, 17th October 2022

poor, poor, widows etc.) in the FFS to facilitate exchanges and acquisition of knowledge. Similarly for exchange visits, the project will ensure affinity links between group members in order to facilitate exchanges and sharing of experience. Women, men and youth who self-targeted themselves in plant and crop genetic material availability and multiplication will be involved in these activities as appropriate. To address food and nutrition insecurity, the impact of integrated mix-farming systems on food diversity and availability, and on food and nutrition security will be discussed in the FFS. The project will rely on the Dimitra Clubs to facilitate flow of information and knowledge dissemination within the community. Dimitra clubs solar powered radios will be connected to local community radios to enhance communication.

259. In terms of market access and entrepreneurship development for EbA producers, EbAM will target women, men and youth groups that are interested and have the potential to develop into commercial entities²²². Priority will be given to women and youth farmers groups which will be supported in the identification of common economic and commercial interests, the definition of common objectives, the development of business plans, and in PO's management and daily operations. Women and youth farmers groups that have the potential to engage in 4Ps will also be prioritized. The provision of technical assistance under the 4Ps will consider women and youth's specific needs. Through the 4Ps and commercial group activities, women and youth will also see their marketing/commercial skills (identification of good business opportunities (high margin, sustainable, ...), negotiation, etc.) strengthened. Since the project will also support the development of an "EbA" brand, products labelling will create a high-value niche markets for women and youth. The brand development will also offer to youth the opportunity to engage in other food system activities beyond production, such as marketing and communication related to the EbA brand. Women can also engage in food system transformation initiatives that could add value to their business such as linking EbA produce to traditional cuisine.

260. Regarding access to financial services, EbAM will build upon FARMSE's targeting strategy which key element is inclusion. It will proactively reach out to individuals, households or groups/associations to ensure women and youth have access to the financial opportunities offered by the project, and will make sure that project interventions are sensitive to the needs and aspirations of women and youth. Through MoF/FARMSE which is one of EbAM's co-financier, EbAM will support the effective participation of the vulnerable in Community based financial organizations (CBFOs), which are informal organizations formed and managed by individuals coming together voluntarily and commonly referred to as Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), to facilitate their access to savings and loans products. As part of capacity building and apart from financial literacy, the project will also strengthen women, men, female and male youth financial knowledge through the HHA. EbAM's comprehensive package to support CBFO members will include group governance and dynamics; savings and loans group best practices; economic activity selection / Business planning and management; market linkage with off-takers; suppliers and service providers; financial literacy; linkage with Formal Financial Institutions (FFI) and mobile money banking; Gender Action Learning System (GALS) and Household (HH) methodology; and promotion of environmentally friendly agricultural production. On the supply side, EbAM will support Formal Financial Institutions (FFIs) to develop and deliver adapted financial services for smallholder farmers engaged in commercial activities for investments in EbA solutions. Particular attention will be given to the development of specific products tailored to women and youth's needs. The project will also ensure that the various studies related to the development of various financial instruments and knowledge dissemination products are gender-sensitive and socially inclusive. Financial implementing partners that are offering financial and

²²² Any commercial organisational development, which could be a cooperative, association or a commercial company, or an informal commercial entrepreneurial group

non-financial services will be assessed for their gender sensitivity and their awareness on the project's priority groups.

261. Under Component 3, gender sensitive and socially inclusive activities related to enabling institutional and financial environment include assistance to NCCF to develop its gender strategy as well as capacity strengthening for NCCF's women and men's staff on EbA, climate risk analysis and carbon balance analysis trainings. National Conservation Trust Funds including MEET will also be supported on its gender strategy and M&E trainings. Women's participation in the various process and studies will be given particular attention. As for the scaling up of EbA and ILM in national policies, women's participation in policy dialogue will be promoted. Gender principles will be considered in the update of policies and key frameworks. Specific economic analysis looking at return for women-led farms will also be conducted.

262. To ensure gender mainstreaming is clearly visible in the implementation of project's activities, a Gender Action Plan (GAP) has been developed. It reinforces all project activities and sub-activities from a gender and social inclusion perspective, and includes clear targets, gender design features and measurable indicators ensuring women's participation and benefits.

7. PRINCIPLES OF PROJECT FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Guiding FAO and GCF Policies and Frameworks

263. The following FAO and GCF policies and frameworks specifically guide the above assessment and project Gender Action Plan (refer also to other policies and framework in the Environmental and Social Management Framework in Annex 6). Gender equality is a result that the project aims to achieve, in addition to climate change adaptation and mitigation outcomes.

- **FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030** strives to achieve equality between women and men in sustainable agriculture and rural development for the elimination of hunger and poverty.
- **GCF Updated Gender Policy (2019)** reinforces the responsiveness of GCF to the culturally diverse context of gender equality to better address and account for the links between gender equality and climate change.
- **FAO Protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (PSAE) N° 2013/27.** The principles of integrity, professionalism, respect for human rights and the dignity of all peoples underpin FAO's commitment to preventing and addressing acts of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).
- **FAO Policy on the prevention of harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority** N° 2015/03 (2015) and FAO policy on sexual harassment (13 February 2019) which states Sexual Harassment in all its forms is contrary to the United Nations Charter, the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of the Organization and the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service.
- **GCF Revised Environment and Social Policy and Policy on the Prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (2021)** sets clear obligations for GCF-project related persons to prevent and respond to SEAH and to refrain from condoning, encouraging, participating in, or engaging in SEAH.
- **FAO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (2015)** that include general principles and nine environmental and social standards (ESS), with 1) **ESS 8 - Gender equality**: the fight against discrimination, practices; Equal opportunities for men and women

to take part and to benefit; and 2) **ESS 7 – Decent Work**: Creation of better employment opportunities, particularly for women and young people; Non-discrimination and equal opportunities; Occupational health and safety; Prevention of child labor; Forced labor; Workers' and producers' organizations.

- These ESS are consistent with the objectives of GCF adopted Performance Standards, **PS 1** - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts; **PS 2** – Labour and Working Conditions; **PS 4** – Community, Health, Safety, and Security and **PS6** - Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources.

7.2. Principles of Project Formulation and Implementation

7.2.1 Social Acceptance of Gender and Youth Empowerment

264. The project will promote approaches that enhance the social acceptance of gender and youth empowerment both at household and community levels. At household level, the household approach shifts the focus from what women do not possess to what the family members aspire to, in particular, what they want to become, what they want to be engaged in and how they can achieve these goals. The approach's objective is for family members to create a common vision for the household through guided dialogues among them, which allow women and men to understand and challenge gender norms and their connection to food and nutrition security as well as poverty. The approach facilitates reflection, behavioral change and household planning through gender-sensitive participation. The project proposes applying the household approach in households where household member participation remains uneven and where the household head or some household member(s) concentrate decision-making power. The former will be supported to initially engage in wife and husband discussions, and the latter can aim at engaging youth, boys and girls family members in developing their household vision.

265. At community level, an important mile in ensuring sustainable behavioral change is that the religious, traditional and community leaders and other key figures give a stamp of approval to the changes that have taken place, especially among men, who need to be reassured that their masculinity is not threatened and that the changes are welcome to the entire community. The religious, traditional and community leaders will be sensitized on the positive effects of gender empowerment at the household and community levels, some will also participate in the ILM facilitators' trainings as trainers on Dimitra Clubs facilitation and household methodology; so that their capacity to play active roles in social mobilization are strengthened and they may effectively endorse the changes in behavior. The Dimitra Clubs used by the project to mobilize and engage communities also constitutes an important tool for dealing with gender and social inclusion issues.

7.2.2 Interventions Based on Custom-fit Context Analysis

266. Understanding the social and cultural context of a society is crucial to ensure the adequacy of a proposed intervention. Malawi's traditional and social framework is characterized by the existence of two societies: a patrilineal society that discriminates exclusively against women, and a matrilineal society that gives more power to women but in which they may still be disadvantaged in some respects.

267. Although vulnerable groups were pre-identified at design stage, the project will ensure during implementation that operational context is re-evaluated and that necessary supports are provided to promote the participation and inclusion of individuals and groups who effectively need this support. It is therefore possible, in contrast to what we are usually used to seeing, that in

some societies and specific activities, gender mainstreaming targets men who are more disadvantaged than women. Besides, similarly to the targeting process conducted during the formulation process, the project will continuously consider the differentiated profiles, constraints, needs and opportunities of the different target groups (women, female youth, male youth and others), for equality, effectiveness and impact.

7.2.3 Inclusive and Collaborative Process for Mutual Benefits

268. The proposed project will rely on community-based approaches that encourages the participation of all community members, with a particular attention on the participation of vulnerable groups namely women, youth and the poor. The project's self-targeting mechanism will ensure the consideration of the different groups' aspirations. The project will fully integrate inputs from women and youth and engage them as much as possible in project activities. While addressing these groups' vulnerability, the project will also lean on the strengths of various groups to ensure that project results and benefits contributed to and are distributed for the well-being of the entire society.

7.2.4 Women and Youth Empowerment for Meaningful Participation

269. Climate change is a social challenge profound enough that it does not allow leaving human capital underutilized as it has been to date. It demands both women and men to make strategic decisions at all levels so that their livelihoods are well adapted to the changes. Women and young people, however, have not had the experience or been given the power to make such decisions. The proposed project strengthens the capacity of women and youth so that they will be able to effectively and strategically plan for the future. Empowerment of women and youth needs to be accepted at home and in the community; men and community gatekeepers will be sensitized on the issue and will participate in the Dimitra Clubs facilitation and Household methodology trainings for their acceptance, ownership and the important role they have to play in social mobilization.

270. To make full use of the human capital in the country, the proposed project will compensate for the investment that the society had the tendency to neglect; it will provide technical and marketing and financial trainings to women and youth. The skills will encourage them to venture into the formal sector and capture the market segments that are more profitable, as they are already equipped with some business acumen. All trainings and consultations under the proposed project will have slots reserved for women and youth.

271. Trainings for government officials and technicians will similarly consult women officials and technicians and include female youth participants. They will also be trained on gender issues so that they can more effectively accompany the process of gender empowerment.

7.2.5 Ensuring Sustainability through Ownership

272. Stakeholders' involvement has been at the core of the project development process whether at identification stage, all along the design process as well as during implementation. Government authorities have provided policy orientations and potential beneficiaries particularly women and youth have been consulted to ensure the project considers their knowledge, needs and aspirations. Their participation in the project development process aims at fostering the ownership of the project. In fact without ownership, beneficiaries put themselves in the position of being assisted during the project lifetime and do not feel responsible for the results achieved and their sustainability once the project has ended. The more the proposed project promotes stakeholder's participation including that of women and youth potential beneficiaries; the more

the stakeholders are likely to own the project, engage and take responsibility in its implementation, and are mindful of the sustainability of project activities and outcomes.

7.2.6. Preventing Increased Risks of GBV including Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Harassment

273. Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment could exacerbate existing risks of GBV and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) within households and communities as those with power may feel threatened with losing it to those who have been empowered. It is therefore important that the project raises the awareness of involved communities, particularly the sub-groups at risk including women and girls, female head of households, and persons living with HIV/AIDS, on these issues and strengthens their capacity to become fully involved in preventing and responding to GBV and SEAH related issues. Capacity building should allow community members to access information on the basics of GBV and SEAH, the prevention and mitigation measures, the mechanisms to file complaints related to GBV and SEAH using existing channels (marriage counselors, community leaders, police, etc.) and also the comprehensive Grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) developed and implemented by the project, details of the process in terms of procedures and possible outcomes²²³ [OBJ].

274. Since GBV and SEAH are fueled by deep rooted and persistent cultural mindsets and social norms, it is important that the project gets the buy-in of community leaders and traditional gatekeepers on these issues. They are the ones who should convey the message on GBV and SEAH as well as GRM to communities and train them to inculcate local values that negate GBV²²⁴.

275. The project will adopt a 'zero-tolerance approach to SEAH. It must ensure the availability of effective grievance mechanisms accessible to women, girls and the vulnerable groups at risk which minimize the reporting burden on victims, offer gender-sensitive services and minimize the risk of retaliation. Those mechanisms should contain specific procedures for GBV and SEAH, including confidential reporting with secure and ethical documentation. With identified cases, the project should orient GBV and SEAH victims towards existing support services, including health services, psychosocial support, legal advice, police surveillance, and shelters. The project will also disseminate information on the country referral guidelines on child protection and GBV²²⁵.

²²³ 5 steps to prevent the risks of sexual and gender-based violence in projects, Maria Amelia Vileri, May 2022: <https://blogs.iadb.org/sostenibilidad/en/5-steps-to-prevent-the-risks-of-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-in-projects/>

²²⁴ National Plan of Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Malawi 2014-2020, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, July 2014

²²⁵ Child protection and gender-based violence referral guidelines for Malawi, Government of Malawi, UNICEF, UNFPA, July 2020

8. FIELD CONSULTATIONS: PARTNERS AND QUESTIONS

8.1 Consultation Partners

276. The consultations of government representatives, development partners and community members during field mission are also documented in Annex 7 (Summary of consultations and stakeholder engagement plan).

Table 12: Consultation Partners

Date	Region	District	Village/City	Type of Stakeholders	Participants	
					Female	Male
30 September 2022	Central Region	Ntcheu	Bemvu Hill	Good example of restoration work 12 villages, 22 ha, VSLA	7	6
30 September 2022	Central Region	Ntcheu	Kachimanga Village	VNRMC, Energy serving stoves (Chitetezo Mbaula) and VSLA	18	1
30 September 2022	Central Region	Ntcheu	Gongolo VNRMC	VNRMC & value chain activities: VNMRC, Bee-keeping and VSLA	20	9
30 September 2022	Central Region	Ntcheu	Chipusire VNRMC Block	Bad example of restoration work: Block Committee	5	4
1 October 2022	Southern Region	Mangochi	Kacheta women cooperative and Fish land ladies	Women cooperative , Household Approaches mentors, and Youth cooperative fish traders	16	1
2 October 2022	Southern Region	Mangochi	Nsauka Village	Dimitra, VNRMC, VAC, FFS, VSLA, Irrigation and Fish trading, AEDIC, Agriculture extension worker	8	4
03 October 2022	Southern Region	Nsanje	Sorgern	VDC, VNRMC, VAC, AEDO, AEDIC	3	11
05 October 2022	Southern Region	Neno	Lisungwi	Youth Group (VSL, Farming, Agribusiness)	6	4
05 October 2022	Southern Region	Neno	Lisungwi	VAC, VDC, FFS, Community leaders, ADC and VSLA	21	7
12 October 2022	Northern Region	Nkhata-bay	Mpamba	Chingányá VNRMC and VSLA	4	3

Date	Region	District	Village/City	Type of Stakeholders	Participants	
					Female	Male
12 October 2022	Northern Region	Nkhata-bay	Mpamba	Mbwadu cooperative	3	4
12 October 2022	Northern Region	Nkhata-bay	Mpamba	Mpamba community maize mill representatives	2	3
13 October 2022	Northern Region	Nkhata-bay	Kapalapata village Makwezu	Makwezu Youth club representatives	4	3
13 October 2022	Northern Region	Nkhata-bay	Kapalapata village Makwezu	Makwezu Kuja-Nkujaliana women's soap making group	12	0
13 October 2022	Northern Region	Nkhata-bay	Kapalapata village Makwezu	Makwezu community leaders	5	6
14 October 2022	Northern Region	Rumphi	Mungoti	Mungoti Local Leaders	0	5
14 October 2022	Northern Region	Rumphi	Mungoti	Goat farming club, VSLA, LEAD Farmers, Paprika& pepper farming, VNRMCS, bee keeping group	12	14
14 October 2022	Northern Region	Rumphi	Lundu – Bolero	Lundu farmers	30	13
14 October 2022	Northern Region	Rumphi	Lundu – Bolero	Lundu community leaders	0	4
17 October 2022	Central Region	Dedza	Mpalale	Ngwere farmers	9	2
17 October 2022	Central Region	Dedza	Mpalale	Youth Fish farmers	3	0
17 October 2022	Central Region	Dedza	Ngwere model village	Lead farmers	9	2
Total					197	106

Region	Location	Institution	
		Name	Description
Central Region	Lilongwe	MoF/ FARMSE	IFAD-funded programme under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs - The programme works to support the graduation of poor Malawians along the poverty spectrum from ultra-poor to a productive pathway on a sustainable basis. The programme also supports household economic development through access to financial services that are appropriate to each socio-economic level of poverty including ultra-poor, poor but food secure, vulnerable to poverty, and resilient to poverty.
		NASFAM	Non-Governmental Agribusiness Association - The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) is the largest smallholder owned membership organization in Malawi. It is founded on the principles of collective action and is democratically governed by its members.
Central Region	Lilongwe	Ministry of Gender	Government Body-The Ministry of Gender, Children Disability and Social Welfare is mandated to promote gender equality and protect the welfare of Malawian women, men, girls and boys to become self-reliant and active participants and beneficiaries of the national development agenda
Central Region	Lilongwe	Ministry of Lands	Government Body-The mandate of the Ministry is to provide land and housing management services to the general public, stakeholders and parties seeking the services in a manner that ensures that physical development takes place in an orderly and sustainable manner
Central Region	Mchinji	Permaculture Paradise Institute	Social enterprise, demonstration and training center that promotes permaculture systems
Central Region	Ntcheu	District Council	Government Body-District Councils facilitate the development of rural areas in Malawi. District councils make policy and decisions on local governance and facilitate (on delegated authority from central government) the provision of local services and development for the Districts.
Southern Region	Mangochi	District Agriculture and Fisheries Office	Government Body-The Mangochi District Fisheries Office is the government side in this participatory management arrangement. It is directly responsible for field implementation of the various

Region	Location	Institution	
		Name	Description
			components of the programme that come under the responsibility of the Fisheries Department.
Southern Region	Nsanje	District Agriculture CAENRO Offices	Government Body-The Chief Agriculture Environmental and Natural Resources Office is responsible for organizing, planning and implementation of agricultural extension programs. The extension program has 6 technical offices. The extension services, crops development, animal health& livestock development, research, planning services, land resource conservation and irrigation. The CAENRO coordinates and collaborates with officers from other key sectors within the District.
Southern Region	Neno	District Agriculture CAENRO Offices	Government Body-The Chief Agriculture Environmental and Natural Resources Office is responsible for organizing, planning and implementation of agricultural extension programs. The extension program has 6 technical offices. The extension services, crops development, animal health& livestock development, research, planning services, land resource conservation and irrigation. The CAENRO coordinates and collaborates with officers from other key sectors within the District.
Northern Region	Mzuzu	Mzuzu ADD	Government Body-Responsible for crop production, animal health and veterinary services, agricultural extension support services, research and technical services, and land resources conservation.
Northern Region	Nkhata-bay	District Agriculture CAENRO Offices	Government Body-The Chief Agriculture Environmental and Natural Resources Office is responsible for organizing, planning and implementation of agricultural extension programs. The extension program has 6 technical offices. The extension services, crops development, animal health& livestock development, research, planning services, land resource conservation and irrigation. The CAENRO coordinates and collaborates with officers from other key sectors within the District.
		District Forestry Office District Forestry Office	Government Body-The Department of Forestry is the lead agency <i>in the administration of the National Forest Policy and the Forestry Act in Malawi.</i>
Northern Region	Rumphi	District Agriculture CAENRO Offices	Government Body-The Chief Agriculture Environmental and Natural Resources Office is responsible for organizing, planning and implementation of agricultural extension programs. The extension program has 6 technical offices. The extension services, crops development, animal health& livestock development, research,

Region	Location	Institution	
		Name	Description
			planning services, land resource conservation and irrigation. The CAENRO coordinates and collaborates with officers from other key sectors within the District.
Central Region	Dedza	District Agriculture CAENRO Offices	Government Body-The Chief Agriculture Environmental and Natural Resources Office is responsible for organizing, planning and implementation of agricultural extension programs. The extension program has 6 technical offices. The extension services, crops development, animal health& livestock development, research, planning services, land resource conservation and irrigation. The CAENRO coordinates and collaborates with officers from other key sectors within the District.
		Human/ Child Rights Activists	NGO-Responsible for promoting child and human rights
		Find Your Feet	NGO - Find Your Feet Malawi (FYF) is a leading local non-governmental organisation focused on agriculture, agri business and value chains, strengthening local governance systems and health as the precursor for growth and rural livelihoods improvement.

8.2 Consultation Questions

8.2.1 Core Consultation Questions for Institutions

Gender and youth

- Understanding of gender/youth issues, including legislations, regulations and international conventions
 - Are you aware of the international agreement commitments made by the government pertaining to equal rights, access to resources and opportunities?
 - Are you aware of the National Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan?
 - Which components of the National Gender Policy and Action Plan does your office support?
 - Does your work take various policies, regulations and international conventions into account?
 - Do you make specific efforts to consider issues faced by gender/youth?
- Knowledge of formal rights, laws, regulations, and commitment of the country to international conventions and agreements
 - The country has policies, laws and regulations to safeguard the rights of all persons, regardless of gender, belief and age, including National Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan. Are you aware of them?
- What are the problems that rural women face in Malawi today?
- Do you have information indicating that women's conditions and needs are different from men's?
- Do you promote your gender concerns at meetings, internal and external?
- Do you work with private commercial entities? How do you encourage them to consider the needs of women at all stages of their operation?
- Do you consider gender aspects when assessing and monitoring your programmes by differentiating the impacts on women and men? Are the assessment results used in future programming?
- Do your publications clearly state your focus, priorities and activities on women and youth?
- Have the objectives led to improved situations for women and youths?

Governance and grievance resolution

- What is the mechanism for the community members to communicate the problems under your jurisdiction?
- How do you ensure community trust in these mechanisms?
- Do you think the community members are well aware of the relevant laws and your mandate?
- How are the problems brought to you solved? How do you handle internal and external grievances?
- What are the timelines in resolving complaints?
- How do you monitor whether the solutions that you provide are well implemented?

8.2.2 Core Consultation Questions for Female Farmers

Roles and responsibilities in production and livelihood systems

- Types of livelihoods: agriculture, livestock, fishery, others
 - What is the main source of livelihood of your household?
 - What is your work (activity to be performed by the interviewee) ?
 - What is the work of other household members?

- What is the biggest problems related to your work?
- Are you part of producers' groups or cooperatives?
- What are the benefits of being part of producers' groups/cooperatives? Drawbacks?
- Management of various natural resources: responsibilities and resultant social status
 - What are the crops cultivated for consumption at home? For sale?
 - Which livestock is raised for consumption at home? For sale?
 - Who is responsible for drinking water, including animals? How far/close do they fetch the water? What challenges do they face in fetching water?
 - Who is responsible for cooking fuel?
 - Are there some resources that are jointly exploited by the community? If yes, are there clear rules for this?
 - How resources have evolved since your parents/grandparents' generation?
 - How do you think resources will evolve for your children/grandchildren's generation?
- Food security and other basic needs (to clothe, etc.): financial and procurement responsibilities
 - Who is responsible for finding/purchasing food? Who pays for it?
 - Who is responsible for finding/purchasing clothes? Who pays for it?

Access to and control of resources

- Productive and household assets: ownership, access and control
 - What are the assets that are used to generate income (e.g., land, livestock)?
 - Who owns those assets?
 - Who controls those assets?
 - Should each asset belong to one family? Or are there assets that can be jointly exploited?
- Income and expenditure: primary and secondary sources, items and control
 - What are the main sources of income in the household?
 - Who are responsible for raising the household income?
 - Who decides on how to spend income?
 - Do items of expenditure vary according to the person who decides?
- Access to resources: land
 - Who has access to land? Under which conditions?
 - Do the modalities of access to land influence its exploitation?
- Access to resources: water
 - What is the source of drinking water (e.g., well, river, pond)?
 - Is it shared by livestock and other animals?
 - Do people and animals bathe in the water used for drinking?
 - What do you think about water quality?
 - Do you have enough water for all your needs?
 - Has the amount of available water changed?
 - Who frequently use the water source? Who control the water sources?
 - How far is the water source?
 - What challenges do you face in accessing water?
- Access to resources: fuel
 - What is the source of cooking fuel?
 - If you use charcoal, which trees are used?
 - From whom do you buy them?
- Access to agricultural services: extension, (rural) finance, (agricultural) marketing, etc.
 - Is extension service (agriculture, livestock) available? Is the service useful? Are these services free or at a cost?

- Have trainings already been organized in your village/the surrounding villages/the vicinity? Who could participate?
- How do you finance your activities?
- Is there enough information on what sells, why, where and when?
- Access to markets: purchase and sale
 - Who goes to the market for purchase?
 - Who goes to the market for sale?
 - Who has the control of the income from the sales?
- Access to means of transportation: service frequency, cost, possibility of independent travel
 - What kind of transportation is available? For what purpose? For women/handicapped?
 - Is the frequency of the available transportation satisfactory?
 - Is the cost of the available transportation reasonable? Who pays transportation costs?

Skills, knowledge and information

- Knowledge on health, sanitation and nutrition
 - Do you think there is a link between what we eat and our health?
 - Do you think eating variety of food items improves our health?
 - Do you think there is a link between how we keep things clean and our health?
 - Do you think there is a link between health of the animals that we keep and our health?
- Access to electronic devices for information
 - Do you have a mobile phone? A smart phone?
 - Do you have access to the internet?
 - Does their use support your activity?

Decision-making and governance

- Roles in decision-making: home, groups, community, producer and community-based organizations, and local government
 - Who makes what kind of decisions at home?
 - ... in the community?
- Nature of decision-making: income use, commons use, means of income generation, food distribution, marriage, number of children, inheritance, etc.
 - Who decides on purchases of goods for the entire family?
 - Who decides how to distribute food among family members?
 - Who decides on the marriage of family members?
 - Who decides who inherits what and how much?
- Conflict resolution mechanism: among individuals and different social groups, including violence
 - What are the common sources of conflict in the household? How are conflicts resolved within the family?
 - What are the common sources of conflict in the community? When you have a problem in the community, to whom do you go?
 - Are the solutions provided satisfactory to all parties?
 - What are the differences between problem solving by communities and formal institutions?
 - Are women/youth involved in providing solutions or mediating?

Living conditions

- Main health problems
 - What are the main health problems?

- What may be the causes?
- Health services: public/private, number of nurses/doctors per population, distance to nearest hospital, affordable medicine, number of medical specialists
 - Do you access health services there? Are these services free or at a cost?
 - How many public clinics/hospital are there in the vicinity?
 - How far are they from the community?

Economic hardship

- Events leading to economic hardship: frequency, cause, nature (loss/damage of house/boat/ landing facilities/hatchery/crops/livestock), predictability
 - What are the events that cause financial problems?
 - How frequent are they?
- Coping mechanism: use of event-specific/all-purpose saving, borrowing from relatives/friends/informal lender/formal lender, monetary/non-monetary aid from charity/government/NGO, sale of land/house/livestock/other, premature termination of schooling, change in food intake/expenses/living arrangement/occupation, migration
 - How do you cope with financial difficulties?
 - What kind of opportunities are good (e.g., aquaculture, craft making)?

Climate change

- Changes observed on the ground: temperature, water availability, floods/droughts, weather patterns, crop flowering/maturing, insect egg-laying/hatching/maturing, non-crop plants, plant/animal diseases, effects on product quality/quantity
 - Has there been any change in the weather/climate in the past years? If yes, what are the changes?
 - What are the effects on crop development? Animal behavior?
 - What are the effects on crop diseases? Animal diseases?
 - How is crop production affected? Milk/egg/meat production?
- Changes learned through other sources: mass media, communication with CBO/NGO staff/local government officials, participation in trainings/meetings
 - Do you hear about changes in weather/climate?
 - From which sources?
 - Do you think the climate will go back to what it was during your grandparents' time?
- Adapted coping mechanism: alteration of practices/crop types/occupation, migration
 - How do you deal with changes in weather/climate?
 - Have you received any support (advice, training, endowment) in this regard?
 - Are the measures effective? If yes/no, why?
 - If the weather/climate keeps on changing, will that affect the availability of food?

8.2.3 Core Consultation Questions for Youth

Vocation

- Job opportunities
 - Have you done any studies?
 - What kind of work do you do?
 - What is the biggest problems related to your work? Is your current work different from your ideal occupation?
 - Do you undertake other activities to generate additional income?
 - Does the urban areas or foreign countries offer good opportunities?

Economic hardship

- Family responsibility
 - How is your family status?
 - What are the events that cause financial problems to the family?
 - How frequent are they?
 - What is expected of you during such times?
- Coping mechanism: use of event-specific/all-purpose saving, borrowing from relatives/friends/
informal lender/formal lender, monetary/non-monetary aid from charity/government/NGO, sale of land/house/livestock/other, premature termination of schooling, change in food intake/expenses/living arrangement/occupation, migration
 - How do you cope with financial difficulties?
 - What makes you take up new opportunities to increase household income?
 - What kind of opportunities are good?

Climate change

- Changes observed on the ground: temperature, water availability, floods/droughts, weather patterns, crop flowering/maturing, insect egg-laying/hatching/maturing, non-crop plants, plant/animal diseases, effects on product quality/quantity
 - Has there been any change in the weather in the past years?
 - What are the effects on crop development? Animal behavior?
 - How is crop production affected? Livestock activities?
- Changes learned through other sources: mass media, communication with CBO/NGO staff/local government officials, participation in trainings/meetings
 - Do you hear about changes in weather/climate?
 - From which sources?
 - Do you think it is affecting your livelihood?
 - Do you think the climate will go back to what it was during your grandparents' time?
- Adapted coping mechanism: alteration of practices/crop types/occupation, migration
 - How do you deal with changes in weather/climate?
 - Are the measures effective?

Community and society

- Contribution of the youth
 - Are the contributions of young people different from that of their elders?
 - What are the strength of youth? Weakness?
 - How can they best contribute to household/community/society?
 - What do you think is the common aspiration for Malawian male youth? Female youth?
- Future and pathways
 - What kind of community is best for Malawi? Society?
 - What are the pathways for creating such communities? Society?

8.2.4 Consultation Questions for Community Leaders

Current perception

- How is women's participation in community life? In income generating activities?
- How is female youth's participation in community life? In income generating activities?
- How is male youth's participation in community life? In income generating activities?
- Are there mechanisms in place to engage women and youth?

Access to resources

- How do women access to land?
- How do female/male youths access to land?
- How does the community access drinking water?
- What is the source of cooking fuel? How does the community access it?
- Are there measures in place for community-based management of natural resources? If yes, do these measures involve women, young women, young men?

Access to agricultural services: extension, (rural) finance, (agricultural) marketing, etc.

- Is extension service (agriculture, livestock) available? Is the service useful?
- How do community members get information on what sells, why, where and when?

Concerns and aspirations

- What is the biggest concern of your community with respect to women?
- ... female youths?
- ... male youths?
- Are the concerns shared by all in the community?
- How do you think the concerns can be resolved?
- How do you think they may be related to the project?
- What is your future aspiration for the community with respect to women?
- ... female youths?
- ... male youths?
- Are the aspirations share by all in the community?
- How do you think they can be achieved?
- How do you think they may be related to the project?

Governance and grievance resolution

- Are women involved in community decision making?
- If not, what will be the benefits from involving them?
- Are youths involved in community decision making?
- If not, what will be the benefits from involving them?
- How are the grievances in the community solved?
- Are the decisions different if the case is solved in the community or brought to the local official court?
- What are the benefits of each one?

Climate change

- Changes observed on the ground: temperature, water availability, floods/droughts, weather patterns, crop flowering/maturing, insect egg-laying/hatching/maturing, non-crop plants, plant/animal diseases, effects on product quality/quantity
 - Has there been any change in the weather in the past years?
 - What are the effects on crop development? Animal behavior?
- Changes learned through other sources: mass media, communication with CBO/NGO staff/local government officials, participation in trainings/meetings
 - Do you hear about changes in weather/climate?
 - From which sources?
 - Do you think it is affecting communities' livelihoods?
- Adapted coping mechanism: alteration of practices/crop types/occupation, migration
 - How do you deal with changes in weather/climate?
 - Are the measures effective?

PART II: GENDER ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

277. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) is the project tool which ensures that gender mainstreaming is clearly visible in the implementation of project's activities. The GAP reinforces all project activities and sub-activities from a gender and social inclusion perspective, and includes clear targets, gender design features and measurable indicators ensuring women's participation and benefits.

2. GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION APPROACHES, TARGETING AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

278. **EbAM's gender and social inclusion approaches.** The project will rely on the use of the Dimitra Clubs and the Household approach (HHA), two methodologies that have proven being effective in terms of community engagement, social mobilization and inclusion, collective action, gender equality and equitable sharing of decision-making power both at household and community levels.

279. At community level: Described as voluntary and informal groups of rural women, men, young women and young men which discuss common problems and seek solutions by acting together and using their own locally available resources/capacities, the Dimitra Clubs²²⁶ are an appropriate entry point to mobilize and engage all community members (women, men, female and male youth) in the entire catchment management process. Set-up and operationalized at village level, the Clubs stimulate active and voluntary participation of the whole community, whether it concerns discussions, decision-making or actions; and will allow each community member to become an agent of change. They will provide a space for consultation between the various technical committees existing at village level (Village Natural Resource Management Committee, Village Agriculture Committee, Village Development Committee, etc.), which will be a good starting point for the development of integrated VLAPs. The Clubs enable members to discuss any subject and access relevant information that responds to their needs. The approach contributes to improving ownership, autonomy and sustainability of the clubs' initiatives, and strengthens the willingness to make change and take actions. Indeed, the Clubs belong to their members, and it is they who manage them and decide how they should be run (e.g., subject to be discussed, frequency of meetings, types of monitoring, etc.). Since communication, interaction and networking are at the core of the approach, the Clubs will amplify the impact of capacity development, particularly those related to the adoption of EbA solutions in the EbAM context, whether carried out through the FFS or other channels. As the development and implementation of VLAPs advance, the Clubs will also give a space for redressing any grievance that may arise.

²²⁶ Dimitra Clubs: a unique approach, FAO, 2015

Box 1 – Dimitra Clubs

Dimitra Club consists of self-managed groups of various gender compositions, which organize meetings to discuss common problems and determine ways to address them by acting together and using local resources.^{cccxlvi} The meetings are organized by Dimitra Club Caretakers (or Supervisors) who are chosen among the village residents for each Club. Agriculture, climate change, education, health, infrastructure, nutrition and women's status are some of the most common topics dealt with by the Clubs.^{cccxlvi} Six thousand Clubs with 180,000 members have been established in the past ten years in Burundi, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Senegal,^{cccxlvi} indicating the Club's wide applicability and replicability. They have had success in: reconciling long-standing political disputes; mobilizing to adapt to climate change; establishing credit cooperatives to avoid debt; and improving nutritional security by challenging dietary taboos.^{cccxlvi}

In May 2022, the system was introduced to Malawi for piloting in 20 villages in the Districts of Mangochi and Kasungu. The changes observed so far in the involved communities are initiatives to: actively participate in natural resource and catchment management and engage in open discussions with other social groups (i.e., dialogues among women, men and youths). The Clubs have been considered a success beyond expectations by the Malawi press,^{cccxlvii} and EbAM will put this successful approach at scale.

280. At household level: The household approach²²⁷ will be implemented within households engaged in farming for home consumption and income generation. The approach aims at empowering all household members (male and female, adults and youth) to have better gender or power relations that will enable equitable access to and control over resources, assets and benefits. In the Malawian context, the approach will also enable household members to identify and address HIV and other issues²²⁸ which results in improved livelihood of all household members. The purpose is to guide women, men and youth household members in participatory dialogues that help them understand their household livelihoods, needs, challenges, roles, gender norms and their connection to poverty. Family members develop a common vision that takes into account the aspirations of all as a family and whose implementation is carried out in a participatory manner. Since the methodology facilitates reflection, behavioural change and household planning through gender-sensitive participation; it is expected to particularly lead to the improvement of gender and power relations in the household, and also to the increase of household incomes and food and nutrition security as well as openness on HIV and AIDS and any other issues due to increased knowledge and skills for both women and men, and assertiveness of women and youth. HHA will promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the importance of adaptation to climate change in the household participatory need assessments, vision setting and planning. Lead families and male champions will promote gender equality through action learning.

²²⁷ Household Approach Implementation Manual for Extension Workers and Local Facilitators, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Department of Agriculture Extension Services, 2016

²²⁸ HIV and AIDS issues are at the core of the HH approach promoted and institutionalized by the Ministry of Agriculture at country level

Box 2 – Household Methodology

Culturally prescribed roles along gender lines drive women and men to pursue different household strategies, often disjointed. The household methodology shifts our focus from what women do not possess to what the family members aspire to, in particular, what they want to become, what they want to be engaged in and how they can achieve these goals. The methodology's objective is for family members to create a common vision for the household through guided dialogues among them, which allow women and men to understand and challenge gender norms and their connection to poverty. The methodology facilitates reflection, behavioral change and household planning through gender-sensitive participation.

One of the tools for such participation is a roadmap for realizing the family vision. The exercise of elaborating a map brings family members together to share ideas on what a better life consists of and how they can work together to escape poverty. It includes analysis of the present and the past, as well as opportunities and challenges that the family faces. Another tool is a gender balance tree. Collective tree drawing by family members directs their attention to household roles and responsibility related to production, reproduction, assets and decision-making, in addition to the benefits that the arrangement accords to each member. A social empowerment map invites participants to analyze the relationships of the stakeholders with the family vision and to identify the flow of power, money and love. For ensuring effective results, implementation of the methodology typically lasts three years or more.

The methodology has been adopted by various agencies, including IFAD, Oxfam Novib, World Food Programme, UN Women and FAO, in Uganda, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Congo, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua and so on.^{cccxvii} The results obtained include not only gender empowerment, but also diversification of income, acquisition of household assets, improvement in education, decrease in conflicts and increase in savings.^{cccxviii}

Household methodology is widely used in Malawi and reported quite successful. Some of the most prominent cases are: Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs' Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and Enterprise Programme (FARMSE; 2018-2025, USD 57.7 million); and FAO/IFAD/WFP's Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture (JP GTA; 2019-2022, EUR 5 million). At the same time, informal reporting indicates that there is room for improvement in implementation in Malawi, e.g., engage household members in dialogues, instead of raising awareness of just one household member. The Sub-Activity fills this gap.

281. Apart from climate change adaptation issues which are at the core of the project, the use of the clubs and the household approach will help address gender and social inclusion related issues that constitute core barriers to adaptation. A specific focus will be put on (i) gender and sex; (ii) advantages and disadvantages of gender-specific roles and tasks; (iii) gender-based violence (GBV) and Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), including masculinities and patriarchy; (iv) Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process; (v) teenage pregnancy/marriage and school dropout; (vi) examples, motives and results of gender discrimination and social exclusion; and (vii) gender and social inclusion in community development and welfare, including food and nutrition security. For the latter, the implementation of FFS under Component 2 will also allow discussing the impact of integrated mix-farming systems on food diversity and availability, and on food and nutrition security.

282. The project will adopt a 'zero-tolerance approach' to SEAH. It will give specific attention on mitigating risk of GBV and SEAH, particularly on vulnerable groups including female-headed households, women and children, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. Mitigation measures to prevent and grievance redress mechanisms to respond to arising issues will be developed in close consultation with the identified at-risk groups. The project will set up a comprehensive GRM comprising four parallel systems: (i) a community-based system, (ii) a project-level GRM, (iii) the FAO-level GRM and (iv) the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). This will allow individuals to select a community based (usually considered as the channel preferred by women as less formal) or more formal channel to lodge a grievance and file complaints. It must ensure the availability of effective grievance mechanisms accessible to women, girls and the vulnerable groups at risk that minimize the reporting burden on victims, offer gender-sensitive services and minimize the risk of retaliation. Those mechanisms should contain specific procedures for GBV and

SEAH, including confidential reporting with secure and ethical documentation. SEAH complaints will be monitored and information will be compiled in progress reports. The effectiveness of mitigation measures will also be assessed. With identified cases, the project should orient GBV and SEAH victims towards existing support services, including health services, psychosocial support, legal advice, police surveillance, and shelters. A series of capacity buildings and awareness-raising activities that consider GBV and SEAH issues are planned to strengthen stakeholders' capacity at various levels: trainings of ILM facilitators, traditional and community leaders; preparation and implementation of safeguards document at VLAP level in alignment with the project ESMP; awareness raising on gender and social inclusion, including SEAH and GBV in the VNRMC and SCMC charter revision and member selection processes; mainstreaming of Gender and Social Inclusion including a focus on SEAH and GBV into the trainings of VNRMC and SCMC members. The use of Dimitra Clubs and Household approach will also promote open discussions on these subjects at both community and household levels. With the collaboration of the National Environmental and Social Safeguards specialist and Environmental District Officers, the Gender and Social Inclusion specialist will be in charge of the monitoring, reviewing, improving and reporting the progress in addressing GBV and SEAH. The project staff will also be trained to raise their sensitiveness on the subject and support the zero-tolerance approach to SEAH promoted by the project.

283. Project beneficiaries and targeting. The project is expected to directly benefit about 61,549 households and about 270,820 individuals (considering the 2018 Population and Housing Census estimates of 4.4 person per rural household) vulnerable to climate-change. Women located in the project areas represent 52 percent of the total population, and the quota of women directly targeted in project activities is 60 percent. The project targets as a priority smallholder farmers living in rural areas, women, men, female and male youth, who are considered the most vulnerable to climate change. The targeting approach is combined with criteria of local vulnerability to climate change, poverty and specific criteria according to the activity promoted.

284. The project will specifically target:

- Vulnerable households living in targeted catchments including poor rural households of farmers, households headed by young women, widows or women abandoned by their husbands;
- Farmers' organizations and associations in the intervention zone, which will be identified in each village under selected micro watersheds and involved in VLAPs development process;
- Women farmers' groups and associations living in the intervention area and involved in VLAPs development process;
- Young women and men and youth groups in the intervention area who are interested in participating in project activities, particularly in public works, digitalization and agriculture related services;
- Middle-income and better-off farmers living in targeted catchments;
- SMEs present in the targeted areas, working on identified value chains under the market analysis and preferred crops identified by EbAM.

285. The selection of beneficiary households and individuals will be made: (i) at geographic level of intervention (village) following communication and awareness-raising operations undertaken by the project's implementing partners; and (ii) on the basis of specific criteria developed in participatory manner for each activity. EbAM implementation approach will thus be essentially demand-driven: beneficiaries will be identified based on their interest and motivation to engage in project activities.

286. EbAM will ensure that the identified target groups participate and benefit from the project activities. It will combine various targeting mechanisms including geographic targeting, direct targeting, community-based targeting and self-targeting.

287. **Geographic targeting** includes different stages (detailed in section 1.4 from the Feasibility Study):

- Identification of the districts and Water Resource Units (WRU) (that are on average more than 150,000 ha) based on the climate vulnerability analysis (see section 1.4 for details). These are the higher administrative and watershed level areas identified;
- Identification of sub-catchments inside the WRUs. This level coincides with approximately TA level (1,500-45,000 ha). This is the level where sub-catchment committees (SCMC) will be supported, and SCMP formulated;
- Identification and consultation of villages and communities part of the watersheds as possible project beneficiaries, at micro-catchment level (500-1,500 ha). This is the level where VNRCs will be supported, and VLAPs formulated and implemented.

288. EbAM's **direct targeting** will orient project supports to specific groups (e.g. poor households, young women who dropped out of school due to teenage pregnancy/early marriage, young men candidates for immigration, etc.) based on vulnerability criteria and technical criteria specific for each activity. The setting of quota will also help in this regard, notably the project ambitions to reach 60 percent of women among directly targeted individuals for sub-activities. More widely, EbAM will directly and indirectly benefit 52% women. Vulnerability and poverty criteria will be established at the start of the project, to ensure that the most vulnerable (low income, less educated, female heads of households) benefits from the project. EbAM will also put in place empowerment measures to secure vulnerable groups' participation (inclusive social engineering process, capacity building, etc.).

289. In line with the community-based natural resource management approach, the project will also rely on **community-based targeting mechanism**. This approach implies consultations with the relevant communities and other local stakeholders (community leaders, etc.) in the selection of project potential beneficiaries. The use of the Dimitra Clubs' approach will support the project community-based targeting.

290. The project will also consider **self-targeting** approach which includes the provision of goods and services that are aligned with the priorities, needs, assets, capacities and livelihood strategies of identified differentiated target groups. Self-targeting relies on the knowledge of project areas of intervention and allows individuals, producer organizations and entrepreneurs to decide for themselves whether to participate in the various project activities or request support from the project. The following points relate to some self-targeting elements identified during design field missions and gender assessment consultations: interest of women, men and community members in climate change adaptation activities; women and young people's will to run their own business/income generating activities; micro and small enterprises' interest in receiving technical and financial support from the project; producer/women organizations 'will to participate and create commercial relationships with other market players; small entrepreneurs who show interest in developing opportunities and services that can contribute to local pro-poor economic and social development dynamics; etc.

291. **Implementation mechanisms.** The coordination of the day-to-day implementation of the Gender Action Plan will be the responsibility of a Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist, who will be recruited by the project. The Specialist will work as part of the Central Project Implementation Unit (CPIU) within FAO (as Executing Entity - EE) and under the direct supervision of the Project

Coordinator. The Specialist will closely collaborate with other project-recruited staff responsible for the implementation of project activities at national and regional levels. The Specialist will also collaborate with other EEs and implementing partners to ensure adequate integration of gender-differentiated needs as well as those of youth into the complementary support that the Entities provide for the project.

292. Regarding project management, the Specialist must ensure that the planning, implementation of all project activities, monitoring and evaluation and reporting are gender sensitive and socially inclusive, and consider GBV and SEAH issues. EbAM's logical framework and monitoring and evaluation system includes recommended measurable indicators for women and youth that allow assessing the sensitivity of project's component and sub-component to these groups. Data collection during project implementation will be gender and age disaggregated. The various technical and progress reports should consider gender-disaggregated information and analysis. At mid-term and project completion, the co-benefit on "Gender equality, women empowerment and inclusion" relating the qualitative change on GEWE will be monitored. It will be measured through the percentage of women perceiving improved support for women's empowerment from men.

293. As for gender and youth specific activities, the implementation of the Dimitra Clubs approach will be carried out by 30 ILM facilitators recruited through NGOs (see Annex 2, sub-component 1.1). Facilitators as well as some traditional/community leaders and other key figures (who will be trained on the Dimitra Clubs Approach) will be in charge of sensitizing local authorities and communities on the approach, setting-up the clubs and train Dimitra "caretakers" from the communities. Regarding health issues such as HIV and AIDS, apart from their consideration at the core of the household approach, the project will involve Community Health Committee members in the Dimitra clubs and will refer beneficiaries to the health surveillance assistants working in the localities. As for the household approach, EbAM will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture for its implementation. Within DAES, the Agriculture gender roles extension support services offices (AGRESSO) will take the lead through Agricultural extension development officers (AEDO) who have already been trained on the methodology. Extension officers will work with local male and female farmers called local facilitators and will train them on the HHA as well as on the HHA's facilitation methodology. These local facilitators will then promote the use of HHA to peer households. The AEDOs should monitor the implementation of the approach both for local facilitators and peer households.

294. With regards to the budget allocated for gender and youth mainstreaming activities, budget provisions have been affected in the various sub-components. They are summarized in the Gender Action Plan table (Table 13), with the details indicated in the project budget. The budget column below indicates the amounts that are to be spent directly on women and female youths. Budget for activities that indirectly benefit them is not included. In other words, the total amount of funds that women and female youths benefit from is larger than what is shown in the table below.

2. GENDER ACTION PLAN

Table 13: EbAM Gender Action Plan

Gender Action Plan of the project " Ecosystems-based Adaptation for resilient Watersheds and Communities in Malawi (EbAM)"				
Project Expected Results	Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibility	Budget
GCF x level: Reduced emissions and increased resilience				
Core Indicator 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached	Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries. <u>Direct:</u> <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 270,820 (140,826 women, including female youths)</i> <u>Indirect:</u> <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 304,035 (158,098 women, including female youths)</i>	By end of Project Year 6	FAO (as Executing Entity), particularly National M&E Specialist	Reaching women beneficiaries requires 52% of total project budget i.e. US\$ 26,652,738.84
	Percentage of direct beneficiaries relative to total population. <u>Direct:</u> <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 1.54 % (1,55% of total women, including female youths)</i> <u>Indirect:</u> <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 1,73 % (1,74% of total women, including female youths)</i>	By end of Project Year 6	FAO (as Executing Entity), particularly National M&E Specialist	
Supplementary 2.1: Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options	Number of beneficiaries adopting EbA solutions. <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 270,820 direct beneficiaries (140,826 women, including female youth)</i>	By end of Project Year 6	FAO (as Executing Entity), particularly National M&E Specialist	Reaching women beneficiaries requires 52% of total project budget i.e. US\$ 26,652,738.84, 80 percent of them are expected to adopt EbA solutions.

Supplementary 2.2: Beneficiaries (female/male) with improved food security		Number of beneficiaries adopting EbA solutions. <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 270,820 direct beneficiaries (140,826 women, including female youth)</i>			By end of Project Year 6						FAO (as Executing Entity), particularly National M&E Specialist	Reaching women beneficiaries requires 52% of total project budget i.e. US\$ 26,652,738.84, 80 percent of them are expected to adopt EbA solutions.		
Core indicator 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered		Sequestration of tons CO2e (net balance) <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: -2,750,323 tCO2eq</i>			In 20 years						FAO (as Executing Entity), particularly National M&E Specialist	Reaching this indicator requires 100% of the budget i.e. US\$ 51,255,267		
Core indicator 4: Hectares of natural resources brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice		Hectares of farmland cropped with EbA measures. <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 83,240 Hectares</i>			By end of Project Year 6						FAO (as Executing Entity), particularly National M&E Specialist	Reaching this indicator requires US\$ 32,857,094		
Co-benefit 24: Gender equality, women empowerment and inclusion		% of women perceiving improved support for women's empowerment from men <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 60%</i>			At mid-term and project completion						FAO (as Executing Entity), particularly National M&E Specialist	Reaching this indicator does not require additional budget.		
GAP Expected Outcomes, Activities and Targets													Cost	
Project activity/ sub-activity	GAP activity	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Y 6	Responsibility	Exclusively dedicated for GAP	Included in Project Activity	
Component 1: Integrated Landscape Management Component's Outcomes: GHG emission reduction from improved watershed ecosystems & Climate resilience of watershed ecosystems is increased <i>Expected gender outcomes:</i> Women and female youth have meaningful participation in the planning and implementation process to increase the climate resilience of integrated landscape/watershed ecosystem. This outcome will be achieved through capacity strengthening of women and female youth on EbA, capacity strengthening of all stakeholders on gender and social inclusion, establishment of a gender-sensitive support mechanisms (facilitators, technical assistance, etc.), promotion of participatory approach in the different processes (catchment selection, resource inventorying, charter revision, etc.), promotion of women's engagement in various resource management structures (VNRMC, SCMC), facilitation of women's access to inputs and equipments for the implementation of EbA based VLAPs.														

Sub-Component 1.1 Support to Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) and Sub-Catchment Management Committees (SCMCs) on EbA Planning GAP Output 1.1 Gender sensitive and socially inclusive integrated landscape management plans that include watershed ecosystems and founded on EbA are developed												
Act 1.1.1, Sub-Act 1.1.1.1	Consider socioeconomic and cultural factors in sub-catchment rapid assessment	Percentage of sub-catchment rapid assessment considering socioeconomic and cultural factors	0	100% of 30 sub-catchments rapid assessment consider socioeconomic and cultural factors						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management specialist EE: MoA/DLRC		US\$ 283,317.32
Act 1.1.1, Sub-Act 1.1.1.2	Consider socioeconomic and cultural factors in strategic selection and phasing of sub-catchments and micro-catchments	Percentage of sub-catchments and micro-catchments selection considering socioeconomic and cultural factors	0	100% of 30 sub-catchments and 111 micro catchments selection consider socioeconomic and cultural factors						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: MoA/DLRC		US\$ 8,625.24
Act 1.1.2, Sub-Act 1.1.2.1	Consider gender specific and social inclusion issues in EbA and ILM trainings	Percentage of training time spent on EbA and ILM from gender and social inclusion perspective	0	40% of training time dedicated to EbA and ILM from gender and social inclusion perspective						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 125,836.95
Act 1.1.2, Sub-Act 1.1.2.2	Strengthen the capacity of ILM facilitators, Dimitra Club Caretakers, Gender and social inclusion/HH approach facilitators, local government officials and TAs on gender and social inclusion, including on GBV and SEAH issues	Percentage of ILM facilitators, Dimitra Clubs caretakers, local government officials, TAs participating in gender and social inclusion trainings	0	100% of targeted actors participate in gender and social inclusion (including GBV and SEAH issues) trainings						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO	US\$ 1,979,521.73	

Act 1.1.3, Sub-Act 1.1.3.1	Promote women/female youth's participation in VNRMC Charter revision and member selection	Percentage of women/female youth participating in VNRMC Charter revision and member selection	TBD	60%/15% of participants are women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO	Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
	Ensure VNRMC Charter elaboration/revision include discussions on NRM gender specific issues, gender sensitive member selection methods and inclusive and meaningful membership	Percentage of discussion time spent on NRM gender specific issues, gender sensitive member selection methods and inclusive and meaningful membership	TBD	40% of discussion time are spent on NRM gender specific issues, member selection methods and inclusive and meaningful membership								
	Ensure VNRMC charter elaboration/revision and member selection processes integrate awareness raising on gender and social inclusion, including SEAH and GBV	Percentage of VNRMC charter revision and member selection processes integrating awareness raising on gender and social inclusion, including SEAH and GBV	0	100% of VNRMC charter revision and member selection processes integrate awareness raising on gender and social inclusion, including SEAH and GBV								
	Promote women's engagement in VNRMC	Percentage of women/female youth among VNRMC members	TBD	35%/20% of VNRMC members are women/female youth								
Act 1.1.3, Sub-Act 1.1.3.2	Apart from EbA implementation trainings, ensure that VNRMC members' capacity in gender and social inclusion are strengthened	Percentage of VNRMC members participating in gender and social inclusion trainings	0	100% of VNRMC members participate in gender and social inclusion trainings							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO	US\$ 190,162.66
Act 1.1.3, Sub-Act 1.1.3.3	Promote women/female youth participation in the drafting and finalizing of EbA-based VLAP process	Percentage of women/female youth participating in the drafting and	TBD	60%/15% of participants are women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration	US\$ 96,903.00

		finalizing of EbA-based VLA process									with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO		
	Ensure the process of drafting and finalizing of EbA-based VLAP include discussions on watershed management issues from gender and social inclusion perspective	Percentage of discussion time spent on watershed management issues from gender and social inclusion perspective	TBD	40% of discussion time are spent on watershed management issues from gender and social inclusion perspective									
Act 1.1.4, Sub-Act 1.1 4.1	Promote women/female youth's participation in SCMC Charter revision and member selection	Percentage of women/female youth participating in the discussions	TBD	60%/15% of participants are women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
	Ensure SCMC Charter elaboration/revision and member selection include discussions on SMC gender specific issues, gender-sensitive member selection methods and inclusive and meaningful membership	Percentage of discussion time spent on SMC gender specific issues, gender-sensitive member selection methods and inclusive and meaningful membership	TBD	40% of discussion time are spent on SCM gender specific issues, gender-sensitive member selection methods and inclusive and meaningful membership									
	Ensure SCMC charter elaboration/revision and member selection processes integrate awareness raising on gender and social inclusion, including SEAH and GBV	Percentage of VNRMC charter revision and member selection processes integrating awareness raising on gender and social inclusion, including SEAH and GBV	0	100% of VNRMC charter revision and member selection processes integrate awareness raising on gender and social inclusion, including SEAH and GBV									
	Promote women's engagement in SCMC	Percentage of women/female youth among SCMC members	TBD	35%/20% of SCMC members are women/female youth									
Act 1.1.4, Sub-Act 1.1 4.2	Apart from EbA implementation trainings, ensure that SCMC members' capacity in	Percentage of SCMC members participating in	0	100% of SCMC members participate in gender and social inclusion trainings							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration		US\$ 17,200.76

	gender and social inclusion are strengthened	gender and social inclusion trainings									with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO		
Act 1.1.4, Sub-Act 1.1 4.3	Promote women/female youth participation in the drafting and finalizing of EbA-based SCMP	Percentage of women/female youth participating in process	TBD	60%/15% of participants are women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
	Ensure the process of drafting and finalizing of EbA-based SCMP include discussions on watershed management issues from gender and social inclusion perspective	Percentage of discussion time spent on watershed management issues from gender and social inclusion perspective	TBD	40% of discussion time are spent on watershed management issues from gender and social inclusion perspective									
Sub-component 1.2: Implementation of VLAPs based on EbA													
GAP Output 1.2: Gender sensitive and socially inclusive integrated landscape management plans that include watershed ecosystems and founded on EbA are implemented													
Act 1.2.1, Sub-Act 1.2.1.1	Ensure ILM and technical facilitators recruited include women	Percentage of female ILM and technical facilitators recruited	TBD	25% of ILM and technical facilitators are female							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 2,161,612.81
Act 1.2.1, Sub-Act 1.2.1.2	Promote women/female youth participation in the planning process to initiate VLAP implementation	Percentage of women/female youth participating in process	0	60%/15% of participants are women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: MoA/DLRC		US\$ 71,928
	Ensure the planning process to initiate VLAP implementation include discussions on gender sensitive division of labor and related inputs and equipments	Percentage of discussion time spent on gender sensitive division of labor and related inputs and equipments	0	40% of discussion time are spent on gender sensitive division of labor and related inputs and equipments									

Act 1.2.2, Sub-Act 1.2.2.1	Ensure that female VNRMC members participate in process of acquiring inputs and equipments (namely in the definition of technical specifications)	Percentage of female ²²⁹ VNRMC members participating in process of acquiring of inputs and equipments	TBD	100% of female VNRMC members							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: NLGFC	US\$ 5,253,591.58
	Ensure women receive inputs and equipments	Percentage of women ²³⁰ receiving inputs and equipments	0	60% of women receiving inputs and equipments								
Act 1.2.2, Sub-Act 1.2.2.2	Ensure that technical assistance provided considers women and youth specific issues	Percentage of ILM facilitators assisting in finding solutions for women and youth specific problems	0	100% of ILM facilitators							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Management Specialist EE: MoA/DLRC	US\$ 195,186
	Ensure women and female youth participate in the monitoring of VLAP implementation	Proportion of women/female youth participating in VLAP implementation participatory monitoring	0	52%/15% of women/female youth micro-catchment residents								
Component 2: Resilient livelihoods and food systems Component 2 Outcome: Productivity and farmers' incomes are stabilized thanks to more resilient livelihoods and food systems <i>Expected gender outcomes: Women and female youth farmers' productivity and incomes are stabilized thanks to more resilient livelihoods and food systems. This outcome will be achieved through capacity strengthening of women and female youth on EbA solutions, business management and marketing; facilitation of women and female youth's access to climate information and adapted inputs (genetic materials, seeds, etc.); support to women and female youth on market access and entrepreneurship development as well as on access to adapted financial services for climate resilient investment solutions.</i>												
Sub-Component 2.1: Promotion of EbA-based production systems <i>GAP Output 2.1 Gender sensitive and socially inclusive EbA measures and inputs are promoted among women, youth and men farmers</i>												
Act 2.1.1, Sub-act 2.1.1.1	Ensure master trainers and facilitators include women	Percentage of female ²³¹ master trainers and facilitators	0	60% of master trainers and facilitators are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: FAO	US\$ 904,200

²²⁹ Including female youth

²³⁰ Including female youth

²³¹ Including female youth

Act 2.1.1, Sub-act 2.1.1.2	Implement women-only ²³² FFS	Percentage of women-only FFS implemented	0	40% of FFS implemented are women-only/female youth-only							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 1,192,661.60
Act 2.1.1, Sub-act 2.1.1.3	Consider women and youth specific issues in FFS rolling out	Percentage of AEDOs and AEDCs assisting in finding solutions for women and youth specific issues in the FFS	0	100% of AEDOs and AEDCs							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: MoA		US\$ 1,370,205
Act 2.1.2, Sub-act 2.1.2.1	Involve women/female youth in the development of knowledge management strategy and of EbA related knowledge products	Percentage of women/female youth beneficiaries and implementing partners consulted for the development of knowledge management strategy and EbA related knowledge products	0	60%/15% of women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 2.1.2, Sub-act 2.1.2.2	Promote women/female youth participation in visits and exchanges	Percentage of women/female youth participating in visits and exchanges	0	60%/15% of visit and exchange participants are women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 552,000
Act 2.1.2, Sub-act 2.1.2.3	Facilitate women ²³³ access to climate information	Percentage of women accessing to climate information	0	50% of women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 218,429

²³² Including female-youth only FFS

²³³ Including female youth

Act 2.1.3, Sub-act 2.1.3.1	Involve women/female youth in the selection/choice of genetic materials	Percentage of women/female youth participating in the selection/choice of genetic resources	0	60%/15% of women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: FAO	US\$ 600,000
	Make sure genetic material promoted corresponds to women's interest ²³⁴	Percentage of genetic material corresponding to women's interest	0	50% ²³⁵ of genetic material corresponding to women's interest								
	Ensure women/female youth are involved in the multiplication and dissemination of genetic material	Percentage of women/female youth involved in the multiplication and dissemination of genetic material	0	60%/20% of women/female youth								
Act 2.1.3, Sub-act 2.1.3.2	Make sure endangered and native seeds and tree seedlings corresponds to women's interest	Percentage of endangered and native seeds and tree seedlings corresponding to women's interest	0	50% of endangered and native seeds and tree seedlings corresponding to women's interest							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: FAO	Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 2.1.3, Sub-act 2.1.3.3	Prioritize women-sensitive ²³⁶ seed multipliers	Percentage of women seed multipliers	0	60% of seed multipliers are women-sensitive							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist EE: FAO	US\$ 234,000
Act 2.1.3, Sub-act 2.1.3.4	Involve women/female youth in discussions related to establishment of nursery and community seed bank	Percentage of women/female youth involved in discussions related to establishment of nursery and	0	60%/15% of women/female youth							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agro-Ecology & EbA Specialist	Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring

²³⁴ Since men and women are interested in different crops, the project must ensure their interest are considered in the selection of genetic material. Men are more interested in cash crops and women have much interest in nutrition sensitive and medicinal crops

²³⁵ The remaining 50% should allow taking into account crops that are of men's interest

²³⁶ Women-sensitive relates to women individuals or women-only/female dominated groups

		community seed bank									EE: FAO		significant specific budget
	Involve women/female youth in the management of nursery and community seed bank	Percentage of women ²³⁷ involved in management of nursery and community seed bank	0	35% of nursery and community seed bank managers are women									
Sub-component 2.2: Market access and entrepreneurship development GAP Output 2.2 Private sector is incentivized to invest in gender-sensitive and socially inclusive climate-resilient agriculture; and women and female youth farmers have better access to markets													
Act 2.2.1, Sub-act 2.2.1.1	Encourage the expression of interest of 4P partners sensitive to gender ²³⁸	Percentage of 4P partners sensitive to gender	0	100% of 4P partners							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 2.2.1, Sub-act 2.2.1.2	Prioritize women sensitive ²³⁹ EbA farmer organizations which have the potential to engage in 4Ps	Percentage of women ²⁴⁰ engaged in the 4Ps	0	At least 50 percent of 4P members are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 60,200
	Ensure that the capacity of female 4P members in the process of 4P agreement and operations is strengthened	Percentage of female 4P members strengthened	0	100% of female 4P members are strengthened									
Act 2.2.1, Sub-act 2.2.1.3	Make sure that 4P Business Plans considers the constraints and needs of each player including	Percentage of women-sensitive 4P business plans considering women specific issues	0	100% of women sensitive 4P business plan							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness		US\$ 94,260

²³⁷ Including female youth

²³⁸ Sensitivity to gender relates to experience in promoting women 's business and activities

²³⁹ Women-sensitive relates to women individuals or women-only/female dominated groups

²⁴⁰ Including female youth

	women sensitive EbA farmer organizations										and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		
Act 2.2.1, Sub-act 2.2.1.4	Ensure that advisory support considers women and youth specific issues related to 4P arrangement and implementation	Percentage of 4P partner finding solutions for women specific problems in the 4P implementation	0	100% of 4P partners							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 77,280
Act 2.2.2, Sub-act 2.2.2.1	Promote women's involvement in the discussions related to MSMEs establishment	Percentage of women engaged in the discussions	0	60% of participants in the discussions are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 253,800
	Prioritize the establishment of women sensitive ²⁴¹ groups/MSMEs	Percentage of women in established groups/MSMEs	0	50% of group/MSME members are women									
Act 2.2.2, Sub-act 2.2.2.2	Make sure that Business Plans considers the constraints and needs of women involved in MSMEs	Percentage of women-sensitive business plans solving women specific issues	0	100% of women-sensitive business plans							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 174,900
Act 2.2.2, Sub-act 2.2.2.3	Ensure that support provided in consolidation of business operations considers women specific issues related to 4P	Percentage of institutional development experts assisting in finding solutions for women specific issues for consolidation of business operations	0	100% of institutional development experts							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		US\$ 178,200
Act 2.2.3, Sub-act 2.2.3.1	Consider highlighting/giving visibility to the contribution of women in EbA produce in the creation of the brand	Brand created giving visibility to women's contribution in EbA	0	1 brand created							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU in collaboration with Agribusiness		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring

²⁴¹ Women-sensitive relates to women individuals or women-only/female dominated groups

											and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		significant specific budget
Act 2.2.3, Sub-act 2.2.3.2	Convey the message on the added value of women's contribution in EbA produce in the marketing campaign	Number of marketing campaign conveying the message on the added value of women's contribution in EbA	0	At least 1 marketing campaign per year							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
	Make sure to reach out to women and youth audiences by ensuring the deployment of specific media best suited to that audience	Number of specific media deployed to reach out to women and youth audiences	0	At least 1 specific media reaching out to women audience and 1 specific media reaching out to youth audience									
Act 2.2.3, Sub-act 2.2.3.3	Give visibility to women's role while linking EbA produce to traditional cuisine	TBD	0	TBD							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Sub-component 2.3. Access to finance for climate resilient investment solutions													
GAP Output 2.3 Women and female youth's financial inclusion is enhanced and enable them to access adapted financial services for their EbA investments													
Act 2.3.1, Sub-act 2.3.1.1	Consider the experience of women and female youth sensitive VSLAs in the study on sustainability of the CBFO model	Study considering the experience of women and female youth sensitive VSLAs	0	1 study							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE		US\$ 1,915,469.59
	Adjust the VSLA model to integrate the results of the study and to overcome women and female youth's financial issues	Percentage of women and female youth members having solved financial problems through VSLA membership	0	80% of women and female youth VSLA members									
	Promote women and female youth's participation/membership in VSLAs	Percentage of women and female youth VSLA members	0	50%/15% of VSLA members are women/female youth									

Act 2.3.1, Sub-act 2.3.1.2	Consult women and female youth VSLA members in the study on VSLA members access to agriculture finance including linkages with formal financial institutions (FFIs)	Percentage of women female youth VSLA members consulted when conducting the study	0	60%/15% of VSLA members consulted are women/female youth						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE	Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 2.3.1, Sub-act 2.3.1.3	Consult women and youth VSLA members in the elaboration of knowledge products	Percentage of women/ female youth VSLA members consulted in the elaboration of knowledge products	0	60%/15% of VSLA members consulted are women/female youth						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE	Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 2.3.2, Sub-act 2.3.2.1	Support FFIs to consider women and female youth's needs and constraints in the development of innovative and adapted financial services	Percentage of products that have adapted features for women and youths	0	100% of developed products						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE	Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 2.3.2, Sub-act 2.3.2.2	Support women and female youth access to formal financial services through supported FFIs	Percentage of women and female youth accessing formal financial services through supported FFIs	TBD	35%/15% of beneficiaries accessing formal financial services through supported FFIs are women/female youth						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE	US\$ 271,544.57
(still sub-activity 2.3.2.2)	Consult women and youth VSLA members in the elaboration of knowledge products	Percentage of women/ female youth VSLA members consulted in the elaboration of knowledge products	0	60%/15% of VSLA members consulted are women/female youth						Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE	Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant

													specific budget
Act 2.3.3, Sub-act 2.3.3.1	Consider gender, female-youth and youth issues in the study of potential financial instruments providers that MoF/FARMSE could partner with for linkages with its partner FFIs	Study of potential financial instruments providers that MoF/FARMSE could partner with for linkages with its partner FFIs considering gender, female-youth and youth issues	0	1 study							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 2.3.3, Sub-act 2.3.3.2	Consider gender, female-youth and youth issues when linking partner FFIs with identified financial instruments providers	Percentage of gender and youth-sensitive partnership established	0	100% of partnership established are gender and youth-sensitive							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE		
Act 2.3.4, Sub-act 2.3.4.1	Consider gender, female-youth and youth issues in the study of potential impact investment funds that MoF/FARMSE could partner with for linkages with supported agri-SMEs	Study of potential impact investment funds that MoF/FARMSE could partner with for linkages with supported agri-SMEs considering gender, female-youth and youth issues	0	1 study							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 2.3.4, Sub-act 2.3.4.2	Consider women-led/owned SMEs when facilitating the link with impact investment funds	Number of women led /owned SMEs linked to Impact investment funds	0	At least 1 women led/owned SMEs linked to Impact investment funds							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU, in collaboration with Agribusiness and Finance Specialist EE: MoF/FARMSE		US\$ 5,026

Component 3: Enabling institutional and financial environment Component 3 Outcome: The enabling environment (finance and policies) to sustain and scale-up climate resilient landscape, watershed ecosystems and agriculture practices is enhanced. Expected gender outcomes: A gender-sensitive enabling environment (finance and policies) to sustain and scale-up gender-sensitive and socially inclusive climate resilient landscape, watershed ecosystems and agriculture practices is enhanced. This outcome will be achieved through support to the development of gender policy and action plan by main national partners, promotion of women's participation in the various capacity development activity, consideration of gender aspects and principles (including women's involvement in processes) in the conduct of various studies and assessment and development of policy briefs and policy plan, and promotion of women's participation in the implementation of PIP including policy dialogue.												
Sub-component 3.1. Leveraging public and private climate finance GAP Output 3.1: Sustainable and innovative gender sensitive and socially inclusive public and private climate financing are in place through NCCF, local trusts and the leveraging of private sector's experience on carbon credit												
Act 3.1.1. Sub-act 3.1.1.1	Support NCCF to develop a gender policy and action plan	Number of gender policy and action plan developed	0	1 gender policy and action plan developed							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO	US\$ 12,730
Act 3.1.1. Sub-act 3.1.1.2	Make sure the building of NCCF pipeline projects and project selection consider gender and social inclusion criteria	Number of technical note developed on the gender and social inclusion criteria to be considered in the building of NCCF pipeline projects and project selection	0	1 technical note							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO	Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 3.1.1. Sub-act 3.1.1.3	Promote women's ²⁴² participation in the capacity development on EbA	Percentage of women participating in EbA trainings	0	At least 30% of training participants are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO	US\$ 7,938
Act 3.1.1. Sub-act 3.1.1.4	Promote women's ²⁴³ participation in the capacity development on climate risk analysis	Percentage of women participating in climate risk analysis trainings	0	At least 30% of training participants are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO	US\$ 7,938
Act 3.1.1. Sub-act 3.1.1.5	Promote women's ²⁴⁴ participation in the capacity development on carbon balance analysis	Percentage of women participating in carbon balance analysis trainings	0	At least 30% of training participants are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU	US\$ 9,138

²⁴² Including female youth

²⁴³ Including female youth

²⁴⁴ Including female youth

											EE: FAO		
Act 3.1.2. Sub-act 3.1.2.1	Support MEET to develop a gender policy and action plan	Number of gender policy and action plan developed	0	1 gender policy and action plan developed							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		US\$ 12,730
Act 3.1.2. Sub-act 3.1.2.2	Ensure that the study analyzes women's involvement and engagement for the development of innovative finance instruments	Number of study considering women's involvement and engagement for the development of innovative finance instruments	0	1 study considering women's involvement and engagement for the development of innovative finance instruments							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 3.1.2. Sub-act 3.1.2.3	Promote women's participation in the capacity development on M&E	Percentage of women participating in M&E trainings	0	50% of training participants are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		US\$ 9,765
Act 3.1.3, Sub-act 3.1.3.1	Ensure gap analysis consider how women can benefit from carbon credits	Number of gap analysis continuously assessing how women can benefit from carbon credits	0	1 gap analysis continuously assessing how women can benefit from carbon credits							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 3.1.3, Sub-act 3.1.3.2	Promote women's involvement in the continuous learning process	Percentage of women involved during the learning process	0	50% of stakeholders involved are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Sub-component 3.2 Scaling-up in national policies GAP Output 3.2: Gender sensitive and socially inclusive EbA and ILM are scaled-up in national policies													

Act 3.2.1, Sub-act 3.2.1.1	Conduct specific economic analysis looking at return for women-led farms at project start-up, mid-term and completion	Number of specific analysis looking at return for women-led farms	0	3 specific analysis conducted							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		US\$ 13,765
Act 3.2.1, Sub-act 3.2.1.2	Include women engagement indicators in the TAPE assessment	Number of TAPE assessment including women engagement indicators	0	1 TAPE assessment including women engagement indicators							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
Act 3.2.2, Sub-act 3.2.2.1	Ensure that policy recommendations resulting from in-depth policy review process to improve EbA mainstreaming consider gender principles	Number of policy recommendations to improve EbA mainstreaming considering gender principles	0	1 policy avec des priority							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		US\$ 45,000
Act 3.2.2, Sub-act 3.2.2.2	Promote women's participation in the dissemination of PIP	Percentage of women participating in the national seminar for PIP dissemination	0	50% of seminar participants are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		US\$ 30,000
Act 3.2.3, Sub-act 3.2.3.1	Promote women's participation in policy dialogue for PIP implementation	Percentage of women participating in policy dialogue for PIP implementation	0	50% of policy dialogue participants are women							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		US\$ 108,832
Act 3.2.3, Sub-act 3.2.3.2	Consider gender principles in the update of policies and key frameworks	Number of policies and key frameworks revised considering gender principles	0	3 Policies							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		US\$ 11,428.00
Project management													

	Strengthen the PIU and implementing partners on gender and social inclusion (including GBV and SEAH) related issues and mediation skills	Number of trainings organized on gender and social inclusion (including GBV and SEAH) related issues and mediation skills	0	12 trainings organized (1 per region per year)							Responsible officer: Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of PIU EE: FAO		Already included in the project budget, GAP activity not requiring significant specific budget
	Engagement of Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist										FAO	US\$ 255,384	
TOTAL												US\$ 2,234,905.73	US\$ 16,775,804.60