



Social Protection Programme

Highlights from March to August 2019

On 15 May 2019, in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, German Embassy, UK Department of International Development (DFID), European Union (EU) and other key stakeholders, the Social Protection Programme (SPP) was officially launched. Just three months later, the programme kicked-off in the Southern region. With financing from BMZ, DFID and the EU, and through offices in Lilongwe and Blantyre, as well as direct representation in Zomba, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Balaka and Ntcheu districts, the SPP supports the Malawian Government in the implementation of the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) II in a total of 22 districts.

Coordination for implementation of the MNSSP II

The SPP works jointly with the Division of Poverty Reduction and Social Protection on the roll out of harmonised district and community social support committees (DSSCs/CSSCs), which help to facilitate, initiate and manage community development projects. The official roll out of coordination guidelines has been completed in five districts and DSSCs are functional in Balaka and Dedza. Consultations on the most appropriate approaches for the harmonisation of community structures for social protection are ongoing.

Capacity building of district councils

While the development of course materials for the Integrated Social Protection Course at Magomero College is ongoing, its first cohort, which has more than 70 students, has commenced the certificate course. Jointly with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, the programme has strengthened the capacity of Magomero lecturers and district officers in Kasungu and Nkhosvota through the TRANSFORM training, best practices training and exchange visits to Dedza on savings and loan groups and peer learning on home grown school meals approaches.



Project objective	The system for the implementation of the Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II) is strengthened.
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), co-funded by DFID and the European Union
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Malawi
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MFEPD)
Duration	1 July 2018 to 31 December 2021
Financial volume	EUR 16.55 million

Improved management at district level

A concept note for the development of a harmonised Project Implementation Manual (PIM), which would strengthen the implementation of social support interventions by providing step-by-step guidance, was discussed with the Division of Poverty Reduction and Social Protection and the MNSSP II Technical Working Group. District-level stakeholder consultations on the PIM are ongoing.

The GIS visualisation tool for the Enhanced Public Works Programme (EPWP) pilot is being finalised and will facilitate implementation of the pilot. The GIS tool is a first step towards the development of a general dynamic district planning tool, allowing the spatial visualisation of project data. This tool will provide districts with an interactive map of existing services and projects.



Contact person

Selvi Vikan
Team Leader
selvi.vikan@giz.de

Photos left: Beneficiaries of watershed management on a tree planting exercise
Photo right: Public works beneficiaries maintaining a road © GIZ

Harmonised tools for implementation

The SPP supported the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) management team to roll out the UBR to three additional districts. To enable the roll-out and better implementation, the SPP supported the development of an issue management app, which allows district partners to easily report implementation challenges to the national team for resolution and support. A UBR sharing app that will allow partners without a management information system (MIS) integrated with the UBR to extract household data is currently being developed and a prototype is now available.

Print and radio communication materials have been developed to improve awareness about the UBR. Distribution of the materials has taken place in districts where data will be collected such as Mwanza, Neno and Nsanje. Airing of the radio spots will start on 1 November 2019 in the same districts.

The SPP supports the development of a harmonised Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP)/EPWP e-payment mechanism, which will be piloted in Balaka, using the existing SCTP e-payment mechanism. It is expected that the mechanism will be piloted from the first quarter of 2020. An e-payment modelling solution and cost efficiency analysis were conducted for a harmonised payment solution for the social protection sector and beyond. The first elements of a harmonised grievance and redress mechanism will be piloted in the EPWP.

Linking social protection to resilience measures

To improve linkages between social protection programmes and resilience measures, the SPP supports the implementation of the EPWP pilot, with a focus on watershed management, which is expected to start in November 2019. To monitor the assets created and skills developed, an evaluation team will accompany the pilot.

The programme also supports a nutrition sensitive social protection guideline to improve linkages between social protection beneficiaries and nutrition interventions.

Special feature: SPP technical launch & Southern Hub kick-off workshop

The SPP is jointly funded by BMZ, DFID and the EU. The programme supports Malawi's Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development in implementing the MNSSP II using a holistic system strengthening approach that operates both at the national and district levels.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, the Acting Director for Poverty Reduction and Social Protection, Mr Dalitso Kalimba, said that there is a lot of work that needs to be done, especially on the ground as the structures responsible for delivering social protection remain weak. He pointed out the challenge of fragmented support and commended the BMZ, EU and DFID partnership. He expressed the Government of Malawi's appreciation and assured the programme partners of the government's commitment to leadership in social protection. He reiterated that the division's overall goal is to reduce poverty and enable the poor to graduate out of poverty and vulnerability.

The acting GIZ Country Director, Mr Kornelius Schiffer, said that the aim of the programme is to strengthen coordination and capacity for the efficient delivery of social protection programmes for those suffering from poverty and hunger. The DFID Growth and Resilience Team Leader, Mr Roger Heath stressed the importance of social protection for enhancing resilience to climate shocks. He emphasised that there is a need to strengthen the social protection system for effective adaptation to climate change and that the support being channelled to this programme is a component of the overall resilience effort that DFID is supporting.

Ms Virginie Lafleur Tighe, European Union (EU) Team Leader for Social Sectors & Infrastructure, stated that the EU has endeavoured to provide social protection for the people of Malawi. Some of the efforts of this are through the support to 65,000 households that is being channelled through the SCTP. Ms Tighe expressed confidence in the co-financing partnership with BMZ and DFID, stating that it is encouraging to see different donors come together for a common cause.

The SPP is operating from both central and southern hubs as a way of ensuring support to the district councils. A kick-off workshop for the SPP's 11 southern hub districts (Zomba, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Machinga, Nsanje, Blantyre, Neno, Mwanza, Chiradzulu, Phalombe, and Thyolo) was conducted on 7 August 2019. Mr Dalitso Kalimba, Acting Director for Poverty Reduction and Social Protection, attended the meeting and highlighted the importance of social protection in a country like Malawi. He provided an overview of the MNSSP II and advocated for the commitment of the districts to implementing it. James Lwanda and Boston Kadzamira, GIZ Hub managers for SPP, introduced the approach and focus of the programme.

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered office: Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
Germany
T: +49 6196-11475
F: +49 61 79-11 1 15
Author: William Ngamuti and Patience Phiri
Layout: GIZ
As at: October 2019

In cooperation with:
On behalf of: Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning &
Development
German Federal Ministry for Economic
cooperation and Development

Addresses of the
BMZ office: BMZ Bonn
DahlmannstraBe 4
53113 Bonn, Germany
T: +49 0 228 99 535-0

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union and UK aid from the UK government.

However, its contents are the sole responsibility of authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the EU or the UK government.