



GIZ Social Protection Programme

The Social Protection Programme (SPP) of GIZ supports Malawi's Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development in implementing the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) II through a holistic system strengthening approach at the national and district levels. SPP supports the Government in the implementation of the MNSSP II in 22 districts. The programme is jointly funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), UK aid from the UK Government (UKaid), and the European Union (EU).

SPECIAL FEATURE 1: SPP COVID-19 response

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many countries around the world including Malawi, which led the Government of Malawi to declare a state of Disaster in April. To protect communities from the pandemic, GIZ SPP is working with the Government of Malawi to address the situation.



German Ambassador Mr Juergen Borsch handing over equipment to Balaka District Hospital

Health workers are at the frontline in detecting, reporting and responding to the pandemic. Therefore, SPP in close co-

ordination with other partners, has been supporting district councils in Malawi to train health workers on COVID-19 prevention and case management. A total of 3,238 health workers have been oriented in 10 districts: Nsanje, Mwanza, Neno, Chiradzulu, Machinga, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Zomba, and Mulanje. In addition, district and community structures involved in social protection were also trained on COVID-19 prevention and community sensitisation in order to help reduce the spread of the virus.



Project objective	To strengthen the system for the implementation of the Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II)
Commissioned by	BMZ, co-funded by UK aid and EU
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Malawi
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MFEPD)
Duration	01.07.2018 – 31.12.2021
Budget	EUR 16.55 million

SPP is supporting awareness raising on COVID-19 in communities as a way of enhancing preparedness for the pandemic. Support is being provided to the district councils to assist with dissemination of key messages on prevention and containment.

SPP is also working with the district councils on the prevention of COVID-19 by providing hygiene equipment to the districts. So far, SPP has provided hand sanitiser, liquid hand soap, soap tablets and buckets to 4 districts in the central region and 13 in the southern region.



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Photo left: An extension worker holding a UBR receipt with a potential beneficiary during UBR registration

Photo right: Social cash transfer beneficiary receiving her transfer © GIZ

SPECIAL FEATURE 2: Motorcycle handover to district councils

Mobility is crucial for the implementation of the MNSSP II at the community level and to enable district staff to engage with beneficiaries. However, districts often face resource constraints that hinder this. To address this problem, the SPP has handed over 16 motorcycles to district councils to support the implementation of the MNSSP II. District officers from Dowa, Karonga, Nsanje and Chiradzulu and officers from the Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Division received the motorbikes on behalf of the 16 district councils

Speaking at the event, the GIZ Country Director, Mr Alan Walsh, emphasised the commitment and willingness of the German Government to continue supporting the Government of Malawi on different initiatives to promote the development of the country. He also acknowledged the importance of the MNSSP II and how it contributes to achieving the goals of broader frameworks like Agenda 2030.

Mr. Simbani, Chief Director of the Department of Economic Planning and Development in the Ministry of Finance explained the background of the MNSSP II and the challenges it is facing. The key players in the programme are the district councils, which are implementing the programme in the communities. The motorbikes will help to address the challenges being faced in the districts and contribute to the achievement of the goals of MNSSP II.

As a representative of the district councils, District Commissioner for Dowa, Mr. Alex Mdoko, outlined the challenges that districts face with mobility. District councils do not have enough vehicles and motorcycles for staff to travel to communities for programme implementation and monitoring. For instance, during social cash transfer payments they borrow vehicles from different departments, which cripples the operations from which the vehicles are being taken.

The motorcycles handed over at the event were purchased by GIZ SPP with financial support from UK aid from the UK Government and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS: September 2019–February 2020

Coordination for implementation of the MNSSP II

Terms of reference for district coordination have been presented to the district councils and the District Social Support Committees (DSSCs) in eight districts meet regularly. The membership of the DSSCs has been broadened to enable a

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more harmonised approach to the implementation of social protection interventions. A harmonised coordination and planning structure allow the districts to avoid duplication, enhance the efficiency of implementation and maximise the impact on beneficiaries.

Capacity building of district councils

Since the commencement of the project, SPP has strengthened the capacity of more than 200 district officers for the implementation of the MNSSP II. This was done through the implementation of the Integrated Social Protection (ISP) Course at Magomero (ongoing) and ILO's TRANSFORM training package, as well as additional trainings and exchange visits. A notable 90% of officers from 11 districts confirmed, based on concrete examples, that their knowledge on how to implement social protection programmes has increased significantly. The finalised development of training materials for the ISP course will for the first time, enable extension workers to undergo a dedicated training on social protection.

Harmonised tools for implementation

The programme supports the roll out of the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR), which has reached 18 districts to-date, covering close to 1.4 million households. During the reporting period, the UBR was rolled-out to an additional 3 districts. A first test version of the generic UBR data-sharing app, which allows partners without management information system (MIS) integration to the UBR to extract household data, has been developed. A harmonised e-payment mechanism will be tested in Balaka during the implementation of the Enhanced Public Works Programme (EPWP) pilot. This will test the delivery system's capacity to deliver transfers for two social protection programmes: the EPWP and the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP). The EPWP will also test the first elements of a harmonised grievance redress mechanism (GRM) in 10 districts. To gain knowledge on how a harmonised GRM can be applied in Malawi, 20 partners from the national and district levels participated in a learning visit to Ghana to assess the architectural setup and functionality of the Ghanaian single window GRM system, with support from the EU and DFID.

Linking social protection to resilience measures

SPP will, through the EPWP pilot, facilitate voluntary contributions by communities to public works and integrate these into the Village Action Plans (VAPs). The development of guidelines to implement graduation pathways and planning for the purposeful linking of beneficiaries to other interventions is ongoing. SPP works closely with Community Savings and Investment Promotion (COMSIP), which will facilitate a livelihood and linkages component for EPWP.

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