Government of Malawi

NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY

2024 - 2029

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FOREWORD

Government has a fundamental responsibility to ensure its citizens' well-being. The recent recurrence of climatic, economic, and health shocks has undermined the socio-economic gains made over the past years. Most families continue to face uncertainty as they have limited access to basic needs and services.

The Government recognizes the need for a Policy framework to guide stakeholders in designing and implementing social protection interventions in its efforts to improve the quality of life for all Malawians.

The Policy will significantly contribute to the Human Capital Development enabler of Malawi 2063, by ensuring improved welfare of Malawians. The Policy focuses on enhancing productive capacity of Malawians by addressing the various constraints people face throughout the life cycle.

Government is appealing to all stakeholders to fully support implementation of the Policy. On its part, the Government commits to continue ensuring provision of an enabling environment for the successful implementation of the Policy.

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Honourable Simplex Chithyola Banda, M.P.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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PREFACE

The National Social Protection Policy presents an opportunity to further streamline implementation and strengthen coordination of social protection programmes in Malawi. This is crucial at a time when poverty and vulnerability levels remain high and there is an increased need to employ more cost-effective approaches to providing comprehensive protection. Social protection is key in addressing poverty and vulnerability since it supports less privileged citizens to access services, provides a foundation on which to build resilience to shocks, and enhances productive livelihoods for citizens to live a life of dignity.

The Policy aims at empowering all citizens to participate in and benefit from the social and economic transformation of the country as guided by Malawi 2063. Additionally, the Policy realigns implementation of social protection towards the attainment of the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals: (1) no poverty; (2) Zero hunger; (3) good health and well-being; and (10) reduced inequalities. The Policy further aligns with the African Union Agenda 2063's broader vision and action plan for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse of the future and also with the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISPD) Pillar 4 on Social and Human Capital Development.

The development of this Policy involved a review of the National Social Support Policy of 2012, followed by an extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process. The stakeholders consulted included, among others, traditional leaders, Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Private Sector, Academia, Research Institutions, Civil Society Organisations, Faith Based Organisations, Development Partners, and Non-Governmental Organisations. The Government expects all stakeholders to fully support the implementation of this Policy to ensure that it effectively contributes to socio-economic development of the country.

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Associate Professor Betchani Tchereni

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ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
DSSC	District Social Support Committee
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EP&D	Economic Planning and Development
IHS	Integrated Household Survey
MIP-1	Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan
MIS	Management Information System
MoF&EA	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
MNSSP	Malawi National Social Support Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRS	National Resilience Strategy
NSSSC	National Social Support Steering Committee
NSSTC	National Social Support Technical Committee
NSSP	National Social Support Policy
PRSP	Poverty Reduction and Social Protection
PWP	Public Works Programme
SCTP	Social Cash Transfer Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFP	School Feeding Programme
SLG	Savings and Loans Group
SSSP	Shock-Sensitive Social Protection
UBR	Unified Beneficiary Registry
UN	United Nations
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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GLOSSARY

Decent work: Productive work in which rights are protected. In addition, it is work that generates an adequate income with adequate protection.

Hazard: A potentially dangerous event, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruptions, or environmental damage.

Household: A single person or a group of people related or unrelated, living together as a single unit in the sense that they have common housekeeping arrangements, i.e., share or are supported by a common budget and eat from the same pot.

Labour-constrained household: A household without able-bodied adults or with a dependency ratio higher than 3:1.

Life Cycle approach: Reflects those individuals face different risks and vulnerabilities at different stages in life and that social protection should be designed to address these risks at each stage.

Livelihood: The sum of the ways in which people make a living and meet their basic needs.

Poor household: Households that fail to attain a minimum acceptable consumption level of food and nonfood needs as defined in the Integrated Household Survey (IHS 2010).

Poverty: Is a state of continuous deprivation or a lack of basic necessities of life.

Risk: The likelihood of a shock or hazard that results in vulnerability.

Shock: The effect of a sudden event or occurrence which leads to vulnerability.

Social insurance: These are contributory schemes that involve members making regular payments to a scheme that will cover costs related to life-course events.

Social Protection: For the purposes of this Policy, it encompasses social assistance, social insurance, social welfare services, labour market policies, as well as a wide range of public and private instruments aimed at eradicating poverty, addressing vulnerability and combating social exclusion through risk management.

Social security: Is the protection that a society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health care and to guarantee income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner.

Ultra-Poor: Inability to meet the most basic needs, both food and non-food.

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CHAPTER ONE:

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The National Social Protection Policy

The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) provides a framework for identification, design, implementation and monitoring of social protection interventions in Malawi. It builds on the 2012 National Social Support Policy whose overall goal was to reduce poverty and enable the poor to move out of poverty and vulnerability. It focuses on reduction of poverty and vulnerability and ensuring protection throughout the lifecycle. The Policy harmonises implementation and promotes effective coordination of the various social protection interventions to minimise life cycle risks and empower people to meaningfully contribute to individual and national development.

The NSPP is part of national efforts to reduce poverty and vulnerability and ensure individuals' protection throughout the lifecycle. It is also a means of building the capabilities of the poor to engage in production so that they become effective participants and beneficiaries of the growth process. It also draws from sectoral, national, regional and international frameworks.

The change in the name of the Policy from National Social Support Policy (NSSP) to National Social Protection Policy reflects the change in scope from covering mere social support to broader aspects of protection. Central to this change is the introduction of Social Security as a policy priority area. In this regard, social protection encompasses social assistance, social insurance, social welfare services, labour market policies, as well as a wide range of public and private instruments aimed at eradicating poverty, addressing vulnerability and combating social exclusion.

1.2. Historical Context

Malawi has long faced widespread poverty and vulnerability, with over 50% of its population living below the poverty line and a significant portion surviving on less than USD1.90 per day according to the World Bank Report of 2022. This persistent poverty, affecting 58.8% of Malawians as of 2023 underscores the multifaceted challenges the country faces, including frequent climatic and socio-economic shocks. In response to chronic poverty, the Malawi Government launched the National Safety Nets Strategy (NSNS) in 2000, followed by the National Safety Nets Programme (NSNP) in 2002 under the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy. The NSNP aimed to reduce poverty and

vulnerability through four sub-programmes: Public Works Programme; Targeted Nutrition Programme; Targeted Inputs Programme; and Direct Welfare Transfers. However, these efforts were plagued by capacity constraints, uncoordinated implementation, and insufficient funding. These shortcomings were exacerbated by the absence of a guiding policy framework to systematically address poverty and vulnerability.

Recognizing these gaps, the Government shifted focus from basic safety nets to more comprehensive social support. The Integrated Household Survey (IHS) of 2010 revealed that poverty reduction was slow and the proportion of ultra-poor individuals had increased, highlighting that economic growth alone was insufficient to address deep-seated poverty in Malawi.

In 2012, in response to the slow pace of poverty reduction, the Government approved the National Social Support Policy (NSSP). This policy aimed at providing a comprehensive framework for social support. The NSSP outlined four key areas: Welfare Support; Protection of Assets; Promotion through Productivity Enhancement; and Policy Linkages and Mainstreaming. Operationalizing the NSSP, the first Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP I) was approved in 2013. It focused on welfare support, asset protection, enhancing productive capacity, and fostering synergies with broader economic and social policies. The MNSSP I prioritized programmes such as Social Cash Transfer, School Meals, Public Works, Village Savings and Loans, and Micro-Finance.

In 2018, the MNSSP II succeeded the initial programme, reaffirming the government's commitment to providing social support. Its objectives were to reduce extreme poverty and vulnerability through three core pillars: Consumption Support; Resilient Livelihoods; and Shock-Sensitive Social Protection. Additionally, MNSSP II aimed to strengthen linkages within and outside the programme and improve the overall social protection systems. However, the programme still faced challenges, such as low budgetary support and weak coordination among stakeholders, necessitating further policy refinement and updates.

The evolving socio-economic landscape, changing demographics, and increased exposure to various risks and shocks have underscored the need for a more integrated and effective social protection system. The need for a successor to the NSSP was critical to address the highlighted challenges comprehensively.

1.3. The Current Status

According to the World Bank Report of 2023, 50.7% of Malawians live below the national poverty line and the International Poverty Line indicates that 82.3% of the population subsist on less than USD2.15 per day. These patterns, underscore the deep-rooted

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income disparities and economic challenges faced by many households in the country. Approximately 20.1% of the population lives in ultra-poverty, surviving on less than USD1.90 per day. These individuals struggle to meet basic needs and are highly susceptible to any economic or climatic shocks.

Poverty in Malawi is not solely about income but also involves deprivations in health, education, and living standards. 58.8% of Malawians are considered multidimensionally poor according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report of 2023. This high rate reflects severe deprivation in areas such as education, health care, and basic living conditions. Multidimensional poverty is more prevalent in rural areas, where access to essential services and economic opportunities is limited. These regions face greater challenges in achieving sustainable livelihoods and economic resilience.

Food insecurity remains a critical issue, exacerbated by Malawi's vulnerability to climatic and economic shocks. The 2023 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) Report indicates that about 3.8 million people in Malawi are at risk of food insecurity. This is driven by recurrent droughts, floods, and fluctuating agricultural productivity, which affect the ability of many households to secure adequate food. Malawi's economy is highly susceptible to external and internal shocks. Global commodity price fluctuations and local climatic events disproportionately impact the poor and ultra-poor, who depend heavily on agriculture and informal sectors for their livelihoods (Malawi Economic Monitor, 2023.

According to the Demographic and Health Survey of 2023, access to healthcare is uneven, particularly in rural areas. High levels of malnutrition and limited access to clean water and sanitation, exacerbate health risks and reduce overall quality of life. Children, the elderly, and people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups. The lack of adequate social protection systems leaves these populations particularly exposed to poverty and deprivation.

The labour market in Malawi is dominated by the informal sector, which lacks adequate social protection. About 89% of Malawi's labour force is employed in the informal sector (Integrated Household Survey,2020). These workers often do not have access to social security and are more vulnerable to economic instability and health crises. Existing social protection schemes predominantly cover the formal sector, leaving the vast majority of the labor force without adequate support. This gap underscores the need for expanded and inclusive social protection systems.

Addressing the multifaceted nature of poverty, enhancing economic resilience, and ensuring broader access to social protection are essential for promoting sustainable development and improving the well-being of all Malawians. The National Social

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Protection Policy aims to provide a robust framework to tackle these challenges, foster equitable growth, and safeguard vulnerable populations against socio-economic shocks.

1.4. Problem Statement

Social protection programmes in the country have been implemented without a proper policy guiding framework since the expiry of the predecessor Policy in 2018. Despite implementation of the NSSP as a predecessor Policy, over 50% of Malawian population still live below the poverty line, and 20.4% are ultra-poor. This situation has been exacerbated by climatic and socio-economic shocks. Further, the implementation of the social protection programmes has been adversely affected by low budgetary support, weak collaboration and coordination structures. The predecessor Policy narrowly focused on Social Support thereby leaving broader issues of social security unattended. In the absence of a successor Policy, the Social Protection Sector was largely relying on its second implementation framework, the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) II as a practical point of reference for policy guidance. There is a pressing need for a more integrated and effective social protection system that can address these challenges and promote long-term socio-economic stability. The Policy broadens the scope of social protection interventions, enhances coordination among key stakeholders and addresses the implementation gaps in the sector.

1.5. Purpose of the Policy

The National Social Protection Policy is designed to create a unified and effective framework for coordinating and implementing various social protection initiatives across the country. The Policy's primary aim is to reduce life cycle risks and empower all citizens, enabling them to actively participate in and contribute to both their personal development and the nation's socio-economic progress.

The Policy also aims to streamline social protection efforts by minimizing fragmentation and duplication, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and interventions reach those most in need. By promoting a cohesive approach, the Policy enhances the effectiveness and impact of social protection measures, fostering sustainable development, resilience, and inclusive growth.

Aligned with Malawi 2063, the National Social Protection Policy aspires to establish a comprehensive social protection system that provides targeted assistance to vulnerable populations. This vision ensures that all Malawians are equipped and empowered to contribute to and benefit from the country's socio-economic development. Through this

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Policy, Malawi commits to advancing towards a more inclusive and resilient society where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive.

1.6. Linkages with other Policies and Legislations

The National Social Protection Policy is aligned with various national, regional, and international frameworks, ensuring a coherent and comprehensive approach to social protection.

(a) National Policies and Pieces of Legislation

1. The Malawi Constitution

Chapter 4 of the Malawi Constitution guarantees rights to every citizen and is also specific on the right to development as it states that," All persons and people have a right to development and therefore to the enjoyment of economic, social, cultural and political development and women, children and the disabled in particular shall be given special consideration in the application of this right." It further states that" the state shall take all necessary measures for the realisation of the right to development" and "the state shall take measures to introduce reforms aimed at eradicating social injustices and inequalities".

2. Malawi 2063

Malawi 2063, which envisions an "Inclusively Wealthy and Self-reliant Nation" by 2063, identifies social protection as a crucial component of its Human Capital Development Enabler. The Human Capital Development Enabler recognises the role that social protection plays in building resilience at individual, household and community level. It further recognises the need to provide support to people whose livelihoods are vulnerable to compounded and recurring shocks such as natural disasters, economic crises and pandemics. Through the Malawi 2063, Government is implementing the Malawi 2063 first 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1(2021-2030)) which this Policy directly draws from.

3. National Disaster Risk Management Act

The Act provides Malawi with a comprehensive legal framework for disaster risk management. The act helps integrate disaster risk management with social protection measures, such as cash transfers, food assistance, and temporary shelter, to support those affected by disasters and reduce their vulnerability.

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4. The National Climate Change Management Policy

The Policy is an instrument for managing climate change in the country. It focuses on reducing the socioeconomic impacts of adverse effects of climate change and also to improve community resilience to climate change through the development of sustainable livelihoods and reduced emissions. This is an important Policy in view of the fact that the poorest and most vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts.

5. The National Gender Policy

The National Gender Policy aims to strengthen gender mainstreaming and women empowerment at all levels in order to facilitate the attainment of gender equality and equity in Malawi. The Policy considers gender mainstreaming key to reducing poverty and vulnerability thereby reducing gender inequalities and enhancing participation of women, men, girls and boys in socio-economic development processes.

6. The National Disability Policy

The National Disability Policy provides a framework for enhancing prioritization, coordination, implementation and monitoring of programmes for addressing disability as a human rights and development issue at all levels of national development. It seeks to promote the attainment of an inclusive Malawian society in which persons with disabilities actively contribute to and benefit from national development. It will further ensure that all national development interventions are inclusive, participatory and accessible for persons with disabilities.

7. The National Policy for Older Persons

The National Policy for Older Persons aims at safeguarding the rights of older persons, improving their wellbeing, fostering their participation, and harnessing knowledge and skills in national development endeavours affecting their lives.

8. The National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Policy

The Policy provides guidelines and facilitates coordination of ECD activities and enhancement of support and investment in ECD programmes and interventions in Malawi. It ensures that care for survival, growth and development for all children is provided, including those in difficult situations. It also ensures that children are provided with nutritious food, safe water, sanitation facilities, immunization, growth monitoring services, and adequate play and stimulation materials, among others.

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9. The National Decentralisation Policy

The National Decentralization Policy was put in place as an appropriate mechanism for empowering local communities to participate actively in the decisions that affect them for the improvement of their welfare. It brings the Government closer to the people for quality service delivery, for popular participation in local governance and development and ensures equitable and sustainable development. The NSPP empowers local authority structures at both district and community level to manage and implement social protection initiatives thereby building their capacity and enhancing ownership.

10. National Multi-Sector Nutrition Policy

The goal of the Policy is to have a well-nourished Malawian population that effectively contributes to the economic growth and prosperity of the country. The Policy seeks to prevent undernutrition with emphasis on children under five, adolescent girls, school-going children, pregnant and lactating women, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), and other vulnerable groups. The NSPP aligns with this Policy as it encompasses nutrition sensitive social protection. It promotes school feeding and school health and nutrition programmes as a strategy for integrating high-impact, nutrition-specific, and nutrition-sensitive interventions.

11. National Education Policy (NEP)

The NEP promotes and regulates free and compulsory basic education to ensure equitable inclusive quality education and lifelong learning and to promote and protect the right of learners to education. It also advocates for the promotion of the School Feeding Programme; school health and water sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); HIV and AIDS; Gender; and Education interventions. The Policy aligns with the NEP by integrating aspects which enhance education outcomes in its pillars. This is in view of the role education plays in addressing inter-generational poverty.

12. National Employment and Labour Policy (NELP)

The National Employment and Labour Policy (NELP) places employment as the central objective of social and economic policies, while providing drivers of poverty reduction. Some of the priority areas of the NELP include: economic growth and employment; skills development and labour productivity; employment of vulnerable groups and promotion of gender equality, youth employment; promotion of agriculture and rural employment; improving labour administration and labour standards.

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13. National Resilience Strategy (NRS)

The Policy aligns with the National Resilience Strategy (NRS) which provides for household resilience, livelihoods and social protection. It envisions a country free of chronic vulnerability, and of food and nutrition insecurity, where sustainable economic development creates opportunities for everyone, and where people are resilient to economic and environmental shocks that affect their lives and livelihoods.

14. National Job Creation Strategy (NJCS)

The National Job Creation Strategy aims to facilitate the creation of employment in an environment of accelerated, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic growth. The Policy aligns with the NJCS through its Resilient Livelihoods pillar which is key for graduation into sustainable livelihoods.

15. The National Pensions Act, (CAP 55:02)

The Policy covers areas of social security which includes pensions. These are aligned to the National Pensions Act (NPA) which provides for every employer to which this Act applies and provides pension for every person employed by that employer. To ensure that every employee in Malawi receives retirement and supplementary benefits as and when due. Also, to promote the safety, soundness and prudent management of pension funds that provide retirement and death benefits to members and beneficiaries and to foster agglomeration of national savings in support of economic growth and development of the country.

(b) Linkages with Regional and International Frameworks

The Social Protection Policy is aligned to the following significant international obligations at global and regional level:

1. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Policy is aligned to Goal Number: (1)No Poverty, Target 1.3 that implements appropriate social protection systems and measures for all and achieves substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable by 2020; (2)Zero Hunger, Target 2.1 that ensures access by the poor and vulnerable to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round; (3)

Good Health and Well-being, Target 3.8 that aims to achieve universal health coverage and access to quality essential health care services; (5) Gender Equality, Target 5.4 that recognizes and values unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies; (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, Target 8.5, that aims to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities; and (10) Reduced Inequalities, Target 10.4, that ensures adoption of policies, especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality.

2. African Union Agenda 2063

The Government of Malawi also subscribes to the African Union agenda 2063 that articulates the aspirations for the African continent to be realized by African countries by 2063. It is the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. One of the priority areas is Social Security and Protection, including persons with disabilities.

3. Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISPD)

The Policy is aligned to the SADC RISDP by focusing on poverty reduction, economic empowerment, social insurance and human capital development. Malawi contributes to the broader regional goals of socio-economic development and integration.

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CHAPTER TWO:

BROAD POLICY DIRECTIONS

2.1. Policy Goal

To enhance quality of life for people suffering from poverty and hunger and improve resilience of those who are vulnerable to risks and shocks.

2.2. Policy Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the National Social Protection by 2029 are:

i. Strengthened Human Capital accumulation.
ii. Enhanced resilience to asset erosion among the poor and vulnerable.
iii. Strengthened Shock-sensitive social protection system.
iv. Enhanced quality and coverage of social security, covering risks across the life cycle.
v. Enhanced institutional capacity of the social protection ecosystem.

2.3. Policy Objectives

The specific policy objectives are to:

i. Provide welfare support to the poorest and most vulnerable to improve their standard of living.
ii. Compliment welfare support with broader productive livelihoods interventions that assist populations at risk to withstand shocks and build a sustainable livelihood.
iii. Build the foundations for providing a comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social security or protection over the life cycle in line with international standards including for those working in the informal sector.
iv. Strengthen systems and capacities of stakeholders to manage social protection pprogrammes.
v. Protect long-term income generating potential for the poor and vulnerable.

2.4. Guiding Principles

The successful implementation of this Policy will be guided by the following principles and core values:

I. Government led

Strong Government ownership and leadership in the provision of social protection will be promoted and supported through, among other things, the delivery of basic social protection services as well as administration and regulation of the programmes and relevant institutions at all levels, (National, District and Community) including the coordination and alignment of all stakeholders. Other actors will support the Government to implement aspects of the Policy, under the oversight of the Government.

II. A comprehensive, flexible and shock sensitive system

The social protection system will take a comprehensive protective, preventive, promotional, and transformational approach in order to provide comprehensive coverage to address predictable needs of households while also addressing covariate risks.

III. Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency

The implementation of social protection Programmes shall be built on the principles of good governance that include inclusivity, effective participation, transparency, accountability, efficient and effective management systems and processes, responsiveness, equity and equality of opportunity.

IV. Gender responsiveness

The Policy shall ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all social protection interventions to ensure equality of opportunity in addressing high risks and vulnerabilities including gender norms, roles and inequalities, particularly those affecting children and women.

V. Adequacy

The Policy strives to ensure that social protection provides sufficient support and resources to bring people out of poverty, allowing them to address risks and cope with vulnerabilities specific to their circumstances.

VI. Needs and Evidence-based programming

Social protection programmes will be based on analysis of evidence that clarifies who needs what type of assistance to ensure that programmes address the needs identified and target people who meet the eligibility criteria.

VII. Efficiency and effectiveness

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Social protection interventions will be delivered in a timely, harmonised, reliable manner, with clearly assigned roles and responsibilities and working modalities amongst all stakeholders.

VIII. Complementarity

All activities will be firmly anchored in the national priorities and objectives for development, poverty reduction, humanitarian assistance, and disaster risk reduction. Programmes will reinforce and complement the work streams implemented under other national sector policies.

IX. Support and promotion of resilient livelihoods

In addition to providing welfare support to the ultra-poor, the Policy will support and promote interventions to help the poor access pathways to graduate from poverty and reduce their vulnerability to risks and livelihood shocks.

X. Equity and social inclusion

The Policy will address social as well as economic vulnerabilities, protecting and including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged on account of age, shocks, livelihood, or disability.

XI. Common and sustainable long-term funding

Government and development partners will be committed to reliable funding, using appropriate mechanisms (basket funding) that provide predictable and institutionalised funding to social protection, under Government control that is sustainable over the long term.

XII. Engagement and Participation

The social protection sector will promote stakeholder engagement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and governance of social protection programmes and interventions through direct involvement and/or representation.

XIII. Progressive Realisation

The Policy implementation process will set up measures to progressively realize higher levels of social protection to reach as many people as possible, guided by international standards, social dialogue and national context.

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XIV. Client/Beneficiary Centered Approach

Tailoring services and products that suits the needs of the clients or beneficiaries.

CHAPTER THREE:

POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

The Policy will focus on the following seven (7) Priority Areas to achieve its goal, objectives and outcomes:

a. Social Safety Nets;
b. Resilient Livelihoods;
c. Nutrition – Sensitive Social Protection;
d. Shock – Sensitive Social Protection;
e. Social Security; and
f. Creating an Enabling Environment for Social Protection Systems; and
g. Cross - cutting issues.

3.1 Priority Area 1: Social Safety Nets

Social safety nets refer to interventions designed to protect poor and vulnerable groups from extreme poverty and social exclusion. They cushion households to ensure a minimum level of well-being and support during times of need. These Social Safety Nets aim to enable the poor and vulnerable members of society to meet their basic needs.

The provision of these Social Safety Nets enables the poor and vulnerable members to develop their capabilities and increase their social and economic participation. Social Safety Nets could be in-kind or in form of cash. Major programmes under this priority area are: Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP); the Public Works Programme (PWP); food-for-work; input for-work projects; subsidized agricultural inputs; School Feeding Programme (SFP); and bursary schemes. Provision of these safety nets requires harmonized targeting supported by the social registry/Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR).

The level of ultra-poverty in Malawi stands at 20.5%, meaning that a substantial proportion of the population barely meet their basic food and non-food needs. Meanwhile, Government has the obligation to cushion the poor and vulnerable, hence the need to provide social safety nets.

3.1.1. Policy Statement

The Policy will ensure that social safety nets coverage and adequacy of support are strengthened and expanded.

Strategies

i. Improve the provision of adequate social safety nets benefits.
ii. Strengthen community involvement and social accountability in selection of social safety nets beneficiaries.
iii. Strengthen delivery mechanisms for all safety net programmes for timely response.
iv. Increase coverage of safety nets for ultra-poor households.
v. Strengthen sensitization of communities on implementation of various safety nets programmes.

3.2 Priority Area 2: Resilient Livelihoods

Resilient livelihoods constitute numerous interventions which focus on building the resilience of individuals, households and communities to withstand and recover from a wide range of shocks and stresses that disrupt their livelihood activities.

The ultra-poor lack the skills, knowledge and adaptive strategies for them to sustainably construct their livelihoods. The lack of diversified income sources and limited access to financial services further hampers the ability of the poor and vulnerable to withstand and recover from adverse events which undermine the sustainability of livelihoods.

3.2.1. Policy Statement

The Policy will ensure that individuals and households engage in different and tailored pathways to ensure resilient livelihoods.

Strategies

i. Strengthen linkages among social assistance programmes and with other basic social services.
ii. Enhance access by poor and vulnerable populations to productive resources and skills.
iii. Strengthen individual and group climate resilient income generating activities.
iv. Diversify income sources to include agricultural activities with off-farm pathways to build resilience amongst all groups.
v. Enhance access to financial services for greater financial inclusion.
vi. Promote inclusive savings and loans schemes.

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3.3 Priority Area 3: Nutrition – Sensitive Social Protection

Nutrition-sensitive social protection refers to the intentional integration of the nutritional outcomes in social protection to address the nutritional needs of vulnerable populations, particularly children, pregnant and lactating women, and other nutritionally at-risk groups. Nutrition-sensitive interventions address the underlying causes of maternal and child malnutrition such as deprivations in health services, food security, education and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Promoting social protection programmes that are nutrition sensitive will contribute to the attainment of positive nutritional outcomes and break the cycle of malnutrition and hunger which has an impact on human capital development.

Malawi faces significant challenges in combating malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable populations, such as children, pregnant and lactating women. Despite managing to reduce stunting and chronic malnutrition among under 5 children, micronutrient deficiency, also recognized as hidden hunger, is rampant. These nutrition-related issues hinder human development, reduce productivity and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

3.3.1. Policy Statement

The Policy will ensure that nutrition-related interventions are included in national social protection programmes to reduce micronutrient deficiencies.

Strategies

i. Promote nutrition-sensitive value chains in social protection.
ii. Promote production and utilization of diverse nutrition foods among social protection beneficiaries.
iii. Empower ultra-poor and vulnerable populations with Integrated Homestead Farming package.
iv. Promote optimal nutrition in social protection interventions during shocks response.
v. Harmonize coordination mechanisms for nutrition and social protection interventions.
vi. Promote awareness on WASH and consumption of diverse diets focusing on locally available foods among vulnerable categories of social protection beneficiaries.

3.4 Priority Area 4: Shock – Sensitive Social Protection

Shock sensitive social protection relates to the design of social protection intervention that respond to and mitigate the impact of shocks. It addresses the urgent need to safeguard vulnerable populations from the adverse impacts of shocks.

In Malawi, frequent and severe shocks disproportionately affect poor and marginalized communities, exacerbating poverty, food insecurity, and social exclusion. These shocks

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often overwhelm existing social protection systems, leaving the most vulnerable without adequate support during times of crisis. The failure to manage shocks and risks has an impact that goes far beyond the state of deprivation. It negatively affects human and social capital, further restricting opportunities to improve working and living conditions of the affected households.

3.4.1. Policy Statement 1

The Policy will ensure that individuals, households and communities affected by cyclical livelihood shocks, seasonal vulnerability and the larger unpredictable shocks are protected.

Strategies:

i. Design programmes that are able to scale up to deal with exceptional periods of acute need that result from shocks.
ii. Establish a predictable multi-year support system to poor households to address the annual food gap and reduce the scale of the annual emergency response.
iii. Strengthen district coordination structures to improve collaboration among humanitarian and social protection actors.
iv. Strengthen linkages and referrals to vulnerable households to critical complimentary services such as veterinary services during livestock disease, access to drought resistant crop varieties.

3.4.2. Policy Statement 2

The Policy will ensure that the different needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of different groups, including women, girls, boys, men, the elderly, the disabled, and other minority groups, are accounted for when managing and responding to shocks.

Strategies:

i. Integrate an environmental perspective in shocks and pandemic prevention preparedness, response and recovery.
ii. Strengthen comprehensive accounting for vulnerable groups in shock sensitive response.

3.5 Priority Area 5: Social Security

Social Security is the protection that a society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health care and to guarantee income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a

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breadwinner. The existing social security schemes include contributory pension schemes under the National Pension Scheme, Public Service Pension Fund, Local Authority Superannuation Fund and other occupational schemes offered by the private sector. Other Social Security services include the medical schemes and the Worker's Compensation Fund that compensates an employee when they stop working because of work-related injury.

Existing social security arrangements in Malawi are limited in coverage and mostly carter for the formal sector only. As a result, workers who do not fall within the regular labour-relation do not have any form of social security except the daily wage. Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) services in the workplace cover only a small proportion of the formal economy labour force. The absence of comprehensive social security coverage exacerbates inequalities and limits the ability of households to invest in their future well-being.

3.5.1. Policy Statement

The Policy will ensure enhanced coverage, quality and range of social security benefits and products both in the formal and informal sectors.

Strategies:

i. Develop and strengthen social insurance schemes.
ii. Develop affordable and innovative social protection schemes for the informal sector.
iii. Strengthen institutional capacity and legislative frameworks for delivery of effective and sustainable social security schemes or services.
iv. Strengthen synergies between employment creation and social insurance to enhance decent work.
v. Raise awareness of social security among different sections of society.
vi. Strengthen coordination and collaboration among informal sector stakeholders.

3.6 Priority Area 6: Creating an enabling Environment for Social Protection Systems

An enabling environment is a rich and varied space where risks are minimised, well managed and where vulnerable populations are protected. A robust enabling environment is crucial for an effective and sustainable social protection system. It includes supportive policies, strong institutional frameworks, and adequate financial resources among others.

In Malawi, the social protection sector faces challenges such as fragmented service delivery, insufficient coordination among stakeholders, limited fiscal space, weak institutional capacity and lack of supportive legal framework. These undermine the effectiveness of interventions.

3.6.1. Policy Statement 1

The Policy will ensure that multi sectoral social protection interventions are well coordinated at national, district and community levels.

Strategies:

i. Strengthen and harmonize social protection coordination structures at all levels.
ii. Develop participatory approaches in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes and interventions.
iii. Ensure complementarity in designing and implementation of social protection interventions with relevant interventions in other sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and humanitarian.
iv. Enhance communications and advocacy in the social protection sector.

3.6.2. Policy Statement 2

The Policy will ensure that investments in delivery of social protection interventions are increased at all levels.

Strategies:

i. Promote public-private partnerships in social protection programmes.
ii. Strengthen resource mobilization to ensure sustainable investments from government and non-government sources.
iii. Strengthen human capacity for effective programming and delivery of social protection services at all levels.
iv. Increase government budgetary allocation for social protection interventions.
v. Establish a social protection monitoring and evaluation system to track the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of social protection programmes.
vi. Strengthen harmonized targeting mechanisms for social protection programmes.

3.6.3. Policy Statement 3

The Policy will ensure that legal frameworks governing social protection are strengthened.

Strategies:

i. Strengthen legal and regulatory framework for social protection.
ii. Enforce legal instruments to guide implementation of social protection interventions and programmes.
iii. Enhance social accountability and transparency in social protection implementation.

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3.7 Priority Area 7: Cross – Cutting Issues

Cross-cutting issues encompass diverse themes that intersect with various aspects of social protection and welfare. Key ones for implementation of social protection are gender equality, disability inclusion, environmental sustainability, and food security. All of these are critical to ensuring that social protection programmes are equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of the population.

Inadequate integration of these cross-cutting issues continues to undermine the effectiveness of social protection, leaving marginalized groups vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. For example, climate change and environmental degradation is disproportionately affecting the poor and vulnerable, exacerbating social and economic inequalities. Efforts to promote gender equality have not sufficiently addressed intra-household power dynamics.

3.7.1. Policy Statement 1

1 - Food Security

The Policy will ensure that food security is integrated into existing social safety nets and improved coordination mechanisms among different social safety nets to ensure timely information sharing for maximum impact.

Strategies:

i. Support food production through input supply, knowledge & skills transfer, and extension services linkage.
ii. Explore innovative ways of cushioning farming households against production related risks through social insurance products/services.
iii. Promote irrigation production and intercropping to improve access and utilisation of food among poor and vulnerable households.

3.7.2. Policy statement 2

2- Disability Inclusion

The Policy will ensure that a comprehensive combination of social protection interventions that are designed, implemented and monitored in a way that ensures the inclusion and involvement of persons with disabilities, with particular attention to removing barriers they face and considering the different risks and inequalities.

Strategies:

i. Enhance disability inclusiveness in social protection programmes and projects.

ii. Promote access to social protection interventions for households with persons with disabilities.
iii. Promote disability inclusive programming in social protection.

3.7.3. Policy Statement 3

3- Gender mainstreaming

The Policy will ensure that the design, implementation, and delivery mechanism of social protection interventions explicitly address gender dynamics in social protection programmes, in order to address gender stereotypes and unequal gender power relations in the households.

Strategies:

i. Ensure gender balance in capacity building initiatives.
ii. Ensure gender balance in decision making roles.
iii. Promote use of participatory approaches to involve women in programme or project design.
iv. Promote the use of gender responsive indicators as a minimum standard for activity design, implementation and monitoring.
v. Ensure that all social protection programmes are gender sensitive.
vi. Promote positive parenting interventions in social protection.

3.7.4. Policy Statement 4

4 - Climate Change and Environment

The Policy will ensure that systems and actors account for the importance of the environmental perspective throughout the different phases of the programme, including design, planning, implementation, and monitoring.

Strategies:

i. Ensure integration of environmental considerations in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection interventions.
ii. Promote the inclusion of environmental aspects when assessing vulnerabilities, exposure, and potential impacts of disasters.
iii. Manage the impacts of environmental drivers such as climate change, spread of pathogenic organisms and hazardous substances that pose risks to human health.

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CHAPTER FOUR:

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Institutional Arrangements

The Government recognizes the multisectoral nature of social protection which involves several Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, development partners, civil society, research institutions, academia, private sector, faith-based organizations and community structures. This requires a well-defined institutional arrangement with clear mandates to support the delivery of social protection services in a coordinated manner.

The Ministry responsible for Economic Planning and Development as the policy holder, through the Poverty Reduction and Social Protection (PRSP) Division, will spearhead the implementation of the Policy, in collaboration with relevant key stakeholders as outlined below.

4.1.1. The Role of Stakeholders in the Policy Implementation

The key stakeholders in the implementation of the Policy include the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), Ministries responsible for Local Government; Gender; Community Development; Social Welfare; Labour; Finance; Education; Health; Agriculture and Justice. Other stakeholders include Local Councils; Development Partners, NGOs, Academia and Research Institutions. The roles of the stakeholders will be as follows:

4.1.2. Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs):

i. **The Office of the President and Cabinet:** Provision of the overall guidance and direction in the implementation monitoring and review of the Policy.

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ii. **The Ministry responsible for Economic Planning and Development:** As the policy holder, will provide strategic leadership, coordination, capacity development and monitoring, evaluation and review of the implementation of the Policy, with the following specific responsibilities:

a. Ensure functionality of Social Protection coordination structures at all levels.

b. Initiate the formulation of Policies and legislation related to Social Protection in collaboration with other stakeholders.

c. Set minimum standards and guidelines for social protection programmes.

d. Monitor and supervise social protection programmes.

e. Disseminate information on social protection to stakeholders.

f. Enhance systems integration and inter-operability across all Social Protection interventions.

g. Coordinate the participation of the private sector and civil society in the provision of services to vulnerable groups.

h. Harmonise the targeting criteria for cash and non-cash transfers.

iii. **Ministry responsible for Social Welfare:**

a. Implementation of the Social Cash Transfer Programme.
b. Leverage more resources and additional donor contributions for the Social Cash Transfer Programme.
c. Provide technical support and capacity building to Local Authorities for effective implementation of the SCTP.

iv. **Ministry responsible for Community Development:**

a. Provide guidance and facilitate capacity development in the management of SLGs.

b. Facilitate community level mobilization for implementation of social protection interventions.

c. Facilitate the establishment of linkages with complimentary interventions.

v. **Ministry responsible for Gender Affairs:**

a. Facilitate capacity building of stakeholders in gender mainstreaming.

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b. Facilitate the introduction of gender transformative methodologies to improve relations in communities.
c. Facilitate awareness raising on Gender Based Violence.

vi. Ministry responsible for Disability and Elderly Affairs

a. Ensure that persons with disability are rehabilitated and have access to marketable vocational skills.
b. Promote independent living for persons with disability.
c. Promote rights, nutrition and health status of older persons.

vii. Ministry responsible for Local Government:

a. Provide policy guidance on decentralisation of social protection interventions.
b. Provide implementation oversight for decentralized social protection interventions at local level.

viii. Ministry responsible for Finance:

a. Mobilise and allocate resources for social protection programmes.
b. Ensure timely and accurate disbursement of funds.
c. Facilitate technical assistance to enhance social protection programming.

ix. Ministry responsible for Health:

a. Ensure that health care providers address the rights of vulnerable persons.
b. Facilitate provision of tertiary and secondary level health care services.
c. Provide policy guidance on health insurance.

x. Ministry responsible for Agriculture:

a. Provide farming inputs, and agricultural extension services to vulnerable farming households.
b. Facilitate market access for goods produced by vulnerable farming households.
c. Ensure food security and diversification for enhanced nutrition of vulnerable households.

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xi. Department responsible for Disaster Management Affairs

a. Facilitate mitigation of disaster risks through proactive measures.
b. Facilitate the reduction of disaster impacts on communities.
c. Enhance preparedness for disaster response.
d. Facilitate the provision of effective emergency assistance.
e. Coordinate recovery efforts for affected communities.

xii. Ministry responsible for Education:

a. Facilitate the implementation of School Feeding Programme.
b. Coordinate implementation of education support programmes including bursary schemes.

xiii. Ministry responsible for Youth:

a. Provide vocational, skills training and recreation facilities to youths.
b. Provide youth empowerment funds.

xiv. Ministry responsible for Labour:

a. Coordinate application of International Labour standards.
b. Coordinate relevant social insurance schemes/matters.
c. Facilitate the elimination of harmful child labour and the employment of young persons.
d. Enhance efforts to actualize the Decent Work Country Programme.
e. Ensure adherence to International Standards on labour related social security.
f. Ensure participation of social partners in development.
g. Support extension of social security to the informal economy.
h. Promote social dialogue and social partners participation in design and implementation of social protection policies and programmes.

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xv. Ministries responsible for Industry and Trade:

a. Provide skills training to vulnerable groups in order to be engaged in small to medium size enterprises (SME).

b. Support identified vulnerable groups with finances for SME.

c. Create linkages to the national and international markets.

d. Facilitate market access for goods produced by vulnerable SMEs.

xvi. Ministry responsible for Justice:

a. Provide technical expertise on legislation and review of laws related to Social Protection.

b. Facilitate the domestication of international conventions and agreements related to social protection.

xv. Ministry responsible for Information:

a. Promotion of Social Protection using an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy that will guide how the population will learn about Social Protection and respective programmes.

b. Share and coordinate information to electronic and print media.

c. Make presentations at national, regional and global for a.

d. Undertake education and information sessions at district and community levels.

xvi. Ministry responsible for Nutrition:

a. Provide oversight, strategic leadership, Policy direction and monitoring on matters of nutrition in social protection programmes.

b. Provide policy guidance on nutrition-sensitive social protection.

c. Spearhead the mainstreaming of nutrition in social protection programmes for improved nutrition outcomes among the poverty-stricken households and vulnerable populations.

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xvii. National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC):

a. Implementation of the Public Works programme.

b. Perform PMU services for the Social Protection Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

c. Provide fiduciary services for social protection interventions at local authority level.

xviii. Malawi Parliament:

a. Enacting laws and legislation that support social protection programs.

b. Lobby for adequate funding for social protection programmes.

c. Provide oversight for social protection programmes.

xix. District, Town, Municipal and City Councils:

a. Facilitating implementation of participatory local development.

b. Implementing resilient livelihoods interventions through tailored packages based on individual, household and community needs.

c. Ensuring transparency and accountability of social protection coordination structures at local level.

d. The community level social protection coordination structures will collaborate with community level local government structures to oversee targeting and implementation of social protection interventions.

e. Ensuring functionality of harmonized Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) structures.

4.1.3. Development Partners:

a. Provide technical and financial support to social protection programming.

b. Engage in Policy dialogue.

4.1.4. Non-Governmental Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and Civil Society Organizations:

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a. Complement Government's efforts through the provision of social protection programmes.

b. Support programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

c. Undertake advocacy, community mobilization and sensitization exercises.

d. Promote accountability and research and Policy dialogue.

e. Advocate for the rights and mobilisation of resources for vulnerable groups.

4.1.5. Academia and Research Institutions:

a. Conduct research and evaluation to inform policy design and implementation.

b. Provide evidence-based recommendations to policy makers.

c. Develop innovative solutions to social protection challenges.

d. Build capacity and train professionals in social protection.

e. Disseminate knowledge and best practices through publications and conferences.

4.1.6. Private Sector:

a. Partner with Government in implementing social protection programmes.

b. Initiate and implement corporate social responsibility targeted at social protection programmes.

4.2 Implementation Plan

The implementation plan for the Policy, with expected roles and respective timeframes, appears in Annex 1. The Malawi National Social Protection Strategy (MNSPS), led by the Department of Economic Planning and Development, will operationalize the Policy to achieve the overall goal and objectives, and will implement the strategies and actions in line with the MIP-1.

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Government commits to implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation system to support implementation of the Policy, using the monitoring and evaluation plan in Annex

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2. The Policy will be reviewed where necessary and after the five-year implementation period. The M&E system will address:

i. Efficient use of available resources (cost-effectiveness);

ii. Effective coordination of relevant partners to implement Social Support programmes;

iii. Sufficient capacity for key stakeholders and implementing partners to carry out monitoring and evaluation activities; and

iv. Monitoring progress in reducing vulnerability to hunger and poverty.

v. Monitoring the impact of social insurance programmes on vulnerability.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Implementation Plan

Priority Area 1: Social Safety Nets			
Policy Statement: The Policy will ensure that social safety nets coverage and adequacy of support are strengthened and expanded			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
To strengthen social safety nets coverage and adequacy To extend social safety nets coverage.	Improve the provision of adequate social safety nets benefits.	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Financial Service Providers (FSPs); and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Strengthen community involvement and social accountability in selection of social safety nets beneficiaries	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Civil Society Organizations; Development Partners; Community Leaders; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Strengthen delivery mechanisms for all safety net programmes	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender Community, Development and	2024 – 2029

		Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	
	Increase coverage of safety nets for ultra-poor households	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; National Local Government Finance Committee; and Development Partners	2024 – 2029
	Strengthen sensitisation of communities on implementation of various safety nets programmes.	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender Community, Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
Priority Area 2: Resilient Livelihoods			
Policy Statement: The Policy will ensure that individuals and households engage in different pathways to ensure resilient livelihoods			

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OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To construct resilient livelihoods to individuals and households engage in a combination of different pathways	Strengthen individual and group climate resilient income generating activities	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Strengthen linkages among social assistance programmes and with other basic social services	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Enhance access by poor and vulnerable populations to productive resources and skills	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Ministry of Labour; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029

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	Diversify income sources to include agricultural activities with off-farm pathways to build resilience amongst all groups	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Trade and Industry; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Enhance access to financial services for greater financial inclusion	**Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs**; Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs	2024 – 2029
	Promote inclusive savings and loans schemes	**Ministry of Finance and Economic** Affairs; Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
Priority Area 3: Nutrition – Sensitive Social Protection			

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Policy Statement: The Policy will ensure that nutrition-related interventions are included in national social protection pprogrammes to reduce micronutrient deficiencies			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
To in cooperate nutrition-related interventions in national social protection programmes to reduce micronutrient deficiencies	Promote nutrition-sensitive value chains in social protection	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	**2024-2029**
	Promote production and utilization of diverse nutrition foods among social protection beneficiaries	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Education; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Ministry of Trade and Industry; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Empower ultra-poor and vulnerable populations with	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and	2024-2029

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	Integrated Homestead Farming package	Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	
	Harmonize coordination mechanisms for nutrition and social protection interventions	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Community Leaders	2024-2027
	Promote optimal nutrition in social protection interventions	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Information and Digitalization, National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote awareness on WASH and consumption of diverse diets focusing on locally available foods among children, adolescent girls and boys and pregnant and lactating mothers	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Water & Sanitation; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids	2024-2029

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		(DNHA); Development Partners; Private Sector; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	
Policy Priority Area 4: Shock – Sensitive Social Protection			
Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that individuals, households and communities affected by cyclical livelihood shocks, seasonal vulnerability and the larger unpredictable shocks are protected.			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
To protect individuals, households and communities affected by cyclical livelihood shocks, seasonal vulnerability and the larger unpredictable shocks.	Design programmes that are able to scale up to deal with exceptional periods of acute need that result from shocks	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Establish a predictable multi-year support system to poor households to address the annual food gap and reduce the scale of the annual emergency response	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2028
	Strengthen district coordination structures to improve collaboration	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and	2024-2027

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	among humanitarian and social protection actors	Social Welfare; and Department of Disaster Management Affairs	
	Strengthen linkages and referrals to vulnerable households to critical complimentary services such as veterinary services during livestock disease, access to drought resistant crop varieties	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Integrate an environmental perspective in shocks and pandemic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Environmental Affairs Department; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; NGOs	2024-2026
	Strengthen mechanisms for comprehensive accounting for vulnerable groups in social protection programming	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2026
Policy Priority Area 5: Social Security			

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Policy statement: The Policy will ensure enhanced coverage, quality and range of social security benefits and products both in the formal and informal sectors.			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
To enhanced coverage, quality and range of social security benefits and products both in the formal and informal sectors.	Develop affordable and innovative social protection schemes for the informal sector	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Labour; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Strengthen institutional capacity and legislative frameworks for delivery of effective and sustainable social security schemes or services	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Ministry of Justice; Department of Human Resources Management and Development; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Strengthen synergies between employment creation and social insurance to enhance decent work	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Development Partners; FSPs; Labour Unions; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2027
	Raise awareness of social security among different sections of society	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Information and Digitalization;	2024-2029

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		Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture; Development Partners; FSPs; Community Leaders; CSOs; NGOs and Research Institutions	
	Strengthen coordination and collaboration among informal sector stakeholders	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Development Partners; FSPs; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
Priority Area 6: Creating an enabling Environment for Social Protection Systems			
Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that multi sectoral social protection interventions are well coordinated at national, district and community levels.			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
Ensure that multi sectoral social protection interventions are well coordinated at national, district and community levels.	Strengthen and harmonise social protection coordination structures at all levels	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Department of Disaster Management Affairs; Development Partners; and Community Leaders	2024-2026
	Develop participatory approaches in the design, implementation, monitoring	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and	2024-2029

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	and evaluation of social protection programmes and interventions	Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	
	Ensure complementarity in designing and implementation of social protection interventions with relevant interventions in other sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and humanitarian	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); and Development Partners	2024-2029
	Enhance communications and advocacy in the social protection sector	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote public-private partnerships in social protection programmes	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and	2024-2029

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		Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Public Private Partnership Commission; Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; and Academia	
	Increase Government budgetary allocation for social protection interventions	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Planning Commission; and National Local Government Finance Committee	2024-2029
	Strengthen human capacity for effective programming and delivery of social protection services at all levels	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Department of Human Resources Management and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; and Private Sector	2024-2029
	Establish a social protection monitoring and evaluation	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of	2024-2026

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	system to track the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of social protection programmes	Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; and National Local Government Finance Committee	
	Strengthen harmonized targeting mechanisms for social protection programmes	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development;** Ministry responsible for digitalization; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; National Registration Bureau; National Local Government Finance Committee; and Development Partners	2024-2029
	Strengthen legal and regulatory framework for social protection	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; and Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA)	2024-2029
	Enforce legal instruments to guide implementation of social protection interventions and programmes	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Information and Digitalization;	2024-2029

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		and National Local Government Finance Committee	
	Enhance social accountability and transparency in social protection implementation	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
Policy Priority Area 7: Cross – cutting issues			
Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that food security is integrated into existing social safety nets and improved coordination mechanisms among different social safety nets to ensure timely information sharing for maximum impact.			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
To ensure that food security is integrated into existing social safety nets and improved coordination mechanisms among different social safety nets to ensure timely information sharing for maximum impact.	Support food production through input supply, knowledge & skills transfer, and extension services linkage	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Local Government; National Planning Commission; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Explore innovative ways of cushioning farming households against production related risks	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social	2024-2029

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	through social insurance products/services.	Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	
	Promote irrigation production and intercropping to improve access and utilisation of food among poor and vulnerable households.	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
Policy Statement: b) The Policy will ensure a comprehensive combination of social protection interventions that are designed, implemented and monitored in a way that ensures the inclusion and involvement of persons with disabilities, with particular attention to removing barriers they face and considering the different risks and inequalities.			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
Ensure a comprehensive combination of social protection interventions that are designed, implemented and monitored in a way that ensures the inclusion and involvement of persons with disabilities, with particular attention to removing barriers they face and considering the different risks and inequalities.	Enhance disability inclusiveness in social protection programmes and projects	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote disability inclusive programming in social protection	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance	2024-2029

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		Committee; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	
	Promote access to social protection interventions for households with persons with disabilities.	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; NGOs; and Religious Leaders	2024-2029
Policy Statement: c) The Policy will ensure that the design, implementation, and delivery mechanism of social protection interventions explicitly address gender dynamics in social protection programmes, in order to address gender stereotypes and unequal gender power relations in the households.			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
Ensure that the design, implementation, and delivery mechanism of social protection interventions explicitly address gender dynamics in social protection programmes, in order to address gender stereotypes and unequal gender power relations in the households.	Promote gender balance in capacity building initiatives.	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote gender balance in decision making roles	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and	2024-2029

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		Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	
	Promote use of participatory approaches to involve women in programme or project design.	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote the use of gender responsive indicators as a minimum standard for activity design, implementation and monitoring	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Ensure that all social protection programmes are gender sensitive	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote positive parenting interventions in social protection	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and	2024-2029

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		Social Welfare; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	
Policy Statement: d) The Policy will ensure that systems and actors account for the importance of the environmental perspective throughout the different phases of the programme, including design, planning, implementation, and monitoring.			
OBJECTIVE	**STRATEGY**	**RESPONSIBILITY**	**TIMEFRAME**
Ensure that systems and actors account for the importance of the environmental perspective throughout the different phases of the programme, including design, planning, implementation, and monitoring.	Ensure integration of environmental considerations in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection interventions	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Environmental Affairs Department; National Local Government Finance Committee; and Development Partners	2024-2029
	Promote the inclusion of environmental aspects when assessing vulnerabilities, exposure, and potential impacts of disasters.	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSO; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Manage the impacts of environmental drivers such as climate change, spread of pathogenic organisms and hazardous substances	**Department responsible for economic planning and Development**; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance	2024-2029

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	that pose risks to human health	Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	

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Annex 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

	POLICY PRIORITY AREA 1: Social Safety Nets						
	OUTCOME*:* Strengthened Human Capital accumulation.						
Objectives	**Strategy**	**Output (s)**	**Performance Indicator(s)**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source (s) of Verification**	**Assumptions/Risks**
Provide welfare support to the poorest and most vulnerable to improve their standard of living.	Improve the provision of adequate social safety nets benefits.	Social safety nets benefits increased.	Frequency of social safety nets benefit level reviews	Every two years	Annually	Minutes of National Social Protection Steering Committee meetings	Availability of resources, Functional Social Protection coordination structures
		Access to social safety nets by the urban ultra-poor increased	Percentage of urban ultra-poor accessing social safety nets	0	5%	Progress reports	Availability of resources
	Strengthen community involvement and social accountability in selection of social safety nets beneficiaries	Beneficiary selection grievance cases reduced.	Percentage of beneficiary selection related complaints registered	10%	7%	Case management reports	Case management records are timely updated
		Community validation included in programme enrollment processes	Number of programmes with enrollment processes involving validation	2	4	Programme reports	
	Strengthen delivery mechanisms for all safety net programs	Use of social registry in beneficiary identification increased	Number of social safety nets programmes using the social registry for beneficiary identification	2	4	Programme reports	
		Use of electronic payments for social protection beneficiaries increased	Percentage of social safety nets beneficiaries paid electronically	35%	100%	Programme reports	

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		Information systems integrated with the social registry	Number of Management information systems integrated with the social registry	1	6	Progress Reports	Readiness of MIS's System compatibility
	Increase coverage of safety nets for ultra-poor households	Households receiving Social safety nets benefits increased	Percentage of households receiving social safety nets benefits	29.2%	37.5%	Program progress reports	Availability of services
		Ultra-poor households targeted for social safety nets benefits	Percentage of the ultra-poor households receiving social safety net benefits	85%	100%	Program progress reports	Availability of services
	Strengthen sensitisation of communities on implementation of various safety nets programs.	Community level governance structures oriented on social safety nets	Percentage of Community level governance structures oriented on social safety nets	0%	60%	Programme reports	Availability of resources
		Message materials related to safety nets disseminated through local radios	Percentage of community radios contracted to disseminate information on social safety nets	10% per year	50% per year	Programme reports	Availability of resources

	POLICY PRIORITY AREA 2: Resilient Livelihoods						
	OUTCOMES: Enhanced resilience to asset erosion among the poor and vulnerable						
Objectives	**Strategies**	**Output (s)**	**Performance Indicator(s)**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source (s) of Verification**	**Assumptions/Risks**
Compliment welfare support with broader productive livelihoods interventions that assist populations at	Strengthen linkages among social assistance programmes and with other basic social services	Social protection programme beneficiaries linked to complementary social services	Percentage of beneficiaries linked to complementary social services	10%	25%	Linkages and referral reports	Availability of service providers

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risk to withstand shocks and build a sustainable livelihood	Diversify income sources to include agricultural activities with off-farm pathways to build resilience amongst all groups	Social protection programme beneficiaries trained in productive skills	Percentage of beneficiary households equipped with knowledge and skills for productive livelihoods	10%	18%	Program training reports	Availability of resources
			Percentage of Social Protection beneficiaries with more than one income generating activity	10%	60%	Reports	Stable macroeconomic environment
	Enhance access to financial services for greater financial inclusion	Access to financial services among ultra-poor and vulnerable populations increased	Percentage of beneficiaries with access to formal financial services	36%	100%	Reports	Availability of suitable/ pro-poor financial products Availability of financial service providers
	Promote inclusive savings and loans schemes	Participation in savings and loans schemes by ultra-poor and vulnerable populations increased.	Percentage of beneficiaries participating in savings and loans groups	82%	100%	Reports	Availability of financial service providers

	POLICY PRIORITY AREA 3: Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection						
	OUTCOME: Strengthened Human Capital accumulation						
Objectives	**Strategies**	**Output (s)**	**Performance Indicator(s)**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source (s) of Verification**	**Assumptions/Risks**
Provide welfare support to the	Promote nutrition-sensitive value	Nutrition-sensitive value chains integrated in	Number of livelihoods promotion projects with nutrition value	0	6	Program progress reports	

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poorest and most vulnerable to improve their standard of living	chains in social protection	livelihoods promotion projects	chains integrated in their manuals.				
			Percentage of SLGs/cooperatives participating in nutrition-sensitive value chains.	2%	10%	Program progress reports	Availability of advisory services
	Promote production and utilization of diverse nutrition foods among social protection beneficiaries	Saving and Loans Groups (SLGs) trained in production and utilization of diverse nutrition foods	Percentage of SLGs trained in production and utilization of diverse nutrition foods.	30%	80%	Progress reports	Availability of resources
	Empower ultra-poor and vulnerable populations with Integrated Homestead Farming package	Ultra-poor and vulnerable populations trained in integrated homestead farming	Percentage of ultra-poor and vulnerable population trained in homestead farming.	5%	20%	Program progress reports	Availability of service providers

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	Harmonize coordination mechanisms for nutrition and social protection interventions	Shock responses integrated with nutrition sensitivity	Percentage of nutrition sensitive shock responses	0	50%	Programme reports	Little led time before implementation
	Promote optimal nutrition in social protection interventions	Nutrition and Social Protection Collaboration framework established	Number of Nutrition and Social Protection framework established	0	1	Progress reports	Availability of funds Stakeholder Commitment
			Number of Nutrition and Social Protection Collaboration joint review meetings	0	Quarterly	Joint Review reports	Availability of funds Stakeholder Commitment
	Promote awareness on WASH and consumption of diverse diets focusing on locally available foods among children, adolescent girls and boys and pregnant	Social protection Programme beneficiaries trained on WASH and diverse diets focusing on locally available foods	Percentage of households trained in preparation of diverse diets focusing on locally available foods.	2%	12%	Program progress reports	
			Percentage of households adhering to basic WASH.	10%	35%	Program progress reports	Availability of community compliance structures.

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	and lactating mothers						

	POLICY PRIORITY AREA 4: Shock sensitive social Protection						
	OUTCOME: Strengthened Shock-sensitive social protection system						
Objectives		**Output (s)**	**Performance Indicator(s)**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source (s) of Verification**	**Assumptions/Risks**
Compliment welfare support with broader productive livelihoods interventions that assist populations at risk to withstand shocks and build a sustainable livelihood.	Design programmes that are able to scale up to deal with exceptional periods of acute need that result from shocks	Shock-sensitive Social Protection Resource Mobilization Strategy developed.	Shock-sensitive Social Protection Resource Mobilization Strategy in place.	0	1	Resource Mobilisation Strategy.	Willingness of stakeholders.
	Establish a predictable multi-year support system to poor households to address the annual food gap and reduce the scale of the annual emergency response	Ultra-poor population impacted by shocks reached by shock responses.	Percentage of impacted Ultra-poor households reached through vertical and horizontal expansion	75%	100%	Program progress reports	Availability of resources
	Strengthen district	Staff trained in designing and	Number of staff trained at central level	5	20	Training reports	Availability of resources

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	coordination structures to improve collaboration among humanitarian and social protection actors	implementation of shock response interventions	Number of staff trained at council level	26	60	Training reports	Availability of resources
		Household vulnerability to food insecurity reduced	Percentage of households requiring multi-year support	80%	40%	MVAC reports	Enhanced capacity building of vulnerable and Ultra-poor households
		Household records timely updated in the social registry	Frequency of updating social registry parameters	Every 4 years	Every 2 months	Social registry (UBR) progress reports	Availability of Resources Willingness of Stakeholders
		Humanitarian and Social Protection actors undertaking Joint monitoring activities	Frequency of joint monitoring exercises	Annually	Biannually	Activity reports	Incentives to hold the meeting are in place Availability of resources
	Strengthen linkages and referrals to vulnerable households to critical complimentary services such as veterinary services during livestock disease, access to drought resistant crop varieties	Access to streamlined complementary services for vulnerable households increased	Percentage of households accessing streamlined complementary services	10%	20%	Program progress report	Availability of service providers
	Integrate an environmental perspective in	Shock Sensitive Environmental guidelines developed	Shock Sensitive Environmental guidelines in place	0	1	Shock Sensitive Environmental guidelines	

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	shocks and pandemic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery						
	Strengthen mechanisms for comprehensive accounting for vulnerable groups in social protection programming	Vulnerable groups accounted for in shock sensitive response	Number of vulnerability parameters disaggregated in reporting	0	24 (4 parameters in 6 programs)	Program progress reports	Compliance by stakeholders

	POLICY PRIORITY AREA 5: Social Security						
	OUTCOME*:* Enhanced quality and coverage of social security, covering risks across the life cycle						
Objectives	**Strategies**	**Output (s)**	**Performance Indicator(s)**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source (s) of Verification**	**Assumptions/Risks**
Build the foundations for providing a comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social security or protection over the life cycle in line with international standards including for those working in	Develop and strengthen social insurance schemes	Affordable and innovative social security schemes for the informal sector developed	Number of schemes for informal sector developed	0	2	Reserve Bank of Malawi reports	Adequate institutional capacity
	Develop affordable and innovative social protection schemes for the informal sector.	Existing social security schemes reviewed	Number of existing schemes reviewed	0	1	Reserve Bank of Malawi reports	Adequate institutional capacity

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the informal sector.	Strengthen institutional capacity and legislative frameworks for delivery of effective and sustainable social security schemes or services	Legislation for social security reviewed	Number of laws reviewed/ developed	0	2	Parliament gazettes	Adequate institutional capacity
		Social security stakeholders trained	Number of officers in relevant MDAs trained	0	50	Training reports	Availability of resources
			Number of officers from Financial Service Providers trained	0	50	Training reports	Availability of resources
	Strengthen synergies between employment creation and social insurance to enhance decent work	Workers and Employers sensitized on decent work	Percentage of employer organization reached.	0%	40%	Progress reports	Effective stakeholder collaboration
			Percentage of worker associations reached.	0%	50%	Progress reports	Effective stakeholder collaboration
	Raise awareness of social security among different sections of society	Develop a Social Security Communication Strategy	A Social Security Communication Strategy in place.	0	1	Progress reports	
	Strengthen coordination and collaboration among informal sector stakeholders	Establish stakeholders' coordination fora.	Number of stakeholders' coordination fora.	0	2	Progress reports	Willingness of key stakeholders to participate

	POLICY PRIORITY AREA 6: Creating an Enabling Environment for Social Protection System
	OUTCOME: Enhanced institutional capacity of the social protection machinery

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Objectives	Strategies	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
Strengthen systems and capacities of stakeholders to manage social protection programs	Strengthen and harmonize social protection coordination structures at all levels	Functional Social Protection coordination structures established	Number of steering committee meetings	Annual	2 per year	Steering Committee meeting minutes	Terms of Reference are reviewed
			Number of technical committee meetings	2 per year	Quarterly	Technical Committee meeting minutes	Terms of Reference are reviewed
	Develop participatory approaches in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes and interventions	Participatory approaches for core social protection programs developed.	Number of social protection core programs with participatory approaches	0	6	Progress reports	
	Ensure complementarity in designing and implementation of social protection interventions with relevant interventions in other sectors such as health, education,	Social Protection coordination structures reviewed	Reviewed Social Protection coordination structures in place	0	1	Progress reports	

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	agriculture, and humanitarian						
	Enhance communications and advocacy in the social protection sector	Communication and advocacy strategy for Social Protection developed	Communication strategy in place	0	1	Communication strategy	
	Promote public-private partnerships in social protection programmes	PPPs in social protection programs established	Number of PPPs established	0	3	Memoranda of understanding	Capacity for developing viable Public-private partnerships
	Strengthen resource mobilization to ensure sustainable investments from government and non-government sources	Pool financing for Social Protection established	Percentage of Social Protection funding mobilized through pool funding arrangements	50%	90%	Progress reports	Strong Government leadership
	Strengthen human capacity for effective programming and delivery of social protection services at all levels	Human capacity for effective programming and delivery of social protection services at all levels developed	Percentage of vacant positions of key personnel filled	60%	90%	HR records/staff returns	Availability of resources High staff retention
			Number of staff trained in Social Protection core-specialty	35	100	Training reports	Availability of resources

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	Establish a social protection monitoring and evaluation system to track the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of social protection programmes	Social protection monitoring and evaluation systems developed	M & E systems in place	0	1	Progress reports	
	Strengthen harmonized targeting mechanisms for social protection programmes	Social registry (UBR) dynamic update mechanism developed	Social registry dynamic update mechanism in place	0	1	Programme progress reports	
		Social registry integrated with other Management Information Systems (MIS's)	Number of MISs integrated with Social registry	0	6	Programme progress reports	Willingness to integrate Compatibility with other MIS's
	Strengthen legal and regulatory framework for social protection	Laws and regulations for social protection developed	Social Protection Bill in place	0	1	Progress reports	Drafting capacity
	Enforce legal instruments to guide implementation of social protection interventions and programmes	Legal instruments to guide implementation of social protection services and programs enforced.	Social Protection regulations in place	0	1	Parliament gazettes	Drafting capacity

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	Enhance social accountability and transparency in social protection implementation	Harmonized Grievance and Redress Mechanisms (GRM) operationalized	Number of districts with functional grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) structures	4	28	Progress reports	Availability of the resources

	POLICY PRIORITY AREA 7: Cross-Cutting issues						
	OUTCOME: Enhanced institutional capacity of the social protection machinery						
Objectives	**Strategies**	**Output (s)**	**Performance Indicator(s)**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source (s) of Verification**	**Assumptions/Risks**
Strengthen systems and capacities of stakeholders to manage social protection programs	Support food production through input supply, knowledge & skills transfer, and extension services linkage	Social Protection beneficiaries trained in food production	Number of beneficiaries trained	135,000	520,000	Program progress reports	
			Number of beneficiaries reached with farm inputs	50,000	250,000	Program progress reports	Availability of resources
	Explore innovative ways of cushioning farming households against production related risks through social insurance products/services	Social Protection beneficiaries' access to innovative financial products/services increased	Number of beneficiaries linked to crop insurance	0	100,000	Program progress reports	Investments in mindset change
			Number of beneficiaries with access to micro-loans	2,000	100,000	Program progress reports	Availability of service providers

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	Promote irrigation production and intercropping to improve access and utilisation of food among poor and vulnerable households	Social Protection beneficiaries' capacities in irrigation production and intercropping developed	Number of beneficiaries trained in irrigation production and intercropping	5,000	30,000	Program progress reports	Availability of advisory services
	Enhance disability inclusiveness in social protection programmes and projects	Social protection staff trained on disability inclusion	Number of staff trained on disability inclusion	30	200	Training report	
	Promote access to social protection interventions for households with persons with disabilities	Disability inclusive guidelines developed	Number of disability inclusive guidelines in place	0	1	Program progress reports	
			Number of social protection programs made disability inclusive	0	7	Program progress reports	
			Number social protection programs reporting on disability indicators	1	7	Program progress reports	
	Ensure gender balance in capacity building initiatives	Participation of women in capacity building initiatives increased	Percentage of women participation in capacity building initiatives	35%	50%	Training reports	
		Increased participation of women in training/ facilitation teams	Percentage of women participating in training/facilitation teams	20%	50%	Training reports	

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	Ensure gender balance in decision making roles	Participation of women in decision making roles in social protection programs increased	Percentage of women in decision making roles in Social Protection programs	40%	65%	Program progress reports	
	Promote use of participatory approaches to involve women in programme or project design	Social Protection program design processes involving women increased	Percentage of program design processes involving women	40%	80%	Workshop reports	
	Promote the use of gender responsive indicators as a minimum standard for activity design, implementation and monitoring	Gender responsive indicators in the Social Protection M & E system incorporated	M & E system with gender responsive indicators in place	0	1	Monitoring activity reports	
	Ensure that all social protection programmes are gender sensitive	Gender sensitivity in social protection programs increased	Number of gender sensitive social protection programs	2	6	Program progress reports	
	Promote positive parenting interventions in social protection	Use of gender transformative approaches increased	Percentage of livelihood programs using gender transformative approaches	10%	40%	Program progress reports	
	Ensure integration of environmental	Environmental considerations integrated into all	Number of core-programs incorporating	1	6	Program progress reports	Availability of funds

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	considerations in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection interventions	social protection interventions	environmental considerations				
	Promote the inclusion of environmental aspects when assessing vulnerabilities, exposure, and potential impacts of disasters	Environmental aspects included in vulnerability and disaster impact assessments	Percentage of vulnerability and disaster impact assessments incorporating environmental aspects	30%	70%	Post disaster recovery reports Program progress reports	
	Manage the impacts of environmental drivers such as climate change, spread of pathogenic organisms and hazardous substances that pose risks to human health	Impacts of environmental drivers on human health reduced	Percentage of hazards mitigated	80%	100%	Program progress reports	Availability of resources

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