

UNDP

Malawi



Newsletter

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



UNDP embarks on organisational change

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Cover: UNDP Administrator Helen Clark launched the agenda for organisational change-Photo UNDP intranet

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About UNDP

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries

In Malawi, UNDP sees its role as supporting the Government to use development resources effectively and accountably to achieve the objectives of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy and attain the Millennium Development Goals.

Message from the Resident Representative

Dear Readers,

I am happy to present to you our second quarter Newsletter.

In April, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark launched an Agenda for Organization Change aimed at "Lifting UNDP Performance from Good to Great" to meet the development challenges of the rapidly changing environment in the 21st Century.

UNDP's mission is to be widely acknowledged as a world class, knowledge-based development organisation which helps developing countries make transformational change and enhances the strengths of the entire UN development system.

We, however, will not be complacent with the past success and now renew our commitment to harness the energy at all levels to build an even better, stronger, and greater UNDP.

The reform agenda is built around three pillars, namely (i) internal governance (ii) organization effectiveness, and (iii) leadership, culture and behaviours.

To determine a practical and effective course of action for organisational change, the Global Management Meeting was held in New York in June. I participated in this meeting with UNDP's headquarter senior management, the UN Resident Coordinators/UNDP Resident Representatives, Country Directors and Head of Liaison Offices in 167 Countries and territories.

I am pleased to inform you that the meeting was very successful and constructive, identifying a set of issues that will enable us to more effectively support our country offices to deliver visible and consistent impact on the ground.

As part of the organisational change initiatives, the new tagline for UNDP "**Empowered Lives. Resilient nations**" was adopted in the Executive Board Meeting in June. The tagline intends to explain UNDP's approach in working with people to build their skills and knowledge they need to improve their own lives, as well as helping nations withstand crisis and drive and sustain the kind of growth which improves the quality of life for everyone.

I believe that the tagline will serve as a useful tool to communicate UNDP's mandate more effectively with various audiences and partners in our daily interactions.

At country level, we have reached the final stage of preparation of our new programme cycle for 2012-2016.

In March, the Assessment of Development Report (ADR), which summarizes the development impacts achieved during the past and current UNDP programme cycle, was finalized in consultation with the Government of Malawi and development partners.

The final draft of the Country Programme Document (CPD) for UNDP Malawi (2012-2016) was produced. It will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Board in September 2011. We are also gearing up for closure of the current programme cycle.

UNDP Malawi has expanded its monitoring and evaluation exercise to assess the projects, which will provide a basis for design of the new project strategies. The project evaluation report on Joint Programme Support for Strengthening National



Monitoring & Evaluation was well appreciated by the key stakeholders.

Several monitoring visits, some with development partners were conducted. Notable among the visits was one conducted by UNDP, Embassy of Ireland and the Government of Malawi on Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives in Nsanje and Chikhwawa districts in June. The field monitoring visits on Financial Inclusion project in Southern and Central regions is another example. Hearing stories of the beneficiaries in the villages, was dear that their lives have been transformed. We are proud to be part of their transformation.

UNDP- Malawi continues to support capacity

enhancement of Implementation Partners (IPs) as well as our own staff. For example, we conducted training for staff and IPs on integrating communication into project implementation to equip them with skills of communicating results of projects more effectively.

We are also providing a series of trainings for our staff to ensure a smooth transition from United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNAS) to International Public Sector Accounting System (IPSAS) effective 1st January 2012 for more comprehensive, transparent and systematic accounting.

Detailed stories on these and many more are elaborated in this issue.

UNDP embarks on organisational change

In a bid to lift UNDP's performance from good to a great, Administrator Helen Clark in April launched the agenda for organisational change in order to meet development challenges of the 21st century.

The change agenda to be implemented in a period of one year targets clearly defined issues that will enable the organisation to effectively deliver visible, consistent and impact on the ground in 166 countries across the globe.

The agenda for organisational change seeks to uphold a state in which UNDP is strategically positioned, results driven, global thought leader, nurtures and maintains a strong set of partnerships, provides high quality services and translates policy into solutions, delivers excellence in customer focussed services and empowers staff.

"UNDP is a strong and effective organisation, but we cannot afford to be complacent. The external environment poses many challenges; our understanding of how best we can support countries achieve their development ambitions continues to evolve and there are high expectations from our partners to demonstrate impact and value for money,"

"UNDP's performance is good and I have been privileged to see time and time again the real impact we can have on the lives of the poor in countries across the world. But we need to lift our performance from good to great if we are to stay



UNDP-Malawi staff: The change agenda seeks to empower staff to contribute effectively

ahead of this rapidly evolving agenda," said the Administrator.

The Administrator affirmed it was essential for UNDP to operate as a forward organisation which has clear strategic priorities where it can demonstrate impact and continuously adapt to changing circumstances and refine its priorities accordingly.

She said the agenda for organisational change includes review of the functional structures at headquarters and regional

a strong base. I have personally witnessed the commitment, the dedication and the passion which UNDP staff have for this organisation. Now, we will need to harness that energy at all levels to move forward and ensure we are strongly positioned to meet the development challenges of the 21st century. In doing so, we will create an organisation in which staff themselves feel satisfied and are empowered to contribute effectively," commented the

countries pursue their development goals. These priorities will be developed from the knowledge of what is needed on the ground and understood throughout the organisation

Decisions at levels would be driven by the shared understanding of what is most important. UNDP would be able to demonstrate the achievement of specific results in the identified priorities.

On the integrated budget framework, UNDP will develop an integrated budget that enables resources to be considered collectively, bringing together a unified framework of core and non core resources for the first time, while continuing to report as required to the board.

This would enable internal resource allocations to be more tightly aligned with agreed priorities.

Currently, UNDP delivers an average annual five billion dollar programme in 166 countries through 135 country offices. The organisation also has a key role in leading UN development co-ordination.

"We are building from a strong base. I have personally witnessed the commitment, the dedication and the passion which UNDP staff have for this organisation."

service centres to more effectively support country offices deliver results. She added that the change agenda would encompass projects already underway from the organisation's Action Plan.

"We are building from

Administrator.

Regarding clear strategic objectives in the change agenda, UNDP will within its broad human development mandate identify strategic priorities in order to more effectively contribute to helping

The Government of Ireland has commended communities in Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts for taking a leading role in disaster risk reduction activities aimed at reducing the effects caused by flooding of the Shire and Lalanje river, a tributary of the Shire River.

The districts, which are located in the Southern Region of Malawi are prone to flooding due to their geographical location near the two rivers.

Head of Development at Irish Aid, Mr. Vincent O’Neil commended communities in Chikhwawa and Nsanje for their active participation in implementing the various activities such as dredging of silt from the rivers, construction of dykes, planting of trees along river banks among others.

Mr. O’Neil was speaking after touring the various disaster reduction initiatives implemented by Goal Malawi, a local Non Governmental Organisation working with communities in the two districts to reduce the effects caused by flooding.

UNDP Malawi, with funding from the Government of Ireland supports Goal Malawi to implement the various disaster risk reduction initiatives in the two districts.

“We had a very successful visit. It’s encouraging to see leadership from the communities. We learnt a lot. Thank you for the interesting experiences you have shared with us,” Mr. O’Neil told communities after touring the initiatives.

In his remarks, Traditional Authority Mbenje, said his subjects appreciate the assistance they receive from the Government of Ireland



Head of Development at Irish Aid, Mr. Vincent O’Neil (far left)

Ireland impressed with disaster reduction initiatives

...commends communities for taking a lead

through UNDP.

“We are very happy for your coming. On behalf of my people, we want to thank you for the assistance you give us. On our own we had done something but were facing a lot of problems. Lalanje river has

families to flee their homes, but with your assistance, families are now back to their original places,” said Traditional Authority Mbenje.

The chief further explained that during the rainy season, water from the

He said the communities then mobilised themselves and started removing sand from Lalanje river and directed its flow to the Shire river, thereby reducing chances of floods destroying property.

Goal Malawi Assistant Country Director Mr. Petri Siikanen explained that Lalanje river is a perennial river which floods during the rainy season.

He said in collaboration with the community, his organisation embarked on the silt removal programme where communities were paid a minimal fee of K300 per day. He said this motivated the community.

UNDP Malawi, with funding from the Government of Ireland supports Goal Malawi to implement the various disaster risk reduction initiatives in the two districts.

been a problem, but with your assistance things have changed. Floods forced

upstream areas washed away homes, crops and livestock, resulting in hunger.

Highlights of the UNDP-Malawi C

In keeping with UNDP's mandate, comparative advantage and development experience, the new Country Programme for UNDP-Malawi is designed to support four strategic and inter-related priority areas namely; sustainable and inclusive economic growth; climate change, energy, environment and disaster risk mitigation; MDGs achievement (Gender and HIV/AIDS); democratic governance and public sector management.

The draft Programme Document has been finalised and would be discussed in the UNDP Executive Board in September 2011

The areas in the new programme correspond to United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Outcomes (1) sustainable economic growth, (3) HIV/AIDS and (4) Good governance.

The Programme establishes synergies between capacity development and resource management, as key constraints in MDGs achievement.

According to the draft Country Programme Document, support to public administration reform would be reinforced by a national results-based management practice, further support to aid management and negotiations, and evidence-based planning and policy making.

In the new programme, UNDP will place strong emphasis on partnerships



Construction of dykes on the Lalanje river in Nsanje District. The initiatives are in line with Component II, Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

with UN agencies and other development partners for greater effectiveness, efficiency and impact.

UNDP and other UN agencies will uphold the principles of gender

mainstreaming; environmental sustainability and rights-based approaches with clear targets and success indicators.

Under Component 1 on

Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, UNDP will provide financial and technical support for entrepreneurial innovation, inclusive market development, pro-poor business models and financial

Country Programme (2012–2016)



Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability UNDP's support will focus on improved coordination, investment planning, mainstreaming and knowledge management at the national and district levels to ensure a low emission and climate-resilient development.

Component III on MDGs Achievement (Gender and HIV), says UNDP's focus in gender revolves around the national capacity to address gender issues- the national gender machinery. Support in HIV will focus on providing strategic policy advice on the sustainability of the national response both in financial and institutional terms. With all gender indicators in the MDGs monitoring framework lagging behind, the UN is seeking to rapidly amend the dynamics through transformative action.

Regarding component IV on Governance, Public Sector Management Reform, UNDP will support free and credible national elections and further strengthen the operational, accountability and management capacities of the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC).

In line with the MGDS's focus on Human Rights, UNDP will support strategic and capacity development plans for the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) and the Ombudsperson, while expanding the reach and coverage of ongoing efforts in Human Rights awareness and paralegal support.

inclusion.

This is in response to the transformative growth focus

of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), and in an effort to

ensure inclusion of the poor in future prosperity.

On Component II,

UNDP and other UN agencies will uphold the principles of gender mainstreaming; environmental sustainability and rights-based approaches with clear targets and success indicators.



Mrs. Mateyo: The village savings initiative has pushed us to this level.

Communities benefiting from the village savings initiative

Mrs. Christina Mateyo, of Group Village Headman Feremu in Neno district (Southern Region of Malawi) has all reasons to smile following her success in effectively running a retail business.

Mrs. Mateyo owes her success to the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) initiative by A Self Help Project (ASAP) Malawi which receives support from Financial Inclusion in Malawi (FIMA) Project.

The project is funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and Catholic Organisation for Development Aid (CORDAID).

Mrs. Mateyo is a member of the Tikondane 41 (Let's

love one another) Village Savings and Loans Club. She joined the club in December 2010 and has since then taken loans amounting to K243, 000 (Approximately US\$ 1,620).

With the loan, Mrs. Mateyo has managed to stock up her shop with all basic necessities such as soap, sugar, tea, flour, rice and other commodities such as clothing and shoes. She also operates a tea room where she serves tea, doughnuts and bread.

"The village savings initiative has pushed us to this level. I run this retail shop with my husband. He is the one who goes to Blantyre to purchase the commodities, while I stay here to sell the goods. We make an average profit of K20,000 per week. With this we are able to pay back the loans ,” she said

Mrs. Mateyo further explained that from the retail business they are also able to pay school fees amounting to K10,000 (ApproximatelyUS\$ 60) per term for their Form One son at a private school.

ASAP Malawi trains communities in basic concepts for running small businesses, loan management, savings, group dynamics, among others.

After completion of the training, each member of a group contributes to the group fund. Members then take loans at an interest rate of 20 percent. The loans are usually payable within three months. This gives an opportunity to other members of the club to borrow from the fund.

After a period of six to twelve months, the members share profits according to individual shares invested in

the VSLA fund. This is done in the presence and guidance of ASAP officials. The activities of each club are guided by a constitution that is developed and agreed upon by members during the formulation stage of the group.

Mr. Zakeyo Vintulla, is another beneficiary of the VSLA Initiative. A resident of Feremu Village in Neno district too, Mr. Vintulla is a member of Tikondane 12, Village Savings and Loans Club.

He runs a successful makeshift shop stocked with fish, tomatoes, onions and clothes.

Feremu village is situated about 30 kilometres from the main trading centre. The retail businesses therefore, enables the communities to access basic commodities in their localities, saving on time and cost that they would have used to travel to the trading centre.

"Before I joined the Village Savings Club, I used to idle around a lot. I depended on piece work and would drink all the money I got. But now, I am a changed person. Thanks to ASAP which taught us how to save money and venture into profitable businesses," he said. "I am now able to provide for my family,"

According to Mr. Vintulla, at the time of the monitoring visit he had K50,000 (Approximately US\$ 330) worth of shares in the savings club.

There are 590 Village Savings and Loans clubs that ASAP trained in Chikhwawa, Blantyre rural, Neno and Mwanza districts respectively. Each Village Savings club comprises of an average of 7 members.

ASAP Coordinator said they select the districts where extension services by government are nonexistent especially poor households who cannot be reached.

Financial Inclusion project takes banking services to the rural masses

Mrs. Amina, Amison, a 47-year-old business woman from Salima district in the Central Region of Malawi is one of the hundreds of several other women and men who have benefited from a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and Catholic Organisation for Development Aid (CORDAID) supported Financial Inclusion in Malawi (FIMA) project.

The project supports Financial Service Providers (FSPs) with resources and technical expertise to be able to provide financial services in rural areas.

Mrs. Amison who previously walked over 10km to Salima Boma to access financial services now gets the services right in her village, courtesy of the Malawi Rural Finance Company (MRFC)'s introduction of portable electronic gadgets to conduct financial transactions such as cash withdrawals, deposits, checking balance, to mention but a few.

MRFC received a total of US\$ 200,000 (Approximately MWK 30,000,000) from UNDP and UNCDF to purchase portable electronic gadgets to conduct financial transactions for customers in the communities.

The equipment is user friendly especially for the illiterate as it identifies a customer by use of finger prints.

"The introduction of



Mrs. Amison: The introduction of these gadgets has helped me to cut transport costs

these gadgets has helped me to cut transport costs. Sometimes, I just wanted to know my balance, but I could pay K200 (approximately 13 US\$) to go to Salima Boma where banks are located. Now I just walk to this MRFC office which is very close to my home to check my balance," said Mrs. Amison

She also said that the new equipment had reduced the risk of being attacked by thieves; explaining that her colleague was once attacked by thieves and robbed all the money she had borrowed from the bank to conduct her business.

"Apparently the thieves knew us as business women and whenever we went to the bank, they knew we had cash. But now we are relieved because we no longer carry hard cash all the time, we have money cards," said a visibly jovial Mrs. Amison.

Mrs. Amison runs a restaurant and fish business. She explained that she had

been a customer of the MRFC since 2001. She said her monthly net profit was approximately K15,000 (About US\$ 100). Her initial capital was a loan she got from MRFC. Since then, she had been a regular customer. "I have never defaulted repayment of loans," she recalls.

Mrs. Amison has been able to educate her six children from the profits she realises from her businesses. She also provides funds to her husband for his tailoring business.

Director of Operations at MRFC Mr. Weston Kusani earlier explained to a team of UNDP and Ministry of Finance officials during a monitoring visit to their offices that his institution purchased 148 gadgets from funds provided by UNDP and UNCDF.

The equipment is placed at MRFC offices situated in all districts in the country. These are operated by their portfolio officers who are usually on the ground, in the communities to assist customers. The portfolio

officers are highly trained personnel in ICT.

Mr. Kusani said their services reach a total of about 252,000 customers.

The Financial Inclusion in Malawi project was established in 2007 with initial support from UNDP and UNCDF to create an inclusive financial sector in Malawi.

The project takes a sectoral approach and has specific interventions at policy, retail and client levels of the financial sector.

It focuses on the following strategic areas (a) support development of policy and regulatory framework that creates a favourable environment for microfinance to flourish (b) support development of industry infrastructure that can improve coordination, establish standards, create incentives for investors, protect consumers, make information available to stakeholders, improve transparency and enhance procedures for comparing effectiveness of FSPs (c) support innovations aimed at improving access to financial services by increasing availability of services, improving efficiency and making access more affordable (d) build capacity of FSPs in order to enhance performance and sustainability (e) support initiatives in the financial support sector that can translate into affordable access to financial services by the poor and rural communities (f) increase product choice, availability and reduce cost of access for the poor and rural communities and (g) financial literacy and consumer protection.



A school boy carries a poster during International Human Rights Day celebrations in 2010

UNDP participates in the UNDAF (2012-2016) process

UNDP just like other UN agencies have been busy working on the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Malawi. The new UNDAF cycle covers the period 2012-2016

The UNDAF is the collective and strategic response of UN agencies in Malawi—resident and non-resident—to the national priorities and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In Malawi, these priorities have been reflected in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) II.

The UNDAF builds on the achievements and takes into account implementation challenges and lessons learnt from Delivering as One during the last UNDAF Cycle 2008-2011.

The formulation of the UNDAF is the result of a UN and Government integrated substantive consultation process that used the UN Malawi Country Assessment and the MGDS II as its foundation.

The Malawi Country Assessment revealed three binding constraints on development namely population growth, capacity and resources.

The assessment also identified five key strategic development priorities and recommended ten strategic policy messages.

Implementation of the UNDAF will focus on four key priority areas:

Key Priority 1: National policies, local and national institutions effectively support equitable and sustainable economic growth and food security by 2016.

Key Priority 2: National institutions effectively



deliver equitable and quality basic social and protection services by 2016.

Key Priority 3: National response to HIV and AIDS scaled up to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2016.

Key Priority 4: National

institutions effectively support transparency, accountability, participatory democracy and human rights by 2016.

The new UNDAF is finalised and expected to be launched soon after Government launches the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II.

UNDP's Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives give hope to communities



Mrs. Gloria Thole: Every rainy season, we abandoned our homes due to floods

Mrs. Gloria Thole of Traditional Authority Mbenje in Nsanje district and her family every rainy season abandoned their home for fear of being swept away by floods.

Nsanje and Chikhwawa districts situated in Southern region of Malawi are flood prone areas due to their geographical location near the Shire river. For decades, communities lost crops, property and families were displaced due to flooding.

"Every rainy season we left our home to seek shelter far from here. As you can see the veranda of my house is gone. It was washed away by floods. And during this time, we could not grow crops. Hunger was the order of the day. The crops that we grew were also washed away by rain," explained Mrs. Thole.

However, Mrs. Thole said the situation has changed.

This is because of the various disaster risk reduction initiatives being implemented in Nsanje district. The initiatives are supported by UNDP with funding from the Irish Government and coordinated by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs in the Office of the President and Cabinet.

Some of the initiatives include construction of dykes along the Lalanje river, a tributary of the Shire river, construction of dams, river banks, to mention but a few. These activities are coordinated by Goal-Malawi; a UNDP funded local Non-Governmental Organisation that works with the communities.

"Things have changed. For the past two years, we have not experienced worse effects of the flooding as compared to previous years. In fact for the first time in our history, we never relocated during the last rainy season. This

to us is a great achievement. We are now able to grow crops," she said.

Traditional Authority Mbenje is another victim of the flooding of the Shire river. Because of flooding every rainy season, his headquarters were shifted from the original place, which was situated about 10km from Lalanje river.

"My ancestors used to be here, but because of flooding the headquarters of Traditional Authority Mbenje were shifted down near the M1 road," he said.

Lalanje Primary School situated about 13 kilometres from Lalanje river was also abandoned due to frequent flooding. All pupils were transferred. According to Traditional Authority Mbenje, there are plans to re-open the school since the situation has improved.

The flooding prompted government to ask all people near the Shire river to relocate to upper areas.

However, a majority refused citing fear of losing their identity and ancestral land, among other reasons.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project aims at reducing the vulnerability of households through mainstreaming DRR and strengthening the co-ordination of flood preparedness and mitigation in Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts as well as nationally.

Before Goal Malawi came in to support the construction of dykes, the communities themselves, having realised the threat caused by flooding had initially formed Area and Village Protection Committees which mobilised manpower to remove silt from the rivers.

However the work was not effective since they were using traditional equipment such as hoes. Another challenge was that people lacked motivation since it was voluntary work.

Hence Goal Malawi, with UNDP support last year came in with technical expertise and offered cash for work. A tractor was also deployed, dredging the silt with ease

Goal Malawi Assistant Country Director Mr. Pettri Siikanen Director said the construction of dykes along the Lalanje river was done by the communities themselves.

About 420 households from Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts were involved in the cash for work exercise.

He said his organisation also encouraged the communities to plant trees and elephant grass around the river banks. He explained that the major source of silt is deforestation and lack of proper soil conservation methods in the upstream areas.

Gender key to MDGs achievement says UNDP/ Government

UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Richard Dictus has pledged UNDP's commitment to support the capacity development of all its partners to adopt approaches that advance women's rights and take account of their contributions to development as a foundation for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) achievement.

The Resident Representative made the remarks during a Gender Machinery White Paper validation workshop at Lilongwe Hotel on 26th May 2011.

The Gender Machinery White Paper which was commissioned by UNDP and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Community Development makes a critical analysis of the existing gender machinery and its capacity to mainstream gender in policies, plans and programmes. It also proposes mechanisms for strengthening the gender machinery in order to improve harmonization, coordination and impact of gender initiatives in Malawi.

"UNDP is committed to continue its support for gender initiatives in Malawi focussing on the following areas; strengthening the gender machinery by supporting the implementation of the recommendations from the White Paper, capacity building of core institutions constituting the gender

machinery, development of an MDG-breakthrough strategy on gender in order to fast track the MDGs that are lagging behind and political and economic empowerment of women," he said.

He said drawing on a vision where human development guides all policy making and approaches to development, UNDP supports national partners to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by identifying and responding to gender equality dimensions. He further explained that the UN was convinced that a breakthrough strategy focused on women would have the highest impact on MDGs achievement.

According to Mr. Dictus, women hold the key to accelerating poverty eradication, improving institutional practices, ensuring children are educated and healthy, among others. He however said that if the women's interests, concerns and issues are ignored in

girls' enrolment and completion rates in education, women's shares of wage employment, HIV prevalence rates or the slow progress in reducing maternal deaths, the differentiated progress is indeed marked. The great difficulty with achieving MDG 3 is evidence of a consistent policy and implementation gap that a number of consecutive National Plans of Action have not been able to address effectively," he mentioned.

The Resident Representative explained that gender mainstreaming had remained an aspiration and various approaches engaged had not impacted policies, plans and programmes as well as national monitoring and evaluation systems.

He said there had also been little success in bringing systematic mainstreaming of gender in Government's planning programmes and implementation mainly due to lack of coordination, persistence and institutional

"Women hold the key to accelerating poverty eradication, improving institutional practices, ensuring children are educated and healthy, among others"

development plans and programmes, their potential would never get unleashed.

"Whether we look at

focus on gender and women issues.

According to Mr. Dictus, it was not enough to



develop Gender and Youth Sector Wide Approach (SWAp), adding that gender requires implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanisms across the broad spectrum of development issues covered in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) that move from good intentions to actions.

The Resident Representative further explained that gender does not have sufficient presence within ministries at central and district levels, adding that while project oriented activities were being conducted in the



Journalists from various media organisations interview Mr Dictus on the sidelines of a Gender Machinery White Paper validation workshop at Lilongwe Hotel

area of gender-based violence and the “50/50” campaign, little was done to develop a broad ranging network, an advocacy campaign and a monitoring and evaluation system to ensure capacity building of mainstreaming of gender across sectors.”The main constraint to advancing gender in development planning and implementation in Malawi is failure to ‘mainstream’ gender in development processes. This means making national, sectoral and district policies,

programmes and budgets gender responsive and making sure that each programme includes specific actions to rectify and prevent gender imbalances.”

In his remarks, Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Gender, Child and Community Development Mr. Erick Ning’ang’a said Government of Malawi in particular his ministry welcomed the White Paper on Gender Machinery because among others, it provided a comprehensive analysis of gender

performances in terms of the country’s achievements in gender equality, women’s empowerment, experiences with coordination of gender initiatives and challenges faced by the machinery.

“This analysis gives us a clear picture of where and why the gender machinery in Malawi is facing challenges. Second, the paper places Malawi within the international context of gender discourses. It reminds all stakeholders of their roles, responsibilities and functions as called upon

by the international conventions on gender,” said Mr. Ning’ang’a.

The Principal Secretary said the Gender Machinery White Paper highlighted critical issues that needed to be reviewed comprehensively by all stakeholders and all levels of the Malawi society. He said it was disheartening that the MDGs lagging behind in Malawi relate to gender issues.

He further explained that in order to improve the social and economic status of women and achieve gender-related MDGs by 2015, it was important for all stakeholders to be aware of issues that Government faces in its efforts to achieve the set targets for gender.

The development of a national Gender Machinery in Malawi followed the 1995 Beijing Platform of Action and other national and international instruments that called for the establishment of a National Gender Machinery to lead and guide country efforts in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment.

After committing itself to the Beijing Platform of Action and other international conventions, the Government of Malawi took steps to create a Gender Machinery. However, since the Machinery was not institutionalized and backed by legal documents, adequate funding and human resources, the structures started to disintegrate.

Hence the links between the gender coordinating body and stakeholders became less stable and resulted in fragmented support to gender programmes/projects.

The Government of Japan says it attaches great importance to the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) because the success of the programme signifies the success of the development process under the Fourth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICADIV) of May 2008.

Japanese Ambassador to Malawi H.E. Mr. Fujio Samukawa made the remarks on Tuesday 24th May 2011 at Livingstonia Hotel in Salima during the opening ceremony of the AAP Climate Action Intelligence workshop.

“On the other hand, the success of the AAP also signifies the success of the Japan-UNDP partnership in addressing Climate Change in 20 African countries with a funding of US\$ 92 million. Furthermore, the success of the AAP gives the Japan-UNDP partnership momentum to step efforts,” said Ambassador Samukawa.

He said apart from the AAP support, Japan had also stepped its own measures and diversified assistance to other countries. He said for instance last June, Japan established the “Strategic Energy Plan” under which it hoped to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent or more by 2030.

The Ambassador explained that in line with its diplomatic agenda, Japan had disbursed a total of US\$ 7.23 billion dollars for Climate Change related programmes in developing countries since September 2009.

“Following this assistance, over 367 projects have been implemented in as many as 82 countries up to date. It will further please you to know that Japan intends to



Participants to the AAP Climate Action Intelligence workshop pose for a group photograph with H.E Mr. Fujio Samukawa and Mr. Dictus

Japan commends the Africa Adaptation Programme

disburse a total of about US\$ 15 billion for Climate Change related projects by the year 2012,” he mentioned.

The Ambassador said that there was also the “Kyoto Initiative” through which Japan cooperates with developing countries to tackle Climate Change and that there was another initiative called “Cool Earth Partnership” through which Japan cooperates with developing countries to reduce greenhouse gases emissions.

He then commended the AAP workforce for their dedication to the programme and for turning the vision of the Japan-UNDP partnership into reality.

In his remarks, UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Richard Dictus said that Malawi since five years ago achieved national food security. He however said that the achievement was vulnerable as Malawi depends on rain-fed agriculture, “hence there is need to be on top of climate change initiatives in

order to sustain this achievement,” he mentioned.

The Resident Representative said UNDP appreciates the support it receives from Japan for the AAP programme and other programmes. He said several activities had been initiated at national level to set a foundation for the programme.

The workshop was jointly organised by the AAP office in Dakar Senegal and UNDP- Malawi Country Office with participants from Ethiopia, Kenya and the host Malawi.

The AAP was signed in May 2010, with the objective to “enhance Malawi’s existing climate initiatives by strengthening capacity for long term investment in, and management of climate-resilient sustainable development”.

AAP Malawi is funded by a Japanese Government grant amounting to US\$ 3.9 Million, implemented by UNDP and World Food Programme (WFP) and coordinated by the Ministry of Development

Planning and Cooperation.

The programme is executed by different Implementing Partners, such as Environmental Affairs Department, Department of Forestry, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture, etc.

AAP is operating in synergy and complementarity with the National Programme for Managing Climate Change in Malawi.

Both programmes have common overall outcomes and objectives, namely Climate Change adaptation capacity-building through risk analysis, policy and financial planning and stakeholders’ empowerment. The main theme of the national framework is mainstreaming Climate Change in planning, policies and actions across multiple sectors and levels, making sure that adaptation responses are formulated and integrated in a coherent manner through the support of robust and evidence-based assessments.

The Ministry of Development Planning and Co-operation through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supported Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI) on 13th May 2011 disseminated results of the Economic Analysis study on sustainable natural resource use in Malawi to journalists during a capacity building workshop at Ryalls Hotel in Blantyre.

The main objective of the study was to provide evidence on the costs and benefits of sustainable and unsustainable natural resource management in Malawi with focus on four selected natural resources namely; forestry, fisheries, wildlife and soils.

The study reviewed the relevant literature and used available information to establish the economic significance of natural resources in Malawi. Further, the study established linkages between natural resources management and poverty reduction, economic wellbeing and development.

Journalists sensitised on the Environmental Economic Report

Speaking during the official opening of the workshop, Deputy Director of Economic Planning in the Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation, Mr. Alex Namaona said the findings of the study revealed interesting facts on the significance of environment and natural resources for sustainable economic development of the country.

“This workshop is one way of reaching out to the masses since it is aimed at capacitating you members of the press on how to use the report to raise awareness to the populace

Government of Malawi and the nation stands to gain if it uses its natural resources sustainably,” said Mr. Namaona.

Mr. Namaona said the findings were frugal to the attainment of Government aspirations as outlined in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), hence it was important that the findings of the report are disseminated to the general public through various media outlets.

The Deputy Director then commended the journalists for forming the Association for Environment Journalists

issues. Government looks forward to partnering with you as we further the development agenda and advocate for environmental sustainability for economic development of Malawi,”

Among others, the study revealed that Malawi loses \$ 191 million (5.3 percent of GDP) annually because of unsustainable use of natural resources.

PEI is a global UNDP-UNEP programme that helps countries to integrate poverty-environment linkages into national and sub-national development planning from policy making to budgeting, implementation and monitoring. It was launched in 2005 and scaled up in 2007.

In Malawi, the Initiative was launched in 2008. The Initiative works in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Latin America-Caribbean. It's funded by the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and European Commission.

“Among others, the study revealed that Malawi loses \$ 191 million (5.3 percent of GDP) annually because of unsustainable use of natural resources”

on the negative effects of environmental and natural resources degradation.

(AEJ). “Your commitment shows the keen interest you have to environmental



A cross section of participants to the dissemination workshop.

UNDP programmes relevant- ADR Report

The Assessment of Development Results (ADR) report undertaken by the Evaluation Office of UNDP shows that UNDP-Malawi programmes are relevant to national priorities and the organisation's overall mandate of promoting sustainable human centered development underpinned by poverty reduction, equity, fairness and justice.

The evaluation which was conducted between June and December 2010 seeks to determine the degree to which UNDP has effectively responded to Malawi's national development goals and objectives. It evaluates the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UNDP's work in Malawi.

It also assesses the way UNDP strategically positioned itself and used its comparative advantage to add value to national development priorities and results.

A team of national consultants led and conducted the evaluation which received guidance from in country reference group of government and other key stakeholders. The evaluation also benefited from independent review by international experts and Center for Social Research at the University of Malawi.

UNDP - Malawi programmes and projects fall under broad thematic areas of good governance and empowerment, public sector reform and service delivery, energy, environment, disaster risk reduction and poverty and growth and MDGs

"Analysis across these programmes on effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability indicates that UNDP's overall performance is satisfactory. The evidence, however, shows variations in



Women in Mtandire in Lilongwe sort waste to make compost manure. UNDP in partnership with Lilongwe City Council is implementing the waste for wealth project aimed at ensuring that the environment is clean.

performance on the quality criteria as well as by programme type," reads the evaluation report in part.

According to the report the overall factors affecting UNDP's performance are leadership on the government side, stability in UNDP leadership at programme level, and in partner institutions willingness of the partners and donors to engage, personal commitment of various stakeholders and the presence of other partners working in the same area.

The programme area of good governance and empowerment is the largest in terms of resource allocation and number of activities accounting for about 80 percent of total country office resources. The programme was designed to achieve two outcomes by 2011, namely an informed public actively claiming good governance and human rights and improved national capacity to formulate policy, manage, monitor and deliver services to protect the rights of the vulnerable. The evaluation rates the good governance programme as highly relevant, implying that it's fully aligned to the

programmes as highly effective. Further, the evaluation says the programme activities have enabled the development of long-term structures and regulatory frameworks as well as regulating institutions for environmental management policies and activities.

Further, the development of a degree training programme in renewable energy at Mzuzu University is advantageous for the sustainability of some programme activities.

Crisis prevention and recovery interventions are aimed at contributing to the strengthening of disaster risk reduction and emergency management systems and practices for efficient response at national and sub-national levels. The evaluation rates the programme activities conducive to supporting national systems in disaster reduction efforts with above average performance score.

UNDP's programme activities under the pro-poor economic growth programme area are rated by the evaluation as highly relevant, addressing the prioritised focus areas of government. The approach used in intervention is participatory at community level and there is also strong mainstreaming of gender issues.

Interventions in gender and women empowerment are aimed at contributing to the enhancement of gender equality and women's empowerment by 2011. The evaluation says UNDP's response in making gender a substantive programme area was in line with the economic empowerment and social development agenda and the achievement of the MDGs. The evaluation rates this programme as highly relevant.

development priorities of the country.

The Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery programme was designed to support government address capacity constraints through various programmes and projects aimed at strengthening capacity in central and line ministries, departments and agencies to improve efficiency in the delivery of public services.

The assessment also rated the Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery programme as highly relevant, hence responding to a number of key constraints affecting achievement of development results in the country by among other factors enhancing the capacity of the government to implement the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), strengthening capacity in government to coordinate and manage development assistance while embracing key principles of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness.

UNDP's energy and environment programmes are intended to contribute to the enhancement of conservation of natural resources base by 2011. The evaluation rates the

UNDP-Malawi on 13th and 14th June 2011 organised a training for staff and Implementing Partners at Lilongwe Hotel in order to enhance their skills to effectively communicate results on projects/programmes.

The training was conducted by UNDP Regional Communications Advisor Ms. Maureen Mundece.

The topics covered among others included challenges in communicating results, why and how projects should communicate what they do at various stages of project cycle, communicating development results success stories, how projects can identify and support success stories, joint branding and messaging with partners), public speaking skills and power point presentations

In her opening remarks, UNDP Senior Assistant Resident Representative Ms. Mizuho Yokoi said communication was an important aspect of project/programme implementation.

She then thanked participants for sparing time to attend the training.

The following are quotes from different participants

"I came to the training thinking that I would sneak out after some time to check mail at the office. I never did because each moment of the training raised further curiosity within me to learn further skills in communication. The facilitator was so lively and down-to-earth in her presentations and her illustrations so relevant to our work situation," **Clemence Alfazema, UNDP Programme Analyst (Governance)**

"There is no doubt that communications is taking centre stage and priority in organizations. The success of an organization rests

UNDP trains staff and Implementing Partners in communication



UNDP Regional Communications Advisor Ms. Maureen Mundece stresses a point during group discussions.

highly on its ability to communicate. the training session was very insightful with practical examples given on how best to develop a communications culture and communicate for a difference. I will most definitely utilize the resources and knowledge given at the training session to enhance communications in and within the public sector organization I work for," **Mzithembi Mbekeani, Public Relations Officer Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation**

The training was good. First of all, training is a continuous process to improve self-awareness, knowledge and skills, which are very important elements of good communication skills we require. To me, that training enhanced my personal style of communication. Personally, I am glad I attended it to refresh my knowledge. No matter how much we think we know, we should never underestimate the power of learning. There is always a learning experience from anyone and anywhere.

How much one learns is the question. It all depends on one's openness and willingness to learn at that particular time. I think I benefited a lot and that is the way to build my personal capacity. **Raphael Arinaitwe, UNDP Capacity Building Specialist (attached to the Office of the President and Cabinet)**

The training was well equipping **Sarah Naija Office of the Ombudsman**

The training was very well designed and presented. It indeed addressed the common problems being faced in communications in the daily running of a project and in many other activities involved in project management. The practical and interactive nature of the training meant that everyone could provide input on the challenges they usually meet and also have a hands on feel of the approaches that were presented to help in overcoming the challenges faced. It was a very good learning experience and being a UN Volunteer this

was beneficial to my work experience. This will go a long way in enhancing my acquired work experience skills which will benefit my current assignment and also any other jobs I may take up in the future **Edmund Mvula UNV Project Officer Waste for Wealth Project**

The workshop assisted us as a beneficiary institution to acquire skills and knowledge on how we can facilitate communication with UNDP as well as increasing visibility of UN funded projects which we are implementing. The training also gave us new confidence and assertiveness on how we can highlight locally and internationally the benefits we are getting from UNDP funded Projects.

I have also learned how I can come out with critical issues that matter to people when communicating in writing as well as orally about UNDP projects, as well as how I can prepare and make presentations. **Miss Nkovele, Malawi Electoral Commission**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in May co-financed a three-day seminar on the role of Members of Parliament in the budget process at Parliament building in Lilongwe.

The main objective of the seminar held from 18th to 20th May 2011 was to equip Members of Parliament (MPs) with relevant skills to analyse, scrutinise and effectively contribute to the formulation, passing and implementation of the national budget.

The workshop was conducted at an opportune time before the National Assembly met to discuss the 2011/2012 national budget.

Clerk of Parliament Mrs. Matilda Katopola observed in her remarks that the workshop was in line with the objectives of the National Assembly's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan of increasing the institutional capacity of Parliament through inducting and orienting MPs on relevant issues such as the budget process.

The Strategic Plan was developed with financial and technical support from UNDP through the Strengthening Parliament Project.

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of the National Assembly to manage its affairs effectively and facilitate deliberations in the National Assembly through Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

In this regard, UNDP supported the National Assembly to review its Standing Orders and formulate the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.

Opening the seminar, Speaker of the National



A cross section of Members of Parliament who attended the workshop

UNDP supports budget seminar for Members of Parliament

Assembly Honourable Henry Chimunthu Banda highlighted the changing and evolving role of MPs *vis a vis* the approval of national budgets function and the shift in paradigm by government to emphasise on effective and efficient service delivery.

He said Members of Parliament need to be responsive to such changes and ensure effective budget scrutiny.

Various speakers and presenters including Government officials, Civil Society Organisations, and members of the private

by the Speaker, financial procedure and budget debate – Mrs. Matilda Katopola, Clerk of Parliament; budget process – Dr Dalisto Kabambe, Director of Budget from the Ministry of Finance; gender budgeting - Mr R. E. Phiri of Ministry of Gender, Child and Community Development and Mrs. Martha Kwataine of Malawi Health Equity Network; role of the private sector in the budget process by Mr Chancellor. Kaferapanjira of the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI), pro-

(MEJN); budget scrutiny by Honourable. Ralph Jooma, Chairperson of Budget and Finance Committee.

During plenary, participants made a number of recommendations among them; that the National Assembly ensures that newly elected Members of Parliament are appropriately trained; the call for individual parliamentary committees to scrutinise thoroughly budgets of their line government ministry or entity and the possibility of creating a fully fledged 'budget directorate' in the National Assembly to provide technical assistance to Members of Parliament and Committees, and liaise with the Ministry of Finance on budget issues.

The seminar was officially closed by the First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Jones Chingola who encouraged all participants to ensure they put into practice the lessons learnt during the seminar.

“UNDP supported the National Assembly to review its Standing Orders and formulate the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament”

sector led discussions on several topics such as etiquette for parliamentarians facilitated

poor budgeting and public expectations by Mr Dalitso. Kubalasa of the Malawi Economic Justice Network

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) with financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other development partners (GIZ, Irish Aid, Engineers Without Borders, and Concern Universal) held a two-day workshop on integrated rural development at the Malawi Institute of Management (MIM) in Lilongwe.

The main objective of the workshop which was held on 29th and 30th June 2011 was to solicit views from various stakeholders on rural development issues. Recommendations from the workshop are expected to inform the Integrated Rural Development Strategy (IRDS) and institute the operationalization of the IRD Sector Working Group (SWG).

The IRD strategy is a medium instrument to implement and monitor priority no.6 (Integrated Rural Development) of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) 11.

In her remarks, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Honourable Anna Kachikho said government intends to set a platform for exploiting opportunities of the rural communities to ensure that rural households have improved livelihoods, food security and are less vulnerable to poverty.

"To achieve the national development policy the MGDS, we need to align resources and collaborate fully to transform rural livelihoods. Government is committed to address the plight of the poor with an ambitious goal that is to lead rural areas to more efficient ways of tapping

into development opportunities for improved standards of living," said honourable Kachikho.

Speaking on behalf of development partners, Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy Mr. Hanspeter Schwaer commended Government and development partners for their commitment by aligning and harmonizing their cooperation through bi-monthly meetings of the government and development partners group on decentralization.

"The establishment of the IRD SWG will guarantee the harmonization of resources from all practitioners in rural development, particularly at sub-district level," he said.

He said the Sector Working Group would jumpstart the engine of rural economies whereby living standards would be improved through strengthened local governance systems coupled with well coordinated local level planning and investment

The first day of the workshop set the context to understand integrated rural development and sharing of experiences through presentations from Government, development partners, the private sector and civil society. The presentations were divided into three sessions.

The first session was *Setting the Framework for MGDS II*. Presentations focused on objectives and

process of the workshop and the link between decentralization and IRD.

The second session focused on *Lessons Learnt on Implementation of Rural Development Activities*. Participants were taken through a presentation of the outcomes of the study on IRD; emerging issues for critical reflection which was followed by a presentation on the Millennium Village Concept and Scale-up framework.

The final session dealt with *lessons learnt on financing rural development*.

Presentations were made from Local Development fund, CUMO and Opportunity International Bank of Malawi (OIBM). These institutions provide development funding, savings and micro-credit products to rural communities.

The second day included group and plenary

discussions that informed the content of the five pillars of the IRD strategy.

The pillars are local governance, local development planning, local economic development and investments, rural financing and capacity development for IRD implementation.

At the end of the workshop participants endorsed the proposal to base the IRD strategy and the SWG establishment on the 5 pillars that formed the basis of the group discussions.

Participants stressed the need to collaborate and adopt an integrated approach to rural development in order to realize tangible results that can enable the rural communities generate viable income and alleviate poverty.

Development partners support stakeholder workshop on integrated rural development



UNDP Assistant Resident Representative (Growth and MDGs Achievement) Agnes Chimbiri making a presentation on IRD Issues Paper



UNDP Staff listen to a presentation



Implementing Partners in a group exercise



UNDP staff in a group discussion



UNDP staff listen attentively



Implementing Partners in a group discussion



Implementing Partners in a group discussion



UNDP staff in a group discussion

Pictorial focus on the training for integrating communication into projects/programmes



Implementing Partners in a group discussion



UNV Programme Assistant Sharon Chalira makes a presentation



UNDP MDGs Advisor Patrick Kamwendo makes a contribution



UNDP staff in a group discussion



President of the UN Staff Association Hudson Kuphanga presents assorted items to Nyumba Ya Chimwemwe Orphanage in Kawale as other UN staff members cheer

UN Staff Association donates to orphans

In a bid to fulfil their social responsibility, members of the UN Staff Association on 10th June 2011 took time off their busy schedules to visit Nyumba Ya Chimwemwe Orphanage in Kawale, a suburb in Lilongwe city to cheer the children.

They also donated assorted items which included soap, powdered milk, cooking oil, diapers, rice, sugar and clothes worth K50,000 (Approximately US\$300).

The orphanage is run by Teresian sisters.

The orphanage’s mother superior in her briefing to the UN staff members explained that the orphanage accommodates children between 1-5 years who were abandoned by their parents, those whose parents may have died in their early year or at childbirth or whose parents

are too poor to take good care of the children.

“Once they are four or five years of age, the children are usually reunited with their parents or relatives. These efforts help reduce infant mortality in a way,” she said.

At the time of the visit there were 73 children at the orphanage.

During the visit, the UN staff were taken to the children’s rooms where they cheered them by carrying the very young and singing and chatting with the older ones.

The children looked visibly happy and those carried on laps did not want to let go of their temporary fathers and mothers.

The older children later sang songs of joy and praise for the visitors and some showed their counting skills giving the visitors hope that the future for the

children remains bright despite the huddles met in their infancy.

Although both the visitors and the children seemed to enjoy every moment of the visit, time to part still had to come as both parties had to continue with their daily routines of feeding,

both the institution’s caretakers and the staff association expressed gratitude for visiting and being allowed a chance to interact with the children.

Some members of the association expressed the desire to individually keep visiting the institution as they

“The children looked visibly happy and those carried on laps did not want to let go of their temporary fathers and mothers”

learning and working.

Sorrowful faces marked the parting ceremony and

were inspired by the charitable work that the sisters were doing.

Pictorial focus on the visit by UN Staff Association members to Nyumba Ya Chimwemwe Orphanage in Kawale in Lilongwe. The staff cheered the babies and also donated assorted items. Others carried the babies to show love and affection.



Harloud Phiri



UN staff pose for a photograph with Nyumba Ya Chimwemwe Orphanage sisters



Clemence Alfazema and Kondwani Hara



Joseph Kisavi



Merina Sambo and June Kambalametore



Roy Ndechi, Joseph Kisavi and Chisomo Kaufulu



Beneficiaries of the Village Savings and Loans Initiative in Neno district pose for a group photograph with UNDP and Ministry of Finance officials



UNDP, Ministry of Finance and ASAP officials



Mr. Zakeyo Vintulla, a beneficiary of the Village Savings and Loans Initiative in his makeshift shop.



Beneficiaries of the Village Savings and Loan Initiative in Neno district listen to an address by UNDP and Ministry of Finance officials.

Pictorial focus on the joint monitoring visit to Financial Inclusion in Malawi (FIMA) project sites by UNDP and Ministry of Finance officials



Ministry of Finance and UNDP officials pose for a photograph after visiting FINCOOP offices.



UNDP, Ministry of Finance and Malawi Rural Finance Company (MRFC) officials in a briefing meeting



A MRFC official assists a customer to test his newly acquired Moneycard in Salima district



Hastings Msiska of Malawi Rural Finance Company (MRFC) helps a customer to open an account in Salima district



UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Programme Officer Bill Chanza, Financial Inclusion in Malawi Project Manager Fletcher Chilumpha and an official from the Ministry of Finance in a discussion during the visit to MRFC in Salima



Representatives of political parties that attended the workshop pose for a group photograph

UNDP funds study to strengthen intra-party democracy

The Centre for Multi-Party Democracy with funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 24th June 2011 organized a workshop on the study it conducted aimed at establishing core capacities and competencies that political parties should have in order for them to deliver their core functions and mandates.

The workshop which was conducted at Hippo View Lodge in Liwonde district was attended by representatives from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Peoples Progressive Movement (PPM), Malawi Congress Party (MCP), United Democratic Front (UDF), Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), New Republican Party (NRP), Republican Party (RP), Malawi Democratic Party (MDP), Congress for Democrats (CODE), Malawi Peoples Party (MPP), National Unity Party (NUP), Malawi Forum for Unity and Development (MAFUNDE) and Peoples Transformation Party (PETRA).

The workshop was organized to present to the political parties preliminary findings of the study.

Specifically, the study examined how the external and internal environments affect the functioning of political parties as catalysts for fundamental and sustainable democratic transformation.

External environment included the legal and administrative framework, political, social, cultural and economic contexts. The justification for examining the external environment for political parties was that their performance reflects to a great extent the prevailing social, cultural, economic and political circumstances in which the parties operate.

Internal environment on the other hand included the examination of the internal functioning of political parties in relationship to leadership, control of party bureaucracy, the basis and extent of membership, the degree of organizational centralization, the power of leadership in relation to rank and file, extent of disciplinary powers, participation in decision making and policy

initiation.

The study generally affirms Malawi as a democratic regime in which political parties exist as the primary unit for political participation and engagement.

However, the study established that while parties exist, there are still challenges to develop a pluralistic, democratic, competitive and accountable party system.

The study revealed that the functioning and performance of political parties in the country are affected by internal and external factors.

In terms of internal factors, parties are essentially marred by intra-party feuds mostly around issues of leadership, organisational structures, class and ethnic interests.

The parties lack internal democracy, effectively being associated with core interests of their funders and leaders. In other words, autocratic mentalities and practices are the hallmark of Malawi's contemporary party system.

The external factors that impact on party performance include the weak legal and

administrative framework which greatly impedes rather than facilitates the functioning of political parties, the weak economic environment in which the state is the dominant actor in so far as economic opportunities are concerned and a less conducive political, social and cultural context that emphasizes on excessive deference to authority which in turn undercuts a culture of dialogue, debate and discussion.

Further the study revealed that the overall effect of the internal and external constraints was further exacerbated by the lack of inter-party dialogue, this provides a platform for relevant and constructive information and policy options which allows parties to forge together a conducive atmosphere for multiparty politics.

According to the findings, there was urgent need to develop interventions that would make political parties more democratic and nationally orientated as well as responsive to the citizens, governance and the rule of law.

The findings would form the basis for developing a comprehensive cross party strategic plan that would contribute towards the development of the core capacities and competences to bring them up to levels where political parties can successfully perform their function as catalysts for propagation and institutionalization of a democratic culture, tradition and practice

CMD is the UNDP's implementing partner for the Framework for Political Parties project. The project aims at strengthening intra and inter party democracy.



Roselyn Sinemani, Priscila Chimwele, Janet Chikombole and Merina Sambo display their certificates

It's a piece of Cake! : IPSAS training day in UNDP Malawi

UNDP- Malawi staff on Friday 24th June 2011 devoted the day to enrich their knowledge by completing the online International Public Sector Accounting System (IPSAS) course.

UNDP will change its accounting system from United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS) to International Public Sector Accounting System (IPSAS) from 1 January 2012, following the decision by the UN General Assembly to adopt IPSAS in 2006.

IPSAS is a catalyst to move towards having more

consistent, transparent and comprehensive financial information. The change in the UNDP accounting system requires new or revised processes and practices not only on UNDP's office operations but also on project implementation management, including financial reporting by the implementation partners and donor reporting.

Since IPSAS is more complex and detail-oriented than UNSAS, the transition from UNSAS to IPSAS requires that the organisation provides enough support to staff to be conversant with the new standards.

Therefore, UNDP has set-up a roadmap for transition to IPSAS and the milestones for preparation for IPSAS implementation in order to deliver new financial information standards.

A cake was specially baked to reward those who completed the course.

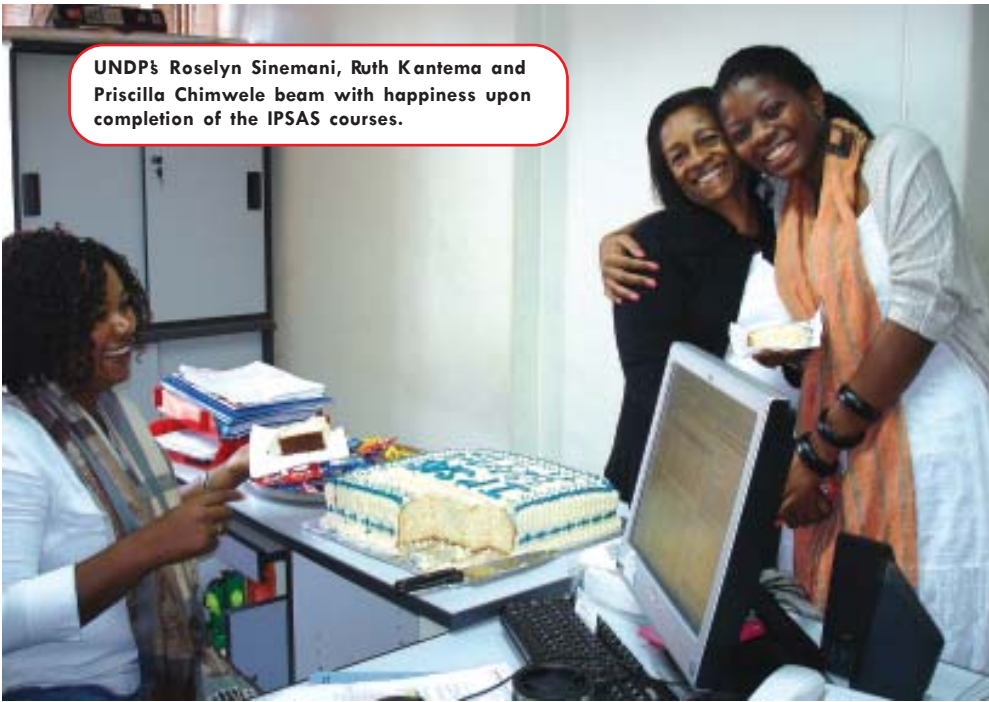
Those who completed certifications for two IPSAS courses were rewarded with one piece of cake and two chocolate candies. Staff who completed all 5 required UNDP IPSAS courses at the beginner level earned two pieces of cakes and more chocolates for their hard work.

Photos of staff's proud

face were also taken with freshly earned certifications. The office was buzzing with words like "IPSAS" "accruals" and "depreciation," mixed with screams of joy for passing the assessments or moans over failed scores.

Some took a group work approach, putting their brains together to go through the courses and answer the assessment questions. Some downloaded the course transcripts and studied word by word to mark the perfect score.

At the end of the day, most staff completed all required UNDP IPSAS courses with crème on their cheeks. The training day made it easy and fun to learn about IPSAS. Staff are now looking forward to intermediate and advanced courses.



UNDP's Roselyn Sinemani, Ruth Kantema and Priscilla Chimwele beam with happiness upon completion of the IPSAS courses.



Ethel Yabu



Chisomo Chibwana



Wonderful Teleka



Programme Resources Management
Chiomba, Mizuho Yokoi, Lester Mal



June Kambalame



Marius Walter



Siphiwe Banda

Pictorial focus on the IPSAS training day at UNDP-Malawi Country Office



Chisomo Kaufulu



Yamikani Msukuma



Doreen Kachapila



Hudson Kuphanga



Unit PRMU staff L-R Masauko emia and Lauren Pirerrera



Joseph Kisavi



Thierry Randrianarijaona



Patrick Kamwendo



Communications officers from East and Southern Region pose for a group photograph

UNDP Communications officers meet, share experiences

Communications officers from East and Southern Region met on June 23rd and 24th 2011 at Whitesands Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya to share experiences and discuss challenges they face when carrying out their duties.

Opening the conference, Resident Representative for UNDP Kenya Mr. Aeneas Chuma emphasized that UNDP should tell its story better, hence the need to make communication one of the priorities in the Country Offices.

Mr. Chuma explained that for UNDP to tell its story better there was need to integrate communication into projects/programmes.

He also explained that there was need for focus on deployment of multimedia to show real achievements and reach a wider

audience.

On the second day, UNDP Deputy Director of Communications Mr. Abdel-Rahaman Ghandour addressed the meeting through skype. He apologized to the participants on his inability to travel to Nairobi due to exigencies of work.

He however said he was aware and supportive of the region's communications efforts, having worked in the region in the past.

Mr. Rahaman Ghadour explained the new communication strategy for UNDP whose underlying foundation was to position the organisation to be result oriented and allows for transformation and change.

Regarding brand positioning and brand promotion, the Deputy Director said the idea was to ensure UNDP recognition as lead in development. He said UNDP had

therefore revamped its global website to make it more interactive, and more attractive to ordinary people.

He explained that while the initiative would be rolled up in all national offices, priority was given to India due to its size and the emerging nation of Southern Sudan.

He called on Country Offices to sign up with his office and obtain the necessary software to enable them revamp their Country Office websites.

On safeguarding the UNDP brand and strengthening corporate identity, he emphasized what UNDP stands for and what it tries to achieve, adding that the new tagline 'Empowered lives, Resilient Nations,' would ensure uniformity in all communication materials.

On advocating messages and use of Goodwill

Ambassadors, he asked Country Offices to use the Ambassadors in their activities to create more visibility for the organisation. He informed participants that UNDP was exploring possibilities of signing up Ambassadors beyond the football spectrum.

Mr. Rahaman Ghandour further explained that Campaigns would remain a major strategy of highlighting development issues. UNDP would therefore continue on campaigns such as non communicable diseases, sustainable development, and MDGS. He also emphasized the need to focus on impact.

The Director noted that social media such as Facebook and Twitter was growing at a fast pace, hence UNDP needed to utilize the medium to reach out a wider audience.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 27th April 2011 hosted a luncheon meeting with local business leaders at Ryalls Hotel in Blantyre to discuss strategies for a new Private Sector Development Programme.

Chief Executive Officers and senior managers from the banking, manufacturing, and processing sectors as well as social entrepreneurs attended the luncheon.

The meeting was one of the follow-up actions proposed by participants at the Inclusive Markets Development (IMD) Conference held last year to foster dialogue among the Government of Malawi, private sector and UNDP for the formulation of the programme.

In his remarks UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Richard Dictus stated that the new programme would offer an innovative model for pro-poor business to nurture entrepreneurship to unmet demands in the markets. He expressed hope that the meeting would allow key business leaders to review the programme and help UNDP design strategies to link the poor to markets through sustainable incentive mechanisms and well established value chains.

Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mr. Newby Kumwembe, emphasised the need for the Government and the private sector to work together to expand the manufacturing sector which can generate a driving force for economic growth in the country.

The programme is expected to focus on a “missing middle”— small and medium enterprises falling between micro

UNDP hosts a luncheon for Business Leaders



Consultant Sunil makes a presentation during the luncheon.

enterprises and large multinationals, unleashing its vast potential to drive Malawi's economy. Alongside with the strategies to establish a more capable and

regulatory framework and private sector policies, the programme will put the private sector to play the leading role in exploiting new markets for pro-poor businesses by providing

skills.

During the meeting, the business leaders welcomed underlining concepts and discussed strategies and possible mechanisms addressed in the new

“The new programme would offer an innovative model for pro-poor business to nurture entrepreneurship to unmet demands in the markets. He expressed hope that the meeting would allow key business leaders to review the programme and help UNDP design the strategies to link the poor to markets through sustainable incentive mechanisms and well established value chains.”

competitive private sector through strengthening the

access to finance and enhancing entrepreneurship

programme on Private Sector Development.

Pictorial focus on the visit to disaster risk reduction initiatives in Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts by UNDP, Embassy of Ireland and Government officials

1. Traditional Authority Mbenje, flanked by his chiefs briefs the officials. To the far left is UNDP Assistant Resident Representative (Environment and Climate Change) Mr. Jan Rijpma
2. The officials walk through the dredged place of the Lalanje river
3. The concrete constructed along the banks of Lalanje river
4. James Chiusiwa from the department of Disaster Management Affairs explains his department's role in irrigation interventions in Chikhwawa district
5. Some of the farmers who have benefited from irrigation farming
6. Community members in Nsanje district





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A group of 15 women from Mtandile a suburb in Lilongwe City are making a living from Batiks, courtesy of the Centre for Community Development (CCODE).

CCODE is a local Non-Governmental Organisation that has been earmarked to receive funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) supported Financial Inclusion in Malawi (FIMA) Project.

FIMA project is implemented by the Ministry of Finance. The Project's overall goal is to contribute to the creation of an inclusive financial sector in Malawi.

Chairlady of the Batik Centre Mrs. Barbra Nyirongo told a group of officials from UNDP and Ministry of Finance during a visit to the centre that they make wall hangings which they sell at a K3,000 (Approximately US\$ 20) per hanging.

She explained that they received trainings on how to make the wall hangings from a British national Ms. Barabra who volunteered to teach the women Batik skills. She also linked them to some markets.

According to Mrs. Nyirongo, the Batiks Centre started operating in January 2011. She said there were 15 women divided into three groups of five. Each group works on a hanging at a go, implying that at the end, they have three wall hangings valued at K9,000 (Approximately US\$ 60)

"This looks to be a lucrative business. As you can see our wall hangings are very beautiful, but we do not have links to big markets who can order our



A CCCODE Official explains how the batiks are made

Women earn a living from Batiks

goods in bulk. We usually sell to individual customers who our trainer Barbra linked us to," she said.

Mrs. Nyirongo explained that at the end of the month, they share profits from the sale of the hangings. On

"I am able to provide basic needs for my children. Additionally, the work keeps us busy all day, so there is no room for idling and gossiping," she added.

CCODE said there are plans to involve the youths

UNDP and Ministry of Finance officials to Area 23, another suburb in Lilongwe City to appreciate their work in the area of construction.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

"I am able to provide basic needs for my children. Additionally, the work keeps us busy all day, so there is no room for idling and gossiping,"

average, each member receives K3,000 (Approximately US\$ 20)

and keep them busy. Before visiting the Batiks centre, CCODE took the

awarded CCODE a contract to construct low cost houses for civil servants.

UNDP's Young Professional elected in ECAMA Board

Ms. June Kambalometore, one of the Young Professionals working with UNDP-Malawi was recently elected as an executive member in the Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA) board during the Association's Annual General Meeting held at Silver Club in Lilongwe.

Ms. Kambalometore, holds a Masters degree in Economics obtained from the University of Kwazulu, Natal in South Africa.

Although there are many talented young Malawians aspiring to work for development, there are few opportunities for them to start a professional career in the development field in the country.

It's against this background that UNDP-Malawi introduced the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) to provide promising young university graduates with the unique opportunity to pursue a career in development with hands-on experience in a multi-lateral development co-operation.

"I feel very excited and privileged to be part of the ECAMA board. I look forward to working and learning from highly recognized people in country like Dr Naomi Ngwira, the new president of ECAMA," said Ms.

Kambalometore.

She said her expectations are to continue advancing the objectives of the Association which among others include a good understanding and analysis of economic issues in the country, appraisal of economic conditions and developments that are of increasing importance and encourage and promote the study of economics in the country.

But what inspired Ms. Kambalometore to join ECAMA?

"I was inspired to join ECAMA because I am an Economist and ECAMA as an association recognizes the role of economists in the economic development, policy formulation and analysis and also public awareness in economic issues. In addition, ECAMA is a widely acknowledged association in Malawi," she said.



"I was inspired to join ECAMA because I am an Economist and ECAMA as an association recognizes the role of economists in the economic development, policy formulation and analysis and also public awareness in economic issues.

UNDP supports irrigation farming in Chikhwawa district



Mr. Raphael Mzondwa: My life has changed

Mr. Raphael Mzondwa, a smallholder farmer from Group Village Headman Nyampota in Chikhwawa district is able to harvest 15 bags of maize through irrigation farming.

Mr. Mzondwa is one of the 150 farmers under the Nampole Irrigation Scheme who are benefiting from a UNDP supported programme aimed at increasing food security implemented by the Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) with funding from the Irish Government.

Chikhwawa district experiences flooding due to its geographical location near the Shire river. The floods usually destroy property and crops, thereby leading to hunger.

“To say the truth, my life has changed with this irrigation programme. Previously, my family suffered from hunger but

now, I am able to harvest 15 bags of maize and sell surplus to buy other necessities like soap, sugar and salt,” said Mr. Mzondwa.

He explained that usually, the maize is grown within three months.

Vice chairlady of the group Mrs. Christina Faiti explained that in 2007, EAM started an irrigation demonstration plot to teach the farmers how to conduct irrigation. They also provided seed, fertiliser and treadle pumps.

She said high yields were realised from the demonstration plot, a development which motivated farmers to form a farmers club and start their own irrigation scheme.

“We approached our chief, who gave us this piece of land. We formed a committee and distributed the plots. Each farmer got a 20 X 50 plot,” she said.

Mrs. Faiti further

explained that in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, EAM gave the farmers 25 treadle pumps which they share.

She said initially there were 77 farmers, but following a successful first harvest, many more were motivated to join, hence bringing the total number to 150. “There are 64 women and 86 men in the group,” she added.

Mrs. Faiti however said the challenges that the group face include shortage of treadle pumps. She said the 25 treadle pumps are not enough for the 150 farmers. This, she said, leads to farmers waiting for long before irrigating their gardens since the exercise is done on rotational basis.

She echoed Mr. Mzondwa’s sentiments about food security. “All the farmers in our club are now food secure, I can challenge you to move from one

household to the other, you will find that they all have enough food to feed their families. They also have surplus to buy other necessities of life,” she added.

Apart from irrigation skills, Mrs. Faiti said EAM also taught them village savings initiatives; hence the group opened a bank account. Every member contributes a 50kg bag of maize, whose proceeds are deposited in the account.

“The money helps us during difficult times for example funerals,” she added.

EAM Chikhwawa Project Coordinator Mr. Lonester Sibande explained that their interventions in the district focus on four components namely; irrigation and food security, livestock, revolving scheme and economic empowerment of women.

He said they also promote the use of drought resistant crops such as sweet potatoes and also conduct trainings on reducing the effects of disasters such as floods.

Mr. Sibande said that the aim of the training is to ensure that communities are aware of analysis and how they can respond in case of a disaster such as flooding.

In his remarks Head of Development at Irish Aid, Mr. Vincent O’Neil said he was impressed with farmers’ success stories and urged them to continue with the food security initiatives.

Irrigation farming is the way to go - Chikhwawa farmers

Mrs. Mary Gadama, Vice Secretary of Nambomba Irrigation Scheme in Chikhwawa district is one of the 177 farmers in Paramount Chief Lundu's area benefiting from a UNDP supported project on irrigation farming to improve food security at household level.

The revelation was made during a joint monitoring visit that comprised officials from UNDP, Embassy of Ireland, and the Government of Malawi.

The project, which is implemented by the Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM), has seen farmers irrigate over 35.5 hectares of land to grow maize and vegetables such as beans.

The scheme is located near the Illovo sugar

plantation. Before embarking on irrigation farming, families, especially men depended on piece work on the plantation.

eat. I think irrigation farming is the way to go because it ensures that you have food throughout the year," she said.

said that the farmers have approached Paramount Chief Lundu to negotiate with Illovo to allow the water to flow to the scheme

"I think irrigation farming is the way to go because it ensures that you have food throughout the year."

However, there was a challenge of food insecurity since the area is prone to floods

Mrs. Gadama said that since three years ago, the farmers in Nambomba Irrigation Scheme have harvested enough food to feed their families.

"Apart from floods, last year, there was a dry spell. We did not harvest enough. But with the irrigation, we are now food secure. At least we have enough to

Just like their colleagues of Nampota Irrigation Scheme, Mrs. Gadama said they also face a challenge of shortage of treadle pumps and insufficient water to irrigate their crops.

The farmers mainly depend on water from Illovo Sugar Plantation which dug a canal through the scheme. But this arrangement is only viable when the sugarcane in the plantation are not at harvest stage.

Mrs. Gadama however

throughout the growing season.

In his remarks, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative (Environment, Energy and Climate Change) Mr. Jan Rijpma said it was pleasing to see efforts by farmers to ensure that they have enough food.

"We are very impressed with what we have seen. We very much appreciate your efforts to ensure that you enough food," said Mr. Rijpma.



Farmers who have benefited from irrigation interventions in Chikhwawa district.

Updates

Access to Justice

Democratic Governance Sector wide approach

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) with financial and technical support from UNDP is leading a consultative and participatory process to develop a 5-year strategy for the Democratic Governance sector. The sector is one of the sixteen Sector Working Groups in Malawi and includes all the institutions responsible for the administration of justice and democratic accountability. This re-affirms the principle that accountability and justice mutually contribute to democratic governance and should be addressed in an integrated and consolidated manner. The strategy and Sector Wide Approach will assist Government agencies and other stakeholders including development partners in aligning their support to a cohesive approach for Democratic Governance reform in Malawi.

Justice Baseline Survey final draft Report

The Ministry of Justice with support from UNDP engaged the National Statistical Office (NSO) to conduct a Baseline Survey for Justice. NSO released a final draft report encompassing the findings of the survey which have since been presented to both justice and democratic accountability institutions. The purpose of the survey was to establish and provide up-to-date data to various stakeholders that include policy makers and civil society organizations involved in the administration of justice so as to assist them validate the existing indicators as well as define new indicators that are appropriate for holistically measuring justice delivery within the realm of democratic governance. A final draft report is expected to be endorsed by the Democratic Governance sector as a whole by end 2011.

Support to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II

The Government of Malawi presented a draft national development plan, referred to as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II), which will operate as an overarching development strategy for the period 2011-2016. With financial and technical support from UNDP, the Democratic Governance sector met on 19th April, 2011 to discuss the draft MGDS II particularly in regard to its alignment to the 2010 democratic governance Policy Framework Paper (PFP). During the meeting, the sector made substantial input and contributions to theme 5 of the MGDS which relates to improved governance, human rights, access to justice, elections and civic education in Malawi. The consolidated inputs were then forwarded by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to the Ministry of Development, Planning and Cooperation. The importance of the sector's contribution to the MGDS II cannot be overemphasized as the process of formulating the MGDS

was based on ideas from different institutions represented in the Democratic Governance Sector Working Group and are aligned to the Policy Framework Paper (PFP) that supports the democratic governance sector agenda

Public Sector Capacity Development Programme

Executive Management Course

In continuing with improving leadership and management skills within the public service, the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) conducted Executive Management Course for Principal Secretary's. This Course took place in May 2011 and was fully funded by Government. A total of 15 PSs were trained. In September 2010. Following the outcome of the UNDP supported capacity assessment (2008) of central ministries which among others identified weak leadership and management skills among senior civil servants, UNDP assisted the Government to resume the Public Sector Administration (PSA) Leadership and management course aimed at improving senior Government officials' policy formulation and management skills.

Procurement Audit:

This exercise has started and SGS Nederland BV was selected by the Office of the Director of Public Procurement. The exercise was launched by the Director on June 3, 2011. A total of 30 old procurement entities (PEs) and 20 new ones would be audited. The contract price is EURO 118,437.

Public Sector Reform Strategy

Draft Reform Public Sector Reforms Framework in place – once approved by the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), it will form the basis of the strategy. A workshop brainstorming on the strategy to be held in mid/end-August 2011. The scheduling would take advantage of mid-term evaluation of the programme.

External Audit of Parastatals:

The National Authorising Office (NAO) currently conducting an audit of key parastatals. The purpose is to increase coverage and raise audit issues that should later be followed up.

BSc in Supply Chain Management:

UNDP is supporting the Government of Malawi through the Office of the Director of Public Procurement to create a critical mass of specialists within the country. There is an on-going long-term training in Bachelors in Supply Chain Management at the University of Malawi. To date, 18 students have graduated under the programme. 8 are still pursuing their studies.

Diagnostic Studies:

The Government of Malawi has been using Sector Wide Approaches (SWAs). Currently, Malawi has in place the health, education, Agriculture, water and democratic governance SWAp. One lesson learned is the need to develop the necessary capacities to implement these SWAs. As a result, UNDP is supporting the Government to undertake capacity diagnostic studies in different sectors where SWAs are in operation. These include the Agriculture and Democratic Governance SWAp. UNDP is discussing with the Ministry of Irrigation and Water development to carry out a similar exercise under the water sector.

Recruitment of Capacity Building Specialist:

Recruited and placed in the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC).

Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) Project

Aid Management Platform (AMP) has been upgraded from version 1.13 to version 1.16, its IP address (<http://81.199.119.52/aim>) secured making it online and rolling it out to development partners is in progress. Development partner focal agents have been trained on how to manage the system and input aid data into it. Through the Debt and Aid Management Division (DAD), Government managed to secure participation of all development partners in aid reporting to feed into the Aid Management Platform (AMP). AMP administration staff in DAD were

trained to manage administrative issues for the system. The Malawi Aid Atlas continues to be produced and circulated on quarterly basis. Ministry of Finance through the Debt and Aid Management section has secured the participation of all United Nations agencies in the monthly aid data reporting system. This has significantly improved the coverage and quality of information being given to Government since almost all donors are submitting aid information to the Aid Management Platform.

Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey

The 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey was successfully completed. About 20 development partners completed the survey questionnaire and UNDP was the donor focal point. A country report for the Survey was submitted to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in April 2011 and the OECD has since produced a draft report for Malawi based on analysis of the country findings submitted. The Paris Declaration Survey is an assessment of progress that has been made in achievement of Paris Declaration indicator targets over the period in which the Declaration has been implemented.

Aid effectiveness

The long awaited Aid Effectiveness Specialist, Ms. Magdalena Kouneva, reported for duties on the 11th July 2011.

UNDP unveils new tagline

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark on 16th June 2011 unveiled the new tagline “Empowered lives. Resilient nations.”

Launching the tagline, the Administrator said: “The tagline is not an all-encompassing explanation of our work. It is however, a useful framework to explain UNDP’s approach in working with people to build the skills and knowledge they need to improve their own lives, as well as helping nations withstand crisis and drive and sustain the kind of growth which improves the quality of life for each and every one,”

She explained that the tagline came out of an 8-month consultative process managed by a public interest

communications agency.

“The key recommendation from the process was to highlight the people-centered focus of our work, its scale and positive impact. Our new tagline reflects this focus,” she added.

The tagline is a tool to help UNDP communicate its mandate and impact more effectively with various audiences and partners.

UNDP-Malawi staff have since welcomed the new tagline.

Programme Analyst (Capacity Development) Mr. Venge Nkosi, said: “This is a powerful tagline. The beauty is empowered lives can be interpreted in many dimensions – economically, politically, capacity-wise, information-wise – name it!” she said.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



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