



Inside the MNSSP

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MNSSP II: From Saving Lives to Production

The new Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II) is an innovative, people-centred national programme aimed at providing livelihood support and empowering the extreme poor. It comprises a range of social protection activities that are attuned to building people’s resilience and improving their productivity. MNSSP II takes a distinctive approach to social support by aligning individual programme objectives with the objectives of the National Social Support Policy. It is founded on the following pillars:

Pillar I: Consumption Support — This pillar aims to provide consumption support by way of cash and in-kind transfers to extremely poor households with no alternative means of meeting their subsistence needs.

Pillar II: Resilient Livelihoods — This pillar acknowledges the multidimensional nature of poverty and its exacerbating and unique effects on various groups, underscoring the need to build community and household resilience. It seeks to address the causes of poverty and not simply its symptoms.

Pillar III: Shock-Sensitive Social Protection — Climate change has eaten away the capacity of the rural poor to cope with weather shocks; thus, the inclusion of this pillar offers poor families a buffer to protect

them from external shocks. This pillar enhances engagement across sectors and ensures that the MNSSP systems better prepare communities for climate shocks. It aims at making people better able to respond to crises and shocks by reorienting the focus beyond day-to-day survival towards investment for the future

Pillar IV: Linkages — This pillar is built on the realisation that providing people with cash or in-kind transfers alone is not enough. Households must be given opportunities to build resilience and eventually build sustainable livelihoods for themselves, which entails better coordination within and outside the MNSSP.



Republic of Malawi

Malawi National Social Support Programme II (MNSSP II)



effective and efficient programme coordination between humanitarian and social protection, and allow for harmonised, effective and efficient implementation.

Pillar V: Systems Strengthening — This pillar aims to strengthen systems through government leadership, promote the coherence of social support policies, ensure

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COMSIP Cooperative in Mchinji



SMP volunteers serving learners



Men at work—Roads project in Dedza



Parliamentary Committee Visits Thyolo District

On 2 December 2017, the Parliamentary Committee on Social and Community Affairs visited Thyolo district to see the progress and hear about the challenges in the implementation of the MNSSP. The committee was given a presentation, followed by interactive discussions. In addition the committee also visited and interacted with beneficiaries of the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) in Traditional Authority (T/A) Chimaliro.

Speaking during the visit, the Chairperson of the committee, Honourable Richard Chimwendo Banda, said that the committee was impressed with how the government is implementing the programme on the ground. The committee was also impressed with how the lives of the beneficiaries have been transformed.

The SCTP in Thyolo is being supported by the Government of Malawi.



Members of parliament interact with a child-headed household beneficiary (second from left)

Partnerships for Action: Protecting Watersheds through Catchment Management Approach



A regenerated hillside at Khole Catchment by NJIRA Project

On 30 August 2017, the second watershed forum was hosted by the Department of Economic Planning and Development at the Crossroads Hotel. The objective of the forum was to reflect on the recommendations made in the first forum, which took place in March 2017. Discussions focused on the challen-

ges faced during implementation, such as coordination, the harmonisation of approaches, and the planning of watershed interventions.

A total of 22 organisations from across the country took part in this unprecedented event, where they explored key issues affecting work in the catchments and dis-

cussed the future of our nation's watersheds. These organisations shared their visions and explored new directions for cooperative action to sustain watersheds into the next century and beyond. By sharing best practices, it is hoped that the duplication of efforts can be avoided and all practitioners can benefit from lessons learnt during implementation. Thus, the forum was designed to forge stronger partnerships and facilitate greater collaboration among practitioners towards the restoration of our catchments, creating a base for better livelihoods for Public Works Programme (PWP) beneficiaries.

In the photograph members of the National PWP thematic working group appreciate the Khole catchment management projects implemented by Emmanuel International in Machinga District with support from Concern Worldwide International.



Concern Worldwide Graduation Pilot

Helping People Graduate out of Poverty

Graduation from poverty requires more than just cash transfers. Therefore, Malawi is widening its approach. Since January 2017, Concern Worldwide has been implementing a five-year graduation programme in T/A Katuli in Mangochi district and T/A Chimombo and T/A Ngabu in Nsanje districts. The programme intends to address extreme poverty at the household level in a sustainable manner by providing an integrated and sequenced package of support to create a pathway out of extreme poverty. Concern's graduation programme has five core components:

- ◆ Comprehensive targeting
- ◆ Consumption support



One of the targeted participants

- ◆ Skills training and coaching
- ◆ Savings and financial access
- ◆ Asset transfer

The programme aims to reach 2,000 households with graduation packages and over 3,000 households with its 'enabling environment' component, which involves fostering a community-wide approach to addressing problems. Implementation has now begun with 200 graduation households already receiving visits by case workers on a fortnightly

basis. Of these, 109 are SCTP beneficiaries. The remaining 1,800 graduation households and all enabling environment households will be brought into the programme in 2018.

Alignment with the MNSSP II and the Draft National Graduation Strategy

Concern is harmonizing its support with the SCTP by providing cash distributions on the same day, whenever possible. It is also working with the District Social Welfare Office to

provide timely, predictable and adequate cash transfers, as required by Pillar I of the MNSSP. Concern will support the promotion of resilient livelihoods by teaching business skills and providing technical training, thereby creating graduation pathways for the extreme poor. Concern is also engaging in shock-sensitive social protection (Pillar III) by implementing disaster risk reduction activities and through its broader engagement with other stakeholders on how to achieve shock responsiveness by combining hazard mapping and pre-identifying households for humanitarian support. Concern is targeting SCTP beneficiaries with the capacity and willingness to engage in the graduation programme. It is expected that valuable learning will result from the graduation programme, which will inform the government's graduation strategy in the future.



Graduation households participating in village savings and loans activities in Kwitunji VDC

Hot Topics:

- Graduating or exiting? SCTP re-targeting and recertification
- Harmonised grievance and redress mechanism—one stop shop for case management
- National Social Support Programme: Coordination structures Handbook



Important Events

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Social Cash Transfer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retargeting in KFW, EU and IrishAid Districts |
| Public Works | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWP Discussion Forum |
| School Meals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMP Web-based MIS Consultative Workshop |
| VSL & Microfinance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of Savings and Loan Best Practices Guidelines |
| MNSSP II | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNSSP II consultative meetings with Technical and Steering Committee MNSSP II Implementation Strategy District consultative meetings Validation of MNSSP Communication Strategy |

Voices



All 36 Education Districts oriented on the SMP best practices

The school meals programme is not one-size-fits-all; different models work in different contexts. The home grown model in particular has served as learning ground for both parents and learners– nutrition and hygiene are important for optimum education outcomes.

Being part of COMSIP is more than just saving and investment– it is also an opportunity to learn more about gender and HIV and AIDS.



Chinyama COMSIP Cooperative

Contact & Support

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Lilongwe district team of trainers (DTT) assigning clusters to extension workers in the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) data collection exercise