SP4SDG Programme Design

SP4SDG is a UN Joint Programme that aims to adapt the Malawi social protection system to meet emergency food needs and reduce the vulnerability of those most at risk of food insecurity by 2022, while strengthening the social protection system for all vulnerable households across the lifecycle. The programme combines advancing an innovative Shock-Sensitive Social Protection (SSSP) prototype with reinforced financial structures and the transformation of existing policies into legal frameworks to enhance the existing social protection system to be more robust, comprehensive, and sustainable, leaving no one behind.

SP4SDG Implementation

The joint programme leverages the expertise of three implementing UN agencies to accomplish its targets. UNICEF, WFP, and ILO have in-country and regional expertise in providing direct social protection system implementation and technical assistance, including SSSP, financing, systems strengthening, and policy development. Together, the three UN agencies are well placed to support the advancement of national strategies and policy frameworks in Malawi.

Unleashing the Potential of Social Protection in Malawi

In 2016, the Government of Malawi (GoM) underwent a nationwide consultative review of the social protection system ahead of its successor programme, the Malawi National Social Support Programme II 2018-2023 (MNSSP II). The three SP4SDG components are aligned to the pillars in the MNSSP II in order to catalyse progress in support of the GoM’s vision on social protection.

Links to UNSDCF and Joint Initiatives

SP4SDG will directly contribute to the 2019-2023 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in its alignment with Outcome 7: Households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods. In addition, SP4SDG ensures links to ongoing social protection activities within PROSPER (a DFID-funded SSSP Joint UN Programme focused on resilience building) and the Inclusive Growth, Social Protection, and Jobs Programme (funded by Irish Aid).

Internal and External Coordination Structures

For long term sustainability, SP4SDG leverages and strengthens the existing social protection MNSSP steering and technical committees and working groups. Internal UN coordination is led by the Resident Coordinator, with WFP as the convening agency. Daily operational and programmatic coordination is managed by the Joint Coordination Unit, consisting of members from each participating UN agency and the Resident Coordinator’s Office.

Timeframe and Budget

The two-year implementation period runs from January 2020 to December 2021. The total budget is USD 2 million.

SP4SDG and the Sustainable Development Goals

The joint programme will contribute to the acceleration of the following SDG targets:

- Target 1.3: Implement social protection systems.
- Target 1.a: Mobilize resources to implement policies to end poverty.
- Target 1.b: Create pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks.
- Target 2.1: Universal access to safe and nutritious food.
- Target 17.1.: Mobilize resources to improve domestic revenue collection.