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The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, visited Malawi on 11 December to attend a ceremony to honour the six Malawian peacekeepers killed in the joint United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) operations against the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the Beni area on 15 November.

During the visit, Mr. Lacroix met with Malawi President Peter Mutharika to appreciate the country’s contributions towards UN peacekeeping operations.

He also held meetings with Senior Management of the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) and attended a ceremony to honour the six Malawian peacekeepers killed in the joint United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also condoled families of the fallen peacekeepers during the ceremony.

After completing his mission in Malawi, Mr. Lacroix also visited Tanzania to pay homage to the 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers who were killed in an attack carried out by the ADF in Semuliki, DRC on 7 December 2017. He participated in an event on 14 December to commemorate the first anniversary of the attack.

The Under-Secretary-General was accompanied by the Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Leila Zerrougui as well as the Military Advisor for Peacekeeping Operations, General Carlos Loitey when visiting both countries.
The United Nations and Malawi Government in December held their second Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM) for 2018 to reflect on UN contributions towards achievement of national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malawi.

The JSM, which took place in Lilongwe, is a bi-annual high-level collaboration forum between the Government of Malawi and the United Nations aimed at providing an oversight to the implementation and monitoring of UN work in the country through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

UN Resident Coordinator Maria Jose Torres said she was pleased to note that the new UNDAF, a joint development cooperation agreement between the UN and Malawi Government from 2019 to 2023, presents several opportunities for the UN to support SDGs achievement in Malawi.

"As a way of operationalising the UNDAF, and by this also the UN Reform, the UN has over the past few months in cooperation with Government counterparts been developing three Joint Annual Work Plans – one for each pillar of the UNDAF," said Torres.

She said the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Reform have a similar emphasis on transformation and doing things differently for impact and leaving no one behind.

"The annual review of the MGDS III as well as its localization in the District Development Plans is of great interest to us, as we in the UN are focusing our efforts in the new UNDAF at the district level to reach the farthest behind first," she Torres.

The UN country representative also said strong commitment, partnerships and cooperation remain key to Malawi’s achievement of the SDGs.

During the meeting, Malawi Government appreciated the progress made on UN Reform and the development of UNDAF’s Joint Annual Work Plans, through which the work of all UN agencies in the country will be coordinated. The UN held planning retreats with government counterparts in November and December to review and approve the joint annual work plans.

The new UNDAF, which was signed in September 2018, has three pillars including peace, inclusion and effective institutions; human capital and population management; and inclusive and resilient growth. The development framework is closely aligned to Malawi Government’s national growth and development strategy.
My name is Aaron Misheck and I am 13 years old. There are four children in our family. I live with both parents. My father is a farmer and he grows vegetables like pumpkin leaves.

It was on 7 September 2018 when the builders started building new school blocks at our school. So far the foundation of school blocks look good.

Our families came to help with the construction. Women draw water and men help with laying of the bricks while other men help with the construction itself.

It is a good thing that the classrooms are being constructed at our school. I am filled with happiness when I see the foundation of the school blocks and I think that between November and December the construction work will be finished.

I am in standard 8, the last year of primary school. We learn different subjects like Chichewa, Mathematics, Social and Environmental Science, Life Skills and many more. But my favorite subjects are English, Chichewa and Mathematics.

I like playing games like football and netball. Above all I like reading books when I go to school.

Our school has a beautiful garden, it looks good and it has vegetables of various types including Chinese cabbage. The garden is well protected because it has a fence.

To me, I want the school to have many committees so that not only a single person should be in charge of different activities.

When I finish my school I want to be a doctor because I want to treat people especially those living in rural areas.
For Manesi Fanuwelo, 33, the thought of losing another child to malnutrition was unbearable. In 2007, Fanuwelo, from Nkhwazi village in Chikwawa, Malawi, lost a son to the condition. The young boy was about to reach his third birthday when he died. And now, her 10-month-old daughter, Laima, was showing the same symptoms that killed her brother.

"Laima had severe diarrhea," says Fanuwelo. "Every day, she was losing weight. I felt helpless every time I looked at her tiny body and protruding stomach."

"I knew she was hungry and needed food but there was none in the house."

Laima was born weighing 3.1 kg, an average baby weight. But her mother had stopped breastfeeding, complaining her breasts had developed sores. "I stopped breastfeeding and started giving her any food that I could afford," says Fanuwelo.

As a farmer, Fanuwelo survives by tending her family garden. But in recent years harvests haven’t been good because of late rain and long dry periods. To survive, she works in other people’s gardens.

"I can’t afford to feed my family three meals a day," says Fanuwelo. "Most of the time we go to bed on empty stomachs."

In Malawi, malnutrition is a major problem, especially among children under the age of five. According to the Ministry of Health, 37 percent of the under-fives suffer from chronic malnutrition.

UNICEF is supporting a small army of Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA) who are conducting nutrition screenings in local communities to identify and refer children at risk of malnutrition for treatment. The screenings target children less than five years old, pregnant women and lactating mothers with infants under six months old.

It was during one such screening Gertrude Chipembere, an HSA from Nkhwazi village in Ngabu district, identified Laima and referred her to Chikwawa District Hospital, located 30 kilometres away.

"When Laima arrived, she was not only underweight, but had difficulties breathing and was placed on oxygen," said Georgina Majidu, a clinical officer at the hospital. "We admitted her into the nutrition rehabilitation unit, where she was given therapeutic milk, which helped her gain weight. We also treated the diarrhea."

Discharged and life after NRU

Laima was discharged from the hospital a week later and was referred to an outpatient clinic. She continued to be monitored by health workers and received special therapeutic food as part of her treatment.

"I’m so happy that my child regained her appetite and gained weight," says Fanuwelo. "Every day, she has improved and has regained her strength."

UNICEF is supporting the Government of Malawi to increase services around severe acute malnutrition with support from donors including USAID, DFID and MSC Cruises among others.

"Reducing malnutrition is a battle that UNICEF is continuously fighting," says Sangita Jacob, UNICEF Malawi’s chief of nutrition. “With support from our donors, we’ve been making great strides. Currently, about 1.5 million children are screened across the country every month."
The month of August, 2018, gave Zione Giziyele two reasons to celebrate: she gave birth to her second baby, a daughter named Chimwemwe. At the same time, her village received its first ever borehole.

Giziyele, 22, from Mtenje village in Salima district, Malawi, was born, grew up and married in the village. She and her husband are now subsistence farmers.

Having been born and bred in the area, Giziyele, just like many other of her fellow villagers, had gotten used to drinking water from a nearby river.

Before the borehole was dug by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Mtenje villagers, with a total of 58 households, regularly collected water from the Lipimbi river, which had become contaminated from sewerage runoff. As a consequence, the village was ravaged by cholera during the last rainy season. At the time diarrhoea was also commonly found among children.

Giziyele says her four-year-old first-born child contracted diarrhoea when he was six months old. “I’d exclusively breastfed my boy until then and only introduced him to water and other foods when he was the correct age.” She says his diarrhoea was treated but returned time and again.

Waki Chungwa, a local district water development officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, said the root cause of the cholera outbreak in Salima was found to have been unprotected water sources.

“The villagers were drawing water from unprotected sources such as contaminated rivers because they didn’t like drinking from existing boreholes which had high levels of salts,” says Chungwa. “When we raised the alarm agencies such as UNICEF responded with various preventive measures.”

UNICEF dug the new borehole during widespread outbreaks of cholera across Malawi in 2017 and 2018. Cases were reported in 13 districts including Salima. In Salima, 89 cases were later recorded, including four deaths.

Nationally, more than 900 people were affected with 30 succumbing to the disease. Cholera is contracted by the consumption of water which has been contaminated by poor hygiene and sanitation practices.

In Malawi, only 15 percent of households access their drinking water within their premises, according to the Demographic Household Survey of 2015. About half of rural households spend 30 minutes each day fetching water, which mostly comes from boreholes or tube wells.

With funding from the Department for International Development (DFID), UNICEF provided financial and technical support to the Government of Malawi, and other water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) stakeholders, to contain the cholera outbreak.

Patrick Okuni, acting chief of UNICEF Malawi’s WASH sector said his agency helped install water and sanitation facilities to control infections and provide clean water in affected communities.

“But our long-term priority, working with government, is to build sufficient resilience into communities and institutions so that the cycle of cholera outbreaks can be broken,” said Okuni.
Tikhala Itaye, a women and girls’ rights defender, co-founded her NGO, Her Liberty, after realising she could not get answers on why girls were treated differently from boys in her country, Malawi.

“When I started my first year of university, lecturers made sexual remarks to me and I found myself in situations where they tried to fail me because I wasn’t given them the sexual favours they asked for,” she said. “I felt so silenced. I did not know who to tell because I knew that I, as a girl, would be told it was my fault.”

At university, Itaye met two other young women with whom she started sharing stories of the challenges she experienced. They realised that if they did not speak out things would never change.

“We decided to found an NGO, Her Liberty, which means her freedom; her freedom to be free from oppression and to speak up and stand up against issues that affected her,” Itaye said.

In 2017, she solidified her activism by becoming a Youth Champion and member of the governing body of SheDecides, a movement created by the former Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Lilianne Ploumen.

When that same year US president Donald Trump signed the Global Gag Rule to halt federal funding for civil society organizations that provide family planning counselling, Ploumen said that president Trump does not make decisions about women’s bodies.

“She Decides,” she said. These two words began a call to action and weeks later several Governments came together during a conference and pledged over 200 million dollars to organizations that were affected by the US decision.

“People in different countries embraced it to the way that their young women in their countries understood it. South Africa, where they started She conquers, is one of the best examples,” Itaye said. “It has now become a movement that is being branded all over the world where young women themselves can now define what they can decide on.”

This year, the world is celebrating the 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; however, Itaye feels seven decades have not been enough for the ideals contained in the Declaration to reach the grassroots and rural areas.

“A lot of people still do not know what their basic, fundamental human rights are. I believe the celebration is an opportunity to share that message and to look at the knowledge gap that is out there,” she said.

Itaye described the experience she had when she was campaigning to end child marriage in different countries and how encouraged she felt that the African Union had launched the Ending Child Marriage campaign.

“I thought there was progress; but I went down at country level in Malawi, I met a young woman who was a child-bride survivor. I went up to her and asked her if she knew about her right to say no to that marriage and if she had heard about the campaign. She looked at me and she said: “No. What is human rights? And what is a law?” she recounted.

“We can’t celebrate human rights when that young girl, down at the community level, does not even know what a law is. I believe the Celebration is an opportunity to help communities understand truly that they have the right to know what their human rights are,” Itaye added.
Gender inequality is one of the most significant human rights violations of today. To solve this global challenge, and to achieve full gender equality, it is of great importance that men and boys participate in the conversation and be part of the solution.

To accelerate the achievement of gender equality in Malawi, the HeForShe initiative, which was created by UN Women, was launched in February 2015.

The HeForShe solidarity movement provides a systematic approach and targeted platform on which men and boys can engage and become change agents towards the achievement of gender equality. Barbershop events provide men with tools to address this inequality and become agents of change.

Building on decades of work for women’s rights, the Barbershop concept was developed jointly by the Governments of Iceland and Suriname, as a way to get men involved and committed as partners in promoting gender equality. Barbershop events provide men with tools to address this inequality and become agents of change. The events also motivate men and encourage active engagement in male-to-male discussions on gender equality in safe environments, while also elevating the voices of women in these spaces.

The tool box guides on how to engage men in achieving gender equality, the tools in the toolbox are divided into three series: leadership engagement including male role models, workshops and increasing engagement.

The Barbershop toolbox also provides opportunities for women and men to address gender equality together.

The first Barbershop Conference was held at the United Nations Headquarters in 2015 with over 500 attendees candidly discussing gender equality.

Since then, many other barbershop events have taken place. Malawi was chosen as the first country in Africa to launch the barbershop toolbox.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign, on 26th November 2018, the Icelandic Embassy in collaboration with UN Women and the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability, Elderly and Social Welfare co facilitated the launch of a district level barbershop toolbox in Mangochi.

Ninety-two representatives from civil society, faith based organisation, chiefs, religious leaders, academics, gender practitioners and government officials came together to witness the launch of the toolbox.

The aim of the launch was to orientate the community on the Toolbox and engage local authorities to become change agents and promoters of gender equality by deepening their own ideas on gender equality.

Continued on page 4
The United Nations in Malawi undertook some awareness raising activities around the 16 Days of Activism on Violence against Women and International Human Rights Day in collaboration with Government, Civil Society and national institutions.

The 16 Days of Activism was launched on 23rd November 2018 in Blantyre while the Human Rights Day commemoration happened on 10th December in Zomba at an occasion which also commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR).

The UN also undertook a campaign with the European Union coinciding with the 70th Anniversary of UDHR, calling on prominent individuals in Malawi to stand up for human rights.

Speaking during the Human Rights Day commemoration, UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Maria Jose Torres said the HDR proclaims that everyone is born free and equal in dignity and rights.

“The 70th anniversary campaign launched by the UN calls on everyone to take a pledge to respect the rights of others, including those we disagree with, to stand up for human rights and raise our voice and take action in the defence of the human rights of others,” said Torres.

Human Rights Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the work of many individuals and institutions that courageously stand up for the rights of others, including women and girls, persons with disabilities, children, persons with albinism, people living with HIV, the LGBT community, prisoners and refugees.

Torres called on everyone to fight gender-based violence and discrimination as they are a form of injustice of epic proportions and remain one of the most widespread violations of human rights.

She also urged for a continued fight against corruption as it is a crime that undermines democracy, the realisation of human rights and sustainable development of a country.

“Corruption is not one person’s fight. It is not the fight of one institution though effective, accountable and transparent institutions are important. Corruption erodes the societal fabric undermining the potential of citizens to fully contribute to sustainable development.

“It is a society’s fight and a commitment that must cross party lines and it must be supported through the public and private sector,” said Torres.

During the 16 Days of Activism, the UN Women supported several activities, including dialogue forums involving university students and political parties on ending violence against women as well as panel discussions on the same. UN Women also launched a Barbershop Tool-Box, a guide for getting men engaged in achieving gender equality, and ending violence against women and girls.

Mangochi District Commissioner Rev. Moses Chimphepo said: “A barbershop represents platforms where men meet and dialogue on various matters. Through these platforms, stereotypes are reinforced, and negative social norms promoted among men.”
Male champions who are promoting gender equality through their work with men and boys shared best practices examples while an interactive Theatre For Change (TfAc) drama depicted key gender equality issues. A session with trained facilitators guided and supported discussions with the participants.

During the launch, Reverend Moses Chimphethepho, the Mangochi District Commissioner pointed out that dialogue can help to facilitate discussions around the social norms that continue to discriminate against women in societies. The Commissioner said “the barbershop represents the various platform where men meet and dialogue on various matters. he comes out of it, may we come out different from this interaction”.

It is through these platforms where stereotypes are reinforced and negative social norms promoted among men”. He stated that he hoped that the implementation of the toolbox would be a new beginning of male involvement in the country in complementing the HeForShe campaign.

He said “If a man goes into a barbershop, he looks different when Actors in the gender area reflected on the challenges that perpetuate toxic masculinities. It was emphasized that the context, diversities and vulnerability of men involved need to be looked at when developing different strategies to foster progressive masculinities and achieve gender equality.

Participants underscored the need to hear women’s voices and the importance of men being accountable allies to women and girls when creating a more gender equal country. approaches to also address poverty and inequality; as these are some of the drivers of negative masculinities.

UN Women Malawi Representative, Ms. Clara Anyangwe said “advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in our lifetime requires innovative and inclusive approaches...therefore the relevance of launching the Barbershop Tool Box during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV period is critical in that HeForShe champions, can also reflect on the role of men and boys in eliminating violence against women; and what can be achieved to ensure that no one is left behind using the barbershop toolbox”.

The launch concluded with participants making commitments on what they will do to promote gender equality in their professional and professional lives. The national launch was held two days later in Lilongwe.
Blantyre Team march for #NDIUULULA

Enjoying the HeforShe march in Blantyre

Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare Cecilia Chazama with UN Women Representative Clara Anyangwe during the function.

Youth voicing out their views through a performance

Artists spicing up the launch with drama

Participants engaged in a group discussion
Building Climate Change Resilience in the Fisheries Sector

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Government of Malawi launched the project Building Climate Change Resilience in the Fisheries Sector in Malawi in Ukalanga Village in Mangochi district.

The project, also called Fisheries Resilience for Malawi or in short, FiRM, aims to build resilience to climate change in the inland fisheries sector targeting communities living around Lake Malombe and the Upper Shire River basin. The fisheries sector is of great importance to Malawi’s economy as a source of employment, food, rural income, export, import substitution and biodiversity. It supports livelihoods of nearly 1.6 million lakeshore communities through fishing, fish processing, fish marketing, boat building and repair of engines, boats and fishing nets.

Lake Malombe, which is the target for FiRM project, is one of Malawi’s five major water bodies and a contributor to fish production.

Over the last two decades, due excessive fishing efforts, increasing use of non-compliance equipment and nets, catchment and habitat degradation and impacts of climate change, Lake Malombe has witnessed some of the most devastating changes in landings and species composition with a decline of less than 4,000 tons of fish being landed annually from a maximum of 12,000 tons in the 1980s.

The FiRM project comes in the face of reduced fish and agricultural production around the lake leading to food and economic insecurity for surrounding communities.

Speaking at the project launch, FAO Acting Representative James Okoth said: “Over the next few years, the work of FiRM will focus on strengthening and harmonizing the management capability, and gaining a better understanding of the aquatic resources and the environment so that critical issues and the underlying causal agents and barriers which are contributing to a decline in the health of the Lake Malombe ecosystem can be addressed.”

In his remarks, the Guest of Honor, Mangochi District Council Deputy Chairperson, Ibrahim Kadewere echoed the same challenges, saying the effects of climate change and human actions have impoverished many people in the district who largely depend on aquatic resources.

“As council we will put in place active and appropriate measures to ensure that the project that has been launched today achieves its intended results and helps to restore the fish stocks in Lake Malombe to benefit the people of Mangochi.”

Speaking on behalf of the government of Malawi, the acting Director of Fisheries in the Department of Fisheries, Dr. Friday Njaya, called for capacity-building of local fisheries management committees to enable them take full responsibility and ownership in the management of aquatic resources.

The event which not only officially marked the launch of the project but also served to raise awareness of its activities to the broader community included speeches and entertainment, providing insights into project initiatives and issues relevant to the community such as observing the fishing closed season for Lake Malombe (1 October to 31 March), ensure compliance of technical regulations issued by the Department of Fisheries and the District Council and conserving fish breeding grounds.

Project FiRM runs from 2017 to 2021 and is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the Least Development Countries Fund.

The GEF is the leading financial mechanism assisting in the protection of the global environmental, promoting environmental sustainable development and facilitating support for adaptation to climate change.

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development through the Department of Fisheries with technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
Thirty seven year old mother of five, Gertrude Maulana is a proud member of Mdachi Care Group. She is also one of the care promoters, a role that allows her to support pregnant women and mothers of children under the age of five and adolescents with nutrition issues to ensure better health in their households.

Under Afikepo, the five-year European Union-funded nutrition programmes and with support of different departments of the Nkhotakota District Council, 239 care groups have been created under the programme with some restructured from existing groups. These care groups have been evidently instrumental in the district, empowering women of childbearing age, adolescent girls, and care givers of infant and young children so that they decide on what is needed to enhance their nutritional status and that of their children and to support them in addressing their needs.

Adolescent girls are also participating of the activities conducted by the Care Groups and benefiting from the information and key messages shared in relation with food security and nutrition.

“Through Mdachi care group, we teach nutrition to mothers of under-5 children and pregnant women,” says Getrude.

“Not only that, we have various resources which we use to teach on hygiene and sanitation, breastfeeding, and we encourage growing of various nutritious vegetables to improve household diets. We also have a nursery growing seedlings to encourage members to grow fruits such as guavas, oranges and mangoes.”

Thanks to Afikepo activities, community members are getting involved in and taking ownership on addressing nutrition problems in their locations.

On under five children, Gertrude confirms that care group members follow up on growth performance of under five children, keeping track of growth records.

“If we find children registering low weights, we work with the parents on a feeding programme for the child while monitoring weight”.

If we find that there is no improvement, we ensure that the child is taken to hospital for further assistance and support.”

When it comes to dietary diversity, members of Mdachi confirmed that they have moved beyond considering Nshima only as the staple and have included rice, dairy products, fruits and homemade juices as part of the diet, growing a variety of crops and keeping small livestock such as ducks and goats.

Gertrude says enthusiastically that the community is now aware of the six food groups and the different ways of combining and cooking foods to come up with healthy meals, which families enjoy.

About Afikepo

Afikepo, a five-year nutrition programme funded by the European Union, aims to enhance nutrition security in Malawi. Afikepo, which means “let them (the children) develop to their full potential” specifically seeks to address chronic undernutrition in Malawi, by resolving; lack of access to diversified foods in households; lack of knowledge on feeding and caring practices; cultural barriers that prevent uptake of good health, nutrition and WASH behaviors; and lack of real-time information systems which delay response to malnutrition.

The programme aims to enhance nutrition security in Malawi facilitating a multi-sectorial approach to accelerate stunting reduction, targeting under-5 children, pregnant women and adolescent girls.

Afikepo is designed to strategically contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with actions and results planned aimed at contributing to the progressive achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2, ‘End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture’ in Malawi.

The project is currently implemented in 10 districts of Chitipa, Karonga, Mzimba, Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota, Kasungu, Salima, Chiradzulu, Thyolo and Mulanje by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development through the Department of Agriculture Extension Services (DAES) with technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF).
Every morning at dawn, 36-year-old Christopher Chapweteka wakes up to the sound of roosters outside his small house to go to Nalingula Primary School in Phalombe District in southern Malawi, not to teach but to prepare and serve food to learners before they begin classes.

Christopher is one of the two male cooks amongst eight women at the school where Home Grown School Meals programme started in 2014.

“I wake up very early to go to the school to prepare food for learners. I am always happy to see learners go to class full of energy and eager to learn,” he says.

The World Food Programme has been working with the Government of Malawi since 1999, now supporting school meals programme in 13 most insecure districts of the country and reaching nearly one million learners with daily breakfast.

The years of partnership can be seen in many details, such as cooks trained in good hygiene, sanitation practices, and neat log books tracking food stocks.

“Before the programme started in 2014, Brenda, my first-born daughter, was always coming home from school at break time to eat and would cry and refuse to go back to school if she found no food at home.

But now she goes to school well guaranteed of eating before class. She does not come back home during break anymore. Even her school performance has greatly improved,” says Christopher.

In support of the National School and Health Policy, WFP and the Government increasingly invest in home-grown school meals programmes because they are an effective safety net for children, farmers and communities, with the potential to foster development and well-being in the long term.

Currently, 92 primary schools are participating in the Home-Grown School Meals programme across four districts of Salima, Mangochi, Dedza and Phalombe reaching 94,400 primary school students.

By using diverse locally available food, Home-Grown School Meals Programme provides meals that are nutritious, diverse, fresh and culturally appropriate. HGSM is also linked to the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative that offers technical assistance and support for smallholder farmers to improve the quality and quantity of their harvests.

Thus, not only does the programme provide learners with a daily meal but also generates a predictable income for smallholder farmers, creates local employment, and increases communities’ food security, improves social equity and reduces vulnerability.

The programme in Malawi has great potential as a social protection instrument.

The programme also links participating schools to WFP’s Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative to increase smallholder farmers’ capacities in productivity, storage management, group marketing and market engagement, to help them raise income from their agricultural activities.

“Since our cooperative was linked to Home-Grown School Meals programme, I sell my farm produce in large volumes and my income has steadily increased.

“This has enabled me to construct a decent house for my family, pay fees for my four children, and improve food and nutrition status for the family,” says Doreen Biziwick, a member of Nanguluwe Cooperative which supplies food items to Nalingula Primary School.

WFP is the largest provider of school meals in Malawi. In partnership with the Government, WFP contributes to improved education outcomes in addition to reducing short-term hunger and improving attention spans to help advance pre-primary and primary education across Malawi.
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