

# UNDP

M A L A W I

## Newsletter



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

2016 Issue



Story  
on page  
**3**

## GOVT, UNDP INAUGURATE FIRST PEACE COMMITTEE

Lands Minister Calls  
for Collective Efforts  
in Promoting Sustainable  
Urbanisation



China, Govt  
of Malawi,  
UNDP join hands  
for DRM

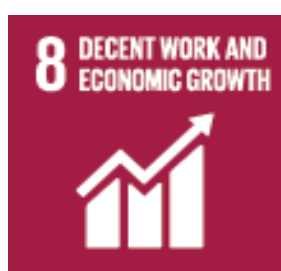


**50  
YEARS**

*Empowered lives. Resilient nations.*

# SUSTANABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDGS



SDGS

Published by **UNDP** Malawi  
P.O. Box 30135 ,  
Lilongwe 3, Malawi  
**TEL :** 0 1 773 500  
**Email:** [registry.mw@undp.org](mailto:registry.mw@undp.org)

**Executive Editor:**  
Carol Flore-Smrecznik

**Editor:**  
Innocent Mbvundula

**Contributors:**  
Pauline Achoka  
Busekese Kilembe  
Rebecca Adda Donto  
John Chome

**Design and Layout:**  
Corporate Promotions Limited

**Enquiries**  
[innocent.mbvundula@undp.org](mailto:innocent.mbvundula@undp.org)

## What's

## INSIDE



4

China Partners with the GOVT of Malawi, UNDP In Disaster Risk Management Through Small Grants Scheme



8

Youth Helping Make His Household Income And Food Secure In The Face Of Climate Change



32

Malawi Government, UNDP launch Malawi National HDR with Parliamentarians.



35

UNDP, Government engage information officers on SDGs

## ABOUT UNDP

**UNDP** partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspectives and local insights to help empower lives and build resilient nations.



# Message from the UNDP Resident Representative

**W**ELCOME to this issue of UNDP Malawi Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight some of the programmes that UNDP and its partners are implementing in Malawi as well as initiatives that UNDP, as a global development partner is undertaking. Through this newsletter we hope to highlight some important development issues facing Malawi. I, therefore, hope you will find it interesting to read.

At UNDP, the year 2016 is no ordinary year. It is the year in which we are commemorating our 50th Anniversary. We are, therefore taking time to reflect on the development challenges and looking forward to the future, energised by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) world leaders adopted in September, 2015. After 50 years of development work in Malawi, we can be proud the progress the country has made. UNDP supported the National Constitutional Conference in 1993, leading to the development of the new constitution which allowed for a multiparty democracy and subsequent elections. UNDP has continued to support every election since 1993.

We are also proud that the Malawi Institute of Tourism, a training institution that UNDP supported back in the 70's when it was Government Hotel Training School has evolved and grown, enrolling 350 students every year and owning its own accommodation facilities in three regions of the country. UNDP supported the Malawi Institute of Management (MIM) and today, it is an institution that is training managers in private and public sectors for effective service delivery. Through the UN volunteers, we have assisted in filling human resource gaps, especially in the health sector thereby saving many lives.

While we have made strides in the last 50 years together with our partners, it is undeniable that we have a long way to go. Statistics show that Malawi still lags behind on some key development indicators. Poverty, for instance, is wide spread, with over half of the population living below poverty line. The global Human Development Report for 2015 ranks Malawi at 173 of the 188 countries on the global Human Development Index.

Earlier this year UNDP supported the launch of National Quality Strategy, the Buy Malawi Strategy and Malawi National Development Report among other key documents. It is also pleasing to note that cabinet has approved the National Climate Change Management Policy, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and the National Forestry Policy. In addition, UNDP supported the development the National Industrial and Trade Policies which will help to transform the productive sector and deal with factors that determine the growth of the private sector, industry and economy in Malawi.

The signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in September this year marks a big milestone on Malawi's path to climate resilience. It is my hope that the agreements, policies and strategies we have will help to deal with challenges that beset the country in various ways.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our partners for their continued cooperation and support. In particular, I wish to thank our development partners and the Government of Malawi for cooperating with UNDP in our quest to empower people and build resilient communities. We hope to continue being a partner of choice in the coming years, especially as we commence this SDG era.

Join us as we commemorate our **50th Anniversary**.

Thank you and enjoy your reading.

**Ms. Mia Seppo**

**UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative in Malawi**





# MANGOCHI BECOMES FIRST DISTRICT TO HAVE PEACE COMMITTEE

**E**SMIE Botomani, a 32-year old business woman who lives at Mtalimanja in Mangochi Town was once affected by violence that erupted in the aftermath of the 2014 tripartite elections. Dissatisfied with the elections results, people looted property, destroyed infrastructure and fought with each other.

Esme's phone business was not spared in the violence. One morning she found her branded telephone booth removed and set on fire. All this because people did not pursue peaceful means to resolve their differences.

"I lost the telephone booth. I used to do my business in that booth. To me this was a big loss because people were attracted to my business because of the visibility of that beautiful booth. Today I'm using a simple table which can't attract customers," said Esmie as she sat and managed her business some few meters from where the Government of Malawi and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were launching the first ever District Peace Committee (DPC), attended by a cross section of business operators, party leaders, traditional leaders, religious leaders of different faiths, government officials and the youth.

As Esmie followed the proceedings at the launch of the DPC from her business desk, she was reminded of the loss she encountered in 2014. The inauguration of the Mangochi DPC was personal to her as it was befitting for a district that

has had a fair share of violent activities ignited by religious intolerance, political differences and land disputes. Esme hopes that for once she can conduct business in a peaceful environment.

"Violent conflict can disrupt development. It disrupts education, businesses and indeed, any development initiative," said the Chief Secretary for the Government of Malawi, Mr. George Mkondiwa who was the guest of honour at the launch of Mangochi District Peace Committee, held under the theme; DPCs as building blocks for Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Mkondiwa commended the people of Mangochi for being the first to embrace the peace initiative, saying it demonstrates that the people of the district have chosen a path to peaceful means of resolving their differences.

The Chief Secretary advised members of the DPC to adhere to the Code of Conduct which they have signed. Among other things, it calls for members to exercise impartiality, professionalism, integrity and independence in order to instill confidence in their community members.

On her part, UNDP Peace and Development Advisor, Rebecca Adda-Donto said UNDP will continue to accompany Malawians in providing the necessary technical support that will enable the advancement of peace to fulfil the aspirations of Malawians to keep Malawi 'a land of peace' as stated in the Malawi National Anthem.

She stressed that the launch of the first DPC in Mangochi resonates with Goal 16 which calls for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

She added that violence comes with a cost. "The cost of violence is very high. Direct cost of violence to the victim, perpetrator and the government," she said, citing the 2016 Global Peace Index report which shows that violence has costed Malawi about US\$1 Billion in the last ten years.

One of the youth representative in the DPC, Emmanuel Simbani said he will use his position to ensure that the youth are not used in perpetrating violent activities as was the case in previous conflicts in the districts.

"I will be encouraging the youth to use dialogue to resolve conflicts," Simbani said.

District Peace Committees (DPCs) are district peacebuilding, conflict prevention and transformation structures of the National Peace Architecture (NPA) supported by UNDP and Government of Malawi through the Office of the President and Cabinet.

Mangochi, Kasungu and Karonga are the first districts in Malawi to pilot District Peace Committees (DPCs) in 2016, as a first step and a test towards learning lessons for the roll-out of the National Peace Architecture structures nationwide.





## China Partners with the Government Of Malawi, UNDP In Disaster Risk Management Through Small Grants Scheme

If you fail,  
you will  
not just be  
failing your  
communities,  
but you  
will be  
failing the  
whole country

**T**HE Government the People's Republic of China has partnered with the Government of Malawi and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in supporting disaster risk management programmes through the launch of the Small Grant Scheme for community based organizations in disaster prone areas.

During the official launch of the Small Grant Scheme on disaster risk management in Lilongwe, Principal Secretary in the Office of the Vice President who is also Commissioner for Disaster Management Affairs, Mr. Ben Botolo commended UNDP and the People's Republic of China for the timely support towards the management of disasters in Malawi's 15 disaster prone districts.

"This support has come at the right time, when we are in a serious food insecurity situation and we anticipate more disasters in the coming La Nina year," said Botolo, noting that the country faces multiple hazards like drought and floods for which more support will be needed to mitigate the impacts these bring to the communities.

Six CBOs from Mangochi, Nsanje, Chikhwawa and Salima whose proposals qualified for the small grant scheme were recognized at the function. The Principal Secretary urged recipients of the grants to make use of the grants in a prudent manner in order to reduce the risks of disasters in their communities.

"If you fail, you will not just be failing your communities, but you will be failing the whole country," the Principal Secretary advised representatives of the CBOs.

On his part, the Chinese Ambassador to Malawi, His Excellency Wang Shi-Ting said his government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP on Trilateral Cooperation, a broad framework for collaboration among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains.

Ambassador Wang said the trilateral cooperation between China, Malawi and

[Continues >>> page 5](#)

## China Partners with Government Of Malawi, UNDP In Disaster Risk Management Through Small Grants Scheme

UNDP on disaster risk reduction is a component of China-Africa-UNDP Cooperation Umbrella Programme which started in 2013.

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for programmes Ms. Carol Flore-Smreczniaak, said the project is unique because it targets community-based structures recognized by the Malawi's Disaster Risk Management Act.

"This project is shifting the focus of affected populations from being victims to becoming active agents of change," said Ms. Flore-Smreczniaak, noting that the support comes at the right time as vulnerable communities look for innovative solutions to minimize the impacts of floods and become more resilient to risks and shocks following the devastating

floods of 2015 from which communities are still recovering.

The call for proposals from CBOs and Civil Protection Committees (CPCs) for the small grants scheme attracted 220 submissions from 15 disaster-prone areas for which the scheme is earmarked. Out of these proposals, six qualified based on an extensive assessment and field appraisal of the proposals.

Under this small grant scheme, communities will construct dykes and safe havens with 20% of cost as community contribution, mostly in kind. The awardees are Michesi and Luwi CBOs from Mangochi; Njale and Mchere CBOs from Chikhwawa; Abwenzi CBO from Salima and Mwabulambu Village Civil Protection Committee (VCPC) from Karonga.

## SDGs, an opportunity to refocus the global Development Agenda



*Michael O'Neill,  
UNDP's BERA Director*

### says UNDP BERA Director

UNDP Director of Bureau for External Affairs and Advocacy (BERA), Michael O'Neill, says Malawi should utilize the opportunity presented by the sustainable development goals adopted by world leaders in 2015.

O'Neill was in Malawi to attend the 9th Steering Committee meeting for Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation being supported by UNDP and Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Steering Committee is being co-chaired by Malawi, Mexico and the Netherlands.

He said the world is facing a number of challenges like the refugees crisis in Syria, economic challenges and food

security.

While there are many challenges, O'Neill says, UNDP is working to address the root cause of the crisis facing the world today.

"In the coming years, UNDP will be largely involved, together with other partners at various levels, in the implementation of the sustainable development goals and agenda 2030," he said, noting that Malawi should take advantage of these ambitious development goals.

On the 50th anniversary of UNDP, O'Neill said the centre piece of the anniversary was the ministerial meeting held in New York which attracted heads of states, ministers and representatives of member states across the globe.





## MALAWI LAUNCHES BUY MALAWI STRATEGY

**M**ALAWI has launched the Buy Malawi Strategy (BMS) in a bid to promote locally produced goods and services. UNDP supported the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism to develop and launch the strategy in collaboration with the private sector.

Launching the Strategy, President Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika thanked UNDP for the financial and technical support in the development and launch of the Strategy.

The President called on people to support local industry. He also called on local producers to strive for quality and reasonable pricing in order to stay competitive.

"People will not buy from you simply because you are Malawian, but because your products are of high quality and your prices are reasonable to compete on global regional markets," the President said, stressing that Malawians deserve quality products. UNDP Resident Representative in Malawi, Ms. Mia Seppo commended the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism for its leadership and commitment towards the formulation of the BMS, saying the strategy complements other important ongoing initiatives of the Government of Malawi aimed at advancing the industrialization agenda of the country.

"The success of the Buy Malawi Strategy will require effective collaboration and strong partnerships between the private and public sectors," said Ms. Seppo in Lilongwe at the launch of the strategy attended by a cross section of society including Malawi's President, cabinet ministers,

senior government officials, private sector representatives and local producers.

She then underscored the importance of buying locally produced goods and services.

"Buying locally has countless positive effects. It contributes towards job creation and it's a safeguard for existing jobs; it contributes towards poverty reduction and it grows local investment; it reinforces the industrial base and encourages self-reliance and food security; it addresses the trade deficit account and encourages entrepreneurship and innovation," she said.

During the launch the President outlined some measures to boost local industry. Among the measures, the President mentioned, as a way of kicking off implementation of the strategy, "all public procuring entities will buy at least 30% of their goods and services from Malawi based enterprises; the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development will prioritize allocation of land to enterprise and investors that intend to manufacture goods and provide services on our land; commercial banks to put emphasis on lending money to enterprises that produce goods and services locally rather than only emphasizing on enterprises that import finished products for re-sale. The President also urged the hospitality industry to set aside a day when they will be serving local dishes. He also declared 18th March every year as Malawi Day.



**T**he Indigenous Businesses Association of Malawi (IBAM) has hailed the coming of the Buy Malawi Strategy (BMS), saying it will help in the growth of local enterprises in Malawi.

IBAM President, Mike Mlombwa, a renowned Malawian businessman himself said the launch of the Buy Malawi Strategy comes at a time when Malawians' appetite for imported commodities has grown exponentially thereby draining the much needed forex.

Mlombwa said the Buy Malawi Strategy will help boost local production as enterprises will be assured of a ready market.

"Further, the strategy will also ensure that the hard earned forex which the country is generating is used only for essential imports which we are not able to produce ourselves. We are confident, that with the right policies in place, an example being this strategy, we will see blossoming of local industries in many sectors of the economy," he said.

"The Buy Malawi initiative is at my heart and the heart of my government. We pledge to buy Malawian because we are proud that Malawi can produce fine products and services worth of our pride and money. Malawi is set to take her place in the world. And we will succeed," he said.

UNDP and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism are in the process of developing a Marketing and Communication Plan to support the implementation and popularization of the Buy Malawi Strategy.

#### **PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES TO SUPPORT BUY MALAWI STRATEGY**

**1.** I urge all public procuring entities will buy at least 30% of their goods and services from Malawi based enterprises. Those that cannot manage because of the nature of their business should

# IBAM welcomes BMS



*IBAM President, Mike Mlombwa (right) greets the President at the launch of BMS in Lilongwe*

give plausible reasons and seek a waiver from the office of the Director of Public Procurement (ODPP).

**2.** From now onwards, civil servants and public servants in all Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Parastatals should, on Fridays, be wearing clothes produced in Malawi.

**3.** The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development will prioritise allocation of land to enterprises and investors that intend to manufacture goods and provide services on our land.

**4.** I declare that 18th March each year, will be a Malawi Day. On this day, Malawians shall wear, eat and use Malawian products. During this day Malawians shall celebrate our uniqueness and send a message to the whole world that we are Malawi.

**5.** I request all hospitality facilities to set aside at least one day in a week to serve Malawian dishes. Let us be the pride of Malawi. And let me congratulate those that have already started implementing this initiative like Sunbird Tourism Limited.

**6.** I request all Malawians that we should be the first to patronize our tourism facilities. Let us be proud of our country.

**7.** I request commercial banks to put much emphasis on lending money to enterprises that produce goods and services locally rather than only emphasizing on enterprises that import finished products for re-sell.

**8.** Last but not least, the Buy Malawi Strategy Secretariat should ensure that the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is water tight.



## YOUTH HELPING MAKE HIS HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND FOOD SECURE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**A**T the age of 19, Chifundo Kananji from Chole Village in Traditional Authority Mkanda in Mulanje is extraordinary. He is a young man who is set apart from his contemporaries. Chifundo strikes the right balance between education and farming to make his household food secure.

In his short time, he has observed how extreme and erratic rainfall adversely impact his community that largely depends on agriculture production for income, nutrition and food security. In 2015, his area was one of the worst hit areas by flooding.

For Chifundo, memories are fresh about how destructive the floods have been, followed by a dry spell that has significantly reduced crop production. He recalls how his adopted parents struggled to bring food to the table in the family of eight members who suffered low maize yields in 2015.

In contrast to most youths of his age

in the village he dedicates his time to productive activities in his fish pond and garden. Chifundo is a student at Namaluwo community day secondary school, currently awaiting results of the junior certificate exams.

He got inspiration from the fish ponds he saw in his community. In 2013, under the National Climate Change Programme (NCCP), community members from Chole village were provided with materials to construct fish ponds. NCCP is a collaborative programme coordinated by the Government of Malawi with financial support from Government of Flanders and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enhance community resilience to climate change.

Through this support, the community constructed two fish ponds, some 100 meters from Chifundo's home, close to the land belonging to his grandmother. Chifundo was following the developments with keen interest, learning how to look after the ponds

in the process. Under the NCCP, the community fish ponds, managed by clubs are designed to be a learning point for people who want to venture into household fish farming.

Learning from what he observed from the community fish ponds, coupled with the advice he received from the fisheries officer from the District Council, Chifundo dug his own fish pond on a land handed to him by his grandmother. He received fingerlings from the NCCP project and benefited from trainings on fish farming.

"I made K11, 000 from fish sales after the first harvest. I bought clothes and a second hand mobile phone," Chifundo said, adding that some of the fish supplemented his family's food and nutrition needs.

Impressed by his assertiveness, the project has given him a female goat and two ducks on a pass-on model, where a community member gets a goat or duck from another community member on the understanding that he

[Continues >>> page 9](#)



## Youth helping make his household income and food secure in the face of climate change

or she will also pass on the offspring to another member.

Not only will the ducks and the goats help meet the long term food and income needs for Chifundo and his family, but in the meantime, their droppings are used in ponds as fertilizers to increase the production of natural food for the fish.

"I take the ducks to the fish pond. They like playing in the water but in the process, their droppings help the growth of some plants which are natural food for my fish," said Chifundo proudly.

This is how he is integrating animal farming with fish farming. Further to this, he is maximizing the use of water in the pond to venture into small scale irrigation farming. In 2015, he grew rice using water from the pond.

"I decided to grow rice near my fish pond. It wasn't a big garden but I managed to get 200kgs," he said. He decided not to sell the rice, opting to use rice as an alternative food for the household so that the family could be food sufficient up to the next harvest season.

As Chifundo awaits the second fish harvest, he is also growing tomatoes. He chose to plant tomatoes because it is a less water demanding crop that ensures that water in his pond remains at the desired level for proper growth of the fish.

For a young man still in his teens, money is not a big problem as is the case with many of his peers. He is able to buy clothes and other basic things that many young people of his age would request from their parents or guardians. At such young age, he is able to hire casual labourers, more than twice his age to help him with some work in the garden.

More importantly, even with such a success, Chifundo values education. Having money and property like goats, ducks and chickens is not reason enough to abandon school. "Though I am devoted to farming, I feel education is important. I look forward to completing my secondary education," he said.

Chifundo's success exemplifies how determined youth, provided with skills and resources, can help lift families and communities out of dire poverty.

Besides, fish, irrigation and animal farming, the NCCP is helping communities in disaster-prone areas of Mulanje in the adoption of new methods and technologies, including rainwater harvesting, conservation agriculture and post-harvest loss management, with an ultimate aim of building resilient communities in disaster prone areas.



*Chifundo grows tomatoes and other vegetables using water from his fish pond*

# SALIMA COMMUNITY WORKS TO RESTORE TREES FOR ITS POSTERITY

**J**USTIN, the village headman of Traditional Authority Ndindi in Salima district, ascended to the throne as a traditional leader in 2002. When he became a headman, 14 years ago, houses were separated by trees so thick that it was difficult to see houses some kilometers away. Wild animals were a common sight even in day time. That is how the area was populated with trees not so long ago.

Today, the story is different. In the last two decades, the area has experienced high rate of deforestation owing to wanton cutting down of trees for charcoal production.

"It's a worrisome situation. If you came here twenty years ago, you wouldn't have seen the houses that you are seeing from the hills," Justin said, as he pointed to the houses to the west of the area.

Concerned with the trend, the village headman mobilized his community to reverse the situation. Together, they decided to protect trees by maintaining the existing forests and planting more trees to restore the environment for both the current and future generations.

Through the National Climate Change Programme which is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Malawi with financial assistance from Government of Flanders, the community was provided with 1000 tree seedlings. On its own, the community secured an additional 1500 seedlings.

"We decided to have a woodlot with the tree seedlings

that we gathered. We planted 1000 trees on a woodlot and about 500 on the river banks," said Raphael Chirwa, a lead farmer and coordinator of Justin Village Tree Management committee.

Chirwa said, apart from the woodlot, some seedlings were provided to other institutions to broaden participation in the tree planting campaign.

"We gave some seedlings to a nearby school. We also gave some to a group involved in making energy saving cooking stoves," said Chirwa, adding that, this year, they have a nursery of 3000 tree seedlings which they hope to distribute to households to plant near their homes and on their land.

Cognizant of the need to safeguard existing trees, the village headman enacted by-laws to control tree cutting.

"Any person caught cutting down a tree without permission and without a proper reason, is given a fine of a chicken," said village headman Justin.

He said, with the fine, people are afraid to cut down trees because a chicken is a valuable asset for people in the village which they do not want to part away with as a penalty for cutting down trees.

When there is a pressing need to cut a tree, the village headman and his committee provide guidance.

"Our aim is to control unwarranted damage to trees. We want to pass on an environment that will be conducive for the next generation," Village headman Justin said.

Salima District Agriculture Officer Jakaya Kipandula commended village headman Justin and his community for working together to restore their forests, saying trees help to control soil erosion and ultimately, boosts agricultural production.

Faced with food shortages and climate change, community-based agroforestry initiatives like this one in Ndindi are essential to strengthen people's resilience to changing environmental conditions. By restoring its forests for posterity, Ndindi is also forging a path to prosperity.





# New staff ON BOARD



**Pilirani CHIKWESE**  
Human Resources Assistant

Pilirani Chikwese joined UNDP Malawi on 1st June 2016 as Human Resources Assistant. Pilirani graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science degree from Chancellor College, a constituent college of the University of Malawi in 2009. She previously worked for TechMahindra Malawi as a Human Resources Executive for two years. She comes to UNDP after serving a year as Payroll and Benefits Specialist and two years as Human Resources Officer at the Opportunity Bank Malawi. She hopes to grow her career in Human Resources Management in the UN system.

Ben Twinomugisha hails from Uganda and is a graduate of Development studies and a former fellow of Capacity Strengthening in Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC) from 2005 to 2009. He is part of international climate change adaptation experts from Africa and Asia who network under the auspices of International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to support LDCs to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Before joining UNDP Malawi, he worked in Rwanda where he helped to facilitate implementation of Community Based Climate Change Adaptation (CBCCA) project. He also worked for UNDP Tanzania as a focal point person for the Africa Adaptation Programme.

Early in his career, Ben worked at Oxfam International Uganda as Climate Change Programme Manager. He takes keen interest in publication of articles on climate change and adaptation with special focus on food security and indigenous adaptation. He brings to UNDP Malawi passion and compassion of UN Volunteer to contribute to uplifting the plight of vulnerable people at the center of climate change risk.



**Ben TWINOMUGISHA**  
Programme Analyst Climate Change  
and Disaster Risk Reduction



**Andrew SPEZOWKA**  
Resilience and Sustainable  
Growth (RSG) Portfolio Manager

Andrew Spezowka joined UNDP Malawi on 1st August, 2016 as the new Resilience and Sustainable Growth (RSG) Portfolio Manager. Andrew brings to UNDP Malawi, and to the RSG portfolio in particular, a unique combination of expertise and experience accumulated from his work in different countries and institutions in management, partnership building with a focus on climate change, disaster risk management, sustainable growth and resilience.

He joined UNDP in Vietnam in 2014, where he supported the Ministries of Planning and Investment, Finance, and Industry and Trade to advance initiatives in green growth and climate resilience. Prior to that, Andrew worked at the World Bank office in Vietnam from 2011 on issues related to International Development Association (IDA) graduation, partnership engagement and social accountability.

He also served as Director and Deputy Director of Programmes in the Environment and Food Security Bureau based in Canada's Global Affairs Department, responsible for a range of policy and programme issues to address global food insecurity, climate change, and inclusive growth.



A water tank in Karonga which collects water from the roof top during the rainy season. The tank was constructed with support from UNDP and Government under NCCP

## MAKING THE MOST OF RAIN WATER

ONE of the challenges that most parts of Malawi currently face is that rivers dry up soon after the rainy season. In the lakeshore districts of Salima and Karonga, Lake Malawi provides a reliable source of water for areas along it. However, in areas located far from the lake, water is a challenge, especially in dry season.

Through rain water harvesting technologies, some communities in Karonga and Salima are making use of water that they collected during the rainy season crop production.

Mlambe Club in Bibi Rabson village traditional authority Ndindi in Salima is one of the early adopters of the rain water harvesting technologies. Through the National Climate Change Programme (NCCP) which is being coordinated by the Government of Malawi with support from the Government of Flanders and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the club

constructed an underground water tank which collects water from the canals during the rainy season.

Fodrick John, chairman of Mlambe Club which has a membership of 25, said the project provided construction materials for the rain water harvesting tank.

"This area is usually dry. During the dry season our rivers are dry and it is very difficult to have water for irrigating even vegetable gardens," said John.

John said when NCCP approached the club for the construction of the rainwater harvesting tank, it was an opportunity for the members to expand the range of activities they do. In 2015, the tank was completed and immediately, in the 2015/2016 rainy season they collected water into the tank.

In 2016, for the first time, they used the tank to irrigate a vegetable garden from which they got K25, 000.

"We realized K25, 000 from the sales of vegetables. We decided to plant vegetables because vegetables don't require a lot of water," said John.

The club invested the money into their village savings and loan (VSL) group, where shareholding members can borrow at a moderate interest to support their household needs.

In Karonga, the project has also supported roof-top rain water harvesting tank, which collects water from roof-top into a water tank.

The District Commissioner for Karonga, Ms. Rosemary Moyo applauded the project for introducing and promoting technologies that, if adopted at large scale, can help make communities food secure even in times of erratic rainfall.

"If these interventions are scaled up, most households would be food secure," said Ms. Moyo.



# UNDP/UNDSS Staff Association elects new office bearers

**T**here are new office bearers for UNDP and United Nations Department of Security Services (UNDSS) joint Staff Association, with Titus Kavalo, (Programme Analyst-Economic Competitiveness & Private Sector Development at UNDP) elected president.

In accepting the responsibility, Kavalo said he was humbled to be elected president of the association, promising to make the Staff Association attractive and responsive to the needs of its members while standing for the truth to protect those that are disadvantaged.

"I accepted the offer. I have to mention though that it took some deep thought to accept upon realizing that declining would mean betrayal to those who elected me to serve in the Staff Association," said Kavalo who is being deputized by Mrs. Etta Mmangisa, UNDP Programme Analyst for Climate Change Adaptation.

Going forward, Kavalo said, he and his executive committee will be taking a step further by specifically consulting those that served in the previous executive committee, other agency representatives and the global staff association executive to ensure that the decisions of the association reflect the wishes of its members and are in line with the UN policies and regulations.



New Staff Association Chairman, Titus Kavalo-wants the Association to be responsive to the needs of its members

Other members of the UNDP/UNDSS staff association elected include; Mavuto Nkhoma (UNDP) as Treasurer, Linda Liwimbi of UNDSS as the Secretary and her deputy is Busekese Kilembe (UNDP). Executive members of the staff association are United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Coordinator, Maryrose Ikumi and UNDP's Alice Kanthungo and Laureen Pereira-Kayuni.

## UNCARES HOLDS SEPARATE MEN AND WOMEN HEALTH EVENTS



Mavuto Nkhoma of UNDP's Procurement Section being checked for Blood Pressure at the Man to Man health session

UNCARES, a United Nations system wide workplace programme brought together UN female and male staff in separate health awareness events dubbed woman to woman and man to man sessions respectively.

UNCARES Health and Wellness Coordinator, Mrs. Veronica Chikafa said by gathering women and men separately, it afforded UN staff an opportunity to freely discuss issues that otherwise they would not discuss in the presence of both sexes.

"Our role is to create a platform for both men and women to discuss gender sensitive topics that staff cannot freely discuss in the presence of opposite sexes," said Mrs. Chikafa.

In man to man session, UN male staff discussed wide ranging health topics including human papilloma virus, non-communicable diseases and sexual dysfunction. Female UN employees discussed women health issues like menopause, hemorrhoids and fistula among other topics in their woman to woman session.

The *Woman to Woman* session took place at UN Resident Coordinator's residence while the *Man to Man* session took place at the Residence of WHO Resident Representative, Eugene Nyarko.

UNCARES seized the opportunity to provide health services such as HIV testing, blood pressure check, examination of sexually transmitted infections such as syphilis. Crossroads dancing group spiced up the sessions with traditional dances.



# KEEPING THE LITTLE HARVEST SAFE USING MODERN GRANARY

**W**ITH crop production on the decline, owing to changing rainfall patterns, farmers cannot afford to lose the little they harvest. Proper storage of crops can go a long way to enhance food security at household level.

The 2016 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) estimates that over 6.5 million Malawians will be food insecure because they did not harvest enough to take them to the next harvest season due to among others, heavy and early cessation of rains in some parts.

Among a range of interventions that the United Nations Development Programme in collaboration with the Government of Malawi under the National Climate Change Programme (NCCP) is undertaking in districts such as Karonga, Salima and Mulanje, post-harvest management is central to food security. Under the post-harvest loss management, the NCCP is working with communities to minimize crop harvest losses.

Mrs. Jane Gondwe from Kapanda village, Traditional Authority Kambalame in Salima was one of the first farmers who expressed a desire to adopt a modern maize granary that was tested and proven to store maize with minimal losses.

Gondwe is a committed farmer. She is one of the lead farmers in the area. She grows all kinds of crops for both commercial and subsistence purposes. She and her husband look after a large family of fifteen (15)

members. Her family harvested 80 bags of maize in the 2015/16 harvest season.

In 2015 under the NCCP, Salima District Council constructed this modern, one cubic meter maize storage granary, made of cement. The project provided cement, iron sheets, lime and other materials while the family provided sand, bricks, poles and labour for the construction of the granary. The modern granary is designed to be a learning point for post-harvest management.

Where this granary has been used, its advantages are well documented. "Children cannot access it without key, it's locked. If one wants to get maize I know because I keep the keys," said Mrs. Gondwe,

In the past, the family could lose about four bags of maize after harvest, enough to feed the family for two complete weeks.

In addition to reducing crop harvest losses, the modern granaries help in conserving trees, compared to the traditional maize granaries which are made of wood and bamboo and only last for a year or two.

"The traditional granaries had a lot of disadvantages. They are prone to attacks from weevils, rats and thieves can access the produce easily," she said .





*President of the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI), Karl Chokotho (left) and an entrepreneur from Blantyre listening to proceedings at the launch of MICF Round Two in Blantyre.*

## DFID, KfW and UNDP Pull Resources to Support Second Round of the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF)

**T**HE UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW have joined hands with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the second round of competition of the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF) for the Manufacturing and Logistics, and the Agribusiness Windows.

The Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF) is a competitive, transparent mechanism that provides grant finance for innovative, inclusive business projects proposed by the private sector in Malawi. The fund aligns development and business objectives; harnesses the strengths of the private sector to generate and test new ideas; triggers innovation, which combine potential commercial

viability with high social impacts, but where the commercial returns are uncertain, and therefore high risk and ultimately requires grantees to at least match the funding provided by the Challenge Fund, as an indication of their commitment to the commercial viability of the project.

Speaking to representatives of the private sector including the president of the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) in Blantyre at the launch of the two MICF Windows, Growth and Resilience Team leader and Acting Head of Office for DFID in Malawi, Rachel Perrin said the Agribusiness Window that DFID is supporting in the second round of the MICF is designed to bring real impact, both in terms of attempting to change market systems and increase employment and incomes of the poor.

Perrin said the introduction of new technologies and practices, that are based on commercial opportunities, and driven by the private sector has the ability to transform smallholder agriculture to meet these challenges and provide a step up to an agribusiness sector to deliver greater value-added products and services.

On her part, Christine de Barros Said, Deputy Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy said although the concept behind MICF is new to the German-Malawi Cooperation it is innovative and holds significant potential to scale and embrace new thinking.

She said the support that KfW is providing to MICF on the Manufacturing and Logistics Window marks an important step in supporting Malawi's pursuit of

[Continues >>> page 16](#)

## DFID, KFW AND UNDP PULL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SECOND ROUND OF THE MALAWI INNOVATION CHALLENGE FUND (MICF)

inclusive private sector development that broadens its exports base and ensures that more Malawians benefit from economic growth.

“By providing the risk capital to allow companies to link small and medium farmers and other enterprises to formal or structured market channels, we believe this will provide access to higher value markets and lead to increased incomes,” noted Said, adding that the Challenge fund contributes to private sector development in rural areas which is one of the key pillars of the German-Malawian Cooperation programme.

Said added that Germany’s support to the Manufacturing and Logistics Window of MICF will go a long way in helping the agriculture producers in delivering inputs, collecting produce, providing post-harvest, processing and ultimately distributing to both local and international markets.

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Operations, Ms. Katarzyna Wawiernia, commended the governments of Germany and United Kingdom for their financial support to the two MICF windows, saying the support will contribute to both private sector development and poverty alleviation in Malawi.

Wawiernia said experiences from the first round of the MICF demonstrated that there is a resilient and emerging private sector in Malawi with capacity to innovate and evolve despite the country’s challenging economic environment.

“We hope the launch of the two windows will continue supporting the growth of progressive and innovative businesses which will take a hard-headed, business-oriented approach to the critical issue of ultimately benefitting the poor,” said Wawiernia.

The first round of MICF in Malawi was launched in 2014 with support to 10 projects which have already started impacting the lives of thousands of poor households and creating hundreds of jobs in the process. The agriculture window is supporting five projects targeting livestock, horticulture, tea, ICT and groundnuts that will increase the incomes of 11,800 poor households and will create almost 300 jobs; whilst the manufacturing window is supporting five projects in processed agricultural products, low cost water filters, milk products that will improve the incomes of 21,500 households, create 850 jobs and impact 20,000 consumers.

The total MICF Grant request for the first round of competition amounts to US\$ 5.3 million whilst the contribution from companies amounts to US\$ 8.6 million.

One of the attendees, Haroon Mia who runs a dairy farm at Zalewa in Blantyre rural expressed optimism that many poor people will benefit from the MICF support, especially those that have no access to markets for their products. On his part, Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry

(MCCCI) president Karl Chokotho applauded the Fund saying it has potential to turn around the economic growth of the country.

Under the second round of MICF, the Agribusiness Window seeks to increase the supply of processed and semi-processed agricultural commodities produced by poor producers in Malawi. The Manufacturing and Logistics Window, on the other hand, seeks to work with companies to integrate their processes and incorporate locally produced products and services to reduce reliance on imported goods. It will also support the export of manufactured goods and support improvements in the efficiency of the distribution and logistics sector.

“We hope the launch of the two windows will continue supporting the growth of progressive and innovative businesses which will take a hard-headed, business-oriented approach to the critical issue of ultimately benefitting the poor.”



# Malawi Institute of Tourism-41 Years of Sustaining the Hospitality and Tourism Industry in Malawi

From its humble beginning as the Government Hotel Training School back in the 70s to becoming the Malawi Institute of Tourism (MIT), this institution has seen 41 years of growth, development and success. The growth of the hospitality and tourism industry is undeniably incomplete without MIT.

Situated in middle of Blantyre city, MIT has a long story. It was not until the early 1970s that the world began to recognize and acknowledge the potential of the tourism industry. The Government of Malawi, also realised that the tourism industry would become of great national importance as well as one of the fastest growing industries in the country's economy. Four decades later, this realization became true. Today, the hospitality and tourism industry has grown tremendously, providing employment to many of the students who pass through the corridors of MIT.

Malawi has proven to be a good holiday destination and the government saw this as an opportunity for a good foreign exchange earning. The government knew that in order for the tourism sector to be successful, the provision of international standard hotel facilities was necessary which the government did not have at the time. In light of all these considerations the government requested assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1974.

The government asked for assistance after having examined the full potential of the tourism sector as well as the appropriate resources required that would help them

train and teach individuals. The objectives of the project were initially the construction of a hotel and a catering school that would be a government training institution to advance the skills and knowledge of the employees in the hospitality and catering establishments across Malawi.

The two UN agencies, UNDP and ILO provided the institution with machinery, cutlery and state of the art hotel equipment; they provided an impeccable education system with the introduction of many culinary courses that have produced some of Malawi's signature dishes throughout the hotels and resorts of the country today. UNDP and ILO provided financial and technical support from 1974 all through to the mid-1980s.

Through the UNDP/ILO support international consultants were deployed to Malawi to assist in training employees to offer services that would meet international standards. Many new styles of cooking methods emerged that promoted Malawian products, a favourite method of cooking became one that used only all Malawian produced ingredients, while adapting a French style of cuisine. This style of cooking is still very popular today and used by many famous hotels in Malawi such as the five- star hotel-Protea Ryalls Hotel in the city of Blantyre.

"The two UN agencies also provided office equipment and industrial kitchen equipment to the training institution; some of which are still being used to this day," says the current Executive Director for MIT, Isabel Tamanda Chakhumbira.

MIT became a trust in 1997 with a mandate

to upgrade the tourism and hospitality training to fill the gap of qualified personnel in the tourism and hospitality industry.

The institution currently admits over 350 students a year. The Institution offers globally recognized diplomas and certificates in various fields in travel, tourism and hospitality programmes. MIT introduces innovative new courses every year.

Over the four decades the institute has progressed from simply training students. It furthermore acquired three accommodation facilities that the institute manages in the three major cities of Malawi. These consist of Alendo Hotel in Blantyre, Lingadzi Inn in the city of Lilongwe and Mzuzu Tourist Lodge in Mzuzu city. Not only does MIT offer opportunities for graduates and trainees to apply the skills gained they also provide accommodation for tourists who want to gain the Malawian experience to its fullest capacity.

What was formerly known as the 'Government Hotel Training School' is now Malawi's centre of excellence in tourism training. MIT has contributed to the tourism sector significantly and produces some of Malawi's best hospitality and catering professionals across the country.

As UNDP commemorates 50 years of existence it can be proud that a decade after UNDP started supporting the Government of Malawi in development, an institution now called MIT was born. After 41 years, MIT continues to be as relevant as ever before. MIT has indeed grown and come a long way and it remains a top and dedicated tourism training institution in the country.



## UNDP Young Professional Programme Pushes Priscilla High into the UN System

**I**N 2010 Priscilla Chimwele was one of the eight young professionals that joined the United Nations Young Professional Programme, a recruitment initiative of UNDP for talented, highly qualified professionals aged below 32 with at least a first degree to start a career as international civil servants in the UN system.

Being a young professional was to her the best way to begin to realise her dream of working for the UN and contributing towards a better world. When she saw a call for young professionals in newspapers, Priscilla did not hesitate to apply and successfully joined the programme as a Coordination Analyst in the UN Resident Coordinator's office. True to her dream, four years after she completed her tenure in the YPP, Priscilla is currently working internationally as a Programme Analyst at the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

As a young professional in the Resident Coordinator's office, she coordinated input and contributions towards the formulation of an inclusive all UN agency and gender responsive UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2016, its related Action Plan and a UN Transformation Plan 2012-2013. In addition, Priscilla was instrumental in providing input and technical support to the Government of Malawi to draft, finalise and implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Acceleration Framework (MAF) and Country Action Plan.

"It was my first experience within

the UN system. The experience was great. I learned a lot from the Resident Coordinator (RC) at the time (Mr. Richard Dictus), from my supervisor (Ms. Van Thi Ngoc Nguyen) and my colleagues (Mr. Tinkhani Msonda, Ms. Atupele Kapile, Ms Emma Dwyer and others too numerous to mention). The experience I got from my work in the RC Office set me up to be able to do much of the technical work I have done after well," she says.

From her supervisors and interaction with development partners and her participation in the development of strategic development plans and frameworks for Malawi (including the UNDAF), she understood the complex nature of development.

"I had a great experience. There were not that many negative lessons to learn during my time in the UN Malawi RCO. I guess what I really took away from that experience, and which I have grown more convinced of with time, is that having a good leader and a good team can very often be more critical for the successful delivery of your work than anything else," recalls Priscilla.

Now working in the Regional Private Sector Unit within the Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development Cluster (IGSDC) of the UNDP RSCA, Priscilla is the technical focal point for the delivery, management, capacity development and quality control of the unit's work on impact investment in Africa; Financial Inclusion (with a focus on Inclusive Business Ecosystem Building) and Youth Entrepreneurship.

She feels the YP programme has had an impact on her career. Her position at the UNDP RSCA is a fruit of her work as a young professional.

"Being part of the programme certainly set the groundwork for me to be able to take up other opportunities in the UN system," she says, adding that the programme created an entry point for her and other young qualified Malawians into the UN system, something which is not easy and not always available.

As UNDP commemorates its 50 years anniversary, Priscilla is of the opinion that the Young Professionals Programme should develop a stronger exit structure for the YPs out of the programme into mainstream UN positions in order to truly make the programme a stepping stone for the YPs to take on opportunities within the system after they complete their tenure.

Priscilla adds that young people are the future. Giving young people concrete opportunities to develop and grow as professionals through programmes like the YPP is a way to facilitate a bright future for them. At the same time, institutions like UNDP benefit from this because it ensures business continuity in the very long run.

Since its inauguration in 2010, thirty young professionals in Malawi have passed through the YP programme, with many of them going on to work in international development organisations.



# EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

## ALLAN CHINTEDZA



After serving for 15 years in various capacities in UNDP Malawi, Allan Chintedza still recalls the role UNDP played when he first joined. In this interview, Allan Chintedza looks back at the time he was with UNDP, the contribution that UNDP made and his personal experiences.

### 1. When did you join and leave UNDP Malawi?

I joined UNDP Malawi in April 1985 from the Reserve Bank of Malawi. I left in 2000 after 15 years of service.

### 2. Explain your role in UNDP Malawi- the positions you held and main responsibilities

When I joined UNDP, I was recruited as a Senior Programme Assistant and later on was promoted to National Officer (NO) to handle the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) programme. I was then promoted to the position of Assistant Resident Representative (UNCDF). The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) programme was in infrastructure development with projects like the Village access roads and bridges, Low Cost housing, Sanitation and later concentrated in two main areas of decentralization (Local Development Fund/ District Development Fund) and Microfinance. The UNCDF programme grew during the 5th Country programme to a portfolio of US\$26 million.

During my 15 years with UNDP, I was Chairman of the staff association for 14 years and was instrumental in improving the welfare of general service staff through the establishment of the Bereavement Fund. I also led the first sit-in by UN staff in Malawi which led to an increase in salaries by 100 % after we demanded an immediate fielding



of a comprehensive salary survey following deterioration of the economy in the country.

### 1. What major strides did UNDP make, owing to your own contribution or under your leadership? Do we have examples that we can trace today?

The low cost housing project won international recognition and received a global award from UN Habitat. We presented the award to the then President of Malawi, Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda at the State House in Zomba. The decentralisation programme was one of our best programmes (UNDP/UNCDF) in that we collaborated with the World Bank. Malawi was chosen as one of the 15 concentration countries in Africa for UNCDF, based on the government's adoption of the decentralisation policy in 1998. In Microfinance, UNCDF changed its funding approach emphasizing working with and establishing micro finance institutions. We established PRIDE

Continues >>> page 20



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

## ALLAN CHINTEOZA

From <<< page 19

Malawi under UNCDF funding which helped to provide access to financial services mainly for the poor and low income population in rural areas.

### 2. On a rather personal note, how did UNDP help you in your career?

My whole career life has been shaped by the work I started with UNDP. I have never done anything outside the development agenda. For example, from UNDP, I joined PRIDE Africa in Nairobi (micro finance), thereafter, I joined an EU Capacity Building Programme assisting the Ministry of Finance, Office of the Vice President, and Economic Planning and Development. I set up 10 village banks under DFID programme. I am currently giving grants to civil society organisations for development initiatives in Malawi.

### 3. What do you remember the most during your stay at UNDP?

Resident representatives and their deputies coming in with different management styles - some built the programmes and some killed the programme! I remember the Chief Technical Advisers and UN volunteers. The 5th Country programme was a turning point for UNDP Malawi in terms of setting up systems at the district level. We started off with six local impact areas and trained district Development officers up to Master's degree level. HIV and AIDS had just hit its peak in 1986 and we lost a lot of government counterpart staff, including some of our staff members. I also remember the telex and fax machine! That is how we used to communicate with our headquarters and external partners.

### 4. Going forward, what do you think of the role of UNDP in light of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development?

Technical assistance has always been UNDP's strength. The SDGs, especially agenda 2030 and 2063 brings in advance planning and forces governments to focus on long terms

plans rather than short run solutions based on political survival. Priority setting should prevail. For Africa, this has been the main problem given our lack of political maturity and undemocratic tendencies. The SDGs have expanded the development realm hence the need for diverse expertise and experience - UNDP has the cutting edge.

### 5. Do you think UNDP has helped Malawi deal with the country's most pressing challenges over the last 50 years?

The Government of Malawi has benefitted a lot from the technical expertise which has facilitated development of policies and development strategies from the 1st National Water Master Plan, the National physical Development Plans, the Vision 2020, the National long-term Planning strategies, the Decentralisation Policy, the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the focus on Gender and the environment. It is more difficult to abuse technical expertise than financial assistance. Although implementation has been the main problem UNDP has always been there with a facilitating hand.

### 6. Do you have any information that you would want to share with us as we commemorate 50years of existence?

UNDP has come a long way. Its recruitment processes are now more transparent and conducive. There are a lot young professionals including Malawians making the international staff compliment based on merit.

### 7. What is your current job title and which organisation?

I am currently the Programme Manager for the Tilitonse Civil Society Governance Fund funded by Department for International Development (DFID), Irish Aid, and the Norwegian Embassy.



# UNDP SUPPORTS NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR DIALOGUE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION IN MALAWI

**S**INCE 2012, UNDP has supported Government of Malawi and civil society representatives to further develop mutual trust and the necessary coalitions and consensus to embark on a collaborative process to establish a National Peace Architecture (NPA), also known as Infrastructures for Peace (I4P) in Malawi.

As a result, Government established a National Peace Architecture Secretariat at the Office of President and Cabinet (OPC), thus providing a solid foundation for national ownership of social cohesion and conflict prevention initiatives.

Civil society organizations were supported in a consultative process that nominated a civil society taskforce to collaborate with government in the process of establishing the NPA. Extensive consultations with political leadership at multiple levels - political parties, the executive branch, and the legislature - faith-based organizations, women's groups, business and other entities determined the proposed nature of the NPA structure, and resulted in a draft National Peace Policy and strategic plan. These would serve as the policy framework and plan to guide the NPA establishment process. Pilot District Peace Committees are being rolled out in 2016 in Mangochi, Kasungu and Karonga.

To address the near-absence of women in peacebuilding initiatives, UNDP supported women-specific consultations and nation-wide workshops to raise awareness on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the need for women to actively participate in peacebuilding, as well as for women to be included in all peace-related processes.

Through the NPA Secretariat, two youth networks – the Young Politicians Union (YPU) and Youth Consultative Forum (YCF) were assisted in mobilising youth groups and young people to actively participate in peacebuilding. Youth wings of political parties were subsequently mobilized and engaged in peace activism prior to the 2014 elections and after. Regional 'Youth in Peacebuilding' forums have also led to the establishment of 'Youth Ambassadors for Peace' in the three Regions of the country, who are promoting peace initiatives among the youth.

UNDP also supports the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) as 'insider mediators' to play the roles of intermediaries between national leaders; and as advocates for peace.

Prior to the 2014 tripartite elections, UNDP supported PAC to establish a high level gender-sensitive panel of 'insider mediators' who engaged the 12 presidential candidates and facilitated signing of the 'Lilongwe Peace Declaration' that contributed to a violence-free 2014 tripartite elections. The Women in Faith peacebuilding network, mobilising and developing women's capacities to increase women's participation in peacebuilding processes in Malawi is a result of this support.



Chief Secretary to Government Mr. George Mkondwi  
unveils Mangochi District Peace Committee

Government established a National Peace Architecture Secretariat at the Office of President and Cabinet (OPC) to provide a solid foundation for national ownership of social cohesion and conflict prevention initiatives. District Peace Committees (DPCs) are district peacebuilding, conflict prevention and transformation structures of the National Peace Architecture (NPA) supported by UNDP and Government of Malawi through the Office of the President and Cabinet.

# I See Better Days

## **Mr. Wyson Bwanali (one of the proposal winners)**

"I lost my 3 goats, many bags of maize and 2.5 acres of farmland," said Mr. Wyson Bwanali, a father of three, as he lamented devastating effects of the floods. The 2015 floods when destroyed livestock, crops and homes. "Our livelihoods depend on agriculture. If my 3 goats were not washed away, I could have sold one or two to replace the lost property," he continued.

Mr. Wyson Bwanali feels the need to contribute towards reducing the severity of the effects of flooding in Group Village Headman (GVH) Kandulu in Salima. To him, river bank management initiatives such as maintaining vegetative cover along the river bank by planting elephant grass, maintaining and planting trees as well as community sensitization from upstream the river to the downstream are key to mitigation.

As a result of the torrential rains from end of December 2012 to April 11th, 2015, 890 families were displaced. These families took refuge at Chikowa Primary School, a small school with only 4 blocks. Consequently, all the 70 Primary School Leaving Certificate of Examination (PLSCE) candidates did not perform well.

A devastating effect of the floods was a cholera outbreak due to the unhygienic conditions in which



they lived. There were few toilets and a shortage of clean water. There was also an increase in Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV and AIDS.

"Seeing the next generation thriving in this area without the fear of relocation will complete my vision for this area, my home land. To me it is a dream coming true that my proposal was successful. Nevertheless, I attribute it all to the love and patience I have for the area," said Bwanali.

## **The Winning Proposals**

In 2014, UNDP launched the UNDP Innovation Facility that supports innovation to address development challenges. The facility is a funding mechanism administered by respective UNDP Regional Centres. In 2015, UNDP Malawi Country office was one of the 11 countries that successfully bid and received funding for the Malawi Resilient Innovation Lab (MRIL). Part of the implementation process entailed generation of innovative ideas from the grassroots to build community resilience. A competition was launched which invited individuals and community groups to propose innovative ideas.

The first two winning proposals were submitted by Ms. Jenipher Chingadza as an individual and Wyson Bwanali and Emmanuel Thumbula as a Team respectively. They proposed to combine construction of storm barriers with community sensitization about water storage and conservation techniques, long-term resilience strategies particularly afforestation, reforestation and community forest management and conservancy.

The third proposal by Chikowa Primary School introduced community irrigation improved house construction technologies and designs as well as large scale communication on flooding. Kandulu Village Development Committee proposed community partnership with government in developing and enforcing regulations and penalties to protect the environment. Alison Mitawa's idea added a component of dredging river channels and establishing environmental management clubs. These initiatives confirm that when communities work together, everyone benefits.



# 2016 UN WELLNESS DAY

## Joy, Health and Communion

On 2nd September 2016, the UN family gathered at the Peak Garden in Lilongwe for the Wellness Day activities held under the theme; Stress Management-Our Responsibility. The day provided an opportunity for UN staff and their families consult doctors and medical personnel that were invited to the event. Here are some of the highlights of the event.





# Malawi Judiciary Launches Strategic Plan

**T**HE Malawi Judiciary has launched its Strategic Plan whose goal is to contribute to socio-economic development and achieve justice, peace and security in the country in collaboration with justice stakeholders. The Plan will run up to 2017.

Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Samuel Tembenu hailed the launch as a milestone in the quest by the Judiciary to provide access to justice to all Malawians.

The Minister commended the Malawi Judiciary for aligning its Strategic Plan to the Democratic Governance Sector Strategy (DGSS). The DGSS seeks to strengthen democratic governance processes by focusing on effective democratic governance sector institutions; strengthening rule of law, improved access to justice, public safety and security; improving promotion and protection of human rights; ensuring free, fair and credible elections, transparent, accountable and responsive democratic governance sector institutions and; more effective independent and representative legislature.

"I commend the Judiciary on this initiative of bringing their aligned Strategic Plan to public attention. It reflects the spirit of partnership between the Judiciary, the Executive, the Parliament and the community it serves," said Hon. Tembenu.

Hon. Tembenu said achieving the overall goal of poverty reduction and sustainable growth in Malawi hinges on efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system and democratic governance institutions.

The Chief Justice of Malawi,

Honourable Justice Andrew Nyirenda, SC said successful institutional strategy implementation by the Judiciary will be demonstrated by several changes reflecting improved access to justice, especially by vulnerable and poor groups.

Chief Justice Nyirenda expressed optimism that, with the Strategic Plan, the Judiciary will in the coming years, maintain its longstanding position as a national resource and leader in all aspects of the administration of justice and successfully take on new challenges.

Justice Nyirenda called on his colleagues in the Judiciary to renew their minds to successfully achieve the strategy, saying that the successes the Judiciary strives to achieve in the Plan, will be an outcome of the effort and influence of the judiciary.

The Plan seeks to, among other things, strengthen the independence of the Judiciary, promote use of alternative justice mechanisms, improve its capacity in terms of financial, human and infrastructure resources, increase public awareness of its role and functions, promote easy and wide access to legal information.

The development of the Strategic Plan was supported by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs with technical and financial assistance from the Delegation of the European Union, Irish Aid and UNDP under the Democratic Governance Sector-Wide Approach (DGSWAp).

The Plan seeks to, among other things, strengthen the independence of the Judiciary, promote use of alternative justice mechanisms, improve its capacity in terms of financial, human and infrastructure resources



# Malawi Launches National Quality Strategy

## UNDP Calls For Inclusive, Speedy Implementation

**W**ith financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme and the European Union, Malawi has launched the first ever National Quality Strategy (NQS) with a call for an inclusive and immediate implementation of the strategy.

The National Quality Strategy (NQS) is a roadmap for the implementation of the National Quality Policy. The main outcomes of the strategy include a National Quality Infrastructure; an enabling quality environment; Industrial productivity; and consumer rights protection.

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative responsible for programmes, Carol Flore-Smrecznik, commended the Government of Malawi for taking a bold step in launching the NQS but was quick to call for speedy and multi-stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the strategy.

"This strategy requires both a concerted effort and strong leadership from Government. This is not the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, nor of Malawi Bureau Standards. It is the responsibility of all identified parties, from regulators, to conformity assessment bodies, to the private sector, the public sector and consumer associations. It calls for an intentionality to make things happen in Malawi," said Flore-Smrecznik at the launch of the Strategy in Blantyre.



*Speedy implementation of NQS is critical: UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Programmes, Carol Flore-Smrecznik*

She urged all the relevant stakeholders to implement the strategy. "Just launching or having strategies and policies in place is not an end in itself, as implementation is what matters most," she said, noting that results-oriented implementation of many of Malawi's policies and strategies remains a challenge for the country.

Flore Smrecznik said the National Quality Strategy comes at an opportune time when the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism is also implementing the recently launched Buy Malawi Strategy (BMS) which was also supported by UNDP. The BMS aims to among other things, instil a quality culture amongst Malawians and incentivize the private sector to produce Malawian goods and services

that meet the needs of the consumers in terms of standards and quality.

"Based on feedback from the private sector, there is a general consensus that the "Buy Malawi" strategy is a critical contributor towards building the quality infrastructure, as it aims to promote products that are being processed by the Malawian industry. If Government is consistent in their support towards the BMS, this would have a large overall impact in supporting local industry to invest in the country and at the same time work towards improving the quality of both their products and processes to match or even surpass the products that are being imported into the

[Continues >>> page 26](#)

>>> From page 25

## Malawi Launches National Quality Strategy

country," she added.

Chief Director in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Charles Kambauwa said the NQS is an effort on the part of Malawi Government promote a culture of high quality products that can be exported to international markets.

"Government of Malawi wants to inculcate a quality culture through the creation of a credible quality infrastructure and creation of awareness among our people on the need to place emphasis on producing quality products and to actualize the National Export Strategy through the production and verification of products that are exportable and perceived as credible in foreign markets," said Mr. Kambauwa.

Director General of the Malawi's only standardisation body, Malawi Bureau of Standards, Davlin Chokazinga underscored the importance of the NQS for the country.

"Without the National Quality Policy and Strategy it will be difficult to attain government goal of turning Malawi into a producing and exporting country," he said.

The development of the NQS has been supported by UNDP and EU under the Standardisation, Quality Assurance Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) project as a road map for the implementation of the National Quality Policy adopted by the Government of Malawi in 2014.

The Government of Malawi is also supporting the Malawi Bureau of Standards, with assistance from the EU, UNDP and UNIDO, through the SQAM Project, to upgrade its infrastructure to meet the requirements for International accreditation. As such, the construction of a state-of-art laboratory complex for the Malawi Bureau of Standards in the commercial city of Blantyre is an ongoing effort that shall see completion by 2018.

## Lands Minister Calls for Collective Efforts in Promoting Sustainable Urbanisation

**T**he Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Atupele Muluzi has called for collective effort to manage urbanization in Malawi which rising faster than the pace of urban services and infrastructure development.

The Minister told a cross section of representatives from the private sector, government departments, media, city councils and civil society at the Habitat III Urban Breakfast in Lilongwe which was organized by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development with support from UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Urban Breakfast was held under the theme; Financing Urban Development in the Context of the New Urban Agenda.

The Minister said Malawi needs to ensure that urban centers are well planned and well managed whilst taking full advantage of the benefits of globalization, innovation and technological advances.

"At the current rate and pace of urbanization, Malawi is well positioned to plan ahead in order to maximize the benefits of urban agglomeration, whilst addressing the congestion effects," said Hon Muluzi stressing the need to collectively build the capacity for urban development financing.

The Minister noted that there are projections that by 2030, 30% of the population of Malawi will be urban based, which will rise to 50% by the year 2050.

"This increasing population concentration in our cities, has posed massive sustainability

>>> to page 27



>>> FROM PAGE 26

challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, jobs, safety, and pressure on natural resources, among others,” said Hon. Muluzi.

The Regional and Interagency Coordinator for Habitat III, Mr. Roi Chiti said the New Urban Agenda reaffirms the global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step for realizing sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner at global, regional, national, sub-national, and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors.

“The new urban agenda focuses on universality. We must leave no one behind and see how we can use urbanization as source of development,” said Mr. Chiti.

On her part, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Malawi, Ms. Mia Seppo said the Urban Breakfast and Malawi’s engagement with the Habitat III processes have come at an opportune moment when a national Urban Policy is being developed and in the near future, the national medium term development strategy will also be elaborated.

“Malawi cannot chart a way to 2030 without planning for and managing urbanization. This is why the recent passing of the Land related laws is important for Malawi’s future urbanization,” said Ms. Seppo adding that the National Urban policy will guide Malawi’s sustainable urbanization path for the next 20 years.

## Lands Minister Calls for Collective Efforts in Promoting Sustainable Urbanisation

*as half of Malawi’s urban population will live in urban areas by 2050*



**Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development- Hon. Atupele Muluzi**

Mayor for the City of Blantyre Councilor Noel Chalamanda whose city has laid out a development plan to transform the city which is now home to about one million residents, urged participants to think creatively. He called for new ways of supporting and sustaining urban development without overreliance on funding from the central government which, he said, is also facing a number of challenges.

On the private sector support to urban development efforts, the Chief Executive of the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (MCCCI), Chancellor Kaferapanjira said the private sector is a ready partner in supporting the urban development agenda. He however called on government to stimulate private sector contributions.

New Urban Agenda is set to be adopted in Quito, Ecuador this month contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



# FACE TO FACE WITH

*Andrew Spezowka*

## UNDP Resilience and Sustainable Growth (RSG) Portfolio Manager

***Kindly tell us about yourself, including your education background, experience and the countries where you worked before.***

First, let me underscore how thrilled I am to join the UNDP Malawi team as Portfolio Manager for Resilience and Sustainable Growth (RSG). More than ever, Malawi is looking to UNDP to support lasting solutions to its development challenges and, with our cadre of seasoned professionals, we are well positioned to deepen our support to help break the cycle of food insecurity by scaling-up investment in resilience and sustainable growth.

I'm relatively new to UNDP, joining the country office in Vietnam in 2014, where I supported the Ministries of Planning and Investment, Finance, and Industry and Trade to advance initiatives in green growth and climate resilience. Prior to that, I worked at the World Bank office in Vietnam from 2011 on issues related to International Development Association (IDA) graduation, partnership engagement and social accountability. I was Director and Deputy Director of Programmes in the Environment and Food Security Bureau based in Canada's Global Affairs Department, responsible for a range of policy and programme issues to address global food insecurity, climate change, and inclusive growth. From 2007 to 2010, I served in Ethiopia as Deputy Country Representative and Team Leader for food security and agricultural growth for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). While in Ethiopia, I had the good fortune of working closely with the government and other development partners on the innovative Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), a flagship social protection initiative, as well as on humanitarian response and programmes aimed at scaling-up private sector development. I was Country Representative for CIDA

in Nigeria from 2003 to 2007, managing a country office with a broad portfolio that included democratic governance, health systems, natural resource management, agriculture, and climate change. I've worked with the OECD in Paris on coherence of environmental and social safeguards among member states, and worked in Nepal for two years on community-based environmental initiatives with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). I have a M.Sc. in environmental management and rural economic development from the University of Guelph, in Canada, and undergraduate degree in environmental science.

***What does your role entail as the Portfolio Manager?***

The Resilience Sustainable Growth (RSG) team is composed of dynamic and committed professionals with extensive knowledge and experience. I'm very impressed by the caliber of the team, the diversity of their skills, and the deep engagement and trust that they've forged with government and other development partners. As Portfolio Manager, my role is to support the team so their talents are fully deployed to help Malawi achieve its development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNDP's RSG portfolio is well poised to help support reforms that aim to break the cycle of food insecurity and multidimensional deprivation that continues to threaten Malawi's development progress. To this end, the RSG portfolio will continue to play to its strengths: namely strong programme coherence; a steadfast commitment to prevention, risk reduction and resilience; an appetite for innovation and new partnerships; and its championing of inclusive growth localized by people in their communities. Ultimately, our success depends on teamwork and I'm excited to work with my colleagues in RSG, across the UN system, and with our government and other development

[Continues >>> page 29](#)



<<< From Page 28

partners.

***What are your expectations for UNDP in Malawi, and Malawi as a country, in so far as disaster risk management, climate change and private sector development issues are concerned?***

I've always believed the adage that the quality of our expectations determines the quality of our actions. I'm also of the view that effective development professionals are at heart optimists, even in the face of calamity such as the flood last year and the drought this year in Malawi.

The loss of life and damage to people's livelihoods was profound and heart-rending, and early recovery from El Niño as well as preparedness efforts for La Niña need urgently to be scaled up. We know that the devastating impacts of the 2015–16 El Niño, compounded by climate change, will be felt well into 2017, and that the looming La Niña is likely to hit communities that are already deeply vulnerable. We also know that crisis impedes development and compromises opportunities for prosperity.

We can expect UNDP to deepen its support to vulnerable communities, working with its government and other partners to help implement comprehensive and long-term strategies to anticipate, prepare and adapt to disaster risks and take rapid action when they manifest. The devastating impacts of disaster — hunger, loss of livelihoods and displacement — can be prevented or mitigated by well-planned investments in climate-smart agriculture, social protection, physical infrastructure, essential health and education programmes, and expanded livelihood opportunities made possible through a growing private sector. Malawians expect real progress across all of these areas, and their high expectations need to be matched by the ambition and quality of our own actions.

***What do you think is the place of UNDP in these areas - disaster risk management, climate change, and private sector development?***

UNDP has clear value added across all three of these areas. In disaster risk management (DRM), UNDP is helping train affected people in construction techniques and other skills to help them get jobs, build back better, and address business disruptions. In some districts, UNDP is partnering with local authorities to make sure that the buildings and other infrastructure being reconstructed meet a minimal code of disaster resilience, and is helping to strengthen the government's crisis observation and early warning systems to make sure Malawians are better prepared. Globally, UNDP remains the largest service provider in the UN system on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Since 2008, UNDP has supported more than 140 countries to access more than \$2.3 billion in grant finance to develop and implement their climate change initiatives. A recent example is our assistance to help Malawi become one of the first countries to benefit from the Green Climate Fund. I think there is excellent scope for UNDP to expand its climate change programming.

Successful initiatives such as the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund (MICF) also demonstrate UNDP's commitment to support access by the private sector to much needed finance to grow their business, bring new products to market, and to boost their role in building Malawi's long-term resilience to climate change. I am captivated by the breadth of opportunity for UNDP to help bring

together action that cuts across all three of these areas, ensuring that they are mutually reinforcing and deliver lasting benefits for all Malawians.



*Andrew Spezowka*  
RSG Portfolio Manager

**T**HE effects of urbanization and climate change are converging in dangerous ways that seriously threaten environmental, economic and social stability. That urban areas in Malawi are increasingly being exposed to hazards is manifested in the recent disasters in Blantyre, Zomba and Mzuzu. For the city of Zomba, disasters are not new. One of the earliest recorded disasters in Malawi happened in Zomba – ‘napolo’.

Environmental degradation and climate change impacts are aggravating Zomba’s vulnerability to natural hazards. Deforestation is a major issue, as it increases the likelihood of floods, mudflows and debris flows. Moreover, deforestation is increasing settlement in marginal areas prone to landslides and floods and exacerbating urban sprawl. Poor sanitation and poor urban growth management are also contributing to reducing Zomba’s capability to face and recover from such events.

In Zomba, as in all cities and towns in Malawi, much of the urban expansion is “spontaneous”; that is, outside, or in the absence of, official planning frameworks. As a result, large numbers of urban residents live in informal settlements that are often particularly vulnerable to a range of natural and man-made hazards. At the same time, climate change is increasing natural disasters, affecting many urban dwellers. Consequently, a range of urban risks are accumulating and there is an urgent need to develop the capacity of urban local authorities in risk reduction and resilience planning.

It is with this background that the City of Zomba established a partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and with the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) for the elaboration of the Zomba City Resilience Action Plan

## Zomba City Becomes the first City to have Resilience Action Plan



Participatory risk mapping exercises by community members and other city stakeholders is a key part of the city resilience action planning

(RAP). The Zomba City RAP has created a strategic framework that identifies comprehensive and inter-sectoral priority actions based on the interrelated components of Urban Planning and Environment, Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, Urban Economy and Security, Disaster Preparedness, Response and Awareness and Urban Governance. It also defines short, medium and long term activities to reinforce the city’s resilience and adaptation capacity to the threats posed by climate change. The ultimate goal of the RAP is to serve as a guideline for the interventions of the municipality, of communities and of other relevant partners in the city.

The resilience action planning process utilized an innovative participatory methodology based on the City Resilience

Action Planning tool (CityRAP). Elaborated by UN-Habitat and DiMSUR, this tool which targets city councillors and the municipal staff, urban resilience stakeholders, and communities to come up with clear actions to improve their city’s resilience and reduce risks. The exercise identified five priority actions to reinforce Zomba City’s resilience: (1) Reduce and mitigate floods; (2) Improve the drainage system; (3) Strengthen Citizens Security; (4) Promote sustainable forest management and (5) Foster strategies to cope with rainstorms.

The Zomba City Resilience Action Plan is a 10-year plan that runs from 2016 to 2026 and Zomba is the first city in Malawi to formulate such a plan leading the way for other city administration to follow.





*GCPSE Director Max Everest-Phillips (front row centre) with parliamentarians, UNDP officials and Government Representatives*

# Parliament key to public sector reforms

**A** team from the UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (GCPSE) based in Singapore visited Malawi to support the progress of the reforms. The centre is supported by the Government of Singapore and UNDP to promote an impartial and meritocratic public service, able to build citizens' trust by implementing incremental reform through continuous learning.

In 2015, the centre hosted Commissioners from the Malawi Public Sector Reform (PSR) Commission led by the Vice President, Dr Saulos Chilima. During their visit, the PSR Commission and the Vice President witnessed the impressive success story of Singapore and the work done by the Global Centre.

While in Malawi the GCPSE team met with the Vice President and the parliamentary committee on public service reforms.

Director of the UNDP Global Centre, Max Everest Phillips who was leading the team underscored the relevance of public sector reforms, saying an efficient and effective public service plays an important role in dealing with complex development challenges

Phillips said though Malawi has suffered repeated cycles of failure in public sector reforms since independence, it does not mean that reforms do

not work, citing Singapore and Ireland as countries that have successfully implemented a number of reforms in their public services and yielded positive results in the long term.

"As the seat of oversight and accountability, parliamentary committees play a scrutiny role to chase progress and hold government to account," said Phillips.

In her message to the parliamentary committee on public sector reforms, UNDP Resident Representative Mia Seppo said parliament is an important arm in the successful implementation of public sector reforms.

"Parliament has a role to play in keeping Government accountable for decisions that are made and results that are expected," said Seppo, adding that Parliament will need to ensure that it plays this role with regard to ensuring appropriate budgetary resources are set aside for reforms, and monitoring the results.

She added: "there will be areas where the reforms will require legal reviews. If such will be the case, support from Parliamentary committees will be important to ensure that the public service reform bills are endorsed in Parliament and subsequently get enacted".

# Malawi Cabinet approves three key policies on environment and natural resources

**C**ABINET in Malawi has approved three important policies namely, the National Climate Change Management Policy, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and the National Forestry Policy.

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy seeks to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development with an ultimate aim of contributing to economic growth in Malawi. If fully implemented, the fisheries and aquaculture policy will enhance the capacity to sustainably manage and develop fisheries and aquaculture in Malawi.

In addition, the fisheries policy will lead to improved protein and micronutrients intake for Malawians while at the same time increasing decent employment opportunities and increasing the earnings of people and government from fish exports and domestic trade.

The National Climate Change (NCC) Policy on the other hand, is aimed at promoting climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building for sustainable livelihoods through green economy measures for Malawi.

Among other things, the NCC policy will reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts through improved social and ecological resilience in Malawi; control greenhouse gas emissions; increase awareness of climate change impacts, strengthen adaptation and mitigation measures and improve policy coordination and harmonization of climate change management.

The new Forestry Policy replaces the one that came into effect in 1996 which sought to provide a remedy to the deforestation problems facing the country.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other development partners supported the development of these policies in collaboration with relevant departments and ministries of the Government of Malawi.

During the launch of the climate change week in June this year, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Mia Seppo called for the swift review and approval of these policies.

"The economy of Malawi is built on its natural resources and ecosystems. Analysis from the poverty-environment study undertaken under the Poverty and Environment Initiative shows that Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) play an important role in the livelihoods of 95 % of rural and peri-urban households in Malawi, with 18% of household's incomes being derived from ENR " said Ms. Seppo.



**A**t the High-Level Event on Entry into Force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, held on September 21, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon characterized climate change as the “defining issue of our generation”. It is clear that the international community shares his sense of urgency. Earlier this week, sixty countries formally joined the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, passing one of the two thresholds for the climate deal’s entry into force. These countries represent 48% of global greenhouse gas emissions, falling just short of the second threshold of 55%. With this hurdle surmounted, the UN is ever more confident that the Paris Agreement will enter into force this year, making what once seemed impossible now inevitable.

Among its many benefits to help move the world towards a greener and cleaner future, the Paris Agreement provides an internationally accepted framework for interventions on climate change and enables signatories to access new sources of funds to tackle climate change effects such as floods, drought and hunger.

Nowhere is the need for climate action more pressing than in Malawi. The devastating floods in 2015 impacted more than 1.1 million people, displaced 230,000 people, and killed 176 people, while causing damage amounting to US\$ 286 million. A severe drought continues today to affect millions of vulnerable people, induced by an unusually strong El Niño, with loss and damage totaling US\$365 million and requiring recovery interventions estimated at US\$ 500 million. An estimated 6.5 million Malawians – 39% of the population – face food shortages and nutrition risks due to the ongoing drought. In the coming months, the effects of La Niña pose a real risk that the same regions affected by drought may also face severe flooding. The impacts of these cyclical weather phenomena are exacerbated by soil and forest degradation, and made more complex because of the ‘new normal’ of a changing climate.

These climate-related shocks underscore the significance of Malawi joining over 186 other countries earlier this week to become a signatory to the Paris Agreement. This welcome news paves the way for Malawi’s eventual ratification of the agreement through parliament, and secures its seat at the global table to shape the global rules for low-carbon development and to accelerate domestic

## Signing of Paris Agreement a milestone on Malawi’s path to climate-resilience

and international investment to adapt its economy, particularly its agriculture, energy, transportation systems, to the impacts of a changing climate.

To put Malawi on a pathway towards climate-resilient and sustainable development, we must first safeguard the country’s fragile development gains. Unprecedented climate-induced disasters risk erasing past, present and future development dividends, especially for the poorest, and even in those regions of Malawi that are accustomed to managing major disaster risks.

We know that humanitarian needs will shrink once communities can arrest and reverse environmental degradation and transition to more sustainable pathways to prosperity. That’s why UN partners in Malawi will continue to support women’s empowerment, quality education for all, food security and nutrition, climate-smart agriculture, social protection, private sector-led economic diversification, and renewable energy, while also expanding investment in strengthening early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, and preparedness.

As ratification of the agreement works its way through Malawi’s parliament, action is needed on other fronts. The range of public investments that Malawi makes over the next 10 to 20 years will determine its ability to adapt to a changing climate. Building long-term resilience requires sustained investment in large national programmes that all development partners can stand behind to tackle pressing issues such as soil and forest loss, watershed restoration, and access to clean energy. Working in silos will not get Malawi to where it needs to be. This means that managing climate risk must be at the heart of Malawi’s development planning, including its next generation national development plan. Financial flows at sector level for climate action need to be better tracked and, at the same time, a comprehensive system for managing all sources of climate finance needs to be put in place so that all stakeholders can work together under the guidance of a medium-term expenditure plan for climate change that is defined, implemented and monitored by Malawians.

# Malawi Government, UNDP launch Malawi National HDR with Parliamentarians.

**T**HE Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development in collaboration with UNDP have launched the Malawi National Human Development Report (NHDR) with Members of Parliament (MPs).

The official launch of the MNHDR whose theme is *Inclusive Growth in Malawi* took place at Parliament building in Lilongwe, presided over by the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development Hon. Dr. Goodall Gondwe and attended by the Chairpersons of various Parliamentary Committees in the Malawi's National Assembly.

In his remarks, Hon. Goodall Gondwe underscored the important role MPs can play in ensuring all citizens participate in economic activities and benefit from the country's economic growth, saying the levels of inequality in Malawi require concerted effort to address.

"Most Malawians are not involved in productive activities. They rely on hand-outs but the key to inclusive growth lies in increasing people's contribution to GDP through their participation in productive activities," the Minister said.

Hon. Gondwe said not only should citizens be involved in the consumption but also in production in order to fully embrace inclusive growth in Malawi.

On her part, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Mia Seppo said the main purpose of the report is to bring about public debate and trigger policy action around human development, economic growth and distribution of economic benefits in Malawi.

"We expect the report findings and recommendations to spur debate and inform policy decisions pertaining to inclusive growth," said Ms. Seppo at the launch, calling on the members of



*Members of Parliament comment on the findings of the Malawi National Human Development Report*

the House to continue engaging in constructive debate on the issues presented in the report.

Ms. Seppo asked the MPs to support initiatives and pieces of legislation that UNDP in collaboration with the Government of Malawi and other stakeholders is supporting. Such initiatives include the Land Bill, Public Sector Reforms, Political Parties legislation and other policies that are aimed at creating positive change for Malawi.

## ***Among other things, the report recommends:***

1. Intensified efforts to increase small-holder agriculture productivity through innovations in use of high yielding seed varieties, formation of smallholder production and marketing associations, expansion of irrigation smallholder farm schemes
2. The need for Malawi to add value to its mineral resources through processing by among other things, attracting investment and providing incentives for mineral processing
3. The need for Malawi to invest in the transport and tourism sector by among other things, developing support infrastructure, restock wildlife reserves, intensifying marketing of the country as a preferred tourist destination and simplifying visa applications to attract tourists
4. The need for Malawi to invest in vocational

and skills training to accommodate more people so that they acquire the skills necessary to benefit from the productive economic activities available in the country

5. Malawi needs to invest in physical infrastructure that includes roads, health facilities in rural areas and ensuring that these have adequate drugs
6. Expansion of the scope of financial services to include those that are specially targeted and suitable for vulnerable segments of society such as poor rural women, those with low salaries and those operating marginal businesses
7. Malawi needs to enhance overall participation by the public at large in the development and implementation of inclusive growth strategies to ensure that the various inclusive growth programmes address the perceived needs of the concerned beneficiaries
8. Routinely monitor and evaluate social protection programmes by using all variables that are targeted in the Social Support Policy like the elderly, the chronically ill, orphans and other vulnerable children, persons with disabilities and destitute families
9. Malawi should strengthen policy analysis through the establishment of an independent Policy Research Unit
10. Malawi should work to depoliticize social support interventions, particularly social cash transfer and public works programme.



**T**HE Government of Malawi through the Department of Economic Planning and Development (EP&D) and United Nations Development Programme have underscored the critical role of the media in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNDP in collaboration with EP & D and the Ministry of ICT and Civic Education organized a two-day SDG awareness building workshop for government's regional and district information officers in Blantyre, aimed at deepening their understanding of the SDGs, their applicability to Malawi and the process of localizing these ambitious global goals.

The Minister of ICT and Civic Education, Hon. Patricia Kaliati, stressed that the media has an important role to play in creating awareness and providing a platform for people to express themselves.

"People are always looking for information to make informed decisions about their lives and participate fully in the development process. You need to constantly keep people aware of the different developmental issues taking place in all parts of the country," the Minister advised information officers at the opening of the workshop.

She commended UNDP and the Department of Economic Planning and Development (EP&D) for supporting the workshop, saying information officers can only disseminate the right information when they first understand the issues.

Economic Advisor for UNDP Malawi, Ms. Alka Bhatia emphasized the need for strong and strategic partnerships in the process of localizing and implementing the SDGs, saying the media is an important partner in the SDGs because of their ability to raise awareness and set the agenda on important issues of national development.

"This is neither a government nor a UN agenda. The SDGs are everyone's agenda," said Ms. Bhatia emphasizing the need to bring together all relevant actors including private sector, civil society, youth, academia and women into the process.

## UNDP, Government engage information officers in SDGs



*Ms. Alka Bhatia, UNDP Economics Advisor for Malawi speaking to the media after the awareness building workshop in Blantyre*

She called on the Ministry of Information to partner with private media institutions to maximize reach and tap into the innovation that private media brings in message delivery.

One of the participants at the workshop, Ed-Grant Ndoza who is the District Information Officer for Chitipa said the workshop was timely because it afforded information officers an opportunity to understand the SDGs in more detail and provided information on the role that officers can play in the SDG process.

"We live in districts. We have firsthand information about the developments taking place in the districts and communities and we are better placed to tell the public if we are on or off course in the implementation of the SDGs," said Ndoza.

Acting Director of Information, Gideon Munthali who also participated in the training urged information officers to use their understanding of the SDGs to inform the public about the failures and successes in the attainment of the SDGs.

Munthali said the Ministry of Information is in the process of formulating a Communication Plan that will take into consideration the SDGs to ensure that

Malawians are consistently appraised on whether or not the country is on track to achieve the SDGs.

He said the Ministry's involvement in the SDGs is consistent with its mandate of developing, promoting, coordinating and regulating public information programmes to ensure a well informed and knowledgeable nation for accelerated socio-economic growth and development.

During the workshop, participants developed a draft Workplan which sets out activities the Ministry will undertake on the SDGs during the remaining months of 2016.

The SDG awareness building workshop, which brought together information officers from all the 28 districts of Malawi, was organized by UNDP in collaboration with the Department of Economic Planning and Development. It is part of a series of events being undertaken by the UN System to popularize SDGs, build awareness among stakeholders and strengthen partnerships so that no one is left behind.



## Success of SDGs requires participation of all actors-Graca Machel

**F**OUNDER of Graca Machel Trust and Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Mrs. Graca Machel says the success of SDGs requires a multifaceted and inclusive approach.

Mrs. Machel was one of the panelists at a discussion that was organized by her Trust in collaboration with United Nations in Malawi and the Government of Malawi with the aim of creating understanding of SDGs.

Mrs. Machel said the SDGs give direction for people, planet and prosperity. "The universe for Malawi is its 17 million people and we have to understand that the planet has been lent to us by our future generations. The effects of climate change are evident and we must start doing what we can to preserve the treasure of our land. As a human family we have the knowledge and capacity to do the best for Malawi."

Dr. Ronald Mangani, Secretary to Treasury, highlighted the progress made by Malawi on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the reduction of child mortality; combatting HIV and AIDS; environmental sustainability and partnership for development.

He acknowledged that there is an unfinished agenda on eradicating

poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and improving maternal mortality, which have an impact on the status of women.

"The government is undertaking a review of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II to inform the SDGs' implementation. The establishment of a new National Planning Commission will be critical in prioritising the SDG targets and indicators that are most important for Malawi.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Mia Seppo reminded participants "The SDG declaration resolved, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. It resolved to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities."

In his contribution, Thomson

Mpinganjira, Chief Executive Officer of the FDH Group stressed that there was insufficient effort to engage the private sector in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and only a few multinational companies participated.

"There are skills, innovation and resources to be tapped from the private sector, but an investment is needed to engage the national private sector and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). There are opportunities for public private partnerships in environment and climate change," said Mpinganjira.

One of the youth representatives, Bridget Ulalo Shumba, a youth activist, reminded government leaders and civil society that they will be held to account for commitments made to the SDGs for betterment of lives of youth.

On the role of parliament, as an oversight seat of government, Agnes Nyalonje, Member of Parliament, emphasized the need for political will, the alignment between national priorities and budgets, availability of district data and analyses to make informed decisions, monitor progress and ensure accountability.



## SUSTANABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDGS



SDGS



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**CONTACT** Address  
Area 40, Plot 7  
P. O Box 30135  
Llongwe 3  
Tel: 01 773 500  
Fax: 01 773637  
[www.mw.undp.org](http://www.mw.undp.org)  
Facebook: UNDPMalawi  
Twitter:@UNDPMalawi