



## MALAWI GOVERNMENT

### **TALKING POINTS FOR THE MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPOA FOR LDCS 2014 HELD IN NEWYORK, USA FROM 13<sup>TH</sup> TO 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

Malawi greatly values the contribution of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) is making in facilitating the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) since its adoption in 2011-2020. Malawi has taken steps by domesticating the IPoA as it is seen as a critical policy tool which seeks to address the special development needs and challenges for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which includes Malawi.

The Priority areas adopted nine (9) years ago continue to voice to the situation today for Malawi and to many other LDCs. Therefore Malawi shares its experiences and views on the progress made in the implementation of the IPoA.

#### **Reducing Vulnerabilities and Strengthening Resilience: Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability**

In March, 2019, Malawi suffered a devastating national disaster as it was hit by Cyclone Idai along with our Mozambican and Zimbabwean brothers and sisters. Human life was lost, peoples livelihood, property and infrastructure were damaged.

The floods that occurred affected about 291,470 farm households and a total area of about 70,111 hectares of crops. This has led to some households in the affected districts to experience severe hunger.

The total damage and losses caused by Cyclone Idai was estimated at \$ 220.2 million while the total economic impact was estimated at \$ 9.96 million representing 0.13% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) using production approach. The total cost of recovery and reconstruction was estimated at US \$ 370.5 million.

The GoM is meeting the needs of the affected households in collaboration with cooperating partners by implementing disaster response programmes in the affected districts. (Chikwawa, Nsanje, Thyolo, Phalombe, Mangochi and Mulanje).

With support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the EU, we commissioned a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to assess the impact of the floods on different sectors and determine the recovery and reconstruction needs across the affected districts. The PDNA focused on three major sectors of the economy and cross cutting issues. These are:

- i. Productive Sector - Agriculture (include crops, irrigation and fisheries) and Industry and Trade;
- ii. Social Sector- Education, Health, Nutrition and Housing;
- iii. Infrastructure - Transport, Energy, Water and Sanitation and Water Resources; and
- iv. Cross cutting issues: Disaster Risk Reduction, Employment and Livelihoods, Gender, Disability, Governance and Environment. Malawi is therefore taking some measures to protect itself from the effects of such disasters.

At national level, GoM has put in place some strategies such as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MGDS III), the National Resilience Strategy (NRS), the National Disaster Risk Management Policy, and the National Climate Change Management Policy, among others as some of the national instruments to build the resilience of the country to disasters. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy outlines key priority areas (KPAs) and strategies to build resilience of communities and households.

The strategy introduces a common purpose to break the cycle of food and nutrition insecurity in Malawi by bridging development and humanitarian interventions and prioritizing a continuum of more predictable livelihood support 'packages' that target vulnerable households. The NRS focuses on addressing the major climatic shocks that the country faces which are primarily drought or dry spells and floods.

Malawi launched the National Climate Change Management Policy in 2016 which outlines set principles, strategies, and institutional frameworks for effective management of climate change. These include: capacity building; education, training, and public awareness; Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+); adaptation and mitigation across multiple sectors (including agriculture, energy, industrial development, waste management, forestry, water resources, and wildlife). The policy advocates for the integration of climate change strategies and proposed action plans into sectoral policies and programmes.

Malawi has also finalized the review of the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act to develop a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill. The Bill has provisions that will contribute to building resilience of communities and the country as a whole to disasters by focusing on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

GoM has also developed Safer Housing Construction Guidelines that will be used to guide the reconstruction of the damaged structures in order to achieve what we call the 'build back better and safer' concept to help come up with resilient structures.

Government will ensure that the affected communities do not reconstruct their homes in flood prone areas. Therefore, government will conduct hazard mapping to inform decisions as to choose settlement areas and public infrastructures to avoid damage by subsequent flooding. Government will also continue constructing and strengthening flood control measures in the flood prone areas. Flood-forecasting and community based flood early warning systems will also be strengthened in all flood prone areas.

GoM has also reviewed the Environment Management (both Chemicals and Toxic Substances as well as Waste Management and Sanitation) Regulations of 2008 to ensure that new scientific information that has emerged since 2008 is incorporated into the regulations for the effective protection of the environment and human health.

In accordance with the requirements of the Montreal Protocol on the protection of the ozone layer, Malawi continues to implement activities on the phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in the country. A major source of ODS in Malawi is from the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector. Currently, more than 40 percent of hydro chloro fluoro carbons (HCFCs) have been phased-out in the country and will be completely phased out by 2030 as per the Montreal Protocol schedule. This reduction in consumption of HCFCs

is attributed to the strong enforcement of ODS regulations, enhanced awareness on ozone issues and enhanced capacity of key stakeholders involved in the ODS phase-out activities.

In an effort to meet the phase-out targets under the Montreal Protocol, GoM has trained 320 refrigeration technicians on good refrigeration practices; trained 260 customs officers on control and monitoring imports of ODS, and continued monitoring compliance to regulations on the management of ODS in the country. Since the ODS phase-out, the project implementation started and the country has managed to completely phase out the use of chlorofluorocarbons and methyl bromide in the refrigeration and agriculture sectors, respectively.

Recognizing the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystems in poverty reduction, the GoM has continued implementing programmes aimed at promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the country.

A project on enhancing sustainability of Protected Areas in Malawi was developed and implemented as part of stabilising agro-production in adjoining areas through improved Invasive Alien Species (IAS) management. The project is implemented in Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve and Nyika National Park and will assist the country in managing Invasive Alien Species in the two sites and surrounding areas.

To improve the management of nuclear radiation sources in Malawi, the GoM officially launched Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (AERA) on 6th March, 2019. AERA is mandated to coordinate and promote the implementation of activities aimed at protecting human and the environment from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

In an effort to increase popular participation and behavioural change in Climate Change and Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM), GoM continued sensitizing the general public on the importance of managing natural resources in the country. Environmental awareness materials on various thematic areas such as Waste Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Management have been developed and disseminated through print and electronic media. Furthermore, the capacity of district councils in the development of District State of Environment and Outlook Reports (DSOER) has been strengthened. Salima, Mulanje and Mwanza District State of Environment and Outlook reports have been prepared and these reports inform development plans at the district level.