Malawi

Malawi is a low-income country and a least developed country (LDC) with a GNI of 320 USD per capita (2017) and a population of 19 million inhabitants (2017). In the 2018 Monitoring Round, Malawi reported on 1 billion USD in development co-operation flows.

1. National development planning and results orientation

Overall quality of national results framework

High-quality, inclusive and results-oriented development strategies are critical for countries’ ownership over their development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The quality of national development planning in Malawi is high (90%).

Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks by development partners

Development partner alignment to country-led development priorities is at the heart of country ownership. Global Partnership monitoring assesses whether interventions: draw objectives from national development strategies; draw indicators from country results frameworks; use government data and statistics for monitoring; and involve government in evaluations. The first three elements provide the official data to report on SDG indicator 17.15.1.

In Malawi, development partners align to country priorities to a high extent (74% - SDG indicator 17.15.1).

2. Multi-stakeholder engagement

Recognising that successful development efforts require the inclusive and equitable participation of all actors, the 2030 Agenda calls for collective action by the whole of society. Global Partnership monitoring examines the engagement of civil society and the private sector from both the perspective of the government and representatives of these stakeholder groups.

Quality of public-private dialogue

Government representatives perceive the quality of public-private dialogue as emerging, SMEs as weak and large private sector firms as emerging.
3. Quality and use of public financial management systems

Strengthening public financial management systems
Strong public financial management (PFM) systems are an essential element of good governance and vital to achieving development goals. Malawi experienced no overall change in the quality of its PFM systems.

Development partners’ use of country systems
Development partners’ use of these systems to deliver co-operation both lowers transaction costs but also helps to accelerate their strengthening. In Malawi, use of country PFM systems decreased from 33% in 2016 to 29% in 2018.

Further, legislative oversight of the budget has decreased. The share of development co-operation recorded on budgets subject to parliamentary scrutiny decreased from 28% in 2016 to 10% in 2018.

Systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment
Adequate and effective financing is essential to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls. Malawi has some elements of a system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment, approaching the requirements of SDG indicator 5.c.1.

5. Mutual accountability mechanisms

Mutual accountability underpins the efforts of development actors to meet joint commitments, improve how they work together and increase their development effectiveness. Mutual accountability mechanisms are made up of multiple, reinforcing components that can help enhance transparency and accountability at country level. Global Partnership monitoring defines and assesses mutual accountability against five components. Malawi has four out of five components in place.