



Government of Malawi

NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY

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FOREWORD

The revised National Population Policy (NPP) provides a guiding framework for managing population issues to improve the quality of life for all Malawians. A well-manageable population will enable the Government to provide adequate and quality social services and economic opportunities for Malawians so that they meaningfully contribute to national development.

Malawi has made some progress in demographic and socio-economic indicators since the last Population Policy was put in place. The average number of children a woman has during her lifetime – Total Fertility Rate – has declined from 5.7 in 2010 to 4.2 in 2018. Mortality has declined with life expectancy at birth increasing from 48 in 2008 to 62 in 2018 (males) and 51 in 2008 to 68 in 2018 (female). In addition, HIV prevalence rate reduced from 11.8 in 2004 to 8.8 in 2015-16. Malawi's human development index improved from 0.431 in 2010 to 0.483 in 2019 representing a 12% increase. While there has been progress, the country still faces the challenge of rapid population growth whereby the population size increased at a fast pace and maternal death remain high. If the current trends continue, the situation will impact the country's ability to achieve its development objectives.

Malawi's Vision is to become an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation by 2063 with the medium-term goal of becoming a lower-middle-income economy by the year 2030. However, the prevailing rapid population growth will exacerbate poor living conditions forcing many to resort to unsustainable survival options that will have a detrimental effect on land, forests, and water resources, on which the nation thrives.

The Policy, therefore, provides a guiding framework for programming and coordination of population programmes in Malawi. The Policy goals, objectives, and strategies presented are aligned to the national vision "Malawi 2063" and its first 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1). Specifically, the Policy is aligned to the Human Capital Development enabler that focuses on the size and quality of a population in relation to socio-economic development. A population characterized by a healthy, well-educated, and skilled workforce is critical in spurring economic growth. Government is committed to providing leadership and the necessary support for the effective implementation of the Policy. Furthermore, the implementation of the Policy requires multi-sectoral efforts. I, therefore, call upon all stakeholders and development partners to join Government in the implementation of the National Population Policy.



Sosten Alfred Gwengwe, MP
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

PREFACE

The revised National Population Policy comes at an opportune time when Government has placed human capital development among the key priority areas on its development agenda as stipulated in the Malawi 2063. The prioritization of population management under the human capital development enabler presents an opportunity for the Government and its stakeholders to direct resources and efforts towards addressing population issues and improving the welfare of Malawians. The Policy defines Government's policy direction on population as well as affirms its commitment to implement programmes and strategies aimed at slowing rapid population growth in a manner consistent with the desire for sustainable development.

The Policy addresses gaps and challenges such as rapid population growth; weak institutional and human resource capacity; inadequate funding for population interventions; and gaps in planning, implementation, coordination, and management of population-related programmes. The Policy shall ensure that evidence-based population interventions are implemented at scale and in line with the Malawi 2063 (MW2063) Vision, with the aim of producing human capital necessary for Malawi's attainment of an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant middle-income status by 2063. The Policy is also aligned to global declarations and commitments such as the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Family Planning 2030, and International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action.

The Policy was developed through a consultative process incorporating input from a broad range of stakeholders. These include religious and traditional leaders, Members of Parliament, development partners, members of the academia, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, young people, District Councils, and officials from various Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

Let me thank partners who contributed financial and technical support towards the development of the Policy. These include the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Health Policy Plus Project (HP+) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) through institutional core funds and USAID funded BUILD Project and the UKAid Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)-funded WISH2ACTION programme implemented through Options Consultancy Services Ltd.

It is my sincere hope that all stakeholders will continue demonstrating their commitment through supporting the implementation of this Policy and I urge all stakeholders to use this policy to guide multi-sectoral efforts and interventions.



Dr. MacDonald Mwale

SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
AMAMI	Association of Malawian Midwives
AU	African Union
CHAM	Christian Health Association of Malawi
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DHRMD	Department of Human Resource Management and Development
DODMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DP	Development Partner
EAD	Environmental Affairs Department
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EMIS	Education Management Information Systems
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
FEDOMA	Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi
FP	Family Planning
FPAM	Family Planning Association of Malawi
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HP+	Health Policy Plus
HSSP	Health Sector Strategic Plan
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IHAM	Islamic Health Association of Malawi
LMIS	Logistics Management Information Systems
MACOHA	Malawi Council for the Handicapped
MANEPO	Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organizations
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDHS	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
MEPA	Malawi Environmental Protection Authority
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIP-1	The First Malawi Implementation Plan
MNCS	Malawi National Council for Sports
MNH	Maternal and Newborn Health
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFEA	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoNRCC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare

MoH	Ministry of Health
MoH-CMED	Ministry of Health-Central Monitoring and Evaluation Division
MoID	Ministry of Information and Digitalization
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoL	Ministry of Labour
MoLands	Ministry of Lands
MoLGUC	Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
MPPRAP	Malawi Public Policy Research and Analysis Project
NAC	National AIDS Commission
NAO	National Audit Office
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NEEF	National Economic Empowerment Fund
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NLGFC	National Local Government Finance Committee
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPP	National Population Policy
NRB	National Registration Bureau
NSO	National Statistical Office
NYCOM	National Youth Council of Malawi
OPC	Office of the President and Cabinet
POA	Programme of Action
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
QIST	Quality Improvement Support Team
RAPID	Resources for the Awareness of Population Impacts on Development
RMNCAH	Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TBD	To be determined
TEVETA	Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TWG	Technical Working Group
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIMA-DPS	University of Malawi, Department of Population Studies
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

GLOSSARY

50-50 Campaign: A campaign that aims at increasing women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions at national and district level.

Age-specific fertility rate: Annual number of births per woman in a particular age group expressed per 1000 women in that age group.

Age and sex structure: The number and proportion of males and females in each age group.

Communicable disease (also called **infectious disease**): A disease capable of being communicated or transmitted from person to person

Child: A person under the age of 18.

Demographic Dividend: The economic growth that may result from a rapid decline in a country's fertility and the subsequent change in the population age structure. Investments in health, education, economic policies, and infrastructure, as well as good governance, are also needed to convert the opportunity of fertility decline into accelerated economic growth.

Economic development: A rise in the average standard of living associated with economic growth; a rise in per capita income

Gross Domestic Product: The total value of goods and services produced within the geographic boundaries of a nation in a given year, without reference to international trade

High fertility: Total fertility levels above 5 children per woman.

Infant mortality rate: The number of deaths of infants under one year of age divided by the number of live births in that year (and usually multiplied by 1,000)

Non-communicable disease: Disease that continues for a long time or recurs frequently (as opposed to acute) - often associated with degeneration

Demographic characteristics: Those demographic traits or qualities that differentiate one individual or group from another, including age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, occupation, education, income, wealth, and urban-rural residence

Persons with Disabilities (PWD): Include those who have long term physical, maternal, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Population-Based Planning: The type of planning that accounts for population trends, dynamics and characteristics of population parameters in a given context.

Population growth or decline: How the number of people in a particular place is changing over time

Population policy: A formalized set framework designed to manage population growth, structure and distribution within the context of the country's sustainable development agenda

Population size: Number of people in a given place

Soft skills: are a combination of people skills, social skills, communication skills, character traits, attitudes, career attributes, social intelligence, and emotional intelligence quotients among others that enable people to navigate their environment, work well with others, perform well, and achieve their goals.

Sustainable development: is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Total Fertility Rate: The average number of children that would be born to a woman by the time she ended childbearing if she were to pass through all her childbearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates of a given year.

Urbanization: The process whereby the proportion of people in a population who live in urban places increases.

Youth: All persons from age 10 to 35 regardless of their sex, education, culture, religion, economic, marital and physical status.

CHAPTER ONE:

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Population Policy

This third edition of the National Population Policy (NPP) provides a framework for enhancing prioritization, coordination, and implementation of programmes for addressing population and development issues at national and sub-national levels. The Policy draws from the lessons learned during the implementation of the preceding population policies. Several factors were taken into consideration in the formulation of the new NPP including the incorporation of existing and emerging issues in the Policy to increase its relevance; harmonizing the Policy with the national and international development frameworks; empowerment of all women to promote voluntary family planning, and designing doable and motivating activities. The Policy also leverages on Malawi's youthful population to harness the demographic dividend.

Since population is a multi-sectoral issue, the NPP will guide the design of effective population and development planning in different sectors. In the context of a youthful population, a coordinated approach that maximizes simultaneous investments in ensuring a manageable, high-quality population gives this Policy a better platform for the effective implementation of population and development plans by various players. To achieve Policy goal and objectives, the Policy will focus on the following priority areas; Managing Population Growth; Inclusion of Vulnerable and Marginalized Populations; Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience; Information Management; Financing; and Linkages and Coordination.

1.2. The Background

Malawi has made some progress in demographic and socio-economic indicators since the last Population Policy was put in place. The average number of children a woman has during her lifetime – Total Fertility Rate – has declined from 5.7 in 2010 to 4.2 in 2021. Mortality has declined with life expectancy at birth increasing from 48 years in 2008 to 62 years in 2018 (males) and 51 years in 2008 to 68 years in 2018 (female). In addition, HIV prevalence rate has reduced from 11.8 percent in 2004 to 8.8 percent in 2015-16. Malawi's human development index improved from 0.431 in 2010 to 0.483 in 2019 representing a 12% increase.

While there has been progress, rapid population growth remains a challenge. Malawi's population grew by an average of 2.9 percent per annum between 2008 and 2018 (NSO, 2019). This growth implies that the country is youthful with a broad base such that the dependency ratio (166 dependents per 100 economically active persons) remains high hence adding pressure on already constrained social services, employment needs, infrastructure, and environment and natural resources.

If the current trends continue, the situation will affect the country's ability to achieve its development goals. Hence, the current review of the National Population Policy addresses these emerging issues.

The first National Population Policy that was developed in 1994 and aligned to the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action did not incorporate an integrated and rights-based approach. In response, the NPP was revised in 2013 to adopt an integrated and rights-based approach by aligning to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II to support implementation of Vision 2020, the ICPD programme of action, the Millennium Development Goals and the FP2020 commitments. During the intervening period, Malawi has developed a new national vision (Malawi 2063) and its medium-term implementation plan, recommitted to the ICPD programme of action, and is a signatory to sustainable development goals. Thus, the 2013 version is not in line with these new developments.

The current Policy strives to continue to leverage the gains made in the implementation of the previous policies. Furthermore, the Policy contributes towards the objective of human capital development - to have a globally competitive and motivated human resource necessary for the attainment of an inclusively lower-middle-income status by 2030.

1.3. The Current Status

Malawi's population has quadrupled from 4 million in 1966 to 17.5 million in 2018 (NSO, 2019). In 2018, there was 6.2 million adolescents and young people aged 10-24 years, representing nearly 34% of the total population. With such a youthful age structure, Malawi's population will continue to grow if efforts are not made to slow the pace of growth.

The Government has implemented various policies, strategies and programmes to slow population growth and to improve Social Economic Status of the country: Such efforts include, the introduction of youth friendly health services; School Re-admission Initiatives; Review of minimum age of marriage at 18 years; Introduced the National Economic Empowerment Fund; Introduced Free Primary Education; Introduced the Affordable Inputs Programme,; and provision of high quality sexual and reproductive health services including family planning information.

Although significant progress in modern contraceptive use for married women increased from 7% in 1992 to 65% in 2021, the country's indicators related to sexual and reproductive health still lag behind. One in three (29%) adolescent girls have begun childbearing by age 18; the unmet need for contraception among married women has declined from 37% in 1992 to 19% in 2016 (MDHS 2016-17); Maternal mortality ratio at 439 deaths per 100,000 live births; and high fertility with an average of 4.2 children per woman (MICS 2021).

If the population continues to grow rapidly and not properly managed, this may constitute serious obstacles to the country's ability to address issues of inequalities and improving the quality of life of the population.

1.4. Problem Statement

Rapid population growth is a significant challenge for Malawi. It undermines the development of quality human capital by limiting the resources that individuals, families, and governments can spend on general livelihoods including housing, agriculture, education, and health care. It also limits savings and capital accumulation, which are key for development. Rapid population growth is also a key cause of environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources in the country, and hence undermines the capacity of communities and the country at large in developing resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Prior to the revision of the National Population Policy, efforts of the Government to address rapid population growth were guided by the Population Policy developed in 2013. However, recent changes in population and development have rendered the 2013 Policy ineffective in programming. For example, Malawi developed a successor vision for Vision 2020 called Malawi 2063 (MW2063) which aims at making Malawi an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation by 2063. Malawi has also committed to the ICPD25 Programme of Action and the FP2030 partnership.

The Government has pursued various efforts to align to the new vision and the commitments. These include the implementation of youth friendly health services, revision and implementation of the school re-admission policy, review of minimum age of marriage at 18 years, and provision of high quality sexual and reproductive health services including family planning information. However, these efforts have had minimal impact in slowing rapid population growth and population issues remain inadequately addressed. Taking advantage of emerging opportunities including the demographic dividend, this calls for a revised policy that focuses on strategic investments in order to slow down rapid population growth.

1.5. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for enhancing prioritization, coordination, and implementation of programmes for addressing population and development issues at national and sub-national levels with a view of making it relevant to the emerging issues. The Policy goals, objectives, and strategies presented align to the national vision "Malawi 2063" and its first 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1). Specifically, the Policy is aligned to the Human Capital Development enabler that, among others, focuses on the size and quality of a population in relation to socio-economic development. A population characterized by a healthy, well-educated, and skilled workforce is critical in spurring economic growth.

1.6. Linkages with other Policies and Legislations

The National Population Policy will operate in line with other existing legal and policy frameworks at both national and global level.

Linkages with Overarching National Documents

The Constitution

The Policy is aligned to the Constitution of Malawi under Chapters III and IV. In section 13, the Constitution provides that: the state shall actively promote the welfare and development of the people of Malawi by progressively adopting and implementing policies and legislations aimed at achieving goals such as gender equality, nutrition, health, the environment, education, persons with disabilities, children, the family, the elderly. Section 15 provides for rights and freedoms that shall be upheld by all organs of the Government and its agencies.

The Policy reinforces human rights, prohibits discrimination and promotes the welfare and development of Malawians as provided for in the constitution.

Malawi 2063

The Malawi 2063 (MW2063) is an overarching policy document for the government of Malawi that outlines national strategic areas for the country's development. Malawi 2063 is being operationalized by the Malawi 2063 first 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) which outlines key priority interventions to be implemented from 2021 to 2030 to make Malawi a lower-middle-income economy by the year 2030 and achieve the SDGs by the year 2030.

The National Population Policy is linked to Malawi 2063 through enabler number five, human capital development, which aims at attaining a globally competitive and highly motivated human resource. Under this enabler, managing population growth is one the focus areas. The ultimate goal is to have a high-quality population characterized by a healthy, well-educated and skilled workforce.

Linkages with other Legislations

National Planning Commission Act (2017)

The Act mandates the Commission to lead formulation of the country's vision and medium-term development framework to operationalize the vision, taking into account the country's resource potential and comparative advantage. The Policy is linked to the Act through Malawi 2063, Enabler number five on human capital development, which aims at attaining a globally competitive and highly motivated human resource. Under this enabler, managing population growth is of one the focus areas. The ultimate goal is to have a high-quality population characterized by a healthy, well-educated and skilled workforce.

National Child Care, Protection and Justice Act (2010)

The Act provides for child care, protection and justice for matters of social development of the child and connected matters. It addresses issues regarding forced marriages and protection against children violence. The implementation of the Policy will be guided by, among others, the National Child Care, Protection and Justice Act.

Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act (2015)

The Marriage, Divorce, and Family Relations Act (Marriage Act) addresses child marriage in Malawi by setting 18 as a minimum age for marriage. Further, it protects women, young, old, and the girl child, against all forms of abuse or violence – emotional, physical, or otherwise that are related to marriage, sexual relations, and the family. The Policy is linked to the Act by prioritizing interventions aimed at ending child marriages.

Gender Equality Act (2013)

The Act promotes gender equality, equal integration, influence, empowerment, dignity, and opportunities, for men and women in all functions of society, to prohibit and provide redress for sex discrimination, harmful practices, and sexual harassment, to provide for public awareness on the promotion of gender equality, and to provide for connected matters. The Policy is linked to the Act by prioritizing interventions aimed at promoting inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups including women and girls.

Environment Management Act (2017)

The Act focuses on conservation and management of the environment in Malawi and prescribes environmental standards. It also concerns the protection of the natural resources with emphasis on conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources through among others, environmental planning, waste management, climate change management (adaptation and mitigation), environmental education, and awareness, which are some the issues incorporated in the Policy.

Public-Private Partnership Act (2011)

The Act provides for partnerships between the public sector and private sector for the supply of infrastructure and delivery of services as a means of contributing towards sustainable economic growth, social development, and infrastructure development. The Act also provides for the development and implementation of public-private partnership arrangements in Malawi for the delivery of infrastructure and services. The Policy advocates for public-private partnerships for sustainable financing of population programmes in the country.

Local Government Act (1998)

The Local Government Act (1998) consolidates the law regarding local government. It provides for service delivery to be decentralized to the district, town, municipal, and city councils. Therefore, the Local Government Act (1998) provides mechanisms through which the Policy will be implemented at subnational level.

Public Health Act (2014)

The Public Health Act consolidates the law regarding the preservation of public health in Malawi. It addresses issues regarding infectious diseases and creates institutions for responding to emerging public health challenges. The implementation of sexual and reproductive health interventions under this Policy will be guided by among others the Public Health Act.

Disability Act (2012)

The Act makes provisions for prohibition of discrimination against persons with disabilities with respect to inter alia, employment, training, education and social services, political and public life, right to association, housing, sporting, and cultural opportunities. The implementation of the Policy will be guided by, among others, the Disability Act.

Education Act (2014)

The Act provides for the establishment, organization, governance, control, regulation and financing of schools and colleges.

HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Management) Act (2018)

The Act makes provisions for the prevention and management of HIV and AIDS, the rights and obligations of persons living with HIV or affected by HIV and AIDS; and matters incidental thereto or connected therewith. The Policy is linked to the Act by addressing infectious diseases including HIV and AIDS and creates institutions for responding to emerging public health challenges.

Refugee Act (1989)

This Act defines a refugee and outlines the obligations of a refugee and Malawi as the host country. The Policy is linked to the Act by prioritizing interventions aimed at promoting inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups including refugees and asylum seekers.

Linkages with other National Policies

The National Population Policy is linked to a number of other national policies including the following.

National Youth Policy

The National Youth Policy aims at creating an enabling environment for all young people to develop to their full potential to contribute significantly to their personal and sustainable national development. The National Population Policy is linked to the National Youth Policy as it promotes inclusion of young people in various spheres of development including their active participation in decision-making processes.

National Health Policy

The National Health Policy aims at improving the health status of all Malawians, and increasing client satisfaction and financial risk protection towards the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The National Population Policy recognizes that attainment of UHC is crucial in slowing the rate of population growth and ensuring a healthy human capital.

Policy on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children

The Policy on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children aims at promoting care and support for orphans and other vulnerable children. The National Population Policy is linked to the Policy on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children as it promotes the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups including orphans and vulnerable children.

National Gender Policy

The National Gender Policy addresses issues of gender inequality and empowerment of women. The National Population Policy is linked to the National Gender Policy as it recognizes that gender equality and women empowerment are crucial in slowing rapid population growth and improving welfare for all.

National Nutrition Policy

The National Nutrition Policy aims at attaining optimal nutrition and food security for all Malawians. The National Population Policy is linked to this policy by incorporating nutrition related interventions on prevention of maternal and child morbidity and mortality, and non-communicable diseases.

National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy

National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy is a guiding framework on the effective implementation of comprehensive and integrated SRHR services. The National Population Policy is linked to the national SRHR Policy by incorporating Family Planning, Maternal Neonatal Health, and Youth Friendly Health Services as part of the key focus areas in managing rapid population growth and improving welfare of Malawians.

National Policy on the Elderly Persons

The National Policy on the Elderly Persons aims at improving access to social services and social security for older persons. The National Population Policy is linked to this policy by promoting the welfare of the elderly.

National Policy on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

The National Policy on Equalization of Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities advocates for the empowerment of persons living with disabilities. The National Population Policy is linked to the National Policy on Equalization of Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities by promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities in the spheres of development including their active participation.

Health Promotion Policy

Health Promotion Policy promotes creation of public awareness, facilitation of community participation, and access to Client-Friendly Health Services. These aspects are also emphasized in the National Population Policy for public awareness on population and development.

HIV and AIDS Policy

HIV and AIDS Policy aims at preventing further spread of HIV infection, promoting access to treatment for people living with HIV, and mitigating the health, social-economic, and psychosocial impact of HIV and AIDS on individuals, families, communities, and the nation. The National Population Policy has integrated promotion of interventions related to communicable and non-communicable diseases including HIV and AIDS.

Malawi National Health Information System Policy

The National Health Information Systems Policy provides for continuous strengthening capacity of information producers and information users to exploit their full potentials in enhancing the quality and making the best use of health information. Strengthening Information management systems is also a key element of the National Population Policy. Tracking of progress on the implementation of the National Population Policy will depend on the robustness of tools available including Health Information Systems.

National Education Policy

The National Education Policy aims at promoting equitable access to education and improving relevance, quality and governance, and management of the education sector. By promoting equitable access to education, the National Education Policy is linked to the National Population Policy in that women and girls are empowered such that they can delay marriage and childbirth and can ably seek healthcare for themselves and their children.

Revised Education Readmission Policy

The Education Readmission Policy aims to address the permanent dropping out of school by girls due to pregnancies. This links well with the National Population Policy as the longer the girls stay in school, the more likely they are empowered to have fewer children and later.

National Environmental Policy

The National Environmental Policy aims at promoting sustainable social and economic development through the sound management of the environment and natural resources. The National Population Policy recognizes the linkage between the population and the environment hence incorporating climate change adaptation and resilience in population programming.

National Agricultural Policy

The National Agricultural Policy aims to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation that will result in significant growth of the agricultural sector, expanding incomes for farm households, improved food and nutrition security for all Malawians, and increased agricultural exports. This

is in tandem with the National Population Policy which among as others aims to promote welfare of all Malawians.

National Policy on Early Childhood Development

The National Policy on Early Child Development (ECD) provides guidelines for the implementation and coordination of ECD activities and for the enhancement of support and investment in ECD programmes in Malawi. The National Population Policy promotes integration of Early Child Development in population programming.

National Decentralization Policy

The National Decentralization Policy seeks to create a democratic environment and institutions for governance and development at the local level that facilitate grassroots participation in decision making. The Policy supports and facilitates equitable provision and delivery of social services i.e. Health Care and Education. The implementation of the National Population Policy requires functional decentralized systems and active participation of communities.

Linkages with Regional Instruments

SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2020-2030)

SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) is a comprehensive development and implementation framework guiding the regional integration agenda of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Its objectives are; to achieve economic development, peace, and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration. The priorities on managing population growth, inclusion of vulnerable, and marginalized populations and climate change adaptation and resilience as stipulated in this Policy are consistent with the RISDP as they promote social and human capital development.

SADC Protocol on Health

The SADC Protocol on Health, which Malawi ratified in 2004 among others, has three articles that are key to population (Article 16- Reproductive Health; and Article 17 – Childhood and Adolescent Health). The National Population Policy is aligned with the protocol as it responds to the call for the State to formulate coherent, comparable, and standardized policies and strategies on empowering women, men and communities to have basic reproductive health services and ensuring that child and adolescent health services essential for the critical foundation for growth and development of children are provided.

Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa

The Convention on Refugees is a humanitarian response to the individual as well as the mass character of the refugee problem in Africa. It is a collective undertaking by the AU Member States to receive and protect refugees following their respective national legislations. Member

States undertake to apply the Convention to all refugees without discrimination as to race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinions. The National Population Policy has included some strategies for promoting the welfare of refugees and asylum seekers.

Linkages with Global Instruments

The Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are integrated - they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability. The priority areas set out in the National Population Policy are consistent with most SDGs especially the goals on no poverty, zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, and climate action.

African Union Agenda 2063

African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 is Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future, to achieve an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena. A strategic framework that aims to deliver on the continent's goal for inclusive and sustainable development. In addition, it is a concrete manifestation of the Pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

The goal and objectives of the National Population Policy are in line with the aspirations number one and six of the Agenda 2063. Aspiration number one is about a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. On the other hand, aspiration number six is about an Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.

ICPD Programme of Action

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) through its Programme of Action provides a global commitment that fulfilling the rights of women and girls is central to development. It is a global consensus that places individual dignity and human rights, including the right to plan one's family, at the very heart of development. The National Population Policy positions fulfilment of rights especially those of women and girls to be paramount in order to achieve slowed population growth and an inclusively wealthy middle-income nation.

CHAPTER TWO:

BROAD POLICY DIRECTIONS

2.1. Policy Goal

The overall goal of the National Population Policy is to have a manageable population that has access to adequate, high-quality social services and economic opportunities that can meaningfully contribute to the national development.

2.2. Policy Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the National Population Policy by 2026 are:

- i. Reduced population growth;
- ii. Improved inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programmes;
- iii. Enhanced conservation and sustainable utilization of environmental and natural resources; at national and local levels;
- iv. Improved population information management systems;
- v. Strengthened multi-sectoral linkages and coordination of population and development programmes; and
- vi. Improved financing and utilization of resources for population programmes.

2.3. Specific Policy Objectives

The specific policy objectives are:

- i. Reduce fertility and mortality to levels that sustain slow population growth;
- ii. Enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming;
- iii. Promote development programmes that enhance conservation and sustainable utilization of environmental and socio-economic resources at national and local levels;
- iv. Strengthen multi-sectoral linkages and coordination in the implementation of development programmes that take population into consideration;
- v. Strengthen population information management systems; and
- vi. Improve financing for sustained population and development programmes.

2.4. Guiding Principles

Implementation of this Policy will be guided by the following principles as stipulated in the Constitution of Malawi, the ICPD25, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- i. Commitment to international laws and emphasize that the policy shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the rights and obligations of Malawi under international laws;
- ii. Recognition of the multi-sectoral dimension of the population issue and the importance of a multi-sectoral approach to implementation of the policy;
- iii. Affirmation that all individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children as well as to have access to information, education, and the means to do so;
- iv. Advancing gender equality and equity, and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, ensuring women's ability to control their fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programmes;
- v. Recognition and respect of positive cultural norms and practices in Malawi;
- vi. Consideration of the needs of future generations and sustainable development by prudently and sustainably using the country's natural resources;
- vii. Recognition and inclusive participation of all stakeholders in population and development issues; Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and full participation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Private Sector, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), communities and individuals in population and development; and
- viii. Consideration of regional and district variations concerning the level of socio-economic development and demographic characteristics.

CHAPTER THREE:

POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

The Policy has the following six priority areas:

- a. Managing population growth;
- b. Inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized populations;
- c. Climate change adaptation and resilience;
- d. Information Management;
- e. Financing; and
- f. Capacity strengthening, linkages, and coordination.

Priority Area 1: Managing Population Growth

Managing population growth is about applying a rights-based approach to making the environment conducive for women and men to decide on the number of children they would like to have. The goal is to reduce population growth rate to levels that are sustainable. This is crucial in ensuring that Malawi achieves its long-term aspiration of being an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation, as it will contribute to accelerating the attainment of the country's lower-middle-income economy status by 2030. The population of Malawi has been growing rapidly due to high fertility. This priority area addresses drivers of rapid population growth, use of modern contraceptive methods especially among the youth, child survival, and early childbearing.

Policy Statements

a) The Policy will ensure that the fertility decline is accelerated.

Strategies:

- i. Intensify population education campaigns including adopting modern family planning practices of having few children and use of contraception;
- ii. Identify and implement optimum models for providing quality reproductive health services including modern family planning to both in and out of school youth to reduce unmet need for family planning information and services and teenage pregnancies; and
- iii. Strengthen implementation of Malawi's Costed Implementation Plan for Family Planning, FP2030, and ICPD25 commitments.

b) The Policy will ensure that child and maternal mortality is reduced.

Strategies:

- i. Support child immunization campaigns;
- ii. Promote skilled care attendance before, during, and after birth in population messages; and

- iii. Promote child and maternal nutrition for the special 1,000 days.

c) The Policy will ensure that on-set of childbearing is delayed (No children by children).

Strategies:

- i. Eliminate child marriages;
- ii. Scaling up efforts to reduce teenage pregnancies;
- iii. Intensify comprehensive sexuality education for in and out of school youth;
- iv. Keep girls in school for at least twelve years;
- v. Strengthen implementation of the school re-admission policy; and
- vi. Identify and implement optimum models for providing quality RH services including modern family planning to both in and out of school youth to reduce unmet need for family planning information and services and teenage pregnancies.

Priority Area 2: Inclusion of Vulnerable and Marginalized Populations

Women, young people, older persons, orphans, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and persons suffering from various communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are marginalized because of their status and hence vulnerable to various socio-economic and political challenges. In addition, the population trend for refugees and asylum seekers has been continually increasing in Malawi. New arrivals coupled with newborn babies contribute to overcrowding and congestion in designated camps, which facilitates environmental degradation and exacerbates unmet basic needs such as access to health and nutrition, security and protection, water and sanitation, general wellbeing, and livelihood opportunities.

The Policy, therefore, promotes the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups of people in socio-economic and political activities as a constitutional provision. Hence, it is important to strengthen mechanisms designed to specifically target marginalized groups to ensure that they can actively participate in socio-economic activities for the improvement of their well-being.

Policy Statements

- a) The Policy will ensure that sustainable support mechanisms in preparation for senior years are provided.

Strategies

- i. Raise awareness on the needs of older persons;
- ii. Promote interventions that prepare the young and mid-aged population for old-age life;
- iii. Promote programmes and services that respond to the population aging; and
- iv. Promote community-based support networks for older persons.

- b) The Policy will ensure that the welfare of children, orphaned and other vulnerable children is promoted.

Strategies

- i. Raise awareness of the needs of orphaned and other vulnerable children for social and economic inclusion;
 - ii. Prioritize the needs of orphaned and other vulnerable children in population-related programmes in all sectors; and
 - iii. Promote integration of Early Child Development in population programming.
- c) The Policy will ensure that participation of persons with disabilities and persons with albinism in socio-economic and political development is enhanced.

Strategies

- i. Raise awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities including those with albinism for socio-economic and political inclusion;
 - ii. Prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities including those with albinism in population-related programmes in all sectors; and
 - iii. Promote engagement of people with disabilities including those with albinism in socio-economic and political activities.
- d) The Policy will ensure that policies and programmes focusing on women and young people are promoted.

Strategies

- i. Raise awareness of the needs of women and young people for socio-economic and political empowerment through various channels including technological platforms Support the implementation of the 50-50 campaign; and
 - ii. Promote meaningful women and youth engagement, participation, and leadership in all aspects of social and economic development.
- e) The Policy will ensure that interventions related to Communicable and non-Communicable diseases are promoted across all sectors.

Strategies

- i. Enhance mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS components in population and development activities;
- ii. Promote the integration of non-communicable diseases response in population and development programmes; and
- iii. Promote healthy lifestyles.

- f) The Policy will ensure that policies and programmes focusing on refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons are promoted.

Strategies

- i. Raise awareness of the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons;
- ii. Ensure a full and coordinated implementation of priority activities in the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in crises;
- iii. Strengthen coordinated humanitarian support for refugees and asylum seekers; and
- iv. Strengthen the capacity of actors and institutions to effectively and efficiently manage the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

Priority Area 3: Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Climate change adaptation refers to changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change. Countries and communities develop adaptation solutions and implement actions to respond to the impact of climate change that are already happening as well as prepare for future impact.

Malawi's population depends largely on natural resources for survival which negatively impacts on the environment and contributes to climate change. Climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development everywhere and its widespread impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. Malawi is considered a climate change hotspot country because of, among others, its rapidly growing population that negatively affects natural resources and the environment. In addition, poor implementation of policies and programmes on spatial distribution and urbanization has negatively affected sustainable development.

Poorly planned spatial distribution and urbanization exerts pressure on the environment and natural resources due to increased resource utilization leading to over-exploitation and unsustainable use of these resources. It further compromises the quality of life by affecting service delivery in sectors such as health; education; water, sanitation and hygiene; housing; and economic infrastructure.

The Policy promotes climate change adaptation and resilience for all population groups particularly the poor and the marginalized in rural and urban areas. Furthermore, the Policy addresses the strong linkages between population growth and climate change as they relate to development and promotes strategies aimed at addressing effects of poor urbanization on the environment and natural resources at large.

Policy Statements

- a) The Policy will ensure that long-term means for sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources and the environment are promoted.

Strategies

- i. Enhance awareness on the relationship between population dynamics and natural resources and the environment;
 - ii. Strengthen programmes that promote small family size among young people as a long-term plan to reduce pressure on natural resources and the environment; and
 - iii. Enhance mainstreaming and integration of climate change adaptation and resilience in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, population and development programming.
- b) The Policy will ensure that supportive policies and programmes focusing on adaptation and resilience to climate change particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, adolescent girls, and ultra-poor households are promoted.

Strategies

- i. Raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable groups in climate change adaptation and resilience;
 - ii. Promote engagement and participation of vulnerable populations in policies and programmes that deal with climate change adaptation and resilience; and
Promote population interventions that enhance adaptive capacity of communities to climate change.
- c) This Policy will ensure that policies and programmes related to urbanization are promoted

Strategies

- i. Raise awareness on the need to build well planned, sustainable and resilient urban centers; and
- ii. Promote policies and programmes that address challenges emanating from unplanned urbanization.

Priority Area 4: Information Management

Information management refers to data collection, storage, processing, analyzing and dissemination. Data and Research evidence play a valuable role in guiding policymakers, planners, other decision-makers, and implementers in coming up with evidence-based policies and programmes that respond to development-related gaps and issues. However, in Malawi information management systems are still underdeveloped and often lead to delays in dissemination of data and results. As such policies, programmes and interventions are in some

cases based on outdated evidence and do not respond to the prevailing situation. In addition, data is sometimes not disaggregated leading to poor targeting of policy and programme beneficiaries.

The Policy will mobilize resources for and capacitate local institutions and experts in the collection, storage, processing, analysis, and dissemination of population data at all levels. It will also promote evidence-based decision making by ensuring availability of disaggregated and geo-referenced data.

Policy Statements

- a) The Policy will ensure that up-to-date quality geo-referenced population data and vital statistics are available.

Strategies

- i. Promote collaborative collection, processing, and dissemination of population data;
- ii. Increase effective utilization of existing data;
- iii. Promote access to up-to-date and reliable geo-referenced population data; and
- iv. Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems.

- b) The Policy will ensure that evidence-based decision making in population and development programming is promoted.

Strategies

- i. Enhance partnerships with academia, research, and like-minded organizations to generate evidence on population and development;
- ii. Promote demand-driven research in population and development through the national population research agenda for country-driven solutions;
- iii. Enhance dissemination channels of population and development research;
- iv. Enhance capacity for collection, analysis, and utilization of population data;
- v. Strengthen knowledge translation and communication mechanisms on population and development; and
- vi. Strengthen stakeholder capacity in the integration of population research findings into development planning at all levels.

Priority Area 5: Financing

Financing for population and development programmes is concerned with making resources available and utilizing them effectively and efficiently to address population and development issues. In most cases, domestic and external resources for population and development activities are insufficient, unpredictable, and unsustainable. A weak revenue base, underdeveloped and underutilized domestic private pools, fragmented and underutilized external financing pools compound the unavailability of resources for population and development programmes.

It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that resources are available, and population and development programmes are well supported at different levels. The policy promotes the mobilization of resources from Public, Private Sectors and Development Partners such as the private sector to finance population and development activities. It also promotes the prioritization of population and development programmes in national and subnational budgets for efficient and equitable implementation of activities. It also focuses on improving accountability mechanisms to ensure that resources earmarked for population and development activities are properly managed.

Policy Statements

- a) The Policy will ensure that adequate resources for population and development programmes are mobilized.

Strategies

- i. Strengthen partnerships for population and development financing at national and subnational levels; and
- ii. Increase and sustain resource base for population and development financing from the Public, Private Sectors, and Development partners.

- b) The Policy will ensure that available resources for population and development programmes are managed in a manner that ensures efficiency, equity, and accountability.

Strategies

- i. Strengthen population and development planning, budget, and financial management systems in a manner that maximizes resource absorptive capacity and optimally utilizes resources for development programmes; and
- ii. Strengthen accountability mechanisms for population and development programmes at the national and sub-national level.

Priority Area 6: Linkages and Coordination

Linkages and coordination are concerned with optimization, integration, and synchronization of efforts to achieve a common goal. They extend to ensuring that strategic policy frameworks exist, and are combined with oversight for efficiency and effectiveness in policy implementation. Currently, population and development programmes face various challenges concerning linkages and coordination. Inadequate capacity, weak coordination systems, in absence of a fully-fledged coordinating body, centralized decision-making, and poor community engagement affect efficiency and effectiveness in policy implementation. As a result, programmes and resources are poorly aligned leading to inefficiencies in policy implementation. Improving multi-sectoral linkages and coordination of population and development programmes is critical in the pursuit of national development goals.

Policy Statements

- a) The Policy will ensure that multi-sectoral linkages and coordination of population and development programmes are strengthened at all levels.

Strategies:

- i. Strengthen government mechanisms for linkages and coordination of population and development programmes;
- ii. Establish a government agency responsible for coordinating population programs; and
- iii. Strengthen performance management and monitoring and evaluation systems in the implementation of population programmes.

- b) The Policy will ensure that the integration of population issues in all sectors of the economy is strengthened.

Strategies:

- i. Ensure incorporation of population issues in various policies, programmes, and strategies;
- ii. Enhance Population-based planning; and
- iii. Enhance integration of state and non-state institutions.

- c) The Policy will ensure that political will for and commitment to population and development agenda is enhanced.**

Strategies:

- i. Enhance knowledge and understanding of decision-makers at different levels on inter-linkages between population and development;
- ii. Increase engagement with the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary arm of government on population and development related issues; and
- iii. Leverage support from political, traditional, and religious leaders at the sub-national level on population and development.

CHAPTER FOUR:

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Institutional Arrangements

The implementation of the National Population Policy will require the role of Government, Civil Society Organizations, Academia, Development Partners, Faith-Based Organizations, community structures, political parties, and the Private Sector. Efforts will be made to strengthen some of the implementing agencies through capacity building. Below is the detailed institutional arrangement for the implementation of the Policy.

Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) is responsible for providing oversight and strategic leadership to ensure effective coordination, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the Policy.

Ministry responsible for Finance, Economic Planning and Development through the Department of Economic Planning and Development will be the policy-holder and responsible for coordination of the policy implementation. The Ministry will also be responsible for resource mobilization, development of programmes, capacity strengthening, monitoring and evaluation of the Policy implementation. The Ministry will further ensure the efficient and effective use of resources at both national and sub-national levels.

Ministry responsible for Health will promote awareness of the linkage between population and development issues in the Health system. The Ministry will also provide comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health services to the public through various fora such as health facilities and outreach interventions within communities and in partnership with private service providers. The Ministry will ensure improved quality outreach of contraceptive services through expanded contraceptive choice, effective supply chain management, and overall family planning commodity security, among other strategies.

National Planning Commission (NPC) will ensure prioritization of population programmes in medium and long-term development plans. The Commission will also promote multi-sectoral linkages on population and development.

Ministry responsible for Local Government through District Councils will promote the engagement of local structures and stakeholders such as Councilors, traditional leaders, and religious leaders in the implementation of the policy.

Ministry responsible for Education promotes awareness of the linkage between population and development issues in the education system. It also provides comprehensive sexuality education to young people in schools and promotes the retention of girls in schools.

Ministry responsible for Gender, Community Development, and Social Welfare will among others promotes the empowerment of women and children by promoting laws and policies that

empower women and children; mainstreams gender in policies, programmes, plans, and laws that are targeted at elimination of harmful socio-cultural and discriminatory practices.

Ministry responsible for Youth will provide leadership in the development and implementation of youth development and empowerment policies and programmes to address population and development-related issues affecting the youth.

Ministry responsible for Agriculture the Ministry will ensure integration of population issues into the agriculture sector. Through front-line employees, the Ministry will disseminate messages to the public on population and development issues. Information about the linkages between population dynamics, food security, and the preservation of agricultural land will be included in these messages. The Ministry will enable communities to take informed decisions that will enhance their general quality of life by increasing knowledge of these connections.

National Youth Council of Malawi will coordinate, facilitate, promote, and support youth empowerment, development, participation, and leadership in population and development interventions.

Ministry responsible for Civic Education will enhance civic education and public awareness on population and development issues. It promotes the benefits of having small families through social behavior change communication.

Ministry responsible for Justice will facilitate the development and review of population-related legislation and regulations.

Ministry responsible for Natural Resources and Climate Change will oversee the incorporation of population dynamics in environment and climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes.

Malawi Parliament will be responsible for enacting laws that are in tandem with the National Population Policy. It will also be responsible for providing oversight on how population and development-related interventions are prioritized in national budgets, funded, and how resources allocated for these interventions are utilized.

National Statistical Office generates and provide the necessary population data for decision-making, including geo-referenced data. It collects, analyzes, and disseminates disaggregated data and information to inform policy and programming.

Development Partners (DPs) will support Government in providing financial and technical resources for implementation of the Policy.

Private Sector complements Government efforts in financing and implementation of population-based programmes;

Academia and Research Institutions will provide training on population and development by mainstreaming emerging population issues in existing curricula. They are also responsible for conducting cutting-edge research on population and development-related issues.

Civil Society Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations and Traditional Leaders will advocate for increased resources for implementing specific activities that pertain to the implementation of the policy objectives and strategies. They will complement the Government's oversight and accountability functions to safeguard the interests of Malawians and they will also actively participate in the implementing of the policy by directly engaging with communities on issues pertaining to population management.

The **Media** will be responsible for promoting and disseminating population and development related information.

4.2 Implementation Plan

It is a Plan of Action that will guide implementation of the NPP. The Plan of Action will operationalize the broad policy guidelines in the NPP and related sectoral policies into specific strategies, interventions, activities, and targets that will be implemented to realize the NPP's goal and objectives (*Refer to Annex 1*).

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The NPP Plan of Action contains a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Policy. The Framework specifies targets for a set of indicators through which performance in achieving specific outputs related to the goals and objectives of the policy will be assessed. The Ministry responsible for population will coordinate the monitoring and evaluation process of the NPP, ensuring that the implementation of the policy is geared towards achieving measurable and time-bound outcomes and impacts.

Periodic collection, analysis, and translation of geo-referenced data will be prioritized and constant feedback given by various stakeholders to ensure that the policy objectives are achieved and revised as new challenges and opportunities emerge. All stakeholders will be responsible for providing reports to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the NPP activities in their sectors based on the Policy's Plan of Action and its monitoring and evaluation framework. A mid-term evaluation of the NPP will be conducted to ensure that its objectives are being achieved and emerging issues accommodated in subsequent implementation plans. An end-of-term evaluation of the NPP will also be conducted.

Since the Government is committed to implementing the Policy following international development frameworks such as the ICPD Programme of Action, Agenda 2063, and SDGs, the policy will be reviewed accordingly when major modifications are made to these frameworks. Quarterly and annual coordination and review meetings will be organized for all the stakeholders to share experiences in the implementation of the Policy. Quarterly and annual progress reports from the stakeholders will form the basis for the review and monitoring of the policy. This will

help in re-strategizing and incorporating new evidence during the implementation of the Policy to ensure that its objectives are achieved (*Refer to Annex 2*).

4.4. Implementation Cost

The National Population Policy will be implemented through five-year implementation plan (2023/24-2028/29). The cost for the implementation is estimated at MK123.2 billion. The resources will be provided by the Government, Donors and Development Partners.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Implementation Plan for the National Population Policy

Priority Area 1: Managing Population Growth			
Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that the fertility decline is accelerated			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To reduce population growth rate To reduce fertility and mortality to levels that sustain slow population growth	Intensify population education campaigns including championing the small-size family norm and use of contraception	MoH, MoGCDSW, MoID, CHAM, FPAM, IHAM, MoLGUC, MoYS, NYCOM, Development Partners, Community Leaders, CSOs/NGOs	2022 – 2027
	Identify and implement optimum models for providing quality reproductive health services including modern family planning to both in and out of school youth to reduce unmet need for family planning information and services and teenage pregnancies.	MoH, MoE, MoGCDSW, FPAM, CHAM, IHAM, MoYS, NYCOM, MoID, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners, Community leaders	2022 – 2027
Policy Statement: b) The Policy will ensure that child and maternal mortality is reduced			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To reduce fertility and mortality to levels that sustain slow population growth	Support child immunization campaigns	MoH, MoGCDSW, MoID, CHAM, CSOs/NGOs, IHAM, Development Partners, Community leaders, Religious Leaders	2023-2029
	Promote skilled care attendance before, during, and after birth in population messages	MoH, MoGCDSW, MoID, CHAM, IHAM, Development Partners, AMAMI, CSOs/NGOs, Community leaders	2023-2029
	Promote child and maternal nutrition for the special 1,000 days	MoH, MoID, Community leaders, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029

Policy Statement: c) The Policy will ensure that on-set of child-bearing is delayed (no children by children)			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To reduce population growth rate To reduce fertility and mortality to levels that sustain slow population growth	Eliminate child marriages	MoH, MoGCDSW, MoE, MoID, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners, Community Leaders, Political Leaders, Religious Leaders, Media	2023-2029
	Intensify comprehensive sexuality education for in and out of school youth	MoE, MoYS, NYCOM, MoH, MoID, Media, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Keep girls in school for at least twelve years	MoE, MoGCDSW, MoFEA, MoH, MoLGUC, CSOs/NGOs, Traditional Leaders	2023-2029
	Strengthen implementation of school readmission policy	MoE, MoGCDSW, MoH, CSOs/NGOs, Community Leaders	2023-2029
	Identify and implement optimum models for providing quality reproductive health services including modern family planning to both in and out of school youth to reduce unmet need for family planning information and services and teenage pregnancies.	MoH, MoYS, FPAM, CHAM, MoGCDSW, NYCOM, MoID, Development Partners, Community leaders	2022 – 2027

Priority Area 2: Inclusion of Vulnerable and Marginalized Populations			
Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that sustainable support mechanisms in preparation for senior years are provided			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming	Raise awareness on the needs of older persons	MoGCDSW, MoID, MoLGUC, Community leaders, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Promote interventions that prepare the young and mid-aged population to prepare for old-age life	MoGCDSW, MoID, MoLGUC, Community leaders, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Promote programmes and services that respond to the population aging	MoGCDSW, NPC, MoFEA, UNIMA-DPS, NSO	2023-2029
	Promote community-based support networks for older persons	MoGCDSW, MoLGUCRD, MoFEA -NPC, MANEPO, MoH, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
Policy Statement: b) The Policy will ensure that the welfare of children, orphaned and other vulnerable children is promoted			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming	Raise awareness of the needs of orphaned and other vulnerable children for social and economic inclusion	MoGCDSW, MoE, MoYS, MoID, MoH, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Prioritize the needs of orphaned and other vulnerable children in population-related programmes in all sectors	MoGCDSW, MoFEA, MoYS, MoH, NPC, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Promote integration of ECD in population programming	MoGCDSW, MoFEA, MoYS, MoH, NPC, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029

Policy Statement: c) The Policy will ensure that participation of persons with disabilities including persons with albinism in socio-economic and political development is enhanced			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming	Raise awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities including those with albinism for socio-economic and political inclusion	MoGCDSW, MoE, MoID, MoFEA, FEDOMA, MACOHA, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities including those with albinism in population-related programmes in all sectors	MoGCDSW, MoFEA, MoE, MoH, MoYS, MoLGUC, Parliament, NPC, TEVETA, NEEF, NYCOM, FEDOMA, MACOHA, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs, Community Leaders	2023-2029
	Promote engagement of people with disabilities including those with albinism in socio-economic and political activities	MoGCDSW, MoFEA, MoE, MoH, MoYS, MoLGUC, MoL, MoA, TEVETA, NEEF, NYCOM, NPC, FEDOMA, MACOHA, CSOs, Development Partners, Community Leaders	2023-2029
Policy Statement : d) The Policy will ensure that policies and programmes focusing on women and young people are promoted			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming	Raise awareness of the needs of women and young people for socio-economic and political empowerment through various channels including technological platforms	MoYS, MoGCDSW, MoL, MoID, NYCOM, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Support the implementation of the 50-50 campaign	MoGCDSW, MoL, MoE, MoYS, NYCOM, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029

	Promote meaningful youth engagement, participation, and leadership in all aspects of social and economic development	MoYS, NYCOM, MoGCDSW, MoLGUC, MoA, MoL, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners, Community Leaders	2023-2029
Policy Statement: e) The Policy will ensure that interventions related to communicable and non-communicable diseases are promoted across all sectors			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To reduce fertility and mortality to levels that sustain slow population growth	Enhance mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS components in population and development activities	MoH, NAC, MoGCDSW, MoYS, NYCOM, CSOs/NGOs, MoFEA, NPC, Development Partners	2023-2029
To enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming	Promote the integration of NCDs response in population and development programmes	MoH, MoE, MoID, MoFEA, MoYS, NPC, NYCOM, Parliamentary Committee on Health	2023-2029
	Promote healthy lifestyles	MoH, MoE, MoYS, MoFEA, MNCS, NYCOM, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners	2023-2029
Policy Statement: f) The Policy will ensure that policies and programmes focusing on refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons are promoted			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming	Raise awareness of the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons	MoH, MoE, DODMA, MoFA, MoHS, MoFEA, CSOs, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Ensure a full and coordinated implementation of priority activities in the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in crises	MoH, MoE, DODMA, MoFA, MoHS, MoFEA, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Strengthen coordinated humanitarian support for refugees and asylum	MoH, MoE, DODMA, MoFA, MoHS, MoFEA, CSOs, Development Partners,	2023-2029

	seekers	CSOs/NGOs	
	Strengthen the capacity of actors and institutions to effectively and efficiently manage the needs of refugees and asylum seekers	MoHS, MoH, MoFA, MoE, DODMA, MoFEA, CSOs/NGOs Development Partners	2023-2029
Priority Area 3: Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience			
Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that long term means for sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources and the environment are promoted			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To contribute to sustainable planning and implementation of socio-economic development programmes at national, local, and community levels.	Enhance awareness on the relationship between population dynamics and natural resources and the environment	MoFEA, NPC, DODMA, MoA, MoNRCC, MoE, MoH, EAD MoGCDSW, MEPA, NYCOM, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs, Community leaders, Academia and Research Institutions, Media, Parliamentarians	2023-2029
	Strengthen programmes that promote small-family-size among young people as a long-term plan to reduce pressure on natural resources and the environment	MoH, MoFEA, MoLGUC, MoYS, MoGCDSW, NPC, NYCOM, Development Partners, Academia and Research Centers, Community leaders	2023-2029
	Enhance mainstreaming and integration of climate change adaption and resilience in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, population and development programming	MDAs, Local Councils, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners, Community leaders, Media	2023-2029

Policy Statement: b) The Policy will ensure those supportive policies and programmes focusing on adaption and resiliencies to climate change particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, adolescent girls, and ultra-poor are promoted			
OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To contribute to sustainable planning and implementation of socio-economic development programmes at national, local, and community levels.	Raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable groups in climate change adaptation and resilience	DODMA, MoNRCCs, MoH, MoGCDSW, MoLGUC, MEPA, EAD, Community leaders, Development Partners, Academia and Research Institutions, Media Parliamentarians	2023-2029
	Promote engagement and participation of vulnerable populations in policies and programmes that deal with climate change adaptation and resilience.	MoLGUC, MoNRCC, MoH, MoGCDSW, MEPA, EAD, Community leaders, Development Partners, Academia and Research Institutions, Media, Parliamentarians	2023-2029
	Promote population interventions that enhance adaptive capacity of communities to climate change	MoLGUC, MoNRCC, MoH, MoGCDSW, MEPA, EAD, Community leaders, Development Partners, Academia and Research Institutions, Media, Parliamentarians	2023-2029
Policy Statement: c) The Policy will ensure that policies and programmes related to urbanization are promoted			
OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To contribute to sustainable planning and implementation of socio-economic development programmes at national, local, and community levels.	Raise awareness on the need to build well planned, sustainable and resilient urban centers	MoL, MoTPW, MoNRCC, District, Town and City Councils, NPC, MoH, MoGCDSW, MEPA, EAD, Development Partners, Academia and Research Institutions, Media, Parliamentarians	2023-2029
	Promote policies and programmes that address challenges emanating from unplanned urbanization	MoLands, MoNRCC, District, Town and City Councils, NPC, MoH, MoGCDSW, MEPA, EAD, Development Partners, Media, Parliamentarians, and MoTPW.	2023-2029

Policy Priority Area 4: Information Management			
Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that up-to-date quality geo-referenced population data and vital statistics are available			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To contribute to sustainable planning and implementation of socio-economic development programmes at national, local, and community levels	Promote collaborative collection, processing, and dissemination of population data	MoFEA, NSO, NPC, MoH-CMED, NRB, Academia, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Increase effective utilization of existing data	MoFEA, NSO, NPC, MoH-CMED, NRB, Academia, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Promote access to up-to-date and reliable geo-referenced population data	MoFEA, NSO, NPC, MoH-CMED, NRB, Academia, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems	MoFEA, NRB, NSO, MoH-CMED, NPC, Development Partners	2023-2029
Policy Statement: b) The Policy will ensure that evidence-based decision making in population and development planning is promoted			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To contribute to sustainable planning and implementation of socio-economic development programmes at national, local, and community levels	Enhance partnerships with academia, research, and like-minded organizations to generate evidence on population and development	MoFEA, NPC, NSO, Academic and research institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Promote demand-driven research in population and development through the national population research agenda for country-driven solutions	MoFEA, NPC, NSO, Academic and research institutions, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Enhance dissemination channels of population and development research	MoFEA, NPC, NSO, MoID, Academic and research institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs, Media	2023-2029
	Enhance capacity for collection, analysis, and utilization of population data	MoFEA, NSO, NPC, MoH, Academic and research institutions, Development Partners	2023-2029

	Strengthen knowledge translation and communication mechanisms on population and development	MoFEA, NSO, NPC, MoH, Academic and research institutions, Development Partners	2023-2029
	Strengthen stakeholder capacity in the integration of population research findings into development planning at all levels.	MoFEA, NPC, MoH, MoLGUC, District Councils, NSO, Academic and research institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
Policy Priority Area 5: Financing			
Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that adequate resources for population and development programmes are mobilized			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To mobilize resources through government budgetary allocation, international cooperation, and public-private partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the population programmes and effective impacts on the population dynamics	Strengthen partnerships for population and development financing at national and sub-national levels	MoFEA, MoH, PPC, NPC, other MDAs, District Councils, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Increase and sustain resource base for population and development financing from the Public, Private Sector and Development Partners	MoFEA, MoH, PPC, NPC, other MDAs, District Councils, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
Policy statement: b) The Policy will ensure that available resources for population and development programmes are managed in a manner that ensures efficiency, equity, and accountability			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To mobilize resources through government budgetary allocation, international cooperation, and public-private partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the population programmes and effective impacts on the population dynamics	Strengthen population and development planning, budget, and financial management systems in a manner that maximises resource absorptive capacity and optimally utilizes resources for development programmes	MoFEA, OPC, NPC, MoH, NAO, MoLGUC, NLGFC, District Councils, other MDAs, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2022 – 2027
	Strengthen accountability	MoFEA, MoLGUC, OPC, NPC, NAO,	2022 – 2027

	mechanisms for population and development programmes at national and sub-national levels	NLGFC, MoH, District Councils, NGO Board, Other MDAs, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	
Policy Priority Area 6: Linkages and Coordination			
Policy statement: a) The Policy will ensure that multi-sectoral linkages and coordination of population and development programmes are strengthened at all levels			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To strengthen multi-sectoral coordination in the implementation of development programmes that take population into consideration	Strengthen government mechanisms for linkages and coordination of population and development programmes	OPC, MoFEA, NPC, MoH, MoYS, MoGCD&SW, MoLGUC, NYCOM, Parliament, MoJ, NGO Board, NSO, Academia, and Research Institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Strengthen institutional arrangements for coordination of population programmes	OPC, NPC, MoH, MoFEA, MoLGUC, MoJ, MoYS, MoGCDSW, MoID, MoLGUC, NYCOM, Parliament, NGO Board, Academia and Research Institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Strengthen performance management and monitoring and evaluation systems in the implementation of population programmes	MoH, MoYS, MoGCDSW, MoFEA, MoLGUC, MoID, MoLGUC, Parliament, MoJ, Academia and Research Institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2020-2030

Policy Statement: b) The Policy will ensure that integration of population issues in all sectors of the economy is strengthened			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To strengthen multi-sector coordination in the implementation of development programmes that take population into consideration	Ensure incorporation of population issues in various policies, programmes, and strategies	OPC, NPC, MoFEA, MoH, NLGFC, MoYS, MoGCDSW, MoLGUC, NYCOM, Parliament, MoJ, NSO, Academia and Research Institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Enhance population-based planning and integration of state and non-state institutions.	OPC, MoFEA, NPC, MoH, MoYS, NLGFC, MoGCDSW, MoLGUC, NYCOM, Parliament, MoJ, NSO, Academia and Research Institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
Policy Statement: c) The Policy will ensure that political will for and commitment to population and development agenda is enhanced			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To strengthen multi-sector planning and coordination in the implementation of development programmes that take population into consideration	Enhance knowledge and understanding of decision-makers at different levels on inter-linkages between population and development	MoFEA, NPC, OPC, Parliament, DHRMD, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Increase engagement with the legislature and executive arm of government on population and development related issues	MoFEA, NPC, OPC, MoH, MoYS, MoGCDSW, MoLGUC, NYCOM, Parliament, MoJ, NSO, Academia, and Research Institutions, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs	2023-2029
	Leverage support from political, traditional, and religious leaders at the sub-national level on population and development	MoFEA, MoL, MoH, NSO, OPC, MDAs, Development Partners, NGOs/CSOs	2023-2029

Annex 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 1: MANAGING POPULATION GROWTH						
OUTCOME: Reduced population growth						
Objectives	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
Reduce fertility and mortality to levels that sustain slow population growth	Increased knowledge on family planning.	Percentage of women/men (15-49) who have heard of female sterilization	Women 88% Men 85%	95%	Survey i.e. MDHS, HIS	There will be mass campaigns country-wide Risks: Cultural and religious barriers
		Percentage of women/men (15-49) who have heard of male sterilization	Women 65% Men 68%	80%	Survey i.e. MDHS, HIS	There will be mass campaigns country-wide Risks: Cultural and religious barriers
		Percentage of women/men (15-49) who have heard of IUD	Women 84% Men 75%	95%	Survey i.e. MDHS, HIS	There will be mass campaigns country-wide Risks: Cultural and religious barriers
		Percentage of women/men (15-49) who have heard of implants	Women 92% Men 82%	95%	Survey i.e. MDHS, HIS	There will be mass campaigns country-wide Risks: Cultural and religious barriers
		Percentage of women (15-49) and men (15-49) who have heard or saw FP messages on radio or TV or in a newspaper or magazine or mobile phone or internet or website or poster or clothing or in drama in the past few months.	Women 58% Men 83%	Women 80% Men 95%	Survey i.e. MDHS, IHS	There will be mass campaigns country-wide: Risks: Cultural and religious barriers
	Optimum models for providing quality	Number of models (nested provider, integrated outreach, PSS, YCBDA,	2	4	JAR report	New models for providing RH services for in and out of school youths will be identified, funded

	reproductive health services including modern family planning to both in and out of school youth identified and implemented.	YFHS) for providing quality RH/FP services to both in and out of school youth				and implemented
		Percentages of facilities providing YFHS services	73%	90%	DHIS2, JAR Report	More facilities get accredited to provide YFHS and are able to report on time in DHIS2
	Global and national Commitments and policies strengthened	Number of commitments and policies being periodically reviewed	4 (NPP, Malawi CIP, ICPD25, FP2030)	4- a minimum once every 4 years for each commitment.	Review Reports, JAR Report	Funding will be available, execution of policies
		Number of commitments and policies whose indicators are being tracked every year	4	4 commitments annually.	Tracking reports	Funding will be available, execution of policies
	Increased uptake of Modern contraceptive among adolescent (15-19 years)	Modern contraceptives prevalence rate among all women	49% All women	60% All women	MDHS, MICS, Track 20/30	Ability to address barriers to contraceptive use i.e. culture, finances, religion, policies implemented, Act enforcement for age for access to SRH services
			15% All women 15-19.	25% All Women 1-19		
	Unmet need for family planning reduced	Modern contraceptives prevalence rate among married women	62% All women	65%	MDHS, MICS, Track 20/30	Ability to address barriers to contraceptive use i.e. culture, finances, religion, policies implemented, Act enforcement for age for access to SRH services
		Unmet need for contraceptives among:-				
		• Married women	19%	10%		
		• Sexually Active Unmarried Women 15-19	52%	30%		
		• Sexually Active Unmarried Women 20-24	37%	20%	LMIS Report, SDP Survey	Availability of data
		Proportion of facilities reporting no stock out or below 5% of FP	Facilities 15% District 10%	5% 5%		

		commodities	National 10%	5%		
		Proportion of all FP services delivery points providing full method mix post-partum from 0 to 12 months.	16%	50%	DHIS2, SDP Survey	Availability of data
		Percentage of teenagers who have begun childbearing	29%	15	MDHS, MICS	Availability of data
		Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 women)	136	120	MDHS, MICS	Availability of data
	Reduced child marriages	Percentage of girls dropping out of school	4%	0%	EMIS	Availability of data
		Percentage of women and men married before the age of 18	Women 46%	Women 30%	MDHS, MICS	Availability of data
			Men 8%	Men 4%		
		Percentage of women and men aged 15-19 currently in union	Women 24%	Women 10%	MDHS, MICS	Availability of data
			Men 3%	Men 1%		
		Increased retention of girls in school	Primary completion rate for girls and boys.	Boys 54%	80%	EMIS
	Girls 51%					
	Transition Rate from Primary to Secondary		Boys 37%	70%	EMIS	Availability of data
			Girls 40%			
	Proportion of girls readmitted after dropping out school due to pregnancy		N/A	50%	EMIS	Availability of data
	Proportion of needy girls on bursary	N/A	50%	EMIS	Availability of data	

Objectives	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
Reduce fertility and mortality to levels that sustain slow population growth	Child mortality reduced	Neonatal Mortality Rate	27 deaths per 1,000 live births	15 deaths per 1,000 live births	MDHS, MICS	Improved nutrition during the special 1000 days; Improved health seeking behavior among pregnant and women with children under 5; Improved quality of care
		Infant Mortality Rate	42 deaths per 1,000 live births	25 deaths per 1,000 live births	MDHS, MICS	
		Child Mortality Rate	23 deaths per 1,000 live births	15 deaths per 1,000 live births	MDHS, MICS	
		Percentage of children 12–23 months who receive age-appropriate vaccination.	48%	70%	MDHS, MICS	
		Percentage of children 12–23 months who receive all basic vaccination.	70%	100%	MDHS, MICS	
		Percentage of live births delivered in a health facility	91%	100%	MDHS, MICS	Improved nutrition during the special 1000 days; Improved health seeking behavior among pregnant and women with children under 5;
		Maternal Mortality Ratio	439 deaths per 100,000 live births	110 deaths per 100,000 live births	MDHS, MICS	Improved quality of care
		Percentage of women receiving antenatal care from a skilled provider	95%	100%	MDHS, MICS	Improved quality of care
		Percentage of live births delivered by a skilled provider	90%	100%	MDHS, MICS	Improved health seeking behavior among pregnant and women with children under 5; Improved quality of care
		Proportion of facilities with	37%	30%	LMIS, MDHS	Improved supply chain

		MNH supplies stock outs below 5%		reduction		management
		Percentage of facilities with functional QIST teams	N/A	100%	National Quality improvements reports	QIST team are available
		Percentage of service providers trained in quality improvement initiatives	N/A	90%	National Quality improvements reports	Funds available for training providers
	Accountability in delivery of MNCH services enhanced	Percentage of facilities utilizing scorecards for service quality improvement	N/A	90%	RMNCH dashboard DHIS2	Facility personnel oriented on usage of scorecards
		Percentage of maternal deaths, perinatal deaths and near misses audited	37%	100%	DHIS2, MDSR report	MDSR teams constituted and functional. Tools for conducting MDSR available (eg. MatSurv)
	Maternal and Child nutrition improved for the special 1000 days	Prevalence of stunting among under 5 children	37%	30%	MDHS, Micro nutrient survey	Food diversity including availability of nutritious foods improved
		Proportion of women of reproductive age who are thin or overweight	Thin 7% Overweight 21%	Thin 4% Overweight 15%	MDHS, MICS	Food diversity including availability of nutritious foods improved
		Percentage of children born in the past two years who started breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth	76%	100%	MDHS, MICS	Improved awareness on the importance of breastfeeding
		Percentage of infants under 6 months exclusively breastfed	61%	75%	MDHS, MICS	Improved awareness on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 2: INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS						
OUTCOMES: Improved inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programmes						
Objectives	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
Enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming	Increased awareness on the needs of older persons	Percentage of older persons supported	N/A	50%	Reports, Surveys	Funding availability
	Capacity of the young and mid-aged population to prepare for old age strengthened	Proportion of youths with long-term saving plans	N/A	20	Reports, Survey	Conducive environment for saving/ Availability of disposable income
	Social support services for the older persons increased	Percentage of older persons on social support services	N/A	50%	Reports, Surveys	Funding availability
	Community-based support networks for older persons improved	Percentage of functional community-based support networks	N/A	70%		Funding availability.
						Community ownership and support
	Awareness on the needs of women and young people for socio-economic and political empowerment through various channels including technological platforms raised.	Number of people reached with awareness messages on social and economic needs of orphaned and other vulnerable children through various channels including technological platforms	N/A	5,000,000	Reports	Funding availability
	Delivery of targeted social and economic services for persons with disabilities including those with albinism improved	Number of persons with disabilities including those with albinism accessing social and economic services	N/A	1,600,000	Reports	Funding availability
	Representation of women, and youth in	Percentage of decision-making positions held by women	Parliament TBD	50%	Reports	Database

	decision making positions improved		Cabinet TBD Parastatal boards TBD			
	Percentage of decision-making positions held by youth		Parliament TBD; Cabinet TBD Parastatal boards TBD	30%h	Reports	Database
	HIV and AIDS integration in population and development activities improved	Number population and development interventions integrating HIV/AIDs	N/A	50	Reports	Adequate funding
	Integration of ECD in population and development programmes improved	Number population and development interventions integrating ECD	N/A	50	Reports	Resource availability
	Integration of NCDs in population and development programmes improved	Number population and development interventions integrating NCDs	N/A	50	Reports	Resource availability
	Access to NCD services increased	Proportion of general population accessing NCD services	N/A	30%	DHIS2, Reports	NCD national policy implemented
	Access to Integrated Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in crisis strengthen	Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) MISP in place	20%	65%	MISP Report	MISP Package implemented

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 3: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE						
OUTCOME: Strengthened multi-sectoral linkages and coordination of population and development programmes						
Objectives	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
Promote development programmes that enhance conversation and sustainable utilization of environmental and socio-economic resources at national and local levels	Long-term means for sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources and the environment are promoted	Number of people reached with awareness messages on sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources and the environment	N/A	5,000,000	Reports	Different players including media institutions will have awareness programmes
		Ideal family size	3.7 children (both Men and women)	3.0 children (both Men and women)	MDHS, MICS	Awareness messages incorporating small size norms are understood by the masses
		Number of interventions integrating climate change adaptation and resilience, SRHR, and population and development	N/A	50	Progress Reports	Availability of resources
	Supportive policies and programmes focusing on adaptation and resilience to climate	Number of people reached with awareness messages on the needs of vulnerable groups in climate change	N/A	5,000,000	Reports	Availability of resources

	change particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, adolescent girls and ultra-poor households promoted.	adaptation and resilience				
		Number of policies and programs dealing with climate change adaptation and resilience engaging with vulnerable populations	N/A	10	Reports	Availability of programmes on climate change adaptation and resilience
		Number of population interventions enhancing adaptive capacity of communities to climate change	N/A	50	Reports	Availability of resources
	Policies and programmes related to urbanization are promoted	Number of planners reached with awareness messages on the need to build well planned, sustainable and resilient urban centers	N/A	50	Reports	Availability of resources
		Number of policies and programmes addressing challenges emanating from unplanned urbanization promoted	N/A	10	Reports	Availability of resources

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 4: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT						
OUTCOME: Improved population information management systems						
Objectives	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
Strengthen population information management systems	Collaborative collection, processing and dissemination of population data promoted	Number of instances where collaborative collection, processing and dissemination of population data is noted	N/A	30	Minutes of meetings, reports	Availability of resources. Opportunities for collaboration exists
	Platform for utilization of existing data developed	Number of instances that show utilization of existing data	N/A	30	Reports	Stakeholders have capacity to utilize existing data management platforms
	Access to up-to-date and reliable geo-referenced population data promoted	Number of people accessing up-to-date geo-referenced population data via approved platforms	N/A	5,000	Platform database reports	Stakeholders have capacity to utilize existing data management platforms
	Civil registration and vital statistics systems (CRVS) strengthened	Number of strategic plans on CRVS developed	0	1	Strategic Plan	Availability of resources
		Percentage of births registered in CRVS system	N/A	90%	Study and general reports	People are knowledgeable on the importance of registering births
		Percentage of deaths registered in CRVS system	N/A	80%	Study and general reports	People are knowledgeable on the importance of registering deaths
	Partnerships with academia and research organizations to generate evidence on	Number of documented instances where academia and research organizations partner to	N/A	15	Partnership agreements and research reports	Opportunities for collaboration exists

	population and development enhanced	generate evidence on population and development				
	National Population research agenda reviewed	Number of documents presenting a reviewed national population research agenda	0	1	Reviewed research agenda	Availability of resources. Population research capacity needs assessment conducted
	Research findings on population and development disseminated annually	Number of population and development dissemination activities conducted annually	N/A	1 per year	Dissemination reports	Availability of resources
	Capacity for collection, analysis and utilization of population data developed	Number of people trained in population data collection, analysis, and utilization	N/A	200	Reports	Availability of resources
		Percentage of instances where major surveys have all the necessary tools for digital collection, storage and analysis of population data	N/A	100%	Reports	Availability of resources
	Peer –reviewed population and development journal developed	Number of peer-reviewed population and development journal published	0	5	Copies of publications	Editorial and management team in place

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 5: FINANCING						
OUTCOME: Improved financing and utilization of resources for population and development programmes						
Objectives	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
Improve financing for sustained population and development programmes	Population and development planning, budgeting and financial management systems strengthened	Budget line on population and development programme established	0	1	National and sub national budget documents	Population and development issues are prioritized
		Number of budgeting guidelines/for local councils incorporating population and development	0	1	Guideline document	Population and development issues are prioritized
		Number of annual work plans on population and development developed	0	1 per year	Work Plan	Population and development issues prioritized
		Number of population and developed resource tracking tools developed	1	3	Reports	Established coordinated effort across all sector
	Resources for population and development programmes increased and sustained	Number of cooperation agreements with external partners	0	18	Signed Cooperation agreements	Willingness of partners to support population and development agenda
		Percentage of resources ring-fenced for population and development	0	70%	National and sub national budget documents	Availability of resources
		Number of review and accountability meetings	0	1	Meeting minutes/reports	Established coordinated effort across all sector
		Annual percentage increase of allocation to population budget	0	20%	National and sub national budget documents	Availability of resources
	Innovative financial mechanisms with private sector developed	Number of established PPP arrangements	0	16	PPP agreement	Population issues prioritized by private sector

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 6: LINKAGES AND COORDINATION						
OUTCOME: Strengthened multi-sectoral linkages and coordination of population and development programmemes						
Objectives	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
Strengthen multi-sectoral linkages and coordination in the implementation of development programmes that take population into consideration	Government agency responsible for population coordination programs established	Government agency housing population issues established	0	1	Memo from SPC/Act of Parliament	Population and development issues prioritized
	Multisectoral linkages and coordination of population and development programmes strengthened at all levels	Number of Government mechanisms for linkages and coordination of population and development strengthened	1	3	Minutes/Work plans	Population and development issues prioritized
		Number of posts for population and development officers and managers created within the civil service	0	30	Minutes/Memo from civil service commission	Population and development issues prioritized
		Number of M&E systems on population and development developed and functional	1	2	Reports	Population and development issues prioritized
	Integration of population issues in all sectors of the economy strengthened	Number of guidelines on integration of population in other sectors developed and disseminated	0	1	Guidelines	Population and development issues prioritized
		Number of MDAs integrating population issues in their Policies, Programs and Plans	1	20	Sectoral Policies, Programmes and Plans	Population and development issues prioritized
		Number of state and non-state institutions implementing population-based plans and integration.	N/A	20	Work plans	Population and development issues prioritized

	Political will for and commitment to population and development agenda is enhanced	Number of decision-makers oriented on the inter-linkages between population and development	N/A	200	Orientation reports	Training manual on interlinkages of population and development developed; Availability of resources
		Number of engagement meetings on population and development with legislature and executive arm of government	N/A	4 per year	Engagement meeting reports	Availability of resources
		Number of religious and traditional leaders engaged in population and development interventions	N/A	500	Reports	Availability of resources

Annex 3: Costing Summary

National Population Policy	Annual Costs (MK)					Total Cost (MK)
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Priority Area 1: Managing Population Growth	19,673,301,620	20,080,638,981	20,541,508,410	21,134,730,944	21,503,530,799	102,933,710,754
Objective 1: To reduce population growth rate						
Strategies/interventions						
1.1. Increase Knowledge and awareness on population and development championing the small size family norm and use of contraception	124,870,000	84,111,400	86,117,594	88,202,104	90,368,626	473,669,724
1.2. Identify optimum models for providing quality RH services including modern family planning to both in and out of school youth to reduce teenage pregnancies.	97,252,760	62,355,415	63,602,524	82,684,574	66,172,065	372,067,338
1.3. Track implementation of Malawi's ICPD25 and FP2030 commitments, MW2063, Malawi Implementation Plan 1 (MIP-1) and Costed Implementation Plan for family planning programmes.	12,770,000	6,512,700	13,027,954	6,775,813	13,296,329	52,382,796
1.4. Reduce unmet need for family planning, information, and services among sexually active unmarried adolescents (15-19 years)	6,346,234,000	6,654,574,080	6,978,151,732	7,317,725,245	7,674,090,752	34,970,775,808
1.5. Eliminate child marriages	110,800,000	-	-	30,940,000	-	141,740,000
1.6. Keep girls in school for at least twelve years	95,555,000	15,198,000	15,501,960	94,771,999	16,128,239	237,155,198
Sub total	6,787,481,760	6,822,751,595	7,156,401,763	7,621,099,735	7,860,056,012	36,247,790,865
Objective 2: To reduce child and mortality levels						
Strategies/interventions						
1.7. Promote skilled care attendance before, during and after birth	12,808,119,860	13,203,147,786	13,329,451,227	13,457,043,442	13,585,937,835	66,383,700,150
1.8. Promote child and maternal nutrition for the special 1,000 days	77,700,000	54,739,600	55,655,420	56,587,767	57,536,953	302,219,739
Sub total	12,885,819,860	13,257,887,386	13,385,106,647	13,513,631,209	13,643,474,787	66,685,919,889

Priority Area 2: Inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized populations	852,585,000	1,154,966,050	1,925,177,861	796,940,359	522,703,718	5,252,372,988
Objective 2.1: To enhance inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups in population and development programming						
Strategies/interventions						
2.1. Raise awareness on the needs of older persons	57,030,000	42,147,300	57,868,773	42,994,461	58,724,405	258,764,939
2.2. Engaging young and mid-aged population to prepare for old age life	42,040,000	42,460,400	42,885,004	43,313,854	43,746,993	214,446,251
2.3. Design programs and services that respond to population aging	50,525,000	51,030,250	51,540,553	52,055,958	52,576,518	257,728,278
2.4. Formulate community-based support networks for older persons	0	0	1,396,050,000	0	0	1,396,050,000
2.5. Raise awareness of the needs of orphaned and other vulnerable children for social and economic inclusion	22,750,000	-	-	22,750,000	-	45,500,000
2.6. Prioritize the needs of orphaned and other vulnerable children in population-related programs in all sectors	-	-	-	86,770,000	-	86,770,000
2.7. Raise awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities and with albinism for social and economic inclusion	32,750,000	-	-	32,750,000	-	65,500,000
2.8. Include and Prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities and with albinism in population-related programs in all sectors	158,640,000	16,100,000	16,422,000	16,750,440	-	207,912,440
2.9. Raise awareness of the needs of women and young people for socioeconomic empowerment	167,440,000	169,114,400	170,805,544	172,513,599	174,238,735	854,112,279
2.10. Support the implementation of 50-50 campaign	70,080,000	98,940,800	71,488,608	72,203,494	72,925,529	385,638,431
2.11. Promote meaningful women and youth engagement, participation, and leadership in all aspects of socioeconomic development	135,540,000	0	0	135,540,000	0	271,080,000
2.12. Mainstream HIV and AIDS components in Population and development activities	56,080,000	56,640,800	57,207,208	57,779,280	58,357,073	286,064,361
2.13. Integrate NCDs response in population and development programmes	59,710,000	60,307,100	60,910,171	61,519,273	62,134,465	304,581,009
2.14 Promote healthy lifestyles		618,225,000	-	-	-	618,225,000
Sub total	852,585,000	1,154,966,050	1,925,177,861	796,940,359	522,703,718	5,252,372,988

Priority Area 3: Climate change adaptation and Resilience	1,397,775,000	1,397,775,000	1,397,775,000	1,397,775,000	1,397,775,000	6,988,875,000
Objective 3.1: To enhance the capacity of communities to be resilient and adapt to climate variability and changes						
Strategies/interventions						
3.1. Provide long-term means for sustainable adaptation and resilience in the face of climate variability and change.	750,325,000	750,325,000	750,325,000	750,325,000	750,325,000	3,751,625,000
3.2. Promote supportive policies and programs focusing on adaptation and resilience to climate change particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, adolescent girls, and ultra-poor households	647,450,000	647,450,000	647,450,000	647,450,000	647,450,000	3,237,250,000
Sub total	1,397,775,000	1,397,775,000	1,397,775,000	1,397,775,000	1,397,775,000	6,988,875,000

Priority Area 4: Data Collection and Utilization	1,856,543,800	553,340,550	578,681,748	634,385,908	279,852,585	3,902,804,590
Objective 4.1: Improving evidence-based programming						
Strategies/interventions						
4.1. Promote collaborative collection, processing, and dissemination of population data	235,671,800	-	-	-	-	235,671,800
4.2. Increase effective utilization of existing data	136,068,000	82,233,900	86,289,975	93,830,434	98,521,955	496,944,264
4.3. Promote access to up-to-date and reliable geo-referenced population data	171,348,000	28,003,500	29,403,675	30,873,859	32,417,552	292,046,585
4.4. Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems	341,856,000	267,894,900	209,234,300	162,874,400	-	981,859,600
4.5. Partner with academia, research, and like-minded organisation to generate evidence on population and development	96,670,000	101,503,500	106,337,000	125,671,000	-	430,181,500
4.6. Promote demand-driven research in population and development	96,670,000	-	-	-	-	96,670,000
4.7. Regularly review the national population research agenda	48,510,000	-	-	-	-	48,510,000
4.8. Undertake annual dissemination of research findings	72,975,000	-	-	-	-	72,975,000
4.9. Enhance capacity for collection, analysis, and						

utilization of population data	364,875,000	73,704,750	147,416,798	75,186,215	148,913,078	810,095,841
4.10. Develop a peer-reviewed Population and Development journal	72,975,000	-	-	72,975,000	-	145,950,000
4.11. Undertake periodic capacity needs assessment on population research	72,975,000	-	-	72,975,000	-	145,950,000
4.12. Strengthen knowledge translation and communication mechanisms on population and development	109,462,500	-	-	-	-	109,462,500
4.13. Strengthen knowledge translation and communication mechanisms on population and development	36,487,500	-	-	-	-	36,487,500
Sub total	1,856,543,800	553,340,550	578,681,748	634,385,908	279,852,585	3,902,804,590

Priority Area 5: Linkages and Coordination	718,842,500	712,784,625	748,423,856	785,845,049	875,137,302	3,841,033,332
Objective 5.1: To strengthen multi-sector coordination in the implementation of development programmes that take population into consideration						
Strategies/interventions						
5.1. Increase engagement with legislature and executive arm of government on population and development related issues	56,627,500	59,458,875	62,431,819	65,553,410	68,831,080	312,902,684
5.2. Leverage support from political, traditional, and religious leaders at sub-national level on population and development	201,922,500	212,018,625	222,619,556	233,750,534	245,438,061	1,115,749,276
5.3. Promote mainstreaming of population and development issues in all sectors	28,727,500	30,163,875	31,672,069	33,255,672	34,918,456	158,737,572
5.4. Position population and development as a corporate social responsibility	22,050,000	23,152,500	24,310,125	25,525,631	26,801,913	121,840,169
5.5. Enhance population education, research, and training	167,640,000	176,022,000	184,823,100	194,064,255	203,767,468	926,316,823
5.6. Establish a government agency responsible for population coordination programs	90,420,000	94,941,000	99,688,050	104,672,453	109,906,075	499,627,578
5.7. Align partner programmes to the present policy	5,805,000	6,095,250	6,400,013	6,720,013	7,056,014	32,076,289
5.8. Strengthen performance management and M&E systems in implementation of population programs	76,715,000	38,550,750	40,478,288	42,502,202	94,627,312	292,873,551
5.9. Strengthen multi-sectoral participation in the						

technical working group on population and development	45,715,000	48,000,750	50,400,788	52,920,827	55,566,868	252,604,233
5.10. Promote collaboration among stakeholders to enhance joint programming	23,220,000	24,381,000	25,600,050	26,880,053	28,224,055	128,305,158
Sub total	718,842,500	712,784,625	748,423,856	785,845,049	875,137,302	3,841,033,332

Priority Area 6: Resource Mobilization and financing	187,619,500	40,883,750	38,463,918	47,978,768	41,922,104	356,868,039
Objective 6.1 Mobilize resources through government budgetary allocation, international cooperation and public/private partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the population programmes and effective impacts on the population dynamics						
Strategies/interventions						
6.1. Strengthen population and development planning, budget and financial management systems in a manner that maximize resource absorptive capacity and optimally utilize resources for development programmes	149,079,500	10,242,000	20,323,600	29,691,805	22,382,845	231,719,750
6.2. Consolidate, diversify, and expand population and development resource partnerships	15,030,000	7,890,750	8,285,288	8,699,552	9,134,529	49,040,119
6.3. Intensify mobilization of resources for population and development programmes at both national and local levels	8,840,000	8,571,000	9,334,830	9,056,807	9,863,513	45,666,150
6.4. Increase funding for adequate human and capital resources at national and sub-national levels	14,170,000	13,670,000	-	-	-	27,840,000
6.5. Develop innovative financial mechanisms to mobilize private sector funding to support population and development and programmes	500,000	510,000	520,200	530,604	541,216	2,602,020
Sub total	187,619,500	40,883,750	38,463,918	47,978,768	41,922,104	356,868,039
Grand Total	24,686,667,420	23,940,388,956	25,230,030,792	24,797,656,028	24,620,921,507	123,275,664,703

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