

# In the warm heart of Africa

## German development cooperation in Malawi

### German-Malawian cooperation - A longstanding relationship spanning more than 50 years

The relationship between Malawi and Germany looks back at a long history: Malawi has been a partner country for German development cooperation since its independence in 1964. Germany's aim in Malawi is to contribute to poverty reduction as well as inclusive and sustainable growth.

Germany provides assistance through bilateral, regional and multilateral governmental development cooperation, as well as in cooperation with non-governmental organisations, churches and the private sector. Since 2012, Germany has been supporting the Malawian Government in implementing its vision for development through the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II). The current priority sectors for bilateral financial and technical cooperation are:

- Education;
- Health and Social Protection;
- Private Sector Development in Rural Areas;
- Crosscutting: Public Financial and Economic Management.

### Education

With a large, young population growing rapidly and a low per capita gross domestic product (GDP), Malawi is facing challenges in delivering good-quality primary education. The situation in Malawi's primary classrooms is characterised by a high pupil-to-teacher ratio as well as high dropout and repetition rates. Compared to their fellow students in the southern African region, Malawian childrens' learning performance is low in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Motivated and well-educated teachers are key to enabling children to learn effectively and to making school attractive for pupils.

Therefore, German cooperation in the education sector particularly focuses on:

- Improving teacher training for primary school teachers;
- Improving teacher management;
- Rehabilitating teacher training colleges;
- Increasing the relevance of the primary curriculum;
- Supporting home-grown school feeding programmes.

### Private sector development in rural areas

Successful, inclusive private sector development is essential to Malawi's development. The Government of Malawi is implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) in order to broaden its export base and to improve its productivity and value addition. The overall aim is to increase the national income and stabilise it for the benefit of all Malawians. In 2014, Malawi and Germany agreed on a new joint programme to create employment and generate income in rural areas. The programme will:

- Contribute to product diversification and value chain development, e.g. in the oil seeds and cassava sectors;
- Support cooperative development and contract farming activities with lead enterprises;
- Develop the tourism sector, especially through training activities;
- Support the development of the construction industry, e.g. through environmentally friendly brick production.

### Health and social protection

Malawi faces substantial challenges in providing its growing population with quality basic health care. The aim of German cooperation in the health sector is to improve universal access to good-quality essential health services, especially in the field of sexual and reproductive health, including the fight against



#### Small grant projects

Each year, the German Embassy provides small grants of approx. 5,000 to 7,000 euros to finance micro-projects of income-generating and poverty-reducing measures. These comparatively small amounts often considerably improve the quality of life in the recipient communities. Recipients of the funding are local communities or NGOs, who are responsible for the implementation and sustainability of the project. Examples include irrigation schemes, basic rehabilitation of health clinics and schools, as well as the initial financing of income-generating projects.

### German non-governmental development cooperation in Malawi

In addition to governmental cooperation, a large number of development programmes are run by German non-governmental organisations (NGOs), churches, political foundations and private initiatives. The German Government welcomes the support of these organisations as an important complementary element to governmental cooperation and provides them with financial support. The German NGOs with local offices in Malawi are Deutsche Welthungerhilfe and CBM e.V. For an overview of German NGOs and faith-based organisations active in Malawi please consult the German Embassy's website: [www.lilongwe.diplo.de](http://www.lilongwe.diplo.de)

*Staff members of the German NRO Welthungerhilfe assist community members during a borehole rehabilitation in Chigwenembe, Dedza District.*



HIV/AIDS. Germany collaborates closely with governmental and non-governmental providers of health services, such as churches and private companies to:

- Strengthen human resources and quality management in hospitals and health centres throughout Malawi;
- Support the education and training of health care professionals;
- Improve access to modern family planning methods;
- Improve the infrastructure of health facilities.

According to the Integrated Household Survey of 2010, 24.5% of Malawians are 'ultra-poor' and therefore cannot afford even the basic minimum daily food requirement. Therefore Germany supports Malawi in implementing the National Social Support Policy (NSSP), by:

- Strengthening coordination of NSSP programmes;
- Providing social cash transfers to 10% of ultra-poor and labour-constrained households in selected districts in Malawi.

## Public financial and economic management

Germany supports the Malawian Government across sectors in the implementation of reforms in the area of public financial and economic management (PFEM). Through technical and financial cooperation, the German Government:

- Supports budget planning and forecasting;
- Strengthens budget implementation;
- Encourages demand for accountability from civil society;
- Supports increased domestic revenue mobilisation;
- Strengthens oversight and control of the budget by supporting internal and external audit of public finances.

## Regional cooperation

The German Government also assists Malawi within the framework of regional development cooperation programmes. One example is the 'Cotton made in Africa' programme which aims to improve the income of cotton farmers in eight African countries, including Malawi. In addition to this, Germany cooperates with pan-African and regional African organisations, networks and private sector stakeholders. One particularly important partner of Germany's regional cooperation is the Southern African Development Community (SADC). One example of this partnership is Germany's support in establishing the Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area. This project addresses the fact that wildlife conservation and the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking require cross-border cooperation

### The German development cooperation institutions

#### Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Responsible for the policies, planning, and funding of German development cooperation. After negotiations with the Malawian Government, BMZ commissions its two implementing agencies, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and KfW Development Bank (KfW), to implement the bilateral development programmes.

#### Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Lilongwe

Responsible for the political dialogue with the Malawian Government and other development partners. Coordinates German support to Malawi.

#### Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Germany's implementing agency for technical cooperation. As a federal enterprise GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. The services delivered by GIZ draw on a wealth of regional and technical expertise and tried and tested management know-how. GIZ operates throughout Germany and in more than 130 countries worldwide.

#### KfW Development Bank (KfW)

One of the world's leading and most experienced promotional banks. As an integral part of the KfW group, KfW Development Bank carries out Germany's financial cooperation with developing and emerging countries on behalf of the Federal Government. The 600 staff at its head office in Germany and about 200 specialists in almost 70 local offices cooperate with partners all over the world.

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