

Kick-off Internal Reflection Session

JOFA-ACTE MALAWI

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**What has worked in
your context to
address child
labour through
mechanisms of
social protection/
case management?**

*Kindly list your
insights using bullet
points*



1. Child protection case management system, has helped to identify vulnerable children in and at risk of child labour who were assessed at the individual and household levels, and referred to relevant social services
2. Save the Children uses a CONNECT model of case management which promotes an integrated community-led case management system to systematically link vulnerable children to various types of social services while also empowering the communities and families to be able to identify protection risks and be able to address the root causes in a systematic way while linking up with child protection workers.
3. Provision of economic alternatives to households at risk and those with child labour cases-Linking vulnerable households to micro credit/ loan facilities and bringing vulnerable households together in village savings and loan groups, empowerment through targeted IGA for households with child labour cases
4. Skills development for out of school children aged 14-17 years
5. Social protection programs by government usually supported by partners



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- No specific laws that govern social protection programs save for Constitution of the Republic of Malawi and the Child Care, Protection and Justice Act No. 22 of 2010.
- Policies exist such as Malawi Social Support Policy (MSSP) and Malawi National Social Support Program (MNSSP II) set the building blocks of the country's strategy in the field of social protection. Others are National Social Welfare Policy, Malawi Social Cash Transfer Programme Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027.
- Specific guidelines for each specific social protection program exist. However, households with child labour cases do not directly fall under any of the criteria directly.



Social Protection programs

- **Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP):** Targets predominantly labour-constrained ultra-poor households.
- **Public Works Programs (PWP):** provide regular payments to individuals in exchange for work, especially in public construction projects, with the objective of decreasing chronic or shock induced poverty and providing social protection
- **Affordable Inputs Program (AIP) formerly Farm Input Subsidy Program (FISP):** The FISP targets resource poor farmers in rural Malawi with special attention to vulnerable groups. Selection of beneficiaries is based on the yearly updated Farm Family Register, which is issued to District Agricultural Offices who together with community leaders, select the beneficiaries
- **School Meals Programs:** Districts and schools are targeted based on indicators of food insecurity, poverty, gender disparities in schooling, education outcomes, and malnutrition to ensure that the most vulnerable children receive daily school feeding
- There are also disaster responsive cash transfers i.e. the COVID-19 Urban Cash Initiative (CUCI) to mitigate the adverse impacts of the pandemic on livelihoods and basic consumption for poor populations in the urban cities.



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What gaps exist and what solutions could you propose to strengthen the social protection mechanism (specifically in case management) within our project/intervention sites?

Kindly list your insights using bullet points



- a. Fragmented Child Labour data for decision making. Child Labour Monitoring system is yet to be developed and get to life hence data for child labour is fragmented, sitting with various implementers rather than the Ministry of Labour. Secondly data from the community is channelled through two different Ministries providing room for double reporting.
- b. The systems linkages have not been fully harnessed: While Ministry of Labour tackles issues of Child labour the mandate to carry out case management for child labour cases fall under the Ministry of Gender, Social welfare and Community development. This calls for coordination between the two Ministries
- c. Social protection is often donor-driven and donor-financed and consists primarily of programs implemented on an ad-hoc basis. As a result, there are currently few entitlements to social protection in Malawi. Further, under the current system it is difficult for the Government to oversee the sector as it relies on reports from implementers.
- d. Government needs to review the national social support policy to expand coverage, inclusiveness, quality and adequacy of the social protection system in Malawi.





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- a. There is also a need to explore how to effectively extend coverage of social insurance schemes to the informal economy as well as an overall improvement in the accountability and transparency of social protection programs especially those being independently implemented.
- b. Cash transfer amounts are substantively small vis-à-vis the country's economic landscape and possible hyper-inflation. Currently, households receive between MWK 7,000- 18,000 (US \$ 4-\$11) against a 33% Inflation rate as of June 2024. This makes graduation of participants difficult as amounts are limiting for progressive development
- c. Current social programs are deemed as tackling immediate relief rather than building resilience for families
- d. Selection of beneficiaries while using Universal Beneficiary Register (UBR) vs categorical targeting; currently targeting of child labour and child headed households in the Government social protection is quite limited



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What gaps exist and what solutions could you propose to strengthen the social protection mechanism (specifically in case management) within our project/intervention sites?

Kindly list your insights using bullet points

- a. Social protection services can be delivered to beneficiaries through Government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations however proper systems and guidelines should be put in place to the beneficiary identification process, implementation, monitoring and accountability and need to strengthen coordination among different players.
- b. Beneficiary registration is already being done electronically including enrolment in most social protection programs. However, service delivery could be both paper based and electronically. If the beneficiary has a mobile phone preference is electronic transfer. Vetting of beneficiaries through biometric methods should be introduced.

