

UNICEF Malawi Annual Report 2024

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UNICEF Malawi Annual Report 2024

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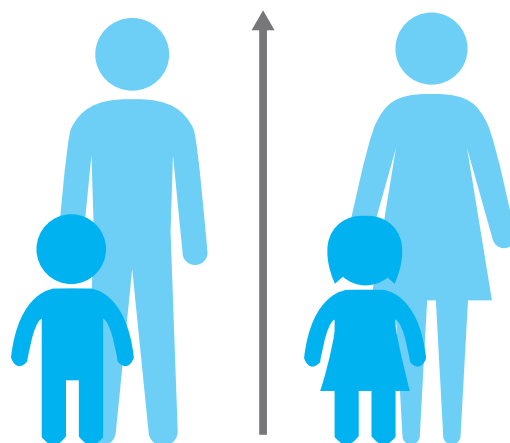
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Growing up in Malawi

During 2024, UNICEF and its partners continued working to ensure that all children in Malawi have full and equal access to their human rights. While progress was made in many key areas, significant challenges remain.



Situation of children in Malawi in 2024

Malawi recorded
2,292
perinatal deaths
in 2024¹

(source: District Health
Information System-2 [DHIS-2])

332
maternal deaths
occurred in health
facilities, and

91
maternal deaths
occurred in communities
(DHIS-2)

76% of children
under the age of 5 years
consumed fewer than five
of the eight food
groups recommended
for their daily diet
(Malawi Demographic and
Health Survey (M-DHS), 2024)

The prevalence of
wasting in children
increased to
4.4%,
double the prevalence in 2020³
(2024 nutrition SMART surveys)⁴

21%
more children were admitted for
the treatment of severe wasting
in November 2024, compared to
November 2023
(DHIS-2 Sectoral Report, 2024)

87% of 10-year-olds
in Malawi **cannot read**
or comprehend a simple text.
The high pupil-to-teacher ratio
in rural areas (120 pupils for
every one teacher) resulted in
overcrowded classrooms
and insufficient teaching
materials, negatively impacting
the quality of education
(Malawi Partnership Compact,
April 2024)

Stunting
affected
37.6% of all children
under the age of 5 years²
(M-DHS, 2024)

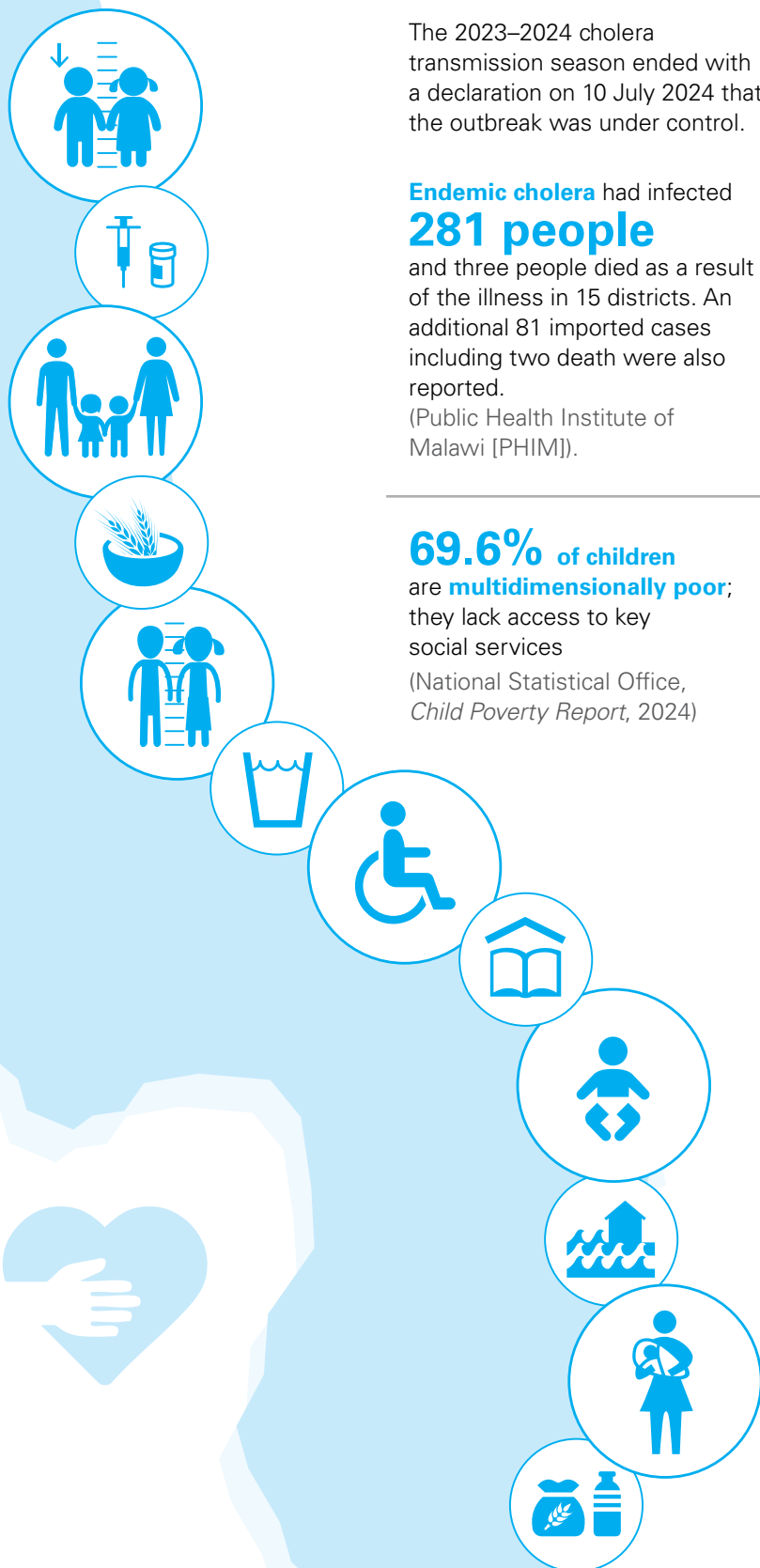
Over
140,000 children
in 19 districts reported
having experienced
**violence, exploitation,
abuse and/or neglect**
(Case management reports
and police data, 2024)

¹ Perinatal deaths include stillbirths and neonatal deaths within the first seven days of life.

² Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

³ Wasting in malnutrition refers to a child being too thin for their height, indicating a recent rapid weight loss or failure to gain weight. This is a form of acute malnutrition and is considered a life-threatening condition, significantly increasing the risk of death and illness.

⁴ SMART refers to Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (i.e., nutrition SMART surveys).



The 2023–2024 cholera transmission season ended with a declaration on 10 July 2024 that the outbreak was under control.

Endemic cholera had infected **281 people** and three people died as a result of the illness in 15 districts. An additional 81 imported cases including two death were also reported.
(Public Health Institute of Malawi [PHIM]).

69.6% of children are **multidimensionally poor**; they lack access to key social services
(National Statistical Office, *Child Poverty Report*, 2024)

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for secondary enrolment increased

from **0.92** in 2022–2023

to **0.99** in 2023–2024
(EMIS, 2024)

Over **5.7 million people** facing acute food insecurity required **humanitarian assistance**

(Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, May 2024–March 2025)

Primary school enrolment of children with disabilities increased

11% in the 2023–2024 academic year, compared to the 2022–2023 academic year
(Education Management Information System [EMIS], 2024)

Cyclones and floods affected **125,596 people** across eight districts, displacing around 11,000 people living in temporary shelters. The hardest-hit area is the Nkhotakota district, where 10,529 households have been displaced and sheltered in 12 camps

[Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), *Nkhotakota Flood Disaster Assessment Report*, March 2024)



Fourteen-year-old Lonest Maseko, a student at the Blantyre Girls' Primary School (standard 6), holds an HPV vaccine card after getting the jab on campus at her school during an HPV immunization and awareness-raising campaign in the Blantyre district, southern Malawi.

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Child survival and development

Childhood is a pivotal time during which children grow, learn, play and develop; the child's optimal development occurs within a safe and supportive environment. In Malawi in 2024, progress toward child survival and development was hindered by persistent poverty, environmental vulnerabilities and economic instability. Rising measles cases highlighted gaps in immunization coverage and disease surveillance. Disruptions in the supply chain for vaccines and essential medicines, driven by economic instability and global shortages, exacerbated challenges.

Yet the Government of Malawi's commitment to the safety and health of children remained strong. Efforts resulted in the approval of a new National Social Protection Policy, which includes nutrition-sensitive and shock-sensitive approaches as priority components.

UNICEF continued to prioritize the registration of all births, considering that every child has the right to birth registration and to a name, legal identity and nationality as is enshrined in international human rights law (several instruments, conventions and treaties) and in Malawi's constitution. Currently in Malawi, only 67 per cent of children under the age of 5 years are registered, and only 22 per cent of children under 5 have birth certificates. Malawi estimated 600,000 live births in 2024: Some 97 per cent (over 580,000) of these took place in health facilities, but only around 47 per cent (282,674) were registered in 2024.

The imposition of fees for late and delayed registration remains a barrier to universal registration, and the role of health workers in registering births is unclear. At the district level, mechanisms to coordinate civil registration and vital statistics showed promise in facilitating active collaboration between the civil registration authority and health and other government departments; such collaboration should be taken to scale. However, strengthening routine birth registration to guarantee a legal identity for every child in Malawi will require sizeable and sustainable investment in technical and financial support.

Efforts to improve maternal and child health services have contributed to a continuing decline in maternal mortality, neonatal mortality and under-five mortality rates recorded over the decade. Malawi made progress in addressing vaccine access issues, eliminating bottlenecks to vaccine availability, and reducing deprivations in early HIV diagnosis and treatment. Collaboration among partners on the triple elimination agenda (HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B) contributed to improved coverage of early infant diagnosis. However, funding constraints threaten the goal of ending HIV by 2030.

Results in 2024

Efforts to reach unimmunized children have had some success.

Only **18,802 children** with '**zero-dose**' status remain, a 56% reduction from 2023.

93% of HIV-exposed infants under 2 months of age received **virological tests** in 2024, an increase from 79% in 2023.

61% of women

completed four or more **antenatal care** visits at clinics, an increase from 51% in 2023.

Over **2.8 million children** under the age of five years (52% girls and 48% boys) were screened for **wasting**.



44,573 children

aged 6 to 59 months were treated for **severe wasting**; 41,313 were discharged, of which 38,204 recovered: a 93% recovery rate.

School-aged children

Every child has the right to learn, and education is a fundamental human right. In 2024, the Government of Malawi committed to ensuring school readiness for every young child in Malawi and launched a plan to incorporate pre-primary classes in all public primary schools by 2025. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and the Ministry of Higher Education through capacity-strengthening, planning and preparatory activities, including nationwide consultations and school mapping exercises, and through the development of a comprehensive pre-primary curriculum. UNICEF also supported an early childhood education costing and financing study to determine financial requirements.

Food insecurity, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient caregiver capacity and limited access to play materials remained significant barriers to children's attendance at Community-Based Childcare Centres (CBCCs). In response to these challenges, UNICEF worked with partners to link CBCCs with care groups for integrated household farming and livelihood initiatives, building community resilience. A comprehensive CBCC assessment was commissioned in December 2024 to identify systemic gaps and strengthen early childhood development services.

To ensure continuity in early learning, UNICEF supported coordination between the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare to facilitate the transition of children aged 3 to 5 years from non-formal to formal early learning settings.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education supported the development of the Malawi Partnership Compact (2023–2027) through a Global Partnership for

Education (GPE) system capacity grant. This initiative enhanced the quality of foundational teaching and learning for all girls and boys with a focus on improving inclusive school readiness and foundational learning, as well as strengthening education system capacity, governance and accountability.

To help address poor learning outcomes, UNICEF provided support to 895 schools across various initiatives, through the distribution of teaching and learning resources, e-learning devices, education kits, desks and other furniture for schools, and school bags for students; by facilitating school connectivity; and through assistance to disaster risk management services, WASH services and violence prevention initiatives.

The primary-to-lower secondary school transition rate improved, from 42.2 per cent in 2022–2023 to 49.7 per cent in 2023–2024, as did the Gender Parity Index for secondary education, from 0.92 to 0.99 in the same period, per EMIS. This success can be partly attributed to UNICEF's scholarship programme for disadvantaged girls.

The education sector budget remains the largest sectoral allocation. Yet, allocations have stalled in real terms and consistently decreased as a share of the total government budget, from 16.7 per cent in 2020–2021 to 14.8 per cent in 2024–2025, as allocations to debt servicing costs have surged from 15 per cent to 24.1 per cent.

To close remaining funding gaps and improve internal inefficiencies, UNICEF supported cost-benefit analyses, resource optimization and evidence-based advocacy for increased domestic funding and strengthened budget tracking.

Results in 2024

9,293 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 years – 3.4% of the girl student population (268,659) – received UNICEF-supported **government scholarships**. The scholarship beneficiaries were selected from 276 of 972 public secondary schools.



50% of teachers

accessed learning materials and remote training through UNICEF's investment in strengthening the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education's electronic **continuing professional development** (e-CPD) web platform.

4,165 teachers

(1,697 female) received training in support of **accommodating diverse learners** and screening children for disabilities, resulting in an 11% increase in primary school enrolment of children with special needs between the 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 academic years.

Social and behavioural change

UNICEF works to empower families by giving them more control over decisions that affect their lives, through community-based social and behavioural change (SBC) interventions. In 2024, such interventions in areas of girls' education, nutrition, hygiene promotion and immunization reached over 10 million people and contributed to an increased demand for measles and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine services, improved infant and young child feeding, and a greater uptake of cholera prevention practices. The girls' education interventions contributed to girls' enhanced participation in school and community activities and to child rights advocacy.

UNICEF supported the development of a community engagement toolkit for front-line workers promoting positive care practices; the toolkit is now ready for field testing. Social listening, conducted through community volunteers and online platforms, effectively monitors misinformation and gathers feedback on key issues.

Violence against children remained a pressing issue. High rates of violence and exploitation were reported across the country in 2024, and the social service workforce continues to be overstretched. Economic pressures have led to increased incidences of child labour, particularly in rural areas, where children are often engaged in agriculture or informal sectors.

In response, the Government of Malawi has pledged to lead and support a periodic survey on violence against children, which will provide new evidence on the magnitude of the issue and subsequently inform the development of the new National Child Protection Strategy for 2025–2028. The government announced its pledge in November 2024 at the Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children in Bogotá, Colombia.

Results in 2024

Over **10 million people** were reached through community-based **SBC interventions** in girls' education, nutrition, hygiene promotion and immunization.



148,664 cases of violence against children

were reported in 2024, up from 49,900 in 2023. The increase reflects consistent efforts by UNICEF to raise awareness of the impact of violence on children and women and of existing channels for reporting such violence.

1,491,199 people

(1,118,399 female) were trained in **preventing sexual exploitation and abuse**, protection against gender-based violence, and risk mitigation. The total includes more than 1,100,000 people trained through women's guide gatherings, 390,218 front-line and community workers, 97 UNICEF staff and 330 implementing partner staff.

Child-friendly, inclusive, resilient communities

UNICEF supports the Government of Malawi in creating communities in which all children can flourish in secure, healthy and sustainable environments, and in empowering communities to break the cycle of poverty.

In 2024, UNICEF moved from generating evidence on child poverty to actively leveraging that evidence in shaping national perspectives on child-inclusive programming that can holistically address children's multifaceted deprivations. This shift is cultivating a child-focused mindset among ministries, departments and agencies while helping to

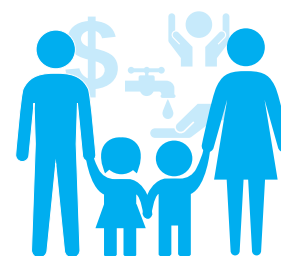
ensure the integration of child poverty more broadly into public finance management and decentralized policies and planning, including district development plans and district implementation plans.

UNICEF also successfully contributed to the design and launch of the National Decentralization Policy to assist local government authorities and actors in better understanding child rights issues and translating knowledge into practice towards effective programmatic outcomes for children.

Results in 2024

Ten districts adopted a more inclusive,

child-sensitive targeting approach to social protection, expanding gender-sensitive resilience activities to reach a further 25,840 people. This is up from two districts in 2023.



The **Social Cash Transfer Programme** (SCTP) reached

381,735 households

(1,717,807 people, including 738,657 children) in 2024, an increase from 303,800 households in 2023.

SCTP recipients had a

59% increase

in the value of their **cash transfer benefits**.

293,631 households,

comprising 637,830 people (including 293,631 children), received increased **cash transfer support** in response to economic and climate shocks.

The proportion of

total government spending on essential services

increased from

29.3% in the 2023–2024 fiscal year to **31%** in 2024–2025.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Safe water, sanitation and good hygiene save children's lives. In a sign of its commitment to improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), the Government of Malawi increased its spending on the sector, from 1.3 per cent of total government spending in 2023–2024 to 3.4 per cent in 2025–2026.

In 2024, UNICEF installed solar-powered reticulated water systems in rural healthcare facilities and schools. New climate-resilient, solar-powered systems provided communities with safe water; UNICEF trained water point committee members in maintaining the new systems. UNICEF supported WASH cluster coordination, which helped ensure effective action by government and non-governmental partners in emergencies.

Implementing climate-resilient solar water systems underscored the importance of integrating climate considerations into infrastructure design. A comprehensive WASH climate rationale was developed to identify vulnerabilities, assess risks and propose mitigation strategies. Recommendations are now integrated into all WASH interventions.

Finally, UNICEF enhanced the technical supervision and monitoring capabilities of district personnel by supporting the development of district WASH investment plans, and addressed groundwater risks through advanced data analysis.

Moving forward, innovative approaches such as 'pay-as-you-fetch' water systems and partnerships with insurance companies for maintenance are being explored to ensure cost-effective service delivery.

Results in 2024

48,000 people

(including 12,480 women and 23,520 children) gained access to climate-resilient, solar-powered systems able to provide safe water.



110,274 people

gained access to **basic sanitation** through the construction of new latrines, improvements and upgrades to existing facilities, and pit emptying services.

94,542 people

gained access to **handwashing facilities**.

Approximately

1.41 million people were reached with an emergency water supply through chlorine and water purification chemical distribution, borehole construction, and the installation of solar-powered systems. A total of 551,489 people benefited from emergency sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

Humanitarian action

The 2023–2024 El Niño crisis left over 5.7 million people in Malawi facing acute food insecurity and in need of humanitarian assistance. The adverse conditions widened existing nutrition gaps and disproportionately affected individuals with chronic illnesses such as HIV and tuberculosis, whose dietary needs were often unmet. The effects of El Niño underscored the urgent need to integrate climate resilience into Malawi's development agenda. UNICEF continued its key role in inter-agency emergency preparedness and response coordination; in 2024, it led efforts in the WASH, nutrition, child protection and education clusters, while also supporting risk communication and community engagement as part of the health cluster.

UNICEF strategic efforts bolstered preparedness through enhanced emergency systems and improved readiness among UNICEF staff for deployment in a crisis. The multi-year, transformative partnership with the Malawi Red Cross Society is strengthening the Society's ability to serve as a front-line emergency responder, equipping it with the tools, skills and structures needed to respond effectively to emergencies, deliver life-saving support on time, and improve its operations.

Humanitarian response effectiveness is hampered by suboptimal data reporting on cross-cutting issues such as disability, sexual exploitation, and abuse. Weak data collection mechanisms at the district level hinder real-time programme adjustments. UNICEF has invested in training district-level disaster management staff and is addressing inconsistencies in training content delivery and participant engagement. Plans for 2025 include streamlining activation procedures and enhancing reporting capacity to improve emergency response efficiency.

Emergency preparedness systems in Malawi require strengthening to better protect communities from the impact of crisis. Therefore, it has been essential to develop emergency plans at school, community and district levels; pre-position supplies; and train stakeholders in disaster risk reduction. UNICEF's initiatives in the Chikwawa, Mulanje, Nkhosha and Nsanje districts have produced emergency preparedness plans, but these efforts need to be brought to a national scale. Strengthening coordination and knowledge-sharing across districts can foster cohesive disaster management strategies and ensure equitable responses.

Results in 2024

2.5 million people

were reached with **integrated life-saving services**,

including 1.9 million children below the age of 5 years, 66,054

primary-school-aged children, 67,000 adolescents, 3,500 pregnant and

breastfeeding women and 80,000 caregivers of children aged 0–23 months.



30 women-led organizations were **supported by UNICEF** in their programmes and emergency response work, and 20 were supported in resource mobilization and partnership strengthening.

Malawi's **El Niño flash appeal** mobilized approximately
US\$24 million.

UNICEF mobilized
US\$10 million
in 2024 for **humanitarian action**.

Innovation

Innovation is critical to building a better world with children, for children. UNICEF has established a solid foundation for scaling up innovation and digital transformation initiatives through strategy development, evidence generation and capacity building. The country office adopted its first Innovation and Technology for Development (T4D) strategy with a governance framework, finalized an evaluation of the Youth-led Innovation Initiative (through the African Drone and Data Academy) for use in evidence-based programming, and supported government counterparts in system strengthening, through the development and implementation of national strategies and policies and capacity building of government officials to accelerate digital innovation.

A key milestone was the institutionalization and scale-up of unmanned aerial vehicles for health supply chain strengthening, now operating in nine hard-to-reach districts

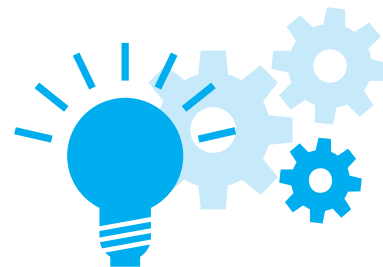
of southern Malawi. The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education accelerated its school digitalization initiative and sought innovative financing solutions for school connectivity.

The government and partners in collaboration with the UNICEF Adolescent Advisory Board launched a new youth-led innovation initiative focusing on climate education and green entrepreneurship. The initiative benefits marginalized children from six flood-prone districts.

Finally, UNICEF is supporting the government in developing a national innovation policy and strengthening system-wide approaches to innovation, with a priority focus on capacity building for government officials and the creation of child-focused strategies.

Results in 2024

UNICEF supported **11 innovation and digitalization initiatives**, which benefited over **385,011 children**.



18,400 students across 18 districts benefited from the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education's **school digitalization initiative**, which is supported by Airtel Malawi.

UNICEF opened the first African Drone and Data Academy in Lilongwe, Malawi, in January 2020. Since then, nearly 200 students have graduated with skills in making, testing and flying drones and analysing drone data.

There is untapped potential for the use of drones in Malawi, and the African Drone and Data Academy is providing young people with the skills needed to fill this gap.

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Gender

UNICEF supported five implementing partners in developing policies for the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and design of PSEA information, education and communication materials. UNICEF also developed a Gender Action Plan (2024–2028), established internal workflows for effective gender integration, and reviewed partnership agreements to ensure they align with the policies.

UNICEF contributed to efforts to generate evidence on gender-related barriers to access to health and nutrition services as part of a bottleneck analysis informing programming.

UNICEF significantly contributed to operationalizing approaches to programming for both the government and civil society organizations (CSOs). UNICEF and the Ministry of Gender jointly developed strategic gender policy

frameworks, including the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage, and conducted gender analyses in four targeted districts (Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mzimba North and Mzimba South). UNICEF also provided support to build Ministry staff capacity and create awareness around critical issues, such as gender-based violence (GBV).

UNICEF partnered with the Gender Coordination Network, a non-governmental organization, to increase awareness of GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse and to facilitate approaches in consideration of such issues in both general and emergency programming.

In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF contributed to the development of key strategic documents, including a gender scorecard and an inter-agency plan for PSEA.

Results in 2024

1,457 'gender champions'

were identified from 10 districts: Balaka, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Mwanza, Mzimba North, Mzimba South, Neno, Nsanje, Ntcheu and Zomba. These are community volunteers who will work to address discriminatory norms and drive change at the household and community levels.



30 women-led organizations

(WLOs) were supported in their programming and emergency response work.

20 WLOs

received support in resource mobilization and partnership strengthening.

Learners play at the Blantyre Girls' Primary School in Blantyre, southern Malawi, in November 2024.

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Research, evaluation, and knowledge management

Malawi's development agenda is driven by Malawi 2063, a phased vision for the future, beginning with the Malawi Implementation Plan for 2021–2030 (MIP-1). UNICEF played a crucial role in engaging children in this vision by supporting the Malawi 2063 comic books initiative as part of the government's broad dissemination of MIP-1.

UNICEF and other United Nations agencies in Malawi contributed to the 2024–2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the Common Budgetary Framework (CBF) and the 2024 Results Framework. UNICEF also ensured that these frameworks aligned with its new country programme in Malawi (2024–2028) and that United Nations efforts aligned with national efforts to achieve Malawi 2063, MIP-1, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

UNICEF contributed to strengthening national evaluation systems through capacity building of government monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officials and through its support for the launch of a new M&E policy and the development of a national evaluation plan. The national evaluations will examine how programmes have addressed the multiple deprivations facing children and help establish accountability.

In addition, UNICEF empowered young researchers from the Malawi University of Science and Technology to design evidence-based solutions to common challenges. The intervention enhanced the researchers' critical thinking and problem-solving skills, equipping them to address pressing issues.

Results in 2024

48 young researchers

from the Malawi University of Science and Technology designed and developed 14 innovative, research-based solutions addressing key issues such as WASH and menstrual health for girls.



UNICEF supported

capacity building of 28 government M&E officials.

Courses covered the basics of evaluation, M&E planning and implementation, evaluation oversight, and ethical standards.

Esmy Mathayo, aged 21 years, is one of the students benefiting from the Social Protection for Gender Empowerment and Resilience (SP-Gear) Project in Malawi.

"I had no hope that I would continue with my college journey after I was selected to Namitambo Technical College, but then SP-Gear gave me a scholarship of 200,000 Malawi kwacha every term. I found relief because this money helped me to buy food, clothes and school utensils and pay my rent. Now, I am here at Salima Technical College, after getting transferred from Namitambo, thanks to UNICEF support. My dream is to see myself continue my ICT programme to university after I am done here," she says.

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Advocacy

In 2024, UNICEF played a crucial role in establishing the National Children's Commission (NCC) and operationalizing its Secretariat. The NCC was established shortly after the Government of Malawi submitted its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF supported the NCC's structure, contributed to the development of its annual work plan, and raised awareness nationwide about the commission and its work.

UNICEF continued to advocate for increased and sustained government investment in adolescent health, as well as maternal and newborn health services. These efforts were driven through strategic, high-level engagements, including direct dialogue with the Minister of Health and active participation in key multi-stakeholder platforms convened by the Ministry.

Malawi's macro-fiscal challenges – including unsustainable debt, foreign exchange shortages and inflation – threatened social sector investments. Consequently, UNICEF advocated for protecting social sector spending and mobilizing resources. Strategic partnerships with the government and CSOs drove reforms and secured funding for inclusive social protection systems. Evaluations of programmes like the SCTP led to improved designs and expanded coverage.

UNICEF also contributed to early HIV diagnosis and treatment through advocacy for Malawi's triple elimination agenda, through capacity building for district PMTCT focal points, and by assisting efforts to strengthen PMTCT data management in high HIV burden districts.

UNICEF advocacy led to increases in social sector budgets in 2024.



Government spending increased,

from 2023 to 2024:

on **essential services**, from **29.3%** ➔ **31%**

on **health, including WASH**, from **10%** ➔ **12.6%**

on **social protection**, from **3%** ➔ **3.7%**

Government spending decreased:

on **education**, from **15.7%** ➔ **14.8%**

Education was the only social sector in which spending did not increase.

Anderson Chakwawa, a health worker, administers a vaccine to a child at an outreach clinic in the Yadaya Village, Nkhata Bay area, northern Malawi, in October 2024.

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Income and expenditure

In 2024, UNICEF Malawi allocated and utilized a total of about US\$59 million from various development partners to achieve the planned results for children in Malawi.

Fifty-nine per cent of the amounts allocated and utilized were funded through the Other Resources – Regular funding modality. The remainder was funded through emergency response (22 per cent), Regular Resources (19 per cent) and ‘others’ comprising institutional budget and management and administration (1 per cent) (Figure 1).

Most of the total of US\$59 million in funds utilized in 2024 – US\$32 million, or 54 per cent of the total utilized amount – went to achieve the Child Survival and Development outcome. The Learning, Skills Development and Protection outcome utilized US\$14 million (24 per cent). The Social Policy outcome utilized US\$5 million (8 per cent). The Programme Effectiveness outcome utilized US\$5 million (8 per cent), and the Operational Effectiveness outcome utilized US\$3 million (5 per cent) (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Utilization by Funding Type*

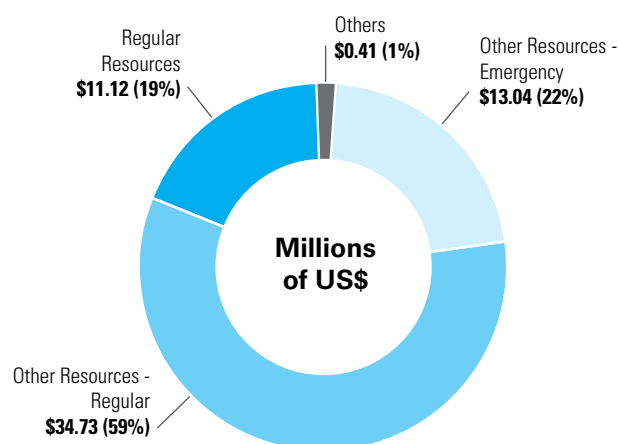
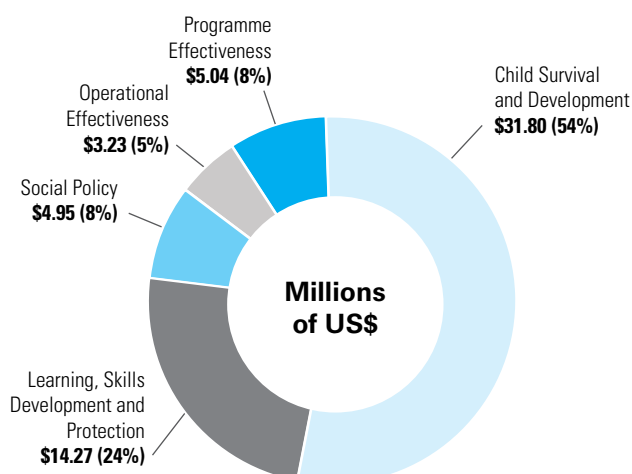


Figure 2: Utilization by Outcome*



* Percentages may not total 100 per cent because the numbers are rounded..

Twenty-one-year-old Leticia Dambo, an electrical engineering student at the SOS Vocational Training School in the Lilongwe district, central Malawi, practices wiring in the school corridor. The photo was taken during a media tour for the SP-Gear project, organized by UNICEF in October 2024.

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Partnerships

UNICEF's work in Malawi would not be possible without the reach and resources of the institutions, groups and individuals with whom we partner. These partnerships provide coordination, expert technical guidance, on-the-ground implementation, and human, material and financial resources. The following table highlights results from a sample of UNICEF's key partnerships in 2024. We are deeply grateful to each of our partners with whom we work side by side in common cause, to ensure that every child in Malawi grows and develops to their full potential.

Area of work	Partners	Nature of partnership	Results
Child survival and development			
HIV prevention services for adolescent girls and young women; enhanced virological testing for HIV-exposed infants	Ministry of Health Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) United States Agency for International Development (USAID) World Health Organization (WHO)	Financial support; technical support; coordination of interventions	Maternal, newborn and child health initiatives scaled up in 60 health facilities across six districts
Combating malnutrition; preventing and treating wasting	Government of Malawi	Leadership coordination; national resources/ financial support	Adapted and endorsed latest WHO guidelines on preventing and managing wasting; supported a robust nutrition workforce, including through the establishment of additional nutrition officer posts in all 28 districts (one senior nutrition officer and three nutrition officers added in each district)
	Academia, including Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Evidence gathering	Conducted the eighth round of nutrition SMART surveys
	United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) World Food Programme (WFP)	Financial and strategic support	Supported programming and reflected a unified approach to combating malnutrition
	CSOs, including the Farmers Union of Malawi and The Hunger Project	Implementing partners	Ensured strong programme implementation
School-aged children			
Improved learning outcomes and equitable access to inclusive education	Ministry of Education	Leadership and coordination	Commenced the review and development of key policies and strategies (National Education Policy, National Girls' Education Strategy, Transformative Communication Strategy for the Education Sector, and Giga School Connectivity Landscape Analysis) in support of digital learning. The work is targeted for completion by the end of 2025

Area of work	Partners	Nature of partnership	Results
School-aged children (continued)			
Improved learning outcomes and equitable access to inclusive education (continued)	Airtel Malawi (Connect-a-School programme)	Programme implementation	Nine new schools connected to the internet, benefiting 6,715 learners and 268 teachers, in 2024. Cumulative reach is 18 schools, 15,500 learners and 503 teachers since 2023
	The Partnership Compact on Foundational Learning	Financial support and coordination	Secured nearly US\$100 million in GPE funding; stakeholders aligned around a common agenda
Child-rights engagement			
Advancing child rights	National Children's Commission	Programme implementation	Reinforced institutional oversight for advancing child rights in Malawi
	Ministry of Gender Malawi Police Service Malawi judiciary (post-Cyclone Freddy and El Niño interventions)	Programme implementation	Expanded child protection services, especially for children affected by emergencies
	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance UNICEF Spain and UNICEF Sweden (National Committees for UNICEF)	Financial support	Reached 600,000 children and caregivers with mental health support, case management, and community policing services following Cyclone Freddy and amid El Niño impacts
	Ministry of Gender	Leadership and coordination	Enhanced SCTP
Social protection	European Union Government of Ireland	Financial support	Addressed humanitarian needs during the lean season, through the Social Protection for Gender Empowerment and Resilience (SP-GEAR) programme
	KfW (German Development Bank)	Financial support	Provided funding for SCTP evaluations
	GIZ (German Development Agency)	Financial support	Strengthened institutional capacity within the Ministry of Finance's Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Department
WASH			
Resilient WASH	FCDO, USAID and others	Financial support	Provided support for resilient WASH programmes
	Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)	Technical support	Enabled targeted responses to climate-related challenges, through climate risk analyses
	Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR) Oxfam Self-Help Africa	Programme implementation	Implemented emergency WASH interventions
	Government of Canada	Supply contributions	Supported emergency responses, reaching over 2 million people

Area of work	Partners	Nature of partnership	Results
WASH (continued)			
Resilient WASH (continued)	Private-sector entities	Technical and implementing partnerships	Increased access to safe water; improved faecal sludge management; enhanced overall programme efficiency and sustainability
Humanitarian action			
Emergency preparedness	Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) United Nations agencies, including OCHA, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WFP	Institutional strengthening and coordination	Enhanced capacity of the District Risk Management Committee for emergency preparedness and response; established United Nations interagency forum on disaster risk management and made this functional; enhanced capacity of MRCS as the first responder during cholera outbreaks
	Ministry of Health and CSOs	Technical support, coordination and programme implementation	Design of community engagement toolkits for health workers; enhanced immunization outreach in hard-to-reach areas
	John Snow, Inc (JSI) Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) WHO	Programme implementation	Supported risk communication and community engagement responses to cholera and measles outbreaks
	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and internet service providers	Technical support, coordination and programme implementation	Supported innovation and digitalization in emergencies by piloting a connectivity credit mechanism to expand school connectivity
	Rapid Drone Response Unit, developed with DoDMA and the Malawi University of Science and Technology	Programme implementation	Institutionalized disaster response mechanisms; integrated technology into emergency preparedness
Research, evaluation, and knowledge management			
Strengthened evidence generation	National Statistical Office National Planning Commission University of Malawi	Technical support, coordination and programme implementation	Implemented key surveys, including the Malawi Demographic Health Survey (M-DHS) and nutrition SMART surveys; made data available to inform child-centred policies
	Ministry of Finance	Leadership and coordination	Advanced child-sensitive budgeting and safeguarded social-sector investments, despite fiscal challenges. The dissemination of findings from a child poverty and vulnerability analysis highlighted areas for targeted intervention and helped reaffirm government ownership of these initiatives
Advocacy			
Advocacy and communication	Media houses Ministry of Gender	Advocacy, social mobilization, awareness raising	Amplified impact
	CSOs	Programme implementation	Utilized human-centred design approaches to address behavioural and social drivers in hard-to-reach communities



Bernard Daudi (in a green t-shirt) playing football with his friends at Alesi Mitambo's compound in Chabwera Village, Chiradzulu district, in May 2024. The boy, abandoned by his mother, now receives shelter and meals provided by Alesi Mitambo.

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Millions of children, women and vulnerable communities benefit from UNICEF-supported programmes every year. On behalf of them and the entire UNICEF Malawi Country Office, we thank our partners and donors for the critical role they played in achieving significant results and progress for children in Malawi in 2024.



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