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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services

MALAWI

Landscape Analysis

Working document

March 2016



USAID
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INGENAES

Integrating Gender and Nutrition
within Agricultural Extension Services



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Acronyms

ASWAp	Agriculture Sector-Wide Approach
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
DAES	Department of Agricultural Extension Services
EAS	Extension and Advisory Services
FBO	Farmer-based organization
GoM	Government of Malawi
INGENAES	Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services
MaFAAS	Malawi Forum for Agriculture Advisory Services
MaSSP	Malawi Strategy Support Program
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NNPSP	National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition (Movement)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Introduction

The INGENAES (Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services) project is funded through the Bureau for Food Security of USAID (the United States Agency for International Development) to support the Presidential Feed the Future initiative, which strives to increase agricultural productivity and the incomes of both men and women in rural areas who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.¹

This landscape analysis is an overview of key gender, nutrition and agricultural extension issues in Malawi. It contributes to the knowledge base of Feed the Future countries for both the INGENAES team and country extension and development practitioners. It begins with an overview of Malawian geography, culture, and poverty status. It then provides a description of the Malawian agricultural sector, the national agriculture strategy, and women's involvement in agriculture; food security and nutrition issues in the country; and the national nutrition strategy. In addition, the analysis provides details on the Feed the Future approach in Malawi and how USAID's country strategy supports Feed the Future activities. The final section of the report includes descriptions of various projects that are relevant to the INGENAES program.

INGENAES supports the development of improved extension and advisory systems (EAS) to reduce gender gaps in agricultural extension services, increase empowerment of women farmers, and improve gender and nutrition integration within extension services by directly or indirectly assisting multiple types of stakeholders within a country, such as farmers, producer groups, cooperatives, policy makers, technical specialists, development non-governmental organization (NGO) practitioners, and donors.

INGENAES efforts will strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders and provide the fora and networks for them to coordinate and reach agreement on policies and strategies to implement improved EAS that better meet the needs of men and women farmers. While INGENAES project will not directly monitor beneficiary impact, it will focus on changes in institutions that directly impact men and women who access agricultural information, training, technologies and nutrition information. Improved services empower women and engage men.

INGENAES will strengthen institutions by identifying their needs and strengthening their capacity to effectively integrate gender- and nutrition-sensitive information and activities into agricultural extension systems with the aim to promote gender equality, improved household nutrition, and increased women's incomes and, subsequently, household food security. Based on the identification of four main gaps in extension services in terms of gender and nutrition integration, INGENAES activities can be divided into the following action areas:

- Build more robust, gender-responsive, and nutrition-sensitive institutions, projects, and programs capable of assessing and responding to the needs of both men and women farmers through extension advisory services (EAS);
- Identify and scale proven mechanisms for delivering improved EAS to women farmers;

¹ The USAID cooperative agreement (Award No. AID-OAA-LA-14-0008) has been awarded to the prime implementer, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the lead organization of the consortium. The consortium also includes the University of California-Davis, the University of Florida, and Cultural Practice, LLC. The project is currently working in select Feed the Future countries.

- Disseminate technologies that improve women’s agricultural productivity and increase household nutrition; and,
- Apply effective, nutrition-sensitive extension approaches and tools for engaging both men and women.

Indicative activities of the INGENAES project include: learning exchanges, assessments, curricula development, training into action, mentoring relationships, internship experiences, and networks that focus on identifying gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive innovations that can be promoted by EAS organizations, and adopted by men and women farmers. Developing these outputs collaboratively with agricultural extension experts and other partners will transform extension-relevant institutions working directly with men and women farmers.

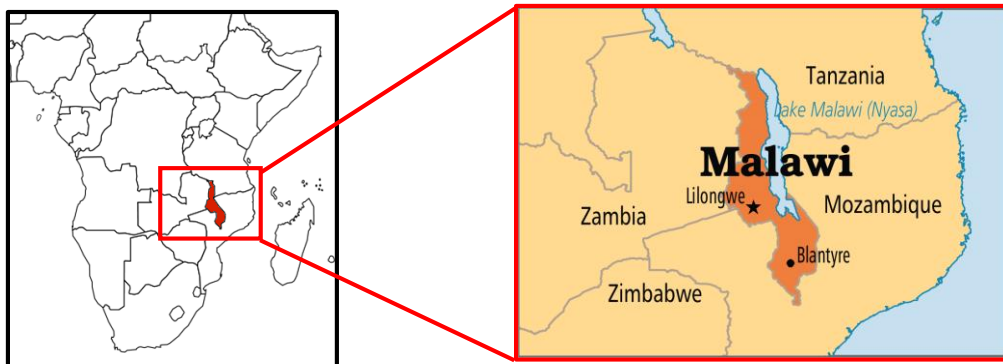
In each country, INGENAES needs to examine the relationships, identify the key change actors, build their capacity, and provide them the incentives to make changes (e.g., set new policies, employ new management practices, modify organizational structures, make changes in practice, and adopt innovations). The key actors will vary from country to country, although policy-makers, the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, NGOs and the private sector, and of course, women farmers, are likely to be involved in most countries. Key actors will be identified as part of the needs and scoping assessments. Thus, in preparation for country-level activities, the consortium gathers information and key contacts to develop a landscape study of the agricultural sector in that country: a simple description of the pluralistic extension system, nutrition-related initiatives, and gender issues. The landscape study is intended as a preparatory tool and handy reference document for work in country. Each landscape study will be updated periodically as INGENAES continues to engage in that country and identifies new key contacts, organizations, and initiatives.

Geography, Culture, and Poverty

Malawi is a small, landlocked country located in Southeast Africa (see map below; more maps are located in [Appendix A](#)). It gained independence from Britain in 1964; before then, it was known as Nyasaland. Area-wise, Malawi is slightly smaller than the US state of Pennsylvania (CIA, 2015). Its current population is around 17 million people (The World Bank, 2015). Lake Malawi accounts for about one-third of Malawi’s area.

English is the country’s official language, although Chewa (also called Chichewa) is also widely spoken (CIA, 2015). The largest ethnic groups are the Chewa people (33% of the population), Lomwe (18%), Yao (14%), Ngoni (12%), Tumbuka (9%), and Nyanja (6%) (CIA, 2015). Around 83 percent of the population identify as Christian, while 13 percent identify as Muslim, and less than 5 percent identify as “other” or “none” (CIA, 2015). The current president, Peter Mutharika, has been in power since May 2014, following the brief presidency of Africa’s second-ever female president, Joyce Banda (who was in office from 2012-2014). Malawi had a high HIV prevalence of 10.6 percent in 2010, though this was a decrease from an even higher rate of 16.2 percent in 1999 (GoM, 2012b).

Figure 1: Malawi



Source: Sources: www.operationworld.org

Table 1: Key poverty-related indicators

	Percent of population living under \$1.90/day (2010)	Percent of population living under \$3.10/day (2010)	GNI per capita In 2004	GNI per capita in 2014	Gini coefficient (2005)
Malawi	71%	88%	\$607	\$753	.46
Sub-Saharan Africa (developing countries only)	46%	70%	\$2,501	\$3,206	.44

Source: The World Bank (2015)

The first four figures in are measured in 2011 constant US dollars, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP). PPP adjusts the exchange rate so that an identical good has the same price when purchased in different countries. GNI (gross national income) consists of gross domestic product (GDP) plus income earned by foreign residents, minus income earned in the domestic economy by nonresidents. The Gini coefficient shows the level of income inequality. It is measured on a scale between 0 and 1, where 0 indicates perfect equality and 1 indicates perfect inequality; coefficients between .40 and .49 indicate moderate income inequality.

As seen in Table 1, levels of poverty in Malawi are extremely high. Nearly three-quarters of the population lives in extreme poverty (under \$1.10 per day)—almost twice the percentage of other developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Only 12 percent of the population lives on over \$3.10 per day. Income inequality (as measured by the Gini coefficient) is relatively high, though with a national average annual per capita income of under \$800, even those living on the higher end of the income spectrum may still have relatively low incomes. This poses clear challenges to many development goals, including agricultural development. Not surprisingly, Malawi ranked 173rd out of 188 countries in the UNDP's 2015 Human Development Index.

Gender Overview

Malawi had a female president—Joyce Banda—from 2012-2014. Banda assumed this position after serving as vice president under Bingu wa Mutharika (Malawi's third-ever president) who unexpectedly died after

eight years in office. In 2014, Banda was named the 40th most powerful woman in the world by Forbes magazine, and the most powerful woman in Africa (Forbes, 2015). Unfortunately, Banda’s presidency does not serve as an indicator of widespread women’s empowerment throughout Malawi. All of the information in this section, unless otherwise noted, comes from the African Gender and Development Index, which the Government of Malawi (along with those of 11 other African countries) piloted in 2012.

As seen in Table 2 (next page), women in Malawi have lower literacy levels than men. However, this may even out over the next few decades, since more girls than boys are enrolled in primary and secondary school (though overall, secondary school enrollment is still quite low). Women make up the clear majority of agricultural workers and food producers; further details on women’s involvement in the agricultural sector will be discussed in the next section of this report. Slightly more men than women own livestock, and men also earn more than women from small agricultural enterprises.

Only 22 percent of parliament members are women, falling short of Malawi’s goal of gender parity in parliament as promoted by the country’s “50:50 Campaign.” However, this percentage is comparable with the global rate of women in national parliaments (or comparable bodies), which is 23 percent (The World Bank, 2015); in addition, it is an increase from Malawi’s 2009 rate of 13 percent. Women remain underrepresented in other political bodies, including local and traditional organizations and NGOs.

Indicator		Women	Men
Education	Literacy	69%	79%
	Primary school enrollment	84%	82%
	Secondary school enrollment	15%	12%
Agriculture	Agricultural workers (out of total, nationwide)	70%	30%
	Food producers (out of total, nationwide)	80%	20%
	Livestock ownership (out of total, nationwide)	45%	55%
	Average earnings from small agricultural household enterprises	\$16,200	\$20,700
Political Representation (Number and percent of total)	Members of Parliament	43 (22%)	150 (78%)
	Cabinet ministers	9 (30%)	21 (70%)
	Members of local councils	76 (9%)	767 (91%)
	Traditional rulers	16 (6%)	249 (94%)
	Heads or managers of NGOs	106 (20%)	418 (80%)
Other	Living with HIV	13%	8%
	Access to credit	11%	14%

Source: Government of Malawi (2012a)

Although Malawi has a significant number of matrilineal societies, especially in the southern region, these societies may not necessarily be more beneficial for women than patrilineal societies. White (2007) posits that “In both matrilineal and patrilineal societies [in Malawi,] the position that women assume is inferior to the male members within the systems as decisions are mostly made by the men with women on the

receiving end” (p. 6). White also argues that in patrilineal societies, men feel more of an obligation to take care of their families, as opposed to matrilineal families where “men do not feel obliged to make any investments as they feel that they will not live in that village forever” (p. 6). While these assertions seem a bit one-sided—surely *some* men in matrilineal societies invest in their families and *some* women have decision-making powers—one should be careful not to blindly make the assumption that matrilineal societies are better for women.

Kilic, Palacios-Lopez, & Goldstein (2013) assert that poverty is especially widespread among female-headed households; these constitute approximately 28 percent of all households in Malawi (The World Bank, 2015). Female-headed households can be found in matrilineal and patrilineal societies alike—for example in situations where a woman’s husband has migrated to a different region or country or has passed away. Kilic et al. do not explain the reasons underlying this higher poverty rate, but it could be due to gendered differences in education levels, literacy rates, access to land, access to extension services, etc.

Agriculture Overview

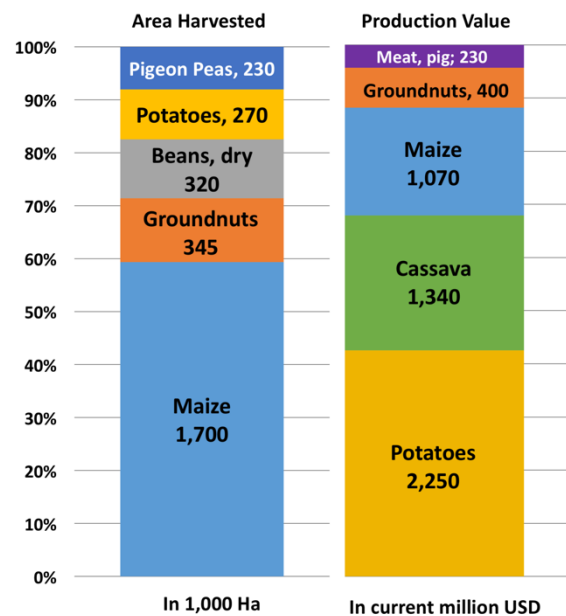
As in many other African countries, the agricultural sector is largely considered to be the backbone of Malawi’s economy. Agriculture accounts for about 38 percent of gross domestic product—a higher percentage than most other countries in the region—and 80 percent of Malawi’s population is employed in the agricultural sector (Feed the Future, 2015). Agricultural products constitute 76 percent of total national exports (Giertz, Caballero, Dileva, Galperin, & Johnson, 2015). The vast majority (84%) of agricultural production in Malawi comes from around two million smallholder households who cultivate using only one hectare of land (Conroy, Blackie, Whiteside, Malewezi, & Sachs, 2006).

As seen in Figure 1, maize is by far the most widely planted crop in Malawi, though its production value is lower than that of potatoes and cassava. Minot (2010) states that 97 percent of farmers in Malawi grow maize, and the crop accounts for 54 percent of small-farm land.

Some small-scale farmers grow maize almost exclusively, often leading to the depletion of soil nutrients (Verheijen, 2013). Verheijen notes that although agricultural research institutes have developed high-yielding varieties of maize, most smallholder farmers cannot afford the fertilizer needed to use these varieties; these varieties are also more prone to pests, and cannot be used for replanting the following season. Therefore, most smallholder farmers rely on local varieties.

Although it may seem logical to suggest crop diversification as a strategy for improving the agricultural sector, Chibwana and Fisher (2011) explain that Malawi’s ongoing Farm Input Subsidy Program (FISP) has resulted in the expansion of maize production at the expense of other crops, as it focuses overwhelmingly on fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides specifically for maize. While it is possible to pursue diversification strategies concurrently with FISP and other subsidy programs, this has so far not been done. Chibwana

Figure 1: Top five agricultural products in 2014.
(Data from FAOSTAT online database; graphs by author.)



and Fisher outline several ways in which diversification and subsidy programs could co-exist, although they admit that this would be difficult. The FISP program is supposed to target vulnerable groups such as female-headed households and poor households, but Chibwana and Fisher argue that these groups have faced significant barriers to participating in the FISP program.

Minot notes that cassava and sweet potatoes are also important crops, and since they are more drought-resistant than maize, they are especially important in low-rainfall years. One-third of smallholder farmers cultivate cash crops, including tobacco, cotton, paprika, and groundnuts (Verheijen, 2013). Unfortunately, these farmers are often unable to negotiate fair prices for these crops because their low-income status forces them to prioritize immediate compensation over higher earnings (Verheijen, 2013). Large-scale producers (also known as estates) contribute substantially to the production of tobacco, coffee, sugar cane, and tea (Conroy et al., 2006). Additionally, around 10 percent of the population is involved in the fishing industry (Conroy et al., 2006). See [Appendix B](#) for more information on crop production.

As seen in Figure 3, farmers in Malawi participate in three separate harvest periods each year. Households are most likely to experience food insecurity from November through March, just prior to the main harvest.

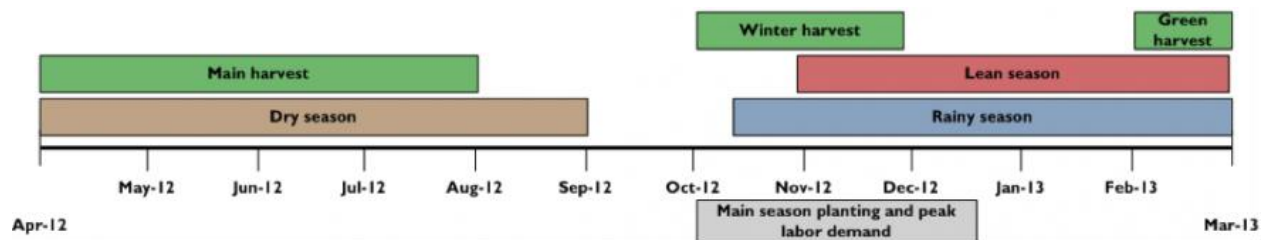


Figure 2: Malawi agricultural calendar (Source: www.fews.net)

Women in Agriculture

Twenty-six percent of agricultural plots in Malawi are managed by women, and women's plots tend to be smaller than male-managed plots (USAID, 2014a). For the most part, men and women grow similar crops, though they often cultivate different varieties and grow for different purposes. Gladwin (1992) explains that women in Malawi often produce local varieties of maize for subsistence, while men often produce tobacco and hybrid maize as cash crops. At the time of that publication, "women's" maize accounted for 90 percent of total maize production in Malawi. Gladwin explains that because women are largely left out of cash crop production, they are often unable to buy fertilizer for their maize: they must either ask male family members to buy fertilizer for them, or they must take some food away from their family to sell in order to buy fertilizer. This latter option is unfeasible in maize-deficit households (Gladwin, 1992). Feed the Future (2011) states that legumes (including groundnuts, soybeans, and cowpeas) are also all considered "women's crops."

"Women's" crops:

- Local maize varieties
- Legumes - groundnuts, soybeans, cowpeas
- Women generally produce subsistence crops
- Women manage 26% of plots

"Men's" crops:

- Hybrid maize varieties
- Tobacco
- Men generally produce cash/export crops
- Men manage 74% of plots

Kilic, Palacios-Lopez, & Goldstein (2013) found that female-managed plots in Malawi are 25 percent less productive than male-managed plots. The majority of this productivity gap was due to what they call the

“endowment effect,” which encompasses lower use of inorganic fertilizer, less time spent by male laborers on female-managed crops, lower production of high-value export crops, and restricted access to agricultural tools. Lower access to extension services is also likely an impediment to women’s agricultural production. In addition, Kilic et al. found that childcare duties limited the extent to which female plot managers were able to supervise male household members working on their plots, leading to less productivity as compared to male-managed plots. They also suggest that a knowledge gap is responsible for a less-efficient use of fertilizer by women. Lastly, the authors point out that male farmers have a higher level of area under export crop cultivation.

In order to close this gender gap in agriculture, Malawi’s Agriculture Sector-Wide Approach (2011) outlines several ways in which women farmers will be specifically targeted by government efforts (see [Appendix C](#) for more details):

- All interventions will target at least 50 percent women farmers
- Thirty percent of staff trained at various levels should be women
- Women and youth will be supported on agricultural and non-agricultural income-generating projects, including business organization and management
- Women’s involvement in commercial farming will be promoted
- Scale-up of services on gender, HIV, and AIDS to migrant workers and traders in rural farms, estates, and rural market centers
- Advocacy for gender and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming
- Mainstreaming in agricultural policy planning, implementation, monitoring, and budgeting processes
- Implementation of affirmative action to increase the number of women in policy and decision-making positions
- Promotion of appropriate agro-forestry, soil, and land conservation practices among women, youth, and people living with HIV

Gender and HIV/AIDS are often approached together in Malawi because of women’s higher vulnerability to HIV: 13 percent of Malawian women live with HIV, compared to 8 percent of men (NSO, 2011). Arrehag, De Vylder, Durevall, & Sjoblom (2006) state that the impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture is “particularly severe” because of the loss of labor and drain on income liquidity, especially during the times of the year when high amounts of agricultural expenditures are required.

Government of Malawi's Approach to Agriculture

Focus Area	Component
1. Food security and risk management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maize self-sufficiency through increased maize productivity and reduced post-harvest losses 2. Diversification of food production and dietary diversification for improved nutrition at household level with focus on crops, livestock, and fisheries 3. Risk management for food stability at national level
2. Commercial agriculture, agro-processing, and market development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural exports of different high-value commodities for increased revenue and income 2. Agro-processing mainly for value addition and import substitution 3. Market development for inputs and outputs through public/private sector partnerships
3. Sustainable agricultural land and water management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable agricultural land management 2. Sustainable agricultural water management and irrigation development
Key Support Services	
1. Technology generation and dissemination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Results- and market-oriented research on priority technology needs and provision of technical and regulatory services 2. <u>Efficient farmer-led extension and training services</u>
2. Institutional strengthening and capacity-building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen public management systems 2. Capacity-building of the public and private sectors
Cross-Cutting Issues	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation 2. <u>Gender equality and empowerment</u> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Mainstream gender</u> and HIV/AIDS

Source: GOM, 2011b. Emphasis by author.

The second iteration of Malawi's national Growth and Development Strategy, implemented from 2011-2016, identifies several main challenges to agricultural productivity in Malawi: over-dependence on rain-fed farming, low absorption of improved technologies, poor support infrastructure, inadequate markets, weak private sector participation, low level of irrigation development, and lack of investment in mechanization (GoM, 2011a). USAID (2014a) points out that frequent droughts and floods have exacerbated these farming challenges. To respond to these challenges, Malawi's 2011-2015 Agriculture Sector-Wide Approach (ASWAp) identifies several focus areas and components, as seen in Table 3. Of special note to the INGENAES initiative is that this brief summary of Malawi's approach emphasizes nutrition, extension services, and gender (as seen in the bold text; formatting by author). Further details on each of these components will be provided in later sections of this paper.

Nutrition & Food Security Overview

Gilbert, Sakala, & Benson (2002) state that maize accounts for over two-thirds of Malawians' caloric consumption—the highest rate in the world. The Malawian diet is based on a thick maize porridge known as *nsima*, which is usually accompanied by a side dish of seasonal vegetables or legumes such as pumpkin leaves, beans, or okra. Fish may occasionally also accompany *nsima*; meat is rarely eaten (Verheijen, 2013). Minot (2010) notes that cassava and sweet potatoes are also important staples, accounting for 7 and 8 percent of caloric intake, respectively. Minot also notes that cassava is considered a “poor man’s crop;” rice and wheat are preferred (though relatively rare) substitutes in high-income households.

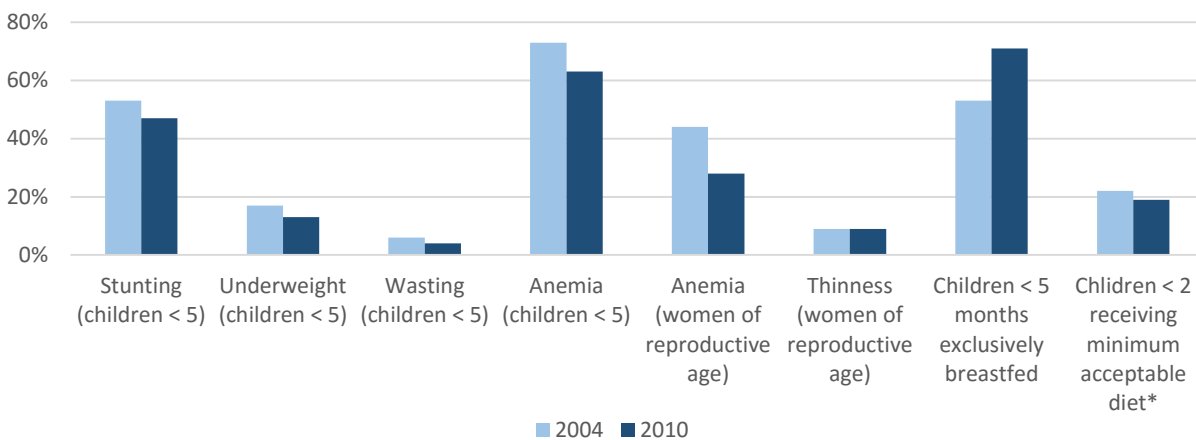


Figure 3: Key nutrition data. (Source: Original data from 2004 and 2010 DHS surveys, as depicted in USAID, 2014b.)
*This measure encompasses receiving adequate dietary diversity and meal frequency (for breastfed children) or adequate milk feedings, dietary diversity, and meal frequency (for non-breastfed children).

Verheijen links this “one-sided diet” to the severe malnutrition experienced among Malawi’s population: iron, zinc, vitamin A, and iodine deficiencies are all high (especially in rural areas), and the country has one of the highest rates of protein-energy undernutrition in the world. As seen in Figure 4, nearly half of Malawian children are stunted, indicating chronic undernutrition. USAID (2014b) names the following as causes of childhood undernutrition: suboptimal child feeding practices, inadequate diet, frequent incidence of disease among young children, and low socioeconomic status and poor nutritional condition of many mothers. Additionally, USAID states that up to 50 percent of acute malnutrition is associated with HIV.² USAID (2014b) states that—except in the highest income quintiles—there is a very low correlation between wealth and nutritional status in Malawi. However, considering the very low economic status of the vast majority of the Malawian population, this low correlation does not eliminate the possibility that undernutrition and poverty are indeed linked.

Malawi was the first country to launch the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. In 2011, they established a National Nutrition Committee, which is chaired by the Secretary for Nutrition, HIV, and AIDS and is housed in the Office of the President. As is the case in all countries that participate in the

² UNICEF (2015) explains the link between HIV/AIDS and childhood malnutrition: “Children living with HIV/AIDS are at great risk of malnutrition. HIV/AIDS stunts child growth and can reduce appetite, food intake, and nutrient absorption.” Additionally, “Antiretroviral drugs are most effective when children are well-nourished and have safe and sufficient access to food,” though “diarrhoea and nausea can be side effects of antiretroviral drugs, making eating a challenge.”

SUN movement, this committee is a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together national leaders, civil society, bilateral and multilateral organizations, donors, businesses, and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition (SUN, 2013). Malawi's multi-stakeholder platform supposed to be "replicated at the decentralized level" to include District Nutrition Coordination Committees (SUN, 2013), though it is unknown whether this has actually taken place.

One of the National Nutrition Committee's main duties is to implement Malawi's National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (NNPSP). (Note that the latest publicly available version of the NNPSP was published in 2009 and describes activities up to 2011; it is possible that the latest iteration is different.) The 2009 Plan focused on three strategic objectives:

- 1) Prevent and control the most common nutrition disorders among women, men, boys, and girls in Malawi by 2011 with emphasis on vulnerable groups
- 2) Increase access to timely and effective management of the most common nutrition disorders among women, men, boys, and girls in Malawi by 2011 with emphasis on vulnerable groups
- 3) Create an enabling environment for the effective implementation of nutrition services & programs

In addition, USAID (2014b) states that "Malawi is focusing on community-based action" with a 2012-2017 campaign known as the 1,000 Special Days National Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy, which aims to reduce child stunting among children under two years of age.

The NNPSP, together with the aforementioned ASWAp, coordinate Malawi's national- and community-level food security programming. USAID (2015) reports that these frameworks have contributed to Malawi's ability to reach its targets for budgetary allocations in the agricultural sector: in recent years, over 10 percent of the country's budget was committed to agriculture, and the annual average growth rate in the agricultural sector has exceeded six percent. Additionally, Malawi joined the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in June of 2013 in order to further support the commitment to improve nutrition and food security issues. This is hopeful news, though it will still be a tall challenge to tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity, which include: farmers' strong dependence on rain-fed crops, chronic droughts, diminishing profits from low crop yields, postharvest losses (including aflatoxin contamination), and lack of access to credit and extension services (Lauterbach & Matenje, 2013).

Overview of Extension and Advisory Services (EAS)

In the year 2000, Malawi launched a policy document titled "Agricultural Extension in the New Millennium: Towards Pluralistic and Demand-Driven Services in Malawi." This "legitimized" the participation of service providers other than the government, which previously had been the sole official source of EAS, though several NGOs had been providing extension services prior to this policy (Masangano & Mthinda, 2012). Currently, several private-sector organization and farmer organizations are also involved in extension service provision, though USAID (2014a) states that the Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) remains the largest provider of EAS in the country, and the only one with nationwide coverage. Masangano & Mthinda (2012) explain that Malawi's services are decentralized, which "increases the chances for farmers to participate both in the decision-making process and in accesses the services" (p.8). See [Appendix D](#) for a list of major extension service organizations in Malawi.

Gender Integration into EAS

USAID (2014a) states that 14 percent of female farmers and 18 percent of male farmers access extension services in Malawi. They additionally state that DAES counts on only 2,000 field staff, of whom 21 percent are women. However, Masangano & Mthinda (2012) state that there are roughly an equal number of women as men in senior management and graduate education levels, though this means that the gender imbalance in other of DAES is especially high. Encouragingly, DAES includes gender & HIV/AIDS specialists on its team of subject-matter specialists, though it is unclear how many of these specialists there are. The ASWAp (2011) points out that HIV has taken a toll on the staffing capacity of DAES: the Ministry of Agriculture lost over 2,000 staff members from 1990-2006 because of the virus.

Simpson, Franzel, Degrande, Kundhlande, & Tsafack (2015) found that in farmer-to-farmer extension programs, women represent 40 percent of the 12,000 lead farmers in Malawi who work with the national extension system. Masangano & Mthinda state that women's representation in civil society EAS organizations is low, with the highest representation in NASFAM, Care International, CADECOM Lilongwe, and Emmanuel International.

Though Malawi's ASWAp (2011) states that extension services will address gender, it provides little detail on how it will do so, other than to state that training will be provided "including gender, HIV/AIDS training to frontline staff for orientation, upgrading, and skills development" (p. 44). It also states that it will "[increase] the capacities of the research and extension systems to respond to farmers' technology needs of all gender categories, by generating and disseminating appropriate technologies for sustainable agricultural productivity increases" (p. 45). Masangano & Mthinda found that of the EAS organizations listed in [Appendix D](#), 24 percent spent 50 percent or more of their time with women farmers, while 32 percent spent less than 50 percent of their time with them, and 44 percent spent no time with women farmers. This is despite the fact that 91 percent of these organizations ranked women farmers as an "important" or "very important" client group (Masangano & Mthinda 2012, p.31).

A 2005 report by the African Development Fund describes a unit in Malawi's Agricultural Extension Services Department known as the Agriculture Gender Roles Extension Support Services Branch (AGRESS), which provides advice and support services for gender and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming. The report describes AGRESS as being "backed by a well-articulated gender strategy" which has allowed the Ministry of Agriculture to be "in the forefront in implementing gender and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming in the sector" (p. 10). However, the report also notes that the impact of AGRESS's initiatives has been modest due to inadequate funding, lack of technical capacity, and lack of follow-up activities.

Nutrition Integration into EAS

The ASWAp is more explicit in describing how it will address nutrition issues. Page 80 lists the following actions:

- Develop and promote information, education, and communication materials on consumption, processing, preparation, and utilization of enriched foods
- Train extension workers on prevention of micronutrient deficiencies
- Conduct multi-media campaigns on dietary diversification, consumption of vitamin A, and iron-rich foods
- Conduct consumer education on fortified foods
- Conduct staff and farmer training in food budgeting

- Train extension staff in processing, preservation, storage, and utilization
- Conduct joint staff and farmer training with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Local Government and promote coordinated approaches

DAES has food and nutrition experts on its team of subject-matter specialists to support this programming. Discouragingly, though, Masangano & Mthinda found that 83 percent of EAS providers in their survey did not provide nutrition-related services to rural women, and nearly half of the providers considered the provision of these services to be “not important” or “of little importance” (p. 31).

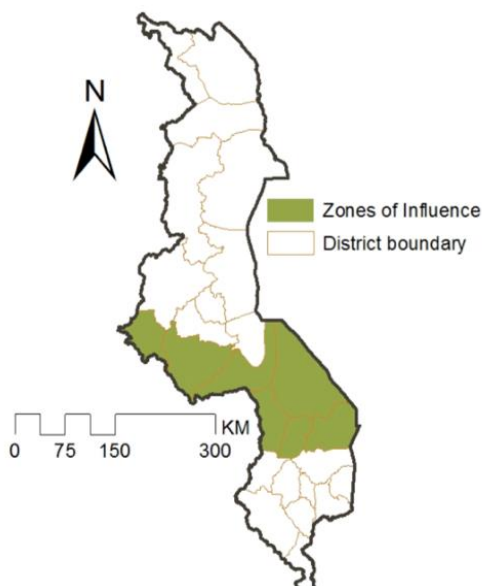
Feed the Future Multi-Year Strategy 2011-2015

The Feed the Future strategy aligns strongly with Malawi’s ASWAp and the NNPS; see [Appendix E](#) for further details on this alignment. In general, Feed the Future will focus its efforts in three areas:

- 1) **Promoting improved nutritional behaviors** (focusing on behavior change and capacity-building within health systems as well as increasing the availability of nutritious foods)
- 2) **Investing in high-potential value chains** to develop markets and improve nutritional options (with a focus on legumes [groundnuts and soy] and dairy because of their business potential and “nutrition and gender benefits;” orange-fleshed sweet potato will be a secondary focus)
- 3) **Engaging with the Government of Malawi to improve the policy environment** (especially around inputs, trade, institutional architecture, and nutrition).

As seen in Feed the Future’s Nutrition Strategy Results Framework in [Appendix E](#), the nutrition approach is underscored by efforts from a variety of development organizations. Feed the Future focuses on reducing chronic undernutrition through community-based approaches. The overall Feed the Future Results Framework can also be found in [Appendix E](#).

Figure 4: Geographic focus areas of Feed the Future
(Source: Feed the Future, 2015).



USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategy

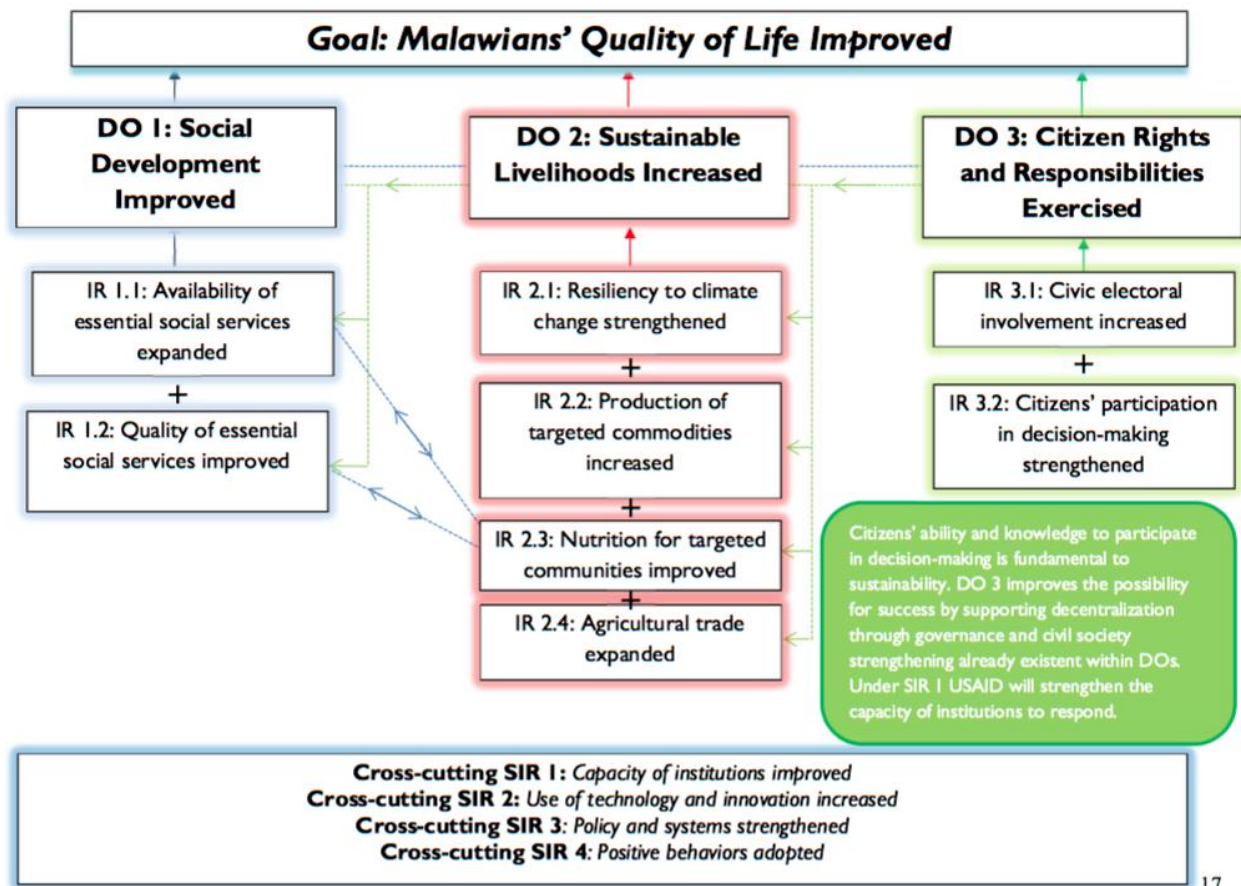


Figure 5: USAID CDCS Results Framework (Source: USAID, 2013). Note: DO = Development Objective, IR = Intermediate Result, SIR = Sub-Intermediate Result.

As seen in Figure 5, USAID's approach in Malawi emphasizes nutrition and agriculture in its "sustainable livelihoods" development objective (DO 2). The Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) report states that USAID has "fully embraced" the aforementioned SUN Movement and 1,000 Special Days National Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy.

Page 22 of the CDCS mentions a Feed the Future program ("Long-Term Training and Capacity Initiative") that will provide short-term trainings to increase the capacity of agricultural extension services; this will be complemented by efforts from the U.S.-India-Africa Trilateral Agreement. The CDCS notes that "female participation will be promoted for all such training." Page 32 explains that Feed the Future will also "energize" district stakeholder panels through which farmers can provide feedback on public EAS agents, so that EAS providers can "have a greater understanding of their service effectiveness" and modify their services accordingly.

USAID and Other Projects Relevant to INGENAES

For more-detailed information, see [Appendix F](#).

Project Name	Primary Implementing Organization(s)	Links	Goal
Integrating Nutrition into Value Chains (INVC)	Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://dai.com/our-work/projects/malawi---integrating-nutrition-value-chains https://www.usaid.gov/malawi/fact-sheets/usaid-malawi-integrating-nutrition-value-chains-fact-sheet-2012-13 	(USAID/Malawi's "flagship" Feed the Future Activity.) Increase competitiveness of high-potential value chains of groundnuts, soya and dairy while improving household nutrition.
Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Services Activity	University of Illinois, Catholic Relief Services, Michigan State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.meas-extension.org/home/associate-awards/sanesa 	Strengthen the capacity of the Government of Malawi's Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) to mobilize and work with service providers to deliver agricultural and nutrition extension and advisory services more effectively and in a coordinated manner in the Feed the Future Zone of Influence.
Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III (FANTA III)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.fantaproject.org/countries/malawi 	Improve the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals, families, and communities in developing countries by strengthening food security and nutrition policies, programs, and systems.
Malawi Agriculture Policy Strengthening (MAPS)	NSAs, the GoM, other development partners, and the ASWAp Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.fundsforngos.org/agriculture-2/malawi-agriculture-policy-strengthening-maps-program/ https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en/node/11609 	Increase the participation of private sector and civil society stakeholders in agriculture policy dialogue. Focus on elevating the voices of women in policy dialogue by targeting women-led civil-society/public service organizations for organizational capacity building and providing additional women-focused leadership training and gender equity sensitization to facilitate women taking on leadership roles within larger organizations.
Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program	Michigan State University	http://www.iita.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=bf967082-4268-49fb-a2ed-b9b94292360b&groupId=25357	Increase the number of agricultural scientists and strengthen scientific institutions in developing countries.

Project Name	Primary Implementing Organization(s)	Links	Goal
Drought-Tolerant Maize for Africa Seed Scaling	CIMMYT	http://www.cimmyt.org/en/work/africa/item/drought-tolerant-maize-for-africa-seed-scaling	The project aims to meet demand and improve access to good-quality maize through production and deployment of affordable and improved drought-tolerant, stress-resilient and high-yielding maize varieties for smallholder farmers.
Smallholder Irrigation and Value Addition Project (SIVAP)	Government of Malawi	http://www.afdb.org/en/projects-and-operations/project-portfolio/project/p-mw-aa0-026/	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable Land and Water Management Component 2. Diversification and Value Chain Development Component 3. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building.
Enhancing Community Resilience Program	New Alliance	http://new-alliance.org/resource/malawi-new-alliance-cooperation-framework https://www.devex.com/news/malawian-farmers-learn-new-ways-to-combat-climate-change-87395	Support farmers to implement conservation agriculture and other “climate-smart” agriculture techniques, take part in village and loan schemes, climate forecasting, seed banks, improving small-scale livestock, irrigation, and post-harvest management, and engage with low-carbon technologies.
Malawi Strategy Support Program (MaSSP)	IFPRI	http://massp.ifpri.info/about/	

Conclusion

Agricultural production in Malawi is challenging for many reasons:

- Nearly three-quarters of Malawi’s population **lives on under \$1.90 per day**. This limits the accessibility of inputs and technologies, as well as farmers’ ability to negotiate prices for cash/export crops.
- For many farmers, an **overdependence on maize** (fueled by government subsidies for maize production) has led to soil nutrient depletion.
- The **extension system is understaffed** and largely inaccessible—less than 20 percent of Malawian farmers (male and female) access extension services.
- 13 percent of women and 8 percent of men in Malawi are **living with HIV**; this limits physical productivity and income, and has also complicated the staffing capacity for extension services

Women farmers face the additional challenges of having smaller plots of land than men, less income (and thus less access to inputs and technologies), slightly less access to extension services, and additional household duties which limit the time and effort that they can dedicate to agricultural activities. Women’s lesser income is partially due to the cultural designation of subsistence crops as “women’s domain,” and cash/export crops as “men’s domain.”

Low incomes and low agricultural diversity have led to a “one-sided” maize-heavy diet, and thus severe malnutrition among many Malawians. Nearly half of children under five are stunted, indicating chronic undernutrition, and Malawi has one of the highest rates of protein-energy undernutrition in the world (exacerbated by widespread aflatoxin contamination of legume crops). HIV again worsens this situation: about half of all cases of acute malnutrition are associated with the virus.

Encouragingly, Malawi has put in place several measures to improve agricultural production, as well as gender and nutrition integration:

- The 2011 **Agriculture Sector-Wide Approach (ASWAp)** outlines several ways in which it will address women, nutrition, and extension services.
- The **National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (NNPSP)** is integrated with the ASWAp, and outlines the activities of the National Nutrition Committee, which was established as part of Malawi’s participation in the global **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement**.
- The **Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES)** is also developing its own nutrition strategy.
- A campaign known as the **1,000 Special Days National Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy** aims to reduce child stunting; this campaign runs from 2012-2017.
- Malawi is also a member of the **New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition**.
- Through national extension services are still widespread, Malawi has recently legitimized and encouraged **non-governmental EAS services**.

Feed the Future supports and builds upon these initiatives, largely through its flagship project, Integrating Nutrition into Value Chains (INVC). This project focuses on legume and dairy value chains, in which women are largely involved, and which would both promote improved nutrition.

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****Sources are bolded if they are particularly relevant to INGENAES****

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Appendix A: Maps

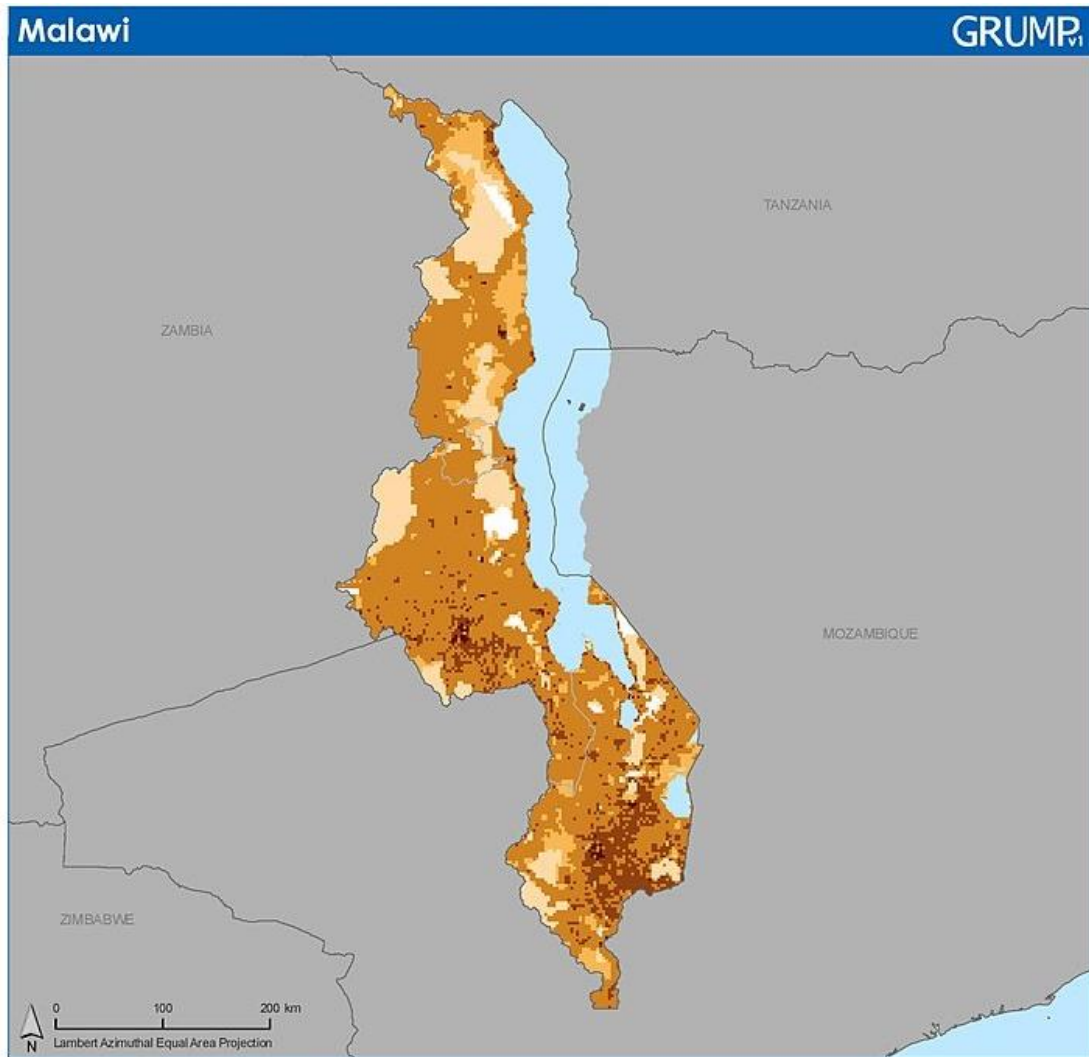
Political Map

Source: www.ephotopix.com

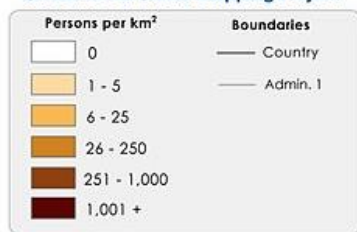


Population Density (2000)

(Source: www.sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu)



Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project



Population density measures the number of persons per square kilometer of land area. The data are gridded at a resolution of 30 arc-seconds.

Note: National boundaries are derived from the population grids and thus may appear coarse.



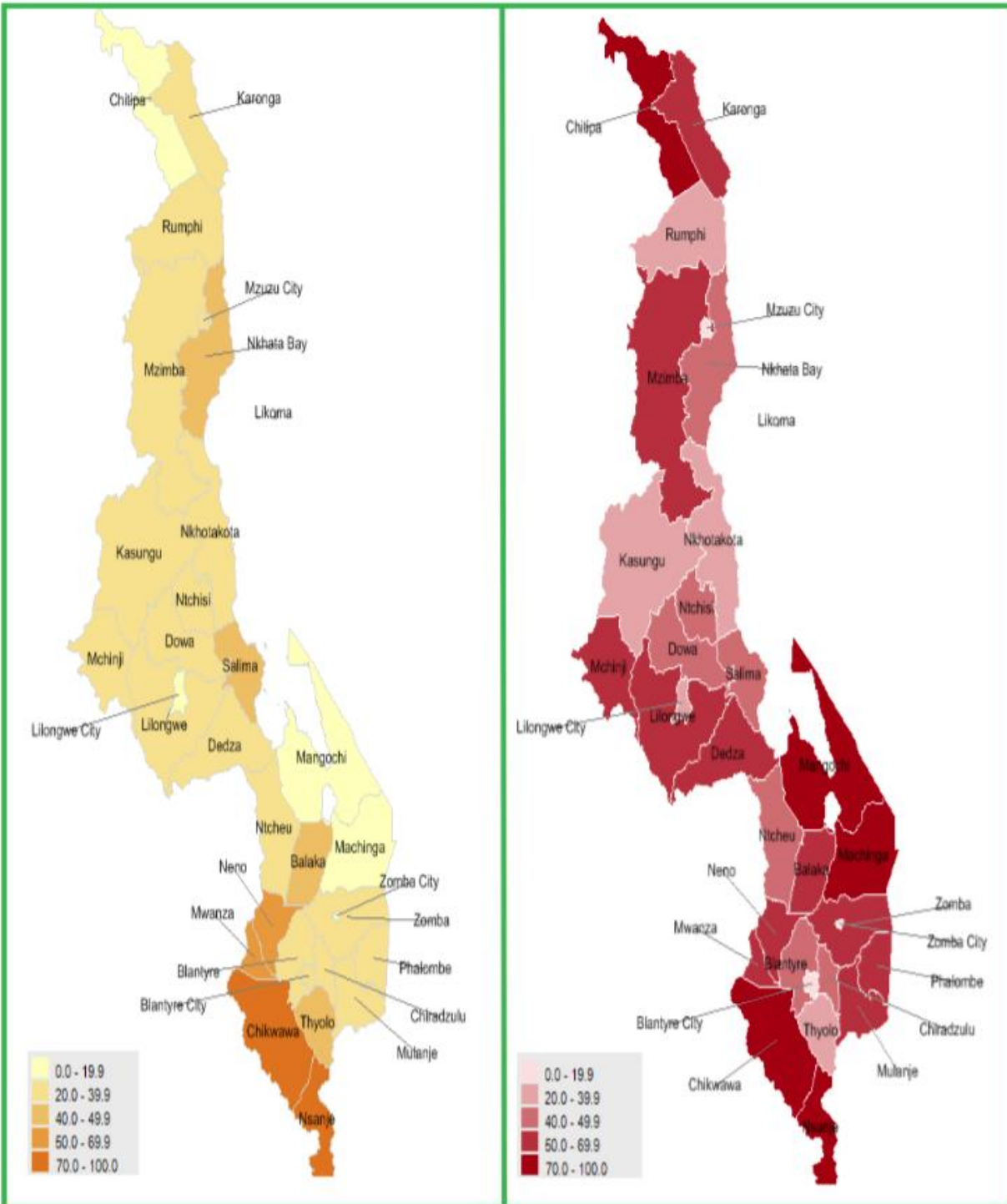
Copyright 2009. The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the World Bank, and Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT). Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project (GRUMP), Population Density. Palisades, NY: CIESIN, Columbia University. Available at: <http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/gpw/>



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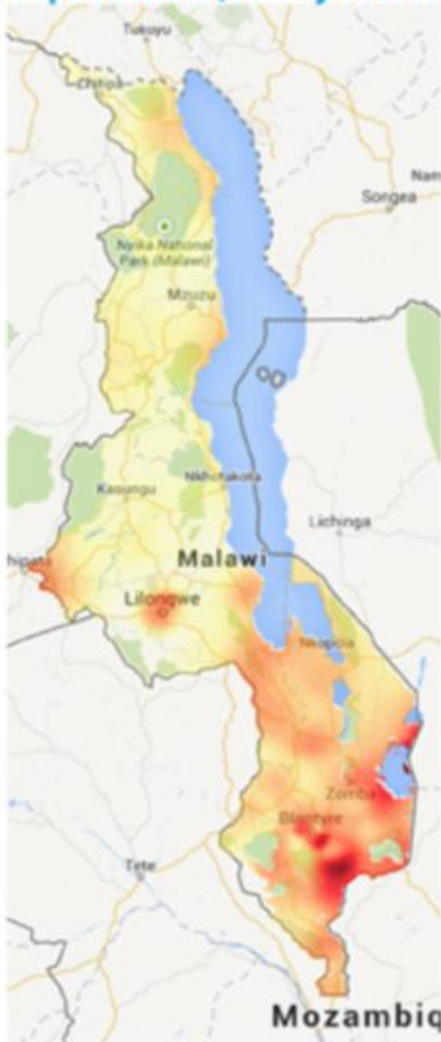
Food security status by district, Malawi 2011

Poverty status by district, Malawi 2011

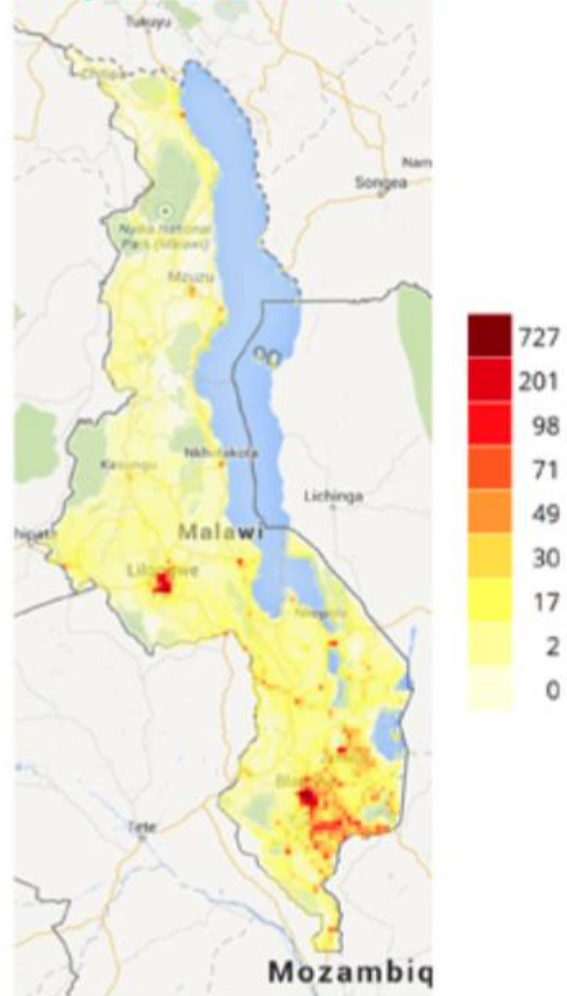


Source: GoM (2012b).

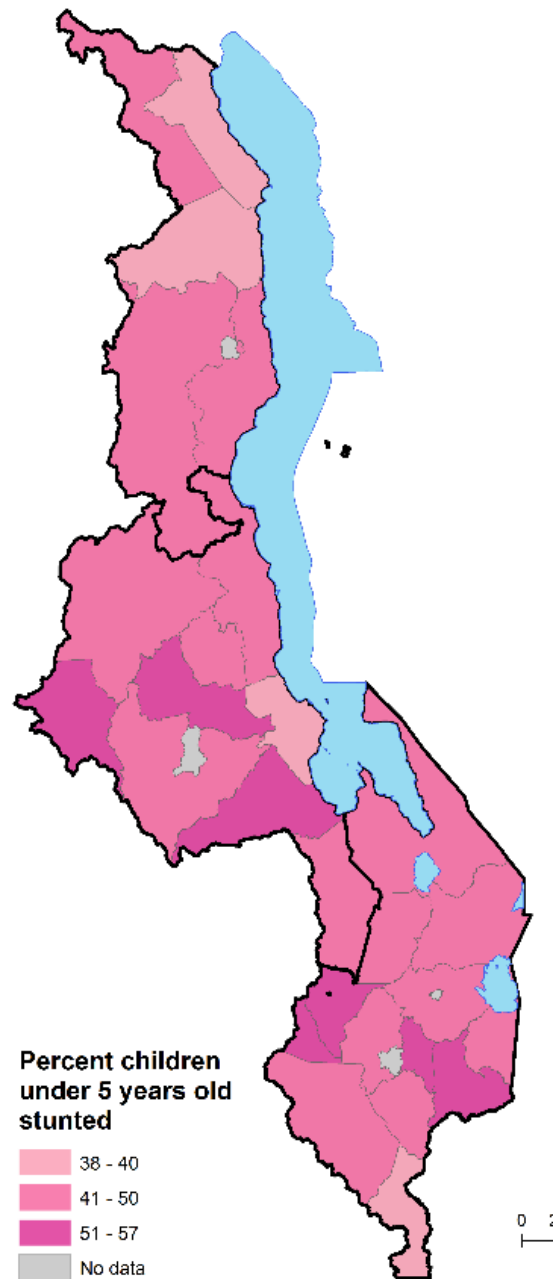
HIV prevalence (15-49 years old)



People living with HIV density (15+ years old, PLWHIV/km²)



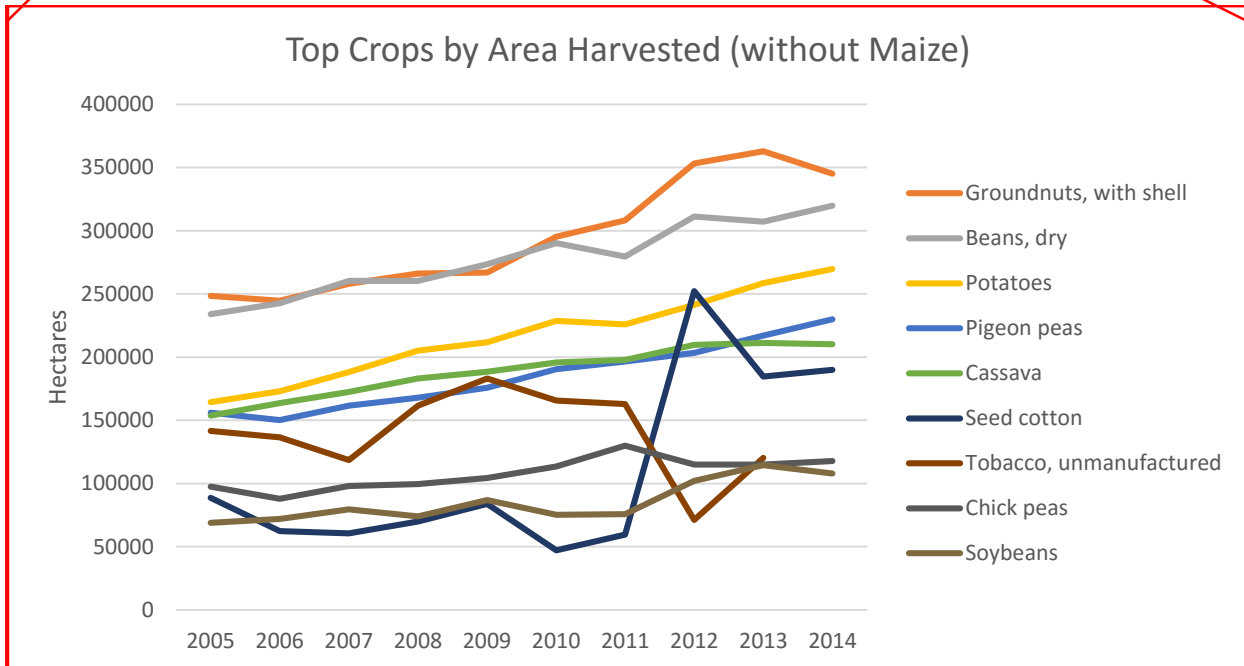
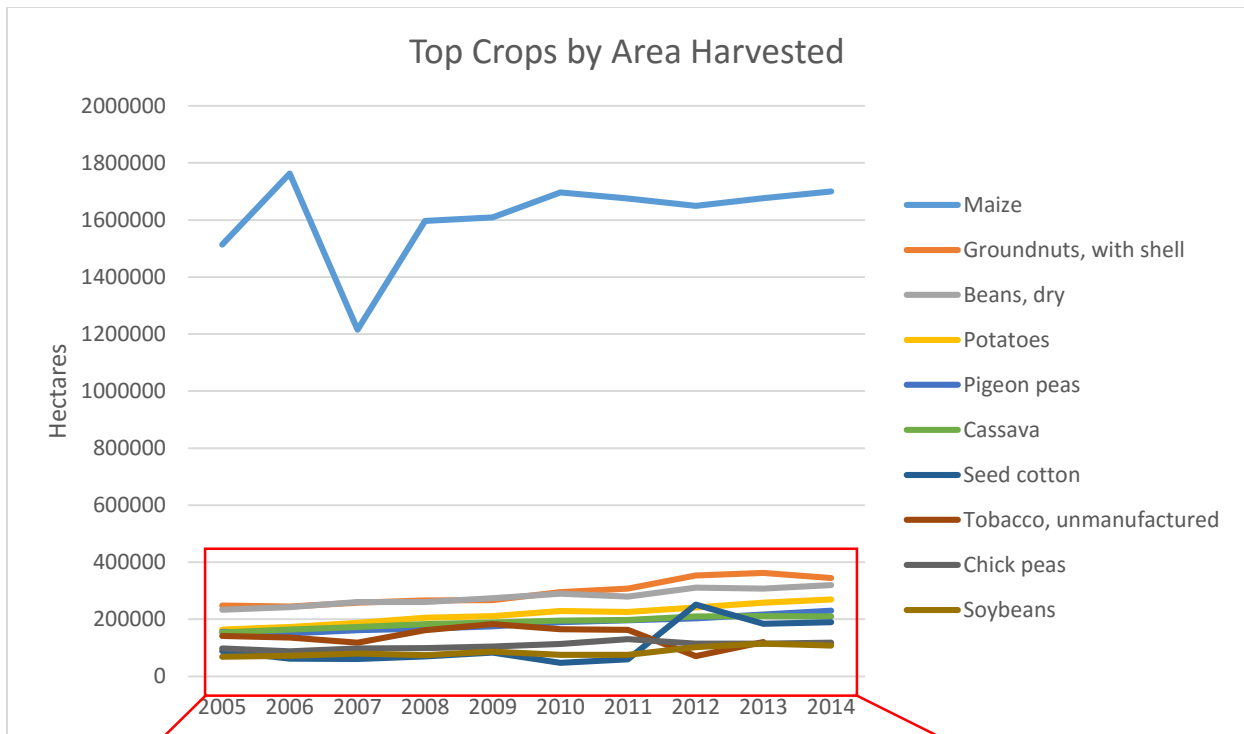
Source: www.unaids.org

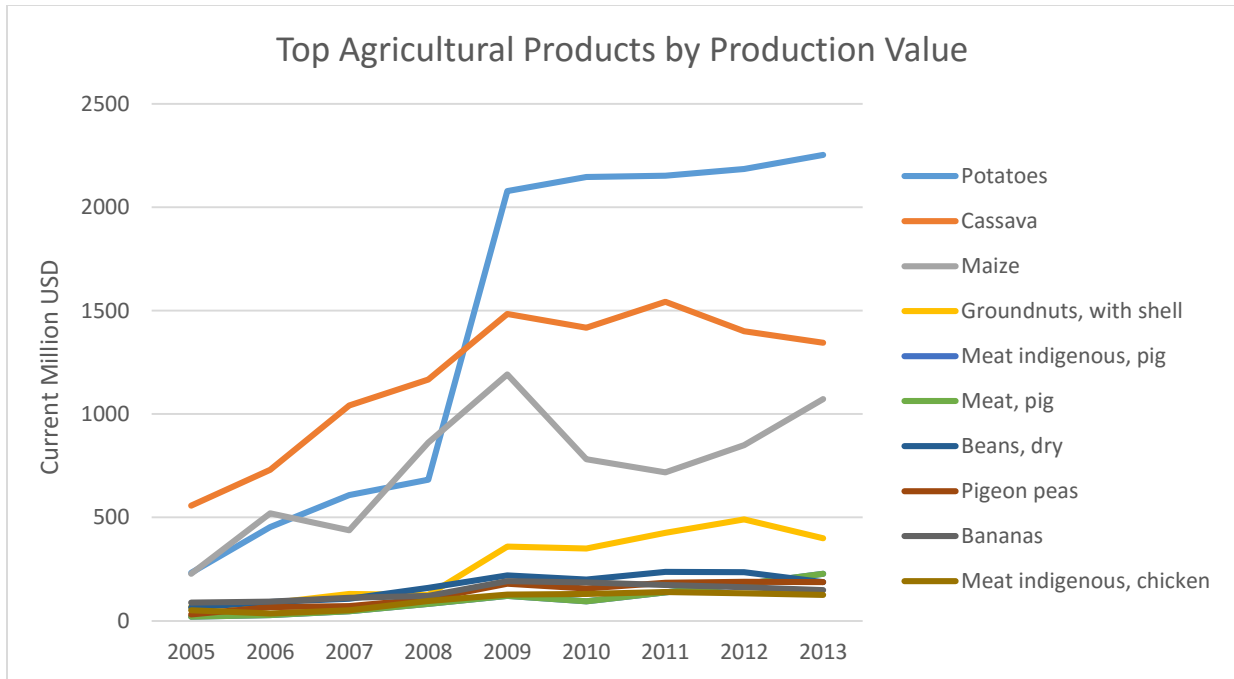


Source: massp.ifpri.info

Appendix B: Agricultural Production

All graphs produced with data from the online FAOSTAT database





Appendix C: Gender Mainstreaming in Malawi's Agriculture Approach

GoM (2011) pp. 47-48

Focus area 1: Food Security Nutrition and Risk Management

1. Develop mechanism for increasing the percentage of vulnerable women, OVCs, PLHIVs, FHHs and CHHs accessing production resources, i.e., through FISP and user friendly technologies that reduces drudgery and increase agricultural production
2. Provide food supplements and agricultural inputs to staff living with HIV at the workplace.
3. Promote small stock animal production and fish farming for women, youth and PLHIV through pass-on schemes.

Focus Area 2: Commercial Agriculture, Agro-Processing and Market Development

1. Support women, youth and PLHIV on agricultural and non-agricultural income generating projects including business organization and management
2. Promote greater involvement of women in commercial farming.
3. Scale-up services on gender, HIV and AIDS to migrant workers and traders in rural farms, estates and rural market centers
4. Advocate for gender, HIV and AIDS mainstreaming in ASWAp planning, implementation, monitoring and budgeting processes
5. Design and implement affirmative action to increase the number of women in policy and decision making positions.
6. Promote self-help projects for vulnerable women, youth and PLHIV

Focus Area 3: Sustainable Agricultural Land and Water Management

Promote adoption and scale-up appropriate agro-forestry, soil and land conservation practices amongst women, youth, and PLHIV

Support Area 1: Technology generation and dissemination

1. Institutionalize gender, HIV and AIDS responsive research in agriculture and fisheries
2. Design and disseminate gender, HIV and AIDS responsive agriculture and fisheries information, education and communication materials
3. Develop and strengthen existing training curricula and courses on gender, HIV and AIDS
4. Institutionalize gender, HIV and AIDS in ASWAp and ensure M & E systems are gender, HIV and AIDS sensitive

Actions:

1. Document, disseminate and share best practices on gender, HIV, AIDS food and nutrition security and natural resource management.
2. In collaboration with other stakeholders, develop and implement capacity building programs for staff at all levels and farmers of all gender Conduct gender, HIV and AIDS audit for key institutions and programs and recommend mainstreaming strategies.
3. Strengthen and establish where there is need gender, HIV and AIDS focal points and workplace committees with clear terms of reference in all subsectors, departments and institutions
4. Develop and implement awareness and advocacy programs against agricultural property grabbing including land.

5. Institute workplace interventions to reduce stigma and discrimination and mitigate the impacts of gender disparities HIV and AIDS
6. Review agricultural related policies, programs and projects to mainstream gender, HIV and AIDS.
7. Formulate a resource mobilization strategy for the Agriculture sector gender, HIV and AIDS strategy
8. Market gender, HIV and AIDS strategy to donors and stakeholders and monitor its implementation.
9. Establish networks and partnerships with all stakeholders and partners dealing with gender, HIV and AIDS in agriculture fisheries and natural resources sector
10. Establish and operationalize Technical Working group committees on gender, HIV and AIDS, food and nutrition security at all levels.
11. Institute and update database on gender, HIV and AIDS in Agriculture, food security and natural resources
12. Review and develop the agriculture sector Gender, HIV and AIDS strategy.

Appendix D: Major Agricultural Extension Service Organizations

As depicted on pp. 10-11 of Masangano & Mthinga (2012).

Name of Organization	Type	Level
Mzuzu Coffee Planters Cooperative Union Limited (MZCPCU)	FBO	Regional
National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFAM)	FBO	National
Malawi Organic Growers Association	FBO	National
Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM)	FBO	National
World Alive Commission for Relief and Development (WACRAD)	FBO	National
Mpoto Dairy Farming Association (MDFA)	FBO	Regional
Shire Highlands Milk Producers Association (SHMPA)	FBO	District
Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES)	Government	National
Farm Income Diversification Programme	Government	National
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Multilateral organization	National
Malawi Africare	NGO	National
Action Aid Malawi	NGO	National
Catholic Development Commission in Malawi – Chikwawa Diocese	NGO	District
Catholic Development Commission in Malawi – Mzuzu Diocese	NGO	District
Evangelical Association of Malawi	NGO	National
Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) – Synod of Livingstone Development Department	NGO	Regional
Community Youth in Development Activities (COYIDA)	NGO	District
Japan Oversees Cooperative Association (JOCA)	NGO	National
Small Scale Livestock Production Program (SSLPP)	NGO	National
Care Malawi	NGO	National
Development Aid from People to People (DAPP)	NGO	District
Heifer International Malawi	NGO	National
World Vision International – Malawi	NGO	National
FAIR3	NGO	District
Plan International (Malawi)	NGO	District
Christian Service Committee	NGO	National
Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)	NGO	National
Hunger Project Malawi	NGO	National
Maranatha Ministries	NGO	National
Sustainable Rural Growth and Development Initiative (SRGDI)	NGO	District
Emmanuel International Malawi	NGO	National
Agriculture Commodity Exchange (ACE)	NGO	National
Eagles Relief and Development Programme	NGO	National
Alliance One	Private-sector organization	National
Malawi Bio-Energy Resources	Private-sector organization	National
Land O'Lakes	Private-sector organization	National
Malawi Rural Finance Company (MRFC)	Semiautonomous governmental organization	National

Appendix E: Further Details on Feed the Future

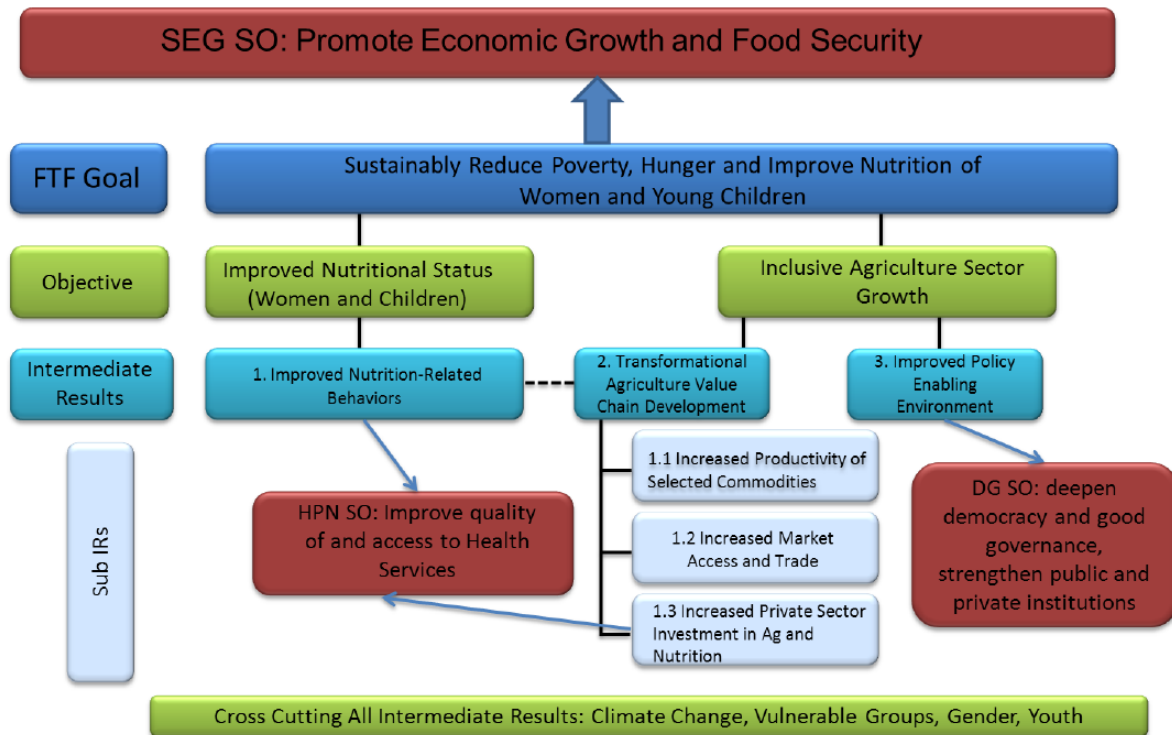
Alignment with Agriculture Sector-Wide Approach (ASWAp) (Feed the Future 2011, p. 10)

ASWAp focus area	ASWAp component(s)	FTF strategic focus areas
Food security and risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversification of food production and dietary diversification for improved nutrition at household level with focus on crops, livestock, and fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote improved nutritional behaviors Invest in high potential value chains to develop markets and improve nutritional options
Commercial Agriculture, Agro-processing and Market Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market development for inputs and outputs through public/private sector partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in high potential value chains to develop domestic and export markets and improve nutritional options
Sustainable Agricultural Land and Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable agricultural land and water management Green Belt Initiative irrigation development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in high potential value chains to develop domestic and export markets and improve nutritional options
Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening public management systems Public and private sector capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with government and non-state actors to continue to improve the policy environment

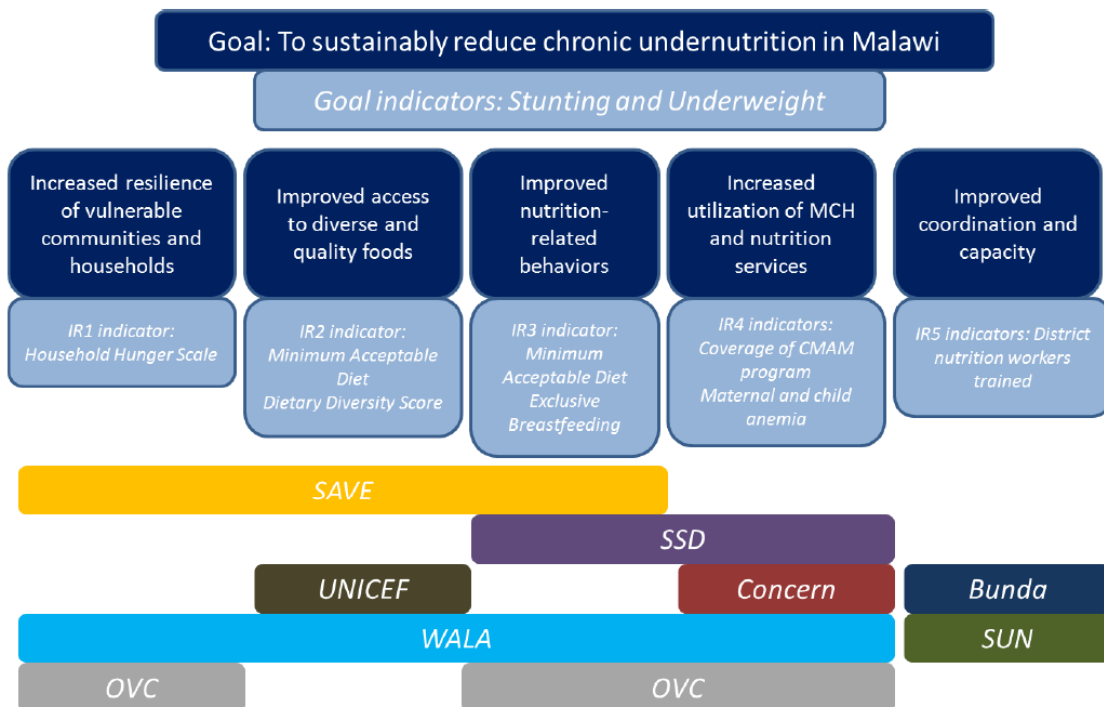
Alignment with National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (NNPSP) (Feed the Future 2011, p. 10)

Nutrition Priority Area	Nutrition Policy Key Objectives	FTF Strategic focus areas
Prevention and control of various forms of nutrition disorders among women, men, boys, and girls in Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of optimal breastfeeding (0-6 mos) Promotion of optimal feeding practices (0-24 mos) Optimal feeding of the sick child Prevention and control of micronutrient deficiency Strengthening capacities for households and communities to attain adequate nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding practices through community-based behavior change communication Quality of care of facility-based nutrition service delivery Support national efforts towards fortification of selected centrally processed foods
Promoting access to quality nutrition and other related services for the effective management of nutrition disorders among women, men, boys, and girls in Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scaling up of Community Therapeutic Feeding and Supplementary feeding Scaling up of nutrition treatment, care, and support provision for PLHIV Strengthening logistics, linkages, and referral in care up to the community level Strengthening services for early detection and management of nutrition-related non-communicable diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> institutionalization and scale-up of community management of acute malnutrition Community-based identification and referral of children who are malnourished Linkages with PEPFAR programs
Creation of an enabling environment that adequately provides for the delivery of nutrition services and the implementation of the nutrition programs, projects and interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a well-defined coordination mechanism for nutrition services and programs Advocacy to position nutrition at the center of the national development agenda Increased budgetary allocation of resources by the government for implementation of NNPSP Building of institutional and human capacity for the effective delivery of nutrition services Promoting evidence-based programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree training of government and NGO employees Training of mid-level district managers in nutrition Training of frontline extension workers from key ministries of agriculture, health and gender in nutrition

Malawi Feed the Future Results Framework (Feed the Future 2011, p. 13)



Feed the Future Nutrition Strategy Results Framework (Feed the Future 2011, p. 17)



Appendix F: USAID and Other Projects Relevant to INGENAES—Details

USAID Mission Contact USAID/Malawi P.O. Box 30455 Lilongwe, Malawi	USAID Contact Desiree Savoy 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20523 202-712-4656 dsavoy@usaid.gov
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Integrating Nutrition into Value Chains (INVC)

Links: <http://dai.com/our-work/projects/malawi—integrating-nutrition-value-chains>

<https://www.usaid.gov/malawi/fact-sheets/usaid-malawi-integrating-nutrition-value-chains-fact-sheet-2012-13>

Primary Implementing Organization: Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI)

Goals/Objectives: The project promotes gender-equitable, agriculture-led, integrated economic growth approaches to increase the competitiveness of the legume and dairy value chains; improve productivity through soil and water management practices; reduce chronic under-nutrition; foster innovation in agricultural value chains; and develop the capacity of local organizations and systems to promote climate change resilience.

Activities/Progress to Date:

(From program website): “In 2014, INVC reached more than 286,000 rural households with agriculture and nutrition interventions. INVC promoted legume production, marketing, and household consumption, assisting more than 67,000 smallholder farmers to plant soy, and helping connect them to growing domestic and regional markets for this high-demand commodity, while also teaching household processing of nutritious soy-based foods. In 2014, total production of soy in the target districts was 57% higher than the 2012 baseline.

INVC also assisted more than 136,000 groundnut farmers with access to certified seed and training in improved crop and land management, control of aflatoxin contamination, collective marketing, market access, and household processing and increased consumption of groundnuts. Groundnut production in the target districts was 19% higher than in 2012. INVC also helped unlock \$6.3 million in agriculture financing through the Agricultural Commodity Exchange. This included bridging finance, a warehouse receipt system, and forward contracts. Moreover, INVC leveraged \$1.47 million in private sector investment in agriculture, largely in storage infrastructure.

INVC has established 537 Care Groups that use community volunteers to deliver messages on infant and young child feeding, basic hygiene and sanitation, and maternal diet and health practices to about 99,000 households twice a month. To reinforce these messages, INVC also includes community drama performances on issues such as dietary diversity, maternal nutrition, and exclusive breastfeeding, and develops and airs radio jingles and programs on these topics. INVC also uses local farmers’ organizations and its network of volunteer Lead Farmers to spread the idea of “sell some, save some”

of farmer's soy and groundnut production, encouraging additional home consumption of both, which will result in improved nutrition.”

****For more information on gender integration, see the project's [Gender Assessment](#)****

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Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Services Activity

Link: <http://www.meas-extension.org/home/associate-awards/sanesa>

Goal: Strengthen the capacity of the Government of Malawi's Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) to mobilize and work with service providers to deliver agricultural and nutrition extension and advisory services more effectively and in a coordinated manner in the Feed the Future Zone of Influence.

Objectives/Results:

Result 1: Improve the policy environment, focused on government, donor, and NGO working relationships and how agriculture and nutrition gaps can be addressed by improved extension services through knowledge sharing.

Result 2: Strengthen coordination and capacity of extension service providers through building networks of decision-makers, implementers, and experts committed to addressing agriculture and nutrition linkages while also increasing the knowledge and skills of field-level extensionists.

Result 3: Increase connections between research institutions and extension service providers through addressing communication and knowledge gaps and facilitating networks across both entities.

Activities:

Result 1:

- Facilitate participatory review of the current extension policy, in collaboration with DAES, agricultural and nutrition extension stakeholders, and male and female farmers.
- Support the Malawi Forum for Agriculture Advisory Services (MaFAAS) to assume the role of the national stakeholder panel and to strengthen its advocacy capacity.
- Assist DAES to develop and implement its nutrition strategy
- Provide training to strengthen the capacity to implement and operationalize the DAES System (DAESS) among agricultural and nutrition extension stakeholders.
- Support District Stakeholder Panels to develop District Strengthening Plans that enhance quality implementation of the Agricultural and Nutrition Extension Policy.

Result 2:

- Provide training and support to strengthen the capacity of DAES to better coordinate

agricultural and nutrition extension actors through the DAESS.

- Engage district Stakeholder Panels to enable farmers to articulate their needs and demand accountability from service providers.
- Promote modalities for ensuring harmonization of agricultural and nutrition extension messages and training approaches.
- Provide capacity building to improve the capacity of extension workers to deliver agriculture and nutrition extension messages improved.
- Support increased implementation of proven, effective, and efficient models for agriculture and nutrition extension outreach that increase quality and accessibility of services.

Result 3:

- Strengthen institutional linkages between extension service providers, research institutions, and farmers to ensure that practical action research focuses on learning critical to farmers' emerging needs.
- Develop the capacity of research organizations to support technology promotion and behavior change.

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Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III (FANTA III)

Link: <http://www.fantaproject.org/countries/malawi>

Goals/Objectives: For more than 15 years, the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project (FANTA) has been working to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals, families, and communities in developing countries by strengthening food security and nutrition policies, programs, and systems. As part of its efforts to improve nutrition throughout the country, the Malawi Government has joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and is working to integrate nutrition care, support, and treatment (NCST) activities into health services. FANTA is providing technical assistance to the Office of the President and Cabinet and the Ministry of Health in these areas and implements its activities in coordination with the ASSIST and LIFT projects.

Activities/Progress to Date:

FANTA's activities in Malawi include:

- Strengthening national-level coordination of NCST and SUN, and advocating for the integration of NCST into national policies, strategies, plans, and monitoring and evaluation systems
- Developing technical tools that will strengthen the quality of NCST service delivery and management
- Strengthening competencies of NCST managers and service providers at the national and subnational levels

FANTA is also working with its partners on the following research activities:

- [Effectiveness of a package of interventions for sustaining nutritional status among children that have recently recovered from moderate acute malnutrition](#)
- [Efficacy of lipid-based nutrient supplements during pregnancy in Malawi](#)
- [Interventions to effectively treat moderate acute malnutrition among HIV-positive and HIV-negative women during pregnancy](#)
- [Impact of a promising prenatal health intervention on children's growth, development, morbidity, and mortality](#)
- [Field-testing and validation of a new eye-tracking method to assess infant cognition](#)

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Malawi Agriculture Policy Strengthening (MAPS)

Links: <https://www.fundsforngos.org/agriculture-2/malawi-agriculture-policy-strengthening-maps-program/>

<https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en/node/11609>

Goals/Objectives: The [Malawi Agriculture](#) Policy Strengthening (MAPS) program has the major objective of contributing to sustainable [food security](#) in Malawi by increasing the participation of Non-State Actors (NSAs) in agriculture policy dialogue in Malawi.

Activities/Progress to Date:

Through MAPS, USAID will work with NSAs, the GoM, other development partners and the ASWAp Secretariat to enhance the profile, capacity and engagement of NSAs in agriculture policy development and implementation.

This program comprises two components. The main aim of Component 1 is to strengthen the internal capacity of targeted NSAs to advocate effectively while Component 2 will work to build linkages among NSAs and with government to strengthen and institutionalize advocacy. These two components will account for the varying levels of development and readiness of organizations and associations in Malawi to take on advocacy activities. Moreover, several organizations may have policy agendas more emphasized on local/regional issues than national level policy. Therefore, the project will tailor interventions dependent on the situation and constituency of each participant.

Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program

Link: <http://bheard.anr.msu.edu>

Goals/Objectives: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico, selected Michigan State University (MSU) to implement the Feed the Future Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program.

Honoring the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug, this is a major effort to increase the number of agricultural scientists and strengthen scientific institutions in developing countries. The program will support long-term training of agricultural researchers at the master's and doctoral levels and will link scientific and higher education communities in Feed the Future countries and the United States.

Locations: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, South Sudan, Uganda

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Drought-Tolerant Maize for Africa Seed Scaling

Link: <http://www.cimmyt.org/en/where-we-work/africa/item/drought-tolerant-maize-for-africa-seed-scaling>

Goals/Objectives: The project aims to meet demand and improve access to good-quality maize through production and deployment of affordable and improved drought-tolerant, stress-resilient and high-yielding maize varieties for smallholder farmers. Emphasis of the project is scaling-up and adopting improved maize varieties.

Activities/Progress to Date: Public- and private-sector partnerships are core to the implementation of DTMASS. The project will therefore capitalize on existing strong networks of partners in sub-Saharan Africa laying significant emphasis on bringing on board the national extension systems, additional private-sector institutions, and other relevant stakeholders for effective scale-up and delivery of climate-resilient maize varieties in participating countries.

Location(s): Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

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Smallholder Irrigation and Value Addition Project (SIVAP)

Link: <http://www.afdb.org/en/projects-and-operations/project-portfolio/project/p-mw-aa0-026/>

Implementing Agency: Government of Malawi

Activities:

4. Sustainable Land and Water Management Component
 - (i) Development of 12 new irrigation schemes
 - (ii) Rehabilitation of 5 existing irrigation schemes
5. Diversification and Value Chain Development Component
 - (i) Seed selection and multiplication
 - (ii) Rainfed cropping
 - (iii) Agro-processing and value addition
 - (iv) Support to market linkages
6. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building.
 - (i) Formation of farmer organizations (clubs, WUAs and Cooperatives)
 - (ii) Marketing
 - (iii) Value chain development

Locations: Karonga, Nkhota-kota, Salima, Machinga and Chikhwawa Districts

Total number of beneficiaries: The Project will directly build institutional and technical capacity for about 58,700 farm families (about 18,000 female headed households) within participating Districts who will have improved food and nutrition security and incomes. The project will also indirectly benefit about 436,600 people (at least 150,000 women).

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Enhancing Community Resilience Program

Link: <http://new-alliance.org/resource/malawi-new-alliance-cooperation-framework>

<https://www.devex.com/news/malawian-farmers-learn-new-ways-to-combat-climate-change-87395>

Goals/Objectives: Support farmers to implement conservation agriculture and other “climate-smart” agriculture techniques, take part in village and loan schemes, climate forecasting, seed banks, improving small-scale livestock, irrigation, and postharvest management and engage with low-carbon technologies.

Malawi Strategy Support Program (MaSSP)

Link: <http://massp.ifpri.info/about/>

Implementing Organization: IFPRI

Program Components:

Supporting Evidence-based Agriculture Policy (SEBAP)

“Supporting Evidence-based Agriculture Policy” (SEBAP), funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), SEBAP works to promote evidence-based decision-making through the strengthening of policy research capacities in the Ministry, generate policy relevant research outputs, and enhance the impact of research outputs in decision-making through effective policy communication in support of ASWAp implementation.

Supporting Agriculture Sector Wide Approach Implementation through Policy Research and Analysis (SAIPRA)

“Supporting Agriculture Sector Wide Approach Implementation through Policy Research and Analysis” (SAIPRA), funded by Irish Aid – Government of Ireland, is highly complementary to the SEBAP work in that it supports policy research and analysis to inform the ASWAp policy dialogue. In addition, the project supports activities examining and engaging in policy dialogue on the nexus of food security and nutrition.

SEBAP and SAIPRA are designed in line with the in-country development strategies of USAID and Irish Aid.

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