



AFFORDABLE INPUTS PROGRAM (AIP)

Executive Summary

Malawi Leave No One Behind coalition was established in 2020, with a purpose to collect citizen generated data to be used for policy, strategy and program development to ensure marginalized groups voices are heard and elevated to policy level discussions.

The citizen generated data (CGD) study findings have revealed that over 80% of the marginalised groups are not aware of SDGs and cannot articulate them which is a worrisome situation considering that only less than 7 years are remaining to 2030.

The CGD study chose the AIP was chosen because they are designed to fight poverty in Malawi by helping the most marginalized to be moved out of poverty and gain respect.

The study has revealed that the ultra-poor are desperate at the point of receiving assistance despite the program targeting them and they do not say anything for fear of being reprimanded and removed from the program.

The SDG 1 on poverty is very far from being met regardless of targeted programmes to ultra-poor because the study revealed that 80% of the marginalised groups live below World Bank poverty line classification.

The AIP beneficiaries wait for a long time to access the inputs and in the process some women are sexually abused; they are duped of the inputs; a lot of time is spent; more money is demanded and their complaints are not addressed by anyone since there is no provision for feedback mechanism.

The AIP receives government budgetary allocation which is a positive development.



Context or Scope of Problem

Malawi is a signatory to a number of International Conventions, Protocols, Declarations and Treaties among others.

Lately Malawi subscribed to the SDGs; AU Agenda 2063 the Africa We Want and domesticated the instruments into the MW2063 maintaining the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) commitments.

The Malawi LNOB Coalition built on the Government's commitment to initiate a process of institutionalizing the CGD into the NSO data sets for policy formulation, strategy and programme development and decision making and service delivery to benefit marginalised groups.

The LNOB Coalition wanted to assess the marginalised groups knowledge on SDGs and how they are benefiting on their implementation especially SDG 10; on Equality.

Malawi government has been running the AIP for more than 15 years but its impact is not seen possibly because of mistargeting, mismanagement, and handling of the entire chain.

The programme has not demonstrated any economic empowerment of the beneficiaries but rather it has created dependency. It has also created an illicit syndicate of procurement of the AIP supplies.

The AIP supply chain system has delays in the delivery of the inputs; inadequate distribution points and unreliable timing.

The selection criteria of the beneficiaries is unreliable as the local leader can manipulate to suit his/her interests.

Policy Alternatives

The CGD findings have revealed that the current system has flaws which render the AIP not fully benefiting the targeted marginalised groups as beneficiaries because the vendors are the ones who are benefiting since they connive with the seller of the inputs.

The marginalised groups have recommended that the AIP should be replaced by Universal Input Subsidy.

The Universal Input Subsidy will eliminate the malpractices of buying the inputs at higher prices than provided for.

The programme will be open to everyone and it will accommodate girls and boys benefiting from other social protection services being child headed household while maintaining the LNOB commitments.

Policy Recommendations

For the commitments of LNOB to be realised there is need to:

- Intensify awareness creation and implementation of programmes which will assist Malawi to attain the SDGs.
- Proper planning, policy direction and strategies will make Malawi a middle

income and achieve the SDGs by 2030 and move towards the achievement of the MW 2063.

- Supply farm inputs before the onset of the rain season.
- Increase the selling points.
- Identification mechanisms of the 20.7% ultra-poor be put in place to benefit from a targeted programme special cards to access the Universal Input Subsidy.
- A functional and collaborative between government and CSOs community level complaints response mechanism be established.
- Better and effective internet connectivity be established to improve service delivery coupled with intensified time monitoring system.
- The Government should revamp the ADMARC supply chain mechanism for efficient farm inputs supply, produce purchase and resale.
- A selection criteria and mechanism be found to include most needy marginalised groups to benefit from the program.

Appendices (Backing documents to support our argument)

As a coalition, we conducted a study whose purpose was to bring out recommendations to enhance the inclusion of marginalised groups into the two social protection programs: Affordable Input Program (AIP). Furthermore, the study sought to solicit citizen feedback on their perceived performance of the Social Protection Programs in Malawi, particularly the Affordable Input Programme in line with SDG 10. The study brought out salient issues and voices of the marginalised groups in the community. The measurement of success is the interest shown by NSO, UNICEF, EU and UN Resident Coordinator's Office LNOB desk at LNOB Malawi coalition's work and CGD. (MW LNOB Report Final Lena Edition; and Malawi Summary Narrative Report)



Malawi joined the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Partnership commonly known as the International Civil Society Centre (ICSC) for LNOB in 2020. The Malawi coalition comprises Plan International Malawi (PIM); Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency (CSAT); Care International; National Economic Planning Commission (NEPC); Malawi Network of Older Persons Organisation (MANEPO); and Do for Children (DFC).