

MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN MALAWI TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

Malawi is facing important challenges to achieve the SDGs given its high levels of poverty and inequality. The Covid-19 crisis has worsened this situation and workers, especially those in the informal economy are facing big challenges. Low wages and a rising cost of living are a burden which especially affects women, people with disability and older persons, while measures to support wages or protect incomes have been limited.

Although the government introduced an emergency social cash transfer for informal economy workers for a short period, the social protection system still needs to be strengthened and universalised. This will imply increasing the government's contribution towards social protection programmes, which are currently overwhelmingly financed by donors and might prove challenging to sustain in the future.

Discrimination based on sexual orientation is still present in law and practice and there is a need to review the penal code to guarantee equal opportunities for LGBTI + and ensure an inclusive access to justice and health.

Budgetary allocations towards the SDGs are insufficient and Sector Working Groups are often underfunded, limiting their capacity to coordinate or report on the implementation of the SDGs. Public finance management and data management system needs to be improved and a stronger result-oriented focus is needed.

Questions:

What concrete measures is the government willing to put in place to widen social protection coverage?

How will the government support job creation initiatives and protect workers against job losses and arbitrary pay cuts in the context of the Covid-19 crisis?

What concrete steps will Government take to ensure improved WASH status in Malawi given that hygiene & sanitation are the first line of defence in the fight against COVID-19?

Malawi's progress towards achieving the SDGs has been affected by misuse and abuse of funds: How will Government curb corruption systematically in Malawi?