and Development partners in a resource-constrained environment. UNICEF is a key member of the UN Country Team and has been able to leverage resources for children within the UN family.

Working in partnership with national governments, civil society organizations and other development agencies, UNICEF Malawi has demonstrated its comparative advantage of utilizing a mix of communication for social change approaches through sustained community dialogue and analysis, framing of positive public narratives, and stimulating social non-acceptance of negative social practices, especially gender inequities to influence long-standing harmful social norms and foster protective behaviours.

In addition, UNICEF has a long history of working in emergencies and humanitarian contexts, both through leadership of clusters and its key role in emergency response and preparedness.

3.   THEORY OF CHANGE CHILD-FRIENDLY, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

By providing an enabling environment and systems that support communities to address key bottlenecks in demand, supply and quality determinants, girls and boys in Malawi will have a more equitable and better chance in life and develop to their full potential. This will also contribute to communities becoming more inclusive, resilient and responsive to children's and women's concerns.

UNICEF's theory of change for the Child Friendly, Inclusive and Resilient Communities Pillar states that *if*:
- formal and non-formal community institutions, including traditional, religious and local government, are empowered with knowledge and skills to support positive behaviour, practices and social norms in the best interest of a child,
- rights holders and duty bearers are empowered with knowledge and skills to be able to practice positive behaviour and norms in the best interest of a child,
- rights holders are engaged and empowered to be able to demand positive behaviour and social change,
- communities have platforms to voice their issues (e.g., Bwalo) demand social change and quality services,
- government officials at central, district and local levels, academic education and research institutions, traditional authorities and CSOs/CBOs have increased institutional capacities and capabilities to support and facilitate positive behaviour and social change at community, organizational and institutional levels,
- there is an increased sense of accountability of formal and informal stakeholders, including the identified government service providers, traditional and religious leaders, families and communities,
- there are strong coordination and monitoring mechanisms, and
- policy makers and government officials take into account the best available data and evidence to inform action and allocation of resources to the social sector,

then, households and communities will seek out and utilize these services, hold service providers accountable, and adopt attitudes, behaviours and practices supportive of children and shifting of harmful norms, beliefs and practices can be realized, children can act as agents of change and social movements for child rights will go to scale;

and then, social protection programmes and systems will be geared to build the resilience of communities and institutions to withstand climate related, economic shocks and chronic vulnerabilities;

and then, the Government of Malawi will commit further resources to social sectors and engage in policy and legislative changes to enable quality, integrated and coordinated social services to be delivered at district and sub-district levels, including in humanitarian situations.

Outcome: Girls and boys grow up in child friendly, inclusive and resilient communities.

The pillar outcome will address bottlenecks and barriers and create an enabling environment for the realization of children's rights through four outputs which will result in changes in capacities, attitudes and behaviours and promote the participation of communities to demand and claim their rights.

Output 1: Communities are able to practice positive social behaviours in the best interest of the child and demand the delivery of quality and resilient, child-friendly services

Substantial investment is required to shift social norms and help break the silence around practices that harm children. The country programme will address this area as a matter of priority through programmes to achieve positive social and behavioural change in the lives of children at the household and community levels in Malawi. To achieve this, programmes will utilize behaviour and social change communication strategies and facilitate community engagement and empowerment in support of positive behaviours, practices and social norms that address the key issues of children, such as child marriage and harmful practices.

Cross-sectoral delivery platforms at the community level will be used and C4D interventions will be supported to ensure that essential key behaviours are adopted by individuals and families. Follow up supervision and monitoring and post-KAP surveys will be conducted to ensure that gains from mobilization efforts are maintained. These will also provide the necessary information on the effectiveness of the interventions.

Differentiated approaches for demand creation and linkages to the social services will be adopted to ensure that sector specific needs are addressed, including in humanitarian settings.

Through the process of social transformation, efforts will be geared to engage and empower community institutions, including traditional, religious and government, and reinforce community feedback mechanisms to support positive behaviour change in the selected districts in Malawi.

Support will be provided to nascent social movements to scale up engaging with traditional leaders, faith-based and community organizations, civil society organizations and to broaden outreach, employing innovation, social mobilization and media to bring about change for children. The communication priorities reinforce the programmatic interventions supported under the pillars on Early Childhood and School-age Children and respond to the key priorities of i) keeping children in school; ii) ending child marriage; and iii) responsive and positive parenting.

Output 2: Communities are able to hold duty bearers accountable for the delivery of quality and resilient, child-friendly services.

Support for the review and analysis of social sector spending for child-focused sectors in terms of size and composition and public dissemination of budgets will foster social accountability and transparency of public financial management processes at both national and district levels and make local government budgets and systems work better for children, reducing inequalities**.** The country programme will strengthen community voices and engagement with local governments using social

accountability tools and platforms, such as Bwalo, that also sensitize communities and support their claim-making capabilities. Such interventions coupled with readily accessible information on which services are available will enable communities to hold duty bearers accountable.

Output 3: Households and communities prepare for and are resilient to climate change and economic shocks, and are supported to overcome chronic vulnerabilities that affect children

Resilience to shock and climate change at household and community levels will be facilitated by enhancing coherence and connectedness between at-scale capacity for humanitarian action and longer-term programming, including risk-informed programme design, preparedness, needs assessment and response.

Effective resilience outcomes call for strong risk-informed programme design linking key social services, including nutrition, health, education, WASH, and strengthened institutions and livelihood programmes, which are responsive to shocks and chronic vulnerabilities.

Through the pillar on Programme Effectiveness, the country programme will ensure the integration of humanitarian and development programming addressing prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures. Through the cluster approach, UNICEF as a Cluster Lead for Nutrition, Education, Child Protection and WASH and Co-Lead for Health will continue to play a key role in supporting vulnerable populations to gain and maintain access to continued delivery of social and protective services in emergencies. This will be done through both direct response efforts, and by leading efforts to coordinate the overall response through the clusters. Cross/multi-sectoral responses to violence against children (VAC), gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV will be supported, including in humanitarian settings, which will be enhanced through integration of these issues into the Clusters' humanitarian preparedness and response. Emphasis will be on linking sectoral responses through standardized referral pathways or protocols for social welfare, health, education and justice frontline workers and, where feasible and appropriate, enhancing multi-sectoral responses within one location, for instance, One Stop Centres. UNICEF will advocate for support to vulnerable children and their families, including to prevent unnecessary family separation, such as through strengthening links to social cash transfer, other social protection programmes, and education bursaries. During emergencies, UNICEF will scale up its programming. As co-lead of the Protection Cluster – through advocacy and capacity development – UNICEF will work to ensure humanitarian systems and services are safe, clean, protective and responsive to the needs and rights of children and women (in all sectors and clusters).

UNICEF will support the Government of Malawi and its partners to set up systems for preparedness to mitigate against emergencies, and improve district-level coordination in preparation for future disasters. UNICEF will also encourage and promote more active learning and dissemination of lessons learnt from emergency responses in order to improve future efforts.

The programme will integrate climate and disaster risk reduction measures, and help build the resilience of communities and national systems. Engagement through C4D will be important to mainstream key messages for emergency preparedness, response and recovery. These efforts will be connected to the broader programming principle of linking development and emergency programming to improve both the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and the long-term sustainability of interventions.

Key areas of support to water resource management will be the development of integrated and multi-purpose water supply systems for communities. This also includes basic water services for small scale gardening to contribute to improving nutrition in food insecure communities. Community-led climate

and disaster resilient Water Safety Plans (WSP) will be promoted and effective models scaled up nationwide. Implementation of the Community-based Management (CBM) approach and other innovations will be strengthened to improve operation and maintenance and sustainability. UNICEF will also engage with the Government in research and development activities for groundwater development (e.g. mitigation of saline pockets in groundwater and managed recharge of rain/surface water into shallow groundwater in the southern region of Malawi).

To build community resilience, community-based catchment management and water conservation will be integrated into existing and new programmes where feasible through direct support to catchment management committees and sub-catchment-entities (e.g. water point committees, water user associations, etc.) through central and district government, and/or integration in programming of downstream NGO partners who are already engaged in capacity building of sub-catchment entities. Innovative approaches and low-cost solutions will be promoted to increase water availability for productive uses, i.e., through solar pumps.

Community level efforts will be complemented by support to the Government to develop a National Water Safety Framework and associated Water Safety Plans that integrate climate and disaster resilience considerations and strengthened regulation and accountability of contractors and spare parts suppliers.

Social exclusion, poverty and inequality will be systematically addressed through improved vulnerability mapping, evidence generation and analysis. Support will be provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development to lead the national mapping of water points and groundwater resources mapping (hydro-geological maps). The use of drones and satellite imagery will also provide data for early warning on impending disasters.

Specific interventions will be supported to address demand, supply, and an enabling environment for promoting sanitation and hygiene to facilitate sustained behaviour changes. Collaboration will be encouraged with the private sector to innovate on, promote, and make available affordable sanitation and hygiene products. Alternative options will be explored to support households to upgrade to sustainable, improved toilets that are resilient against frequent collapse.

To develop household and community resilience, innovative internal community and external support mechanisms for 'least able' households that would otherwise be unable to access sustainable sanitation facilities will be explored as will distribution channels and social marketing initiatives for low-cost sanitation and hygiene products through community-based organisations (CBOs).

At the national level, in association with other stakeholders, support will be provided to the National Open Defecation Free (ODF) taskforce to undertake high level advocacy for sanitation and hygiene promotion and institutionalize post-ODF activities as part of the Government's community health strategy, ensuring sustainability of such initiatives through national systems and structures. Advocacy for increased resource allocation towards sanitation and hygiene will be a key point for advocacy.

Shock responsive social protection measures will be key to promote resilience. These include advocacy for and implementation of a Unified Beneficiary Registration of vulnerable populations and a scalable social protection system that can respond to humanitarian shocks where the proportion of cash in emergency responses increases instead of in-kind responses. Mechanisms for seasonal adaptation of the social cash transfer programme (SCTP) will also assist vulnerable families to withstand seasonal shocks.

Output 4. Government and local authorities are supported to operationalize key policies and legal

frameworks, and develop plans and budgets for strengthened and coordinated social sectors' response to address disparities and deprivations

The country programme will focus on strengthening the process of decentralization. By design, the MGDS-III has provided momentum to the process of decentralization with a push to devolve all social services to the local levels. National level large scale programmes which have demonstrated impact will also be closely linked and implemented through decentralized structures. UNICEF's comparative advantage to work across sectors will support this process and foster multi-sectoral approaches for greater synergies and efficiencies in resource strapped districts. Local level coordination mechanisms are in place but suffer from both technical and financial resource constraints. Support to decentralized structures and formal and informal feedback mechanisms to improve the flow of information and monitoring the delivery of social services will provide district authorities information on the quality of services. In addition, efforts to provide real-time frontline data and its integration and use by national information management systems will increasingly be supported to ensure that local and national level decision-making is informed by timely data. Investments in integration and inter-operability of decision support systems will be further strengthened through district level information systems, which will be strengthened through a coordinated UN response to the government's efforts for developing an integrated management information system.

UNICEF will engage with districts on child-sensitive public finance and also tracking and influencing fiscal decentralization to leverage resources at district level.

Building on on-going initiatives, UNICEF will also engage with districts in evidence-based planning, which is responsive to the needs of communities, budgeting and frequent monitoring of implementation, and improving availability of local data for programme management. There will be a need to further enhance and sustain managerial skills of district staff and coordination systems. Existing coordination mechanisms which exist at district levels, such as health management teams, nutrition, WASH and education coordination committees, place high transaction costs on district and sub-district staff and community groups as invariably they have members of more than one of these structures. These delivery platforms will be strengthened to work more inter-sectorally and enabled to leverage financial and technical resources from the sectors and donors to improve their capacity for delivery of essential interventions and behaviour change.

Advocacy efforts for increased government ownership of the SCTP, including financing and support to improve cost-efficiency and implementation, will be undertaken to address the needs of the most vulnerable. Other initiatives to create an enabling environment would be to strengthen engagement and collaboration with oversight and accountability institutions and mainstream child poverty analysis into programming at national and district levels. This will entail support to the Government and the National Statistics Office on child deprivation analysis.

To address work force motivation and capacity issues, opportunities will be explored which will promote professional development and career advancement. Supportive monitoring and supervision will be promoted through mentoring and support from professional institutions.

Community institutions, both formal and informal, such as Police Victim Support Units, Community Victim Support Units and Children's Corners, will be strengthened through capacity enhancement, peer support and exchange and learning from successful initiatives.

UNICEF will also collaborate with strategic partners to support improvement of the birth registration system and links with the National Identification and Registration System at national and subnational levels.

Annex 1: Theory of Change

All girls and boys especially the most disadvantaged and deprived in Malawi realize their rights

Girls and boys grow up in resilient, inclusive and child friendly communities that are supported by enabling environment and systems that provide an equitable chance in life

Communities are able to practice positive social behaviours in the best interest of the child and demand the delivery of quality and resilient, child-friendly services

- Communities mobilized and social movements scaled up on elimination of child marriage, violence against children; keeping girls in school; responsive and positive parenting
- Differentiated approaches for demand creation and linkages to social services implemented

Communities are able to hold duty bearers accountable for the delivery of quality and resilient, child-friendly services

- Strengthened feedback mechanisms (e.g., Bwalo) for social accountability
- Enhanced transparency of budgeting processes and budget reviews
- Real time frontline data integrated into and used by national systems
- Strengthened child protection community-based mechanisms

Households and communities prepare for and are resilient to climate change and economic shocks, and are supported to overcome chronic vulnerabilities

- Increased access to water, sanitation, hygiene and resilient water resource management
- Shock-responsive social protection implemented
- Risk-informed cluster planning coordinated and humanitarian crisis and shocks responded to as per the CCCs

National and decentralized administrative system: Government and local authorities are supported to operationalize key policies and legal frameworks, and develop plans and budget for strengthened and coordinated social sectors' response to address disparities and deprivations

- Strengthened decentralization of planning and monitoring for social services.
- Improvement of birth registration system and links with the National Identification and Registration System
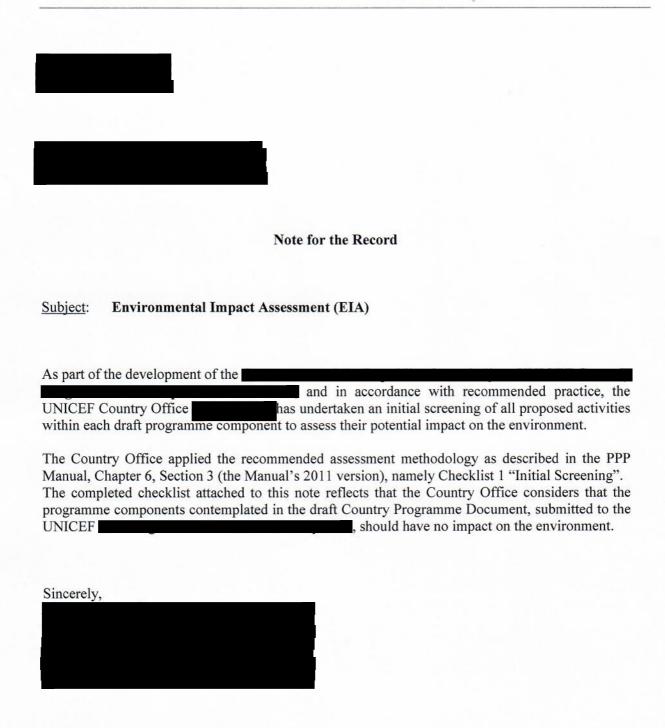- Enhanced and operationalized legal and policy frameworks of social sectors; equity-focused PF4C advocacy undertaken and strategies employed

Key Assumptions
- Partners are interested in developing their capacity in evidence-based programming and improving the lives of the most disadvantaged
- Social sectors remain a priority at global and national levels among partners
- Adequate government resources and investment in development programmes
- No significant reductions in funding and budgets (Education, Health)
- Essential Health Package (EHP) services remain free of charge
- Good governance is institutionalized at all levels, avoiding wastage
- Decentralization processes will not derail central level commitments
- Households and communities: children, families and communities remain open to receiving information, dialoguing and acquiring and demanding and applying new knowledge and skills aimed at behaviour change (WASH, Education, Health, Child Protection)
- Emergencies: minimal weather-related emergencies, humanitarian crises do not overwhelm sectors' capacity at all levels, especially local levels (Health, Nutrition)

Key Risks
- Lack of household and community commitment and participation in systems
- Vertical systems/sectors at government level are not willing to integrate
- Poor management of the environment affecting food security, health, nutrition, livelihoods, economic growth
- Increasing levels of inequality leading to civic unrest and political instability
- Mismanagement or diversion of funds for unintended purposes at both the national and sub-national levels
- Lack of motivation of work forces and high turnover of trained professionals
- Insufficient number of frontline workers
- Weak community/administration linkages

[21]

Note for the Record

Subject: **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

As part of the development of the ██ ███████████████████████████ and in accordance with recommended practice, the UNICEF Country Office ████████ has undertaken an initial screening of all proposed activities within each draft programme component to assess their potential impact on the environment.

The Country Office applied the recommended assessment methodology as described in the PPP Manual, Chapter 6, Section 3 (the Manual's 2011 version), namely Checklist 1 "Initial Screening". The completed checklist attached to this note reflects that the Country Office considers that the programme components contemplated in the draft Country Programme Document, submitted to the UNICEF ████████████████████████████, should have no impact on the environment.

Sincerely,

Attachment 1 – Checklist 1 *"Initial Screening"*

Checklist 1- Initial Screening

Does the proposed programme or project contain activities that fall under one or more of the following categories? If the answer is **NO,** and EIA is not required, and the process is complete

• Extraction of water (e.g., groundwater, surface water, and rain water)	NO
• Disposal of solid or liquid wastes (e.g., human faeces, animal wastes, used supplies from a health centre or health campaign)	NO
• Use of chemical (e.g., pesticides, insecticides, paint and water disinfectant)	NO
• Use of energy (e.g., coal, gas, oil, wood and hydro, solar or wind power)	NO
• Exploitation of natural resources (e.g., trees, plants, minerals, rocks, soil)	NO
• Construction work above household level (e.g., hospital or school)	NO
• Changing land use (deforestation, forestation, and developing industrial housing or recreational centres)	NO
• Agricultural production (e.g., growing crops, fish farming)	NO
• Industrial production (e.g., small scale town/village workshops)	NO