

The UN General Assembly for Heads of State and Governments adopted long-term development agenda for low-income countries in partnership with high-income countries. The long-term development agenda is prescribed in the 2000 Millennium Declaration which has eight goals, eighteen targets and forty eight indicators. The long-term international development agenda is called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and it is to be implemented over a period of 25 years starting in the year 1990. However, most developing countries lacked vibrant monitoring and evaluation system in the early years of 1990's. Consequently, in most developing countries baseline social economic database for monitoring and evaluating goals, targets and indicators of MDGs is hardly available. However, in the recent years, there has been harmonised approach to the development and production of statistics that can be used in monitoring and evaluating Millennium Development Goals and other national development strategies.

The 2007 Malawi Millennium Development Goal Report uses information from various reports of Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS), Integrated Household Surveys (IHS) 2005, Welfare Monitoring Surveys (WMS) 2006, Malawi Social Economic Database (MASEDA), Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006, Malawi Poverty Vulnerability Assessment (MPVA) and Routine Administrative Data. The progress reports on the implementation and achievement of MDGs will benefit from monitoring and evaluation systems currently running in most developing countries and comprehensive data development systems taking place across the global in the developing countries as we are approaching 2015 and beyond.

The implementation of MDGs is done through medium term strategies which is then translated into the annual budget. The first three year medium development strategy was the formulation of Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy (MPRS) 2002-2005. Currently, government and its stakeholders is implementing its development initiatives by using a five year medium term strategy called Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) 2006-2011). In addition, the government uses Medium Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) to ensure smooth implementation of the MGDS. The government has set up an implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework to enable regular feedback mechanism of MDGs and MGDS.

As in the past, a significant proportion of financing for MGDS will come from development partners. A central norm of the Paris Declaration (PD) on Aid Effectiveness is that national strategies, owned by the Government, should provide the road map for development, and that development partners should seek to align their support to these strategies in the most effective and efficient ways possible. In view of this, the Government is finalising the Development Assistance Strategy (DAS), which seeks to increase the alignment of Malawi's development partners to the MGDS using the most practical and efficient balance of aid modalities. The DAS sets out the policy and strategies for increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the mobilization and utilization of such aid in achieving the development results set out in the MGDS.

The DAS seeks to achieve these outcomes through the operationalisation of the five norms of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, namely: National Ownership of the Development Agenda; Alignment of Development Partners to the National Development Strategy and Government Systems; Harmonization of Development Partner's Systems and Activities; Managing resources and decision-making for results and; Mutual Accountability for Development Results. These norms are expected to contribute to overall achievement in the implementation of the MDGs

This is the third report on MDGs implementation in Malawi. The first two reports produced in 2003 and 2005 focused on selected goals and reports revealed that the country was off target on most of the indicators on poverty, gender and maternal health. In this report, which provides a mid-point assessment, Government and its stakeholders have reviewed progress on all the MDGs.