

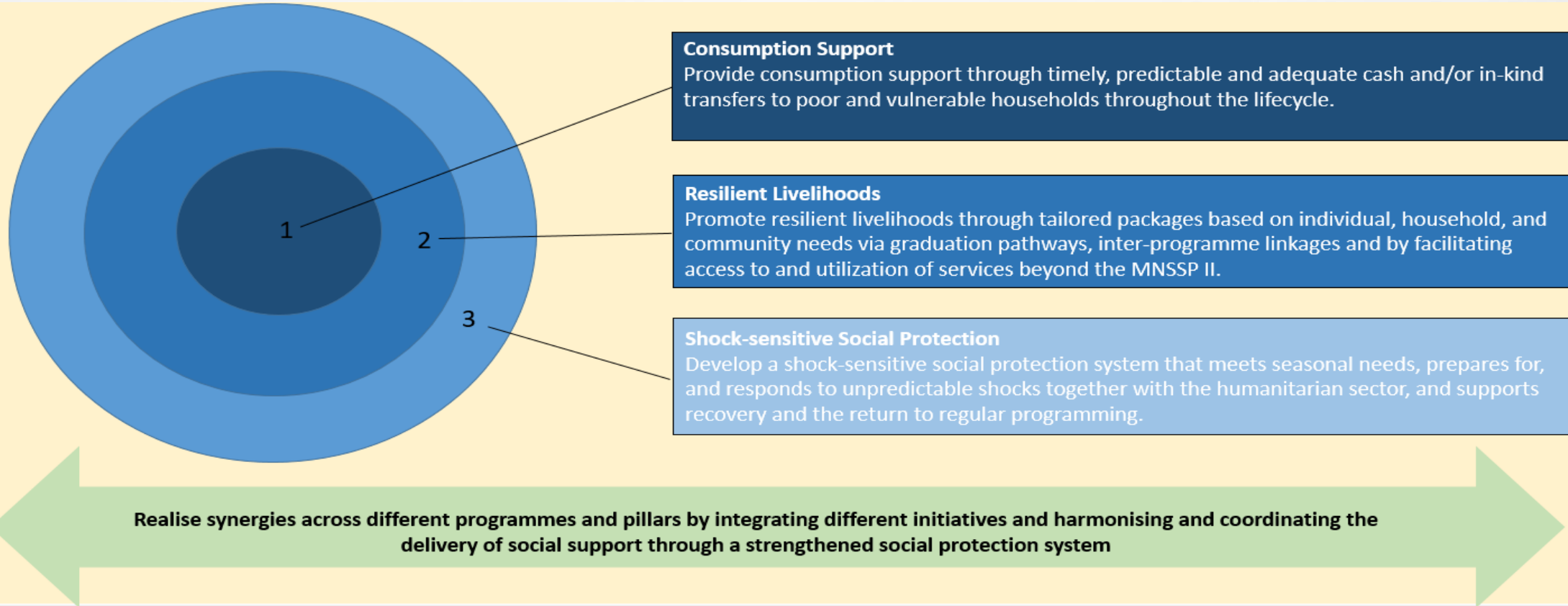
SOCIAL PROTECTION IN MALAWI



OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS IN MALAWI

- Social protection systems help HHs, especially the poor and vulnerable, cope with crises and shocks, improve productivity, invest in the health and education of their children, and protect livelihoods
- Social Support/Protection in Malawi is guided by the NSSP (2012) and implemented through the MNSSP
- Policy provides overall strategic direction for the social protection sector in the country and connects it to other intervention areas, such as DRM, economic growth
- The MNSSP II is built around five thematic areas and prioritizes five interventions

OVERVIEW OF THE MNSSP II



PRIORITY PROGRAMS

- Major programmes namely:
 - Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) (unconditional) targets 10% of the ultra-poor HHs without labour capacity and supports them to meet their basic needs and build resilience with the ultimate goal of moving them out of poverty
 - The Public Works Programme (PWP) (conditional) targets 15% of ultra-poor HHs with labor and supports them to meet their basic needs and build resilience with the ultimate goal of moving them out of poverty
 - The School Feeding Programme (SMP) provides high quality school meals contributing to improved health, enrollment, attendance and performance of learners
 - The Savings and loan groups (SLGs)/Microfinance Linking HHs, in particular SCTP and PWP to SLGs and MFI for financial inclusion and build resilience

MNSSP II PILLAR 1 - CONSUMPTION SUPPORT - DIRECT WELFARE TRANSFERS

- SCTP - is an unconditional cash transfer targets 10% of the ultra-poor, labour constrained households
 - Supports households to meet their every day basic needs since 2006
- SMP- Implemented in the most food insecure districts since 1999
 - Provide nutritional support to learners but also promote access to education
 - When linked to local food production (Home Grown), the programme benefit local producers and economies while promoting long-term food security
- PWPs have been implemented in Malawi since 1996
 - Targets 15% of ultra-poor households with labour capacity
 - Focus now is on catchment management to support environmental restoration afforestation and soil and water conservation while on the other hand getting consumption support in terms of cash
- Lean Season Support - aim is to smooth consumption after a large-scale livelihood shock such as a drought, floods leading to poor harvest

MNSSP II PILLAR 2 - RESILIENCE BUILDING

- Usually layered upon cash transfer beneficiaries to help in building more resilient livelihoods to prevent HHs from falling back into extreme poverty when a shock hits
- Focus is to implement Cash+ interventions that support individuals, households, and communities to increase their incomes and assets there by providing pathways out of poverty
- Additional layer of livelihood support interventions are provided such as
 - Entrepreneurial skills training
 - Creating savings groups
 - Seed capital transfer (Asset or cash)
 - Financial literacy
 - Nutrition education
 - Business Management e.t.c.

MNSSP II PILLAR 3 - SHOCK-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

- The aim is to protect the gains made under pillars 1 and 2 by offering additional assistance when a shock occurs
- This allows social protection and humanitarian sectors to work together along the resilience spectrum - from prevention to preparedness, response, recovery and long-term development
- Instruments:
 - Vertical expansion: temporarily increase the value of benefits for existing SCTP beneficiaries
 - Horizontal expansion: temporarily increase the number of recipients in an existing social protection programme - Scalable SCTP, lean season response
- Cash+ interventions - Combining cash and resilient livelihoods interventions to prevent HHs from falling back into extreme poverty before the next shock hits

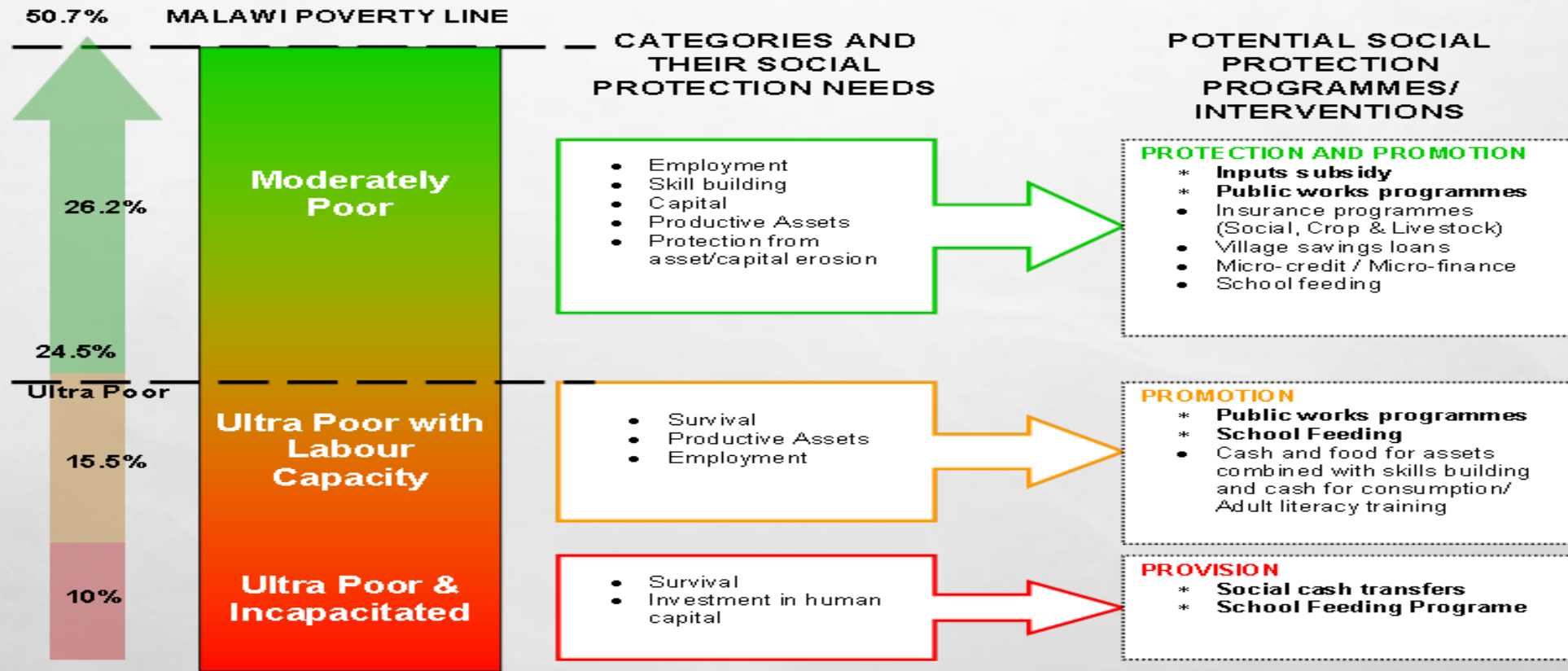
MNSSP II PILLAR 4 - STRENGTHEN LINKAGES BTWN PROGRAMS

- Poverty is multi-dimensional, & requires a multisectoral approach
- Multidimensional poverty encompasses the various deprivations experienced by poor people in their daily lives such as:
 - Poor health
 - Lack of education
 - Poor Nutrition
- Aim is to linking targeted households to social services and economic/productive activities including access to finance and market linkages
- Linkages and Referral guide to connect households with pre-existing services provided by other sectors

MNSSP II PILLAR 5 - SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

- ***Unified Beneficiary Registry*** - It contains socio-economic characteristics of HHs thereby serving as a social registry database to support targeting for all social assistance programs
- ***E-Payment*** - Moving from manual payments to electronic payments in line with the GoM digitization of G2P
- ***GRMs*** - Government has also put in place structures (committees) from grassroots level to central Gov to address grievances and manage cases
 - Call Centre - A toll-free phone Call Centre has been established to supplement the GRM committees

SUMAARY OF PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND THEIR TARGET GROUPS



* To be funded out of the Government of Malawi Pool Fund for Social Support

CHALLENGES

Design

- The widespread poverty and periodic shocks means more illegible HHs than what the social assistance programmes can accommodate

Targeting

- Beneficiary selection processes are mainly based on the combination of poverty status and labour capacity, which creates challenges around targeting accuracy, community understanding of eligibility criteria, and overall sector coherence

E-payment

- Not everyone has access to digital technology or knows how to use it effectively hence creates new kinds of exclusions

SMP

- Depends on firewood as a source of energy contributing to loss of forest cover - climate change

CHALLENGES

Implementation failures

- Limited systematic implementation linkages among different MDAs

Adequacy

- Transfer value not adequate to cover the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable HHs

Funding

- The two main social assistance programs (SCTP & PWP) remains heavily donor dependent raises serious sustainability concerns

Urban Social protection Program

- At the moment the country does not have an Urban SPP

UBR

- At the moment it remains limited in coverage and will need significant updating as soon as possible to be more relevant for other programs to use

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE SOCIAL PROTECTION

THE National Social Protection Steering Committee (NSPSC)

- The NSPSC Comprise principal secretaries from relevant line ministries such as:
 - HEALTH, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, DODMA, GENDER, YOUTH, LABOR, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE, EPD and representatives of key DPS- EU, WFP, THE WORLD BANK AND UNICEF
- It is chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Office President and Cabinet (SPC).

The main function is to:

- Provide oversight and guidance to the implementation of MNSSP and resource mobilization

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE SOCIAL PROTECTION

The National Social Protection Technical Committee (NSPTC)

- The NSPTC comprise technical staff from the relevant government MDAs, representatives from key development partners, implementing partners, civil society and private sector representatives
- Chaired by PS EPD

The primary task for the NSPTC is to:

- Develop the social protection policy, coordinate and monitor the implementation of social protection interventions

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE SOCIAL PROTECTION

Pillar Working Groups on the core pillars of MNSSP II

- Establishing Pillar Working Groups on the core pillars of MNSSP II

Role:

- To foster harmonization and alignment between relevant programmes and ensure progress towards MNSSP II strategic objectives

Thematic Working Group:

- These are program specific TWGs

Role

- Resolve issues related to the operational design, implementation, coordination of single programmes

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE SOCIAL PROTECTION

- At sub-national level the structures as follows:

District Social Support Committee:

- The DSSC is composed of district officers of all relevant departments involved in social protection activities

Key roles

- Conduct joint planning, supervision, monitoring and review of social protection interventions

Community Social Support Committee:

- This CSSC works on all social protection programmes and is elected by the communities and its

Key role

- Act as a link between households and programme implementors.

REFORMS

- The Updated policy to be renamed - from Social Support to Social Protection
- To addressing issues of Urban poverty
- Moving towards a life cycle approach
- Explore ways of extending social security to the informal sector
- Exploring ways of establishing a Social Support Fund

REFORMS

- *Moving towards an Integrated Social Safety Nets*
 - Gov is re-examining the country's strategy for helping the poorest and is currently considering an integrated approach - using the most effective way of supporting the poor based on their needs e.g
 - The old and vulnerable to be supported by unconditional cash transfers
 - Productive farmers with sufficient labor, good farming practices, have the means to turn fertilizer into increased output, market ready and have access to land to be supported with input subsidies
 - Vulnerable HHs with labour including Youth be supported with livelihoods programs e.t.c

REFORMS

- *Moving towards categorical targeting for SCTP*
- Under Categorical targeting a household has to be ultra-poor (PMT classification poorest and poorer) and has to have at least one member in one of the 5 categories:
 - Children 0-3: A household with members not exceeding 3 years of age
 - Elderly: A household with members aged 65+ years
 - Disability: A household with members living with disability
 - Chronic Illness: A household with persons living with chronic illness
 - Child-headed Households: A household whose head is less than 18 years old

Thank you for your
attention