

## **Notes – MaSP round table 14/10/20 – Malawi civil society views to SG**

### Overview- key points raised in relation to the review

#### *What SG funds: themes*

- Overall strong support to maintain all 6 thematic areas listed in the Global Goals Partnership agreement. Issue of conflict raised if thematic areas are reduced. Some interest, however, in focusing within a thematic area.
- Very strong support for focus on:
  - Health and Education (in particular for girls) – the issues identified, however, were around support for systems, COVID had shown that Malawi's education and health systems were very vulnerable and needed support; in particular, community based schools and health clinics were key for combatting COVID.
  - protection of vulnerable groups;
  - gender, youth, sport and governance also suggested by some as a priority thematic area.
  - some call for renewables and climate justice – noting though that renewable energy projects must have sustainability and accountability built into them.
  - question of whether SG is sharing/can share in future with Malawi Scotland's experience re its social services, and how those work esp during COVID.
- Examples can be seen from other thematic areas at present of generating partnerships/leveraging funding. Example of SEPA and World Bank as how the SG uses its legitimacy and resources to gain additional resources. Similar could be done in health and education sectors.

#### *How SG funds: draft Principles and other issues*

- Draft Principles:
  - Overall positive response to draft principles and welcome the 2 way partnership approach. Noting that the draft Principles align well with the discussions at the 2018 High Level Conference in Lilongwe.
  - Welcome of SG aims to grasp BLM. Ask to ensure that response to COVID and BLM are embedded in all principles and emphasis on need to acknowledge changing times.
  - Questions raised about accountability and transparency: can this be better reflected in the draft Principle?; and how would SG itself ensure accountability for implementing and holding to these new Principles?
  - Question of whether gender is reflected well enough in the draft Principles? Question of how to focus on vulnerable/marginalised groups, noting that they are the ones most affected by COVID – will there be specific activities and funds aimed at the most vulnerable?
  - Needs to be conversations by SG on the principles with existing partnerships which SG funds, as have been complaints by Malawian partners in the past re lack of mutuality.
  - Acknowledgement that Scotland does not hold all of the expertise is already addressing the issue of 'white gaze, and is welcome.
  - Questions raised regarding travel of Scottish grant holders to Malawi and not Malawi grant holders to Scotland – perceived as being more beneficial to the Scottish Grant holder. Similarly, issue raised that Scottish NGOs come to Malawi to set up their own organisation, rather than supporting existing local ones. This leads to a feeling in Malawi of being 'suffocated' by these Scottish organisations. Minister in her reply to this point

was concerned: “that to me is white privilege” and “it needs to get to the people who need it”.

- BLM - shouldn't mean that white people keep quiet - change in Malawi should be led by Malawians - however Malawians still need to be held to account - there needs to be mutuality both ways.
- MaSP:
  - Overall strong support for MaSP - call for MaSP to have a more prominent role in grant management, for example the monitoring of projects in country.
  - MaSP commended for training on safeguarding, want to see more of this. Otherwise, training should be delivered on the ground in Malawi rather than via Scottish-based organisations.
- Small grants – number of concerns and suggestions around this:
  - Concerns raised regarding accessibility for small Malawian organisations that don't have a Scottish based partner - very few MaSP members have been connected or been able to obtain a Small Grant. Need for support for very small organisations that are starting up, yet the small grants seem to be focused / awarded to larger CSOs.
  - Suggestion for MaSP to administer small grants in Malawi.
  - Strong support for developing capacity of small CSO's in Malawi - strong support for capacity building and training -
  - Call for continued investment in small organisations and a need to get more visibility for other sectors – culture/tourism.
  - Minister in her reply on Small Grants recognised the limitation that having to have a partnership in Scotland poses, and that this is an issue that SG is aware of and the review can look at.

#### Overview on Covid-19 Funding

- Overall call for clarity on how this will be distributed, will people have the opportunity to apply for this funding?
- Suggestion for this to be directed to help provide access to water in rural schools - key issue in Malawi
- Call for focus on keeping girls in education to tackle issues of teenage pregnancy and early marriage as a result of COVID and closure of schools.
- Suggestion for SG to consult with the Government of Malawi Covid-19 taskforce and to use existing local structures to direct support.

#### Chatbox – Key comments and questions

I will have a question if as two partner countries, we could be thinking of honouring Dr David Livingstone, the man behind our 161 years partnership by renovating and maintaining the historical sites which he visited across the country into a tourism destination area while also improving the peoples livelihoods in accordance with his three popular Cs namely Civilisation, Christianity and Commerce.

2. On BLM, it is not just about opportunities but also the value placed and the extent to which locals have the enabling environment to thrive when they take up spaces

There needs to be conversations within the existing partnerships (between organizations) around the principles because there have been complaints in the past of a lack of mutuality. So as much as SG is doing its part, and that is commendable, but it has to be grounded in existing and future projects.

We support local communities through advocacy we also support the needy directly when funds are available I fill the principles outlined are in line with our objectives mainly we prioritise education this time around with covid 19 schools have just been opened we are advocating for the distribution of masks to school children and teachers.

I did not get the part where the Minister talked about SG being affected by DFID? Can someone help me get it?

On principle 4, that talks about Inclusiveness. This is great and so much appreciated, however I wanted to understand how is the process executed? This question comes against the background that most partners who have benefited from Malawi Scotland support are the same. How different is it going to be this time considering the fact that most organizations that are subscribers to Malawi Scotland Partnership have not been supported over the years?

Each organization getting support from SG ensures that there are Safeguarding resources within their projects. As a Cross cutting issue, Safeguarding must be a part of every organization.

It's a great opportunity to share challenges in the education sector in Malawi. It's shocking that amidst COVID-19, some primary schools in rural and remote areas in Malawi don't have access to safe and clean water. Learners and teachers walk long distances to fetch from rivers and streams water that is even not safe. The £2M Covid Fund should prioritise water and sanitation in education sector by providing water sources in rural remote schools which are characterised by extreme poverty.

There is need to recognize those small organizations who joined the partnership since inception unfortunately they have never been supported except the usual ones. What assurance is available to those small organizations in order to strengthen their capacity?

If possible Honourable Minister, you may also try to comment on the Dr David Livingstone historical sites concept

On small organisations failing to access funding, do you have Scottish partners? The requirement is to have a Scottish partner and bid together.

How anyway on Principle #2 & 4 can you incorporate Sport Based Approaches especially  
Checking the Country's Barometer of individual and national well-being

#### Individual Well-being

Are you happy? Or let's be more specific: imagine a ladder with steps numbered zero at the bottom to ten at the top. The top is the best possible life for you and the bottom is the worst. Which step are you on right now? In what are considered the most prosperous 10 out of 24 districts in Malawi, individuals are still only reaching an average of 5 points. This begs the question- where are we going wrong, and what about the remaining 14 poorer districts?

#### National Well-being

With ever increasing globalisation, measurements of well-being are affected by both national and international comparisons. One community will assess itself in relation to its neighbours, but also to its global counterparts. Worldwide data is collected by the UN for the Human Development Index - which includes an element of well-being. The latest figures from 2

I think we are better off sticking with the 6 Themes as decided in the 2018 consultative process. They are all dear to Malawi and also reflected in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. The President of Malawi has highlighted commitment to be guided by the 2018 Report and I think it is all important that we dwell on how best can the resources be utilized among the 6 themes.

I like the point from the chair on Malawian NGOs to have different access to funding from SG and in the same event, is there no possibility to empower MaSP take up the role of Grantholders we have in Scotland mainly for monitoring the project implementation and financial management which they can either engage a consultant etc than having grantholders from Scotland.

I look at Education as the paramount to bench mark of human being

Thanks for asking on small organisations finding partners from Scotland. Some of us have tried since June 2012 at the inception of MaSP to date, we have not found partners. We still keeping trying though both the SMP secretariat and their members on their website .

The Malawi Office is well informed on the members to this Partnership and probably it would be ideal if the small organizations are also recognized and be supported. In my view let the Malawi Office facilitate such a process and prioritize the capacity building for small CSOs. Again, we need the list of Scottish Organizations who can partner with small CSOs?

Why is it that in some places where David Livingstone visited are not developed minister?

Priority areas should include, health, girl child education of the rural and reforestation

All themes guiding SMP and MaSP are all relevant to the contemporary challenges communities are facing. I am of the view that we just need to sub-themes within the themes that we can prioritise. For example, in Water and Climate, there can be a sub-theme of 'Waste Plastics in water bodies' in which focus can go towards cleaning water bodies of plastic wastes and recycling them by making high-value products from them.

To align our thematic areas with the Malawi Government's 2063 agenda, we may consider including Job and Wealth Creation.

That is a brilliant and sustainable idea, we had been working on a similar business model on recycling plastic

The thematic areas are quite okay but we should focus on how can we build resilient communities looking at the damage the Covid-19 has done. We need to enhance and build our capacity so that we effectively coordinate our interventions we support from SG

Thanks for the clarity and if it is about COVID where SG has ring fenced 2 Mil for COVID in Malawi we have challenges in education now

Some of once visited the David Livingstone Museum in Blantyre Scotland, I wonder whether Scotland has plans to build a similar Museum at Nkhotakota, that is Jumbe's place. I find it ironic to have Jumbe's statue well placed in Blantyre Scotland yet nothing of the same in Nkhotakota Malawi. This I am sure can boost tourism in our lake district of Nkhotakota as it does in Blantyre.

Hon minister are you aware that a number of boys are dropping out of school since bursary stopped being given to needy students can't that be revived so that both boys and girls can benefit?

Probably another area on COVID is supporting the health care system have equipment to cope with COVID. last time with COVID surge Malawi Hospitals could not keep up with on oxygen supply in hospitals. This prompted CEM and UoS E4D and Malawi Polytechnic to improve oxygen supply. This could be another area

Hon Minister, I missed part of your remarks, however my question is on climate change. The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed our vulnerabilities even further and brought to light our broken relationship with nature. Is SG joining to more voices in all spheres asking "build back better" to

reset the economy and to direct more economic and financial resources towards such projects to your partners?

Hon Minister I like your openness and approach to a 2 way partnership. Your point that Scotland does not have all the answers automatically breaks the WHITE GAZE! Bravo Jenny Giruth SMP.

I think Partnerships or sub granting to small organizations can do much better. We have many local organizations in Malawi with innovative ideas and can help in the sustainability of different projects. Malawi's population of 18.5 million is made up of over 70% young people which if utilized can be a human capital worth driving the positive development of the country. With just a little funding to these local / youth organizations we can increase the impact and see the change we all want.

Our partnership must create sustainable ways to deal with some of the challenges we are facing, either health or education sector. We need more capacity building trainings

I would like to know if there are any plans to support young Malawians to attend COP26 next year? I know there will be Malawian representation but from what I see not a lot of young people are supported to attend.

True there are sustainable models that can be built domestically and with Scotland

For the colleague asking above about a Museum at Nkhotakota, let me share with you that our NGO, MaSP and the Department of Culture already developed a concept which is covering all the sites he visited in all the regions across the country. And among the developments at such sites, we are proposing a Museum at Nkhotakota and Blantyre probably, Information centres in some sites and so on. Honestly, Dr David Livingstone deserves some recognition of some kind from this generation and beyond.

In education sector, particularly supporting poor and vulnerable learners with bursaries, can't there be a sustainable way of mobilizing resources within Malawi? The Covid Fund could be used to start that fund and then make it self-sustaining beyond COVID pandemic

The other challenge which we have in our partnership is that some people come from Scotland and put up their own NGO and they don't want to work with the local NGO. does that not suffocate the activities of the local NGO who do not have any funds. indeed need for a list of cso from that that can partner with the local small CSOs.

We have managed to help a number of children from the street using contributions from our local churches of which we discovered that we have people who can support within Malawi. so it's possible some of the issue just need a heart to deal with. I support the idea of giving us a list of people who are willing to support some programs here in Malawi so that we can increase the interactive Partnership

Malawi lacks resilient communities and resilient institutions. the thematic areas are tailored to address both gaps particularly in light of climate change and COVID19. Scottish investment in Malawi should be in strengthening our health care and education systems - map out who are the players in the sectors and who is working in the thematic areas of SG, and facilitate coordination through existing sector wide approaches to ensure SG-funded project address gaps in the Malawi Government health care and education systems strengthening work.

The proposal to build resilience of both local small Organizations and communities should be taken into consideration. It will have a huge impact in Malawi

As we approaching the conclusion of the meeting, we really thank the minister for being with us during this meeting. We will appreciate if we continue having such interactions with her once in a while.

In order to promote accountability and inclusivity, I suggest the inclusion of a Gender & Governance Thematic Area. Mainstreaming gender is not enough but we need to ensure that vulnerable groups have a voice and we have strong accountability and monitoring mechanisms in place across all sectors. This can only be possible if Gender and governance issues are independently supported not added or included in existing interventions.

Just to add, I wonder whether it is possible to support local NGOs personnel to travel to Scotland where they can learn and benefit from establishing relationships with their counterparts as opposed to always having visitors from Scotland who spend millions of kwachas on their stay and leave less than a million for the running of the entire project. I know it is their wish to chat with us and assist us in some aspects but in this scenario who benefits more? Isn't this same as suffocating the very people they want to support?

There is a gender act in Malawi that can guide the involvement of women in decision making position we simply need to encourage and monitor its fulfillment.

Procurement of medical equipment for the ETUs  
Procurement of PPEs

Support the expansion of the Oxygen Ecosystem- oxygen gas plant, accessories, HR Capacity Building (users and biomedical engineers)  
Support routine contact tracing and surveillance  
Revise case management manual

Establish screening/triage of all patients on arrival at all sites using the most up-to-date COVID-19 guidance and case definitions.

Community engagement and risk communication

I wish our colleagues in health can help us on COVID especially with predictions and data. So far the previous predictions have been proven wrong. COVID has not impacted Africa the way it was predicted. As we are reviewing the strategy, is COVID still a challenge as predicted? What has changed? what should we change in our approach going forward?

On the prioritisation of the goals, indeed all of them are important but looking at the current situation that we are in due to COVID-19 I am of the opinion that we need to prioritise Health and Education. these are the areas that have been hit very hard. For instance, in an attempt to adhere to COVID -19 measures many learners are learning right in the open. With the rains coming, I am afraid that children will not be learning. This calls for additional classrooms countrywide at both Primary and Secondary School levels.

Education assistance should include technical and vocational education for our strategic Community Technical Colleges being established by government in all the 28 districts.

Minister thanks. This is what is called Development. You have heard from us the players and not just the fellow politicians.

Thank you to the Minister for being open minded and allowing stakeholders from Malawi to participate in defining priority of support needs that are relevant to the Malawi context as opening the doors for continued engagement.

What is it that the Scottish government doing in supporting advocacy works for LGBTI persons?