



## CONCEPT NOTE

### NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY REVIEW

#### 1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Malawi launched its first population policy in 1994. The current policy, now in its fifth year of implementation, was launched in 2013. The policy's vision is to have manageable population growth, structure, and distribution that is commensurate with the country's resources for sustainable development. However, the country is experiencing rapid population growth that is exerting enormous pressure on the country's resources. According to National Statistical Office (NSO), in 2017, the country's population is projected to be 17,373,185, and will increase further to 34,928,372 and 45,180,255 in 2040 and 2050 respectively. In addition, half of Malawi's population is under 17 years old. This means a high child dependency burden for the country, a situation seen as a bottle neck to socioeconomic development of the country.

In accordance with the country's guidelines on policy development and review, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, with financial and technical support from UNFPA, and in collaboration with the Technical Working Group on Population, and other stakeholders, is undertaking a review of the NPP. The review is expected to assess progress made in implementing the NPP, and provide forward looking recommendations for its future implementation. In this regard, the review is aiming at ensuring that the policy objectives of the revised NPP are in tune with the current views and aspirations of the nation and that it reflects the country's emerging population issues such as climate change and the need to harness the demographic dividend.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of conducting a review of the National Population Policy is to assess the policy's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact in order to continue improving people's standard of living by addressing population challenges such as rapid population growth in a comprehensive manner.

##### *Specific objectives*

More specifically, the review process also aims to:

1. Assess the relevance of the NPP principles in addressing emerging issues in population and development,
2. Draw conclusions and recommendations to improve the current NPP performance.

3. Assess the progress made in implementing the NPP over the past four years, as a basis for informing the national and sectoral plan alignment and other strategies moving forward.

### **3. SCOPE**

The policy review will address a number of issues of the NPP and its implementation. The NPP has been guided by a set of objectives focused on its vision *‘to have manageable population growth, structure, and distribution that is commensurate with the country’s resources for sustainable development’* by creating an enabling environment for the implementation of population and development activities at national and district levels.

The review will also support policy dialogue and advocacy on the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MDGS III) and other sectoral policy.

The policy review will seek to determine:

- How far Malawi has progressed against the NPP objectives, indicators and targets identified in the NPP Action Plan document;
- The primary factors that contributed to these results, and identify lessons and gaps aimed at improving performance, going forward.

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

The review team consisting of a Consultant and officers from the Department of Economic Planning and among others will conduct the following tasks:

i. Desk Review of NPP, Action Plan and other documents.

The team will start with a desk review of the current policy and then undertake a thorough review and analysis of documents as follows:

- Make reference to the country's national plan and sectoral policies and international conventions such as International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD Plan of Action) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to propose and share the methodology and tools of assessing the extent to which Malawi has achieved its objectives, indicators and targets identified in the NPP.
- Make reference to new literature and findings such as the Malawi Demographic Dividend study report and the 2015/16 Malawi Demographic Health Survey report to emphasize the concepts of demographic dividend and family planning in achieving its objectives, indicators and targets identified in the NPP.
- Utilize available information from population and development partners to reflect on policy achievements particularly in advocacy, capacity building, and service delivery by taking into account the 2015 NPP Action Plan.
- Assess the continued relevance of the population policy objectives, policy's strategies in view of the country's rapid population growth and other emerging issues.

ii. Consultation with Partners including academia and research institutions.

- Consult with strategic partners including Government Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs), district councils, development partners, and CSOs at the national and sub-national levels as part of the data collection process.

iii. Field Work

- Undertake field visits to regions/districts to access sub-national based information and to engage with key stakeholders at this level.

#### **5. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NPP REVIEW PROCESS**

EP&D will act as the focal point and will be responsible for a) coordinating b) securing technical assistance, c) organizing the review meetings and field visits.

The consultant will periodically brief EP&D and UNFPA on the approach, findings and progress. The EP&D will in turn, periodically update partners on progress through the P&D TWG and other related forums. In addition to the individual meetings with EP&D the consultant will engage with key stakeholders including donors, NGOs and research institutions.

## **6. DELIVERABLES**

- i. Present an Inception Report to the TWG on P&D, outlining methodology, approach, and plan of action.
- ii. Meetings with key stakeholders to present key findings of the review to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MoFEPD), UNFPA and all stakeholders.
- iii. A draft report on the results of documents reviewed, consultations, interviews and field visits.
- iv. Recommendations for the improvement of the current NPP
- v. A final report of the review
- vi. A revised NPP on the basis of the recommendations of the consultations and review report.
- vii. A revised Action Plan for the implementation of the NPP