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Action for Social Justice

**A summary of
ActionAid Malawi
Country Strategy
Paper V**

2018-2023

About ActionAid Malawi

ActionAid Malawi (AAM) is an affiliate member of ActionAid Federation, established as a UK charity organization in 1972. It started working in Malawi in 1990 and registered as a local Non-Governmental organization (NGO) in 2007 under the companies limited by Guarantee Act (Reg. No. 8289) and has a functioning National Board and General Assembly.

Vision : A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.

Mission: To achieve social justice, gender equity, and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people's organizations, activists, social movements and supporters.

Core Values

1. Mutual Respect
2. Equity and Justice,
3. Integrity
4. Solidarity with People Living in Poverty and Exclusion

5. Courage of Conviction

6. Independence

7. Humility

Coverage

ActionAid is operating in over 40 countries worldwide and operates in impact areas called Local Rights Programme (LRP). In Malawi, AAM has programmes in all the 28 districts and with LRPs in 12 districts namely Chitipa, Rumphu, Mzimba, Ntchisi, Mchinji, Lilongwe Peri-Urban, Dedza, Machinga, Phalombe, Neno, Nsanje and Chiradzulu. Four LRPs of Dowa, Mwanza, Nkhatabay and Salima districts phased out.

Our Programming

1. Right
2. Resilience
3. Redistribution

Partners

We work with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), local NGOs, networks, coalitions and various groups of people.



Marching during 2018 commemoration of 16 Days of Activism in Mzimba district

About ActionAid Malawi Country Strategy Papers

To achieve its vision, AAM develops periodic strategies to provide itself with clear guidance on steps to follow to reach its vision. These strategies are developed after extensive participatory reflections and consultations with people living in poverty to solicit their aspirations and views on how change can be achieved. The strategies are further informed by views from relevant government ministries development partners, AAM staff, Board and General Assembly members, but also ActionAid International staff.

Since ActionAid Malawi is a member of the ActionAid Federation, AAM develops strategies that are aligned to the global strategy of the federation. At the same time, AAM ensures that the strategies have an understanding and are aligned to global and local development strategies including MGD three, to contribute to the 2030 agenda.

From 1992, ActionAid has developed and operated under 4 CSPs. The first was from 1992 to 1997 which was called “Long Term Perspectives’ followed by ‘Working Together to Eradicate Poverty (Umodzi Pothetsa Umphawi)’ from 1998 to 2004. ‘Rights & Responsibilities to End Poverty

(Ufulu Ndi Udindo Pothetsa Umphawi)’ was the third CSP from 2005 to 2011. In 2017, ActionAid finalized operating under the fourth CSP titled ‘People’s Action to a Poverty Free Malawi’, which was implemented from 2012 to 2017.

ACTIONAID MALAWI CSP V (2018-2023)

For 2018-2023, AAM has developed the fifth CSP titled ‘Action For Social Justice’. This CSP refines and re-affirms AAM’s commitment to drive social change towards a more just, equitable and sustainable world. Building on our learning and achievements over the past 27 years of operation, the new strategy invigorates our actions and programming to influence redistribution of power and resources, strengthen resilience of communities and movements, and fulfill rights for people living in poverty and exclusion.

What is our overall Goal for CSP V (2018-2023)

Our overall goal is to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication by shifting and **Redistributing** power and resources, strengthening the **Resilience** of communities and fulfilling the **Rights** of people living in poverty and exclusion.



Family Planning Coordinator for Mulanje District Hospital, Margret Mchere providing family planning session to young women in Mulanje during an outreach under the Joint TB/HIV Global Fund Programme of which AAM is the Principal Recipient

Programme Priorities in the ActionAid Malawi Country Strategy Paper V (2018-2023)

What are the CSP V program priorities

1. To promote and secure the realization of women, young women and girls' rights
2. To build resilience of people living in poverty whilst strengthening women-led secure livelihoods, preparedness and emergency response
3. To enhance civic participation and state accountability for the redistribution of resources and delivery of quality, gender-responsive public services

The strategy further deepens our commitment to work with different stakeholders to overcome the structural causes and consequences of poverty and injustice.

OUR PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Promote and secure realization of women, young women and girls' rights

Our aim is to promote women's rights by addressing structural causes of violence against women and girls, including the intersections between patriarchy, unequal access to power and resources, and socially constructed norms. In both private and public spaces, violence against women and girls remain both a cause and a negative outcome of women and girls' multidimensional disadvantages in social, political and economic life. Priority area one therefore aligns well with priorities in the "National Plan of Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Malawi" 2014-2020 as well as the "post 2015 SADC Gender Protocol" which calls for member states to develop strategies to prevent and eliminate all harmful social and cultural practices such as child marriage, forced marriages and teenage pregnancies.

Under CSP V, ActionAid Malawi will therefore work with young women's movements, women's movements and women rights and feminists organizations to address the structural causes of violence, including the intersectionality between



Students at Neno Mission Community Day Secondary School in Neno district

patriarchy, unequal access to power and resources, and socially constructed norms, as well as a failed economic model which devalues and exploits women's paid and unpaid labour while ensuring accountability in delivery of factions aiming at preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.

With growing attention to women's economic empowerment as 'an engine for growth', AAM will also focus on addressing structural barriers that prevent or limit women exercising their economic rights.

Focus Areas for Programme Priority 1

1. Addressing structural causes of violence against women, young women and girls, and promoting effective response mechanisms for survivors of violence.
2. Promoting women's economic justice.
3. Promoting participation of women, young women and girls in leadership and decision making to influence state accountability on gender equality.

4. Promoting women, young women and girls to control their bodies inward and outwardly.

Programme Priority 2: Build resilience of people living in poverty while strengthening women led secure livelihoods, preparedness and emergency response

In our efforts to improve resilience to different shocks, we put women, other vulnerable groups of people and communities at the centre of our work. We will support women, communities and other vulnerable groups of people to build stronger preparedness to all sorts of shocks and further support them to advocate for government to strengthen its disaster risk management systems for their good. In both preparedness and humanitarian work, we will work to promote strengthened women's leadership leading to power shifts, increased accountability of government and humanitarian actors to affected communities.

Focus Areas for Programme Priority 2:

1. Food and nutrition sovereignty, agro-ecology and natural resource rights and defense of the commons (natural resources for common good)



Female Parliamentarians in Malawi during one of the ActionAid meetings

2. Climate justice through transformative resilience
3. Localized women and young people-led emergency and humanitarian preparedness and response that promotes stronger accountability to affected populations
4. Technical and livelihood skills capacity built of youth living in disaster prone areas

Program Priority 3: Enhance civic participation and state accountability for the redistribution of resources and delivery of quality, gender-responsive public services

AAM will work with people living in poverty, peoples’ organizations and social movements and activist groups to increase civic participation in decision making that shapes delivery of public services. We will advocate for these services to be financed through progressive taxation systems, as well as implementation of fairer national and global tax rules.

In line with SDG’s vision of a world with universal literacy: A world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, AAM will

build on the gains realized over the period to contribute to free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education.

In and out of school youths, especially adolescent girls and young women, will be supported with technical and vocational skills, while supporting them to demand realization of sexual and reproductive health rights and economic empowerment. ActionAid Malawi will continue to empower communities to be co-implementers of community based TB, HIV and SRH interventions rather than being mere recipients. ActionAid Malawi will also ensure continued advocacy and lobbying for more resources which will effectively and meaningfully fulfill community HIV, SRH and TB needs. AAM will also thrive to improve community access and linkages to health services.

Focus Areas for Programme Priority 3

1. Active participation - promoting and sustaining people’s participation in democratic decision making to influence and hold the state accountable.
2. State management for the redistribution of resources:- promoting efficient, participatory



The youth during one of the tax justice campaigns

About how ActionAid works

and progressive tax system and accountable state in the delivery of public services. Our focus will be on strategic planning, domestic resource mobilization and allocation; expenditure management; performance management; public integrity; and oversight.

3. Promote accessible, quality, equitable and inclusive public education.
4. Strengthening Community Systems in addressing public health.

How we work

AAM business is poverty eradication and we have put citizens, especially women, at the centre of our work. Since 2005, we adopted the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development work

which has resulted in changes to programme implementation strategies.

We empower the citizen to have an active role in the analysis, design, implementation and monitoring of initiatives.

We support partners engage duty bearers and demand accountability and fulfilment of their obligations so that the citizens' basic and strategic rights are met.

We promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups and people living in poverty, in particular, women, girls, children and infected people with disabilities and the poor, and the excluded.



Members of one of the village savings and loans (VSL) in Machinga district

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