MINISTRY OF GENDER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL WELFARE

QUARTERLY UPDATE
SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME (SCTP)

MAY – SEPTEMBER 2023

Quarterly Cash Transfers

This quarter, regular payments have been made in all Districts of Malawi under the Social Cash Transfers Programme (SCTP). The table below shows the number of households paid in each District during the quarter, and the month in which transfers are up to date until. On average, each household (HH) receives MK9,000 per month.

In addition, between April and July Urban Lean Season Payments were paid to 44,016 HHs in Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba to improve food security.

This quarter, the SCTP + Urban Lean Season payment have assisted

330,352 households

through funding from the Government of Malawi, World Bank, German Government through KfW, European Union and Republic of Ireland.

On average, each cash transfer helps four household members, meaning the SCTP is currently assisting around

1.32 million citizens

District	Current funder	Month transfers have been paid until	# of households paid this quarter (average)
Balaka	Irish Gov	July	9,874
Blantyre	World Bank	July	7,800
Chikwawa	EU	March	9,930
Chiradzulu	World Bank	May	6,463
Chitipa	German Gov	May	3,154
Dedza	World Bank	July	16,709
Dowa	World Bank	May	17,244
Karonga	World Bank	July	7,480
Kasungu	World Bank	May	16,499
Likoma	German Gov	June	191
Lilongwe	World Bank	May	29,394
Machinga	German Gov	July	12,991
Mangochi	German Gov	September	18,583
Mchinji	German Gov	May	9,272
Mulanje	EU	July	12,715
Mwanza	EU	July	1,836
Mzimba	EU	July	13,322
Neno	EU	July	1,975
Nkhata Bay	World Bank	July	6,180
Nkhotakota	World Bank	July	7,733
Nsanje	EU	March	5,642
Ntcheu	Irish Gov	July	14,295
Ntchisi	World Bank	July	5,669
Phalombe	German Gov	July	7,963
Rumphi	World Bank	July	3,521
Salima	German Gov	July	8,264
Thyolo	Malawi Gov	April	16,194
Zomba	EU	July	15,443

SCTP best practice shared

In June, the Deputy Director of Social Welfare, MoGCDSW, attended the Africa Transfer Project Workshop in Nairobi where he presented on the SCTP.

Mr Kansinjiro shared Malawi's experiences on best practice from the implementation of the first Covid-19 Urban Cash Transfer (CUCI) and how the programme is informing the design reforms for regular social and humanitarian responses. The Deputy Director also presented on the shift towards categorical targeting, scaling up of the harmonised e-payments and innovative beneficiary identification.

For further information on the SCTP, please keep an eye on the Ministry's Facebook and Twitter pages and the SCTP website.

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Increased Use of E-payments to Deliver SCTP Cash

The number of Districts using E-payments to deliver cash transfers to SCTP recipients continues to grow. As of July 2023, six Districts are using e-payments. A further four Districts supported by the World Bank have started rolling them out. KYC registration now being conducted in Chirandzulu (pictured right), with a total of 6479 HHs now registered. Our thanks to GIZ for the technical and financial support of e-payment rollout in Chirandzulu. Registration will follow in Lilongwe, Dowa and Kasungu.

In addition, a contract is expected to be awarded shortly for a further nine districts to deliver e-payments, with transitioning expected during the next quarter. This will take the total number of Districts using e-payments for the SCTP to 19 of 28.

Transitioning to E-payments is a key recommendation in the Malawi SCTP Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 and links to the Government of Malawi's Digitisation Roadmap 2023 and financial inclusion agenda, which declares the use of *"Electronic payments are better for beneficiaries because they are faster, more reliable and less prone to fraud and corruption". (p7)*

Complementary services: Partnership with Sightsavers

As part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to link SCTP recipients to complementary services, this quarter, the SCTP partnered with the NGO Sightsavers in Neno District. As SCTP recipients collected their transfers from pay points they were also able to access free eye screenings from Sightsavers teams.

Sightsavers is an international charity working in Malawi to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote the rights of people with disabilities. About the partnership, Sightsavers said: *"We were really pleased to be able to partner on this initiative. Screenings such as this enable us to treat eye conditions and prevent avoidable blindness."*

TARGET MIS

MIS Update

Progress continues on the Target MIS built by CGA Technologies. The MIS will provide additional functionality and support the SCTP as it continues to expand.

- The Target MIS has been rolled out in several districts to conduct retargeting activities (see right for more info).
- The Transfer module is ready to pilot manual payments, and is currenting being tested for integration with TNM platforms for E-payments.
- CGA Technologies presented the Alpha version of the Case Management module to the Ministry. All feedback has been incorporated.
- Ayala and CGA are working to integrate the Target MIS with the GRM MIS.

Retargeting activities continue

This quarter, re-targeting activities using the Target MIS began in three more Districts – Mchinji , Likoma and Chitipa (pictured above right) – following a pilot of the retargeting module in Thyolo, and rollout in Nsanje and Chikwawa last quarter.

Retargeting takes place every four years to ensure the SCTP reaches, enrols and supports the most vulnerable citizens. A proxy means test (PMT) is used to identify the poorest 10% of the population using data from the UBR and applying a labour constraint criteria.

All retargeting activities are now carried out using the targeting module on the Target MIS and its corresponding offline app. Feedback on the app and retargeting module has been positive, with Ministry and District officers reporting that the Target MIS App is user friendly and data entry clerks reporting they were able to use the app and take photos without issue.

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