

Malawi Social Action Fund Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Experiences

Human Development Week

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- ◆ COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS
- ◆ DROUGHTS AS EXAMPLES OF DISASTERS
- ◆ RISK REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS
- ◆ INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
- ◆ ACHIEVEMENTS
- ◆ LESSONS LEARNT
- ◆ KEY ISSUES FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMS



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS & Malawi Social Action Fund

- ◆ Malawi's population is estimated to be 13.5 million;
- ◆ HDI is 0.437 while GDP is 667;
- ◆ Agriculture contributes 36% of GDP, provides 85 % of employment and contributes 90% of foreign exchange earnings;
- ◆ Social protection interventions countrywide contribute to the GDP – MASAF funded programs as a major contributor;
- ◆ 52 % of the Malawians live below the poverty line – 2005 IHS



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS & Malawi Social Action Fund

- ◆ 22% are ultra poor (2005 IHS) – few or no assets, little or no land, limited or no labour, chronically ill, child / female / elderly headed dependency . 30% are moderately poor (2005 IHS) – household with some labour;
- ◆ MASAF started in 1995 – Social Investment type (Empowers communities through provision of funding for socio economic services – health, education, water and sanitation, transport and food security);
- ◆ MASAF led processes have demonstrated that decentralisation is achievable e.g. LAs are capable of pooling all available resources in times of disasters.



DROUGHTS AS EXAMPLE OF DISASTERS

- ◆ Latest major national occurrences of drought in Malawi – 1992 & 2004,
- ◆ Countrywide - In 2004 / 2005 Malawi experienced a drought that affected the whole country – 4.2 million people were affected, 2.6 million were at highest risk [based on Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (VAM) Report];
- ◆ Localised - In 2006 / 2007 three Districts in Malawi were affected by a localised drought - 200,000 people were affected [based on Vulnerability Assessment Mapping and Agriculture Divisional Assessment (related to missing food entitlements)];
- ◆ IMPACTS – loss economic and social livelihoods, malnutrition (coping mechanism – sale of assets);



DESIGN OF RISK REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS funded by MASAF

- ◆ Interventions by MASAF funding were in form of special PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS;
- ◆ Resource distribution planning was based on Vulnerability Assessment Mapping data. This provides numbers of people affected and their locations;
- ◆ Local Authorities carried out intra – district allocation of resources to determine amount to be transferred to each area and the number of PWP participants;
- ◆ PWP participants selection guidelines indicated the use of community participatory wealth ranking



DESIGN OF RISK REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS funded by MASAF

- ◆ National PWP – Objective: transfer income for purchase of food and farm inputs to households at highest risk (470,000 families, average family size was 5.5 in 2006).
 - A normal PWP task would take 4 hours on a 30 US Cent wage for a period ranging between 3 months to seven months.
 - On the special program the task was doubled and thus participants received 60US Cents per day since they were expected to do 8 hour tasks;
 - The wage was topped up with a grant of US \$ 80 cents per day. The conditionality was that participants would use the grant to purchase subsidised inputs.
 - Thus after the end of the task period (10 days) each participant was paid a total of MK 2000 – about 14US\$;
 - Government provided vouchers to poor individuals for the purchase of subsidised inputs valued at US\$8 - the price of 5kg bag of seed maize and one 50 kg bag of fertiliser.

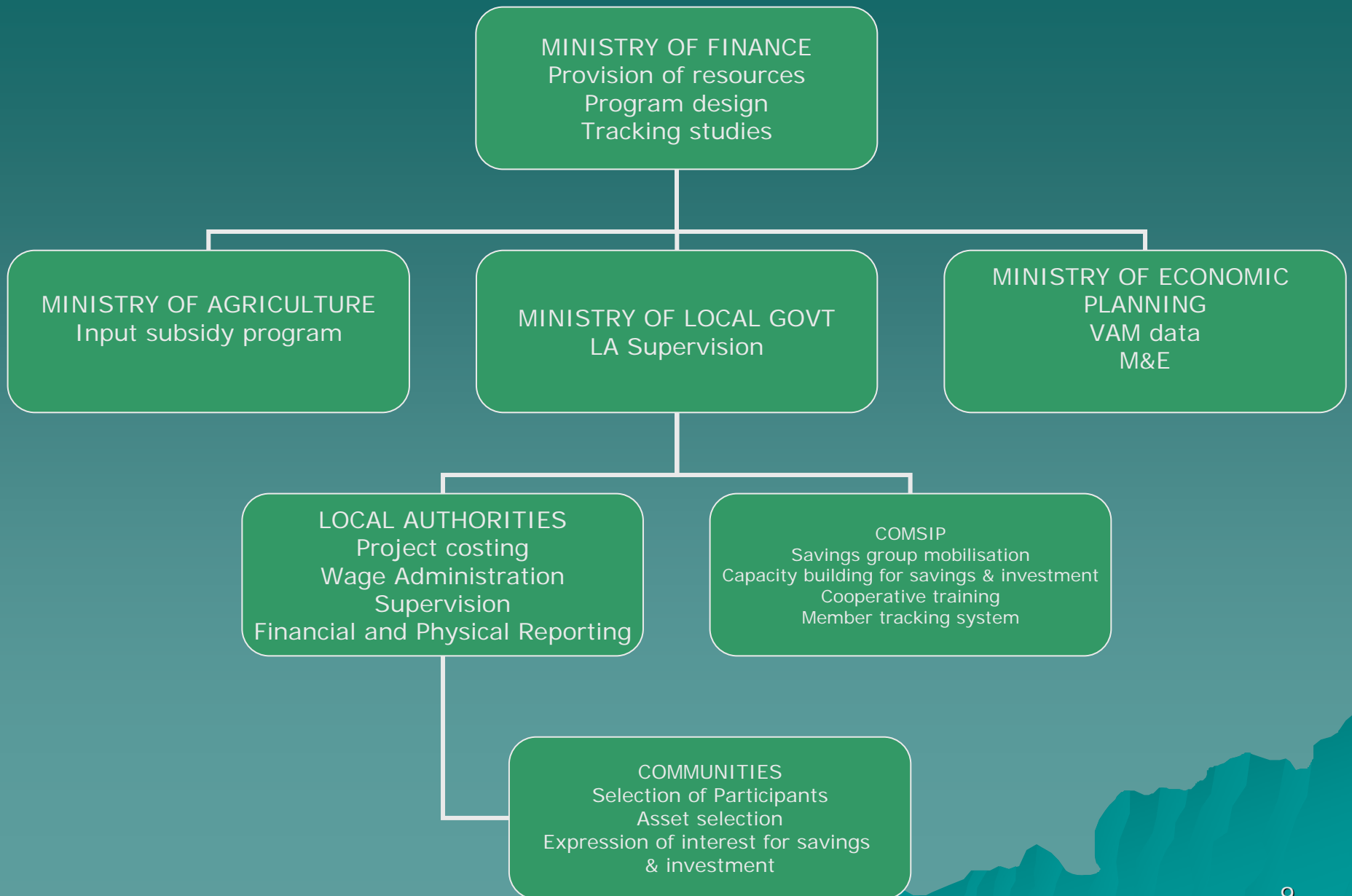


DESIGN OF RISK REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS funded by MASAF

- ◆ Localised PWP, Bua –Dwangwa) Objective: transfer cash income to households with irrigable land (11,000 families) for production of food;
 - Local Assembly Extension officers mobilised participating communities through providing of information of conditions for participation initially Conditionality - participants should be willing to work in farmer based irrigation groups
 - LA Extension staff assisted in providing technical requirements for irrigation schemes including costing of activities FOR ONE IRRIGATION CYCLE.
 - Participants worked on headworks of schemes and major canals as a group. Individuals worked on their own portions of land.
 - Each group received funding directly from MASAF towards costed activities – inputs and capacity building requirements. Groups purchased the inputs at market prices in bulk and carried out the distribution.
 - Groups were trained in group dynamics, crop / irrigation management, savings and investment and cooperative education by subject specialists from relevant stakeholders.



Institutional and Functional linkages of key stakeholders



ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ National - a total of 12.5 million US \$ was transferred to 0.5million households (MASAF 3 Impact Evaluation, 2007)
 - A total of 14,600 mt of maize was purchased by PWP participants in 2006 – equivalent to 3% of national food deficit;
 - 14 % of subsidised fertiliser was purchased by PWP participants in 2006 - 20,800 mt out of 147,000 mt;
 - 22% national staple food was met by PWP participants in 2006 – almost equivalent to 487,000 mt declared surplus in the year;
 - Implementation – demonstration of the ability of Local Authorities to mobilise all available logistical resources unlike in the normal PWP;



ACHIEVEMENTS (Cont/..)

- ◆ Localised PWP- a total of 600, 000 US\$ was transferred to 11,000 farm families (Bua Dwangwa Evaluation by Kasungu ADD – 2007 / COMSIP Reports)
 - Value of produce (maize, legumes & wheat) was 1 billion Malawi Kwacha in year 1;
 - Participants formed savings and investment groups after farm produce investment promotion (1740 farmers);
 - Cooperatives created among PWP beneficiaries have transformed into commercial crop production, 98 / 56 ha of wheat planted in subsequent years.



PWP Participants Cooperative



LESSONS

◆ General

- autonomy and flexibility of MASAF setup resulted in speedy design of emergency PWP valued at 12million US\$ and within two months;

- Design: amount of transfer per household should be related to objective and other initiatives- e.g. input subsidy in the case of the National Programme & market value of inputs for the Bua Dwangwa, & direct government input.

- Data for planning: availability of data VAM at planning has the basis for fairness and acceptability by all stakeholders in distribution of resources

- Community initiatives: programmes should not over define conditionalities e.g. different areas in Malawi had different definitions of wealth.

- IEC: upfront information needs on conditionalities & entitlements by communities are a recipe for sustainability;

- capacity building on various aspects in project management including follow-up issues like cooperative education have demonstrated viability;

- coordination among various stakeholders is an important factor for ensuring effectiveness including provision of downstream activities e.g. continuous support from COMSIP



LESSONS

- ◆ Government programs need to consider complimentary services to be provided e.g. the success of the input subsidy program is partly owed to the success of the National PWP
- ◆ Community understanding– definitions of poverty vs targeting, behaviours related to expenditure patterns, frequency of meals, coping mechanisms need to be understood as they are often localised and can lead to cohesiveness as you start dealing with groups that have a common goal
- ◆ Rejuvenating a desperate Bua Dwangwa community into a productive Cooperative Society depended on established relationship between the communities & MASAF as a household name and its established operational systems;
- ◆ MIS PWP / savings group tracking system initiated by COMSIP can be basis for encouragement to groups as well as basis for design of Government community insurance / disaster response system;
- ◆ MIS tracking system will provide information on outputs, impact, and outcome measurement.



BUA – DWANGWA WHEAT FIELDS (MALOMO)



MALOMO COMSIP COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURE

311 513



COMMUNITY SAVINGS
AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION
(COMSIP)

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09 311 513

WHEAT GRAIN
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WHEAT

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CONSIDERATION FOR NEW PROGRAMS

- ◆ Risk management framework – Do we have a comprehensive risk management strategy for households hit by disasters? How are we using experiences from the MASAF funded PWP in the design of new PWPs being planned by various implementers? Do we have data on savings and investments made by communities?
- ◆ Design - what would happen if the program is not implemented? How does it contribute to GDP?
- ◆ Strategy - what are the linkages with other programs taking place at the same time? Have we made sustainability considerations? What indirect benefits are perceived with such programs? How do we ensure synchronisation with other social protection instruments e.g. input subsidy?
- ◆ Institutional level – what are specific stakeholder roles? what are the human resource requirements?
- ◆ Operational -how can we ensure effective monitoring & tracking of outputs / outcomes? How far can institutions go towards community level targeting? Will the program produce benefits related to community multiplier effects, health, education and other socio economic services?



END OF PRESENTATION

THANK YOU : ZIKOMO KWAMBIRI!

<http://www.masaf.org>

