



**NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES
FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES
IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY
ERADICATION (NPOA-SSF GUIDELINES) IN MALAWI**

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**MINISTRY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND
CLIMATE CHANGE**

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES



**National Plan of Action for Implementation of the
Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-
Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and
Poverty Eradication (NPOA-SSF Guidelines) in Malawi**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Rationale for the Development of the NPOA-SSF	5
1.3 Vision	6
1.4 Objectives of NPOA-SSF	6
1.5 The major outcomes of the NPOA-SSF	6
1.6 NPOA-SSF Development Process	6
1.7 Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework	8
1.7.1 International Policy and Legal Instruments	8
1.7.2 National Policy and Legal Instruments	8
1.7.3 Key guiding principles	9
2. FISHERIES SECTOR PROFILE	11
2.1 Overview	11
3. NPOA-SSF IMPLEMENTATION	14
3.1 National Priorities for SSF	14
3.2 Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities of the NPOA-SSF	15
3.2.1 The Outcomes of NPOA-SSF	15
3.2.2 The Outputs of NPOA-SSF	16
3.2.3 The Proposed Activities for NPOA-SSF	17
3.3 Implementation strategies	25
3.4 Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders	26
4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF NPOA-SSF IMPLEMENTATION	57
4.1 NPOA-SSF Logframe	57
4.2 NPOA-SSF Implementation Plan	58



LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Expected Outcomes of NPOA-SSF	15
Table 2: Outputs of NPOA-SSF	16
Table 3: Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders	26
Table 4: Logframe	58
Table 5: NPOA-SSF Implementation plan	58

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Launch of the SSF Guidelines in Malawi	13
Figure 2: NPOA-SSF implementation structure	25

ACRONYMS

ACB	Anti-Corruption Bureau
AWFishNet	African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVSU	Community Victim Support Unit
DODMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EAF	Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
EASPM	Economic Activity Selection, Planning and Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSTAP	Fisheries and Aquaculture Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
IOI	International Oceans Institute
LFMA	Local Fisheries Management Authority
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MBS	Malawi Bureau of Standards
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MHRRC	Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre
NFARA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Agenda
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPOA	National Plan of Action
NTT	National Task Team
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RPOA	Regional Plan of Action
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
TEVETA	Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority
UN DRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WASH	Water Sanitation Hygiene

FOREWORD

The small-scale fishing industry is one of Malawi's most important economic drivers. With over 65,000 people directly employed as fishers, and around 500,000 employed along the SSF value chain, Malawi's small-scale fisheries are not well recognized, despite their vital role in the country's economy and the sustenance of a majority of rural fishing communities. Furthermore, SSF face a myriad of challenges.

In line with the MW2063's agricultural productivity and commercialisation, Malawi through the Ministry of Natural Resource has embraced the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). The SSF Guidelines offer various precepts for countries to follow in order to strengthen the SSF and deal with the challenges they face. Subsequently, through the Department of Fisheries, Malawi has developed this NPOA-SSF.

The NPOA-SSF is an essential and extensive blueprint for Malawi, as it contains solutions to SSF problems. Additionally, it offers programmes for the effective conservation, utilization, and management of fisheries resources for the benefit of future generations.

I would like to acknowledge the technical and financial support that was provided by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to facilitate the development of this NPOA-SSF. Sincere appreciation goes to the National Task Team that comprised of representatives from all SSF stakeholders, FAO-Malawi and the Norwegian Government, for driving the initiative. I also wish to thank everyone who contributed to the formulation of the NPOA-SSF, for their tireless efforts in advancing SSF to spur responsible management of fisheries resources. The responsibility for the plan's execution and promotion, within Malawi's borders and beyond, rests with each one of us.

It is hoped that the obstacles will be removed with the help of this NPOA-SSF, allowing the SSF to contribute to the economy and people's livelihoods to the fullest extent possible.

Each of us has a role to play to help put the guidelines outlined in the Malawi NPOA-SSF into practice.



Michael Usi, PhD
Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change

PREFACE

The National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) in Malawi stands as a testament to the nation's unwavering commitment towards unleashing the potential of its small-scale fishing industry. As a cornerstone of Malawi's economy and the lifeblood of countless rural fishing communities, the significance of small-scale fisheries cannot be overemphasized. Our efforts to overcome obstacles and usher in a new era of sustainable growth and prosperity are encapsulated in this plan, which is the product of teamwork, commitment, and a shared vision.

Malawi's small-scale fisheries sector has long been crucial in supporting livelihoods in most fishing communities, providing employment to over 65,000 fishermen and supporting an intricate web of nearly half a million individuals along the entire value chain. Yet, despite their pivotal role, these fisheries have often remained unrecognised, their importance underestimated and their challenges under-addressed. This NPOA-SSF signals a transformative shift in our approach, recognizing the imperative desire of safeguarding our fisheries for generations to come.

In alignment with Malawi's national aspirations as outlined in the MW2063 Agenda, the Ministry of Natural Resources has embraced the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). These guidelines, offer us a road map to strengthening our small-scale fisheries and overcoming the challenges we'll inevitably face. Our dedication to turning principles into actionable plans is reflected in the Department of Fisheries' careful curation of the NPOA-SSF.

The NPOA-SSF stands as an indispensable blueprint, replete with solutions that address the intricate challenges faced by small-scale fisheries. It offers a comprehensive framework for the conservation, utilization, and management of our precious fisheries resources. As we embrace this roadmap, we acknowledge that the responsibility for executing and championing this plan extends to each one of us, transcending geographical boundaries and fostering a spirit of collective action.

We believe that the NPOA-SSF's guiding principles will help remove the obstacles that have hampered development of our small-scale fisheries for far too long. This plan holds the potential to unlock the full economic potential of our fisheries, empowering the lives of our citizens and uplifting the prosperity of our nation. The NPOA-SSF beckons us all to embrace our roles as stewards of this invaluable resource, champions of sustainable practices, and architects of a brighter future.

The NPOA-SSF is a testament to our shared commitment, an embodiment of our collective wisdom, and a beacon that guides us towards a future where our small-scale fisheries flourish, and our nation thrives. As we embark on this transformative journey, each one of us is entrusted with the task of translating the principles enshrined within the Malawi NPOA-SSF into tangible action plans that will shape the destiny of our fisheries and the well-being of our people.

Implementation of this plan will require unwavering effort from all partners and stakeholders identified in this document. I therefore call upon all stakeholders to work together in order to achieve the targets set in this plan.

"Together, let us cast our gaze towards a horizon where vibrant small-scale fisheries invigorate our economy, nurture our communities, and leave an indelible legacy for generations yet to come".



Yusuf Mkungula, PhD
Secretary for Natural Resources and Climate Change

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The realization of the National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) in Malawi is a testament to the collaborative efforts and commitment of a diverse range of entities.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change extends heartfelt gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for their crucial technical and financial support, which was pivotal in guiding the development of the NPOA-SSF. The Ministry also acknowledges the financial support from the Norwegian Government through NORAD that has made this NPOA-SSF become a reality.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the National Task Team (NTT) for Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF), consisting of representatives from various government institutions, academia, research institutions, women's groups, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Fishers and Fish Traders who led the development of the NPOA-SSF. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Dr. Austin Mtethiwa (LUANAR), Dr. Maggie Munthali (MwAPATA Institute), Stanely Mvula (MZUNI), Sabstone Unyolo, Brino Chirwa, Carolyn Munthali (Department of Fisheries), Amos Mtonya (Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services), Memory Chikondi Liomba (Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS), Rhoda Mkumbwa (AWFishNET), Marcel Chisi (Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre), Bessie Msusa (Ministry of Economic Planning and Development), Symon Gama (Fish Trader - Salima District), Ronald Phiri (Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare), and Bridget Mkandawire (Fish Trader and Processor - Karonga District). We are also deeply grateful for the unwavering support and guidance of Amenye Ndiwo-Banda, FAO's Coordinator, whose dedication and expertise were instrumental in the development of this NPOA-SSF. Additionally, we would like to extend our thanks to Richard Kadongola and Kenan Nyirenda, the consultants who led the process of developing and meticulously finalizing the document. The collective expertise, insights, and collaborative spirit of all these individuals laid the foundation for this comprehensive blueprint, and we are indebted to them for their invaluable contributions.

The contributions of fishermen, community members, academics, policymakers, and the broader community of civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and local communities have enriched this document with diverse perspectives and experiences.

Lastly, we acknowledge and thank every individual who is dedicated to translating the NPOA-SSF into action. Your commitment to responsible fisheries management and sustainable practices will be the driving force that transforms this blueprint into a tangible reality.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Plan of Action for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) in Malawi aims at creating a sustainable small-scale fisheries sector that enhances food security, nutrition, and livelihoods for fishing communities while safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups.

The overall objective of the NPOA-SSF is to facilitate the coordinated implementation of small-scale fisheries development programs in Malawi, leading to improved food security, nutrition, economic contribution as well as poverty alleviation by 2030. The specific objectives include raising awareness of SSF Guidelines, enhancing collaboration, and building capacity in the SSF value chain.

The plan adopts a multi-faceted approach, with a focus on several thematic areas to achieve its goals. One key area of emphasis is responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management. The plan aims to strengthen SSF governance structures, promote ecosystem-based management, enhance accountability mechanisms, and review outdated policies.

Social development, employment, and decent work are also vital aspects of the plan. It seeks to improve access to equitable and inclusive financial and social services for SSF communities, offering alternative income-generating activities, skill development, and structured market systems to enhance livelihoods and create decent employment opportunities for small-scale fishers.

Furthermore, the plan addresses value chains, post-harvest, and trade in the fisheries sector. It aims to enhance livelihood options by improving value chains, post-harvest practices, and trade opportunities.

Gender equality is an integral part of the plan, with a focus on promoting women's empowerment in the small-scale fisheries value chain. This involves strengthening reporting mechanisms and creating safe environments for survivors of gender-based violence, enhancing women's participation in leadership roles, and promoting gender-transformative approaches.

Lastly, the plan addresses disaster risk management and climate change. It seeks to enhance institutions and community capacity for climate resilience and disaster risk management through activities such as establishing digital early warning systems, constructing disaster-resilient structures, and promoting climate-smart technologies. By promoting evidence-based programming, collecting fisheries data, conducting research, and fostering informed decision-making, the NPOA-SSF aims to create a sustainable and inclusive small-scale fisheries sector in Malawi.

The NPOA-SSF aligns with various international policies and legal instruments, such as the SSF Guidelines, SDGs, UNCLOS, and CEDAW. At the national level, it is coherent with policies like the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and strategies like Malawi Agenda 2063. Its development involved a consultative approach, engaging various stakeholders, conducting field visits, and prioritizing activities based on consultation outcomes. The National Task Team played a vital role in spearheading the development.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In 2021, the Malawi government adopted the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty alleviation (SSF Guidelines) as a tool for small-scale fisheries development and governance. Prior to their adoption in 2021, the SSF Guidelines were domesticated into the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NFAP) of 2016. The NPOA-SSF is in line with the national long-term development plan (Malawi 2063) and its first 10-year Malawi Implementation Plan (MIP-1), as well as the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Therefore, NPOA-SSF contributes to these plans and legal frameworks' call for improved food and nutrition security, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.

The SSF Guidelines were endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014, as an international instrument that is voluntary, global in scope to all types and categories of small-scale fisheries value chains, but with a focus on the needs of developing countries. The SSF Guidelines are aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition amongst small-scale fisherfolks, promoting the contribution of fisherfolks to the global economy, improving the socio-economic situation of fish workers, and achieving sustainable use of fishery resources.

The Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change is responsible for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. In this regard, the Department of Fisheries, with support from FAO has developed the National Plan of Action for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines (NPOA-SSF) in order to facilitate the implementation of SSF Guidelines. As a country-tailored plan, it is based on strategies and actions that were identified as being critically needed to address the plight of SSF in the country. The NPOA-SSF lays the foundation for joint action, outlines strategic approaches, defines major actions, provides guidance on the implementation, monitoring, learning and governing structures and suggests measures to be taken together by various stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

The NPOA-SSF has been developed through a consultative process at various levels. The National Task Team visited a number of fishing communities and held numerous meetings with SSF value chain actors as well as community leaders. The results of those consultations provided the evidence for profiling the fisheries, stakeholder mapping, prioritisation the activities and drafting the NPOA-SSF.

FAO provides support to their implementation through a global project on implementing the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines for gender equitable and climate resilient food systems and livelihoods FMM/GLO/155/MUL a Sub-programme under FMM Programme 5 Climate Change and Agriculture. The sub-programme development objective (impact) is to reduce poverty and improve food security and nutrition through more gender-equitable and climate resilient small-scale fisheries livelihoods and food systems. Its outcome statement is that countries adopt policies and support practices in small-scale fisheries value chains and livelihoods that are more sustainable, inclusive and resilient to climate change and contribute to food security and nutrition. The sub-programme will also promote SSF Guidelines implementation in collaboration with the Malawi Government. As part of its activities at the national level, the project supports nine countries - among which Malawi is one – to use participatory approaches to plan and implement priority activities within the framework of the SSF Guidelines.

1.2 Rationale for the Development of the NPOA-SSF

The development of the National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) in Malawi is driven by several key rationales. Firstly, small-scale fisheries (SSF) play a crucial role in Malawi's food security, nutrition, and poverty eradication efforts. Given the significance of SSF in providing livelihoods and access to nutritious food at household, community, and national levels, the NPOA-SSF aims to leverage the potential of this sector to achieve broader development goals.

Secondly, SSF in Malawi face various challenges that threaten their sustainability, including overfishing, inadequate governance, and climate-related risks. Developing the NPOA-SSF is crucial to safeguarding the SSF sector by promoting sustainable fishing practices, enhancing governance structures, and building adaptive capacity to address climate change impacts and disaster risks.

Lastly, the development of the NPOA-SSF aligns with regional and global commitments. Malawi is a part of regional and international agreements, such as the SSF Guidelines and other related policies, which emphasize the importance of responsible and inclusive small-scale fisheries development. The NPOA-

SSF serves as a framework to fulfil these commitments, fostering collaboration, resource mobilization, and evidence-based programming to support the coordinated implementation of SSF development programs in Malawi.

1.3 Vision

The vision for NPOA-SSF in Malawi represents a holistic and forward-looking approach, seeking to create a vibrant, equitable, and sustainable small-scale fisheries sector that benefits fishing communities, conserves fishery resources, and enhances the nation's food security and prosperity.

1.4 Objectives of NPOA-SSF

The overall objective of the NPOA-SSF is to provide a framework that ensure effective contribution of SSF to improved food security, nutrition, economic contribution as well as poverty eradication by 2030; and to support the coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi.

Specifically, the NPOA-SSF, aims at achieving the following:

- To raise awareness of the SSF Guidelines and policies that govern the SSF sector, and other cross cutting issues in order to catalyse and foster meaningful changes in behaviour and policies.
- To support implementers in the fisheries sector set priorities, coordinate action and track progress.
- To improve food and nutrition security at household, community and national levels.
- To improve collaboration in the implementation of SSF programs.
- To provide a coordinated resource mobilisation process among various stakeholders in Malawi.
- To develop and build capacity of the SSF actors across the respective fisheries value chain nodes.

1.5 The major outcomes of the NPOA-SSF

When the plan is fully implemented, it is expected that the following outcomes will be achieved:

- Strengthened SSF governance structures and capacity of small-scale fishers and other actors across fisheries value chain to sustainably manage tenure systems and develop fisheries in Malawi.
- Increased food and nutrition security among SSFs.
- Enhanced safeguarding of rights, participation, and well-being of men, women as well the vulnerable and marginalised groups in the small-scale fisheries value chain.
- Improved evidence-based programming in small scale fisheries through research, monitoring, evaluation, learning, and surveillance.
- Enhanced livelihoods for small-scale fishers and other stakeholders in the SSF value chain through increased decent employment opportunities and income
- Enhanced adaptive capacity of institutions and community structures for climate resilient and disaster risk management in small scale fisheries.

1.6 NPOA-SSF Development Process

This section describes how the NPOA-SSF was developed, including the various assessments and consultations that were carried out, as well as the key information that was generated, upon which the Plan of Action is based. The development of NPOA-SSF went through various stages. More details on consultation outcomes are provided in Annex 4.

- Translation, launch and dissemination of SSF Guidelines were done in April 2021
- Initial consultative workshop for various stakeholders was conducted in June 2021. Following the launch, the Department of Fisheries organized a daylong workshop to initiate the process of establishing a NPOA-SSF to guide implementation of SSF Guidelines recommendations. In order to ensure inclusive and participatory representation, the workshop drew together stakeholders from various sectors, including small-scale fishers, government institutions, academia, the private sector, and other implementing partners.

- A situation analysis of the human rights issues in the small-scale fisheries sector was undertaken from 2021 to 2022.
- A 15-member National Task Team (NTT) was formed in February 2022, consisting of personnel from government institutions responsible for SSF, academia, research institutions, women's groups, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Specifically, membership of the NTT included representatives of the Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC) Ministry of Gender, Department of Meteorological Services and Climate Change, Department of Nutrition, African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET), Mwapata Institute (an independent policy think tank), Small-scale fishers and traders, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Mzuzu University (MZUNI), and Department of Fisheries (Annex 1 shows the details of the membership of the NTT). The establishment of the National Task Team (NTT) in February 2022 marked the commencement of the NPOA-SSF development process.
- The role of the NTT was to spearhead the development of the National Plan of Action for the implementation of the small-scale fisheries Guidelines (SSF Guidelines).
- An orientation workshop for the National Task Team was conducted in May 2022 to impart knowledge to the members, in order for them to facilitate effective contributions of members to the NTT. In addition, a training workshop was organised to review and endorse the composition of the NTT.
- The NTT developed a work plan to guide the development process of the Plan of Action for the implementation of Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines. Additionally, the NTT developed and finalized Terms of Reference (ToRs) (ToRs) for engaging a consultant.
- The NTT attended a training program that was conducted by the International Ocean Institute (IOI), specifically to capacitate the NTT, and enhance their expertise and understanding in the development of National Plans of Action (NPOA). The course also included governance, how SSF governance is located within international legal and policy frameworks, both conventional fisheries agreements and human rights frameworks, and highlights of the importance of responsible governance of tenure.
- Furthermore, a number of field visits were organized for the NTT members to allow the NTT to (i) familiarize themselves with the various issues along the fisheries value chain, (ii) consolidate the list of stakeholders in the value chain, (iii) pre-test some of the data collection tools that were to be used during the stakeholder consultations. The NTT visited Nkhata-bay (all DESC members), Mangochi (Beach Committee members and enforcement division), and Salima (front line worker, BVC and others activities)
- The NTT undertook the following:
 - Fisheries profile analysis: Through desk review of the scope, in order to determine the characteristics of Malawi's SSF, including its contribution to national economy, and challenges of the sector faces.
 - Stakeholder mapping: A comprehensive list of SSF actors was developed and used for in the consultations exercise.
 - Multi-stakeholder consultations: Stakeholder consultations were done in Nkhata-bay with all DESC members, in Mangochi with Beach Committee members and enforcement division, as well as in Salima with front line workers, BVC and fishing community members.
 - Review of findings: Qualitative data from the multi stakeholder consultations and feedback sessions were analysed and summarized into issues according to five thematic areas of the SSF Guidelines.
 - Prioritization of activities: The issues were prioritized, and a list of recommended strategies and activities was produced.
 - Drafting of the NPOA-SSF.
- The Consultant in collaboration with NTT, finalized the stakeholder consultations, technical drafting and compilation of the NPOA-SSF
- National validation workshop of the NPOA-SSF in July 2023

1.7 Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework

This section describes the linkages between the NPOA-SSF and overall international, regional and national policies, long, medium-term economic and development plans, commitments as well as the policy and legislative frameworks. It identifies how the NPOA-SSF supports and complements them.

1.7.1 International Policy and Legal Instruments

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Malawi are governed by a range of international policies and legal instruments which Malawi recognised. Some of the most relevant ones are: The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1987); the SSF Guidelines, Malawi adopted the guidelines in 2021; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (ratified in 1994); United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) (1994); United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982), which was acceded in September 2010; United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) (2010); The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, Malawi ratified the agreement in 2014); United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015); and The African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa; The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which was adopted in 2008. Malawi is also a signatory since 2001 of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries which provides a legal framework for the sustainable use and management of fisheries resources within the region.

There are also some non-binding instruments that Malawi subscribes to such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1963); The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995); and the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA). The CIFAA was established by the FAO Council in 1971 with the primary objective of promoting, coordinating, and assisting national and regional fisheries in sustainable research and development of inland fishery resources. It also aids members in establishing scientific foundations for conservation measures and supporting efforts to protect the aquatic environment. Recent amendments were made to address emerging socio-cultural and economic concerns, including biodiversity conservation, climate change, resource pressure, and sustainability.

These policy and legal instruments call for member states to put in place and implement measures that safeguard the rights of fisheries players as well as the conservation and management of the fisheries resources. Member states are obliged to safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups within their countries. The SSF Guidelines lay out principles and recommend policies, strategies, and actions to promote fishers, fish workers, the fish they rely on for food and income, and their livelihoods and communities. They serve as a valuable tool for policymakers, organizations, and stakeholders to work towards a more inclusive and resilient small-scale fisheries sector while safeguarding the vital marine resources and ecosystems for future generations.

On the other hand, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were designed to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by the world, with the aim of creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all. They are built on the principle of “leaving no one behind,” which means that the goals strive to benefit all people, including those in vulnerable situations and marginalized communities like most SSF.

1.7.2 National Policy and Legal Instruments

At national level, the plan is guided by policy and legal instruments. Some of the policies include National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2016), The National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy (2018), The Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN 3.0) Movement, The Micronutrient Fortification Policy (2008), The National Agriculture Policy (2016-2021) and the National Gender Policy (2015).

These national policy frameworks provide a foundation and guidance for the development and management of fisheries in Malawi and help to ensure that it is sustainable and contribute to national food security and poverty reduction. Apart from the policies, the NPOA-SSF aligns with the current long term national strategy The Malawi Agenda 2063's Pillar 1 (Agriculture Productivity and Commercialization) and the first 10-year Malawi Implementation Plan (MIP-1). Within the MW2063, the NPOA-SSF is coherent with such Enablers as environmental sustainability, economic infrastructure, human resource development, private sector dynamism and mind-set change.

As for the national legal instruments the Plan of Action is coherent with The Republican Constitution which serves as an overarching guiding document, explicitly guaranteeing protection against discrimination and ensuring equal enjoyment of human rights for all individuals in Malawi. In addition to the Constitution, other

relevant legal instruments with which the Plan of Action is aligned include the following:

The Fisheries and Conservation Act (1997) serves as the foundation for fisheries management and regulation. It encompasses various aspects such as licensing, fisheries access rights, conservation measures, and enforcement mechanisms. Specifically, Part III of the Act recognizes the significance of small-scale fisheries and provides for the participation of fishing communities in the management and sustainable development of fisheries resources.

The Environmental Management Act (1996) provides a framework for the conservation, protection, and management of the environment, including fisheries resources. It promotes sustainable practices and mitigates the environmental impacts of fishing activities.

The Land Act (2016) is relevant to small-scale fisheries in cases where land is utilised for fishing activities, such as the establishment of landing sites, fish processing facilities, and aquaculture operations. The Act addresses land tenure, land-use planning, and allocation of land for fisheries purposes.

Gender Equality Act (2013) addresses gender-based discrimination and provides for equal enjoyment of rights and opportunities for both women and men. It emphasises the elimination of gender-based violence, promotes equal access to resources, and encourages gender mainstreaming. The National Plan of Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Malawi 2014–2020 focuses on combating domestic violence and provides protection for survivors. Other legal instruments relevant to SSF include the Trafficking in Persons Act (2016), the Education Act (2015), and the Local Government Act (2017).

1.7.3 Key guiding principles

The NPOA-SSF follows the following principles as stipulated in the SSF Guidelines:

a) Human Rights and dignity

Recognizing the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable human rights of all individuals, all parties should recognize, respect, promote and protect the human rights principles and their applicability to communities dependent on small-scale fisheries, as stipulated by international human rights standards: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness; non-discrimination and equality; participation and inclusion; accountability and the rule of law. States should respect and protect the rights of defenders of human rights in their work on small-scale fisheries. All non-state actors including business enterprises related to or affecting small-scale fisheries have a responsibility to respect human rights. States should regulate the scope of activities in relation to small-scale fisheries of non-state actors to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards.

b) Respect of cultures

Recognizing and respecting existing forms of organization, traditional and local knowledge, and practices of small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities encouraging women leadership and taking into account Art. 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

c) Non-discrimination

Promoting the elimination of all kinds of discrimination in policies and practice in small-scale fisheries.

d) Gender equality and equity

Fundamental to any development initiative is the recognition and promotion of the role of both women and men in small-scale fisheries as well as equal rights and opportunities. Through equity and equality processes promote justice and fair treatment— both legally and in practice – of all people and peoples, including equal rights to the enjoyment of all human rights. At the same time, differences between women and men should be acknowledged and specific measures taken to accelerate de facto equality, i.e., using preferential treatment where required to achieve equitable outcomes, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

e) Consultation and participation

Ensuring active, free, effective, meaningful, and informed participation of small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples, taking into account the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP) in the whole decision-making process related to fishery resources and areas where small-scale fisheries operate as well as adjacent land areas, and taking existing power imbalances between different parties into consideration. This should include feedback and support from those who could be affected by decisions prior to these being taken and responding to their contributions.

f) Rule of Law

Adopting a rules-based approach for small-scale fisheries through laws that are widely publicised in applicable languages, applicable to all, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and that are consistent with existing obligations under national and international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments.

g) Transparency

Defining and widely publicising policies, laws and procedures in applicable languages, and widely publicising decisions in applicable languages and in formats accessible to all.

h) Accountability

Holding individuals, public agencies, and non-state actors responsible for their actions and decisions according to the principles of the rule of law.

i) Economic social and environmental sustainability

Applying the precautionary approach and risk management guard against undesirable outcomes, including fish loss and waste, overexploitation of fishery resources and negative environmental, social, and economic impacts.

j) Holistic and integrated approaches

Recognizing the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) as an important guiding principle, embracing the notions of comprehensiveness and sustainability of all parts of ecosystems as well as the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities, and ensuring cross-sectoral coordination as small-scale fisheries are closely linked to and dependent on many other sectors.

k) Social responsibility

Promoting community solidarity and collective and corporate responsibility that embraces diverse traditional knowledge and customary practices in promoting conservation and sustainable management of small-scale fisheries. In many communities, fishing is deeply rooted in their culture and is often a significant source of livelihood.

l) Feasibility and social and economic viability

Ensuring that those policies, strategies, plans and actions for improving small-scale fisheries governance and development are socially and economically sound and rational. They should be informed by existing conditions, implementable and adaptable to changing circumstances, and should support community resilience.

2. FISHERIES SECTOR PROFILE

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 Components of the fisheries sector: The fisheries sector in Malawi comprises two main components: capture fisheries and aquaculture. Capture fisheries involve the extraction of fish from natural water bodies such as lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. Capture fisheries is further categorized into (i) large-scale or commercial, and (ii) small-scale. Aquaculture, also known as fish farming, involves the cultivation of fish in controlled environments such as ponds, tanks, or cages, and in Malawi, it primarily focuses on tilapia and catfish production.

Women play a substantial role in the capture fisheries sub-sector, making up more than 60% of the workforce of whom approximately 80% are employed in post-harvest processes and trading. Small-scale fisheries in Malawi's context are fishing activities that use less sophisticated fishing methods that are labour-intensive, use mainly their own labour (i.e., family labour), use low capital investments on wooden vessels and outboard engines, and exploit the fisheries resources of the inshore fishing grounds of all the lakes and rivers (Weyl et al., 2010). The fishing gears and crafts used in small-scale fisheries in Malawi include gillnets, traps, hooks and lines, beach seines, and traditional fishing gear. In addition, they also use engines that are less than 25 horsepower to propel fish crafts. Among SSF, men traditionally do most of the fishing while women are responsible for fish processing and marketing. However, this division of labour is beginning to shift as an increasing number of women engage in fishing and rise to positions of authority in fisheries management.

2.1.2 Water bodies that are main sources of fish: Approximately 20 percent of the country's land is covered by water, spanning an area of 24,404 km². These water bodies harbour a rich biodiversity, supporting over 1000 species, with around 800 species being endemic to Malawi. The country is home to nearly 15 percent of the world's freshwater fish biodiversity.

Fisheries in Malawi primarily rely on five major water bodies: Lake Malawi, Chilwa, Chiuta, Malombe, and the Shire River. The majority of fish catches, accounting for 93 percent of the total, are obtained from Lake Malawi, while the remaining water bodies contribute to the rest. Lake Malawi, the third largest lake in Africa, follows Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika in terms of size.

Lake Malawi, Lake Malombe, and the Shire River are freshwater ecosystems, providing habitats for a wide range of freshwater species. On the other hand, Lakes Chilwa and Chiuta are enclosed systems, known as endorheic lakes, and thus exhibit a slightly saline nature. The diverse aquatic resources in Malawi, particularly Lake Malawi, play a vital role in supporting the country's fishing industry and contribute significantly to its freshwater fish biodiversity.

Most of the fish caught by the small-scale fisheries include Chambo (*Oreochromis spp*), Usipa (*Engraulicypris sardella*), Utaka (*Copadichromis spp*), Ncheni (*Ramphochromis spp*), Kambuzi (*Haplochromine spp*), Mbaba (*Buccochromis*) Ndunduma (*Diploaxodon spp*), Chisawasawa (*offshore Lethrinops spp*), Kampango (*Bagrus spp*), Bombe (*Bathyclarias spp*)

Overall, total fish catch has increased from 65,484 tonnes in 2006 to 223,000 tonnes in 2018, owing primarily to high *Usipa* production. Currently, total production is estimated at 180,508 tonnes from capture fisheries (171,115 tonnes). The sector contributes about 4 percent to the GDP (GoM 2023).

2.1.3 Importance of fisheries for employment and food and nutrition security: According to the 2020 Annual Frame Survey, there are estimated 75,000 small-scale fishers operating in all the water bodies. Out of this total number of fishers, 314 were female gear owners. 3,458 fishers were below the age of 18 years; 39,800 fishers were between the ages of 18 and 35 years; and 31,527 fishers were above the age of 35 years. These fishers operate 19,686 fishing crafts. The sector indirectly employs more than 500,000 people through ancillary activities such as transportation, fish processing, fish trading, boat building and others.

The Malawi SSF contributes about 90% of total fish catches. The sector plays an important socioeconomic role for rural communities by providing food, nutritional security, and livelihoods in the country. Malawi has an annual per capita fish consumption of 9.6 kg which is below the required World Health Organisation's (WHO) range of 13-15kg. Fish accounts for approximately 70 percent of dietary animal protein intake and 40 percent of total protein supply in Malawi (GoM, 2022).

2.1.4 Evolution of fisheries management in Malawi: The management system in the artisanal fisheries sub-sector has changed from the conventional "top-down" management approach to a participatory fisheries

management approach. The Act provides for the establishment of Local Fisheries Management Authorities (LFMA) to facilitate monitoring and regulation of fishing activities, enforce management regulations and promote sustainable fishing practices. This approach started on a pilot basis in Lake Malombe in 1993 and has since spread to Lakes Malawi, Chiuta, Chilwa, and the Shire River System. Despite the introduction of participatory fisheries management, the management regulatory measures, fisheries management policies are still based on biological information as guided by the fisheries policy.

The following are some of the provisions in the Fisheries Conservation and Management Regulations of 2000:

- Closed Fishing Season and Area, designed to protect certain species during their spawning period.
- Mesh size restrictions, formulated to supplement closed season and areas in order to protect young fish from being caught before maturity.
- Minimum fish size, designed to define mesh size restriction to protect juvenile stages of fishery resources.
- Maximum headline length of fishing net, designed to control fishing effort by limiting the size of the fishing net.

2.1.5 SWOT Analysis of the small-scale fisheries in Malawi

In the context of human rights, small-scale fisheries (SSF) play an important role in Malawi's economy, providing many Malawians with livelihoods and food security. However, there are significant human rights issues affecting Malawi's SSF sector. Among these concerns are:

SSFs often encounter difficulties accessing and owning resources such as fishing gear, boats, and fuel, limiting their capacity to fish and earn a living. The sector has also experienced inequalities towards women, youth, and especially individuals with disabilities to accessing fisheries resources and decision-making processes affecting the SSF sector.

Working conditions for most of the SSFs are unsafe, they use small boats with limited safety measures in place and usually result in accidents and loss of life. Similarly, children are often involved in fishing and ancillary activities, notably in the processing and sale of fish, which has led to sexual exploitation, high incidences of school dropouts and increased vulnerability to contracting HIV.

The SSFs in Malawi are not always recognized as legitimate stakeholders in fisheries management. This can result in policies and regulations that overlook their needs and interests, and addressing these human rights challenges necessitates a multifaceted approach involving all fisheries actors. This includes ensuring fair resource access, strengthening marginalized communities, fostering safe working conditions, and putting in place sustainable fishing techniques.

The fisheries sector has also experienced declining fish stocks due to overfishing and environmental degradation, poor infrastructure, poor /limited access to markets, high post-harvest losses, non-functional cooperatives or associations, inadequate funding to undertake effective enforcement of fisheries regulations, weak governance, climate change effects leading to changing water levels and temperatures affecting fish populations and the livelihoods of fishers, diseconomies of scale, limited ability to maintain quality and produce value-added fish products.

Weak institutional frameworks to support their trade, as well as difficulties accessing landing sites and fishing grounds, only make their predicament worse. Further, there are violations of women's rights in accessing fish and accessories to fish processing facilities, thereby affecting their ability to optimize their contribution to the fisheries value chain.

In addressing the challenges, the following are some of the opportunities or national initiatives that have been implemented upon which the NPOA will build on.

- Domestication of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management/Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.
- Enormous research projects through collaboration of various state and non-state actors.
- Establishment of FSTAP to oversee the fisheries research initiatives.

- Devolution of fisheries extension services to the District Councils to effectively engage the local structures in fisheries management.
- In 2003, the government, in collaboration with research and academic institutions in Malawi, developed the *Chambo* Restoration Strategic Plan (2003-2015) and revised it in 2018.
- Development and implementation of a National Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Agenda (NFARA) 2018–2023, whose goal is to guide researchers and all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of all research activities to ensure that research efforts are addressing national priorities and that there is effective collaboration and networking in the implementation of the activities.
- Implementation of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy

Development of a guide to Participatory Fisheries Management in Malawi (Implementation Guidelines) in 2016, whose aim is to promote active participation of all stakeholders in fisheries governance.



Figure 1: Launch of the SSF Guidelines in Malawi

3. NPOA-SSF IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 National Priorities for SSF

The NPOA-SSF Implementation plan outlines key national priorities and strategic issues that require attention. These include:

- **Capacity building and awareness:** Advocacy skills and knowledge of human rights are critical for the effective implementation of the plan.
- **Ecosystem-based management:** Implementing an ecosystem-based approach ensures that fisheries management considers the entire ecosystem, including biodiversity, habitat protection, and ecological interactions.
- **Tenure Systems in the SSF:** Strengthened to advance mechanisms promoting equitable access to resources, and tenure of rights for fishing communities across the fish value chain.
- **Research, learning and knowledge sharing:** There is a need to conduct research on various issues affecting the fisheries sector as stipulated in the national fisheries and aquaculture research agenda (2018-2023) currently, the use of existing data and information to support development initiatives is inadequate.
- **Fisheries legal framework:** Transforming fisheries from an open access to a property rights-based approach is recommended. This will require review and adoption of existing legal frameworks and other sectoral instruments. The implementation of the FAO SSF Guidelines should also be considered, and any weak and outdated policies and by-laws should be reviewed.
- **Small-Scale fisheries governance structures:** At national, district and community levels, the Department of Fisheries, District Fisheries offices, Fisheries Associations, cooperatives, BVCs, and Traditional Authorities are responsible for strengthening small-scale fisheries governance.
- **Institutional reforms:** Institutional reforms that promote structured markets, and control gender insensitive market systems such as *ndagwira* should be undertaken.
- **Infrastructure development:** Promoting the use of improved technologies is crucial in enhancing the productivity of small-scale fisheries, marketing, and reducing post-harvest losses.
- **Social protection initiatives:** Social protection initiatives that promote alternative livelihoods should be implemented to support communities dependent on small-scale fisheries during lake closed season and climate change related disasters.

3.2 Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities of the NPOA-SSF

3.2.1 The Outcomes of NPOA-SSF

The outcomes below will support implementation SSF Guidelines by focusing on six thematic areas.

Table 1: Expected Outcomes of NPOA-SSF

Thematic Area	Outcomes
Governance of tenure in SSF and resource management	Outcome 1: Strengthened SSF governance structures and capacity of small-scale fishers and other actors across fisheries value chain to sustainably manage tenure systems and develop fisheries in Malawi.
Social development, employment and decent work	<p>Outcome 2: Improved access to infrastructure, social and financial services that are equitable and inclusive for SSF.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Enhanced livelihoods options for small-scale fishers and other stakeholders in the fisheries value chain through increased decent employment opportunities and diversified income sources.</p>
Value chains, post-harvest and trade	<p>Outcome 4: Enhanced capacity of small-scale fisheries actors to adopt post-harvest, value addition technologies, and profitable trade.</p> <p>Outcome 5: Increased food and nutrition security among SSFs.</p>
Gender Equality	Outcome 6: Enhanced gender equality and safeguarding of rights, participation, and well-being of men, women and youths in the small-scale fisheries value chain.
Disaster risks and climate change	Outcome 7: Enhanced adaptive capacity of institutions and community structures for climate resilient and disaster risk management in SSF.
Evidence-based programming for SSF	Outcome 8: Improved fisheries programming through research, monitoring, evaluation, learning, surveillance and resource mobilization.

3.2.2 The Outputs of NPOA-SSF

Table 2: Outputs of NPOA-SSF

Outcomes	Outputs
<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>Strengthened SSF governance structures and capacity of small-scale fishers and other actors across fisheries value chain to sustainably manage tenure systems and develop fisheries in Malawi.</p>	<p>Output 1.1: Capacity of SSF governance structures for sustainable management of fisheries resources and tenure systems enhanced</p>
	<p>Output 1.2: Ecosystem-based management and biodiversity practices among all small-scale fisheries (SSF) stakeholders promoted.</p>
	<p>Output 1.3: Capacity of SSF institutions and stakeholders in accountability mechanisms enhanced.</p>
	<p>Output 1.4: Collaboration in the implementation of SSF programs and mobilisation of resources for the development of SSF strengthened.</p>
<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Improved access to infrastructure, social and financial services that are equitable and inclusive for SSF.</p>	<p>Output 1.5: Outdated Policies and legal frameworks governing fisheries sector reviewed.</p>
	<p>Output 2.1: Access to equitable and inclusive financial services amongst SSF promoted.</p>
	<p>Output 2.2: Access to equitable and inclusive social services amongst SSF promoted.</p>
<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>Enhanced livelihoods options for small-scale fishers and other stakeholders in the fisheries value chain through increased decent employment opportunities and diversified income sources.</p>	<p>Output 2.3: Access to safe and hygienic landing sites and markets enhanced.</p>
	<p>Output 3.1: Access to alternative income generating activities promoted.</p>
<p>Outcome 4:</p> <p>Enhanced capacity of small-scale fisheries actors to adopt post-harvest, value addition technologies, and profitable trade.</p>	<p>Output 3.2: Decent employment opportunities in the fisheries sector increased.</p>
	<p>Output 4.1: Use of improved post-harvest technologies promoted.</p>
	<p>Output 4.2: Value addition promoted.</p>
<p>Outcome 5:</p> <p>Increased food and nutrition security among SSFs.</p>	<p>Output 4.3: Structured market system to enhance income, and equitable access to markets for SSF members established.</p>
	<p>Output 5.1: Fish consumption among SSFs increased.</p>
<p>Outcome 6:</p> <p>Enhanced gender equality and safeguarding of rights, participation, and well-being of men, women and youths in the small-scale fisheries value chain</p>	<p>Output 5.2: Food production systems of SSFs diversified</p>
	<p>Output 6.1: Reporting mechanisms, referral pathways, and safe environment to effectively respond to cases of SGBV strengthened</p>
	<p>Output 6.2: Women's participation in leadership roles at local and national levels enhanced.</p>

<p>Outcome 7:</p> <p>Enhanced adaptive capacity of institutions and community structures for climate resilient and disaster risk management in SSF</p>	<p>Output 7.1: Capacity of institutions and communities for climate resilient and disaster risk management enhanced.</p> <p>Output 7.2: Collaboration between Department of Fisheries, DODMA, and other key players to respond to disasters strengthened</p>
<p>Outcome 8:</p> <p>Improved fisheries programming through research, monitoring, evaluation, learning, surveillance and resource mobilization</p>	<p>Output 8.1: Evidence-based decision-making at all levels in fisheries sector promoted</p> <p>Output 8.2: Monitoring, evaluation learning, research and surveillance systems strengthened</p>

3.2.3 The Proposed Activities for NPOA-SSF

The following section highlights key priorities identified in the development process of the National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF). These priorities align with responsible governance, sustainable resource management, social development, employment, value chains, gender equality, disaster risk and climate change. They aim to guide the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries, addressing governance and socio-economic aspects.

Thematic Area 1: Responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management in SSF

Responsible Governance of Tenure in Small-Scale Fisheries and Sustainable Resource Management, aims to empower fishing communities, recognize their rights, and involve them in resource management for well-being, livelihoods, and human rights. It ensures food security, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, and social development. By considering legitimate tenure rights, it fosters participation, ownership, equitable access, and control over vital resources.

Outcome 1. Strengthened SSF governance structures and capacity of small-scale fishers and other actors across fisheries value chain to sustainably manage tenure systems and develop fisheries in Malawi.

This outcome tackles knowledge gaps, boundary non-adherence, ineffective governance, and congestion at landing sites. It also strengthens accountability mechanisms in small-scale fisheries governance through policies, laws, and regulations. To address these challenges, capacity building in fisheries institutions is crucial. Focus areas include SSF Guidelines, conflict management, tenure systems and land-related issues, and promoting fishing guidelines. Enhancing knowledge and capabilities enables effective small-scale fisheries management aligned with established guidelines.

Output 1.1. Capacity of SSF governance structures for sustainable management of fisheries resources and tenure systems enhanced.

Activities

- Raise awareness of SSF governance structures on SSF Guideline and policies (land, trade, tourism, DRM, climate change etc.) through IEC.
- Conduct training programs on rights, policies, and the SSF Guidelines for fisheries extension workers, district teams, national-level teams, researchers, local and religious leaders, and local authorities.
- Facilitate landing sites registration in line with Land Act to address encroachment issues.
- Advocate for rolling out of land laws in all the lake shore districts.
- Support customary land committees and tribunals to address land tenure conflicts.
- Establish transparent and accessible mechanisms for allocating and managing tenure rights in the fisheries sector.

Output 1.2: Ecosystem-based management and biodiversity conservation practices among small-scale fisheries' (SSF) stakeholders promoted.

Activities

- Train SSF groups in Ecosystems and Fisheries Management (EFM)
- Promote coordination of BVCs and RVCs with VNRMCs in SSF catchment management
- Distribute fruit tree seedlings to communities in the catchment area.
- Facilitate establishment of fish sanctuaries
- Develop inclusive co-management plans at landing sites.
- Facilitate conservation agriculture and regeneration practices among SSF farming households.
- Facilitate adoption of community cage culture and aquaculture where appropriate
- Support waste management and recycling systems/initiatives addressing pollution such as plastic.

Output 1.3: Capacity of SSF institutions and stakeholders in accountability mechanisms enhanced.

Activities

- Conduct awareness campaigns on corruption in the fisheries sector to promote transparency and integrity.
- Establish a complaints and feedback mechanism to enhance SSF governance accountability, including addressing labour matters.
- Conduct community scorecards to promote accountability and transparency in the fisheries sector.
- Identify key opinion leaders as influencers to curb Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and other malpractices.
- Facilitate confiscation and destruction of illegal fishing gear.
- Recognize LFMAAs that have reduced negative fishing practices.
- Develop and distribute informative materials on fishing regulations.

Output 1.4: Collaboration in the implementation of SSF programs and mobilisation of resources for the development of SSF strengthened.

Activities

- Build capacity of SSF actors to enhance the skills and knowledge of SSF stakeholders.
- Seek partnerships between government, NGOs, and private sector to align strategies and leverage resources for SSF initiatives.
- Link SSF with other players in the value chain
- Engage with stakeholders to garner support and contributions.
- Develop public-private partnerships for joint investments and sustainable business models.
- Train SSF cooperatives in proposal writing for securing financial support.
- Enforce boat fee collection.
- Train SSF actors in financial literacy, record keeping and bookkeeping.

Output 1.5: Outdated policies and legal frameworks governing fisheries sector reviewed.

Activities

- Conduct policy and legal review to identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps related to fisheries

sector.

- Engage policymakers for guidance and buy in.
- Update policies with new recommendations or amendments.
- Raise public awareness of SSF communities on policies and laws.
- Conduct capacity building and training sessions on policies and legal framework for SSFs.
- Thematic Area 2: Social development, employment and decent work

Social and economic development is critical for empowering small-scale fishing communities, especially women, and ensuring their human rights. It includes access to services such as savings, credit, and insurance.

Outcome 2: Improved access to infrastructure, social and financial services that are equitable and inclusive for SSF.

The NPOA-SSF aims to upgrade fisheries infrastructure and link women, men, vulnerable and marginalised groups to equitable social services. It addresses access to healthcare, credit, road infrastructure, and sanitation issues.

Output 2.1: Access to equitable and inclusive financial services amongst SSF promoted.

Activities

- Train SSFs households in income diversification.
- Establish Village Savings and Loans Associations
- Train SSF communities in financial literacy
- Facilitate formation of SSF groups into cooperatives
- Link SSFs to financial capital markets and insurance.

Output 2.2 Access to equitable and inclusive social services amongst SSF promoted.

Activities

- Implement social protection programs targeting vulnerable groups within SSF communities.
- Promote sexual and reproductive health service along landing sites.
- Facilitate availability of Child Care Centres
- Train child minders on management and childcare.
- Invest in infrastructure development to have, electricity, roads, running water and lockable storage facilities.
- Facilitate access to healthcare services through clinics, mobile health units.
- Facilitate access to education through school facilities.

Output 2.3 Access to safe and hygienic landing sites and markets enhanced.

Activities

- Sensitize fishing communities to basic WASH practices.
- Facilitate construction of landing sites and fish markets with safe and hygienic facilities, including sanitation and waste management systems.
- Train SSF members on safety and hygiene
- Distribute first aid kits in landing sites.
- Establish and enforce regulations and standards for safety practices in landing sites and markets.
- Collaborate with Village Health Committees (VHCs) to regularly inspect hygiene standards in landing sites and markets.

Thematic Area 3: Value chains, post-harvest and trade

This thematic area aims to foster investments in appropriate infrastructure and capacity development to support small-scale fisheries actors in producing good quality and safe fish and fishery products. FAO will ensure that promotion of international fish trade and export production does not adversely affect the SSF's livelihoods.

Outcome 3. Enhanced livelihoods options for small-scale fishers and other stakeholders in the fisheries value chain through increased decent employment opportunities and diversified income sources.

The presence of additional income sources for small-scale fishers in Malawi serves multiple purposes. It tackles issues related to seasonality, lessens economic vulnerability, alleviates poverty, enables adaptation to climate change, explores new market prospects, encourages sustainable practices, and empowers marginalized groups. This approach enhances their overall resilience and improves livelihoods in a comprehensive and sustainable way.

Output 3.1 Access to alternative income generating activities promoted.

Activities

- Facilitate establishment of SSF SACCOs
- Promote activities such as making fish-based products like fish fillets, fish sausages, fish cakes, or fish snacks.
- Promote eco-tourism related activities, such as establishing fish-themed restaurants, guesthouses near fishing areas, or offering guided fishing tours.
- Train SSFs in boat building and maintenance.
- Facilitate formation of SSFs transport and logistics associations.
- Facilitate vegetable farming, poultry rearing, or livestock production amongst SSFs.
- Build capacity of SSFs in Economic Activity Selection, Planning and Management (EASPM)

Output 3.2 Decent employment opportunities in the fisheries sector increased.

Activities

- Raise awareness on labour related policies and laws including child labour.
- Promote investment in human resource development such as occupation safety, education, literacy, digital inclusion.
- Lobby for mandatory written contracts between boat owners and crew
- Link fishers to social security services – medical, pension, and insurance

Outcome 4. Enhanced capacity of small-scale fisheries actors to adopt post-harvest, value addition technologies, and profitable trade.

The outcome aims to improve SSF post-harvest practices by addressing capital constraints, skills gaps, and market challenges. Actions include strengthening capacity, reducing fish spoilage, promoting value addition, and establishing structured markets. The NPOA-SSF under this outcome aims at implementing the following set of actions to increase the capacity of SSF to adopt post-harvest technologies.

Output 4.1. Use of improved post-harvest technologies promoted.

Activities

- Provide technical backstopping on the use of technologies for fishing and post-harvest handling.
- Establish cold chain systems at landing sites through PPP and other means.
- Construct model landing sites with modern facilities
- Facilitate adoption of fish storage containers to maintain freshness and quality.
- Facilitate traceability and quality assurance systems for transparency and adherence to standards.

Output 4.2 Value addition promoted.

Activities

- Build capacity of SSF members in packaging, branding, marketing, and product differentiation.
- Promote use of Sanitary Certificate
- Facilitate product certification with the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)
- Provide value addition technical backstopping to cooperatives in collaboration with various stakeholders.

Output 4.3 Structured market system to enhance income, and equitable access to markets for SSF members established.

Activities

- Establish private business linkages with SSF groups for fish product sales to schools and public procurement.
- Facilitate adoption of a structured fisheries market system.
- Provide technical backstopping to cooperatives in collaboration with Agribusiness officer.
- Establish digital market information platform for SSFs.
- Lobby for the establishment of modern fish markets in the local councils

Outcome 5: Increased food and nutrition security among SSFs

The main goal of food and nutrition security in Malawi's SSFs is to ensure access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. This involves increasing fish production, promoting dietary diversity, improving access to nutritious food, ensuring food safety, building resilience to climate change, and strengthening governance. Achieving food security improves health and well-being in SSFs.

Output 5.1: Fish consumption among SSFs increased.

Activities

- Conduct nutrition education campaigns to promote fish consumption among SSF communities.
- Organize cooking demonstrations to showcase fish-based recipes and cooking techniques.
- Link SSFs to supply fish based products to School Feeding Programmes
- Advocate for fair pricing and affordability of fish products
- Train SSFs in making fish products.
- Facilitate food demonstrations on fish products.
- Explore nutritional subsidies to promote fish consumption among vulnerable populations.

Output 5.2: Food production systems of SSFs diversified.

Activities

- Conduct awareness campaigns on the importance of a diversified diet using the Malawi six food groups.
- Distribute high-nutritive-value indigenous seeds and animals to vulnerable households.
- Advocate for diversified crop production, including indigenous and bio-fortified crops, poultry, small ruminants, and milk-producing animals for better nutrition.
- Develop seasonal and agro-ecological-based food calendars.

Thematic Area 4: Gender Equality

The NPOA-SSF will employ different approaches to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, which are essential for sustainable and inclusive small-scale fisheries. The strategies provide a framework for addressing gender-related issues and promoting equitable opportunities and benefits for all individuals involved in small-scale fisheries, regardless of their gender.

Outcome 6 Enhanced gender equality and safeguarding of rights, participation, and well-being of men, women and youths in the small-scale fisheries value chain.

The outcome aims to enhance the rights, participation, and well-being of men and women in the SSF value chain by addressing prevalent issues such as sexual harassment, gender-based violence (GBV), and a lack of security measures. The approach involves providing appropriate and timely support services to survivors of violence, strengthening reporting mechanisms, and establishing effective referral pathways. By doing so, it seeks to create a safer environment within the SSF community and promote the overall well-being and empowerment of individuals affected by such challenges.

Output 6.1 Reporting mechanisms, referral pathways, and safe environment to effectively respond to cases of SGBV strengthened.

Activities

- Conduct awareness sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) and transactional sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in the small-scale fisheries sector.
- Establishing user-friendly reporting mechanisms and referral of SGBV
- Engaging men and boys as champions in preventing SGBV.
- Lobby for increased funding to local councils and Department of Fisheries for enabling environment to mainstream gender in SSF.
- Facilitate access to safe spaces for GBV survivors.
- Facilitate access to SRH services along the landing sites.

Output 6.2: Women's participation in leadership roles at local and national levels enhanced.

Activities

- Engage men to support women's participation in decision-making structures.
- Lobby/advocate for the availability of more female fisheries extension workers

- Train SSF households on gender transformative approaches
- Raise awareness about women's representation as leaders in SSF structures at community, district, and national levels.
- Facilitate the establishment of networks and support platforms for women in leadership.

Thematic Area 5: Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change

The NPOA-SSF will ensure that combating climate change and managing disasters, in the context of SSF, is incorporated in line with international conventions. The plan will also ensure that SSF structures are included in disaster preparedness and emergency response. The NPOA-SSF also acknowledges that aquatic ecosystems are affected by climate change as such measures for sustainable community livelihoods must be put in place in order to reduce negative impacts.

Outcome 7 Enhanced adaptive capacity of institutions and community structures for climate resilient and disaster risk management in SSF

SSF community structures lack climate change and disaster management considerations, resulting in limited capacity to respond to climate-related disasters. Fishermen disregard safety guidelines, while SSF communities lack safety nets for adaptation. NPOA-SSF will promote collaboration, skill development, and knowledge sharing among institutions and community structures for disaster management and climate change resilience.

Output 7.1: Capacity of institutions and communities for climate resilient and disaster risk management enhanced.

Activities

- Facilitate participatory development of digital Early Warning Systems
- Establish and capacitate emergency rescue teams in landing sites.
- Promote inclusion of SSF in District Safety net plans
- Capacity building of CPCs in DRM related to SSF.
- Align BVC activities with CPCs and DRM committees on disaster risk management.
- Facilitate incorporation of SSF households in vulnerability assessments during disasters
- Facilitate construction of disaster resilient structures in landing sites
- Monitor adherence to Safety at Sea Guidelines for enhanced SSF safety.
- Promote climate smart technologies across the fisheries value chain.
- Orient SSF on disaster response

Output 7.2: Collaboration between Department of Fisheries, DODMA, and other key players to respond to disasters strengthened.

Activities

- Orient district disaster response team on DRM and climate change policies for SSF value chain.
- Facilitate timely sharing of information on disasters for quick response.
- Conduct an annual review of disaster response plans with all stakeholders.
- Monitor implementation of ecosystem-based management plans and by-laws
- Participate in joint planning, implementation, monitoring and training.

Thematic Area 6: Evidence-based programming for SSF

To support evidence-based programming for SSFs, the NPOA-SSF will establish systems for collecting fisheries data, including bio-ecological, social, cultural, and economic information as well mobilizing resources for effective implementation of small-scale fisheries programming. This data will inform decision-making on sustainable management, with an emphasis on transparency and the collection of gender-disaggregated data. The plan of action will also encourage cross-learning and regular reviews among SSFs.

Outcome 8: Improved fisheries programming through research, monitoring, evaluation, learning, surveillance and resource mobilization

The NPOA-SSF aims at implementing the following set of actions to enhance evidence-based programming through monitoring, evaluation, research, and surveillance.

Output 8.1: Evidence-based decision-making at all levels in fisheries sector promoted.

Activities

- Develop multi-sectoral research agenda for SSF in collaboration with FSTAP.
- Conduct fisheries research and dissemination conferences (i.e., Frame Survey, data quality audit, etc.)
- Integrate the National Fisheries Resource Tracking tool with NSO database.
- Develop digital tracking systems on SSF boats for real-time surveillance and monitoring.
- Develop a dashboard for sharing fisheries data for decision making.
- Conduct baseline and end-line assessments for the NPOA-SSF

Output 8.2: Research, monitoring, evaluation learning, research and surveillance systems strengthened.

Activities

- Conduct bi-annual fisheries M&E coordination meeting.
- Train M&E officers and decision-makers on data management at all levels
- Facilitate the development of a rigorous self-monitoring and reporting mechanism for BVCs.
- Facilitate dissemination of best practices (impact stories, documentaries, newsletters, internal and external webinars).
- Support scaling up the promising practices in SSF.
- Conduct physical and/or virtual cross-learning program.

Output 8.3: Resource mobilization enhanced.

Activities

- Conduct fundraising efforts for financial resources from various sources, such as donors, grants.
- Establish strategic partnerships with all stakeholders.
- Procure necessary equipment, tools, or assets to facilitate SSFs operations.
- Facilitate raising of non-monetary contributions, such as goods or services provided by partners or community members.
- Facilitate systems to monitor and track the allocation and use of resources to ensure transparency

and accountability.

- Train SSF groups in diversified resource portfolio.

3.3 Implementation strategies

The NTT may lead the implementation of the NPOA-SSF. If there is a need for changes, then at least an option should be explored to ensure institutional continuity. The team was multi-stakeholder and cross-disciplinary including the required technical expertise. Just like the NPOA-SSF development process, its implementation should be participatory. It is however important to specify who/which institution assumes the overall responsibility.

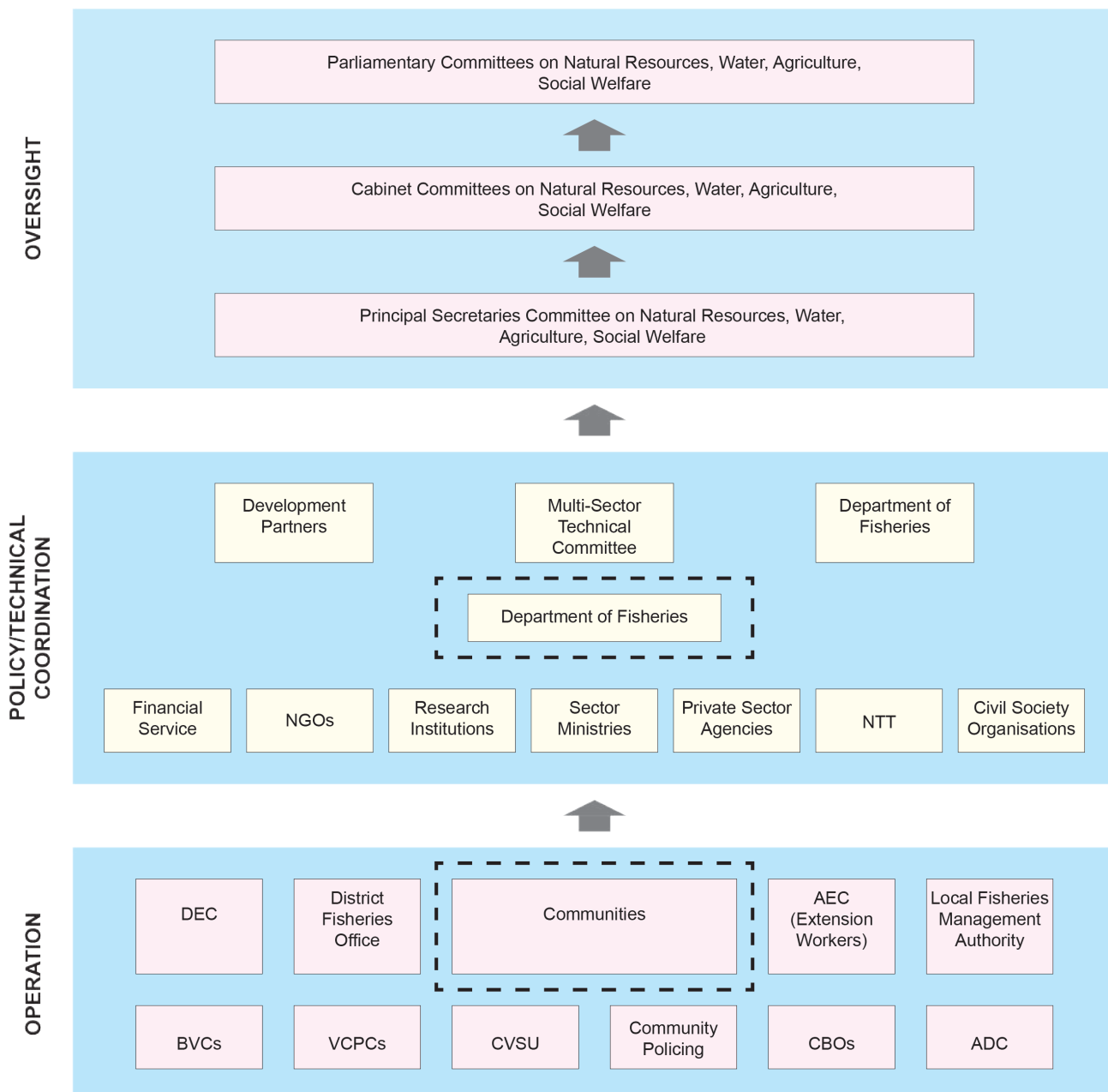


Figure 2: NPOA-SSF implementation structure

3.4 Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders

This plan recognizes the importance of stakeholders and partnerships at different levels in the implementation of the NPOA-SSF. The stakeholders include various government ministries, departments, agencies, development partners, academic and research institutions, the public sector, the private sector, CSOs, NGOs, faith-based organizations, and the communities which are indicated in the table below:

Table 3: Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders

Lead/Implementing Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
Department of Fisheries	<p>The department will be responsible for oversight, strategic leadership, policy direction, coordination, resource mobilisation, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation of the SSF sector programming. The department will also be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lead the implementation of SSF-NPOA-SSF in the national development agenda, sectoral policies and programs, including coordination with other stakeholders outside the fisheries. ● Tracking SSF-NPOA-SSF performance and ensuring accountability ● Resource mobilization and tracking. ● High level advocacy
Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsible for coordinating environmental and social impact assessment and management plans in view of challenges due to climate change. ● Policy formulation and guidance on the implementation of climatic change policy
Ministry of Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsible for implementation of fisheries interventions at the council and community levels. ● Establish district and community-level structures on fisheries. ● Coordination of local fisheries management authorities in the districts ● Facilitate setting and endorsement of bylaws
Ministry Justice and Constitutional Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ministry will be responsible for drafting legislations that support SSFs. ● Management of land conflicts, handling court cases of harassment and GBV
Ministry Finance, Economic Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ministry will be responsible for mobilisation of resources from government and development partners, and private sectors for SSF interventions.
Ministry of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formulating and implementing policies on sustainable agriculture, land and water resources, and food security and livelihoods. ● The Ministry is also responsible for setting and implementing agendas on agricultural research, capacity building, extension, technology, development and regulatory services on agriculture, land and water management, and food security
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ministry will be responsible for provision of leadership and technical direction in programming and delivery of the quality and cost-effective SRH services in partnerships with stakeholders.
Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsible for provision of leadership and technical direction in programming gender equality interventions. ● Promote women’s empowerment, social protection and welfare programmes, and community mobilisation for prevention of GBVs

Ministry Industry and Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for enforcement of trade-related sections on counterfeit law, legislation, food standards as defined and protected by the Malawi Bureau of Standards. • Promote value addition and access to markets and registration of Cooperatives
Ministry Youth Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for provision of leadership and coordination in the delivery of high quality, culturally appropriate, and contextually relevant information and services • Promote youth participation and decision-making in SSF interventions
Ministry of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policies related to transportation, including road transport, aviation, maritime, and railway sectors. • Promote transport infrastructure, enhance safety standards, and promote sustainable transportation practices. • Inspection and registration of SSF fishing vessels
Ministry of Homeland Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for ensuring the safety, security, and protection of the SSFs. • Managing and coordinating various aspects of national security, emergency response, and disaster management.
Ministry of Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Law enforcement • Ensuring maritime security, • Conducting search and rescue operations, • Responding to emergencies at sea, • Contributing to the development of a secure and sustainable SSF sector.
Academic and Research Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic and research institutions will be in charge of carrying of fisheries research and disseminating findings in order to inform policy and programming. • Credible national and international research organisations and institutions will provide resources and skills to perform the necessary research.
Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development partners involved in supporting fisheries activities will become part of the multi-sector technical committee and the government development partner committees. • Coordination of fisheries interventions, programs, and financial support • Development partners will advocate for SSF issues to policy and decision makers, and offer technical assistance, including policy analysis and implementation, to support the government's efforts in this area. • Assist the government in mobilising additional resources to promote the development of the sector in mobilising additional resources for SSF.
Private Sector Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support standards in the production and marketing of value addition products following mandatory fortification requirements and recommended fortification levels in all the centrally processed foods • Support the provision and access to improved fishing and fish processing technology. • Capacity building in value additions • Support investments and infrastructures through PPP arrangement • Financing SSF

Financial Service Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provisions of loan ● Financing SSF ● Business Insurance ● Capacity building in financial literacy
NGOs and CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Act as drivers of change and will collaborate with the government to advocate for and implement SSF interventions. ● Support mutual accountability. ● Joint monitoring ● Capacity building and financing ● To identify issues directly affecting small-scale fisheries and communicate to relevant partners
SSFs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At the community level, the SSF structures (BVCs LFMA etc) will collaborate with the government to advocate for and implement SSF interventions. ● Support mutual accountability. ● Joint monitoring ● Capacity building and financing

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF NPOA-SSF IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 NPOA-SSF Logframe

The table below provides a comprehensive framework that outlines the project's outcomes, outputs, indicators and means of verification. It has also included important risks and assumptions. By presenting a logical and structured approach, the Logframe will ensure effective management and coordination of project resources, while enabling stakeholders to understand and align their efforts towards the desired outcomes.

Table 4: Logframe

Outcome	Strategy	Key performance indicators	Means of Verification	Important risks and assumptions	
<p>Outcome: Strengthened SSF governance structures and capacity of small-scale fishers and other actors across fisheries value chain to sustainably manage tenure systems and develop fisheries in Malawi.</p>	<p>1.1 Capacity of SSF governance structures for sustainable management of fisheries resources and tenure systems enhanced</p>	<p># of SSF governance structures (BVC, LFMA, etc.) reached with SSF guidelines and policies</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>	<p>Risks: 1. Funding constraints, which could limit the capacity of the government to implement the NPOA-SSF effectively. 2. Limited participation and engagement of small-scale fishers and their communities, which could create resistance or a lack of support for NPOA-SSF implementation. 3. Political instability, corruption, and/or weak governance, which could hinder efforts to implement policies, laws, and regulations necessary for the NPOA-SSF. 4. Insufficient technical capacity and resources of government agencies responsible for the implementation of the NPOA-SSF. 5. Environmental factors such as climate change and natural disasters, which could have severe impacts on small-scale fisheries and their communities.</p>	
		<p># of fisheries extension workers trained on SSF Guidelines and policies</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>		<p>Assumptions: 6. The availability and accessibility of up-to-date data and information on small-scale fisheries to support the development of the NPOA-SSF. 7. Effective communication and collaboration between government agencies and</p>
		<p># of landing sites registered in line with the Land Act</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>		
		<p># of lakeshore districts effectively implementing land laws</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>		
		<p># of SSF groups trained in Ecosystems and Fisheries Management (EFM)</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>		
		<p># of catchment management plans jointly developed in collaboration between BVCs/ RVCs and VNRMCs</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>		
		<p># of fruit tree seedlings procured and distributed</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>		
	<p>1.2 Ecosystem-based management and biodiversity conservation practices among all small-scale fisheries' (SSF) stakeholders promoted</p>	<p>Tree survival rate</p>	<p>Tree survival rate assessment</p>	<p>Assumptions: 6. The availability and accessibility of up-to-date data and information on small-scale fisheries to support the development of the NPOA-SSF. 7. Effective communication and collaboration between government agencies and</p>	
		<p># of fish sanctuaries established</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>		
		<p># of landing sites with co-management plans</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>		
		<p>Proportion of SSF farming households adopting conservation agriculture and regeneration practices</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>		
		<p># of SSF with fish cages and fishponds</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>		

Outcome	Strategy	Key performance indicators	Means of Verification	Important risks and assumptions
	<p>1.3 Capacity of SSF institutions and stakeholders in accountability mechanisms enhanced.</p>	<p># of SSF communities with recycling systems</p> <p># of functional WASH beach committees</p> <p># of awareness campaigns on corruption in the fisheries sector conducted</p> <p># of landing sites with a functional complaints and feedback mechanism</p> <p>Proportion of SSF organizations with effective accountability mechanisms in place</p> <p>Proportion of beneficiaries reporting satisfied with complaints and feedback mechanism established</p> <p># of community scorecards sessions conducted</p> <p># of fisheries policies reviewed</p> <p># of key opinion leaders identified as influencers to curb illegal fishing practices</p> <p># illegal fishing gears confiscated and destroyed</p> <p># and type IEC materials on fishing regulations distributed</p> <p># of LFMAAs awarded for reducing negative fishing practices</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Activity Reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Evaluation Reports</p> <p>Evaluation Reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p>	<p>stakeholders, including small-scale fishers, fishing communities, and civil society organizations.</p> <p>8. Strong political will and leadership to support the implementation of the NPOA-SSF.</p> <p>The availability of appropriate technologies and infrastructure to support implementation and monitoring of the NPOA-SSF.</p>
	<p>1.4 Collaboration in the implementation of SSF programs and mobilisation of resources for the development of SSF strengthened.</p>	<p>Proportion of SSF actors who demonstrate enhanced skills and knowledge in resource mobilization.</p> <p>Proportion of SSFs linked with other players in the value chain</p> <p># of stakeholders engaged to garner support and contributions.</p> <p># of public-private partnerships developed for joint investments and sustainable business models.</p> <p># of SSF cooperatives trained in proposal writing for securing financial support.</p> <p>Proportion of boat operators paying boat fees</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Activity Reports</p> <p>Activity Reports</p> <p>Activity Reports</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p>	

Outcome	Strategy	Key performance indicators	Means of Verification	Important risks and assumptions	
<p>Outcome 2: Improved access to infrastructure, social and financial services that are equitable and inclusive for SSF</p>	<p>1.5 Outdated Policies and legal frameworks governing fisheries sector reviewed</p>	<p># of SSF actors trained in financial literacy, record keeping and bookkeeping</p> <p># of stakeholder sessions conducted</p> <p># of policy review sessions conducted</p> <p># of key policymakers engaged in reviews</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p> <p>Activity Reports</p> <p>Activity Reports</p> <p>Activity Reports</p>		
		<p># of policies updated</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>		
		<p># of public awareness sessions on policies and legal frameworks conducted</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>		
		<p># of stakeholder sessions conducted</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>		
		<p># of policy review sessions conducted</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>		
		<p># of SSFs households trained</p>	<p>Evaluation Reports</p>		<p>Risks:</p> <p>1. Gender inequality in failing to address gender-specific challenges could lead to exclusion and perpetuate existing inequalities.</p> <p>2. Unpredictable changes in fish prices and market demands could affect the financial viability of SSF enterprises and their ability to access services.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <p>1. Supportive policies and regulations are in place that prioritize and foster equity in access to infrastructure, social, and financial services for SSF communities.</p> <p>2. Active participation and engagement from SSF communities. Assuming that these communities are involved in decision-making and implementation can enhance the effectiveness of interventions</p> <p>3. Effective local governance and management of resources,</p>
		<p># VSLAs established</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>		
		<p># SSFs trained</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>		
		<p># of SSF groups turned into cooperatives</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>		
		<p># of SSFs linked to financial capital markets and insurance.</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>		
<p># of SSF households linked to social protection programs</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>				
<p># of landing sites with sexual and reproductive health services</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>				
<p>Proportion of SSF members accessing sexual and reproductive health services</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>				
<p># of landing sites equipped with Child Care Centres</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>				
<p># of child minders trained in management and care of children</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>				
<p>Proportion of landing sites with required improved facilities</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>				
<p># of landing sites with clinics</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>				
<p>Proportion of SSF members with access to healthcare services</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>				
<p># of landing sites with access to school</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>				
<p>Proportion of fishing communities sensitized</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>				
<p>2.3 Access to safe and hygienic landing sites and markets enhanced.</p>					

Outcome	Strategy	Key performance indicators	Means of Verification	Important risks and assumptions
<p>Outcome 3: Enhanced livelihoods options for small-scale fishers and other stakeholders in the fisheries value chain through increased decent employment opportunities and diversified income sources.</p>	<p>Output 3.1 Access to alternative income generating activities promoted.</p>	<p># of landing sites with sanitation and waste management systems constructed # SSF members trained</p>	<p>Activity reports Activity reports</p>	<p>it can support the equitable distribution of benefits and enhance the sustainability of improvements.</p>
		<p>Proportion of SSFs in receipt of First aid kits</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	<p>Risks: 1. Market Volatility and Demand 2. Resource Overexploitation and Environmental Degradation</p> <p>Assumptions: 1. Effective resource management and conservation 2. Access to financial services and skills development for SSF</p>
		<p>Proportion of landing sites and markets enforcing regulations and safety standards.</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p>Proportion of Village Health Committees (VHCs) regularly adhering to hygiene standards</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p># of SSF SACCOs established</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>	
		<p>Proportion of SSFs joined SACCOs</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p>Proportion of SSF members involved in fish products</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p>Proportion of SSF members establishing alternative businesses</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p># of SSF members trained in boat building and maintenance</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>	
		<p># of SSF associations focusing on transport and logistics formed</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>	
<p># of SSFs members trained in EASPM</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>			
<p>3.2 Decent employment opportunities in the fisheries sector increased</p>	<p>3.2 Decent employment opportunities in the fisheries sector increased</p>	<p># of awareness campaigns conducted</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>	<p>Risks: 9. Lack of access to technology by majority of SSF 10. Supply chain complexities for most of SSF</p> <p>Assumptions: 11. 1. Availability of digital infrastructure development in fisheries sector 12. 2. Collaborations between private and public sectors to streamline supply chain processes.</p>
		<p># of staff trained</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>	
		<p>Proportion of boat owners and crew with mandatory written contracts</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p>Proportion of fishers linked</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>	
		<p># of SSF actors adopting improved technologies for fishing and post-harvest handling</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p># of landing sites with cold chain systems established through PPP and other means</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p># of model landing sites constructed</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p>Proportion of SSF implementing effective post-harvest technologies</p>	<p>Evaluation Reports</p>	
		<p># of SSF adopting the use of fish storage containers to maintain freshness and quality</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p>Proportion of SSF members adopting traceability and quality assurance measures</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
<p>4.2: Value addition promoted.</p>	<p>4.2: Value addition promoted.</p>	<p># of SSF members trained</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>	

Outcome	Strategy	Key performance indicators	Means of Verification	Important risks and assumptions
<p>Outcome 5: Increased food and nutrition security among SSFs.</p>	<p>4.3 Structured market system to enhance income, and equitable access to markets for SSF members established</p>	Proportion of SSFs using Sanitary Certificate	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		Proportion of product certified with the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		Proportion of cooperatives provided value addition technical backstopping	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		# of SSF groups with contracts of fish product supply in schools and procurement	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
	<p>5.1 Fish consumption among SSFs increased.</p>	Proportion of SSF members using structured market system	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		# of times SSF cooperatives meeting with Agribusiness officer	Monitoring Reports	
		# of SSF cooperatives trained in business management	Monitoring reports	
		Proportion of SSF members adopting and using digital market platform	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		# of modernised fish markets established in local councils	Monitoring Reports	
<p>Outcome 6: Enhanced gender equality and safeguarding of rights,</p>	<p>5.2 Food production systems of SSFs diversified</p>	# of nutrition education campaigns conducted	Monitoring Reports	<p>Risks:</p> <p>13. Limited Access to Markets and Value Chains</p> <p>14. Extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and ocean acidification can impact fish stocks and reduce catches for small-scale fishers.</p>
		# of cooking demonstrations organised	Monitoring Reports	
		Proportion of SSFs linked to school feeding programs to supply fish-based products	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		# of advocacy campaigns conducted	Monitoring Reports	
		# of SSFs trained in making fish products	Monitoring Reports	
	<p>6.1 Reporting mechanisms, referral pathways, and safe environment to</p>	# of food demonstrations conducted	Monitoring Reports	<p>Assumptions:</p> <p>1. Availability of social safety nets and government support</p> <p>2. There is integration of nutrition education and health services.</p>
		Proportion of vulnerable populations benefiting from nutritional subsidies	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		# of awareness campaigns on the importance of diversified diets conducted	Monitoring Reports	
		Proportion of SSF households adopting the Malawi Six Food Groups in their diets	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		# of SSF households that receive high-nutritive-value seeds and animals	Monitoring Reports	
<p>6.1 Reporting mechanisms, referral pathways, and safe environment to</p>	# of SSF households adopting diversity in production for improved nutrition	Monitoring Reports		
	Proportion of SSF households aware of seasonal and agro-ecological based food sources	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey		
	# of awareness sessions on sexual harassment and GBV in the small-scale fisheries sector conducted	Activity Reports		

Outcome	Strategy	Key performance indicators	Means of Verification	Important risks and assumptions
<p>participation, and well-being of men, women and youths in the small-scale fisheries value chain</p>	<p>effectively respond to cases of SGBV strengthened</p>	<p>Proportion of SSF members satisfied with established reporting mechanisms and referral of SGBV</p>	<p>Evaluation Reports</p>	<p>based discrimination and inequality in the fisheries value chain</p> <p>2. Lack of awareness or inadequate implementation of policies and regulations that aim to protect the rights and well-being of men and women in the small-scale fisheries value chain.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <p>1. Availability of gender-sensitive policy framework in place that recognizes and addresses the specific needs and challenges faced by men and women in the small-scale fisheries sector</p> <p>2. That both men and women have the opportunity for active participation and representation in decision-making processes related to the fisheries value chain.</p>
		<p># of men and boys engaged as champions in preventing SGBV</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>	
		<p># of lobbying sessions for increased funding for mainstreaming gender in SSF</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p>% increase in funding for gender mainstreaming programs</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p># of landing sites with safe spaces for GBV survivors</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>	
		<p>% of survivors satisfied with established safe spaces</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p>Proportion of SSF members accessing SRH services along the landing sites</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p>Decrease in number of cases of sexual harassment and GBV among SSF</p>	<p>Records review/ Monitoring reports</p>	
		<p># of people engaged to participate decision-making structures disaggregated by gender</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>	
		<p># of lobbying sessions on increasing female fisheries extension workers</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>	
		<p>Proportion of female fisheries extension workers</p>	<p>Records review</p>	
		<p># of SSF households trained on gender transformative approaches</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>	
		<p># of awareness sessions conducted on about women's representation as leaders in SSF</p>	<p>Activity reports</p>	
		<p># of networks/support platforms for women in leadership established</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
<p>% of women participating in at least two community group(s)</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Reports</p>			
<p>% of cooperatives with women in key decision-making positions</p>	<p>Evaluations Reports</p>			
<p># of BVCs trained in disaster risk management</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>			
<p>Proportion of landing sites effectively using digital Early Warning Systems (EWS)</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>			
<p>Outcome 7: Enhanced adaptive capacity of institutions and community structures for climate resilient and</p>	<p>7.1 Capacity of institutions and communities for climate resilient and disaster risk management enhanced.</p>	<p>Risks:</p>	<p>Risks:</p>	<p>Risks:</p>

Outcome	Strategy	Key performance indicators	Means of Verification	Important risks and assumptions
<p>disaster risk management in SSF</p>	<p>7.2 Collaboration between Department of Fisheries, DODMA, and other key players to respond to disasters strengthened</p>	<p># of landing sites with functional emergency rescue teams</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>	<p>1. Inadequate institutional capacity and governance</p>
		<p># of rescue teams with rescue equipment and facilities</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p>	<p>2. Community vulnerability and limited resources</p>
		<p># of landing sites with plans developed in collaboration between BVC and CPCs/DRM</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	<p>Assumptions:</p>
		<p># of vulnerability assessments conducted in collaboration with BVC</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	<p>1. Adopt a multi-stakeholder approach that involves collaboration amongst all SSF stakeholders.</p>
		<p># of landing sites constructed with disaster resilient structures</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	<p>2. Relevant knowledge and expertise amongst all fisheries stakeholders.</p>
		<p>Proportion of SSF members adhering to Safety at Sea guidelines</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>	
		<p># of district disaster response teams oriented on DRM and climate change policies for SSF sector</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p># of joint information dissemination and reflection sessions conducted</p>	<p>Activity Reports</p>	
		<p># of annual reviews of disaster response plans conducted with all stakeholders</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p># of landing sites with ecosystem-based management plans developed</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p># of joint trainings and simulations conducted between SSF governance structures and DRM committees</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>	
		<p># of multi-sectoral research agenda for SSF developed</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	
		<p># of active stakeholders involved in the development of multi-sectoral research agenda</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports</p>	<p>Risks:</p>
		<p>Outcome 8: Improved fisheries programming through fisheries research, monitoring, evaluation, learning, surveillance and resource mobilization</p>	<p>8.1 Evidence-based decision-making at all levels in fisheries sector promoted</p>	<p>% of fisheries research agenda objectives met</p>
<p># of fisheries research and dissemination conferences conducted</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>			<p>2. Resistance to change and limited policy implementation.</p>
<p># of key staff oriented on the integrated National Resource Tracking system</p>	<p>Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey</p>			
<p>Proportion of stakeholders utilizing the integrated National Resource Tracking system</p>	<p>Record review</p>			
<p># of Routine Data Quality Audits (rDQA) conducted</p>	<p>Monitoring Report</p>			

Outcome	Strategy	Key performance indicators	Means of Verification	Important risks and assumptions
8.2 Research, monitoring, evaluation learning and surveillance systems strengthened		# of boats installed with functional digital tracking system	Monitoring reports	Assumption: 1. Adequate funding and expertise are available for fisheries monitoring, research, and evaluation in Malawi. 2. All relevant stakeholders in Malawi's fisheries sector will actively collaborate and share information for evidence-based programming.
		Dashboard for sharing fisheries data for decision making developed	Monitoring reports	
		# of people utilizing fisheries data dashboard for decision making	Monitoring reports	
		# of evaluations on NPOA-SSF conducted	Activity Report	
		# of bi-annual fisheries M&E coordination meetings conducted	Activity Reports	
		# of M&E officers and decision-makers trained on data management	Monitoring Reports	
		# of Self-monitoring and reporting mechanism for BVCs developed	Monitoring Reports	
		Proportion of BVCs utilizing the self-monitoring and reporting mechanism	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		# of promising practices documented	Monitoring Reports	
		# of cross-learning conducted	Activity reports	
8.3 Resource mobilization enhanced		Fundraising success rate	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	Risk: This may lead to increased competition for limited resources. Assumption: The Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) sector will have improved capacity for fundraising and establishing partnerships.
		Donor Diversity Index	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		Partnership Engagement Index	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		Equipment procurement rate	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		In-kind Contribution value	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		In-kind Contribution Ratio	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		Resource Allocation Compliance Rate	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		Transparency Index	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
		# of SSF groups trained in diversified resource portfolio	Annual Outcome Monitoring Survey	
			Activity Reports	

4.2 NPOA-SSF Implementation Plan

This section presents a comprehensive roadmap for the implementation of strategies and actions to promote sustainable and inclusive SSFs. It outlines the specific activities, timelines, and responsible parties involved in achieving the objectives and targets set forth in the plan. It serves as a practical guide, providing a clear framework for stakeholders to prioritize, coordinate, and monitor the execution of interventions with an estimated budget. The table below depicts the work plan.

Table 5: NPOA-SSF Implementation plan

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030								
SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
1	Governance of Tenure in Small-Scale Fisheries and Resource Management							
a	Responsible governance of tenure	1. Strengthened SSF governance structures and capacity of small-scale fishers and other actors across fisheries value chain to sustainably manage tenure systems and develop fisheries in Malawi.	1.1 Capacity of SSF governance structures for sustainable management of fisheries resources and tenure systems enhanced	<p>Raise awareness of SSF governance structures on SSF Guideline and policies (land, trade, tourism, DRM, climate change etc.) through IEC.</p> <p>Conduct training programs, policies, and the SSF Guidelines for fisheries extension workers, district teams, national-level teams, researchers, local and religious leaders, and local authorities.</p> <p>Facilitate landing sites registration in line with Land Act to address encroachment issues</p> <p>Advocate for rolling out of land laws in all the lake shore districts</p>	<p>Department of Fisheries</p> <p>Department of Fisheries</p> <p>Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Lands</p> <p>Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Lands</p>	<p>NGOs, CSOs, MZUNI, LUANAR, MwAPATA Institute, Malawi College of Fisheries, Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre, BVCs, Development Partners</p> <p>NGOs, CSOs, MZUNI, LUANAR, Malawi College of Fisheries, Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre, BVCs, Development Partners, Legislature, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Gender, Marine Department</p> <p>NGOs, CSOs, Human Rights Resource Centre, BVCs, Development Partners, Legislature, Ministry of Justice,</p> <p>NGOs, CSOs, Human Rights Resource Centre, BVCs, Development Partners, Legislature, Ministry of Justice,</p>	<p>Year 1 - Year 8</p> <p>Year 1 - Year 7</p> <p>Year 1 - Year 8</p> <p>Year 1 - Year 8</p>	<p>80,000</p> <p>65,000</p> <p>30,000</p> <p>20,000</p>

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Support customary land committees and tribunals to address land conflicts	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Lands	NGOs, CSOs, Human Rights Resource Centre, BVCs, Development Partners, Legislature, Ministry of Justice,	Year 1 - Year 4	45,000
			1.2 Ecosystem-based management and biodiversity conservation practices among all small-scale fisheries' (SSF) stakeholders promoted	Train SSF groups in Ecosystems and Fisheries Management (EFM)	Department of Fisheries,	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, LUANAR, MZUNI	Year 1 - Year 6	61,000
				Promote coordination of BVCs and RVCs with VNRMCS in SSF catchment management	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners	Year 1 - Year 6	55,000
				Distribute fruit tree seedlings to communities in the catchment area	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners	Year 1 - Year 6	60,000
				Facilitate establishment of sanctuaries	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners	Year 1 - Year 6	16,000
				Develop inclusive co-management plans at landing sites	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners	Year 1 - Year 4	20,000
				Facilitate conservation agriculture and regeneration practices among SSF farming households	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, BVCs, Land Committees	Year 1 - Year 7	10,000
				Facilitate adoption of community cage culture and aquaculture where appropriate	Department of Fisheries	LUANAR, MWAPATA Institute, MZUNI, Malawi College of Fisheries, NGOs,	Year 1 - Year 8	120,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Support waste management and recycling systems/initiatives addressing pollution such as plastic	Department of Fisheries,	Development partners Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners,	Year 1 - Year 7	55,000
			1.3 Capacity of SSF institutions and stakeholders in accountability mechanisms enhanced.	Conduct awareness campaigns on corruption in the fisheries sector to promote transparency and integrity	Department of Fisheries, ACB	Community Radios, CSOs, Ministry of Information, NGOs, Development partners, BVCs	Year 1 - Year 8	55,000
				Establish a complaints and feedback mechanism to enhance SSF governance accountability, including addressing labour matters	Department of Fisheries,	NGOs, Ministry of Justice, ACB, CSOs, BVCs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 8	34,000
				Conduct community scorecards to promote accountability and transparency in the fisheries sector	Department of Fisheries,	NGOs, Community Representatives, BVCs, CSOs, Government institutions, Development Partners	Year 1 – Year 3	45,000
				Identify key opinion leaders as influencers to curb illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and other malpractices.	Department of Fisheries,	NGOs, Community Representatives, BVCs, CSOs, Development Partners, Local leaders	Year 2- Year 8	40,000
				Facilitate confiscation and destruction of illegal fishing gear	Department of Fisheries,	NGOs, Community Representatives, CSOs, Development Partners, Ministry of Homeland	Year 1- Year 8	60,000
				Recognize LFMAs that have reduced negative fishing practices	Department of Fisheries, Police	NGOs, Community Representatives, CSOs, Government Department., BVCs	Year 1 - Year 8	45,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Develop and distribute informative materials on fishing regulations	Department of Fisheries,	NGOs, Community Representatives, CSOs, Government Department., BVCs, Media, MHRC	Year 1 – Year 6	70,000
			<p>1.4 Collaboration in the implementation of SSF programs and mobilisation of resources for the development of SSF strengthened.</p>	Build capacity of SSF actors to enhance the skills and knowledge of SSF stakeholders.	Department of Fisheries,	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, LUANAR, MZUNI	Year 1 - Year 6	61,000
				Seek partnerships between government, NGOs, and private sector to align strategies and leverage resources for SSF initiatives.	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, PPP	Year 1 - Year 6	55,000
				Link SSF with other players in the value chain	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, SMEDI	Year 1 - Year 8	60,000
				Engage with stakeholders to garner support and contributions.	Department of Fisheries,	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, PPP	Year 1 - Year 8	16,000
				Develop public-private partnerships for joint investments and sustainable business models.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Trade	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, PPP	Year 1 - Year 7	20,000
				Train SSF cooperatives in proposal writing for securing financial support.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Trade	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners Councils, BVCs, Land Committees	Year 1 - Year 6	10,000
				Enforce boat fee collection	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, PPP	Year 1 - Year 7	120,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030								
SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Train SSF actors in financial literacy, record keeping and bookkeeping	Department of Fisheries,	partners Councils, BVCs	Year 1 - Year 5	55,000
			1.5 Outdated policies and legal frameworks governing fisheries sector reviewed.	Conduct policy and legal review to identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps related to fisheries sector	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Justice	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, Financial Service Providers	Year 1 - Year 5	55,000
				Engage policymakers for guidance and buy in.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Justice	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Mwapata Institute, Development partners, Councils, BVCs, MHRC	Year 1- Year 5	120,000
				Update policies with new recommendations or amendments.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Justice	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Mwapata Institute, Development partners, Councils, BVCs, MHRC	Year 1 - Year 5	55,000
				Raise public awareness of SSF communities on policies and laws.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Justice	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, Councils, BVCs, MHRC	Year 1 - Year 8	120,000
				Conduct capacity building and training sessions on policies and legal framework for SSFs	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Justice	Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development partners, Councils, BVCs, MHRC	Year 1 - Year 8	55,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030								
SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
2	Social development, employment and decent work	2. Improved access to infrastructure, social and financial services that are equitable and inclusive for SSF	2.1 Access to equitable and inclusive financial services amongst SSF promoted	Train SSFs households in income diversification. Establish Village Savings and Loans Associations	Department of Fisheries Ministry Trade Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Trade	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners, Financial Service Providers Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners, Financial Service Providers	Year 1 –Year 6 Year 1-Year 5	41,000 45,000
				Train SSF communities in financial literacy	Department of Fisheries Ministry of Trade	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners, Financial Service Providers	Year 1-Year 6	35,700
				Facilitate formation of SSF groups into cooperatives	Department of Fisheries Ministry of Trade	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners, Financial Service Providers	Year 2 -Year 5	35,000
				Link SSFs to financial capital markets and insurance.	Department of Fisheries Ministry of Trade	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners, Financial Service Providers	Year 1- Year 8	45,000
			2.2 Access to equitable and inclusive social services amongst SSF promoted	Implement social protection programs targeting vulnerable groups within SSF communities.	Ministry of Gender, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners, Financial Service Providers	Year 1- Year 8	45,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030								
SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Promote sexual and reproductive health service along landing sites	Ministry of Health Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	95,000
				Facilitate availability of Child Care Centres	Ministry of Gender, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 7	550,000
				Train child minders on management and childcare.	Ministry of Gender Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 6	95,000
				Invest in infrastructure development to have, electricity, roads, running water and lockable storage facilities	Ministry of Lands, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners, Financial Service Providers	Year 1- Year 8	445,000
				Facilitate access to healthcare services through clinics, mobile health units.	Ministry of Health Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	95,000
				Facilitate access to education through school facilities.	Ministry of Education, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	245,000
			2.3 Access to safe and hygienic landing sites and markets enhanced	Sensitize fishing communities to basic WASH practices	Ministry of Water, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 6	75,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Facilitate construction of landing sites and fish markets with safe and hygienic facilities, including sanitation and waste management systems.	Ministry of Lands, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	845,000
				Train SSF members on safety and hygiene	Department of Marine Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	95,000
				Distribute first aid kits in landing sites	Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	145,000
				Establish and enforce regulations and standards for safety practices in landing sites and markets.	Department of Marine, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	65,000
				Collaborate with Village Health Committees (VHCs) to regularly inspect hygiene standards in landing sites and markets.	Ministry of Health, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	95,000
3	Value Chains, Post-Harvest and Trade							
	Value chains, post-harvest and trade	3. Enhanced livelihood options for small-scale fishers and other stakeholders in the fisheries value chain through increased decent	3.1 Access to alternative income generating activities promoted	Facilitate establishment of SSF SACCOS	Ministry of Finance Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners, Financial Service Providers	Year 1- Year 6	65,000
				Promote activities such as making fish-based products like fish filets, fish sausages, fish cakes, or fish snacks.	Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies Partners, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	45,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
		employment opportunities and diversified income sources.		Promote eco-tourism related activities, such as establishing fish-themed restaurants, guesthouses near fishing areas, or offering guided fishing tours.	Ministry of Tourism, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	90,000
				Train SSFs in boat building and maintenance.	Ministry of Trade, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 5	64,000
				Facilitate formation of SSFs transport and logistics associations.	Ministry of Transport, Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners, PPP	Year 1- Year 8	85,000
				Facilitate vegetable farming, poultry rearing, or livestock production amongst SSFs	Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	76,000
				Build capacity of SSFs in Economic Activity Selection, Planning and Management (EASPM)	Department of fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 6	80,000
			3.2 Decent employment opportunities in the fisheries sector increased	Raise awareness on labour related policies and laws including child labour	Department of fisheries, Ministry of Labour	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 6	38,000
		Promote investment in human resource development such as occupation safety, education, literacy, digital inclusion		Department of fisheries, Ministry of Labour	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies BVC, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 5	65,000	
		Lobby for mandatory written contracts between boat owners and crew		Department of fisheries,	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies	Year 1- Year 8	45,000	

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Link fishers to social security services – medical, pension, and insurance	Ministry of Labour	BVC, Development Partners,	Year 1- Year 8	50,000
				Provide technical backstopping on the use of technologies for fishing and post-harvest handling	Department of Fisheries	Government Department, NGOs, BVC, Civil Societies	Year 1-Year 7	75,000
				Establish cold chain systems at landing sites through PPP and other means.	Department of Fisheries	Min of Trade, Universities, NGOs, Development Partners, Malawi College of Fisheries, Mwapata Institute,	Year 1-Year 8	140,000
				Construct model landing sites with modern facilities	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of lands	PPP, NGOs, Development Partners, Mwapata Institute, CSOs, BVCs	Year 1-Year 6	300,000
				Facilitate adoption of fish storage containers to maintain freshness and quality.	Department of Fisheries	PPP, NGOs, Development Partners, MWAPATA Institute, CSOs, BVCs	Year 1-Year 8	29,000
				Facilitate traceability and quality assurance systems for transparency and adherence to standards.	Department of Fisheries	Min of Trade, NGOs, Development Partners, PPP	Year 1-Year 5	90,000
				Build capacity of SSF members in packaging, branding, marketing, and product differentiation.	Department of Fisheries	PPP, NGOs, Development Partners, MWAPATA	Year 1-Year 6	29,000
			4.1. Use of improved post-harvest technologies promoted					
		4. Enhanced capacity of small-scale fisheries actors to adopt post-harvest, value addition technologies, and profitable trade						
			4.2 Value addition promoted.					

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Promote use of Sanitary Certificate	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Trade	PPP, NGOs, Development Partners, CSOs, BVCs, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	30,000
				Facilitate product certification with the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)	Department of Fisheries	PPP, NGOs, Development Partners, CSOs, BVCs, Government Department, MBS	Year 1-Year 8	65, 000
				Provide value addition technical backstopping to cooperatives in collaboration with various stakeholders	Department of Fisheries	PPP, NGOs, Development Partners, CSOs, BVCs, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	55,000
			<p>4.3 Structured market system to enhance income, and equitable access to markets for SSF members established</p>	Establish private business linkages with SSF groups for fish product sales to schools and public procurement.	Department of Fisheries	Min of Trade, Universities, NGOs, Development Partners, PPP, SMEDI, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	46,000
		Facilitate adoption of a structured fisheries market system.		Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Trade	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, SMEDI	Year 1-Year 5	150,000	
		Provide technical backstopping to cooperatives in collaboration with Agribusiness officer		Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, SMEDI	Year 1-Year 8	80,000	
		Establish digital market information platform for SSFs		Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Information,	Min of Trade, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, SMEDI, BVCs,	Year 1-Year 7	300,000	

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Lobby for the establishment of modern fish markets in the local councils	Ministry of Trade	Financial Service Providers	Year 1-Year 8	120,000
		5. Increased food and nutrition security among SSFs	5.1 Fish consumption among SSFs increased	Conduct nutrition education campaigns to promote fish consumption among SSF communities.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Agriculture	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 7	90,000
				Organize cooking demonstrations to showcase fish-based recipes and cooking techniques.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Information	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 6	60,000
				Link SSFs to supply fish-based products to school feeding programs	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Education	Min of Trade, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, SMEDI, BVCs	Year 1-Year 8	66,000
				Advocate for fair pricing and affordability of fish products	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Trade	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 4	30,000
				Train SSFs in making fish products	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 7	90,000
				Facilitate food demonstrations on fish products	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 7	65,000
				Explore nutritional subsidies to promote fish consumption among vulnerable populations.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 6	70,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
			5.2 Food production systems of SSFs diversified.	Conduct awareness campaigns on the importance of a diversified diet using the Malawi six food groups.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Health	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 8	90,000
				Distribute high-nutritive-value indigenous seeds and animals to vulnerable households.	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 8	400,000
				Advocate for diversified crop production, including indigenous and bio-fortified crops, poultry, small ruminants, and milk-producing animals for better nutrition.	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Trade	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 8	80,000
				Develop seasonal and agro-ecological-based food calendars.	Department of Fisheries	Government institutions, MBS, Development Partners, PPP, BVCs	Year 1-Year 8	60,000
4	Gender equality							
	Gender equality	6. Enhanced gender equality and safeguarding of rights, participation, and well-being of men, women and youths in the small-scale fisheries value chain	6.1 Reporting mechanisms, referral pathways, and safe environment to effectively respond to cases of SGBV strengthened	Conduct awareness sessions on sexual harassment and GBV in the small-scale fisheries sector	MGCDSW, Department of Fisheries	Development Partners AWFishNet, BVCs, Police, Courts, NGOs, CSOs	Year 1 - Year 6	44,000
				Establishing user-friendly reporting mechanisms and referral of SGBV	Department of Fisheries, MGCDSW	Development Partners AWFishNet, BVCs, Police, Courts, NGOs, CSOs	Year 1 - Year 8	55,000
				Engaging men and boys as champions in preventing SGBV	MGCDSW, Department of Fisheries	Development Partners AWFishNet, BVCs, Police, Courts, NGOs, CSOs	Year 1 - Year 8	45,000
				Lobby for increased funding to local councils and Department of Fisheries for enabling environment to mainstream gender in SSF	Department of Fisheries, MGCDSW	BVCs, NGOs, Civil Society, Development Partners, Government institutions,	Year 1 - Year 8	72,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030									
SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)	
				Facilitate access to safe spaces for GBV survivors	Department of Fisheries, MGCDSW	BVCs, NGOs, Civil Society, Development Partners, Government institutions, Police	Year 1 - Year 8	75,000	
				Facilitate access to SRH services along the landing sites	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Health	NGOs, BVCs, Ministry of Justice, CSOs, BVC, CVSU	Year 1 - Year 8	47,000	
			6.2 Women's participation in leadership roles at local and national levels enhanced	Engage men to support women's participation in decision-making structures	Department of Fisheries, MGCDSW	BVCs, Police, VSU Development Partners, Ministry of Health	Year 1 - Year 6	67,000	
				Lobby/advocate for the availability of more female fisheries extension workers	Ministry of Health, Department of Fisheries	BVCs, MGCDSW, CSOs, NGOs, Ministry of Justice, Development Partners	Year 1 – Year 8	75,000	
				Train SSF households on gender transformative approaches	Department of Fisheries MGCDSW,	BVCs, NGOs, Civil Society, Development Partners, Government institutions, Police	Year 1 - Year 6	65,000	
				Raise awareness about women's representation as leaders in SSF structures at community, district, and national levels.	Department of Fisheries, MGCDSW	BVCs, Local Government, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 8	75,000	
				Facilitate the establishment of networks and support platforms for women in leadership	Department of Fisheries, MGCDSW	BVCs, Local Government, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 8	65,000	
5	Disaster Risks and Climate Change								

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
	Disaster risks and climate change	7. Enhanced adaptive capacity of institutions and community structures for climate resilient and disaster risk management in SSF.	7.1: Capacity of institutions and communities for climate resilient and disaster risk management enhanced.	Facilitate participatory development of digital Early Warning Systems	Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 3	69,500
Establish and capacitate emergency rescue teams in landing sites				Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 5	70,000	
Promote inclusion of SSF in District Safety net plans				Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 – Year 5	60,000	
Capacity building of CPCs in DRM related to SSF				Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 6	55,000	
Align BVC activities with CPCs and DRM committees on disaster risk management				Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 3	65,000	
Facilitate incorporation of SSF households in vulnerability assessments during disasters				Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 3	30,000	
Facilitate construction of disaster resilient structures in landing sites				Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 7	250,000	
Monitor adherence to Safety at Sea Guidelines for enhanced SSF safety.				Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 8	350,000	

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Promote climate smart technologies across the fisheries value chain	Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 8	230,000
				Orient SSF on disaster response	Department of Fisheries, DODMA	BVC, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1 - Year 4	80,000
			7.2 Collaboration between Department of Fisheries, DODMA, and other key players to respond to disasters strengthened	Orient district disaster response team on DRM and climate change policies for SSF value chain.	Department of Fisheries, DODMA,	LFMA, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, Development partners, NGOs, CSOs	Year 1 - Year 4	65,000
				Facilitate timely sharing of information on disasters for quick response	Department of Fisheries, DODMA,	LFMA, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, Development partners, NGOs, CSOs	Year 1 - Year 8	60,000
				Conduct an annual review of disaster response plans with all stakeholders	Department of Fisheries, DODMA,	LFMA, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, Development partners, NGOs, CSOs	Year 2 - Year 8	150,000
				Monitor implementation of ecosystem-based management plans and by-laws	Department of Fisheries, DODMA, Ministry of Agriculture	LFMA, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, Development	Year 1 - Year 8	75,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Participate in joint planning, implementation, monitoring and training.	Department of Fisheries, DODMA,	LFMA, Civil Protection Committees, Local Councils, Development partners, NGOs, CSOs	Year 1 - Year 8	85,000
Evidence Based Programming for SSF								
6	Evidence based program for SSF	8. Improved fisheries programming through research, monitoring, evaluation, learning, surveillance and resource mobilization	8.1 Evidence-based decision-making at all levels in fisheries sector promoted	Develop multi-sectoral research agenda for SSF in collaboration with FSTAP	Department of Fisheries	MZUNI, LUANAR, Mwapata Institute, Malawi College of Fisheries, Development Partners, FSTAP	Year 2-Year 6	45,000
				Conduct fisheries research and dissemination conferences (i.e., Frame Survey, data quality audit, etc.)	Department of Fisheries	MZUNI, LUANAR, Mwapata Institute, Malawi College of Fisheries, Development Partners, World Fish Centre	Year 1-Year 8	125,000
				Integrate the National Fisheries Resource Tracking tool with NSO database	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, NSO	Year 1-Year 8	185,000
				Develop digital tracking systems on SSF boats for real-time surveillance and monitoring	Department of Fisheries	PPP, Government institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners	Year 1-Year 8	180,000
				Develop a dashboard for sharing fisheries data for decision making	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government	Year 1-Year 8	95,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030

SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Conduct baseline and end-line assessments for the NPOA-SSF	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, MwAPATA Institute, Development Partners, Consultants	Year 1-Year 8	90,000
		8.2 Research, monitoring, evaluation, learning and surveillance systems strengthened		Conduct bi-annual fisheries M&E coordination meeting	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 1-Year 5	36,000
			Train M&E officers and decision-makers on data management at all levels	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 2, Year 4	85,000	
			Facilitate the development of a rigorous self-monitoring and reporting mechanism for BVCs	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 2-Year 8	80,000	
				Facilitate dissemination of best practices (impact stories, documentaries, newsletters, internal and external webinars).	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, Civil Society, MwAPATA Institute, Development Partners, LFMA	Year 1-Year 8	90,000
				Support scaling up the promising practices in SSF	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, Civil Society, Media Houses, Development Partners	Year 1-Year 8	90,000
				Conduct physical and/or virtual cross-learning program	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	120,000
		Output 8.3: Resource mobilization enhanced		Conduct fundraising efforts for financial resources from various sources, such as donors, grants.	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	243,000

Goal: Effective and coordinated implementation of all SSF development programs and activities in Malawi for improved food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation by 2030								
SN	Thematic area	Outcomes	Strategy/Outputs	Activity	Lead agency	Implementing partners (to be discussed further)	Time frame	Estimated budget (USD)
				Establish strategic partnerships with all stakeholders.	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	
				Procure necessary equipment, tools, or assets to facilitate SSFs operations	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	
				Facilitate raising of non-monetary contributions, such as goods or services provided by partners or community members.	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	
				Facilitate systems to monitor and track the allocation and use of resources to ensure transparency and accountability.	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	
				Train SSF groups in diversified resource portfolio	Department of Fisheries	NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Government Department	Year 1-Year 8	

Annex 1: Members of the National Task Team for NPOA-SSF

SI	Name	Designation	Institution/Affiliation
1	Dr. Austin Mtethiwa	Associate Professor & Chair of NTT	LUANAR
2	Dr. Maggie Munthali	Research Fellow & Vice Chairperson of NTT	MwAPATA Institute
3	Stanely Mvula	Lecturer & Secretary of NTT	MZUNI
4	Sabstone Unyolo	Deputy Director of Fisheries	Department of Fisheries
5	Amenye Ndiwo-Banda	National Project Coordinator	FAO
6	Amos Mtonya	Deputy Director	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
7	Brino Chirwa	Deputy Director	Department of Fisheries
8	Carolyn Munthali	Principal Fisheries Office	Department of Fisheries
9	Memory Chikondi Liomba	Principal Nutrition and Programme Officer	Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS
10	Rhoda Mkumbwa	Secretary General	AWFishNET
11	Marcel Chisi	Programme Associate	Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre
12	Bessie Msusa	Chief Economist	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
13	Symon H Gama	Fish Trader	Salima District
14	Ronald Phiri	Deputy Director of Gender Affairs	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare
15	Bridget Mkandawire	Fish Processor and Trader	Karonga District

Annex 2: Assessment results and stakeholder analysis

NPOA-SSF initiation - Stage 1 Output	Dates (start and finish)	Outputs	Comments
Translation, launch & dissemination of SSF guidelines	April, 2021	SSF guidelines launched	Completed
Initial consultative stakeholder workshop	June, 2021	Initial consultative workshop for various stakeholders conducted	Completed
SSF Human Rights Situation Analysis Study	(2021-2022)	SSF Human Rights Situation Analysis completed	Completed
Formation of NTT	February, 2022	Formation of 15 member NTT done	NTT members drawn from government institutions, academia, research institutions, women groups, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), Small Scale Fisheries.
NTT orientation	May, 2022	Orientation of NTT members was done for all members	Completed
Development of work plan for NPOA and TORs for engaging consultant	May 2022	Development and finalization of overarching Terms of Reference (ToR)	Completed
NTT training by International Ocean Institute	June, 2022	NTT trained in IOI in South Africa	Completed
NTT field Visit	June, 2022	Familiarization tour for NTT members	Completed
Fisheries profile analysis SSF	June 2022	SSF profile was carried out to understand SSF context	Completed
Stakeholder mapping		Stakeholders were mapped and list developed	Completed
Multi-stakeholder consultations		Stakeholder consultations were done in Nkhata-bay, Mangochi and Salima with Beach Committee members and enforcement division, front line workers, BVC and fishing community members.	Completed
Review of the findings, feedback session, prioritization and objective setting		Qualitative data from the multi stakeholder consultations and feedback sessions were analysed and summarized into issues according to six thematic areas. Prioritization of activities: The issues were prioritised, and a list of recommended strategies and activities was produced	Completed

Draft and compilation of NPOA-SSF	March –July 2023	NPOA-SSF drafted and shared for validation	Completed
NPOA-SSF Validation	12 th to 14 th July 2023	NPOA-SSF Validation done with stakeholders from different sectors	Completed
NPOA-SSF Launch	September 2023	National function involving Ministry Officials	

Annex 3: Consultations during the NPOA-SSF development process

Date(s)	Location(s)	Organizations consulted	Description and comments
26th -27th September 2022	Zomba	Zomba District Council	Measures to reduce transboundary conflicts Measures to ensure strengthened fish value chain Measures to reduce climate change shocks
28th September 2022	Zomba	Zomba Lake Chilwa Fisheries Association	Measures to reduce transboundary conflicts Measures to improve on community participation in enforcement
26th September 2022	Zomba	Leadership for Environment and Development	Measures to prevent degradation Measures to mitigate climate change impacts
26th September 2022	Zomba	Youthnet and Counselling	Measures to ensure that there are no issues of child labour and GBV
26th September 2022	Zomba	YONECO FM Radio	Measures to ensure that there are no issues of child labour and GBV Violations of girls and women rights in fish related businesses
26th September 2022	Zomba	CHANCO Community Radio	Measures to reduce and end child labour in the fishing communities
29th September 2022	Machinga	Machinga Lake Chilwa Fisheries Association	Good governance structures that will oversee fishing activities Good coordination to end the chimbowera activities that are encouraging prostitution and marriage GBV, child abandonment
24th-25th October 2022	Nkhotakota	Nkhotakota District Council	Need for better infrastructure at the landing sites Catchment management and restoration Management of key biodiversity hotspots
25th October 2022	Nkhotakota	Department of Marine	Need to have measures to prevent water accidents through better early warning messages
26th- 27th October	Nkhotakota	Chia and Ngara Beach Village Committees, Chiefs, Child protection committees Civil Protection Committees, Health committees	Measures that will empower communities to be resilient to climate shocks Measures to reduce child labour Community participation in response to accidents on the lake Improvements in fish transportation and trade practices

28th October	Salima	Chikombe Beach Village Committee, Chiefs, Health Committee, Child Protection, Mbenji Island Management Committee	Measures that will help communities to have other means of livelihood Strengthening traditional fisheries management systems at Mbenji island Revisiting the cultural beliefs that bar women from doing trade on the Mbenji island
17th January 2023	Karonga	Karonga District Council	Measures to prevent degradation Measures to mitigate climate change impacts Alternative sources of livelihood Measures to enable communities resilient to climate change shocks
18th January 2023	Karonga	Lupembe	Measures to mitigate climate change impacts Measures to reduce illegal fishing and using illegal fishing gears
18th January 2023	Karonga	Mandala	Measures to mitigate climate change impacts Measures to reduce illegal fishing and using illegal fishing gears
19th January 2023	Nkhata Bay	Nkhata Bay District Council	Measures to enable value chain actors able to ably sustain their livelihood through fish related activities (fishing, processing, transportation, marketing)
20th January 2023	Nkhata Bay	Sanga Beach Village Committee, Chiefs, Health committee, Civil Protection Committee, Child Protection Committee	Good means of fish transportation Provision of landing facilities Better market infrastructure
20th February 2023	Mangochi	Mangochi District Council	Catchment management and restoration Management of key biodiversity hotspots Measures to reduce exploitation of women in fish trade Measures to reduce illegal fishing and using illegal fishing gears Measures to reduce conflict between SSF and trawl fishery
20th February 2023	Nsanje Nyachikadza EPA	Bitilinyo River Village Committee	Prevention of wildlife/ human conflict (crocodile attacks) Reduction of the impact of flooding to human population Measures to reduce transboundary conflicts
20th February 2023	Zomba	Zomba District Council	Measures to reduce transboundary conflicts

21st February 2023	Zomba	Zomba Lake Chilwa Fisheries Association, Kachulu Beach Village Committee, Chiefs, Health Committee, Child Protection, Birds Association	Measures to reduce transboundary conflicts Measures to enable communities to be resilient to climate change impacts
21st February 2023	Blantyre	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services	How we can improve on accessibility of weather early warning information to small scale fishers, processors and traders
21st February 2023	Blantyre	Blantyre City Council	Control and ownership of fish trading facilities in city markets Lack of cold storage facilities for fresh fish
21st February 2023	Blantyre	Limbe Market Fish Traders	The role of middlemen in fish trade How can transportation of fish to markets be improved Improve market infrastructure i.e. cold storage
21st February 2023	Mangochi	MALDECO Fisheries	Challenges being faced by trawl fishery Measures to use the fish factory to full capacity
21st February 2023	Mangochi	Department of Marine	Registration of fishing boats Identification marking of boats
21st February 2023	Mangochi	Marine Police	Accidents prevention and response on the lake
22nd February 2023	Chikwawa	Lisuli River Village Committee	Prevention of wildlife/ human conflict (crocodile attacks) Reduction of the impact of flooding to human population
23rd February 2023	Blantyre	Sana Cash and Carry, Henderson Street	Who supplies fish to Supermarkets How can quality and supply be guaranteed
23th February 2023	Blantyre	Malawi Broadcasting House	Role of the media in providing weather information and early warning Programs available to sensitise the general public on the plight of SSF
22nd February 2023	Zomba	YFM Radio and YONECO Child Protection Services	Measures to ensure that there are no issues of child labour and GBV Violations of girls and women rights in fish related businesses
22nd February 2023	Zomba	CHANCO Community Radio	Role of the media in providing weather information and early warning Programs available to sensitise the general public on the plight of SSF
22nd February 2023	Zomba	LEAD-SEA	Effects of climate change and its impacts on the communities in the Lake Chilwa basin

4th April 2023	Rumphi	Chiweta Beach Village Committee, Chief, Religious Leaders	What role do communities take to reduce accidents on the lake What challenges do women face in fish trade
27th April 2023	Mangochi	Prof. Kaunda, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)	Local leadership and PPP involvement in management of fisheries and enforcement of fisheries by-laws
27th April 2023	Mangochi	Lake Malombe BVCs	How the system of “Ndagwira” affects SSF (especially women) BVCs role in ecosystems and fisheries management Recommendations on adopting a structured fish market in Malawi
23rd June 2023	Lilongwe	Dr. Nagoli, National Planning Commission (NPC)	The pivotal role fisheries will play in economic growth as envisaged in the Malawi Agenda 2063 and how the NPOA aligns with the initial 10-year implementation plan (MIP-1)

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