

TRANSFORMATION IN MALAWI / LILONGWE

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Outline of presentation

- Local level – two sides of a coin
- National level – progress
- Critical questions
- Concluding statements



Status quo – local level

- Johannesburg/Lilongwe mentorship & project partnership characterised by **active engagement** during period 2008 to March 2011
- Outputs: Approved CDS, performance system, by-law review process, GIS business plan, long term capital plan & credit worthiness...
- Secured funding from Gates Foundation for implementation of Informal Settlement Upgrading Project
- Durban, June 2011: *“The mentorship programme has enabled Lilongwe to take back control of local government, to start building good governance practices, to change institutional behaviour and ability, to focus on public goods and community needs, to prioritise....and to be accountable”*
- October 2011: Lilongwe CDS awarded Malawian UN Habitat Human Settlements Award
- Success?



Status quo – local level

- Gates project – lack of progress, performance
 - Strict conditions, new project manager (May 2011)
 - Awaiting outcome of assessment (October 2011)
- CA funding – applied for phase 3 funding in March 2010, not yet finalised (phase 3 commenced in June 2010)
- State of Assembly (October 2011) – revenue collection dropped; no signed performance scorecards; many still in acting positions; loss of momentum (by-laws, GIS) and no progress on implementation of capital programme; extensive sponsored traveling; no management meetings; lack of internal communication
- Despite extensive funding needs, no attempt to apply for potential funding such as Urban Window Programme
- Urban Master Plan developed by JICA “invisible”
- Failure?



National level

Progress and transformation

- Urbanisation
- Governance
- Millennium Development Goals



Urbanisation

- Sandra Bloemenkamp (WB Malawi Country representative) stated that *“no country reached high income status without urbanisation. Concentration of people in urban areas coincides with concentration of the national economic base”*. She said that *“in 2007, 78% of African Governments had policies to reduce urban migration – with very little success”*. She reiterated the fact that Malawi in particular would witness the impact of this in future (50% urbanised by 2030). If not, poverty, food insecurity and resource scarcity would immobilise the country
- Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development – Government acknowledges that urbanisation is unavoidable and that proper planning and policy should guide urbanisation....Malawian Government would probably achieve 4 or 5 of the MDGs (Malawi Urban Forum October 2011)
- An encouraging shift....



Governance

- April 2011 – British High Commissioner expelled
- Malawi's mid-2011 political-economic crisis led up to the mass demonstrations of 20-21 July 2011 ('20 demands' presented by civil society activists), which resulted in the death of 20 people
- Contributed to the current national economic downturn – frequent shortages of fuel and foreign exchange shortages
- The Guardian (November 2011) featured "Malawi risks becoming a 'fragile' state"
 - *"antagonised western donors who were already withdrawing funds in response to governance and rights abuses and fiscal maladministration"*
 - *"Political tensions threaten HIV program in Malawi"*
- Elections planned for 2014 – including local



MDGs

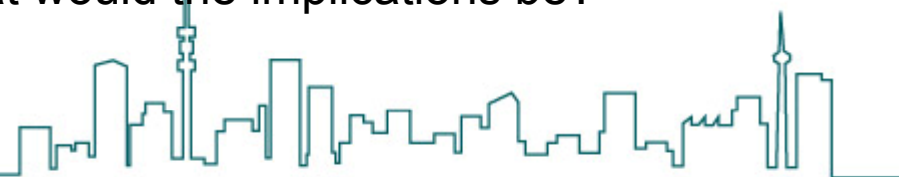
- 34 of the world's 48 poorest countries are in Africa
- Malawi was placed at number 153 of 169 countries on UN Human Development Index (HDI) in 2010
- The 8 MDGs are divided into 21 targets and 60 indicators
- Two assessment report:
 - Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Database. Metadata for Malawi, 2011 (Statistics Norway)
 - Brussels Programme of Action: A Comprehensive Review for Malawi for the Decade 2001-2010: 11th January, 2011
 - Similarities but also differences in assessments



MDGs

Some examples from assessment reports:

- **Poverty** - reduced from 54% to 39% between 1998 and 2009, **BUT** there has hardly been any decline in poverty gap ratio meaning that poor households are as poor as they have been before
- **Primary education**: Attendance varied from 90% in the Northern region to 77% in the Southern region (as a result of free **primary** education)
- **Gender equality (primary education)** - reached target in 2006 – situation change dramatically at **secondary** level – high girl-child drop-out rate
- Reduce **child mortality** - Under-5 mortality rate decreased from 234 in 1992 to 112 in 2010
- **Maternal health** - Increased from 620 in 1992 to 1120 in 2000 to 807 in 2006
- Malnutrition and HIV/Aids remain key challenges
- If Malawi achieve 4-5 of the MDGs, what would the implications be?



Critical questions

It is clear that developing countries need meaningful and impactful support

- Efforts are duplicated (eg MDG assessments) – who takes responsibility to coordinate support?
- What marks the success / failure of a country / city programme?
- What is the time frame of a mentorship/project programme? (eg Joburg/Lilongwe or Gates)
- How to respond – fight, flee or freeze?
- Where is the knowledge repository?
- Should the focus of support be on targets/outputs or outcomes/impact?



Concluding statements

National level

- Advantages of an in-country approach with specific support directed at city level
- Need to coordinate efforts and provide oversight
- Advocacy on specific issues yield results – persevere!
- Don't focus on the target, but on the outcome

Local level

- Approach should be hands-on – avoid situations where funds are awarded without involvement – be part of the deliverables
- The project/programme and need must define the “length of stay”
- The emphasis should be on after-care and implementation, rather than on analysis and awards
- Knowledge management should not be neglected



Concluding statements

Being involved in Africa, whether you're a donor, a mentor, an activist, a NGO or an aid organisation, is a journey of discovery and learning – be an activist participant, stay involved and do not keep the learning to yourself!

