



Malawi
Child Protection Strategy

2012
2016

CONTENTS

Foreword	1
<hr/>	
1.0 Context	1
1.1 Purpose	1
1.2 Background	1
1.3 The situation of women and children	3
1.4 Key issues to be addressed	5
1.5 What is a child protection system?	6
<hr/>	
2.0 Results	7
2.1 Results framework	7
2.2 Results for women and children	8
<hr/>	
3.0 Strategies	10
3.1 Strategies	10
3.2 Guiding principles	10
3.3 Strategic actions	12
3.4 Strategic shift	18
<hr/>	
4.0 Overall budget	20
Attachment 1 - Existing range of child protection interventions	21
Attachment 2 - Prevention Framework	23

FOREWORD

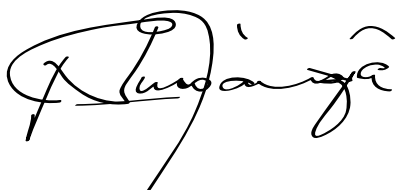


On behalf of the Government of Malawi, I am pleased to share with you the UNICEF Malawi Child Protection Strategy 2012-2016. The Strategy will make a significant contribution to national efforts to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and the impact of HIV and AIDS. It will help improve women and children's access to services. To ensure better coordination of efforts for child protection, I have established a Division of Child Protection within the Department of Social Welfare. The Government has made significant investments in improving the protection of children and in doing so it has created the foundations on which a National Child Protection System can be built.

The establishment of the National Child Protection System is a priority in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (2011-2016). Yet the challenges remain enormous with many children highly vulnerable.

UNICEF is the Government's main development partner in child protection. I ask all donors and development partners to continue to support the collective work of the Ministry and UNICEF in this important area of national development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric J. Ning'ang'a', written in a cursive style.

Eric. J. Ning'ang'a

Principal Secretary

Ministry of Gender Children and Community Development

November 2011





UNICEF and, more broadly the United Nations, are committed to supporting the Government of Malawi to improve the protection of children vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and the impact of HIV and AIDS.

The UNICEF Malawi Child Protection Strategy (2012-2016) will support national efforts to bring together the many responses to child protection and orphans and vulnerable children into an operational National Child Protection System. A more systematic approach to child protection will see better results for the most vulnerable women and children. These results include improved quality and reach of protection services, faster implementation of existing laws and improved capacity of the child protection sector. To better support these efforts, the United Nations has established the 'Protection Services Sub Cluster'. This mechanism brings together all agencies' of the United Nations with a mandate for the protection of children and women to harmonise efforts and maximise results.

Through better coordination of efforts of government, civil society and development partners, together we can make a real difference to the lives of the most vulnerable women and children.

Yours sincerely

Carrie Auer

UNICEF Representative

Malawi

November 2011



1.0 Context

1.1 Purpose

This paper describes the strategy UNICEF Malawi will deploy from 2012 to 2016 to support national efforts to reduce violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and the impact of HIV on children by establishing an operational National Child Protection System. It describes the context, background and a summary of the situation of women and children in relation to protection. The paper highlights the key issues to be addressed along with the results to be achieved, strategies, key actions and the investment required to implement the strategy.

Attachment 1 summarises the existing range of child protection interventions on which the National Child Protection System will be built. Attachment 2 is the Prevention Framework that will guide the programme.

1.2 Background

With one in six children in Malawi vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, and at risk to and from HIV and AIDS, the child protection situation for many Malawian children is dire.¹ In response, the Government of Malawi has made significant investments over the past five years in improving the protection of children. In doing so, it has laid the foundations on which a National Child Protection System can be created. It is for these reasons that the overall goal of the Child Protection component of the UNICEF Country Programme 2012-2016 is to support national efforts to progressively realise children and women's rights to protection within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Millennium Declaration. The Child Protection programme will focus its technical and financial resources on assisting the government to draw together its various responses to child protection and orphans and vulnerable children into an operational National Child Protection System. This is a priority in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (2011-2016)² and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2012-2016). The newly created division of Child Protection within the Department of Social Welfare in the Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development is the lead agency for child protection. The goal of the National Child Protection System is to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, while mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS. Subject to the successful mobilisation of resources, UNICEF will allocate approximately USD 40 million (MK 6.6 billion) to implement the strategy.

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, 'Vulnerability & Child Protection in the face of HIV in Malawi', UNICEF Malawi, 2011
² Government of Malawi, Growth and Development Strategy,(unpublished), November 2011

1.3 The situation of women and children

Malawi is one of the world's Least Developed Countries, with a gross national income per capita of USD 290.³ An estimated 85 per cent of the population rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods, with 39 per cent living on less than one US dollar a day. Approximately 15 per cent of Malawians are extremely poor, living on less than USD 0.33 per day.⁴ Of the total population of 14.4 million, 8.5 million are children.⁵ Malawi's human development challenges are reflected in its ranking of 153 out of 169 countries on the Human Development Index.⁶ HIV prevalence among adults aged 15 to 49 is 10.6 per cent.⁷ This translates into one in ten people living with HIV.



Forty-one per cent of women in Malawi experience physical or sexual violence. An estimated 2.4 million children are growing up in violent homes, witnessing domestic violence and experiencing its negative effects.⁸ Sixty-five per cent of girls experience some form of child abuse during their lifetime, compared with 35 per cent of boys.⁹ One in four (23 per cent) girls aged 15 to 19 years are married, compared to less than two per cent of boys.¹⁰ One in four children are involved in child labour.¹¹ Less than one per cent of children aged 0 to 2 have a birth certificate. Nearly 13 per cent of children have lost one or both parents, half of them to HIV-related illness, while a further 6 per cent live in households with a sick parent or other sick adult.¹² Many of Malawi's 1 million orphaned children live in poor communities that struggle to provide optimal care and protection, leaving the children vulnerable to neglect, abuse and exploitation.¹³ Approximately 47 per cent of children do not possess three minimum material needs (a blanket, one pair of shoes and more than one set of clothing). This drops to 41 per cent for orphans and vulnerable children.¹⁴ This figure drops further to 29 per cent (non-orphans) and 18 per cent (orphans) for children in the lowest quintile. Property grabbing continues to be a major protection violation - 36 per cent widowed women are dispossessed of their property but fewer than one in five women receive legal support or assistance in response.¹⁵

3 World Bank, Malawi, WB, Washington, 2009

4 Government of Malawi, Welfare Monitoring Survey, Malawi 2008

5 UN Population Division, World Population Prospects

6 United National Development Programme, Human Development Index, New York, 2010

7 Government of Malawi, Demographic and Health Survey 2010, Malawi, 2011

8 Ibid.

9 Government of Malawi, Intimate Partner Violence, Malawi, 2005

10 Government of Malawi, Demographic and Health Survey 2010, Malawi, 2011

11 Government of Malawi, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Malawi, 2006

12 Government of Malawi, Demographic and Health Survey 2010, Malawi, 2011

13 United National Children's Fund, Fifth Stocktaking Report, UNICEF, New York, 2010

14 Government of Malawi, Demographic and Health Survey 2010, Malawi, 2011

15 Ibid

While there have been significant advances in mitigating the impact of HIV on children, major challenges remain.¹⁶ The majority of vulnerable children are still not being reached by impact mitigation services and those with the highest needs are unlikely to be service recipients.¹⁷ Approximately 90,000 children are living with HIV and one in six children (1.2 million) are growing up with reduced parental care in a wide range of formal and informal care arrangements. By 2015 there will be 155,000 children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV and approximately 476,000 children orphaned from AIDS-related causes.¹⁸ There are currently 12,000 children living in child-headed households and 6,000 children living in institutional care. Eleven per cent of children do not live with their parents even though both parents are living.¹⁹

Sixty-eight per cent of girls and 62 per cent of boys either do not enrol in school or exit the education system before the age of twelve.²⁰ Only five per cent of people with a disability receive support from welfare services.²¹ Twenty-four per cent²² of children with a disability do not attend school and comprise one in six children in alternative care institutions such as orphanages.²³ Overall there is limited data on children with a disability, children in formal care and children in informal care in the community, but these children are likely to experience high levels of social exclusion given their heightened vulnerability. There is little data to support an evidence-informed understanding of the cultural value of children, social norms, and community and household dynamics involving children.

Investment from the Government



2009
National
Registration Act

2011
Wills and
Inheritance Act

Mapping of Child
Protection System

2012
500 additional Community
Child Protection Workers to
be recruited

2010
Child Care, Protection &
Justice Act

300 Community Child
Protection Workers on
Government Payroll

Division of Child Protection
created in Ministry of
Gender to lead response

2012-2016
Child Protection System a
priority in the Malawi Growth
and Development Strategy

16 United Nations Children's Fund, *Vulnerability and Child Protection in the face of HIV in Malawi*, UNICEF Malawi, 2011

17 Fowler, David, 'Assessment of results achieved through Global Fund Round 5', UNICEF Malawi, 2011

18 UNAIDS, 'Children and aids projections' (unpublished) UNAIDS Malawi, 2011

19 Government of Malawi, *Demographic and Household Survey 2010*, Malawi, 2011

20 Government of Malawi, 'Education Country Status Report', Malawi, 2010

21 World Health Organisation, *World Report on Disability*, WHO, Geneva, 2011

22 Ibid.

23 Government of Malawi and United Nations Children's Fund, 'All Children Count!: Children in Institutional Care in Malawi', UNICEF Malawi, 2011

In response to this highly complex child protection situation, the government and civil society have made significant improvements in the architecture for child protection prevention, mitigation and response. The situation for children affected by an emergency has improved with the inclusion of core child protection indicators in the national contingency plan and the training of key actors in seven emergency-prone districts. A range of new laws covering child protection, birth registration, and wills and inheritance have been enacted.²⁴ The Child Care Protection and Justice Act (2010) provides a broader policy and legal framework for child protection. The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2006) is under review and new legislation is being drafted on the adoption of children and the trafficking of adults and children. Children's Courts are being progressively rolled out to ensure better justice for child offenders, witnesses and victims.

There are fewer children in custody today than there were five years ago. The range and reach of child protection services has expanded considerably with the establishment of 101 Police Victim Support Units, three hospital-based One Stop Centres for women and children survivors of rape, family violence and child maltreatment, 250 Community Victim Support Units, 6,000 Community-Based Childcare Centres and 2,500 Children's Corners. There is an average of seven civil society organisations per district providing child protection services and the National Child Helpline is providing information, advice and counselling to thousands of children each year. A 2011 impact study of justice activities in Malawi identified the child justice system as 'working remarkably well and a model for the region'²⁵.

This progress, plus the creation of district child protection committees, the deployment of 800 Community Child Protection Workers, and the creation of a Division of Child Protection within the Social Welfare Department in the Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development to coordinate the child protection sector, provides a solid foundation on which to create the National Child Protection System. The key partners in this important work include the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Embassy of Norway, USAID and PEPFAR, Plan International, Save The Children, World Vision, EveryChild, Catholic Relief Services, Eye of the Child, Youth Net and Counselling and of course many others.

²⁴ Examples include: Child Care Protection and Justice Act (2010); the National Registration Act (2009); Wills and Inheritance Act (2011)

²⁵ Frontier Consulting, SSAJ Impact Study, Malawi, 2011.

Investment from the United Nations



2012-2016

Establishment of the National Child Protection System a priority in the UNDAF

Protection sub cluster established bringing together UN agencies to deliver Child Protection and Gender Based Violence (UNDAF)

USD 40 million over 5 years for Child Protection System

USD 6 million over 5 years for Child Maltreatment and Gender Based Violence

Increased human resources for systems - case management, quality services, monitoring & evaluation, systems building

Realigned human resources for programming - child labor, birth registration, justice, violence prevention

HIV and AIDS Impact Mitigation sub cluster strengthened

To support national efforts in systems strengthening, the United Nations in Malawi, which operates under the Delivering as One principle, has included the establishment of the National Child Protection System as a key action in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2012-2016). It has identified basic social and protection services as the second of four priorities and convened the Protection Services Technical Working Group. This brings together UNAIDS, WFP, FAO, UNFPA, UNDP, ILO, WHO, UNHCR and UNICEF to design and implement the joint work plan on child protection and gender-based violence, and to harmonise and coordinate efforts in this area. Lastly, the United Nations has further integrated the policy elements of justice for

children into the overall rule of law agenda while strengthening the impact mitigation work team to deliver better results for children affected by HIV and AIDS.

1.4 Key issues to be addressed

Since 1918, international movements have sought to protect children from violence and other threats to their wellbeing, yet at the close of 2010, more than 300 million children worldwide were abused, exploited and subjected to violence, with an equal number vulnerable to such harm.²⁶ Despite good intentions and countless programmatic responses by international, national and community-level child protection actors, many children in Malawi remain highly vulnerable. However, there has been notable progress in some areas and the broader architecture for child protection is one of the most advanced in the Sub-Saharan region.

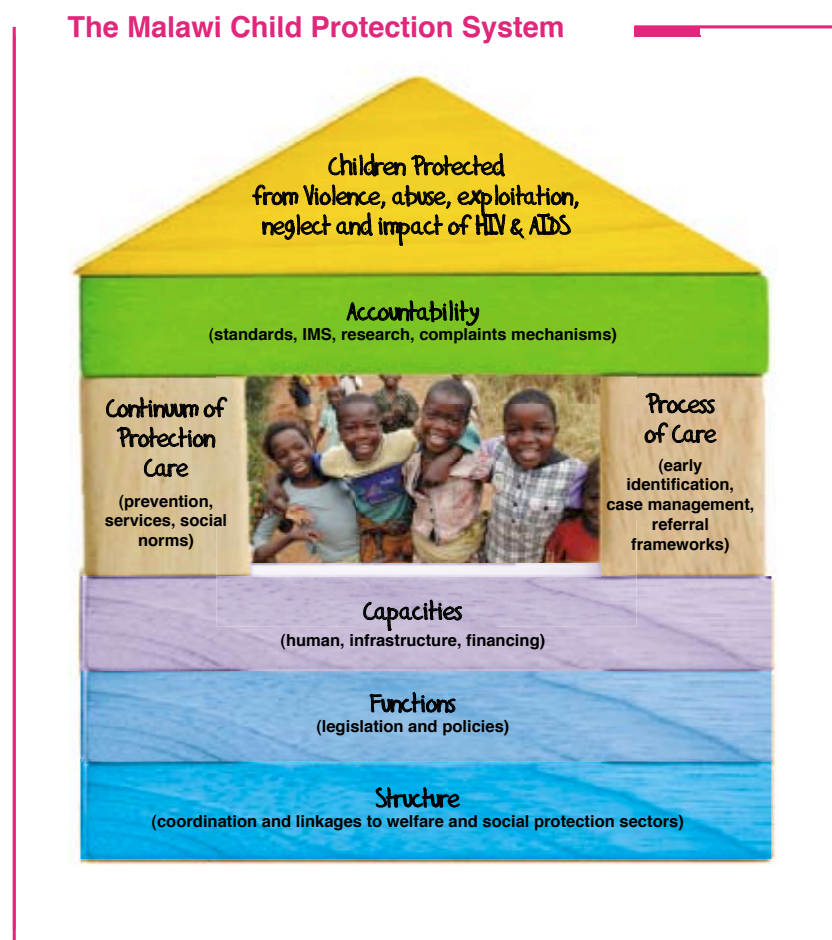
²⁶ United Nations Children's Fund, 2010 Annual Report, UNICEF, New York, 2011

The key issue to be addressed under the 2012-2016 country programme is the absence of an integrated and linked-up child protection response that achieves specific protection results for women and children, and the related issue of limited demand for such a response from the community and family level. The absence of a national child protection system means that programming for children vulnerable to abuse is focused on specific population groups such as orphans, children in conflict with law and girls at risk of early marriage. This vertical response to programming can have impact but the results are generally limited to small numbers of selected population groups and do not benefit the majority of children requiring protection. It is not sustainable and it shows little viability for scaling up. Neither is it an efficient way of protecting children. Furthermore the approach places competing demands on government agencies as they struggle to manage various plans and partnerships from development partners and civil society. An example is the current approach to orphans and vulnerable children and child protection. At the national level, there are two very similar Technical Working Groups, one for Orphans and Vulnerable Children and another for Child Protection. The participants are almost the same for both groups and there is considerable overlap across their agendas. This structure and the corresponding problems are replicated in many of the 28 districts.

The strategies that the programme will adopt to address this issue are described in the programme results below.

1.5 What is a child protection system?

A child protection system is a coordinated, harmonised and systematic approach to protecting children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. In countries such as Malawi, with a high HIV disease burden, a child protection system must specifically ensure that it also contributes to mitigating the impact of HIV on children. It is guided by legislation and policy, and has the capacity - in terms of human resources, financing and infrastructure - to fulfil its mandate. The starting point for a child protection system is



community child-rearing practices, and processes of care to support those children that are subjected to harm or less valued by their communities. A child protection system must be flexible enough to respond to emerging issues as they arise such as migration, urbanisation, unstable political contexts, deteriorating economic indicators and conflict. A rights-based child protection system is accountable, child and family friendly, and providing a continuum of protection services from prevention to impact mitigation. A child protection system is the foundation of social welfare and transformative social protection. It facilitates improved outcomes from social cash transfers and other social protection interventions. These outcomes include rights based legislation, social welfare services, case management and capacity building of the social welfare workforce.” (UNICEF Malawi Child Protection Team, 2011)

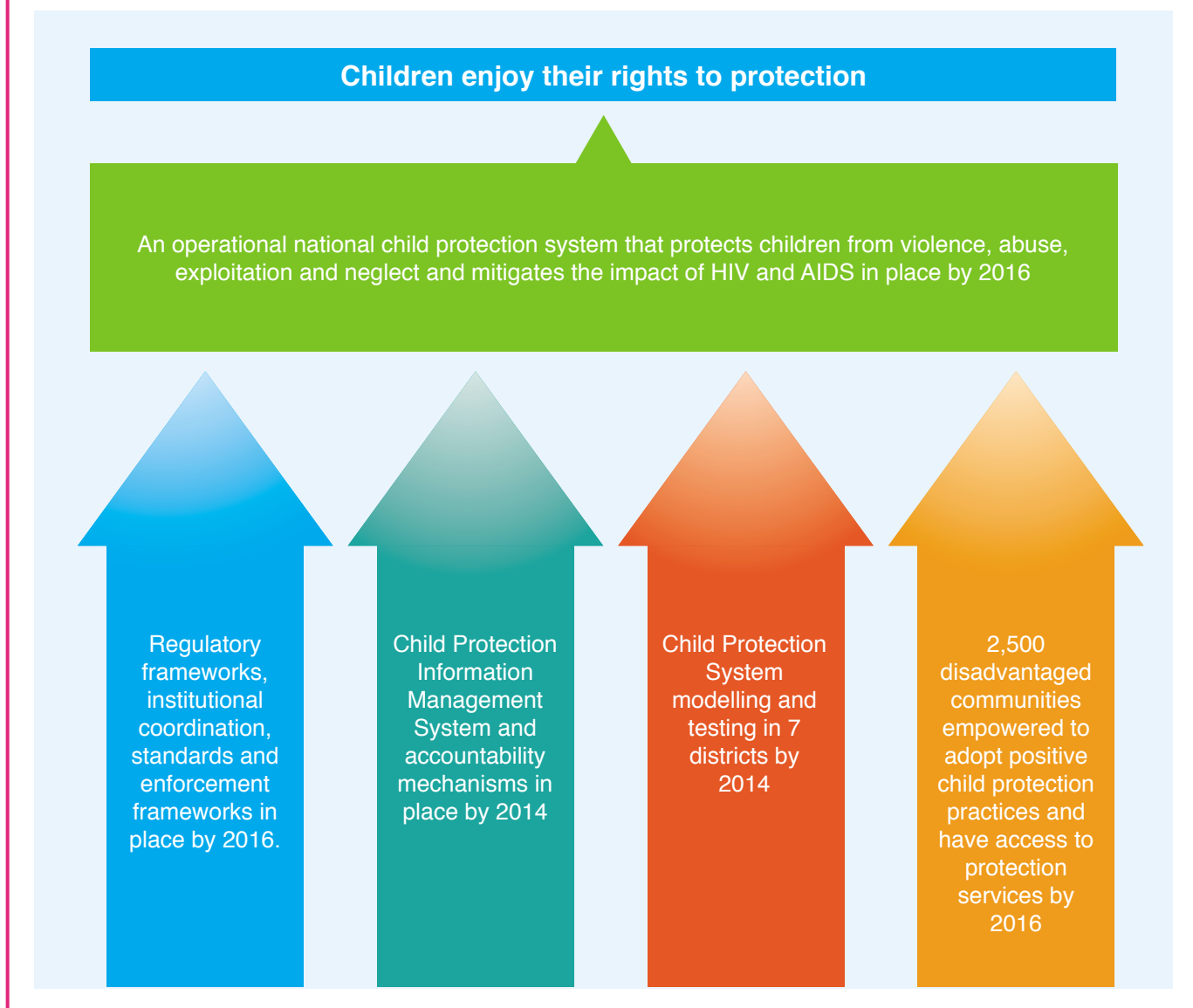
2.0 Results

2.1 Results framework

The Programme Component Result (PCR) which is the outcome that can be directly attributed to UNICEF and our partners investment in child protection is ‘an operational National Child Protection System that protects children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect while mitigating the impact of HIV on them’. The four Intermediate Results (IRs) that will achieve the PCR, and which are the UNICEF programme outputs, are:

- IR 3.1.1:** National regulatory frameworks, standards, implementation guidelines, institutional coordination mechanisms, capacity building plans, accountability and enforcement frameworks for child protection in place by 2016.
- IR 3.1.2:** Ten of the most disadvantaged communities in each of 250 Traditional Authorities adopt protective child protection practices and have access to an expanded range of protection services that include early identification, case management, referral and HIV care and support, by 2016.
- IR 3.1.3:** A comprehensive Child Protection model (including prevention and response services, human resources, infrastructure and financing mechanisms) tested in seven districts by 2014.
- IR 3.1.4:** A functional National Child Protection Information Management System in place and the capacity of the Department of Social Welfare developed to operate it by 2014.

Programme Results



2.2 Results for women and children

While systems thinking in child protection in international development is a relatively recent idea and one that holds much promise, it is not without its challenges. There are numerous examples of systems being established but failing to deliver results. For example, in Malawi the health system is struggling to provide adequate maternal and child health services, and one in seven children die before their first birthday. The education system too is struggling to meet its core commitment to primary education, with six in ten children either not enrolling in school or dropping out of the education system by the time of their twelfth birthday. Important efforts such as the creation of 'child-friendly' schools and 'baby-friendly' maternity wards show a response to systems failure. Systems failures include design faults where systems are developed without the needs of the client (or rights-holder) being fully built into the system, and situations in which the system is allowed to drift and become less 'accountable' (failure of duty-bearers to deliver their obligations to rights-holders).

Keeping these challenges in mind, UNICEF will support national efforts to build into the design of the National Child Protection System specific results to be achieved for women and children, and mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability. The key results for children to be achieved over the five years are:

Results for women and children	Baseline	Target
1. A Child Protection Information Management System (IMS) that tracks victims and survivors of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in place by 2014	0	1
2. Number of children and women benefiting from a comprehensive child protection package (IMS is tracking the child, case management in place and protection services provided)	0	37,500
3. Number of children accessing Community-Based Childcare Centres	600,000	830,000
4. Proportion of children under two whose births have been registered	<1%	60%
5. Reduction in violence against women	41%	36%
6. Reduction in violence against children	** 27	-
7. Reduction in child labour (children aged 5-14)	25%	20%
8. Reduction in the number of children in custody	** 28	90%
9. Number of communities adopting protective child protection practices	0	2,500
10. Reduction in the number of children in alternative care institutions	6,000	4,500
11. Number of districts operating a comprehensive child protection model	0	7
12. Number of children on ARVs (anti-retroviral) with a case plan linking up the health and welfare sector response	0	40,000
13. Number of vulnerable children aged 6-18 utilising Children's Corners annually	187,500	375,000
14. Number of district child protection committees that have in place contingency plans for child protection in emergency preparedness and response	6	28
15. Annual government allocation for child protection increased	**29	500%

**baselines are being established

The proposed reduction in violence against women and children, the reduction in child labour and the reduction of numbers of children in custody, while ambitious, is based on targets established in legal and policy frameworks, and takes overall trends into account. For example, the child protection legislation prohibits the placing of children under the age of 16 in jail - although this practice continues - while the legislation covering birth registration requires a child to be registered within six weeks of his or her birth.

27 Baseline survey will be carried out in 2012 and a target set of a 10 per cent reduction

28 Baseline survey results expected in early 2012

29 Baseline study on costing of child protection system and existing financial allocations due for completion in early 2012

3.0 Strategies, principles and strategic actions

UNICEF will focus its resources in three areas:

1. Policy and systems strengthening.
2. Improved and equitable delivery of basic protection services for both women and children; and
3. Positive behaviour change to benefit women and children.

3.1 Strategies

The following strategies will be used to achieve these results:

1. Providing upstream technical guidance for policy development based on evidence and best practice.
2. Formulating benchmarks and standards to enable implementation, quality assurance and monitoring within the overall decentralization process.
3. Developing at all levels professional skills.
4. Establishing mechanisms for community participation, implementation and monitoring of child protection rights.
5. Supporting service delivery at district and community levels.

3.2 Guiding principles

Eight principles informed the development of the strategy and will guide its implementation. They are:

1. Girls experience more protection violations than boys. Improving the protection of girls will require a greater investment of resources in programming for girls.
2. Children will only be safe from harm if the adults, particularly women, in their community are safe from harm. Reducing physical and sexual violence against women is core child protection work.
3. In most instances, parents provide the first line of defence in the protection of children. Strengthening child protection practices and linking families under stress with child protection and broader social services will be promoted. UNICEF will invest in ensuring the national child protection system is both.
4. Social norms, such as those governing child rearing practices, determine that some children are valued more than others. The art of child protection in development is to find reasons for this, to identify less-valued children, and to support communities (and, where necessary, more formal mechanisms) to improve the protection of these children.

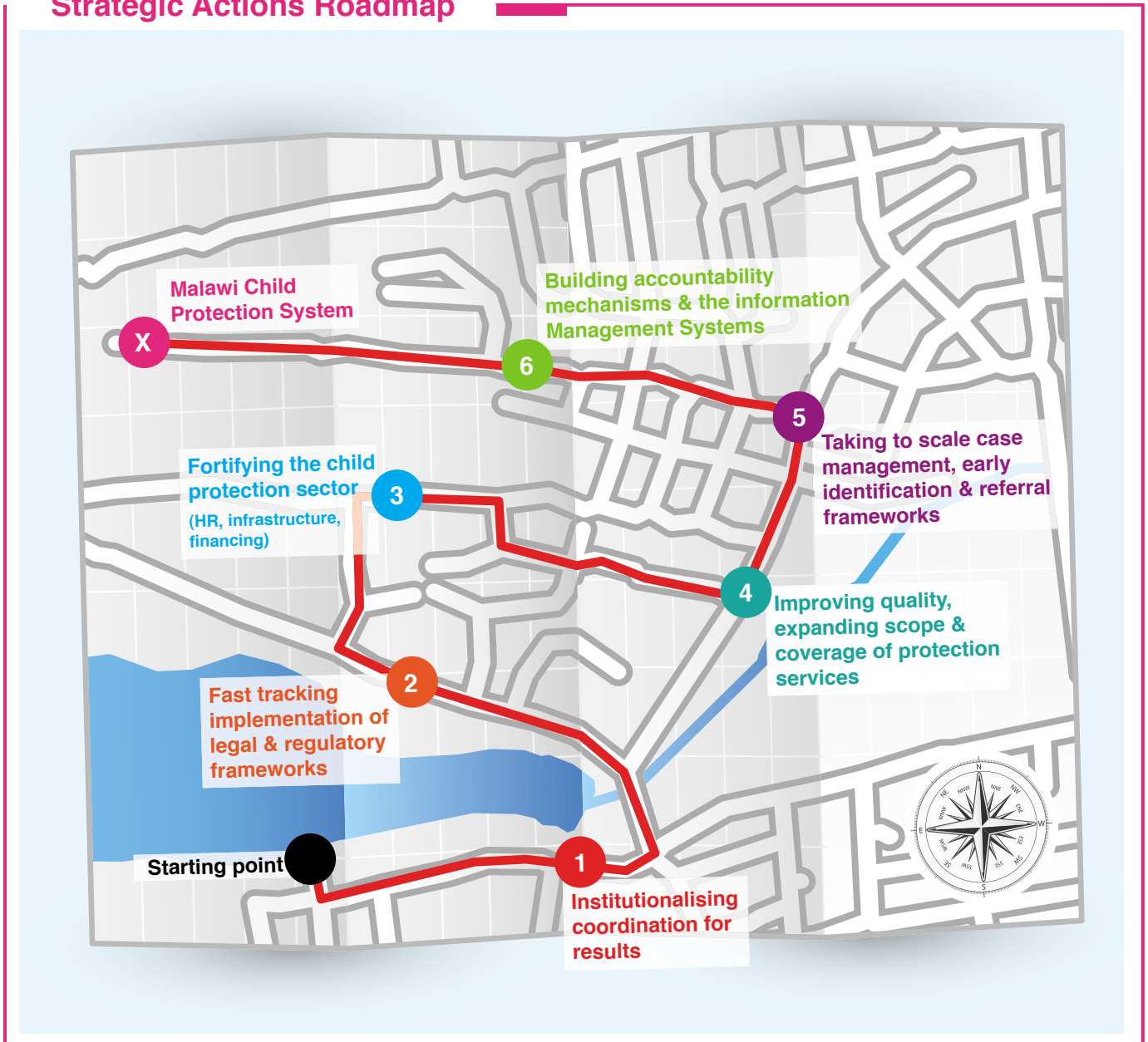
5. Community child protection mechanisms are a core component of national systems. These mechanisms generally determine which children work, which children go to school and which children marry as child brides. They determine how cases of sexual abuse and domestic violence are handled. UNICEF will invest in strengthening both the formal and community child protection mechanisms.
6. Primary prevention is good child protection practice. Parenting programmes for parents and caregivers of young children, and community-based childcare for children will be the two main forms of primary prevention supported by the strategy.
7. Sustainability and value for money are interlinked. UNICEF will work with partners to develop guidelines to ensure value for money is achieved and sustainability realised.
8. Child protection systems-building leads to stronger social welfare systems and good social protection outcomes. UNICEF's investment in the national child protection system will facilitate improved outcomes from social protection interventions, particularly in the areas of legislation, services, case management and the skill levels of the social welfare workforce.
9. Effective child protection systems plan for the future. The child protection system will need to be flexible enough to respond to emerging issues and challenges. Over the life of the strategy the rate of population growth will continue to expand at a rapid rate. So too will urbanisation, leading to more people living on the fringes of the larger cities. These two forces will bring many child protection challenges.



3.3 Strategic actions

Six strategic actions will guide the programme. These strategic actions intertwine and are in effect, the enablers for bringing the six core components of the National Child Protection System into operation. These components are described in the strategy section below.³⁰

Strategic Actions Roadmap



1. Institutionalising coordination for results:

The many national and district mechanisms already in place can be harmonised to provide the overall coordination mechanism for the National Child Protection System. At the national level, they include the National Technical Working Group for Child Protection, a corresponding technical working group for

³⁰ Adapting A Systems Approach to Child Protection, UNICEF New York, 2010

orphans and other vulnerable children, and the National Child Justice Forum. There is strong representation from government and civil society, and some of the mechanisms have action plans to guide their work. These mechanisms are supported by specific technical committees covering trafficking, child labour, children with a disability, and children in alternative care. As this strategy notes, good results have been achieved in many areas. Many of these coordination mechanisms are replicated and thus duplicated at district level, with each district having at least two mechanisms. The key challenges with the current arrangements are that mandates are not harmonised, the terms of reference are fuzzy, linkages between national and district level coordination are weak and most importantly, the lines between coordination and implementation are blurred.

Despite these positive efforts and the best intentions of partners, the overall approach to coordination is cumbersome, costly and rarely brings together the right people from the right institutions at the right time to plan and coordinate. This results in weak inter-sectoral planning and delivers few results for women and children at the village level. While significant progress has been made in linking the child protection and social welfare sectors as part of a broader social protection response, more needs to be done to improve coordination and results. Using the findings of the child protection system mapping exercise, which is due for completion in December 2011, UNICEF will support the institutionalisation of national and district-level coordination mechanisms that achieve results for women and children. This will be done by supporting the government to



simplify and streamline coordination efforts. Key actions will include providing technical support to the national coordination mechanism and its member agencies from government (the social services, justice sector and HIV impact mitigation) and civil society. The capacity of the Division of Child Protection will be strengthened to provide overall coordination and leadership of the child protection sector. UNICEF will assist the coordination mechanism to develop annual sector-wide operational plans and to monitor and evaluate the results and impact. Strategies will be devised to link up the child protection, health and impact mitigation sectors to support HIV-positive children.³¹ At the district level, the Offices of Social Welfare will be supported to develop district-wide plans to implement the national annual sector-wide plans and to progress local child protection priorities, including the strengthening of key child protection mechanisms in emergency-affected districts, based on written plans for project implementation and monitoring. This will entail technical and financial support to all 28 districts, through which support will flow to 320 Traditional Authorities and their partners from civil society. To institutionalise coordination for results and to strengthen the systems approach to child protection, UNICEF will support partners and the Division of Child Protection to develop and implement a child protection policy.

2. Fast tracking implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks:

The legislative environment for child protection is strong, providing a sound framework to shape and guide the National Child Protection System. Laws include the Child Care, Protection and Justice Act (2010), the National Registration Act (2009), the Wills and Inheritance Act (2011) and the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2006), which is currently under review. In addition, law reform efforts currently under way will provide increased protection in the areas of adoption and trafficking. UNICEF will provide high-level technical support to the Division of Child Protection and the national coordination mechanism to implement and enforce these Acts and to bring the Child Care Act into alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and other international standards. This will be prioritised over supporting further legislative reform, other than what is already under way. Together these Acts, if fully implemented, offer vulnerable children their best chance of legal protection. Key actions will include providing technical support to design standards and guidelines and bring them into operation, costing and implementing annual operational plans, allocating resources for high-impact interventions and designing an impact evaluation.

3. Fortifying the child protection sector, its human resources, institutions and funding base:

Over the past five years the capacity of the child protection sector has been improved with increased human resources, infrastructure for protection services and a modest increase in financing, creating core building blocks for the National Child Protection System. There are currently an average of four social workers and seven civil society organisations per district providing child protection support. Building on these achievements, UNICEF will move beyond supporting training as the main method of capacity building to fortifying the human resources, institutions and funding base of the child protection sector (both government and civil society) as a whole.

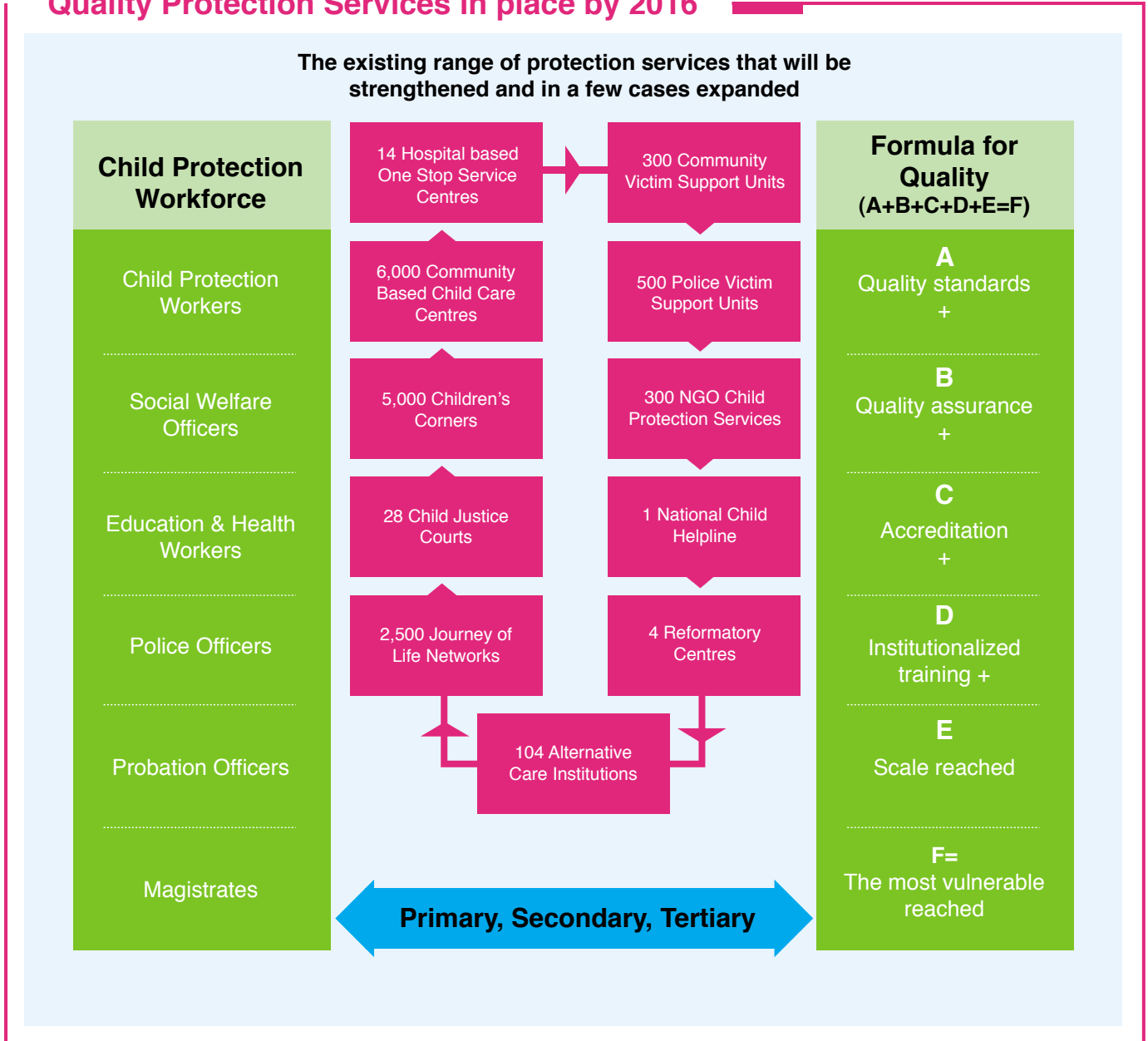
³¹ For clarity, the term HIV positive is used here rather than children living with HIV

UNICEF will do this by supporting upstream planning for downstream implementation. The practice of providing funding to government employees to conduct skills-based training will be abandoned in favour of supporting national and district-level institutions (government and non-government) to design and deliver this training. Key actions will entail support to human-resource planning and development, and a building works programme to strengthen infrastructure at national and district levels, including services provided by civil society. Resources will be targeted at building the capacity of training institutions to design, run, monitor and evaluate competency-based training that is both gender-sensitive and rights-based. Resources will be mobilised to build and renovate the range of protection services mentioned above. Magomero College and partner universities will be supported to roll out the recently finalised certificate, diploma and degree courses in social welfare. A fund will be created for the sole purpose of building the knowledge and skills of the various levels of the child protection workforce. Learning modalities will include e-learning, self-learning exercise books, mentoring, coaching and organisational development. To strengthen the funding base of the sector, UNICEF will support civil society to develop an evidence-based advocacy strategy to encourage government, donors and development partners to invest more in child protection.

4. Improving the quality and expanding the scope and coverage of protection services:

As described above, the range and number of protection services, including justice services and behaviour-change interventions are relatively extensive, providing the core elements on which to build the continuum of care component of the National Child Protection System. However, the quality of these interventions is unknown and the scope and coverage limited. While many cultural practices have been mapped, little is known about the social norms that inform protective and harmful child-rearing practices. Based on new thinking about social norms, equity, quality, access and utilisation of services, UNICEF will focus its efforts on supporting the government and civil society to improve the quality of the existing portfolio of protection services and interventions, and to expand their scope and coverage to reach the most vulnerable women and children. This will be achieved by partnering with the child protection sector, including the HIV impact mitigation sector, to improve the quality of services, based on nationally established standards.

Quality Protection Services in place by 2016



Key actions will include providing technical support to appropriate agencies to develop quality standards and establish a national quality assurance mechanism to monitor compliance with these standards. Key actions to expand the scope of protection services will entail designing a blueprint for the child protection sector to ensure that a minimum level of services is being provided at primary, secondary and tertiary levels (see Attachment 2, the Prevention Framework). Actions to expand the coverage of protection services will centre on supporting partners and service providers to go to scale covering the whole of a Traditional Authority, a District, a Region or nationally, rather than providing partial coverage, as is currently the case. This approach will help to bring protection services to women and children whose vulnerability is increased due to the tyranny of distance or isolation based on geography.

UNICEF will support a child protection model to be tested in seven districts by 2014. Equity will be built into the design of the model to ensure that the most vulnerable women and children are reached. The model will be culturally appropriate, relevant to community child-rearing practices, incorporate the views of children and women, and be affordable for government to take to scale.

To support communities to adopt protective child protection practices, UNICEF will partner with district assemblies and civil society organisations to build the capacity of communities to implement Journey of Life, a child protection empowerment tool, and to monitor its impact in a minimum of ten of the most disadvantaged communities in a minimum of 250 Traditional Authorities. Research into social norms will be supported and actions tested and evaluated. This will be backed up by a large-scale communications for development strategy built on the successful Stop Child Abuse Campaign conducted by UNICEF and Plan International between 2006 and 2008.

5. Taking to scale early identification, case management and referral frameworks:

Vulnerable children, including those affected by an emergency, children who are HIV-positive, children living in selected households in receipt of social cash transfers, those with a disability, and those at risk of harm from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation will remain out of reach of most protection services and interventions as long as the processes of care mechanisms, a cornerstone of any child protection system, remain virtually non-existent. This is one area where little progress has been made until recently. With the support of UNICEF and other partners, the lead Ministry has developed a framework for case management which will be tested in early 2012. UNICEF will support the testing and taking to scale of early identification, case management and referral frameworks as core elements of the process of care. Support will be provided to develop guidelines, tools and a monitoring framework. External evaluators will be commissioned to monitor progress and measure impact. Interagency guidelines will be tested locally for endorsement nationally, clarifying roles and responsibilities of key agencies and setting agreed standards and timeframes for responding to individual cases. Tools for the early identification of vulnerable children will be designed, tested and taken to scale.

Within the UNICEF Malawi Country Office, a comprehensive Early Childhood Development strategy has been developed with core early childhood development interventions embedded in the various programme sectors, such as health, nutrition and education. Given that early identification and primary prevention are the best way to prevent harm to children, the child protection programme will take the lead in supporting community-based childcare centres to go to scale and work in close collaboration with the nutrition programmes on taking parenting programme to scale.

6. Creating formal accountability mechanisms and information management systems:

The knowledge base of child protection is growing although the evidence base for success and learning is limited. Accountability mechanisms include the Office of the Ombudsman and the Child Rights Desk at the Malawi Human Rights Commission. The Child Care Protection and Justice Act (2010) establishes the Child Case Review Board for children in institutions. Together these elements constitute a key component of the sixth and final part of the National Child Protection System. However, there is no accountability framework for key agencies and actors, and no complaints mechanisms at the service delivery level or at the systems level as a whole.

In line with its equity and systems approach to problem-solving, UNICEF will seek to leverage its global experience with new media and communication technologies with traditional, low-tech solutions to monitor the quality and coverage of protection services. Based on tests to be undertaken in early 2012, UNICEF will support partners to utilise SMS and smart-phone technology to facilitate case management, data collection and complaints. Support will be provided to develop a systems-wide accountability framework, and a complaints management and monitoring framework. Technical support will be provided to the National Reference Group overseeing the establishment of the Information Management System.

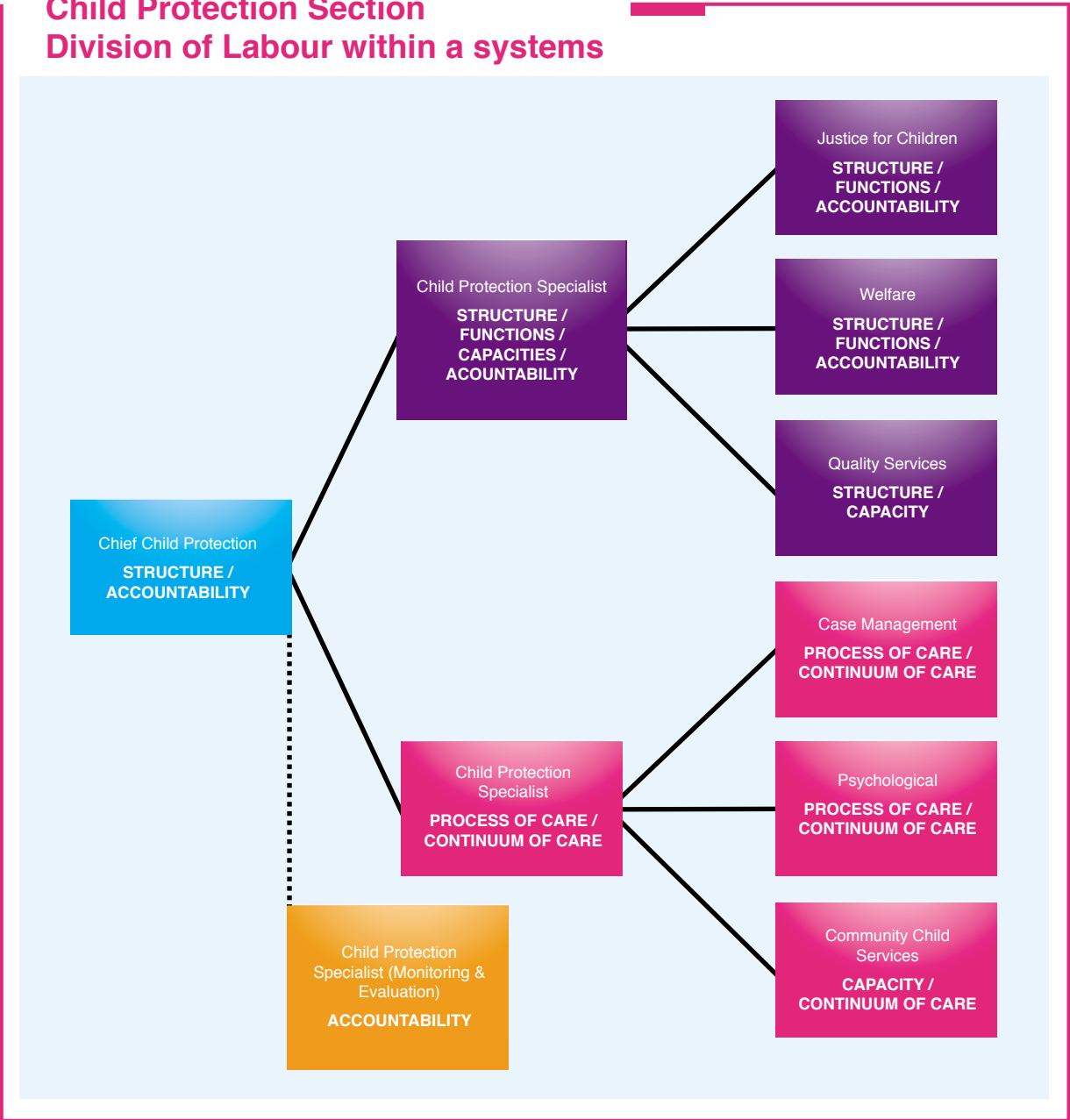
A National Child Protection Index of core indicators will be developed to guide the design of the information management system. An assessment will be carried out to determine the feasibility of building the system onto the existing orphans and vulnerable children database, which currently contains the records of 700,000 children. The reporting function of the system will be designed to be user-friendly and relevant at both national and district levels. UNICEF will support the development of a national research agenda in child protection with an emphasis on social norms. UNICEF will also, in partnership with the Violence Prevention Unit of the Centre of Disease Control, support a national household survey of violence against children and young women. UNICEF will partner with local and regional institutions to develop an organisational development and accountability framework for the National Child Protection System. The National Statistical Office will be supported to further refine and strengthen the Child Protection component of Malawi's annual Welfare Monitoring Survey.

3.4 Strategic shift

The key strategic shift for the new country programme is to link up the key interventions for child protection and orphans and vulnerable children into a child protection system as a whole so as to reach more of the most vulnerable women and children. This means moving beyond simply measuring access and utilisation to improving the quality, scope, coverage and impact of protection services and interventions. The institutionalisation of coordination and training, and the development of frameworks for case management, early identification and referral will provide the modalities needed to reach vulnerable women and children. New media and communication technologies will be used where possible to strengthen and monitor programme delivery.

To effectively and efficiently implement the strategy, UNICEF will strengthen its human resource base in the technical aspects of systems building, high-level coordination, sector-wide approaches, quality services, case management, and information management systems. It will also build internal capacity to deliver key results in violence mitigation and response, justice for women and children, birth registration, and HIV and AIDS mitigation for children. The work of the Child Protection Section will be delivered through two Units. The Systems Building Unit will focus on the system as a whole and the Services Unit will focus on where the system directly connects with women and children.

Child Protection Section Division of Labour within a systems



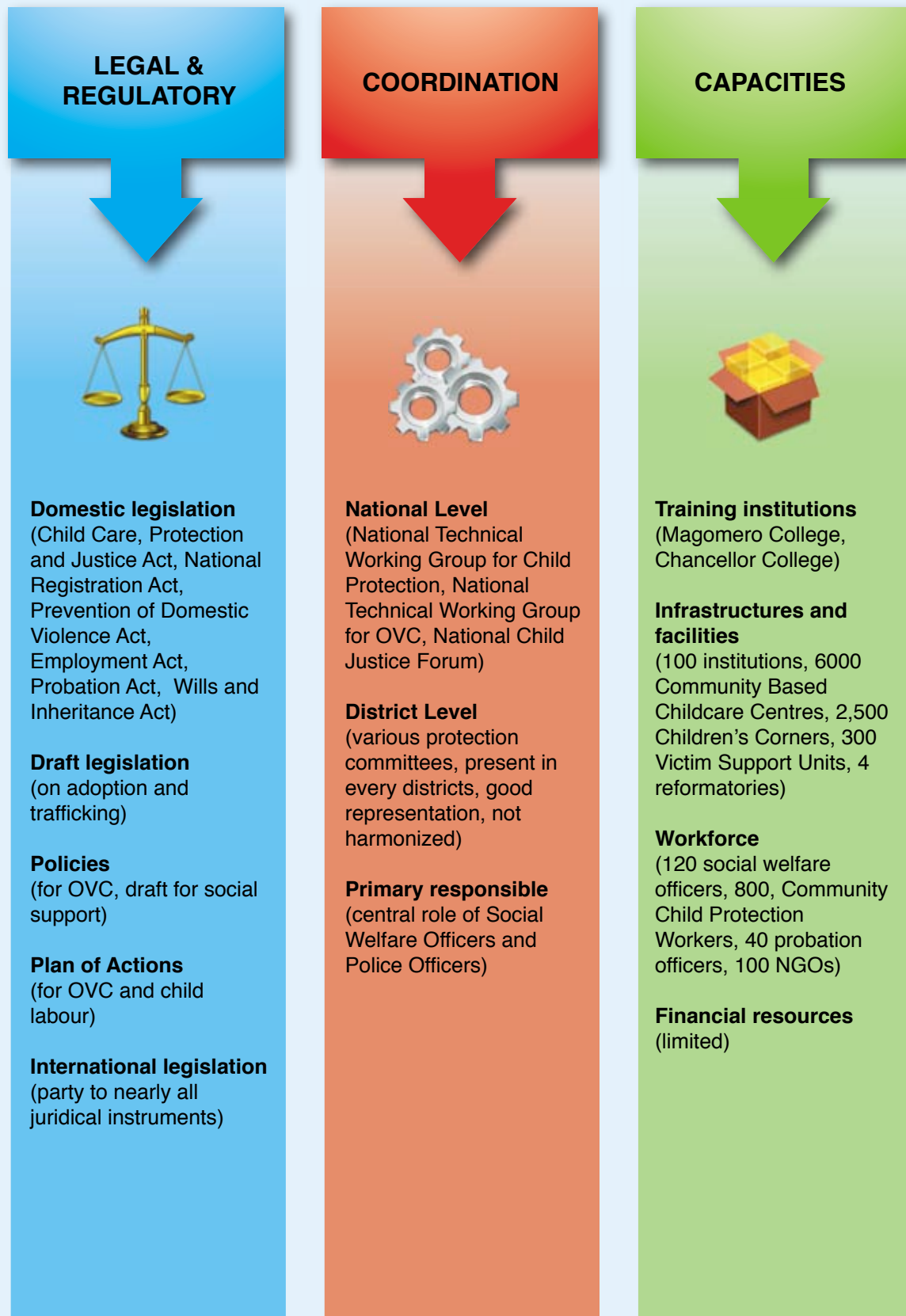
4.0 Overall budget

The total budget for the five-year period is USD 39,823,000 (MK 6.6 billion) which is an increase of 25 per cent over the budget for the existing country programme. The budget comprises USD 4,073,000 in regular resources (RR), which is the contribution provided by the UNICEF Board, and USD 35,750,000 in other resources (OR), which are the funds the Country Office will seek to mobilise from donors, development partners, funds, trusts and the aid agencies of various governments. Of the USD 35,750,000 in OR funding, the Country Office reasonably expects to raise USD 8,000,000 from UNICEF National Committees, leaving a funding gap of USD 22,450,000 (60 per cent of the total budget).



Table showing budget for Programme Component Result (PCR) and Intermediate Results (IRs) for 2012-2016 (amounts are in USD)

Intermediate results	OR/RR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Coordination and Frameworks	RR	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
	OR	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	8,250,000
	Total	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	8,750,000
Child Protection Information Management System	RR	105,382	77,646	58,299	37,985	36,654	315,966
	OR	575,840	517,785	481,172	442,732	402,362	2,419,891
	Total	681,222	595,431	539,471	480,717	439,016	2,735,857
Child Protection Model	RR	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	30,000	230,000
	OR	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	10,000,000
	Total	2,050,000	2,050,000	2,050,000	2,050,000	2,030,000	10,230,000
Services, behaviour change and social norms	RR	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
	OR	2,150,000	2,150,000	2,150,000	2,150,000	2,150,000	10,750,000
	Total	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	11,250,000
Technical costs	RR	459,218	486,954	506,301	526,615	547,946	2,527,034
	OR	774,160	832,215	868,828	907,268	947,638	4,330,109
	Total	1,233,378	1,319,169	1,375,129	1,433,883	1,495,584	6,857,143
Child Protection System	RR	814,600	814,600	814,600	814,600	814,600	4,073,000
	OR	7,150,000	7,150,000	7,150,000	7,150,000	7,150,000	35,750,000
	Total	7,964,600	7,964,600	7,964,600	7,964,600	7,964,600	39,823,000

Existing child protection interventions that will be built on to create the **National Child Protection System**



CONTINUUM OF CARE






Primary prevention
(parenting programmes, children's life skills, community sensitization, social protection)

Secondary prevention
(family mediation, counselling, child justice courts)

Tertiary prevention
(Victims Support Units, reformatories, alternative care placements, psycho-social support, One Stop Centres)



PROCESS OF CARE

Identification
(Social Welfare Officers, Community Child Protection Workers, Police, Early Childhood Development Caregivers)

Case management
(case management framework recently developed and will be tested in 2012)

ACCOUNTABILITY

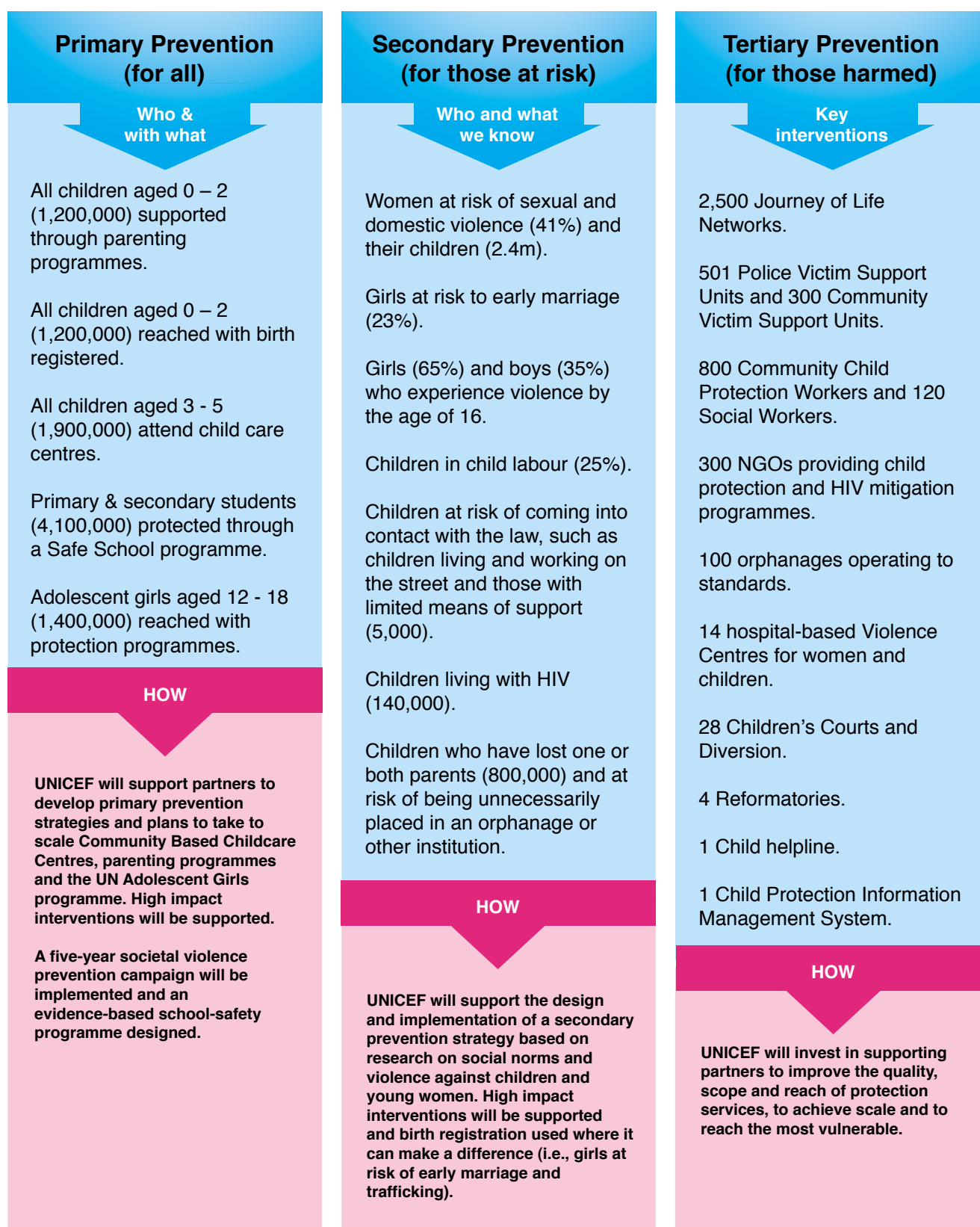



Bodies
(Office of the Ombudsman and Malawi Human Rights Commission just established a desk for children, Board of Visitors non-operational)

Information management
(scattered and non-organized, no systemic data collection)

Complaint mechanisms
(non-existent)

Child Protection Prevention Framework



Underpinning this Framework will be policy dialogue, advocacy, research and the provision of high level technical support and resources for a linked up Child Protection System. Partners will be supported to operate protection services at the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention levels and to develop capacity in early identification, case management and interagency collaboration.

