**Roundtable meeting with Fiona Ritchie, FCDO Development Director, Malawi
9th May 2022**

**CHAT LOG**

* **Benjamin Carey**: Wonderful session, but sounds like there'll be very little time for discussion. Is Fiona willing to follow up afterwards with questions that aren't covered today? I hope to be in Malawi in the next few months.
* **Linda Dembo**: Those online, lets introduce ourselves here so we know who is here and as much as possible put your comments and questions here as well and we will take them forward if they are not responded during the meeting. I am Linda Dembo working for Malawi Scotland Partnership, ldembo@malawiscotlandpartnership.org
* **Tiwonge**: My name is Tiwonge Kumwenda, i work with WaterAid, based in Malawi i am responsible for strategic partnerships and Grants Management. My email address is tiwongekumwenda@wateraid.org
* **Alan**: Alan Laverock, finance officer of SMP and Trustee of Bananabox Trust
* **Tizgowere Msiska- REHAAT Malawi**: Tizgowere Msiska working with REHAAT in Malawi. Email: msiskatizgo@gmail.com
* **medicmalawi**: Tom Hunt, Executive Director at Medic Malawi
* **Eve Broadis**: Eve Broadis, Fair Trade Scotland Ltd working in partnership with Mzuzu Coffee Planters Cooperative Union to bring their roasted in country and packaged coffee into Scotland through Fair Trade route. Launching a Campaign this Saturday on World Fair Trade Day.
* **Chandiwira**: Good afternoon. My names are Chandiwira Chisi and I work for WaterAid Malawi as Head of Policy
* **Dom - Orbis**: Dominic Webb, Managing Director - Orbis Expeditions. Social Impact Tour Operator.
* **Vincent Tholo**: Good afternoon everyone. I am Vincent Tholo working with St John Ambulance Malawi as a National Coordinator
* **Lydia Baffour Awuah,Opportunity International**: Lydia Baffour Awuah , Senior Programme Manager, Opportunity International UK
* **Harold Kuombola (Link Malawi)**: Good afternoon all. I am Harold Kuombola, Link Community Development Malawi, based in Lilongwe, Malawi
* **James Gondwe - CYD Malawi**: James Gondwe, Director of the Centre for Youth and Development, based in Mzuzu, Malawi
* **Devine Matare**: Devine Matare
* **Lawrence Katunga**: Good afternoon everyone, I am Lawrence Katunga, a Malawian student at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. An enthusiast in governance, regional integration and development cooperation. katungalaw26@gmail.com
* **Patrick Ndimbwa**: I am Patrick Ndimbwa, member of MaSP ,Blantyre
* **Devine Matare**: Hello I am Devine Matare, Programmes Manager, RenewNAble Malawi
* **Rowan Ellis**: Rowan Ellis, Senior Social Researcher, The James Hutton Institute where we have several research projects in Malawi that focus on agri-biodiversity, catchment management, crop development, and capacity building at the science-policy interface. These are funded by Scotgov, UKgov (DEFRA), and UKRI.
* **Aaron Lewani, Tearfund**: Good afternoon. I am Aaron Lewani, Tearfund in Malawi, Program Manager, Lilongwe.
* **Benjamin Carey**: Good idea Linda! I'm Benjamin of Carey Tourism. Member of SMP. Involved in tourism, heritage and sustainable development. Due to be in Malawi in a few months.
* **Anne Brown**: Good afternoon. .My name is Anne Brown, living in the Scottish Borders. Involved in a church youth project in Malawi the 1980s, interested ever since then. Support the Scottish charity Malawi Fruits.
* **Beatrice Kabota**: Good afternoon! I am Beatrice Kabota, MALSCOT National Coordinator
* **Violet Leany**: Violet Leany, Investment Attache, Malawi High Commission, London
* **Heather Palmer**: Good afternoon, I am Heather Palmer, CEO of African Vision Malawi. We work in the rural area of north west Lilongwe District and Dowa focused on empowering marginalised people through education, health and agriculture programmes.
* **Benjamin Carey**: The question I submitted in advance was this (and I hope Fiona can follow up afterwards)... "Tourism can be a driver of sustainable social and economic development, especially in more marginalised rural areas, and it is therefore fantastic that President Chakwera appointed (and reappointed) Dr Michael Usi, who has a background in community development, to the tourism brief. In April, the President launched Malawi’s new tourism masterplan, which is closely aligned to the 2063 strategy, but there is a lack of funds and technical capacity to implement the plan. How can FCDO help leverage international finance and encourage responsible investment in Malawi’s travel, tourism and hospitality sectors to develop sustainable development and climate adaptation?”
* **Richard Pawemi Banda**: I am Richard Pawemi Banda, Executive Coordinator from Community Support Against Climate(COSACC). My e-mail address is: richrdbanda@ymail.com
* **Joyce Juma-Phiri**: I am Joyce Juma-Phiri, Chairperson of Association of Malawians in Scotland and CEO for Fair Trade Scotland
* **Precious Mafunga**: Precious Mafunga, teacher at Kaliyeka Community Day Secondary School, Lilongwe.
* **Patricio Auxensio Kulemeka**: Good Afternoon ----I am Patricio Kulemeka from Play Soccer Malawi CEO working with Children, Youth and their Communities in Sport for Development and Peace ---with UN SDGs
* **Jeremy Bagg**: Jeremy Bagg. University of Glasgow. Scottish Government funded MalDent Project - collaboration with Kamuzu University of Health Sciences. Establishment of Malawi's first Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree and engagement with Malawi Government Ministry of Health to develop Malawi's first National Oral Health Policy - launched April 2022.
* **Mary Ryan**: Hi everyone. I am Mary Ryan, the International Development Research Manager at the University of Glasgow. I support the UofG research community in their work with partners in LMICs and on LMIC challenges, including those who work with partners in Malawi.
* **Tim Boxall**: Tim Boxall. Not currently connected with Malawi. I was a partner with Graham Carr & Co in Lilongwe and Mzuzu from 1987-93. Part of my heart is still there.
* **Chinsisi Kazuwa**: Good afternoon, I am Chinsisi Kazuwa, Project Officer for the Malawi Climate Leaders Project working with MaSP
* **Claire Collins**: Claire Collins here from Open Arms Malawi. We support a Malawi NGO in Blantyre providing infant care, community outreach in remote villages and early years education in southern Malawi.
* **David Hope-Jones**: Do put questions in chat box
* **Benjamin Carey**: FCDO ceasing small grant support is an astonishingly backward move. So much for building local capacity.
* **Heather Palmer**: When does the 3 year budget start?
* **Benjamin Carey**: Does the HC have any provision for discretionary small grants for seed funding projects?
* **Tiwonge**: I think it is also important that the Grants/ Projects should ensure strong sustainability of NGOs in Malawi. With limited reserve capacity, co-financing, commercial tenders and limited scope for cost recovery; it becomes unsustainable for Local NGOs to compete, participate in FCDO Programs.
* **Patricio Auxensio Kulemeka**: How far have put Sports For Development and Peace with Education Pillar and Malawi 2063 Vison linking with UN SDG Goal #4 and Maw 2063 -Mindset Change and Human Capital Investment enablers ---respectively
* **Aaron Lewani, Tearfund**: @Fiona, regarding encouraging the private sector growth, does giving it grants to the private sector sustainable or clarify if I got you wrongly?
* **Eve Broadis**: I am more interested in Procurement and how a Value Added Coffee that ticks all the sustainable development and climate justice boxes and is unable to gain a foothold? Procurement - buy supporting products from Malawi is key to economic growth?
* **Mavuto Bamusi**: I am interested in the accountability and anti-corruption measures FCDO has put in place to ensure value for money. This is in view of recent reports of corruption in Malawi society.
* **Chandiwira**: Looking at the challenges that Malawi is facing as earlier alluded to i.e. debt stress, uncontrolled population growth, very limited if at all any fiscal space for government to function, is there any role more than the current initiatives that FCDO would want to play or champion to capacitate Malawi Government to move out of the tight corner?
* **Benjamin Carey**: None of this augurs well for UK influence and development. Such limited financial and human capacity makes it difficult what can be achieved.
* **Heather Palmer**: Has the government thought about setting up a plant to make biodegradable plastics that can be used in country and exported. This can be made from cassava and not only provide jobs but helps the environment. Plastics are a big issue in Malawi.
* **Chandiwira**: Is WASH in any way likely to find its place in the priorities of FCDO any time soon?
* **Benjamin Carey**: China and Canada are both active in rare earths in Malawi and will thereby gain influence on the government agenda.
* **Eve Broadis**: Sorry David I meant Scottish Procurement could do much more!
* **Heather Palmer**: I know FCDO are focusing on partnerships and I think this is a positive way to support smaller organisations. Fiona discussed budgets being put under umbrella organisations. Are there key organisations you work with?
* **Benjamin Carey**: Thanks David
* **Richard Pawemi Banda**: My interest is more in climate change resilience, Adaptation & mitagation. Are there any grants FCDO put in place to support access measures such as clean energy at grassroot level. Sorry I mean measures such as access to clean energy.
* **Benjamin Carey**: Richard, An emphasis on climate resilience and adaptation is probably the easiest way of getting agency support for any sector in Africa just now.
* **Lydia Baffour Awuah,Opportunity International**: Is FCDO looking into financial inclusion as part of its strategy especially as access to sustainable finance is one of the barriers to business growth
* **Mary Ryan**: There is this call currently active that might be of interest, Richard: https://www.idrc.ca/en/funding/call-concept-notes-climate-adaptation-and-resilience-clare It's jointly funded by FCDO and IDRC and have two levels of funding
* **Rowan Ellis**: I would very much welcome a Malawi water forum and would just echo the cross cutting nature of water with much of the work on agricultural development, as well as gender
* **Benjamin Carey**: Heather, Not sure to whom your question was directed. In tourism, I'm mainly working with government ministries and micro organisations.
* **Tiwonge**: How and where do we place WASH in the Climate Change Program?
* **Alison Karley**: Our work (at James Hutton) in Malawi includes a focus on agricultural sustainability in relation to climate resilience and conserving agrobiodiversity. Is agricultural sustainability considered a key topic for funding/investment and are there opportunities to develop this area?
* **Shora kauluka**: I think promotion of inorganic fertilizer is killing our own land to stop producing more in the future. instead if the government can intensify organic fertilizer usage through intensive manure production by every farmer who receives inorganic fertilizer, that can be a strategy of sustaining the soil fertility. then another gap is that l do not know if there is a producer of organic fertilizer that can be used as top dressing since the one lam familiar with is only for basal dressing
* **Jeremy Bagg**: ¿ vc
* **Heather Palmer**: African Vision Malawi is also focusing on sustainable agriculture and promote local seed multiplication and planting local maize rather than hybrid GM seed. Encouraging organic farming and avoiding damaging fertilisers. The government don't seem to want Malawi to use local seeds and encourage use of fertiliser which is damaging to the environment. Does Fiona know why non-profit organisations have to pay the 1% levy for TEVETA?
* **Joshua -COFO**: Community Forum is also focusing on Climate Smart Agriculture in Chikwawa district, Malawi.
* **Heather Palmer**: Thank you for an informative meeting Fiona and David.
* **Aaron Lewani, Tearfund**: Thank you everyone, great meeting. We value the time Fiona has shared with us.
* **Vincent Tholo**: Thank you Fiona, David and everyone for great meeting
* **Tizgowere Msiska- REHAAT Malawi**: Thanks everyone
* **Richard Pawemi Banda**: Am delighted