# SMP/SFTF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRAND MEETING

# thursday 9th november, scottish fair trade forum, robertson house, glasgow

# 14.30 – 16.30

**ATTENDEES**

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| Norman Chipakapaku | Cooperative College |
| Daniel Cosgrove | UNICEF UK |
| Emma Duncan | The Global Concerns Trust |
| Aran Eales | University of Strathclyde |
| Halla Edwards-Muthu | Office of Rt Hon Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale |
| Jackie Farr | SMP |
| Charles Fawcett | Aiming Higher in Malawi |
| Neil Fleming | Challenges Worldwide |
| Bob Garrow | R.S. Garrow Ltd. |
| Rose Mary Harley | LUV+ |
| Stephen Hayes | JTS |
| David Hope-Hones | SMP |
| Charles Howie | Malawi Fruits |
| Sinead Kerrigan | SFTF |
| Ian Nicol | Scottish Government |
| Grace O’Donovan | SMP |
| Lauren Opstad | Oxfam |
| Percy Patrick | SCIAF |
| Martin Rhodes | SFTF |
| John Riches | JTS |
| Hannah Ross | SFTF |
| Kate Studd | Water Witness |
| Colleen Tait | SFTF |
| Steve Taylor | Lake of Stars Legacy Project |
| Madeleine Van Hilten | Microloan Foundation |
| Jamie Walker | Broadway Partners |
| Kathy Wright | SMP |

**APOLOGIES:**

Lorna McDonald, Tearfund

Robert Anderson, Opportunity Microfinance

Phil Broadis, Fair Trade Scotland

Graeme Reid, Scottish Government

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

# Welcome and Introduction to Malawian Input

**Chair:** Martin Rhodes, Scottish Fair Trade Forum

Attendees were welcomed to the SMP’s second of five meetings in lieu of the Scottish Government’s Malawi Development Programme round of grant funding, co-hosted with the Scottish Fair Trade Forum. The purpose of the meeting was to allow for the sharing of opportunities, challenges, priorities and issues alongside Malawian input from a panel of colleagues and counterparts in the Malawi Sustainable Economic Development strand in order to facilitate high quality applications. The meeting was conducted under Chatham House Rule and as such these summary minutes are anonymised.

The Scottish Government Malawi Development Programme funding round was announced on 3rd November 2017, and these meetings have the full support of the Scottish Government. All attendees were reminded of the importance of reading the criteria and eligibility requirements before applying. It was noted that this meeting is not the official Information Day; this will be held by the Scottish Government and grant managers on 29th November in Edinburgh.

Attendees were reminded that the SMP is core-funded by the Scottish Government but is independent of them, and of the grant making process.

Malawian input remains at the heart of the SMP and all the meetings held. Thanks were given to the Malawi Scotland Partnership for their role in supporting and gathering input from ­­­­5 key stakeholders. For this meeting, the Malawian input was fed through an interactive WhatsApp discussion. Attendees were asked to write anonymous questions down, which were sent to the panel in Malawi and their responses were revisited later (see section in minutes below).

All potential applicants were encouraged to visit the SMP website for videos, presentations and past meeting notes on agriculture, irrigation, food security and renewables:

[Agriculture area of partnership](https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/areas-of-partnership/trade-and-agriculture/)

[Past events page: agriculture and food security](https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/past-events/agriculture-and-food-security-in-malawi/)

[Past events page: renewable energy partnerships](https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/past-events/cross-party-group-renewable-energy-partnerships/)

# Sharing of Learning

Roundtable introductions were given by each attendee on their organisation and experience of Scottish Government funding.

The sharing of learning was split into three parts: 1) Application, 2) Grant Management, and 3) Sustainability of Projects.

Feedback shared included:

Application:

1. Consult your Malawian partners, and listen to them.
2. Listen to your gut regarding the plans, the long-term goals, and the policies in place.
3. Ask whether your project has been tried before.
4. Acquaint oneself with what the Scottish Government is asking for and what their criteria are.
5. Place an emphasis on community-led proposals alongside local ownership.
6. Be careful not to over-bid, and be realistic about what you can do.
7. Ensure the proper funds are in place regarding evaluation.
8. Remember that the size of your organisation makes very little difference to whether you win a grant or not – it is the quality of your application and viability of the project.
9. Don’t overcomplicate the application – try to break complex issues down as much as possible so that the application is clear.
10. Emphasise how your project seeks to address sustainability on the ground in Malawi.

Grant Management:

1. Integrate MEL (log-frames) into the application with aims and objectives listed.
2. Good planning allows for modification.
3. Being up-front about things that need to change, and not waiting until reporting time to flag issues.
4. Have regular reviews with your partner(s) about budgeting.
5. Collect data and information throughout the project, not just at the end.
6. Involve the district level authorities and draw on their experience.
7. Ensure that all partners are clear on the outputs and what you’re trying to achieve.
8. Make sure that reporting is clear, concise and simple.

Sustainability of Projects:

1. Know of the other funders in Malawi, and ask the District Commissioner – this will help to avoid duplication.
2. Empower partners to find funding.
3. Microfinance mechanisms that self-sustain are important.
4. Be aware that losing staff to in-country partners can be a challenge, so make sure you are focusing on capacity building, knowledge sharing, and teaching skills across the whole team so that your project doesn’t fall short if one or two key people leave.
5. Build in savings for cooperatives.
6. Make sure that you are empowering the community and that they are taking leadership of their own communities.
7. Know what sustainability looks like for *your* project, because neither the Malawi Government nor the Scottish Government will be paying for the long-term sustainability.

# SUPPORTING DEVELOPING APPLICATIONS/DISCUSSION

Attendees were given the opportunity to discuss potential future projects, to share application ideas, and to make useful connections and for those looking for partners to meet.

Attendees were asked to reflect on previous experience of collaboration and what made these partnerships successful, the challenges that were faced and the benefits of collaboration. Learnings included:

* It is great for bringing new skills into the partnership outside your own organisation.
* Define roles at the start.
* Make sure there is capacity building built in.
* Avoid duplication in the agreement from the outset.
* Be clear on whose responsible for what from the outset.
* Some bad experiences of working with much larger organisations and being drawn into the internal issues of those.
* Develop stakeholder interest in the sector right from the start, not just at the end when sharing what’s been done.

Attendees were also given the option to disclose whether they were considering applying for a Scottish Government 2018-23 Malawi grant via the SMP/SFTF Sustainable Economic Development Strand Meeting Evaluation Form, and whether they would like to describe their prospective application, including likely geographic areas of work, nature of the project and partners. They were also given the option of having these details made public on the SMP website along with their details to be contacted directly. Others noted that the information could be posted but not their personal details, and as such they would prefer for interested parties to contact them through the SMP.

Projects publically posted are as follows:

**Norman Chipakupaku, Cooperative College** – [norman.chipakupaku@gmail.com](mailto:norman.chipakupaku@gmail.com)

* Building the cooperative college structure and building on sustainable Malawian cooperative enterprises

**John Riches, JTS** – [john@jts.co.uk](mailto:john@jts.co.uk)

* Working on gender equality in agriculture, and water management

**Anonymous** – please email the SMP at [grace@scotland-malawipartnership.org](mailto:grace@scotland-malawipartnership.org) if you would like to get in touch regarding this project.

* An integrated and holistic approach involving access to health, education for children with disabilities and sustainable economic development for parents/guardians of children with disabilities
* Overall aim: to promote and advance inclusion and human rights of children with disabilities

**Bob Garrow, R.S.Garrow Ltd.** – [bobgarrow@rsgarrow.co.uk](mailto:bobgarrow@rsgarrow.co.uk)

* Cross flow ultra-filter water processor; processing cost £0.04/1,000 Litres
* Submerged aerated fixed film package waste water treatment plant
* Small scale/mixed hydroelectricity and water pumps

**Emma Duncan, The Global Concerns Trust** – [devonglory@hotmail.com](mailto:devonglory@hotmail.com)

* Vocational training for adults with disabilities living in rural areas
* We work with MACOHA and KODO to run comprehensive training programs that include business training, gender awareness, reproductive health, AIDS prevention, and the provision of start-up tools and equipment, to support our trainees to start new businesses and become financially independent
* We are interested in collaborating with other organisations looking to provide access to services/education/equipment to people with disabilities in rural areas

**Steve Taylor, Lake of Stars Legacy Project** – [steve@ideaas.net](mailto:steve@ideaas.net)

* Would build on the sustainability work at the Lake of Stars Music Festival
* Would operate around the Mangochi area, but there is flexibility
* Would have environmental, economic and social strands building on work started at the festival
* Would also work with local groups to promote the concept and develop Arts and Music as a viable career

# Feedback from Malawian Input

Answers to anonymous questions posted on WhatsApp were displayed for attendees to see, and are also posted on the SMP website for future reference.

Read the questions and answers [here](https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/download_file/2612/)

The Malawi Sustainable Economic Development panel are as follows:

Name: Adwell Zembere

Organisation: Strand Lead, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Name: Allan Jere

Organisation: Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Name: Kondwani Kaunda

Organisation: Malawi Economic Justice Network

Name: Charles Kasambala

Organisation: Centre for Legal Assistance

Name: Phillip Kamangila

Organisation: Activist

# Closing Remarks and next steps

The Scottish Government will be hosting its own formal [Information Day](https://www.corra.scot/grant-programmes/scottish-government-Malawi-development-programmes/#Information-Session) in partnership with the Corra Foundation for prospective applicants on 29th November 2017.

Additional strand meetings will be held on the following dates:

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| [Civic governance](http://scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/all-events/malawi-call-civic-governance/) | Monday 13th November, 2-4pm | Edinburgh City Chambers |
| [Education](http://scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/all-events/malawi-call-education/) | Thursday 16th November, 2-4pm | Edinburgh City Chambers |
| [Renewable](http://scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/all-events/malawi-call-renewable-energy-water-climate/) energy | Thursday 16th November, 4.30-6.30pm | Edinburgh City Chambers |

There will also be a [CPG meeting](https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/all-events/cpg-on-malawi-the-malawi-development-programme/) on the Malawi round on Wednesday 15th September at the Scottish Parliament.

Everyone was thanked for attending and participating, in particular the speakers for their open and honest contributions. Attendees were reminded that the SMP and SFTF is here to help and to keep in contact.