



From the
People of Japan



Promoting Peace and Socio-Economic Empowerment through National Peace Architecture and Sustainable Livelihoods

\$ Budget: 1,000,000 USD

🕒 Duration: March 2023- March 2024

Development Challenges

Malawi has been considered a peaceful country; however, the socio-economic risks and conflicts are increasing at national and local levels as Malawi's poor economy becomes too fragile to sustain. Recently, the spike in global prices of commodities, as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and the devaluation of the national currency (Malawi Kwacha) in response to IMF conditions in May 2022, has caused further pressure on already vulnerable households, many of which were already affected economically by the COVID-19 pandemic. These compounding crises continue to push more people into poverty in Malawi. People are devastated and frustrated, and dissatisfaction among citizens is resulting in rising numbers of violence, crime and conflicts across the country.

In this context, the operationalization of National Peace Architecture and the establishment of District Peace and Unity Committees is key to monitoring violence and conflict. Enabling early warning and stabilizing tensions before escalation, along with the provision of livelihood opportunities to economically marginalized groups including youth and adolescents, women and girls. The legislative framework for Infrastructure for Peace (National Peace Architecture) has been set up by the Peace and Unity bill, however Malawi still lacks the institutional platform for dialogue, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention. Malawi is failing to establish District Peace and Unity Committees in the remaining 22 districts (out of 28) due to its economic crunch. In the absence of institutional mechanisms and structures, Malawi cannot fully respond to violence and conflicts over chieftaincy, ethnicity, religion and politics across the country, which seemingly keep escalating under global and national crises.

Project Objectives

To strengthen national and district coordination mechanisms in peacebuilding and conflict prevention through the establishment of the District Peace and Unity Committees (DPUCs) and related community-level mechanisms in two districts that are identified as potential conflict and violence hotspots.

To improve the local capacity to address socio-economic risks/conflicts, resolve local conflicts and enhance social stability at the community level.

To expand livelihood opportunities for vulnerable households through market-oriented agriculture to build sustainable communities

Project Outputs

National Peace Architecture is operationalized in the 2 target districts and expanded across the nation to resolve existing conflicts.

People including women and youth in conflict-prone communities will be resilient to socio-economic risks/conflicts through the promotion of social cohesion.

Socio-economic risks are addressed through the provision of livelihood opportunities and improved market access

Partnership

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government
Unity and Culture, Public Affairs Committee (PAC)
JICA

Contribution to SDGs

