



16th session of the Human Rights Council, agenda item 6

UPR Malawi

Statement on behalf of World Vision Malawi, delivered by World Vision International

World Vision Malawi welcomes the Government's commitment to working on several critical areas in particular pledges with respect to the finalization and implementation of the draft National Action Plan for Children, and commitments to put in place effective national legislation, a comprehensive policy on children, and commitments with respect to addressing child trafficking and exploitation, gender inequality, discriminatory practices and violence against women and girls.

Whilst we thank the Government for accepting SOME recommendations to improve accessibility of education and health care for people living in rural areas, especially women and children, persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV and AIDS, we strongly encourage the Government to greatly strengthen its efforts in these areas. For those children who do attend school, there remains a very high dropout rate especially for girls, and we remain concerned at the lack of qualified teachers, high student-teacher-ratios, and lack of facilities or resources needed to effectively educate.

Problems faced by those infected with HIV/AIDS as well as the high rates of maternal and infant mortality are compounded for those living in rural areas and facing a lack of safe water, poor sanitation and difficult access to health services. In addition the expenditure per capita on health is one of the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa and falls short of the amount estimated to deliver the Essential Health Package (EHP) which should be provided free of charge at all public health facilities. *The poorest 20 percent are unlikely to achieve the two-third reduction of infant mortality target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).*

World Vision Malawi urges the Government to put in place strong and clear mechanisms for follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations which would allow the participation of both Government and the civil society.

Finally, World Vision Malawi is fully committed to assisting the Malawi Government in the further implementation of its commitments.

Thank you.