

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (MALAWI HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE PROJECT) (AUTHORIZATION AND RATIFICATION) BILL, 2024

MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to authorize and ratify a Financing Agreement made between the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malaŵi, and the International Development Association dated 23rd day of July, 2024, under which the Association agreed to provide to the Government a grant in various convertible currencies, not exceeding in the aggregate, the equivalent of thirty-eight million Special Drawing Rights (SDR 38, 000,000) as financing for the Malawi Health Emergency Preparedness Response and Resilience Project (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”); and to authorise the charging, on the Consolidated Fund, of any payments required to be made under the Financing Agreement.

The objective of the Project is to strengthen health system resilience and multisectoral preparedness and response to health emergencies in the Republic of Malawi.

Specifically, the Project aims to—

(a) Strengthen the preparedness and resilience of the Health System to manage Health Emergencies by—

(i) enhancing multisectoral planning, financing, and governance for improved resilience to Health Emergencies through the provision of technical advisory services to develop costed National Action Plans for Health Security and One Health contingency response plans for high-risk hazards, enhance operational plans for infection prevention and control; and strengthen financing and governance mechanisms for better preparedness and response to Health Emergencies;

(ii) strengthening health workforce development, by enhancing the expertise and capabilities of the health workforce, with emphasis on ensuring access to training by female health workers, employment and promotion opportunities through capacity building, updating of pre-service curricula, implementing on-the-job training, and enhancing existing e-learning platforms;

(iii) strengthening of regulatory and management mechanisms in readiness for and in response to health and climate related emergencies by facilitating rapid mobilization of health workers at all levels of the healthcare system during crises, developing surge staff management guidelines, and enhancement of the health workforce related information systems;

(iv) improving of access to quality health commodities by strengthening supply chain management systems; and

(v) enhancing information systems for Health Emergencies and the digitalization of health sector and enhancing a primary care telehealth application developed during COVID-19 for other essential health services, including for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, adolescent health and nutrition, non-communicable diseases and other communicable diseases.

(b) improve early detection of and response to Health Emergencies through a multisectoral approach by—

(i) supporting collaborative multisectoral surveillance and laboratory diagnostics and building the capacity for regional and district level Public Health Emergency Operation Centers personnel on surveillance and Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response;

(ii) operationalization of a One Health laboratory network to enhance laboratory capacity and collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health sectors;

(iii) development and implementation of guidelines and operational plans to ensure appropriate antimicrobial use in the health system; and establishing national quality standards for laboratories, strengthening laboratory management, biosafety, and biosecurity measures;

(iv) providing technical advisory services for the strengthening of emergency management systems for crises response, maintain continuity of essential health services, developing of plans to enhance Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure at health facilities in remote and climate risk prone areas; development of climate resilient and energy efficient health facility guidelines and architectural specifications and supply of WASH commodities, with a gender focus; and

(v) Strengthening risk communication and community engagement, empowerment, and social protection during Health Emergencies across gender divides;

(c) support project management and monitoring and evaluation; and

(d) provide contingent and immediate emergency response to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, as needed.

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title
2. Authorization and ratification of the Financing Agreement
3. Application of the Grant
4. Payments charged on the Consolidated Fund
5. Exemption from taxes, charges, etc.

A B I L L

entitled

An Act to authorize and ratify a Financing Agreement, made between the Minister of Finance, for and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malawi and the International Development Association dated the 23rd day of July, 2024, for a Grant in various convertible currencies, not exceeding in the aggregate, the equivalent of thirty-eight million Special Drawing Rights (SDR 38,000,000) and to provide for matters incidental thereto

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the Minister of Finance, acting in accordance with powers conferred under the Public Finance Management Act, signed a Financing Agreement dated the 23rd day of July 2024, with the International Development Association;

WHEREAS, in pursuance to that signature and subject to the terms and conditions in the Financing Agreement, the International Development Association agreed to provide thirty-eight million Special Drawing Rights (SDR 38,000,000) (the “Financing”) to the Government, to be applied solely for the purpose of financing the Malawi Health Emergency Preparedness Response and Resilience Project (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS under the Financing Agreement, the Government is required to pay a maximum commitment charge of one half of one per centum per annum on any unwithdrawn Financing balance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of Malaŵi as follows—

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the International Development Association (Malawi Health Emergency Preparedness Response and Resilience Project) (Authorization and Ratification) Act, 2024.

Authorization and ratification of the Financing Agreement

2. The Financing Agreement, more particularly recited in the Preamble to this Act, and all of the provisions, terms and conditions therein contained, are hereby authorized and ratified for all purposes, and the Government is hereby declared henceforth to be bound thereby without reservation, and to be subject to all provisions of the Financing Agreement, terms and conditions and to be solely and primarily liable for any obligation or liability arising thereunder as, or stated to be, an obligation or liability of the Government.

Application of the Grant

3. The proceeds of the Financing authorized and ratified by section 2 shall be appropriated and applied for the purpose of financing of the Project, and for no other purpose.

Payments charged on the Consolidated Fund

4. Any payments required to be made, from time to time, by the Government to the International Development Association, under and in accordance with the provisions of the Financing Agreement, are hereby charged on the Consolidated Fund.

Exemption from taxes, charges, etc

5. All sums to be paid in accordance with section 4 shall, notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law, be paid without deductions for, and free from, any tax or charge whatsoever, and shall be free from all restrictions or limitations imposed by or under any written law of Malaŵi.

OBJECTS AND REASONS

The object of this Bill is to authorize and ratify the Financing Agreement dated 23rd July 2024, signed by the Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malaŵi, and the International Development Association, under which the Association agreed to provide to the Government a grant in various convertible currencies, not exceeding in the aggregate, the equivalent of thirty eight million Special Drawing Rights (SDR 38,000,000) for the purpose of financing the Malawi Health Emergency Preparedness Response and Resilience Project; and to charge, on the Consolidated Fund, any payments by the Government to the Association under the Agreement.

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