

Child Protection Information System (CPIMS)

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Organisation: Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare

Country: Malawi

Level of government: Central government

Sector: Social protection

Type: Communication, Data, Digital, Methods, Public Service

Launched in: 2016

Overall development time: 1 year(s) 6 month(s)

Link to the innovation's website

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Description

CPIMS is a web base module that records and track the information orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi. It records child abuse cases from defilement to child trafficking. the system decentralized, Social Welfare officers from all 28 districts of the country are expected to record and update cases of orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi. The monitoring tools that were used to develop the system was developed by the Planning and Research Team in The Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare. A similar system has been adopted by the department of Gender which is on the verge of developing a system that will track National Indicators on women empowerment.

Why the innovation was developed

- The CPIMS was developed to improve the delivery of services to families with vulnerable children such as the disabled children, orphans, child headed families and abuses children. It was also developed to inform the decision makers in the sector of social welfare.
 - Data in the system enables civil society and the government to address issues such as poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, child abuse, increase in street children and child marriages that affect the most vulnerable.
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Objectives

Develop staff capacity, Enhance public trust, Improve access, Improve effectiveness, Improve efficiency, Improve service quality, Improve social equity, Increase citizen engagement, Support economic growth

Main beneficiaries

Academia, Civil Society, Elderly people, Families, General population, Government bodies, Government staff, High-risk populations, Low-income groups, People with disabilities, Young people

Results

Efficiency

- Development of CPIMS has helped the Government to cut costs of government officials traveling long distances just to collect files of Child Abuse cases and related cases. Reporting on issues to do with Vulnerable Children has become easier since the reports are generated from the system, hence saving time.
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Effectiveness

- In the Past the vulnerable children received support on merit basis , coming in of CPIMS has brought in a systematic approach that the children are linked to other services such as health, nutrition and education services. they are also refereed to social protection nets such as The Country's Social Cash Transfer Programme.
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Service quality

Accessibility:

- Systematic data collection has created awareness to the rural masses on how the office of the District Social Welfare in the Local Government operates. They easily report cases of child neglect, trafficking and defilement to Child Protection Workers within their localities.

Responsiveness:

- The CPIMS has resulted into establishment of responsive mechanisms by the stakeholder. Recently the government established a Child Marriage Committee and Traditional Authorities Developed By-Laws aimed at protecting children and women.

Development

Design

Policy planning staff in the Department of Planning and Research at the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare came up with idea to develop the system. It was generated through consultations on hoe to curb child abuse and improve the livelihood of orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi. Lead by the Director of the Department, the planning team designed data collection tools for the system. Then through the Principal Secretary the Ministry sought financial help from Unicef to engage a consultant who would work with the designing team to develop the system. Consultation meetings were conducted before and after the system was developed. Currently the system is being piloted in three districts.

All stakeholders in the Child affairs and Social Welfare sub sector were involved. Child protection officers and social welfare officers were the main users that were involved in the process of designing the system.Design time: 6 month(s)

Testing

- Users from three districts, namely Dedza, Mangochi and Blantyre were registered to the system for testing purposes. There feedback was discussed in consultation meetings and the agreements were incorporated in both the system and the data collection tools.

Testing time: 1 year(s)

Challenges and solutions

- The main challenge was financial constraints that limited the consultation process and pretesting of the system.
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Partnerships

Multiple partners

Civil Society, Other Public Sector

Unicef, Community Based Structures in 10 districts, and District Councils.

Firstly UNICEF came to support the proccess financially. They paid for consulttancy fees and expenses incurred during consultations. They also paid for hosting the system for a year. Secondly, the Local Government are the implementers together with the central government. The District Social Welfare Office is responsible for collecting and monitoring data in the local communities. CBOs are help the government in identifying cases that need to be recorded in the system.

Lessons Learned

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- Decentralizing information is key to participatory approach and accountability. Districts office feel empowered when some central level responsibilities have been shared with them.
 - Working with the civil society and development partners make work since they easily buy an idea when they are involved. on the other hand, a comprehensive budget is of ult-most importance, if you under budget, a great project may turn into a white elephant.
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Conditions for success

- Adequate financial resources
- Motivated and empowered human capital
- Acceptance of the innovation by stakeholders
- Conducive environment for the innovation