

Summary of Responses to the Economic Challenges Theme in Mangochi

1. What is the role and place of the church in Mangochi in responding to the crisis of Economic Challenges?

Participants identified several key roles for the church in Mangochi in addressing economic challenges:

- **Provision of Guidance and Counselling:** The church should offer guidance and counselling to the community, helping individuals navigate economic difficulties and fostering independence.
- **Civic Education and Sensitisation for Mindset Change:** The church should engage in educating and sensitising the community to bring about a change in mindset, which is crucial for making informed decisions and overcoming economic challenges.
- **Provision of Physical Needs:** The church can participate in providing basic physical needs such as food, water, shelter, and support for education, especially for orphans, thus addressing immediate economic concerns.

2. What are three practical steps that the church in Malawi can take to respond to the Economic Challenges?

The participants proposed the following practical steps for the church in Malawi:

- **Support Local Businesses and Development Initiatives:** The church should help the community start and sustain small businesses, particularly in agriculture, food production, and poultry farming, to improve economic resilience.
- **Prayer for Wisdom and Knowledge, and Provision of Biblical Teaching:** Through prayer, the church can seek wisdom and knowledge to guide its members in dealing with economic challenges, drawing on biblical examples like Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream.
- **Provision of Direct Assistance to Needs:** The church should be active in both prayer and practical actions to meet the community's economic needs, ensuring they receive necessary support and guidance.

3. What are three practical steps that your church community can take to respond to the crisis of Economic Challenges?

At the community level, the participants suggested:

- **Proclaiming the Gospel to Impart Hope and Comfort:** The church should actively spread the gospel to offer hope and comfort, reassuring people that God can change their situations.
- **Defence of Faith Through Testimonies:** Members should share personal testimonies of overcoming economic challenges through faith, encouraging others facing similar situations.
- **Involvement in Social Justice:** The church should ensure fairness and equity in economic practices, stand against corruption and greed, and promote dignity and equal distribution of resources within the community.

The responses reflect a holistic approach where the church plays a central role in both spiritual and practical aspects of economic resilience, encouraging mindset change, providing direct support, and faith-based guidance.

