

NNO response to the Malawi (2023) End Term Evaluation Report

Since the commencement of the formal partnership in 2006, the end term evaluation report marks the transition of NONM entering an even more independent (and hopefully also self-sustainable) position. NNO aims to continue its collaboration with NONM post 2023 but providing less financial and technical resources than previously.

The specific programme period under review (2019-2023) was most definitively affected by NNO phasing down its financial support, which unfortunately also coincided with a global pandemic, several natural disasters and severe economic crisis. In spite of this, NONM has not only persevered but also grown. We therefore find it essential to consider progress and results not only against outcome indicators, but also against this backdrop and the context within which NONM has operated.

In general, we are satisfied with the report. We find that it confirms many of our own assessments and internal evaluations, and it validates our theory of change. A professional organisation and union representing nurses and midwives most definitely contribute to health system strengthening, forming the basis for decent work and good health for all.

We do however find that further analysis and reflection of contextual factors, from 2006 and up until the time of the evaluation, could have further strengthened the report. This would have assisted our understanding of the many factors affecting NONM's organisational development internally, and its ability to have an impact on positive change externally.

We find many of the recommendations timely and relevant. Moving forward, NONM is already implementing strategic changes, e.g., shifting roles and responsibilities to sub-national structures, increasing intensity on capacity building of shop stewards, expanding on its presence in critical fora for decision-making, exploring resource mobilizing strategies, working on accreditation of its training courses (continued professional development), and strengthening its technical infrastructure to be better able to provide services online.

For NNO to develop and manage online best-practice courses (e.g., financial management, programme management and research) is probably not within the scope of our resources, but we continue to achieve results through our hands-on approach. Likewise, it is found somewhat challenging to fully document all advocacy efforts of the NONM board, but steps are being taken to improve on NONM's system for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.