

Malawi

General

	MALES	FEMALES	YEAR
Total population under 15	4,067,485	4,050,017	2017
Total population over 15	4,902,700	4,987,468	2017

* ALL DATA FROM CIA, 2017

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth	634	2015 est.	CIA, 2017
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	44.8	2016 est.	CIA, 2017
Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births	75.6	2012	UN Statistics, 2015
Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births	66.2	2012	UN Statistics, 2015
Births attended by a skilled health professional	71.4%	2014	WHO, 2016
Prevalence of HIV among male aged 15–49	8%	2013	World Economic Forum, 2013
Prevalence of HIV among female aged 15–49	12.1%	2013	World Economic Forum, 2013
Life expectancy for men	59.2	2016 est.	CIA, 2017
Life expectancy for women	63.2	2016 est.	CIA, 2017

Education

	MALES	FEMALES	YEAR
Youth literacy rate, ages 15-24	74.27%	69.98%	2010
Adult literacy rate, ages 15+	72.10%	51.25%	2010
Adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education	90.13%	94.31%	2007, 2009
Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education	36.05%	32.41%	2012
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education	0.99%	0.64%	2011

* ALL DATA FROM UNESCO INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, 2017

- Female graduates from tertiary education (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 34.5%
- Female students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs (1999) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 16.7%
- Female teachers in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 40.1%
- Female teachers in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 27.8%

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- Female teachers in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 25.6%

Economic Activity

- Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 64%
- Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 76%
- Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 16%
- Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 17%

Decision-Making

- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (UNDP, 2016): 17%

Human Rights

- Girls married before 15 (UNICEF, 2016): 9%
- Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 36%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 31%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2013): 31%

Gender and Development Trends in Malawi

Health

As of 2013, 85% of schools were found to have single-sex access to basic sanitation and drinking water, at the primary level (Malawi Data Portal, 2016). A 2014 USAID study highlighted the gender dynamics of school infrastructure, noting that a lack of water and sanitation hygiene (WASH) facilities may cause girls to stay away from schools during their menstrual periods (Khasu et. al., 2014).

A 2016 demographic and health study in Malawi showed that 15% of households have the source for their drinking water on their premises and 43% of households spend 30 minutes or longer retrieving their drinking water (National Statistical Office, 2016).

Women in Malawi are disproportionately affected by HIV. A 2015/16 Malawian Ministry of Health study found a 12.8% prevalence of HIV amongst adult women (aged 15-64) compared to an 8.2% prevalence amongst adult men (Avert, 2017).

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The prevalence of undernourishment decreased from 45% in 1991 to 21% in 2015 (World Bank, 2015).

Education

A 2016 World Bank study indicates that long walking distances to schools may contribute to over-age school entry: the report found that in 15 of 34 educational districts, the average distance between households and the nearest school was over 4 km (Ravishankar et. al., 2016, p. 28).

The same World Bank report described challenges in keeping up with the demands of school enrolment noting, “the majority of primary schools are characterized by overcrowded classes, inadequate textbook provision, insufficient classroom infrastructure, and high pupil-teacher ratios, especially in the lower primary (1–4) grades” (p. 4).

Economy

Rural poverty in Malawi remains widespread. The Third Integrated Household Survey (2010-2011) shows that rural poverty worsened from 55.6% in 2005 to 56.2% in 2010 (World Bank, 2013). 3% of Malawian women are registered land owners of commercial land; however, they make up 70% of the total workforce (UNDP, December 2016).

Inequality between the rich and the poor in Malawi has worsened as the economy has grown, as illustrated by the movement in the Gini coefficient from 0.39 in 2006 (on a par with Cameroon) to 0.45 in 2013 (on a par with the Democratic Republic of Congo) (Mussa & Henderson-Masanjala, 2015).

Malawi is ranked 67th out of 144 countries in the 2016 Global Gender Gap Index, moving up from 81st place in 2006 (World Economic Forum, 2016).

Malawi ranked 12th in economic participation and opportunity in 2016 (World Economic Forum, 2016), making it one of the top-improving countries in employment and leadership.

14% of Malawi firms had women at top management level in 2014.

Governance

The proportion of women holding seats in Parliament reached 16.17% in 2016, which remains below the target of 30% set by the Beijing Platform for Action (UNDP, 2016).

One of the major problems cited for Malawian governance, following a trend in the region, is the lack of a National System for Innovation, and a lack of policy integration across bureaucracies (Urama, Ozor, & Acheampong, 2014).

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Malawi SDG Progress Profile

- Malawi is currently ranked 131/149 for overall performance under the SDGs, with a median rank of 144.
- Malawi has ranked at 173/188 in the UN's 2015 Gender Inequality Index (GII) (UNDP, 2015).
- Research has shown that knowledge of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been consistently low at the local level during their implementation in Malawi, with participants failing to link interventions taking place in their area with the MDGs; there is a risk of a similar response to the SDGs (UNICEF, 2014).

SDG 4: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels. (Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

- Expected years of schooling (years): 10.8 (significant challenges remain)
- Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (%): 72.1 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Net primary school enrolment rate (%): 96.9 (significant challenges remain)

Malawi's pupil-teacher ratio is 69:1 and the country has one of the biggest gaps in secondary teacher availability (UNESCO, 2016, p. 3).

Despite high primary enrolment rates, a 2010 report estimates that 35 out of every 100 students actually complete primary school (World Bank, 2010, xxi). The same report estimates the difference in the primary completion rate to be 14% between boys and girls, and 34% between urban and rural students (xxxv).

In comparison to neighboring countries, Malawi has been deemed to have some of the lowest literacy rates of the region (Milner, Mulera, Banda, Matala, & Chimombo, 2011).

A major challenge for Malawi lies at the secondary and tertiary levels, regarding socio-economic equity in the distribution of support. Approximately 3% of government subsidies at the tertiary level benefits the two lowest wealth quintiles, while 82% benefits the highest quintile (Hall & Mambo, 2015).

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, the youth and persons in vulnerable situations.

(Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

- Women in national Parliaments (%): 16.7 (significant challenges remain)
- Female years of schooling (% male): 65.7 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Female labor force participation (% male): 98.9 (SDG threshold met)

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- Unmet demand for contraceptives (%):27.5 (significant challenges remain)

United Nations Malawi has developed a multi-track approach to gender equality both as an overall outcome area and through a series of sub-interventions in maternal mortality, girls' education, protections for pregnant women, and the eradication of early marriage (Okonji, 2016).

In July 2014, Malawi's Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare initiated its National Plan of Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Malawi: 2014-2020. The report aims to promote an early-referral system that can identify instances of violence and prevent recurring violent behaviour, standardise data collection tools, and coordinate stakeholders across the country to prevent and respond to instances of gender-based violence ("National Plan of Action," 2014).

Almost half of all females in Malawi experienced physical violence prior to 18 years, and approximately one-fourth to one-fifth experienced emotional violence (Republic of Malawi Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, 2014).

In 2016, Malawi was designated one of 35 GBV priority countries by USAID, due to its high rates of child marriage (USAID, 2016). A 2014 UNICEF report found that nearly two thirds of women with no formal education were child brides, compared to 5% of women who attended higher education (UNICEF, 2014). However, on 14th February 2017, Malawi's Parliament voted to amend its Constitution to make marriage before the age of 18, illegal (Human Rights Watch, 2017).

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