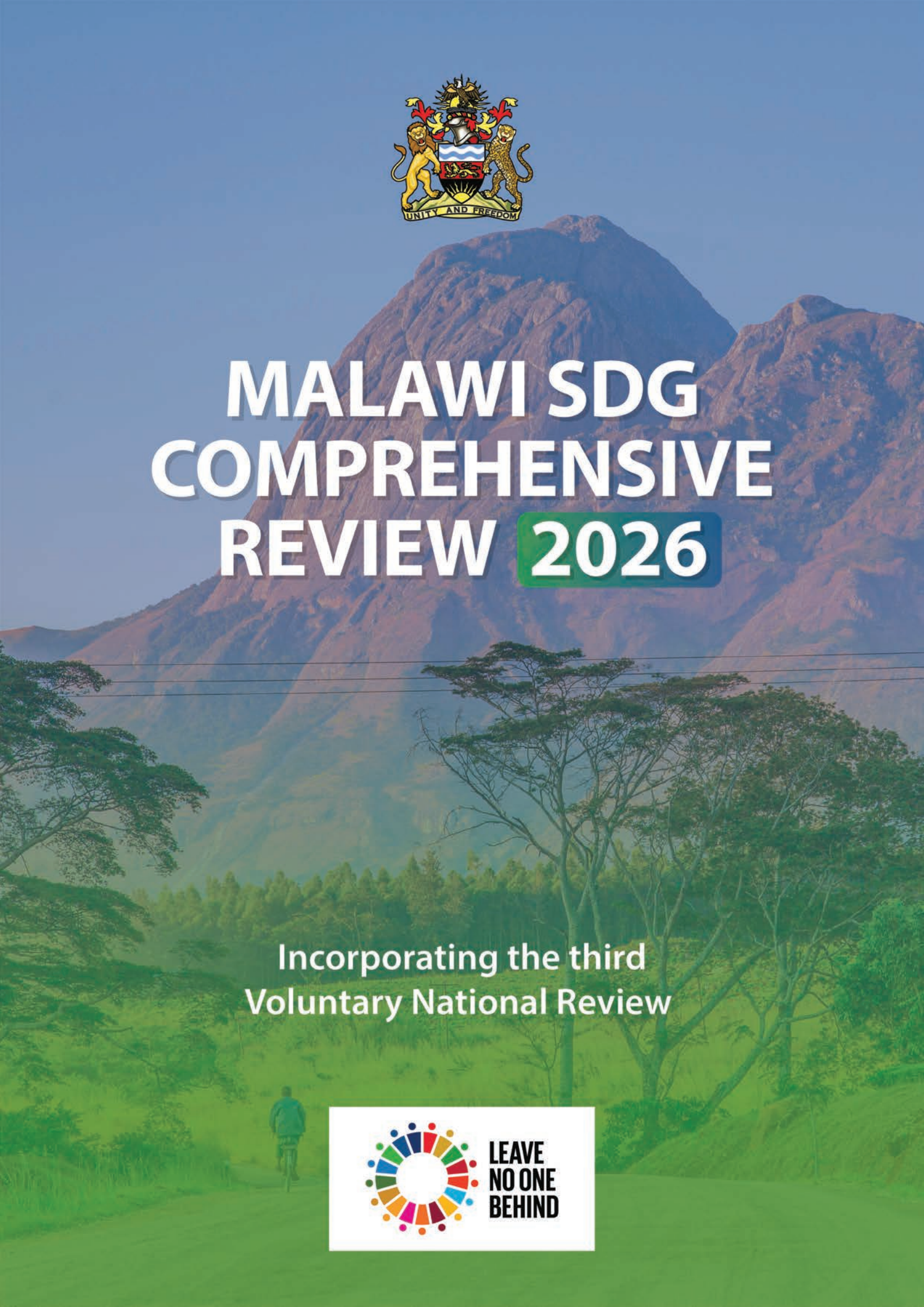


MALAWI SDG COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW 2026

Incorporating the third Voluntary National Review

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

ACB	Anti-Corruption Bureau
ADC	Area Development Committee
ADMARC	Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy
AIP	Affordable Inputs Programme
AU	African Union
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHAM	Christian Health Association in Malawi
COMSIP	Community Savings and Investment Promotion
CONGOMA	Council for Non-Governmental Organisations of Malawi
CS-EPWP	Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works Programme
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DODMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
ECAMA	Economics Association of Malawi
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EP&D	Economic Planning and Development
ESCOM	Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FEDOMA	Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi
FIA	Financial Intelligence Agency
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GVH	Group Village Head
HNMIS	Harmonized National Management Information System
HSA	Health Surveillance Assistant
HSSP III	Health Sector Strategic Plan III
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFMIS	Integrated Financial Management Information System
IHS	Integrated Household Survey
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
JAS	Joint Agriculture Sector Review
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LIMS	Land Information Management System
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind

LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MACRA	Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority
MAREP	Malawi Rural Electrification Programme
MCCCI	Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MDHS	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
MEC	Malawi Electoral Commission
MERA	Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority
MERP	Malawi Education Reform Programme
M-MPI	Malawi Multidimensional Poverty Index
MHRC	Malawi Human Rights Commission
MIP-1	Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MP	Member of Parliament
MUBAS	Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences
MW2063	Malawi 2063
NAC	National AIDS Commission
NACA	National Census of Agriculture
NCST	National Council for Science and Technology
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGORA	Non-Governmental Organisation Regulatory Authority
NLGFC	National Local Government Finance Committee
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSO	National Statistical Office
NYCOM	National Youth Council of Malawi
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSBP	One Stop Border Post
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
PECG	Pillar and Enabler Coordination Group
PPDA	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RBM	Reserve Bank of Malawi
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCTP	Social Cash Transfer Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TEVETA	Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WESNET	Water and Environmental Sanitation Network
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
YONECO	Youth Net and Counselling

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OPENING STATEMENT

The Government of Malawi reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Malawi 2063 Vision. The SDGs are fully integrated into the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1), which charts our path to middle-income status and inclusive wealth creation.

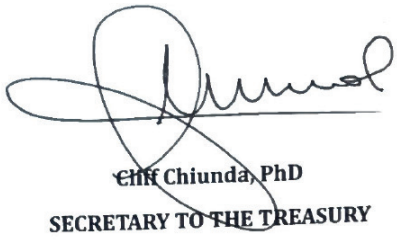
This SDG Comprehensive Review — anchored the Malawi's third Voluntary National Review (VNR) and complemented, for the first time, by the country's first Country-Led Evaluation of SDGs 3 and 7 — comes at a decisive moment — four years from the 2030 deadline — and offers an honest assessment of where we stand, what we have achieved, and what more must be done to secure a resilient, prosperous, peaceful and inclusive future for every Malawian.

The Review provides an evidence-based account of progress across all 17 Goals, with particular depth on the five priority SDGs selected for the 2026 Voluntary National Review (VNR) cycle and is further embedded Country-Led Evaluation's evidence focusing on SDG 3 and SDG 7. The review was done with full appreciation for the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs and the principle of Leaving No One Behind guides every dimension of the review — from the smallholder farmer relying on a hand hoe, to the young woman either in education or employment or not, to the person with disability and to all citizens regardless of their place of residence.

The evidence is encouraging in several areas. Women representation in Parliament has grown substantially to 26 percent. Access to improved drinking water services has reached 89 percent. Maternal and child health indicators continue to improve, with skilled birth attendance at 96 percent and under-five mortality reduced to 48 per 1,000 live births. Yet the data also expose persistent challenges that demand accelerated action. Climate vulnerability is acute — 84.2 percent of communities were affected by disasters in the past three years, with economic losses reaching USD 506.7 million in 2023/24 alone. Poverty reduction remains slow, with more than half of the population still living below the national poverty line.

To accelerate progress, the Government has placed climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, expanded social protection, and digital infrastructure at the core of its investment priorities. We are deepening partnerships with regional bodies, multilateral institutions, and development partners to mobilise the financing and technical capacity needed to bridge identified gaps.

The Government of Malawi remains committed to the accountability and transparency for effective implementation of its national development plan that embedded the SDGs. This report is a call to action — for our own institutions, for our development partners, and for every Malawian. Together, we will build the resilient and equitable future that our people deserve.



Cliff Chiunda, PhD
SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2026 SDG Comprehensive Review — comprising the third Voluntary National Review (VNR) and the country's first Country-Led Evaluation (CLE) of the SDGs — represents a landmark achievement in national accountability and stakeholder ownership of the 2030 Agenda. Both components were led by the Department of Economic Planning and Development, under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization, in close collaboration with the National Planning Commission (NPC) and National Statistics Office (NSO) with invaluable technical and financial support from UN Agencies.

The Department extends sincere gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization, Joseph Mathyola Mwanamvekha, MP, for his distinguished leadership, strategic guidance, and steadfast commitment to the VNR process from inception to completion.

Deep appreciation is also owed to the members of the National Task Force, led by Mrs. Sophie Kang'oma (Director of the Monitoring and Evaluation Division), who provided expert technical oversight throughout the review: officials from key Ministries, Departments and Agencies; the National Statistical Office; the National Planning Commission; and the many sector specialists whose analytical contributions are reflected throughout this report.

The review process benefited enormously from the broad and meaningful participation of civil society organisations, including the Council for Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGOMA), the NGO Regulatory Authority (NGORA), the National Youth Council of Malawi (NYCOM) and Sight Savers, among many others. Their voices have strengthened the report's commitment to leaving no one behind. Recognition is also due to the private sector, academia, and Community Based Organisations whose perspectives have enriched the evidence base and grounded the findings in lived experiences.

The Department is deeply indebted to the UN Resident Coordinator's Office for its sustained guidance and coordination support throughout the process. Special recognition is extended to UNDP and UNICEF for their unwavering technical inputs and financial contributions, which enabled the depth and rigour of this review including the country-led evaluation. The Department also thanks the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) for its timely advisory role, and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations for facilitating engagement with the High-Level Political Forum.

Regional partners — including the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union — deserve acknowledgement for the enabling policy environment and peer learning platforms they have sustained, which have informed Malawi's SDG implementation approach

Finally, this review belongs to the people of Malawi. Thousands of citizens — women, men, youth, persons with disabilities, smallholder farmers, and community members from all three regions — participated in consultations and provided the evidence and perspectives that form the foundation of this report. Their engagement is both a testament to Malawi's democratic culture and a call to action for the years ahead.



Patrick Kabambe
SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



HIGHLIGHTS

1. THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

Malawi undertook this Comprehensive Review — comprising its third Voluntary National Review and its first Country-Led Evaluation (CLE) of the SDGs — to assess progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at a pivotal midpoint of implementing its First 10-Year Implementation plan of Malawi 2063 Development Agenda. The review enables the nation to define strategic interventions that require particular attention to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. This review was highly inclusive, guided by multi-stakeholder governance structures including a National Task Force comprising technical experts from key government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the National Statistical Office, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners. The review team widely engaged and consulted the public across all regions, including interest groups such as women, children, youth, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, ensuring that the principle of Leaving No One Behind was operationalized throughout the process. In addition, the Comprehensive Review incorporates the findings of Malawi's first ever Country-Led Evaluation of the SDGs, which examined SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) in depth; a synthesis of that evaluation's methodology, findings, lessons and recommendations is presented as a dedicated chapter of this report.

1.1 Status of SDG Implementation

Malawi's SDG implementation shows a mixed landscape: significant progress in water and sanitation, and health; moderate progress in literacy, nutrition, and agricultural productivity; and insufficient progress in poverty reduction, labour markets, energy access, climate resilience, and justice. The evidence underscores both achievements and systemic barriers, highlighting the need for accelerated investment in climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, social protection, and institutional capacity.

1.1.1 Significant Progress

Malawi has achieved notable gains in several areas. Women representation in Parliament has surged to 26 percent, positioning gender equality as a driver of broader progress. The proportion of households with drinking water from an improved source is at 89%, while access to at least basic sanitation services is at 40%. Health outcomes show marked improvement: under-5 mortality has fallen to 48 per 1,000 live births (down from 63 in 2016), skilled birth attendance has reached 96 percent (up from 89 percent in 2016), and the proportion of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods is at 82 percent. These achievements demonstrate how targeted investments in social protection, health, and gender equality are delivering measurable results.

1.1.2 Moderate Progress

Progress is visible but uneven in Education, Nutrition, Agriculture, and Human rights. Literacy rates are improving, with male literacy at 84.2% percent and female literacy at 74.9 percent in 2025, yet primary completion rates remain stagnant at around 50 percent, limiting the transition to higher education. Child stunting has declined to 33.2 percent in 2024, but remains a serious concern, especially among poorer households. Agriculture shows dynamism, with total maize production reaching 2.66 million metric tons, but productivity remains low at 1,526.8 kg per hectare, highly variable across regions, and vulnerable to climate shocks. Awareness of human rights is high at 85.7 percent, though this represents a decline from previous years, and reporting of violations remains limited.

A case study from smallholder farming highlights both progress and constraints:
*farmers adopting modern maize varieties and fertilizer have seen yield improvements, but limited irrigation (only **2.2 percent** of cultivated land) and reliance on hand hoes (used by 97.4 percent of farmers) keep productivity below potential.*

1.1.3 Insufficient Progress

Persistent structural challenges continue to impede SDG achievement. Poverty reduction is slow, with 47.3 percent of the population living below the national poverty line in 2025. The labour market is in crisis: only 38.8 percent of the working-age population is employed, and 91.5 percent of workers are in informal employment. Labour underutilization stands at 55.5 percent, reflecting widespread underemployment. Access to clean energy for cooking is minimal, with over 97 percent of households relying on firewood and charcoal, contributing to deforestation and health risks. Vulnerability to climate shocks is extreme: 84.2 percent of communities have been affected by disasters in the last three years, with economic losses reaching USD 506.7 million in 2023/24. Access to justice remains constrained: only 29.4 percent of those experiencing human rights violations report them, and just 34.5 percent of citizens believe laws are applied equally.

A case study from the justice sector illustrates these challenges:
*despite **85.7 percent** awareness of rights, fear of reprisals and lack of trust in institutions mean violations often go unreported, leaving vulnerable groups without recourse.*

1.2 Leaving No One Behind:

National evidence provides stark evidence of who is being left behind. Teenage pregnancy is three times higher for women with no education than those with secondary education. Female-headed households farm smaller plots, are less likely to apply for credit, and are more concentrated in subsistence-only farming. Youth face a 24.1 percent unemployment rate, with 39.4 percent not in education, employment, or training. Persons with disabilities have an informal employment rate of 95.3 percent. The Southern Region records the highest labour underutilization, the smallest average landholdings, and the highest vulnerability to climate shocks. Access to rights and legal recourse is unequal: only 22.6 percent of urban residents believe laws are applied equally, compared to 38.9 percent of rural residents, and awareness of statutory laws is just 45.5 percent among those with no education, rising to 79.5 percent among those with higher education. Infrastructure, particularly roads, consistently fails to accommodate persons with disabilities.

The Malawi Government, together with development partners and supporting implementing agencies has taken deliberate steps to address the "leave no one behind" challenges. For example, the expansion of social protection programs and cash transfers has prioritized female-headed households and subsistence farmers, helping them to stabilize incomes and access credit. In education, interventions such as girls' education initiatives and community awareness campaigns are aimed at reducing teenage pregnancies. These programs are complemented by efforts to expand vocational training and digital learning opportunities for youth, addressing the 24.1 percent unemployment rate and the 39.4 percent of young people not in education, employment, or training.

For persons with disabilities, the government has partnered with civil society to improve accessibility in schools and public infrastructure, while piloting inclusive employment schemes. In regions such as the Southern Region, which records the highest labour underutilization and vulnerability to climate shocks, targeted investments in climate-smart agriculture and irrigation schemes are being rolled out to strengthen resilience and expand land productivity. On governance and justice, Malawi has worked with partners to establish community justice platforms and legal aid clinics, aimed at increasing reporting of rights violations and building trust in institutions. Awareness campaigns are also being scaled up to close the gap in statutory law knowledge, which is only 45.5 percent among those with no education. These combined efforts—spanning social protection, education, agriculture, disability inclusion, and justice—illustrate Malawi's commitment to operationalizing the principle of leaving no one behind, ensuring that vulnerable groups are not only identified but actively supported through targeted interventions and partnerships.

1.3 National Initiatives on Means of Implementation

Malawi has launched several initiatives to strengthen the means of implementation for the SDGs. At the national level, the Government has aligned financing strategies with Malawi 2063 and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1), ensuring that resource mobilisation is directly linked to long-term development priorities. For example, reforms in tax administration — such as digitising tax collection and reviewing incentives — are improving efficiency and expanding the revenue base.

Domestic resource mobilisation has been complemented by public financial management reforms, including the rollout of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) and efforts to strengthen local government revenue collection. The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) has been restructured to allocate dedicated resources for youth programmes and community development, ensuring that financing reaches the grassroots level.

At the national planning level, Malawi has adopted the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to coordinate diverse financing flows — domestic resources, concessional funds, private investment, and blended finance. This framework strengthens transparency, accountability, and alignment of financing with national priorities as well as SDG implementation.

The evidence base for implementation has also improved. Malawi has expanded survey coverage through instruments such as the Integrated Household Survey (IHS), the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS). These surveys, together with administrative data and the forthcoming Harmonised National Management Information System (HNMIS), are helping to close data gaps and strengthen accountability.

These initiatives provide the foundation for sustainable financing and effective delivery of the SDGs. A more detailed analysis of resource mobilisation, international cooperation, debt sustainability, and institutional coordination is presented in Chapter 8: Means of Implementation.

1.4 Challenges

The evidence identifies seven key cross-cutting challenges that impede SDG achievement:

1. persistent data gaps and timeliness
2. high vulnerability to climate shocks
3. slow economic transformation and poverty reduction
4. stagnating and unequal human development outcomes
5. institutional and systemic capacity gaps
6. environmental degradation and resource pressure
7. persistent inequality and social exclusion

1.5 Emerging Opportunities

The expansion of internet usage and fixed broadband subscriptions presents a major opportunity to advance digital inclusion, e-extension services, financial technology, and digital justice platforms. Further, the operationalization of the HNMIS will strengthen cross-sectoral data integration and real-time monitoring, enhancing evidence-based decision-making for SDG implementation. The growing adoption of modern agricultural technologies and the significant increase in women's parliamentary representation provide powerful levers for accelerating progress across multiple SDGs. Moreover, improved multi-stakeholder partnerships, the adoption of the Integrated National Financing Framework, the midterm review of the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan, and the ongoing national SDG evaluation collectively position the country to align financing and policy actions, assess progress, realign priorities, and accelerate implementation towards the 2030 Agenda in a more integrated, evidence-informed, and inclusive manner.



Country Context

2. COUNTRY CONTEXT AND INTEGRATION OF THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

2.1 Introduction

Malawi has a population of approximately 22 million people, characterised by a young demographic and an economy heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture: roughly 2.67 million smallholder households, with an average holding of 0.9 hectares, provide 39.3 percent of employment and 34.4 percent of GDP.

The country has conducted its first SDG Comprehensive Review which incorporates both the third Voluntary National Review and the country's first Country-Led Evaluation of SDG implementation. The report comes at the mid-term point of the First 10-Year Implementation Plan of the Malawi 2063 Development Agenda (MIP-1), which serves as the country's primary vehicle for achieving the SDGs, ensuring that progress on national plans translates directly into progress on the Goals. The last review of the SDGs was conducted in 2022 through its second VNR.

Since the 2022 review, the Government has focused on strengthening coordination mechanisms, enhancing data collection, and reviewing its policy and institutional frameworks making the current review more analytical and community-driven. Major national data exercises have filled some of the gaps identified in 2022, including the 20245 National Census of Agriculture conducted for the first time in 18 years, the 2024 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, the 2024 Labour Force Survey, the 2025 Integrated Household Survey, the 2024 Justice and Accountability Survey, alongside sector administrative data and qualitative evidence from communities, local authorities, central Government, development partners and marginalised groups.

2.2 Domestic Policy Framework

Malawi 2063, through the MIP-1, provides the overarching policy coherence for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic transformation through agricultural productivity and commercialisation, industrialisation, and urbanisation; social development through human capital investment in health, education, and social protection; and environmental sustainability through climate action, sustainable land management, and biodiversity conservation. The MIP-1 pillars aiming to anchor economic transformation are supported by the cross-cutting enablers: mindset change, effective governance systems and institutions, enhanced public sector performance, private sector dynamism, human capital development, economic infrastructure, and environmental sustainability.

2.2.1. Integration of the SDGs in National Frameworks

Malawi's long-term development vision, Malawi 2063 (MW2063), reflects the collective aspirations of its people to achieve inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance for economic independence. To operationalize this vision, the Government has adopted a series of 10-year implementation plans, with Malawi Implementation Plan 1 (MIP-1) serving as the first phase. MIP-1 aims to transition Malawi to a lower middle-income economy while delivering the majority of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Its development was highly consultative and participatory, ensuring a bottom-up approach to national planning. As a framework for SDG implementation, MIP-1 demonstrates strong alignment with global and regional development agendas. Overall, there is an alignment of 81.62 per cent with the SDGs, with particularly high alignment at the goal level (98.53 per cent), moderate alignment at the target level (72.19 per cent of 169 targets), and lower alignment at the indicator level (53.48 per cent of 244 indicators). Furthermore, MIP-1 is broadly consistent with the African Union Agenda 2063, with an alignment rating of 73.6 per cent. This highlights strong strategic coherence while underscoring the need to further strengthen alignment at the indicator level to enhance monitoring and reporting of development progress.

2.2.2. Gender-Responsive Integration across national Frameworks

Steps have been taken to integrate a gender perspective across national frameworks including the National Political Empowerment of Women Strategy, gender-responsive budgeting, the National Gender Policy and Programme, and the National Male Engagement Strategy on gender-based violence among others.

2.3 Structural Issues and Barriers

Despite the integration between the SDGs and the national frameworks including gender, there are some structural barriers and issues that affect the implementation of the national frameworks and SDGs.

a) Economic: Economic growth remains fragile and insufficient for poverty reduction, with real GDP expanding by just 1.9 percent in 2025. The economy faces deep structural challenges including persistent foreign exchange shortages, high inflation and low GDP growth rate. Export concentration leaves the country vulnerable, with tobacco alone accounting for 45 percent of merchandise exports. Within agriculture, productivity is critically low — maize yields are volatile, irrigation covers only 36 percent of potential land, and 97.4 percent of farmers rely on hand hoes — while limited input use and constrained landholdings trap most households in subsistence, and the overwhelming informality of agricultural work leaves millions without social protection.

b) Social: Significant inequalities in human development outcomes persist, closely linked to wealth and geographic location. In education, gender parity has been achieved at primary level, but the primary completion rate stands at just 45 percent and the transition rate to secondary school at around 50 percent. Health outcomes reflect similar inequality: stunting affects 38 percent of children and is markedly higher among the poorest households, while the burden of disease is shifting toward non-communicable diseases. Access to justice and legal awareness is also unequal, creating a justice gap for marginalised populations.

c) Environmental: Malawi remains vulnerable to increasingly frequent and severe weather-related shocks, including droughts and cyclones such as the devastating Cyclone Freddy in 2023. These disasters directly undermine agricultural production, destroy infrastructure and push households deeper into poverty, while the resulting pressure on land and natural resources exacerbates vulnerability and can contribute to local conflict.

d) Impact of External Policies: Global economic volatility and geopolitical instability — notably the Russia–Ukraine conflict's disruption of supply chains and fuel and fertiliser prices — have been a major external driver of the domestic inflation recorded above, further straining household budgets and complicating fiscal and monetary management. Responding to these shocks alongside domestic challenges has constrained fiscal space and limited the Government's ability to invest in long-term development priorities.

e) Debt Burden: Total public debt has reached unsustainable levels at 91.3 percent of GDP, driven by persistent fiscal deficits, currency depreciation and recurrent shocks. Debt service has become the largest single expenditure item, consuming 32 percent of domestic revenue (6.7 percent of GDP). The fiscal deficit stood at 12.4 percent of GDP in FY2023/24, requiring domestic borrowing that now accounts for nearly 80 percent of total credit to the economy and crowds out private investment. With interest rates on government securities rising and external debt restructuring progressing slowly, debt servicing continues to drain resources from critical SDG-related investments in health, education, infrastructure and social protection.



3. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS OF THE REVIEW

The preparation of this SDG Comprehensive Review report was guided by the principles of inclusivity, evidence-based analysis, and country-led ownership, drawing on the complementary methodologies of the VNR process and the Country-Led Evaluation (CLE) of SDG 3 and SDG 7.

3.1. Methodology

The comprehensive review adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis with rich qualitative data from a nationwide field data collection exercise.

- **Quantitative Assessment:** The core of the analysis rests on major national surveys and assessments completed in recent years, providing up-to-date estimates on employment, labour underutilization, informal sector dynamics, foreign investment flows, private sector debt, human rights awareness, experiences of violations, access to justice, perceptions of the rule of law, confidence in governance institutions, comprehensive structural data on agriculture, and the official government assessment of progress across all 17 SDGs. These were complemented by administrative data from Ministries, Departments and Agencies.
- **Qualitative Field Data Collection:** To ensure the comprehensive review was people centeretd, a dedicated field exercise was conducted across the country. Teams used tailored tools including community questionnaires, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions to gather lived experiences on the five priority SDGs. The process specifically targeted diverse representatives from several communities, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, ensuring the principle of Leaving No One Behind was operationalized and providing context to the national statistics. In addition, reviews were conducted with CSOs, academia, the private sector, youth representatives, research institutions and innovation hubs.

3.2. Whole-of-Government and Stakeholder Engagement:

- **Government:** The comprehensive review was led by the Department of Economic Planning and Development, with active participation from key Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, including the National Planning Commission, National Statistical Office, the Ministries of Information and Communications Technology; Local Government and Rural Development; Lands, Housing and Urban Development; Energy; Transport and Public Works; Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development; and Trade, Business and Industrialization. District councils and local authorities were also actively involved. A National Task Force, comprising technical experts from these bodies, oversaw the entire process.
- **Civil Society and Other Stakeholders:** Civil society organizations were integral members of the National Task Force, contributing to tool development, validation, and data collection. The field teams engaged extensively with cooperative leadership, community committees, faith-based organisations, and community-based structures. Think tanks as well as private sector operators were also consulted in the process. The report incorporates direct contributions from these groups, including case studies and their own assessments of progress and challenges.
- **Development Partners:** Development partners provided crucial technical and financial support throughout the review process, reflecting the strong partnership between the Government of Malawi and its development partners.

4. PROGRESS ON INCLUSIVITY

4.1. Effectiveness and Coordination

The Department of Economic Planning and Development is the central coordinating body for SDG implementation. The National Statistical Office's successful delivery of major national assessments, and the production of this SDG assessment report by the Department's Monitoring and Evaluation Division with support from a multi-stakeholder taskforce, both demonstrate growing institutional capacity for evidence generation.

The country led evaluation of SDG 7 particularly, also reveals that cross-sectoral coordination is evident in efforts to electrify public institutions more efficiently: a multisectoral platform of energy stakeholders, development partners and sector ministries now coordinates this work, reducing project-driven, siloed approaches.

Even so, the country led evaluation finds that formal vertical links between national and district structures — clearest at the planning stage, for example through District Implementation Plans in health and the district site-submission process for rural electrification — thin out at implementation and monitoring, undermined by programme silos, donor and partner fragmentation, incomplete decentralisation, and, in sectors such as energy, the absence of a district-level sector focal person. Coordination at Local Authority and Village level remains weak and under-resourced, often lacking authority over project allocation and supervision, leading to fragmented implementation and duplication.

The picture is therefore one of partial, structure-led coordination rather than seamless national-to-local alignment — which the recommendation to deepen governance and institutional reforms directly addresses.

4.2. Leaving No One Behind

4.2.1. Mainstreaming the Principle

Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) is a stated national priority, but its operationalisation is uneven. The principle was central to the design of this review's data collection, ensuring vulnerable groups were consulted. National data provides the evidence needed to identify those left behind. Recent trends show there is still work to be done to ensure no one is left behind. Evidence shows that teenage pregnancy is heavily concentrated among the poorest and least educated, and female-headed households and those in the Southern Region have significantly less access to productive resources. A survey on justice and accountability reveals that the most vulnerable also face the greatest barriers to accessing their rights and seeking redress. Agricultural data confirms that the structural transformation envisioned in Malawi 2063 is leaving behind the majority of smallholder farmers, particularly female-headed households and those in the Southern Region. Cross-cutting analysis reinforces these findings, highlighting persistent geographic, gender, and socio-economic inequalities as key barriers to inclusive development.

The 2026 SDG Evaluation evidence confirms that SDGs remain highly relevant to the needs of vulnerable groups, however, it also shows that relevance at policy level does not always translate into adequate access or benefit at community level. Across SDG 3 and SDG 7, vulnerable groups described their needs in practical terms: services must not only exist, but must be reachable, affordable, respectful, disability-sensitive, reliable and responsive. For health, this means access to medicines, outreach, immunisation, family planning, antenatal and delivery care, emergency referrals, respectful treatment, transport and disability-friendly facilities.

For energy, it means affordable electricity connections, reliable supply, lighting, phone charging, clean cooking options, safe wiring, appliance access and timely response to faults. These priorities show that SDG implementation is relevant to lived needs, but that adequacy depends on the strength of the delivery chain.

The SDG evaluation outcomes therefore reinforce the need to operationalise LNOB beyond identification of vulnerable groups. It requires deliberate targeting, affordability measures, disability adaptations, youth-friendly approaches, local feedback mechanisms, and stronger use of disaggregated data. The most persistent barriers reported by vulnerable groups include poverty, distance, transport costs, medicine stock-outs, unreliable electricity, high connection and wiring costs, lack of assistive devices, stigma, weak complaint channels, exclusion from meetings, and limited follow-up when services fail.

4.2.2. Identifying Vulnerable Groups

Recent national assessments allow us to quantify who is being left behind with greater precision.

- **Women and Girls:** Female labour force participation lags behind men. Women experience higher rates of psychological and sexual human rights violations. In agriculture, female-headed households farm smaller plots, have less access to credit, are less likely to use modern maize varieties, and are more concentrated in subsistence-only farming. At local government levels, women's representation is only 20 percent. From community level consultations, the SDG evaluation established that women and girls continue to face intersecting barriers linked to income, education, reproductive health, household responsibilities, access to productive assets and exposure to unpaid care work. Teenage pregnancy remains strongly associated with education and poverty. Community evidence shows that adolescent girls and young women value access to family planning, immunization, child health services, medicines, safe spaces, electricity-enabled livelihoods and information, but they still face embarrassment when seeking sexual and reproductive health services, medicine gaps, limited livelihood capital, firewood burdens, and unreliable electricity.
- **Adolescents and Youth:** This group faces the highest unemployment rate at 24.1 percent. Critically, 39.4 percent of youth are not in education, employment, or training; and this is significantly higher for young women at 45.4 percent. The SDG evaluation established that adolescents and young people also experience health and energy needs differently from adults. Out-of-school adolescents, young pregnant girls, young caregivers, youth without phones or devices, and youth with disabilities are particularly likely to miss health information, digital opportunities and income-generating activities. Electricity is highly relevant to youth because it supports studying, phone charging, welding, barbershops, salons, irrigation, agricultural enterprise and other small businesses, but affordability and skills gaps limit uptake.
- **Rural and Remote Populations:** The agricultural sector employs 39.3 percent of the workforce, dominated by informal, low-productivity work. Rural residents have lower awareness of their human rights, lower awareness of the rule of law, and significantly less access to democratic accountability institutions. Rural populations face notable gaps in access to health personnel, digital services, and public transport. The 2026 SDG evaluation confirmed that rural and remote communities remain at the centre of LNOB concerns because they experience overlapping barriers like long distances to health facilities, weak referral transport, lower electricity access, poor road connectivity, high exposure to climate shocks, limited access to markets, and weaker service follow-up. Many communities depend on outreach, HSAs, village clinics, campaigns, solar systems, community structures and informal transport arrangements.

Where these systems work, they reduce exclusion, but where they are weak, remote populations are left with services that are nominally available but practically inaccessible.

- **Children in poor households** face higher rates of stunting and lower educational completion. They remain vulnerable to malnutrition, lower educational completion, under-immunization, preventable illness, limited access to safe water and sanitation, and the indirect effects of energy poverty. Household use of firewood and charcoal contributes to smoke exposure, while lack of lighting affects study time. The SDG 3 evaluation evidence shows that child survival gains are real, but that neonatal mortality, immunization, nutrition and quality of care require focused follow-up, especially for children in poor, remote and underserved households
- **Persons with Disabilities:** Persons with functional difficulties face significant barriers to decent work, with an informal employment rate of 95.3 percent. An engagement with the disabled including those representing various bodies and groupings coordinated by Sight Savers Malawi revealed how persons with disabilities continue to be left behind across multiple dimensions of development. The *evaluation* evidence also confirmed that Persons with disabilities face exclusion across health, education, livelihoods, infrastructure, energy access and participation. Community evidence confirms that some improvements are visible, including better access to wheelchairs in some areas, disability-friendly infrastructure in selected facilities and schools, access to family planning and child vaccination, and increased safety where electricity provides lighting. However, persistent gaps remain in transport, assistive devices, accessible information, priority support, communication for persons with hearing or speech difficulties, disability-sensitive maternal care, electricity connection affordability, and inclusion in community meetings. Caregivers also face significant burdens, especially where children with special needs require transport, supervision and support.
- **In education**, children with disabilities face barriers from inadequate infrastructure, weak enforcement of inclusive policies, and low expectations from communities. In livelihoods, while over 500 persons with disabilities have participated in empowerment projects, the majority remain excluded from formal credit and productive assets. These challenges are compounded by self-stigma, limited awareness of available support, and infrastructure that consistently fails to accommodate persons with disabilities, such as roads and public spaces. Together, these realities illustrate how disability intersects with poverty, geography, and social exclusion, leaving many Malawians with disabilities at the margins of SDG progress despite targeted interventions.
- **The Poor and Less Educated:** Poverty remains a cross-cutting driver of exclusion. The law is perceived to favour the rich, with 76.5 percent believing this. Awareness of statutory laws is only 45.5 percent among those with no education, rising to 79.5 percent among those with higher education. Legal representation is inaccessible to most, with only 23.8 percent of those in the formal justice system having any representation. Only 11.4 percent of the population has received formal training in agriculture, and access to extension services reaches just 38.7 percent of farming households. The poorest households remain the most affected by food insecurity, inadequate housing, and climate shocks. During the SDG evaluation interviews, communities highlighted that poor households are less able to pay for transport to health facilities, buy medicines during stock-outs, connect electricity, purchase solar products, replace batteries, buy appliances, access clean cooking technologies or participate in productive activities. The less educated also face lower awareness of rights, lower access to formal opportunities and weaker ability to navigate complaint and service systems.

4.2.3. Concrete Actions to Ensure Inclusivity

The Malawi Government, together with development partners, civil society, the private sector and community structures, has taken deliberate steps to address LNOB challenges. Social protection programmes target ultra-poor and labour-constrained households. Cooperatives demonstrate a pathway for economic inclusion, with women's membership growing significantly. The Affordable Inputs Programme, which reached 26.2 percent of agricultural households, is an example of evidence-based targeting, though its effectiveness needs continuous evaluation. In the justice sector, the Government is working to expand legal aid and paralegal services, strengthen Victim Support Units in police formations, and deploy mobile courts to reach remote communities.

In health, inclusivity is being advanced through service contracts with Christian Health Association in Malawi (CHAM) which owns and operates health facilities in rural and remote areas. Outreach services, HSAs, village clinics, health and immunization campaigns, family planning and community health platforms are also being implemented to advance inclusivity. These approaches are valued because they bring services closer to rural and hard-to-reach populations.

Going forward, the comprehensive review highlights the importance of strengthening service contracts and service-level arrangements, including with non-state and faith-based health providers where appropriate, to improve access in underserved areas. Such arrangements should be linked to clear standards on quality, equity, referral, reporting, commodities, affordability and accountability.

Youth should not only be mobilised for campaigns, but included as peer educators, innovators, entrepreneurs and community accountability actors. Support for irrigation, agricultural enterprise, welding, solar technologies, digital services and other energy-enabled livelihoods can help convert SDG 7 access into employment and income opportunities.

Disability inclusion must become systematic rather than project based. Community evidence shows that inclusion improves when facilities have ramps, accessible toilets, wheelchairs, respectful staff and targeted outreach. Strengthening feedback loops, publishing service standards and ensuring follow-up at district and community levels will be critical to ensure inclusivity.

Targeted subsidies and affordability mechanisms are central to LNOB. These include connection subsidies, ready-board or internal wiring support, lifeline tariffs, appliance financing, and deliberate targeting of female-headed households, low-income households, persons with disabilities, child-headed households and remote communities. Rural electrification should be judged not only by infrastructure delivered, but by the number of households, public institutions and productive users that can connect, sustain use and benefit from reliable service.

Improved cookstoves, briquettes, sustainable charcoal, LPG and institutional clean cooking pilots should be scaled in ways that address affordability, supply, user preferences, awareness and last-mile distribution.

4.2.4. Conclusion on Inclusivity

Overall, the evidence confirms that Malawi's SDG priorities are relevant to the needs of vulnerable groups, but that the main challenge is adequacy and equity of implementation. Vulnerable groups are most likely to benefit when services are close, affordable, reliable, respectful and adapted to their circumstances. The next phase of SDG implementation should therefore move from identifying who is left behind to systematically tracking who is reached, who benefits, who remains excluded, and what practical barriers must be removed. This requires stronger targeting, better disaggregated data, inclusive budgeting, district-level follow-up, community participation, disability-sensitive delivery, youth-responsive programming, energy affordability measures, clean cooking support and stronger accountability across all levels.

4.3. Ensuring Ownership of the SDGs and the Review

4.3.1. National and Local Government

Ownership is being fostered through the alignment of the SDGs with the nationally-owned Malawi 2063. District councils are responsible for localising and implementing development plans, thereby owning the SDG agenda at the local level. District-level data empowers local authorities to plan based on their specific profiles.

4.3.2. Civil Society and Private Sector

Civil society organizations are active partners in both implementation and advocacy. The private sector's role is evident in national data, with private traders being a major source of veterinary services and fish fingerlings, highlighting a public-private mix in service delivery. At the macro level, the private sector is a significant recipient of foreign investment, with total foreign private capital liabilities reaching USD 1.31 billion in 2023. Civil society organizations are also critical partners in delivering civic education, legal aid outreach, community monitoring, and feedback loops, particularly in hard-to-reach communities.

4.3.3. Engagement of Specific Groups

The field mission intentionally engaged women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Youth are involved in briquette production and innovation hubs, but their engagement is often ad hoc and under-resourced. Persons with disabilities are often overlooked in infrastructure projects. Their contributions to this review highlighted these critical gaps.

4.3.4. Whole-of-Society Approach

The nationwide consultative process for this comprehensive review is a major step towards a whole-of-society approach. By actively seeking and incorporating inputs from community members, cooperatives, and local leaders, this report aims to build broader buy-in and ownership for the 2030 Agenda and its follow-up actions. The inclusive process, which brought together government agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia, and development partners, has laid a strong foundation for this whole-of-society approach.


THE GLOBAL
GOALS

5. PROGRESS ON GOALS AND TARGETS

5.1. Introduction

This section provides progress across all SDGs, presenting statistics for indicators for which data is available. An in-depth review of SDGs 6,7,9,11, and 15 is also conducted. In addition to quantitative statistics, qualitative data as well as case studies are used to develop the national context in line with the status of the goals.

5.2. SDG Indicator Status

The SDG indicator data coverage analysis reflects significant progress in strengthening the national evidence base for sustainable development. Recent investments in major national surveys, including the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS), the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Integrated Household Survey (IHS), the Justice and Accountability Survey (JAS), and reports from the National Census of Agriculture (NACA), and other sector assessments, have substantially improved the availability of data needed to monitor SDG implementation.

However, of 213 national indicators tracked across all 17 Goals, only 110 (51 percent) have updated data. Coverage varies considerably: SDG 13 (Climate Action) reports data for all its indicators, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) has data for 91 percent, while SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) has data for only one out of ten indicators. In addition, SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities) each fall below 30 percent data availability.

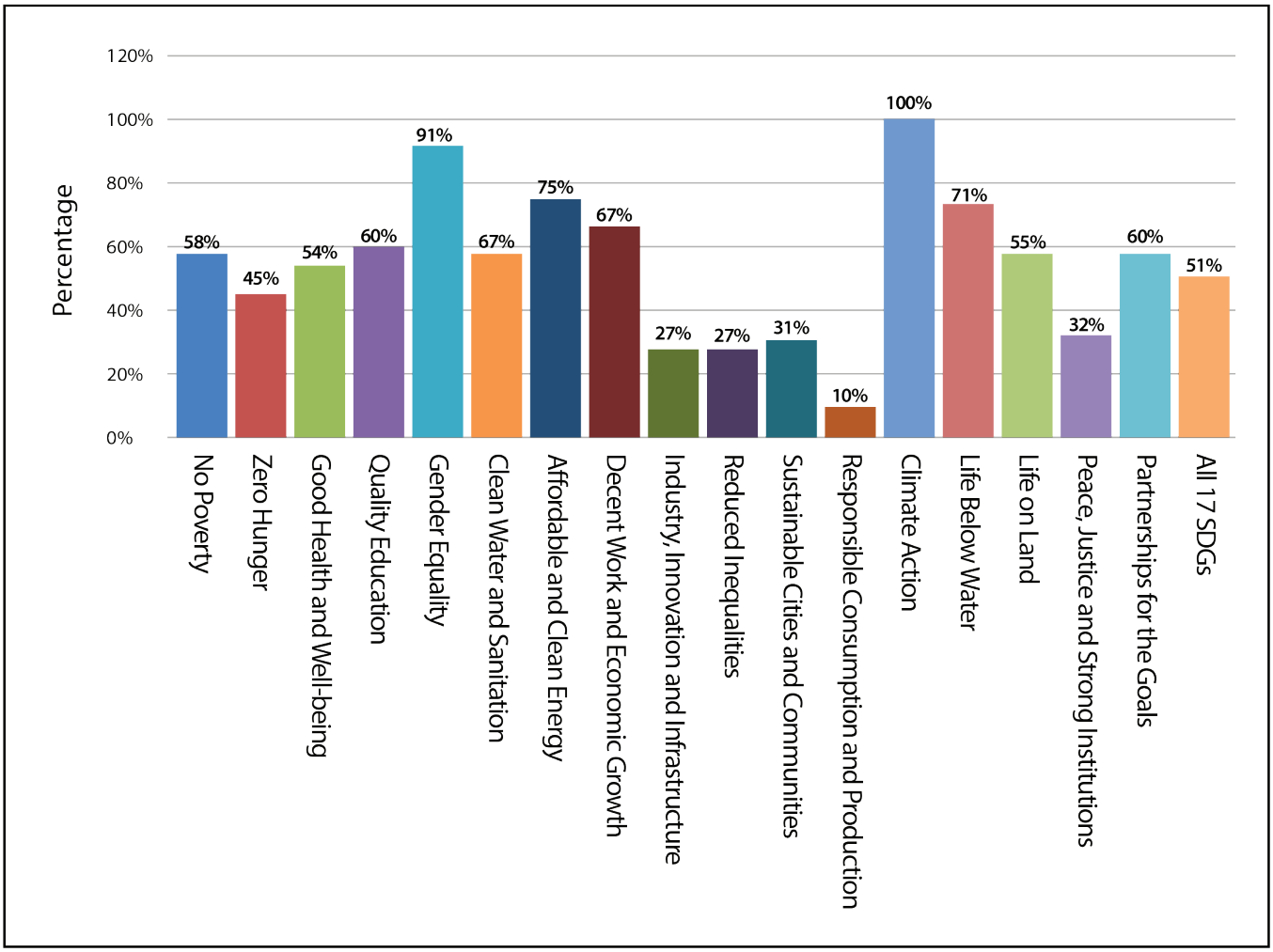


Figure 1:Data Coverage across all SDGs

Further analysis of indicator data reveals that 51% (110 indicators) have current data, demonstrating strong progress in ongoing monitoring and reporting. However, 22% (47 indicators) show no data updates from 2015, indicating persistent gaps in data collection. Additionally, 12% (27 indicators) stalled from 2015 and 4.7% (10 indicators) stalled from 2018, highlighting areas where data tracking has weakened over time. Overall, while more than half of the indicators remain active, nearly one third require renewed efforts to restore consistent data flow and ensure comprehensive progress measurement. Figure 2 provides this information with details provided in Annex F and G.

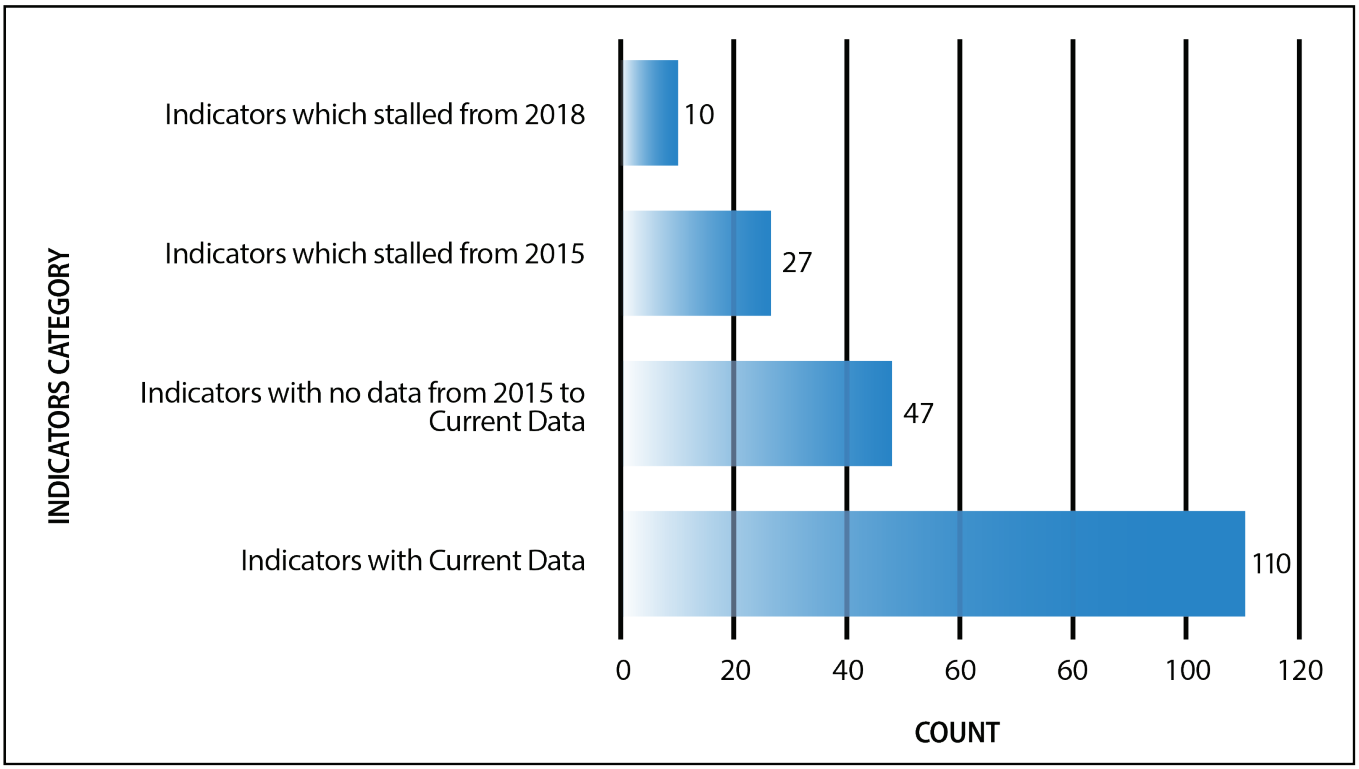


Figure 2: SDG Indicator Tracking Status

These gaps limit the ability to fully assess progress and target interventions where they are most needed. Addressing them is therefore not only a statistical priority but a development imperative. Strengthening administrative data systems, sustaining regular survey programmes, and improving coordination among data-producing institutions will be critical to ensuring that no goal is left unmeasured, and that decision-makers have the evidence required to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

5.3. Overall Progress



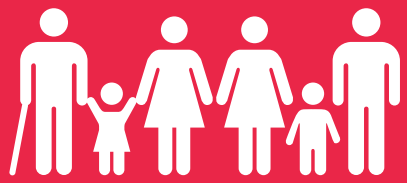
Figure 3: Overall Progress on SDGs

The SDG Progress Dashboard above presents a mixed but optimistic picture: of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the country has achieved significant progress on Goals 3 (Good Health & Well-being), 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation), 14 (Life Below Water), 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions), while moderate progress has been recorded for Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships). Goals 1 (No Poverty), 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy) 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequality) and 15 (Life on Land) show no progress, reflecting persistent structural challenges in poverty reduction and equity, and Goals 11 (Sustainable Cities), 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production) remain hampered by insufficient data, limiting a full assessment of performance in those areas. Notably, the trajectory indicates improvement across several goals since the baseline, with the progress wheel showing directional gains particularly in health, water, and governance, though significant effort is still required to address the goals where momentum has stalled or reversed.



Overview for SDG 1:

NO POVERTY



This goal aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, focusing on reducing both extreme and national poverty, expanding access to basic services, and strengthening resilience to economic and environmental shocks. SDG 1 is monitored through 7 targets and 14 indicators covering income poverty, multidimensional poverty, social protection coverage, disaster losses, and access to essential services. For Malawi, progress remains modest, with more than half of Malawians living in multidimensional poverty, reflecting persistent deprivations in access to electricity, sanitation, education, and health services.

The Social Cash Transfer Programme expanded to cover over 291,000 households nationwide, with total disbursements exceeding MK41 billion in 2024. However, recurrent climate shocks threaten these gains. Sustained investments in social protection, disaster risk reduction, and inclusive economic growth remain critical for ending poverty in all its forms.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 1

Indicator 1.2.1: Proportion of population below the national poverty line

The proportion of population living below the national poverty line has improved from 50.7 percent in 2019/20 (IHS-5) to 47.3 percent in 2025 (IHS-6), with rural areas disproportionately affected at 52.6 percent (from 56.6 percent) compared to urban areas at 20.9 percent (from 19.2 percent).

Indicator 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems

The Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) reached 291,290 households in 2024, covering approximately 1.2 million household members. Total disbursements exceeded MK41 billion, with e-payment systems operational in 16 districts. Women constituted 55.4 percent of beneficiaries. The Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works Programme (CSEPWP) reached 525,451 participants in 2024, while the School Feeding Programme covered 2,401,437 learners across 2,363 schools.

In 2025, the social cash transfer programme reached 347,904 households, rising by 16.2% from 2024, with e-payment systems operational in all the 28 districts.

Indicator 1.5.1: Disaster-Related Impacts

Data reveals a sharp increase in the number of people affected by disasters, from 701,319 in 2017 to 2.29 million in 2024 and deaths rising from 300 (2017) to 700 (2024). This trend highlights growing vulnerabilities to climate shocks, emphasizing the need for stronger disaster preparedness and social safety nets to protect at-risk populations.

Indicator 1.5.2: Economic Losses from Disasters

Losses due to disasters escalated from USD 335 million in 2017 to USD 506.7 million in 2023/24, driven by recurring floods, droughts, and cyclones, specifically cyclone Freddy. This underscores the urgent need for stronger disaster risk reduction strategies and climate resilience infrastructure.

Indicator 1.a.1: Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes

The amount of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes declined sharply from 44% in 2015 to 33% in 2018. Since then, the Government has increased the allocation to 35% in the 2023/24 FY.

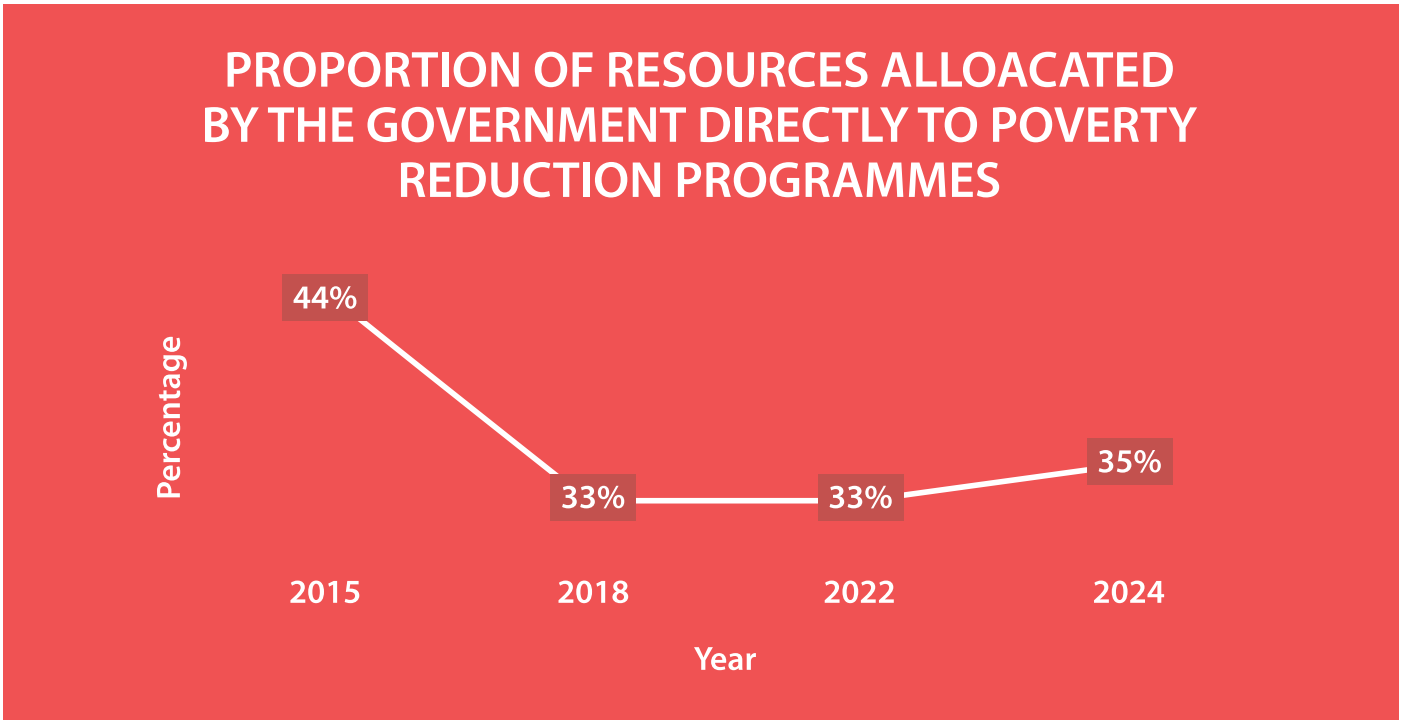
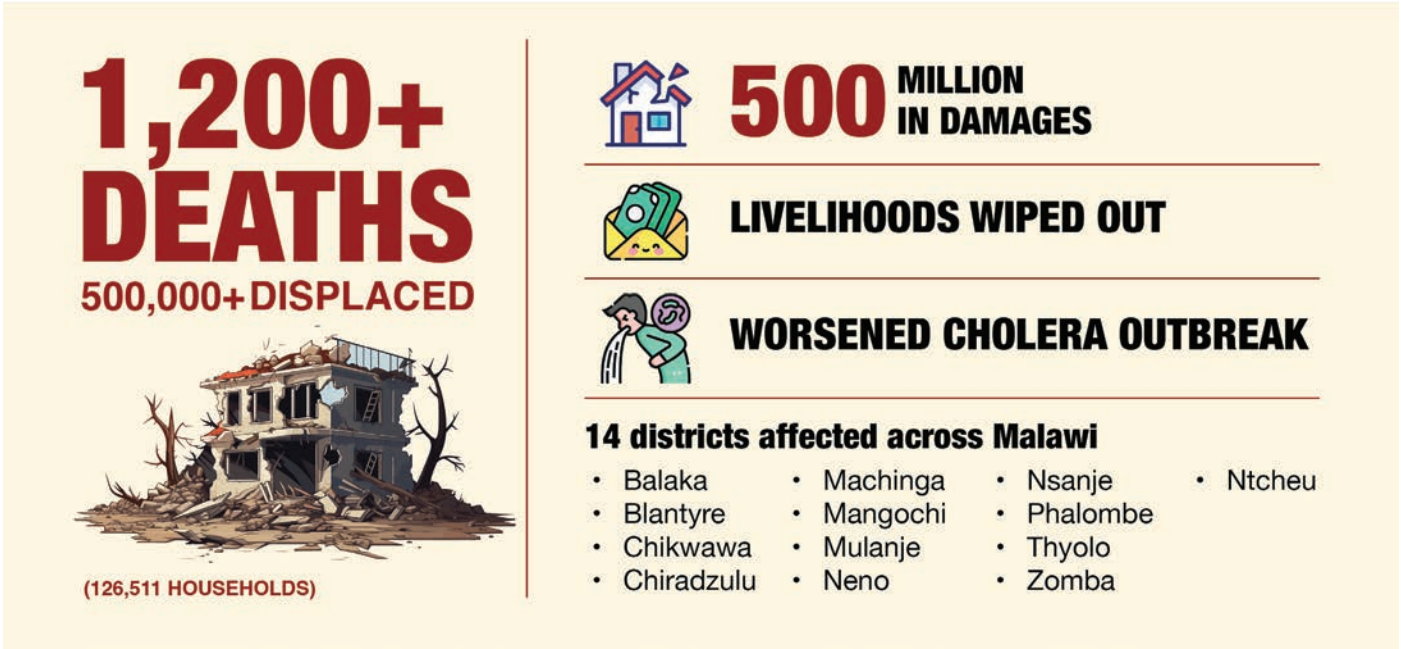


Figure 4: Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes

Case Study: 2023 CYCLONE FREDDY

CYCLONE FREDDY'S IMPACT ON MALAWI, MARCH 2023



Cyclone Freddy in 2023 demonstrated the devastating intersection of climate change and poverty in Malawi. Declared a state of disaster across 14 districts—including Blantyre, Phalombe, Nsanje, Mulanje, Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Zomba, Chikwawa, and Machinga—the cyclone left over 1,200 people dead and displaced more than half a million, affecting 126,511 households. Livelihoods were destroyed as farmland, livestock, and fishing assets were wiped out, while critical infrastructure such as roads, schools, and health facilities suffered extensive damage. The disaster compounded Malawi's ongoing cholera outbreak, further deepening vulnerability among poor communities. The government's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment estimated damages and losses exceeding USD 500 million, underscoring the urgency of integrating climate resilience into poverty eradication strategies under SDG 1.



Overview for SDG 2

ZERO HUNGER

This goal aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. It addresses issues such as undernourishment, child stunting and wasting, and sustainable food systems. SDG 2 is monitored through 8 targets and 14 indicators covering the prevalence of undernourishment, food insecurity, stunting, wasting, agricultural productivity, and the sustainability of food production. For Malawi, the goal has seen moderate improvements in nutrition outcomes, yet food insecurity remains widespread and agricultural productivity is highly vulnerable to climate shocks.

The prevalence of stunting among children under five stood at 35.5 percent in 2023, a modest improvement from 37 percent in 2016 but still above the 2030 target of 25 percent. Wasting affected 2.6 percent of children under five, and underweight prevalence was 12.8 percent. Despite these improvements, food insecurity remains pervasive: the Tropical Cyclone Freddy Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (2023) reported that 3.8 million people faced acute food insecurity at the peak of the 2023/24 lean season, with food prices in affected areas rising by up to 400 percent.

During the 2023/24 agricultural season, 94.6 percent of households cultivated maize, producing an estimated 2.66 million metric tons—a decline from previous seasons due to El Niño-induced dry spells and Cyclone Freddy, which affected over 54,000 hectares of crops and resulted in total crop losses estimated at USD 55.3. The Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP) reached 26.2 percent of agricultural households, providing subsidised fertiliser and seeds, yet usage of improved seed varieties remains uneven, with 52.6 percent of maize growers using modern varieties. Livestock populations have grown, with cattle at 894,670, goats at 3.46 million, and poultry at 20.2 million, yet access to veterinary services remains low. The fisheries sector, which supplies over 70 percent of dietary animal protein, recorded total fish catches of 186,732 metric tonnes in 2022, though per capita fish consumption declined to 8.5 kg in 2024, well below the WHO recommended level. Strengthening agricultural resilience, expanding irrigation (currently only 2.2 percent of cultivated land is irrigated), and scaling up nutrition-sensitive interventions remain critical to achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 2

Indicator 2.1.1: Prevalence of Undernourishment

Undernourishment, a condition where people do not consume enough food to meet the minimum dietary energy (calorie) requirements needed for good health and normal activity, increased from 15.5% in 2015 to 19.9% in 2022. This was primarily due to climate shocks including frequent droughts, floods, and cyclones which disrupted crop yields and food availability, poverty, weak agricultural productivity with heavy reliance on rainfall and limited irrigation, and limited access to diverse diets. The 2026 smart survey conducted, however, presents a sharp decline of prevalence of undernourishment from 19.9% to 3.6%.

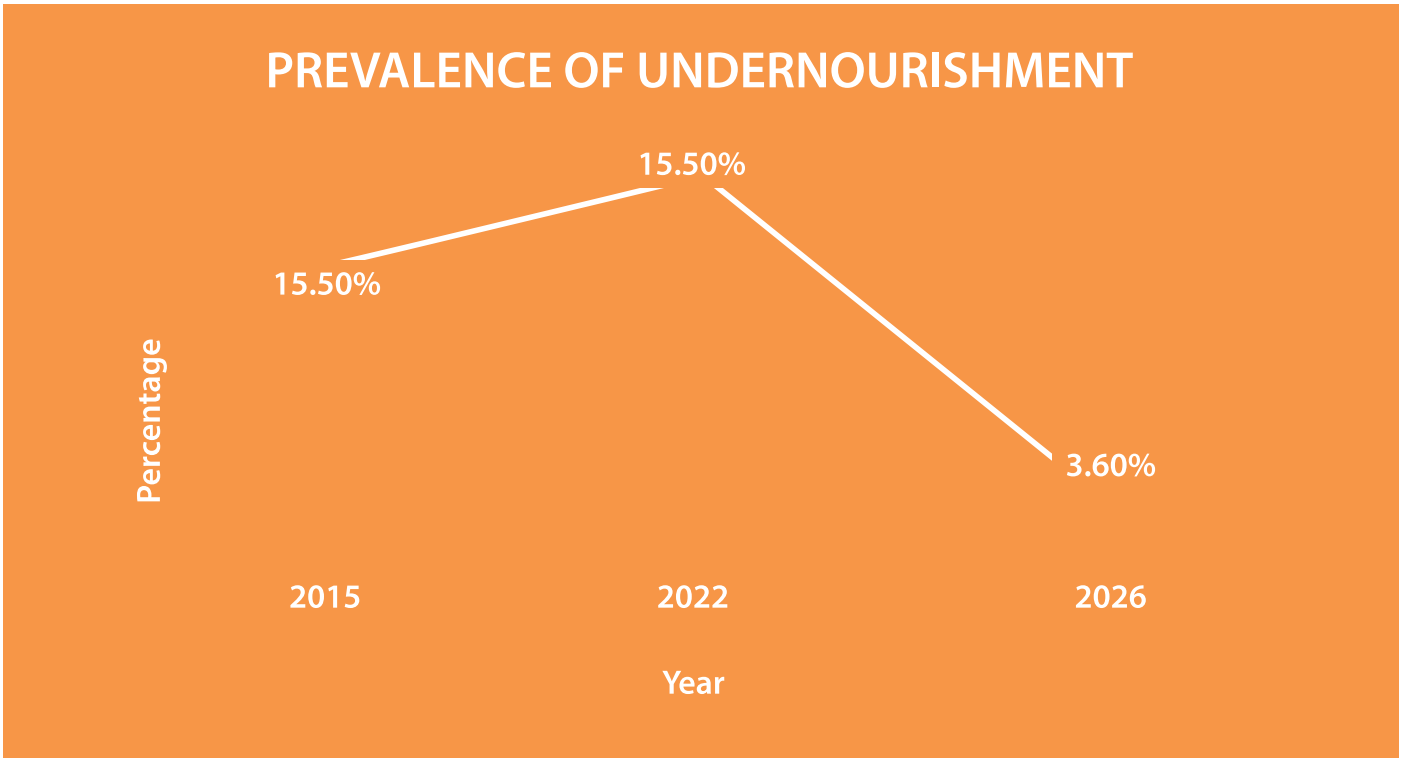


Figure 5: Prevalence of Undernourishment

Indicator 2.1.2: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

Food insecurity levels in Malawi have steadily increased over the past years, peaking at 28% in 2024/25 FY. Climatic shocks such as the El Nino and cyclones have led to reduction in production of key crops such as maize and rice in the country.

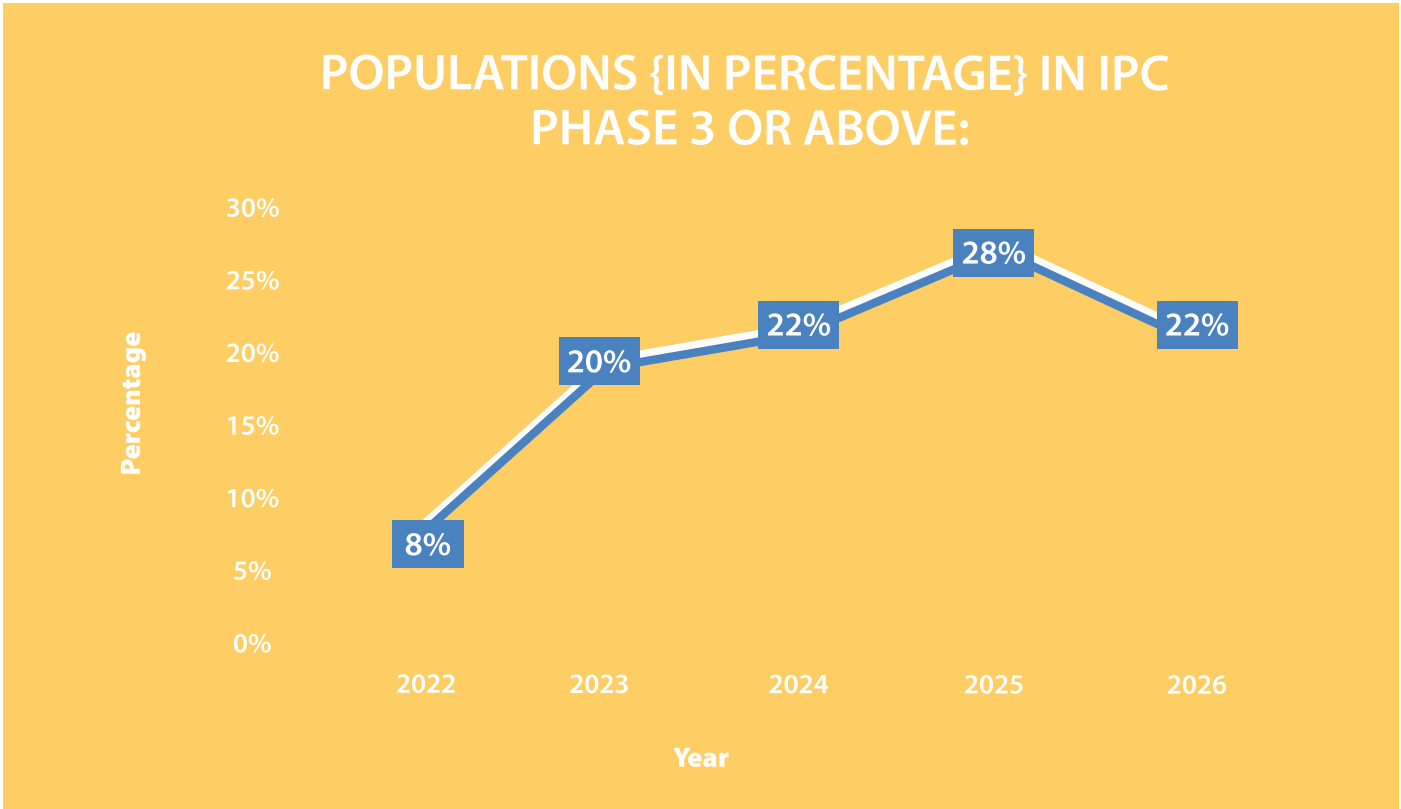


Figure 6: Populations (in percentage) in IPC Phase 3 or above

Indicator 2.2.2: Prevalence of Malnutrition Among Children Under 5 Years

2024 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey data indicates that 38% of children under age 5 are stunted (too short for their age), 2% are wasted (too thin for their height), 10% are underweight (too thin for their age), and 6% are overweight or obese (heavy for their height). 2015 MDHS data indicates that 37% percent of children under age 5 were stunted (short for their age); 3% were wasted (thin for their height); 12% were underweight (thin for their age) and 5% were overweight (heavy for their height). This stable but mixed trend underscores the need for balanced interventions addressing both undernutrition and overnutrition in early childhood.

Indicator 2.3.1: Volume of production per labour unit

Maize production from the household sector in the 2023/24 agricultural season was estimated at 2.66 million metric tons, with an average yield of 1,527 kg/ha. Rice production was 94,719 metric tons, cassava 92,500 metric tons, and sweet potato 138,169 metric tons. Livestock numbers include 894,670 cattle, 3.46 million goats, and 20.2 million poultry. Fisheries production in 2022 was 186,732 metric tons, of which 173,159 metric tons came from Lake Malawi artisanal fisheries.

Indicator 2.4.1: Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

Only 2.2 percent of cultivated land (69,469 hectares) was under irrigation in 2023/24. Use of inorganic fertilizers was reported by 69.0 percent of agricultural households, while 52.2 percent applied organic fertilizers. Improved seed varieties were used by 52.6 percent of maize growers.



Overview for SDG 3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

This goal aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. It focuses on reducing mortality, strengthening health systems, addressing infectious and non-communicable diseases, and improving access to health services. SDG 3 is monitored through 13 targets and 28 indicators covering maternal and child mortality, infectious disease prevalence, universal health coverage, and health system capacity. For Malawi, notable progress has been made in reducing child mortality, expanding HIV treatment coverage, and improving vaccination coverage, yet significant challenges remain in maternal health, malaria control, and health system financing.

The 2024 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey data indicates that fertility has declined steadily, with the total fertility rate reaching 3.7 children per woman in 2024. Family planning uptake is widespread: 68 percent of married women use a contraceptive method, with modern methods accounting for 66 percent, while unmet need for family planning has fallen to 13 percent. Child survival has improved substantially: under-five mortality now stands at 48 deaths per 1,000 live births, infant mortality at 35 per 1,000, and neonatal mortality at 24 per 1,000—all representing continued progress over the past three decades. Maternal mortality, however, remains elevated at 224 deaths per 100,000 live births as of 2024, despite nearly all births being assisted by a skilled provider and occurring in a health facility, a proportion that reached 96 percent in the same year.

Sector administrative data further indicates that malaria prevention and treatment remain central to public health efforts. In 2024, 59 percent of households owned at least one insecticide-treated net, and 53 percent of children under five slept under a net. Among pregnant women, 62 percent received three or more doses of intermittent preventive treatment during their most recent pregnancy. Fever affected 36 percent of children under five, with 63 percent of caregivers seeking care and 68 percent of children with fever undergoing diagnostic testing. HIV/AIDS programming achieved the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets by 2023: 95 percent of people living with HIV are aware of their status, 95 percent of those diagnosed are on antiretroviral therapy, and 95 percent of those on treatment are virally suppressed. Testing coverage remains high, with 87 percent of women and 71 percent of men aged 15-49 having ever been tested for HIV and received their results as of 2024.

Immunisation coverage is robust: among children aged 12-23 months, 97 percent received the BCG vaccine, 85 percent completed three doses of DPT-containing vaccine, and 88 percent received a measles-containing vaccine. However, only 47 percent of children in this age group were fully vaccinated according to the full national schedule, indicating gaps in timely completion of all recommended doses.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 3

Indicator 3.1.1: Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

The MMR decreased from 439 per 100,000 live births in 2016 to 224 in 2024 according to data from the 2024 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) report. This progress is attributed to expanded access to maternal care and skilled health personnel. However, further reduction will require addressing disparities in rural service delivery in order to achieve the universal target of 70.

Indicator 3.1.2: Skilled Birth Attendance

The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel rose from 89% in 2016 to 96% in 2024 according to data from the 2024 MDHS report. This places Malawi near the universal target, driven by investments in midwifery training and infrastructure to improve access as well as continued sensitization and awareness.

Indicator 3.2.1: Under-5 Mortality Rate

Under-five mortality declined from 63 per 1,000 live births in 2016 to 48 in 2024 according to data from the 2024 MDHS report. Key drivers include improved immunization, malaria control, and neonatal care. Sustained progress will depend on closing regional disparities.

Indicator 3.2.2: Neonatal Mortality Rate

Neonatal deaths have decreased from 27 (2016) to 24 (2024) per 1,000 live births, moving closer to the 2030 target of 12 according to data from the 2024 MDHS report. This progress stems from improved maternal healthcare, but further reductions require expanded neonatal intensive care and skilled birth attendance in rural areas.

Indicator 3.3.2 and 3.3.3: Tuberculosis and malaria incidence

Prevalence of malaria among women aged 15-49 was at 12 percent in 2024. Whereas for children, the prevalence was at 23 percent. Household ownership of insecticide-treated nets was 59 percent in 2024, and 53 percent of children under five slept under a net. Intermittent preventive treatment (IPTp) coverage among pregnant women for three or more doses was 62 percent (MDHS, 2024).

Indicator 3.7.1: Modern Contraceptive Prevalence

Use of modern contraceptives among women of reproductive age increased from 62% in 2020 to 66% in 2024 according to the 2024 MDHS report. While expanded community-based distribution programs, integration of family planning into maternal and child health services as well as expanded availability of long-acting reversible contraceptives (implants, injectables) have contributed to this rise, continued emphasis on adolescent access and education remains critical.

Indicator 3.b.1: Vaccination coverage

Among children aged 12-23 months, 97 percent received the BCG vaccine, 85 percent completed three doses of DPT-containing vaccine, and 88 percent received a measles-containing vaccine. However, only 47 percent of children in this age group are fully vaccinated according to the full national schedule.



Overview for SDG 4

QUALITY EDUCATION

This goal promotes inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, addressing early childhood development, literacy, vocational skills, and equity in access. SDG 4 is monitored through 10 targets and 12 indicators covering participation rates, completion rates, gender parity, teacher qualifications, and literacy.

For Malawi, progress remains uneven across levels, with near-universal primary enrolment offset by low completion rates and persistent disparities at secondary and tertiary levels.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 4

Indicator 4.1.2: Primary and Secondary Completion Rates

Indicator 4.1.2 tracks completion rates for primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary education, with disaggregation for males and females. Primary education completion rates for boys declined from 52.1% (2019) to 46% (2023), while the girls' rates remained stable at 50.5% (2019) and 50% (2023). In lower secondary education, boys' rates dropped slightly from 24% (2018) to 22.5% (2023), whereas girls' rates decreased marginally from 22% (2018) to 21.6% (2023). The data reveals challenges in retaining students, particularly at the lower secondary level, with gender disparities persisting.

Indicator 4.3.1: Participation of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education

Sector administrative data indicates that technical and vocational education enrolment reached 11,034 students in 2024, with 40 percent female participation. Apprenticeships on government scholarships increased from 2,575 in 2023 to 7,256 in 2024. Adult literacy education enrolled 158,048 learners in 2022, of whom 138,300 were female.

Indicator 4.5.1: Gender parity index

As of 2023, gender parity in primary education is 1.04 in favour of girls, while in secondary education the index remained at 0.99. At tertiary level, gender parity in public universities is 0.67. This is according to sector administrative data.

Indicator 4.6.1: Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

The indicator 4.6.1 measures the percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, disaggregated by sex. Data from the 2025 IHS-6 indicates that the percentage of males achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional literacy increased from 71.6% (2018) to 84.2% (2025), while for female it rose from 65.9% (2018) to 74.9% (2025). Although both genders show progress, males outperform females, and the 2030 targets aim to reduce this disparity. The 2024 evaluation of Malawi's National Numeracy Programme shows baseline proficiency (Grades 2–4) of only 20–30% of learners demonstrating minimum numeracy skills (basic addition, subtraction, problem-solving).

Indicator 4.c.1: Proportion of trained teachers in primary and secondary schools

Sector administrative data shows that primary schools have a higher proportion of trained teachers than secondary schools in Malawi. Over the years, there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of trained teachers in secondary schools, rising from 57% in 2018 to 82% in 2025.

The pupil-qualified teacher ratio in primary education remains a challenge. In 2022 it was 62:1. In secondary education, the ratio for Mathematics exceeded 200:1, while for Physical Science it stood at 860:1

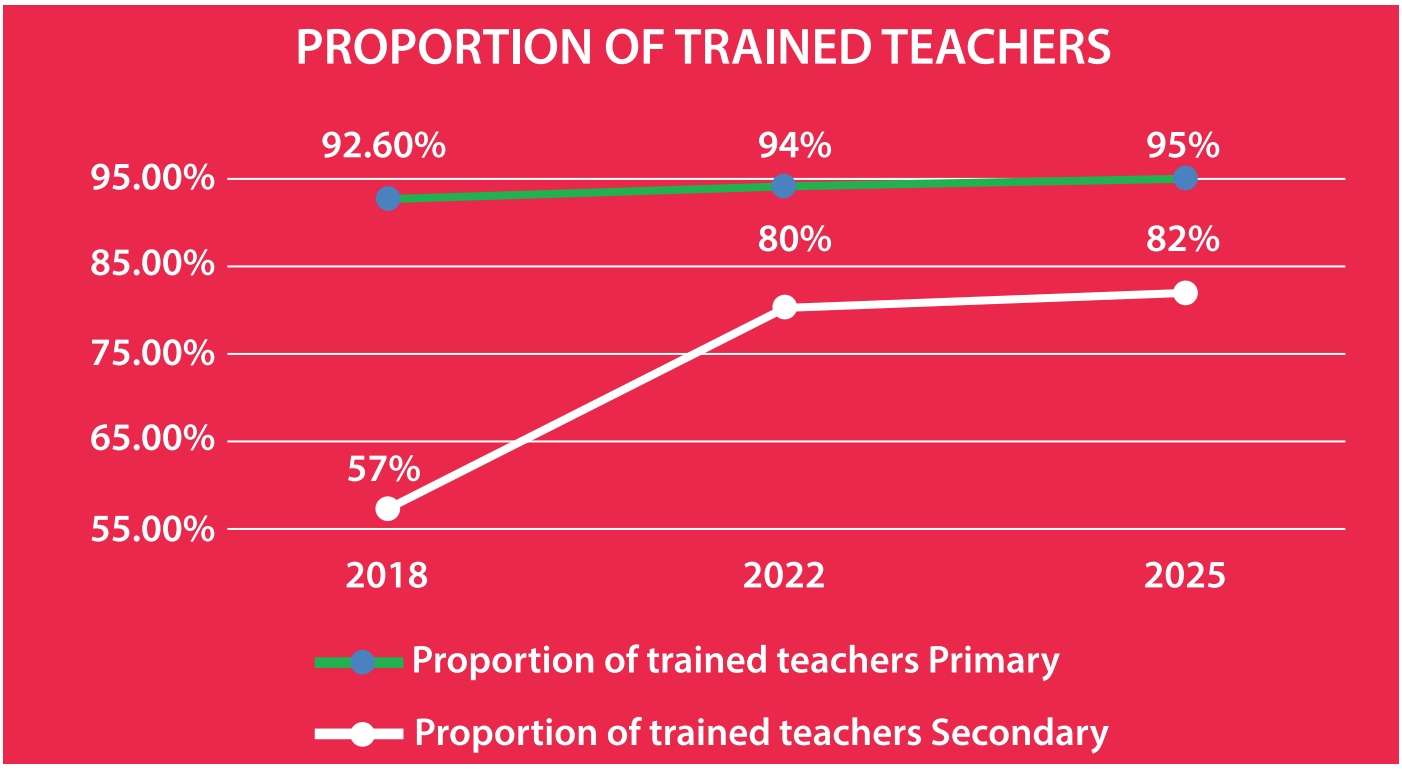
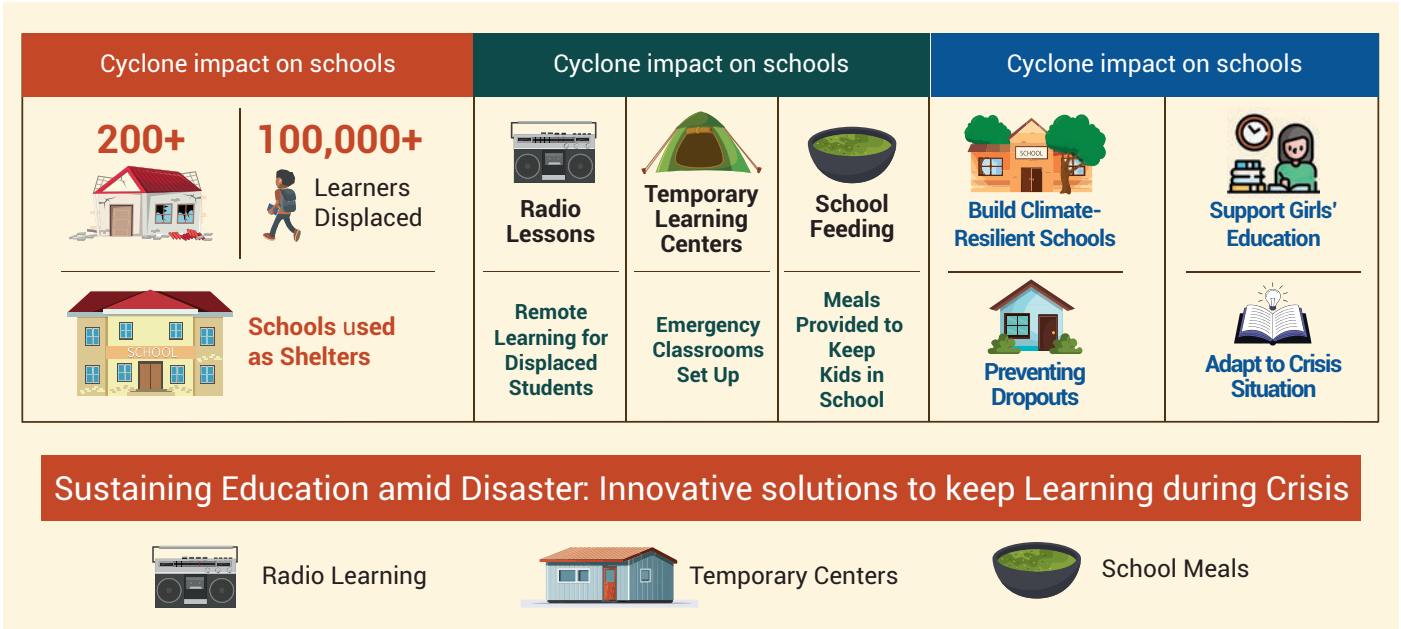


Figure 7: Proportion of Trained Teachers

Case Study:

EDUCATION IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE SHOCKS – CYCLONE FREDDY'S IMPACT ON LEARNING



In March 2023, Cyclone Freddy struck Malawi with devastating force, destroying homes, displacing thousands of families, and severely disrupting education systems across affected districts.

Hundreds of classrooms were damaged or rendered unusable, while many schools were converted into temporary shelters for displaced communities. As a result, thousands of learners—particularly in Phalombe, Mulanje, and Chikwawa—experienced prolonged interruptions to their schooling.

Despite these challenges, communities, government, and partners mobilized innovative responses to sustain learning. The Ministry of Education, supported by UNICEF and NGOs, introduced radio-based learning programs to reach displaced learners, ensuring continuity of basic literacy and numeracy. Temporary learning spaces were established in tents and community halls, while school feeding programs helped stabilize attendance by addressing food insecurity among affected children.

Policy Brief

Strengthening Malawi's Education Sector

Context

Malawi's education system continues to face overcrowded classrooms, high dropout rates, shortages of teachers and learning materials, and regional disparities. Climate shocks such as Cyclone Freddy have further disrupted learning, especially in vulnerable districts. However, significant strides are being made to reform the entire sector, bridge the infrastructure, equipment and capacity gaps as well as address climate related impacts, especially focusing on primary and secondary level education

Key Initiatives & Projects

1. Malawi Education Reform Programme (MERP)

- Construction of classrooms, sanitation blocks, and female teachers' houses in the Central Eastern Education Division.
- Objective: Reduce overcrowding, improve sanitation, and support female teacher retention.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Education with World Bank support.

2. UNICEF-Supported Early Childhood Development (ECD)

- Expanding access to early childhood education and caregiver training.
- Targeted resilience programs in cyclone-affected districts.
- Addresses declining ECD enrolment (from 2.02% in 2018 to 0.84% in 2024).

3. Education Budget Reforms (2025/26)

- Education receives the largest share of the national budget (16.6%).
- Increased investment in tertiary education, with advocacy to rebalance toward basic education and ECD.

4. ICT Integration & Digital Learning

- Pilot projects introducing tablets and e-learning platforms in selected schools.
- Goal: Improve access to quality learning materials and reduce reliance on physical textbooks.

5. Emerging Impact

- Infrastructure expansion is reducing pupil-teacher ratios in targeted districts.
- ECD interventions are improving school readiness despite climate disruptions.
- Gender-responsive facilities are enhancing retention and equity.
- Digital pilots are laying the foundation for modernized learning environments.

6. Forward Commitments

Malawi will:

- Scale up ICT integration for digital learning.
- Expand gender-responsive interventions to reduce dropout rates among girls.
- Strengthen resilience in disaster-prone districts through climate-adaptive school infrastructure.
- Continue investing in teacher quality and classroom expansion to meet SDG 4 targets.



Overview for SDG 5

GENDER EQUALITY

This goal aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, addressing discrimination, violence, unpaid care work, unequal participation in leadership, and access to economic resources and technology. SDG 5 is monitored through 9 targets and 11 indicators covering legal frameworks, violence against women, harmful practices, women's representation, and access to economic resources. For Malawi, progress has been made in political representation and legal protections, yet significant gaps remain in economic empowerment and gender-based violence.

Women's representation in decision-making has improved, with 25 percent of cabinet positions held by women and 26 percent of parliamentary seats in 2026. However, gender-based violence remains pervasive: 56.7 percent of adults reported experiencing physical human rights violations in the preceding two years, with only 29.4 percent reporting to authorities. Child marriage affects 38 percent of women aged 20-24, well above the national target. Economic empowerment efforts include over 61,880 Village Savings and Loans Groups, reaching 896,800 women, yet women remain concentrated in informal employment and subsistence farming. Legal frameworks have been strengthened with the Disability Act (2023) and Older Persons Act (2024), but enforcement remains weak. Sustained investment in women's economic empowerment and violence prevention remains critical.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 5

Indicator 5.1.1: Legal frameworks for gender equality

The Disability Act was enacted in 2023, the Older Persons Act in 2024, and the National Gender Policy is under review. The Public Service Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy and Guidelines were developed, and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network was established. The Political Empowerment of Women Strategy (2024-2030) was launched to enhance women's participation in political decision-making.

Indicator 5.2.1: Violence against women

In Malawi, 56.7 percent of adults reported experiencing physical human rights violations in the preceding two years, 28.5 percent verbal abuse, 22.4 percent psychological abuse, and 18.2 percent sexual abuse. Only 29.4 percent of those who experienced violations reported them to authorities, with police (51.5 percent) and community leaders (46.6 percent) being the most common reporting institutions.

Indicator 5.3.1: Child marriage

The proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married before age 18 stands at 38 percent as of 2023, down from 47 percent in 2016. The National Strategy on Ending Child Marriages aims to reduce prevalence to 20 percent by 2030. In 2022, the Government nullified 1,802 child marriages and provided educational and psychosocial support to 635 children from these unions.

Indicator 5.5.1 Proportion of Seats Held by Women in national parliaments and local governments

Women's representation in national and local Governments has seen a major leap forward—from just 16.7% in 2016 to 40% in 2024, which is also the universal 2030 target. However, this number dropped to 26% of seats in national parliament following the 2025 tripartite elections. This is still higher than the baseline value of 16.7%. Increased visibility and mentorship programs for female leaders have further

helped normalize women's political participation.

The graph below shows the trend in the proportion of seats held by women in local government.

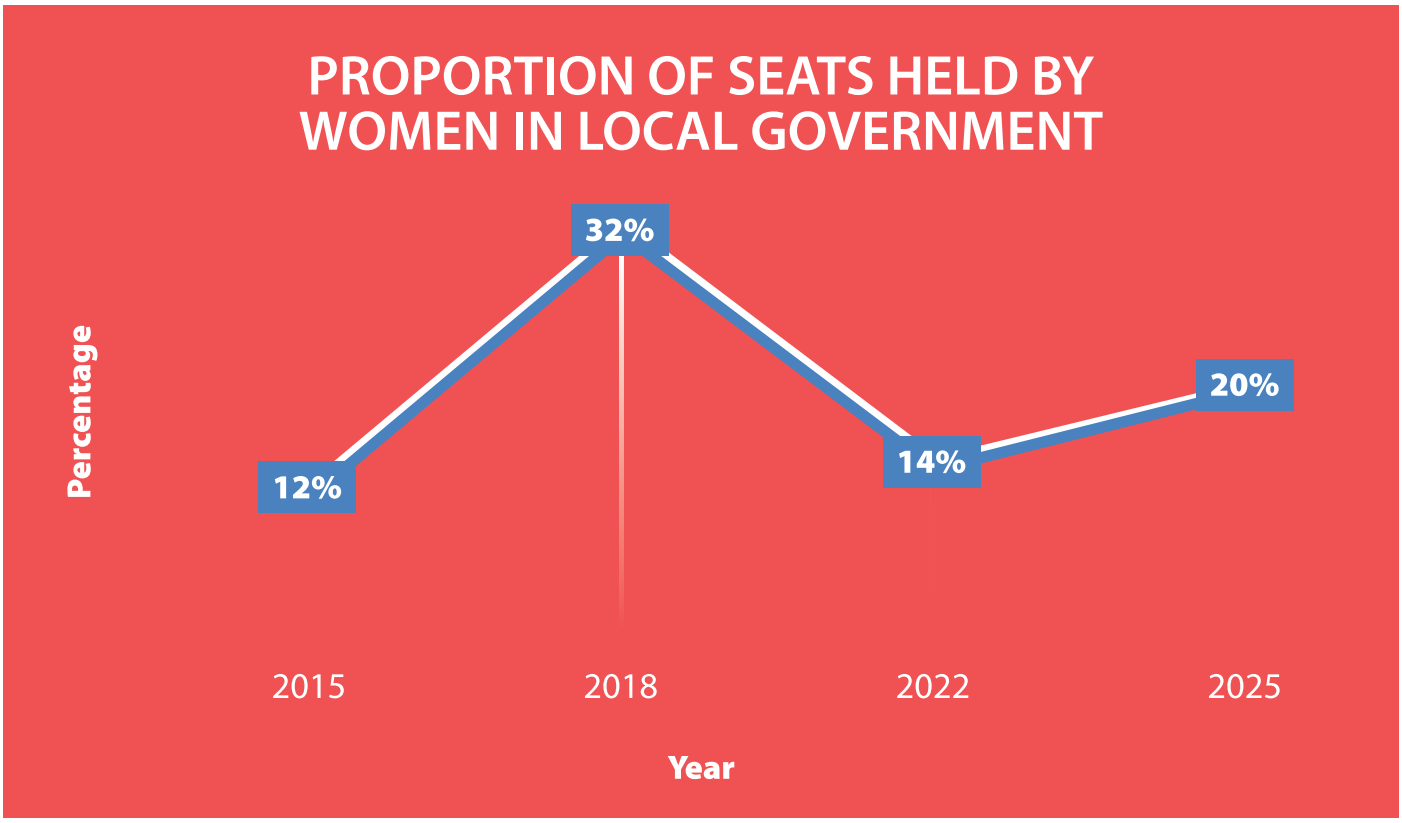


Figure 8: Proportion of seats held by women in local government

Indicator 5.6.1: Reproductive health decision-making

In Malawi, 42% percent of currently married women age 15–49 make their own informed decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care

Indicator 5.5.1b Proportion representation in public senior management

Administrative data further indicates that the proportion of women representation in public senior management grew modestly from 24% in 2015 to 27% in 2024.

Indicator 5.b.1 Mobile Phone Ownership

Data from the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) indicates that mobile phone ownership has grown from 34% in 2016 to 57% in 2024 demonstrating moderate progress. This expansion has been driven by telecom liberalization and improved mobile infrastructure, especially in urban centres. However, challenges such as the affordability of devices, digital literacy, and rural connectivity remain. Bridging the digital divide will require targeted subsidies and community access programs.


MEMORY OF THE LATE
AH NABIRE

In-Depth Review of SDG 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Goal 6 aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Clean water and adequate sanitation identified as critical determinants of health by the Grossman's model, are fundamental to public health, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development.

This goal comprises targets and indicators covering safe drinking water, equitable sanitation, water quality, water-use efficiency, transboundary water cooperation, and protection of water-related ecosystems. While data is available for some key indicators in Malawi, significant gaps remain, particularly in relation to indicators such as 6.4.2 (water stress levels), 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 (integrated water resources management and cooperation on transboundary waters), 6.6.1 (ecosystem health of water bodies), and 6.b.1 (local participation in water and sanitation management).

Despite these data limitations, Malawi has made notable advances on key indicators including the proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services and the proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities. Qualitative data indicates that improvements in access to safe drinking water in rural areas have had impacts extending beyond improved health outcomes which contribute positively to SDG 2. Surveys conducted across the country have revealed that improved access to safe drinking water has reduced gender-based violence and marriage instabilities including divorces. In addition to this, reduced time dedicated towards fetching water has afforded women opportunities to pursue other income generating activities, enhancing their independence and empowerment.

Overview of Interventions

Communities, through partnerships with Government and non-governmental agencies including Malawi Red Cross Society, Innovation Africa, religious organisations (especially in Muslim dominated districts like Salima) and other development partners, are implementing projects aimed at improving access to clean water and sanitation. Interventions observed across the country include:

- Solar-powered and reticulated water supply projects
- Drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes (manual and solar-powered)
- Installation of high-yield and mechanised water systems
- Construction of piped water supply schemes including stand pipes and water kiosks (e.g., Makhetha in Blantyre)
- Construction of dams
- Provision and installation of chlorine dispensers at communal water points
- Hygiene promotion and community-led total sanitation (CLTS) activities
- Sanitation and hygiene awareness campaigns
- Promotion of pit latrine construction
- Enforcement of household pit latrine construction by local leadership
- Establishment and training of Water Point Committees, Water Users Associations, and sanitation committees

Impacts

Indicator 6.1.1 Drinking Water Services

MDHS data indicates that access to improved drinking water sources increased slightly, from 87% in 2015 to 89% in 2024, and 73% have access to at least basic water sources. Given the already high rate of access, the increment, despite being small, still remains commendable, and demonstrates Government commitments towards improving health outcomes of citizens. This increment comes from continued infrastructure expansion, improved sector regulation, and greater alignment between water management strategies and local needs.

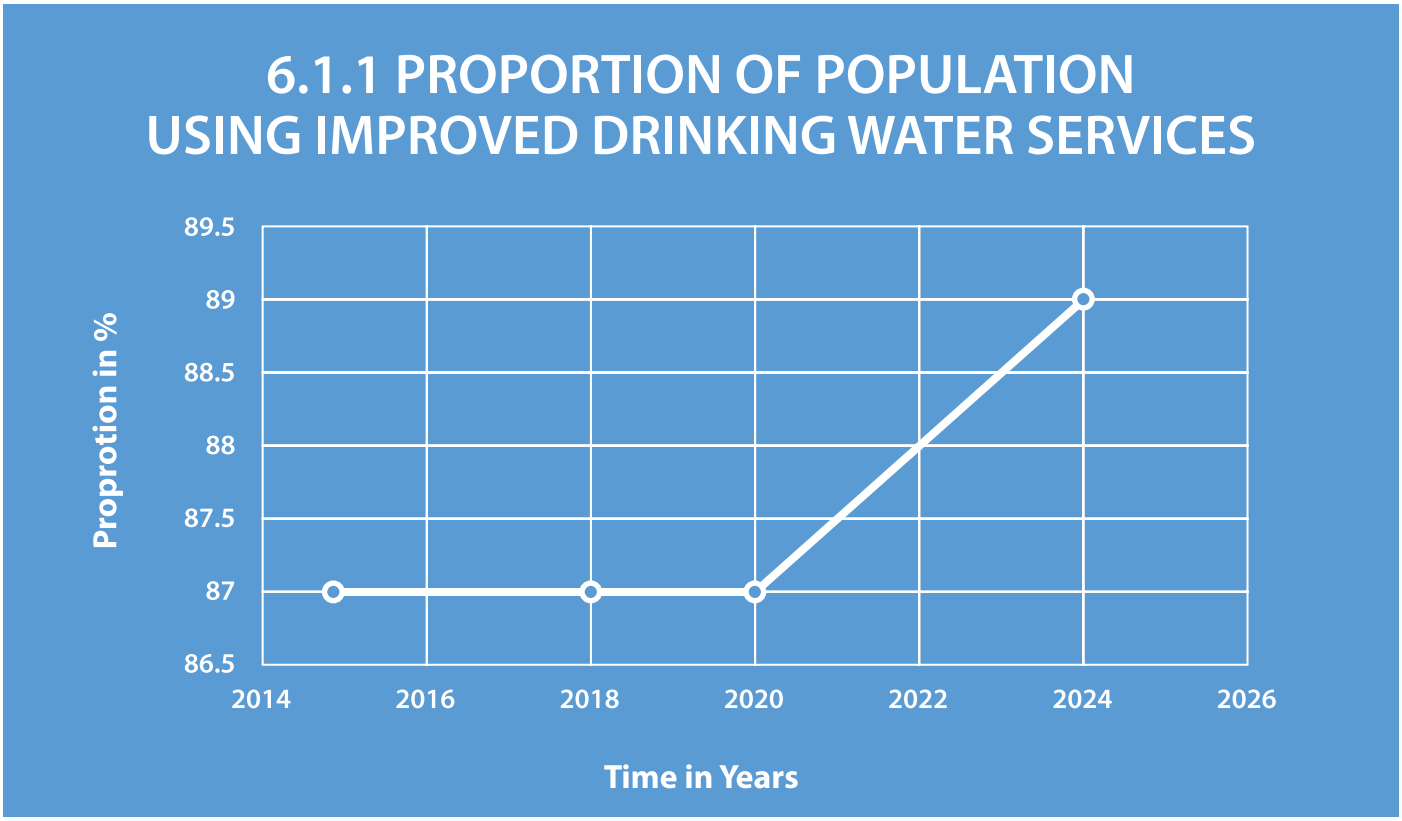


Figure 9: Access to Improved Water Sources

Indicator 6.2.2 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services

The proportion of the population using basic sanitation services is at 40%. This improvement is largely driven by community-led total sanitation (CLTS) programs, hygiene awareness campaigns and enhanced sanitation infrastructure in both rural and urban settings. Strong coordination across the WASH sector with participation from Government, development partners as well as civil society organizations has also played a central role.

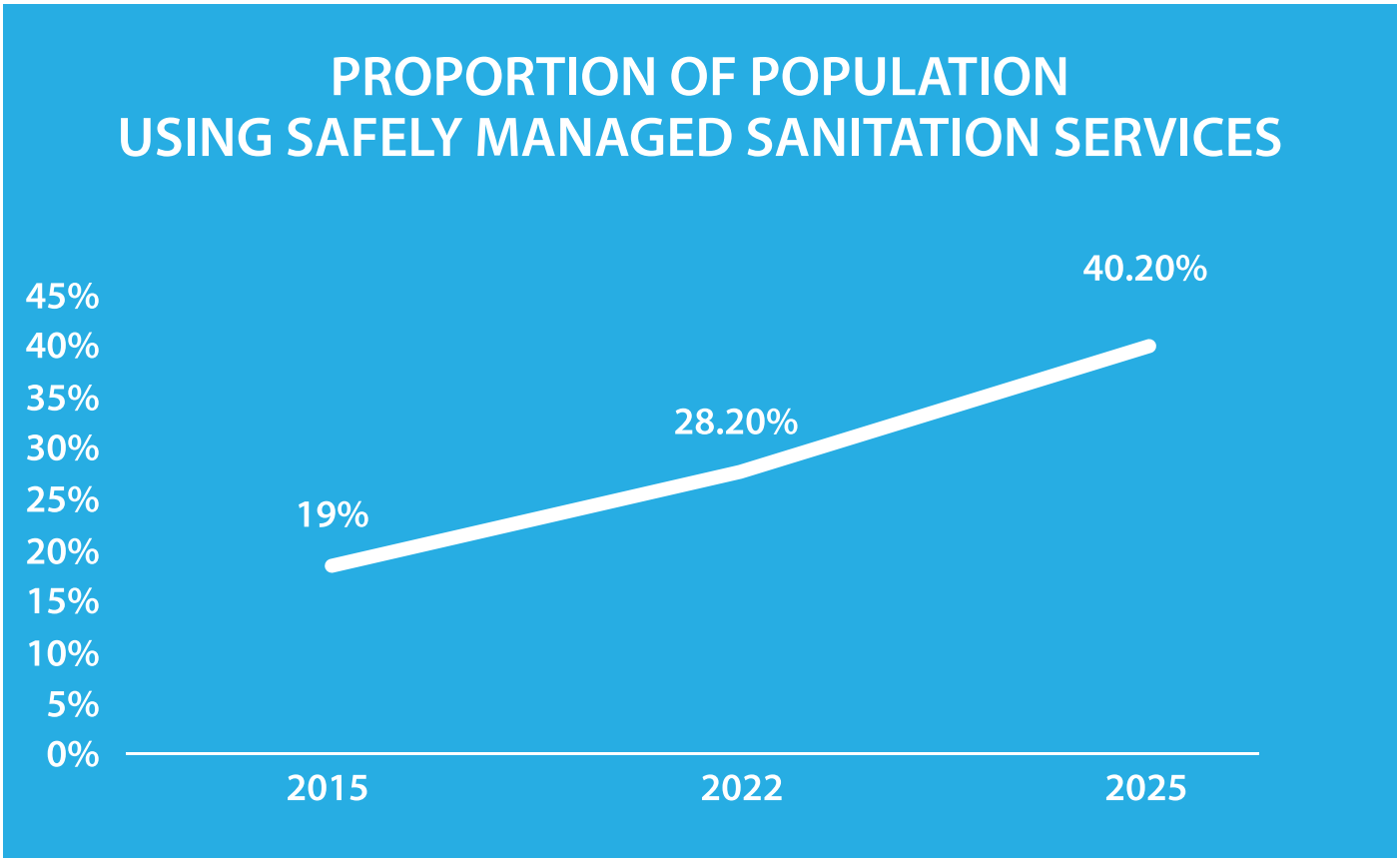


Figure 10: population using safely managed sanitation services

Community Perspectives

A qualitative survey conducted across the country in 2025 as part of the VNR development, revealed that on a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, access to clean water was rated as Average for the period 2022–2025 across most areas. In some locations (e.g., Zomba), access improved from Very Poor (2022–2023) to Average (2024–2025) due to mechanised water systems and chlorine distribution. Although improvements were noted in project-supported areas, some communities continue to rely on unsafe sources such as rivers, shallow wells, and unprotected boreholes. Vandalism, dry season shortages, weak maintenance systems, and disaster vulnerability remain unresolved.

Similarly, on a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene was rated as Average from 2022 to 2025. While the needs of women, girls, and vulnerable groups are recognized in planning in some areas, some facilities remain inadequate and infrastructure design does not consistently account for these groups. It has been found that open defecation persists in some areas.

Clean water supply projects have significantly improved access to clean water and sanitation, and in the process resulted in reduced observed water-related diseases and deaths in communities across the country. Chlorine distribution and sanitation campaigns have further been observed as significantly contributing to reduced waterborne diseases such as Cholera.

There is a general community observation and agreement of reduced gender-related abuse cases as well

as reduced marital disputes as a result of improved access to water. The prolonged absence of women in households due to time spent accessing water threatened the stability of marriages and subjected women to different sorts of abuse.

Case Study:

Matete Solar Reticulated Water Supply System

Location: *Nkhatabay District, TA Timbire, GVH Maleba*

Implementing Institution: *Government of Malawi through the Public Sector Investment Programme*

Project Overview

The Matete Solar Reticulated Water Supply System was designed to provide portable and affordable water to four villages—Munguwo, Chapema, Mbali, and Matete—addressing long-standing reliance on unsafe sources like shallow wells and rivers.

A solar reticulated water supply system works by using solar panels to generate electricity that powers pumps, which lift water from a borehole or other underground source into elevated storage tanks. From these tanks, the water flows through a network of pipes—called the reticulation system—that distributes it to multiple tap stands across villages. This setup ensures steady water pressure, reduces the need for long walks to unsafe sources like rivers or shallow wells, and provides households with clean, affordable water. Because it relies on solar energy, the system is cost-effective and sustainable, while community committees often manage daily operations and maintenance, making it locally owned and resilient.

Transformative Impact

- *Reduced waiting time: Women no longer wake at 1:00 AM to queue for water; families now spend more time together.*
- *Health improvements: Cases of diarrhea and cholera have significantly declined.*
- *Agricultural support: Easier access to water for livestock and crop production.*
- *Community reach: 274 households now benefit from nine reticulated water points.*
- *Inclusion & Participation*
- *Community-led management: Local committees oversee water point operations, with representation from youth, women, and vulnerable groups.*
- *Empowerment: Despite lack of formal training, committees manage daily operations and mobilize resources.*

Sustainability & Local Ownership

- *Households contribute K20,000/month to fund maintenance, pay guards, and purchase spare parts.*
- *Strong community interest and coordination signal long-term sustainability.*

Challenges & Opportunities

- *Solar strain: Limited panel capacity leads to overuse; lobbying for expansion is underway.*
- *Population pressure: High demand forces some to use alternative sources for non-drinking needs.*
- *Opportunity: Community ownership and financial contributions offer a scalable model for replication.*

Community Voice

> *Mabanja athu pano akhazikika, tikumakhala ndi nthawi yaitali mmabanja mwathu…*
>
> *Our families are now stable, we spend more time together than before when we woke at 1 AM for water and returned to find our husbands gone to look for money.*



In-depth Review of SDG 7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

This Goal aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It recognises that energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity, including poverty reduction, food security, health, education, and climate action.

SDG 7 is monitored through indicators and targets covering areas such as access to electricity, access to clean cooking technologies and fuels, renewable energy share, and energy efficiency.

Malawi's progress under SDG 7 is mainly reflected through a combination of government-led electrification efforts, private sector and NGO interventions in off-grid solar, and community-based clean cooking initiatives. Access to electricity has improved through projects such as the Malawi Rural Electrification Programme (MAREP), though grid connectivity remains limited in rural areas. Solar energy is gaining momentum across all regions, with a diverse range of interventions expanding energy access. Selected specific examples include:

1. Solar Energy Solutions:

Solar lighting systems (bulbs, torches, home systems) have been widely adopted, with communities reporting that such lighting enables children to study at night and enhances household security. Solar-powered water pumping systems and irrigation pumps are increasingly used to support agriculture and community water supply. Solar panels are provided through NGOs and private sector actors such as JSM Power, alongside simple solar systems installed by households or offered through monthly subscription models. Institutions, health facilities, and youth centres are increasingly powered by solar systems, supported by Ministry of Energy initiatives targeting schools and health facilities. A pilot solar-powered hydrogen cooking system is also being tested at Mwanza District Hospital.

2. Clean Cooking and Biomass Innovations:

Distribution of improved cookstoves, such as the Chitetezo Mbaula, has been undertaken by various NGOs across the country. Youth-led briquette production offers an alternative cooking fuel, while sustainable charcoal burners are also being used. Traditional biomass remains prevalent, including the use of animal dung for cooking in some areas.

3. Grid and Complementary Interventions

Limited grid electricity extension continues under MAREP, though frequent blackouts and transformer problems undermine reliability for connected households. Locally assembled torch and bulb lighting systems provide affordable lighting options.

Performance of Indicators for SDG 7

Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of Population with Access to Electricity

Overall, there has been a steady increase of the population with access to electricity from 10.7 percent in 2015 to 25.9 percent as of 2024/25. However, there is a huge urban and rural area disparity with 56.4 percent of the urban population having access to electricity and only 5.3 percent of the rural population has access to electricity.

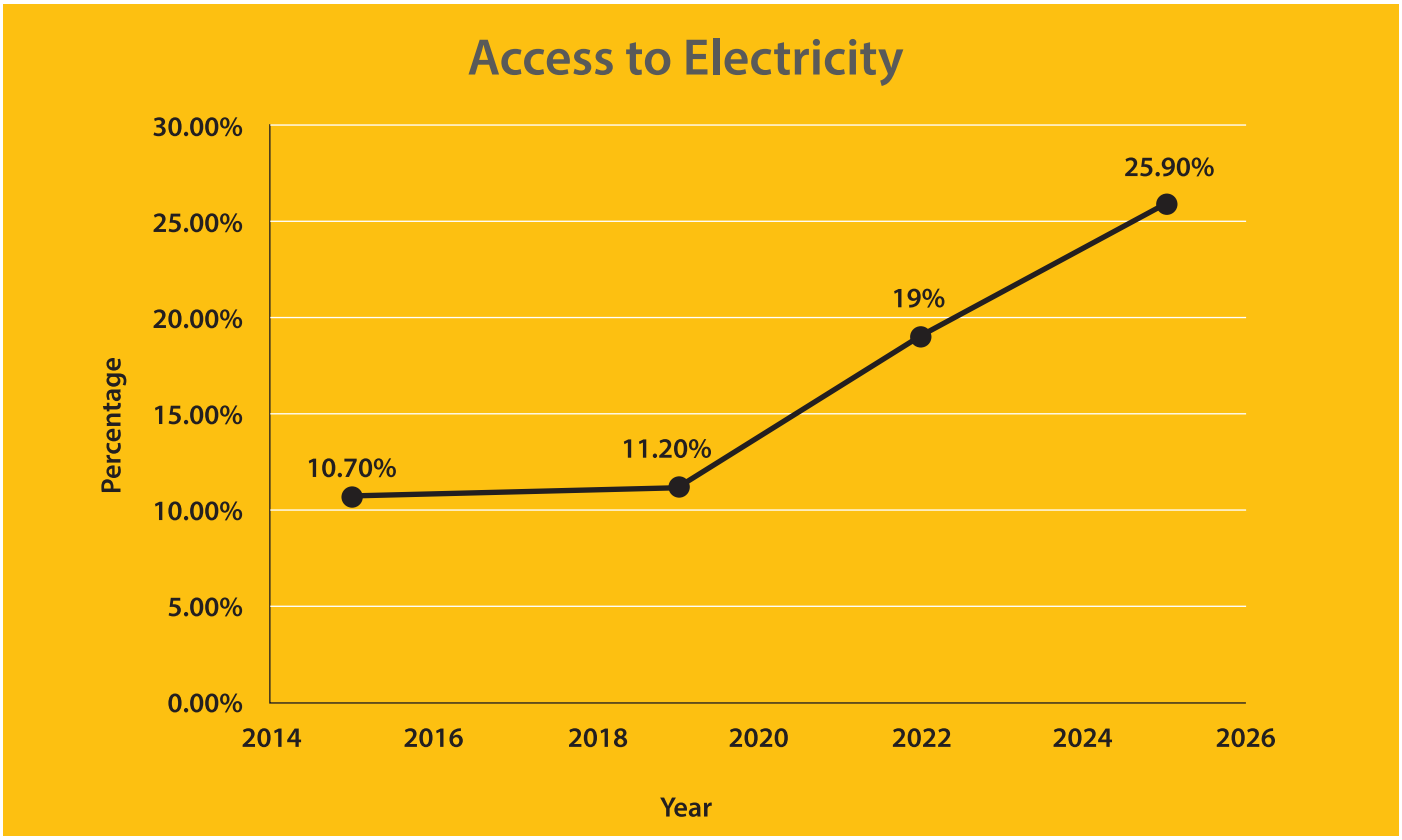


Figure 11: Proportion of Population with Access to Electricity

Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

The majority of the population in Malawi uses nonclean fuel, and the use of alternative sources of energy has remained low over the past decades. Despite this, the proportion of the population in Malawi that use clean fuels and technologies for cooking remains low at 2 %, primarily electric stoves. However, 91% percent of households use clean fuels and technologies for lighting. A battery-powered flashlight, torch, or lantern is the most common clean fuel or technology used for lighting (53%), followed by electricity (13%); a rechargeable flashlight, torch, or lantern (13%); and a solar lantern (12%).

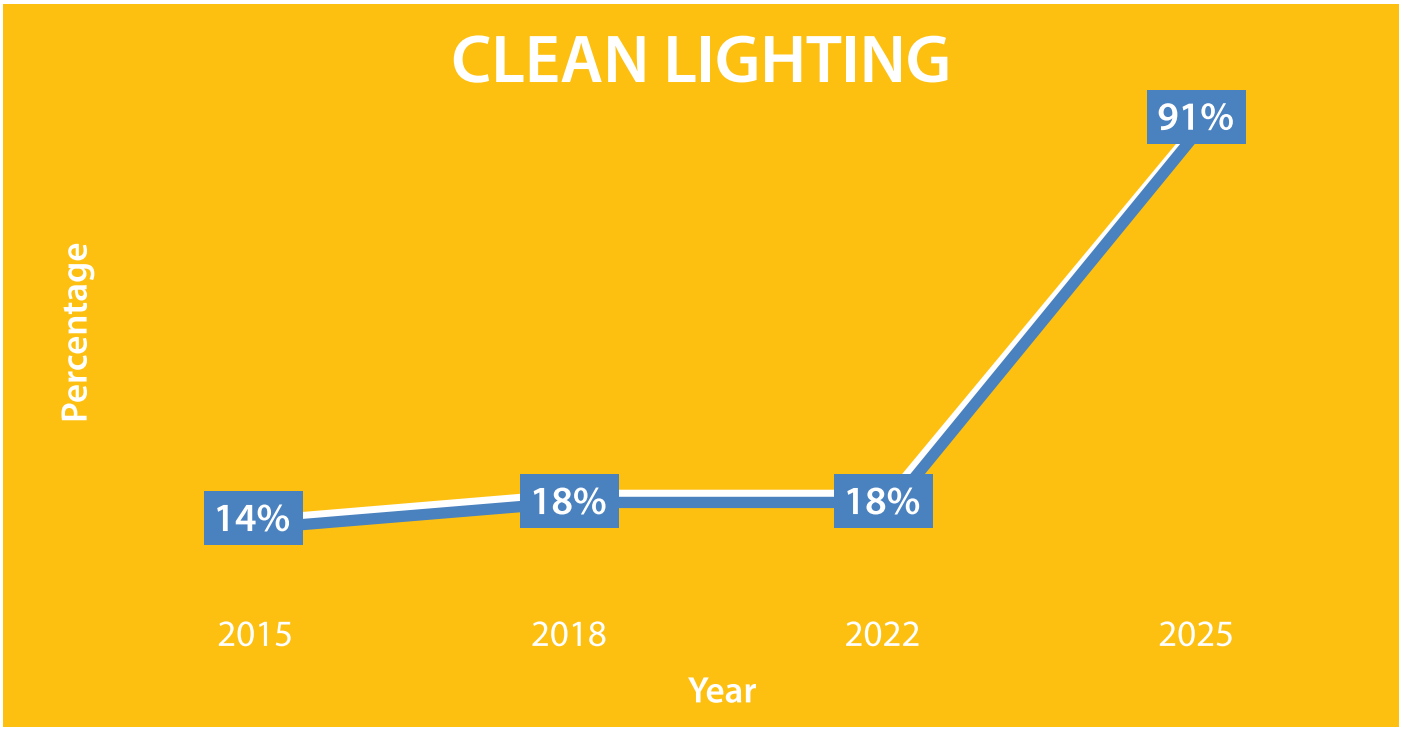


Figure 12: Use of clean fuels and technologies for lighting

Indicator 7.2.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

Overall, the renewable energy share in total final energy consumption stands at 13.9 percent as of 2023. This shows an increase from 9 percent in 2022. Previously, the energy share had remained stagnant at 7 percent from 2015 to 2020.

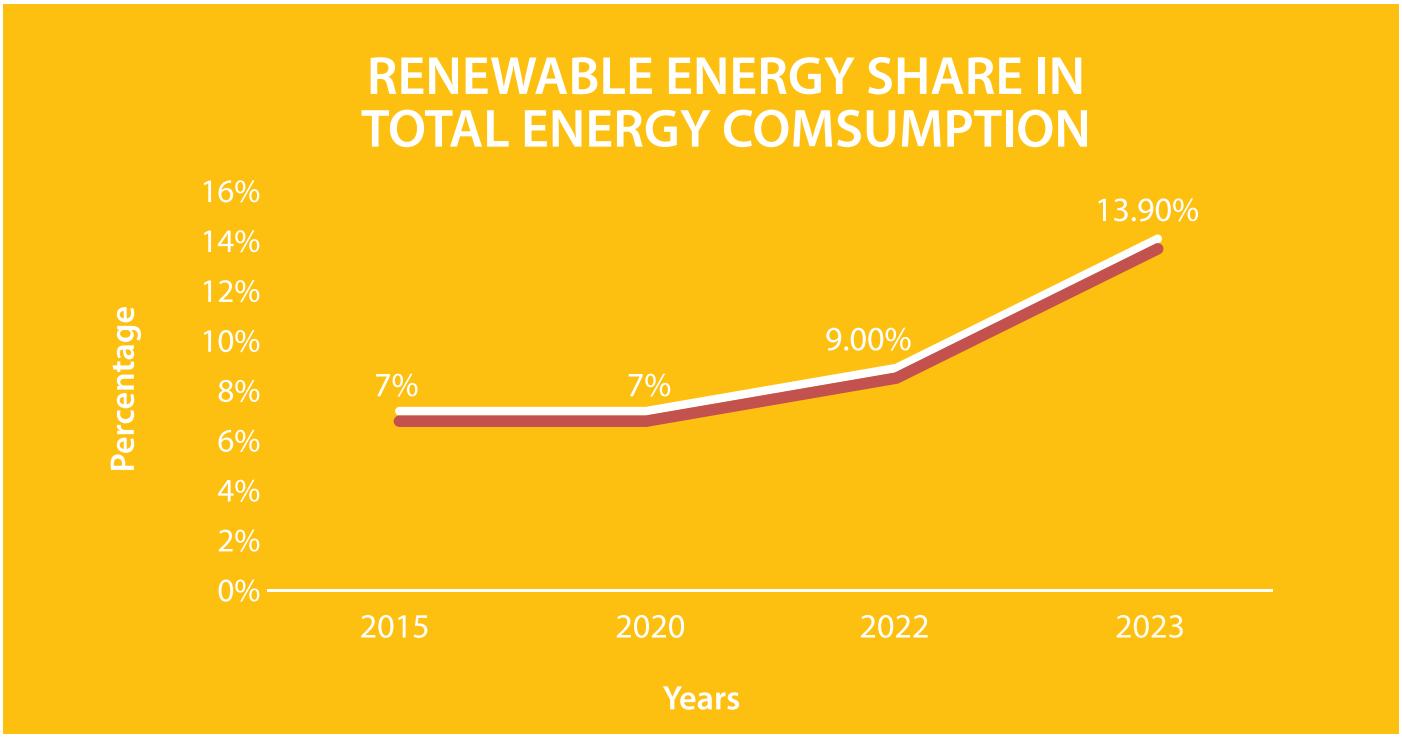


Figure 13: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

Indicator 7.3.1: Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

Energy intensity is defined as the energy supplied to the economy per unit value of economic output. It is calculated by dividing total energy supply over GDP. Sector administrative data shows that in 2015, the energy intensity in Malawi was at 10.2 percent. This increased to 10.6 percent in 2016, and by 2023, the energy intensity had decreased to 10.16 percent. Malawi committed to achieve a 20.3 percent energy intensity by 2030, signifying a need for re-strategizing if this target is to be achieved.

Community Perspectives

i. Priority SDG

The VNR qualitative survey conducted across the country in 2025 identified SDG 7 as a high-priority goal, with communities consistently highlighting the link between energy access and improvements in education, health, and local economic activity.

ii. Access to Electricity and Solar Lighting

On a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, access to electricity was rated as Average nationally, though this varies significantly by energy type and location. Solar lighting was rated Average to Good across most regions, while grid electricity was rated Poor to Very Poor in rural areas. Communities reported that solar products are often unaffordable for many households, and when cheaper products are available, they are frequently of poor quality and fail quickly. Connection fees, solar equipment costs, and batteries remain prohibitive for vulnerable households, particularly the elderly and persons with disabilities.

iii. Access to Clean Cooking

Across the country, firewood and charcoal remain the dominant cooking fuels. On a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, access to clean cooking solutions was rated as Poor to Average nationally, with affordability cited as the primary barrier. Improved cookstoves and briquettes are present in some areas but have not achieved widespread adoption. Biogas adoption remains minimal.

iv. Reliability of Energy Supply

On a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, reliability of electricity supply was rated as Poor to Average nationally. Frequent blackouts and transformer problems were widely reported, affecting both households and institutions. For solar users, the main challenges were the high upfront cost of equipment and the difficulty of replacing batteries, which often left households without lighting after a short period of use.

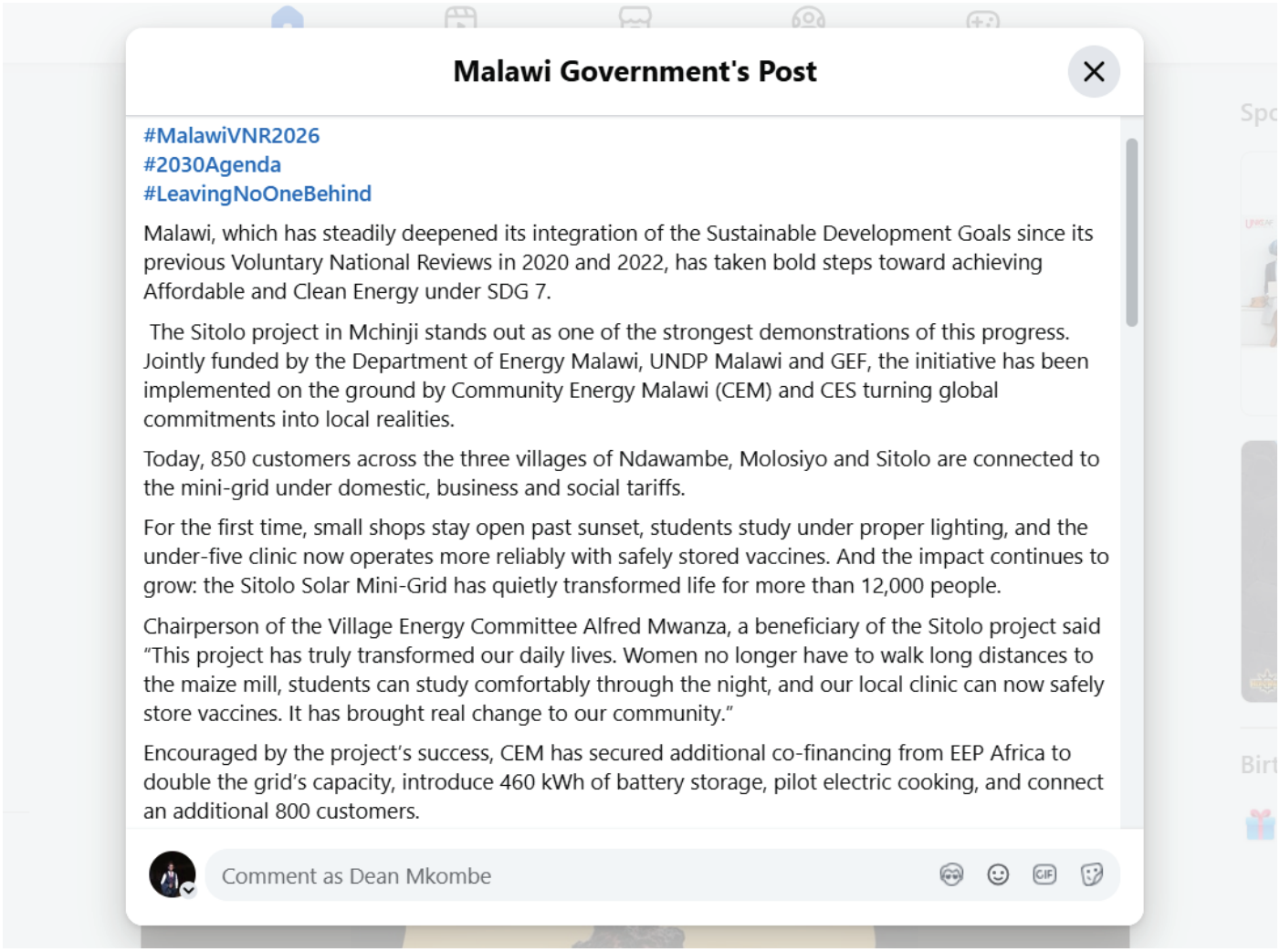
v. Impacts on Education and Livelihoods

Communities reported that solar lighting has enabled children to study at night, contributing to improved school attendance and performance in multiple areas. Enhanced security due to lighting was also noted as a key benefit. However, the continued reliance on firewood and charcoal for cooking places a significant time and health burden on women and girls, who are primarily responsible for fuelwood collection.

Case Study

Sitolo Minigrid in Mchinji

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AKGpEqdkE/



Evaluation evidence: Factors explaining progress and gaps in SDG 7

The indicator trends show that Malawi has made progress on SDG 7, but that progress remains uneven. Access to electricity has increased, solar energy is gaining momentum, and renewable energy use is expanding. Clean cooking indicators also show improvement. However, the evaluation evidence shows that progress is constrained by a persistent gap between energy access as infrastructure and energy access as an affordable, reliable, inclusive and productive service.

Several factors explain the progress achieved so far. First, Malawi has sustained a clear policy and programme commitment to expanding electricity access. Rural electrification through MAREP, grid extension, off-grid solar, solar home systems, institutional solar installations and private sector/NGO-supported solar solutions have all contributed to expanding the energy access landscape. ESCOM evidence confirms that recent electrification investments are directly linked to SDG 7 and universal access objectives, including a deliberate thrust to increase connections under national and rural electrification efforts. This confirms that progress is not accidental; it reflects deliberate public investment, utility action, partner support and private sector participation.

Second, solar and decentralised energy solutions have helped expand access where the grid remains distant, unreliable or unaffordable. Communities reported that solar lighting supports children's study time, household security, phone charging and communication. Solar-powered water systems, health facility solar back-up and institutional solar installations also show how energy access can support other SDGs, including health, education, water and livelihoods. The VNR case evidence on solar reticulated water systems also illustrates the wider development value of solar energy where community ownership and maintenance arrangements are in place.

Third, electricity is creating visible local development benefits where it reaches trading centres, schools, health facilities and households. Community evidence from Chikwawa, Lilongwe/Mitundu and Mzimba shows that electricity supports maize mills, welding, barbershops, hair salons, phone charging, refrigeration, video and entertainment services, small shops, studying at night, communication and safety. ESCOM similarly noted that electricity has improved study time and communication in rural communities, reducing the need for people to travel long distances to charge phones. District-level evidence is consistent with this finding: where energy access is available and functional, households and young people quickly identify practical uses that improve welfare and create opportunities.

However, four qualifications matter.

First, **infrastructure expansion** has not yet translated into equitable household access. Rural communities remain much less connected than urban areas, and female-headed, low-income, child-headed and disability-affected households continue to face higher barriers. The SDG 7 Theory of Change workshop highlighted that access depends not only on grid extension, but also on accessibility, affordability and uptake. Distance from the grid, weak medium-voltage backbone coverage, terrain, limited planning data and high connection costs continue to explain why some communities remain excluded even where national access is improving.

Second, **affordability** is one of the strongest explanations for slow uptake. Community evidence shows that households value electricity but often cannot afford connection fees, internal wiring, appliances, meters, bills, solar batteries or cleaner cooking technologies. Persons with disabilities and caregivers reported that connection fees and wiring costs remain prohibitive, while tenants may

depend on landlords who are unwilling to connect houses. ESCOM evidence reinforces this finding: connection costs are subsidised, but households still face new electricity bills and appliance costs after connection, increasing pressure on household budgets. This means that access programmes may extend infrastructure, but the poorest households may still remain unable to connect, sustain use or use electricity productively.

Third, r**eliability and maintenance** are now central bottlenecks. Community members repeatedly identified blackouts, transformer faults, low voltage, storm-related damage and slow maintenance response as constraints to business, studying, health services and household use. ESCOM evidence explains why this occurs. Rapid customer growth has increased pressure on an already constrained system, while the expansion of the customer base requires more personnel, vehicles and local service capacity. ESCOM also noted that resources have often been pushed towards new connections, while maintenance has not kept pace with the expanding and aging network. As a result, maintenance pressure is increasing just as rural networks are expanding.

Fourth, **productive use remains underdeveloped**. Electricity is enabling some income-generating activities, but the evaluation found that many rural connections are still used mainly for lighting and phone charging. ESCOM confirmed that in many rural centres, electricity use remains limited to basic services rather than productive uses such as agro-processing. The ToC workshop identified similar barriers: lack of three-phase power, appliance poverty, weak business skills, low rural demand, tariff concerns and limited links between electrification and productive sectors. This limits the poverty-reduction effect of energy access. For electrification to become transformative, households and small enterprises need affordable appliances, business support, productive-use financing, reliable supply and stronger linkages with agriculture, irrigation, milling, refrigeration and rural enterprise development.

Clean cooking remains the weakest part of SDG 7 progress. Improved cookstoves, briquettes, sustainable charcoal, LPG pilots and institutional innovations are emerging, but firewood and charcoal continue to dominate household cooking. The evaluation evidence shows that adoption is constrained by cost, availability, user habits, awareness, weak last-mile supply and limited financing for cleaner alternatives. Women and girls continue to carry the greatest burden through time spent collecting fuel, smoke exposure and risks associated with cooking and fuel collection. Persons with disabilities and caregivers face additional challenges where cooking fuels are expensive, hard to collect or physically difficult to use safely. This explains why clean cooking progress remains slower than electricity-related progress.

Institutional and financing constraints cut across these challenges. The SDG 7 Theory of Change identified late disbursement, bureaucracy, financing constraints, foreign exchange shortages, vandalism, weak monitoring, limited O&M financing and political interference as barriers across the infrastructure, affordability, sustainability and productive-use pathways. ESCOM evidence adds that rural electrification sustainability depends on a clearer maintenance financing model. Rural networks often belong to government, while ESCOM is expected to maintain them; where cost recovery is low, transformer replacement and fault servicing become difficult without government contributions, concession arrangements or development partner support. This creates a sustainability risk: access can expand, but service quality may decline if maintenance financing and accountability are not strengthened.

Climate and environmental shocks further explain uneven progress. Floods, storms and heavy rains damage energy infrastructure, disrupt access roads, reduce service reliability and increase maintenance needs. These shocks are especially damaging where O&M financing, spares, vehicles and technical personnel are already constrained. Climate risks also interact with poverty: households that cannot afford connection, appliances or cleaner fuels are least able to recover when energy systems fail.

The SDG 3–SDG 7 convergence evidence shows that energy access should also be treated as a health and human development enabler. Reliable electricity supports maternity care, newborn care, night services, emergency response, oxygen and other medical equipment, vaccine refrigeration, cold-chain continuity, communication and digital reporting. Clean cooking affects household air pollution, women's time burden and child health. Productive use can improve incomes and the ability of households to afford services. This means that energy planning should prioritise not only household connections, but also health facilities, schools, water systems, trading centres and other rural service hubs where energy access can accelerate progress across multiple SDGs.

Overall, progress on SDG 7 has been enabled by policy commitment, rural electrification, solar expansion, private sector and NGO participation, community energy structures and growing recognition of productive-use opportunities. Lack of progress is explained by affordability constraints, weak rural reliability, insufficient O&M financing, slow maintenance response, low productive-use adoption, clean cooking barriers, foreign exchange pressures, vandalism, weak targeting of vulnerable households and uneven accountability mechanisms. The main lesson is that the next phase of SDG 7 implementation should move beyond infrastructure expansion alone. It should prioritise affordable connection models, reliable supply, sustainable maintenance financing, targeted support for vulnerable households, clean cooking adoption, productive-use financing and stronger coordination between government, ESCOM, MERA, private energy providers, development partners, district councils and communities.


SINGER

Overview of SDG 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

This goal aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. It recognizes that economic growth is a prerequisite for poverty reduction and improved living standards, while decent work ensures that the benefits of growth are shared equitably. SDG 8 is monitored through indicators covering areas such as GDP growth, labour productivity, employment-to-population ratios, unemployment rates, informal employment, and youth not in employment, education or training (NEET).

Malawi's progress under SDG 8 is reflected in both macroeconomic trends and labour market dynamics. The economy grew by an estimated 1.8 percent in 2024, a slowdown largely attributed to the adverse effects of El Niño weather conditions on agricultural output and persistent foreign exchange shortages that constrained manufacturing and trade. Despite these challenges, growth was supported by investments in construction, financial services, and the electricity sector, with GDP growth rising to 2.5 percent in 2025. The labour market, as captured by the 2024 Labour Force Survey, shows that the employed population was 4.27 million, with an employment-to-population ratio of 38.8 percent. Key features of employment include:

1. **Status in Employment:** Self-employment dominates, with 35.4 percent of employed persons working as own-account workers in household market enterprises without employees, and a further 23.7 percent classified as dependent contractors. Short-term and casual employees account for 12.5 percent of employment.
2. **Sectoral Distribution:** Agriculture, forestry, and fishing remain the largest employer, accounting for 39.3 percent of the employed population, with a higher concentration in rural areas (49.2 percent). Wholesale and retail trade (8.8 percent), manufacturing (3.0 percent), and construction (4.0 percent) also provide significant employment.
3. **Labour Migration and Skills Development:** The Government has facilitated labour migration to countries such as Israel, Qatar, and the UAE, with over 900 Malawians currently employed in Israel alone. The Graduate Internship Programme has cumulatively engaged 18,000 interns since 2018, while the Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TEVETA) continues to support skills development, with 7,256 apprentices on government scholarships in 2024.

Performance of Indicators for SDG 8

Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of GDP

Malawi's GDP growth remains highly susceptible to domestic and international shocks, including climate-induced disasters and global economic disruptions. Over recent years, these shocks have constrained economic performance, with real GDP growth recorded at 1.7 percent in 2024—a significant decline from the recent high of 5.4 percent achieved in 2019. To achieve lower middle-income status, Malawi requires a gross national income (GNI) per capita of USD 1,086. Between 2018 and 2023, GNI per capita increased by 25 percent, rising from USD 500 to USD 623. It reached an all-time high of USD 648 in 2021 before regressing in 2022 and 2023, largely due to exogenous shocks. Moving forward, accelerating progress through a "business unusual" approach will be essential. Sustained GDP growth exceeding 10 percent per annum is necessary to place the country on a credible path toward achieving middle-income status by 2030.

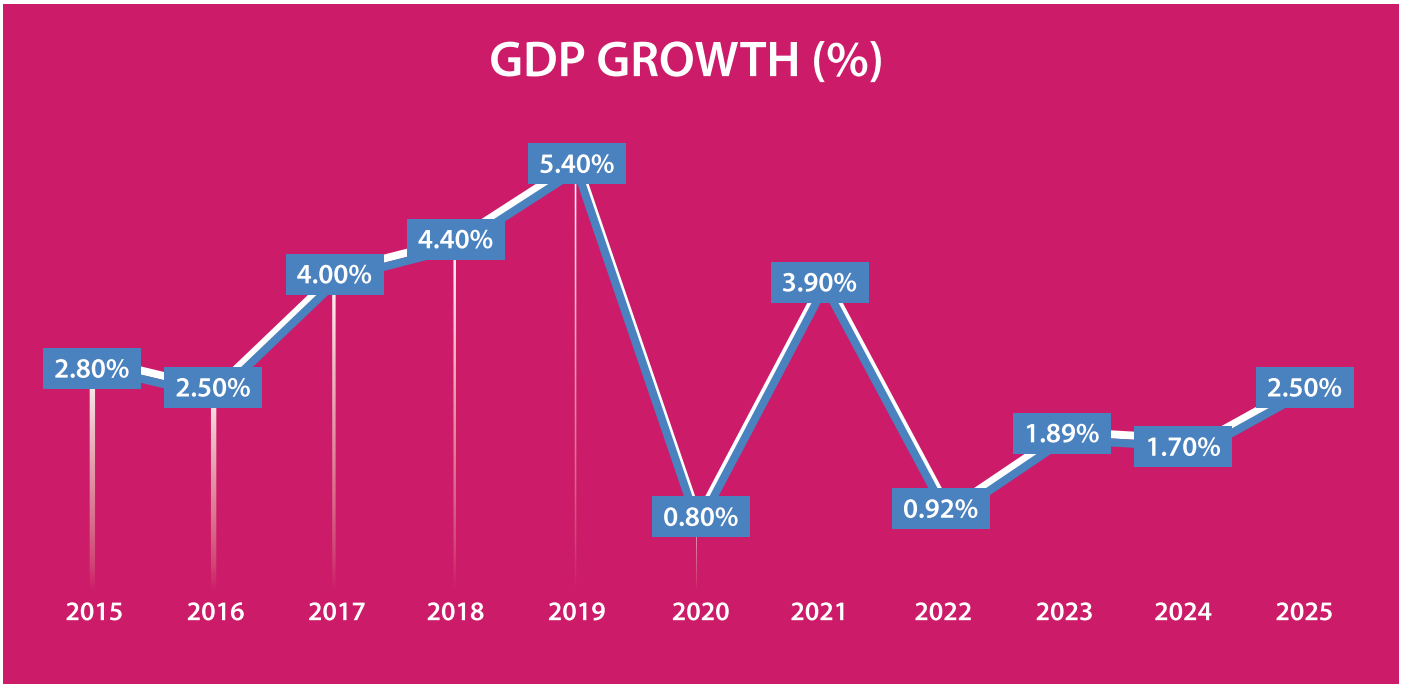


Figure 14: Real GDP Growth (%)

Indicator 8.3.1: Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment

The indicator captures the extent to which workers in sectors such as manufacturing, trade, construction, and services lack access to formal labour protections, social security, and decent working conditions.

The proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture stood at 75.4 percent in 2015, declined to 69.7 percent in 2018, but rose sharply to 82.9 percent in 2023. Overall, informal employment remains high at 91.5 percent, with 79.3 percent of urban workers (where non-agricultural activities are concentrated) engaged in informal employment. The resurgence of informality since 2018 reflects the impact of recent economic shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate-induced disruptions, and foreign exchange shortages, which have constrained formal job creation and pushed more workers into precarious, unprotected work.

Indicator 8.5.2: Unemployment rate

This indicator measures the proportion of the labour force that is without work, available for work, and actively seeking employment. It serves as a critical gauge of the labour market's ability to absorb the working-age population into productive and decent work.

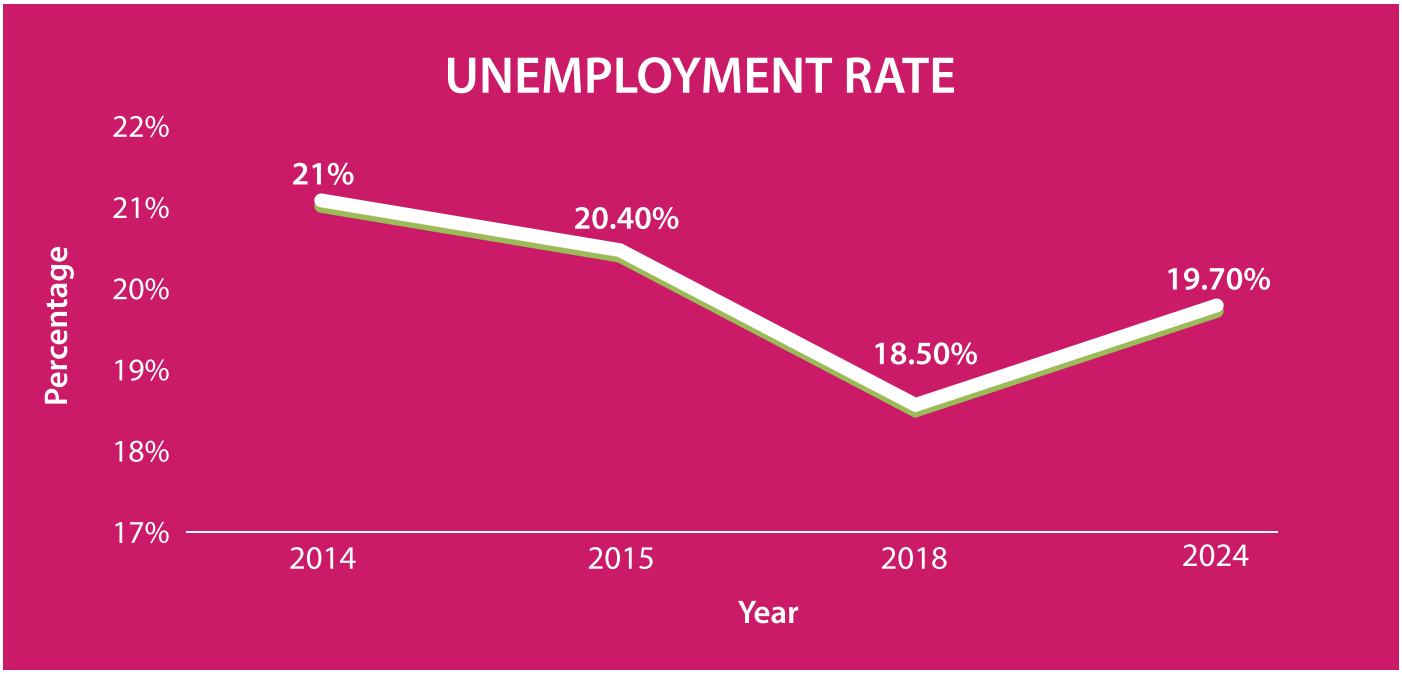


Figure 15: Unemployment Rate

In 2024, the national unemployment rate stood at 19.7 percent, with significant disparities across population groups. The rate was substantially higher for females (23.0 percent) than for males (16.6 percent), and urban areas recorded a slightly higher rate (20.5 percent) compared to rural areas (19.4 percent). Young people aged 15–24 faced the greatest difficulty, with an unemployment rate of 24.1 percent, while the rate declined to 18.4 percent among those aged 35–44 before rising again among older workers.

Education plays a critical role in labour market outcomes. Unemployment was highest among individuals with technical education (25.1 percent) and those with no formal education (21.8 percent), whereas the rate was lowest among those with other tertiary qualifications (9.8 percent). These patterns underscore persistent challenges in matching skills with labour demand and the vulnerability of less-educated and female workers.

Indicator 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment, or training

The indicator captures the extent to which youth are disconnected from opportunities that build human capital and provide pathways to productive employment.

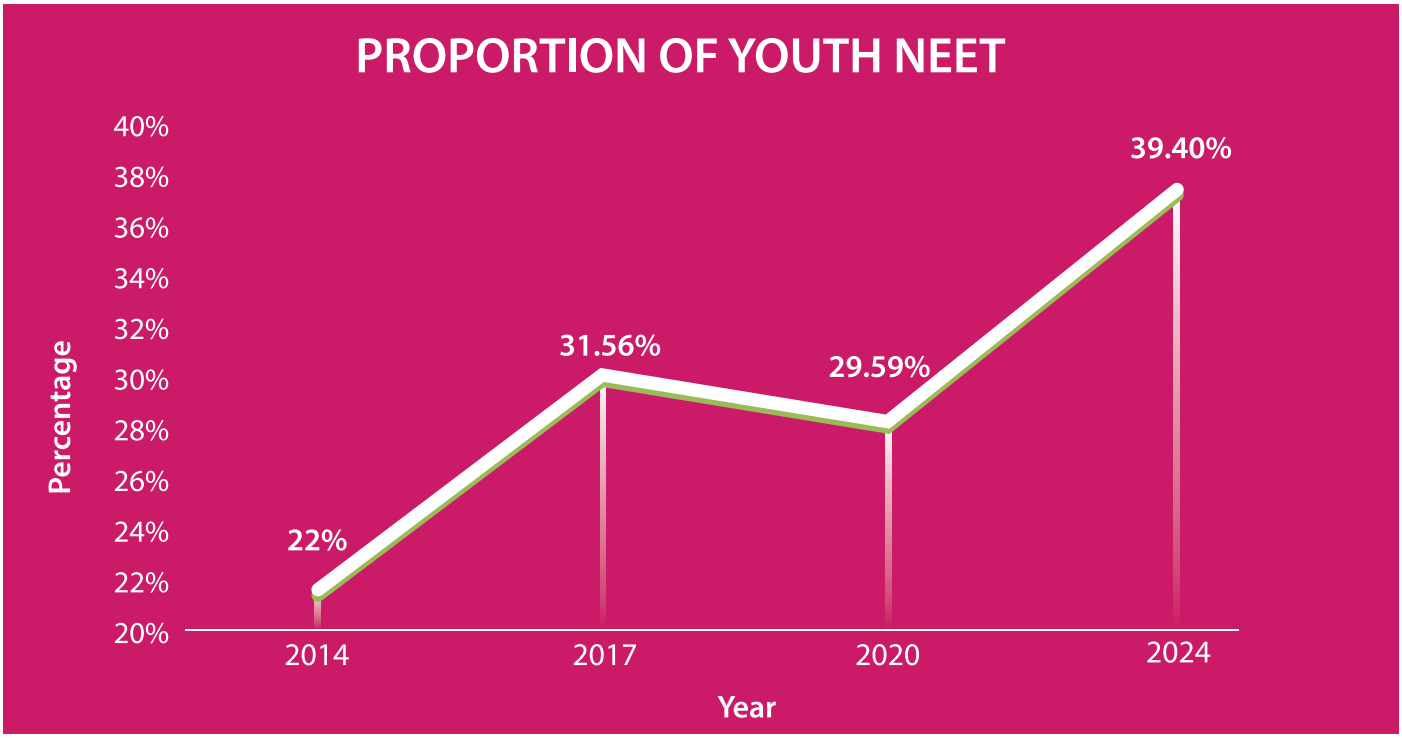


Figure 16: Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment, or training

The proportion of youth not in education, employment or training has increased significantly over the years. In the years 2014, 2017 and 2020, the proportion stood at 22 percent, 31 percent and 29 percent respectively. In 2024 nationally, 39.4 percent of youth aged 15–24 in Malawi were not in education, employment, or training. The NEET rate was markedly higher for young women (45.4 percent) than for young men (32.8 percent), reflecting persistent gender disparities in access to education and economic opportunities. Urban youth experienced a lower NEET rate (33.1 percent) compared to their rural counterparts (40.9 percent). Regional differences were also pronounced, with the Southern region recording the highest NEET rate (43.4 percent), followed by the Central (37.9 percent) and Northern (29.1 percent) regions.

The high prevalence of NEET among youth, particularly young women and those in rural areas, signals substantial untapped potential and highlights the risk of long-term exclusion from the labour market. Addressing this challenge requires targeted interventions that expand access to quality education and vocational training, create decent employment opportunities, and address barriers such as poverty, gender norms, and limited rural infrastructure. Reducing the NEET rate is essential for harnessing the demographic dividend and achieving inclusive, sustainable development under SDG 8.

Indicator 8.8.1 Frequency Rates of Fatal and Non-fatal Occupational Injuries

The frequency rate of occupational injuries (combining fatal and non-fatal cases) declined from 70 per 100,000 workers in 2015 to 25.07 per 100,000 workers in 2023/24. This reduction suggests progress in workplace safety awareness, enforcement of occupational safety and health (OSH) standards. During the 2024/25 financial year, the Ministry of Labour recorded 11,387 compensation cases, with a total of 12,265 cases referred to the Workers Compensation Division, resulting in compensation payments amounting to MK2.9 billion. In addition, the Ministry conducted 845 workplace OSH inspections and registered 677 workplaces during the period, reflecting ongoing efforts to improve compliance with safety regulations.

Indicator 8.9.1: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP

The share of tourism and travel to GDP increased from 7 percent in 2022 to 8 percent in 2023, reflecting a steady recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. The Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) sets an ambitious target of increasing direct tourism's contribution to GDP to approximately 11 percent by 2030. The growth in the sector's share has been supported by rising international arrivals, which reached an estimated 1 million in 2023, up from 708,000 in 2022, partly driven by the removal of visa requirements for over 50 countries. The contribution of travel and tourism to investment also increased, with capital investment projected to reach MK62.7 billion in 2024, representing a 9 percent growth from the previous year.

Indicator 8.10.2: Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

This indicator measures the share of adults who have access to formal financial services, either through a bank or other financial institution account or through a mobile money account. It reflects the extent of financial inclusion, which is essential for poverty reduction, economic empowerment, and inclusive growth.

Malawi has made notable strides in expanding financial inclusion, driven largely by the rapid adoption of mobile money services. The proportion of adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider has significantly increased from 0.22 percent in 2015 to 33.3 percent in 2023.

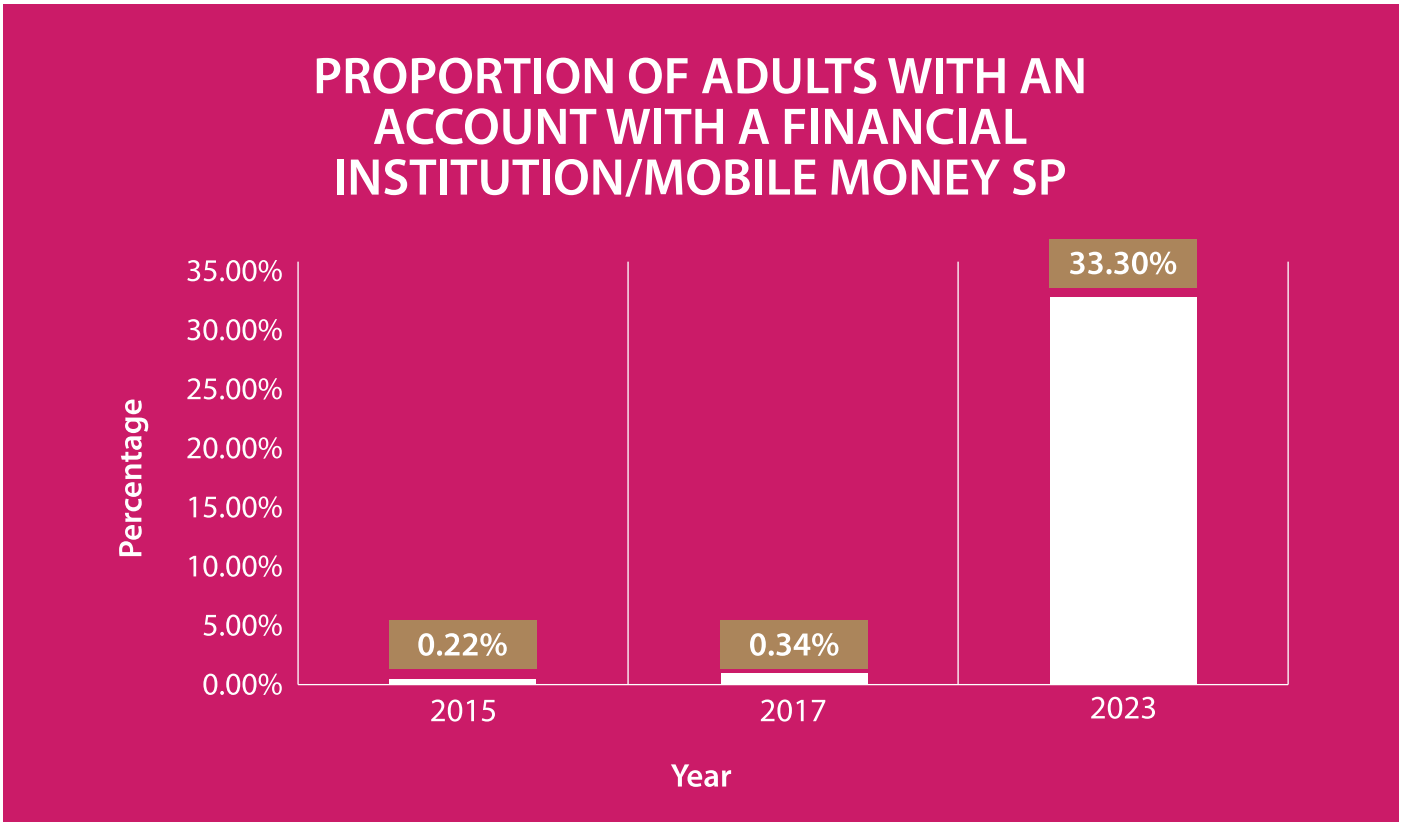


Figure 17: Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

The value of mobile payments grew by 482 percent between 2020 and 2023, rising from K2,235.17 billion to K13,007.28 billion. Mobile money has become a primary channel for financial transactions, particularly in rural areas where traditional banking infrastructure remains limited. The proportion of individuals owning a mobile telephone increased from 43.2 percent in 2020 to 57.0 percent in 2023, expanding the potential base for mobile financial services.



In-Depth Review of SDG 9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This goal aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. It recognizes the role of industrial development and technology in driving economic growth, employment, and competitiveness.

SDG 9 is monitored through indicators and targets covering areas such as manufacturing value added, research and development investment, transport infrastructure, and digital connectivity.

Malawi's progress under SDG 9 is mainly reflected through industrial activity, infrastructure, investments and trade facilitation. Granted, manufacturing value added has shown a slight improvement between 2019 and 2023 from 10% to 11.6%. This improvement is however expected to be accelerated as enabling developments related to infrastructure, trade facilitation and communication under the same SDG advance. Selected specific examples include:

1. **Cooperative Development and Value Addition:** FUNDE Rice Cooperative in Salima district engaged in rice farming, milling, and value addition, with annual sales of approximately USD 77 million, among others engaged in processing peanuts, sunflower cooking oil and honey. Mining, identified as one of the key sectors in the national development frameworks, is also on the rise, with the Mzimba Gemstone Cooperative involved in gemstone mining and jewellery production generating USD 7,000 in revenue annually.
2. **Infrastructure Development:** Expansion and rehabilitation of road infrastructure by the Malawi Government, with additional support from development partners including the World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB) on over 500 kilometres of major corridor roads, including the M1 (Lilongwe–Chiweta, Rumphi) and M5 (Salima - Nkhotakota), the implementation of hydro-electric (Mpatamanga) and solar powered energy projects (a number of them), and continued establishment of One Stop Boarder Posts (OSBPs) (Mchinji, Songwe, Dedza and Mwanza), are expected to have significant impacts with expected synergies on SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2(Zero Hunger), 3(Good health and wellbeing), and 8 (Decent work and economic growth). The operational Mchinji One Stop Border Post for example has reduced clearance times by approximately 50 percent and increased trade volumes by about 40 percent annually.
3. **Skills and Enterprise Development:** Vocational skills development through the Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TEVETA), youth innovation hubs and training programs under the Transform Youth Innovation Fund as well as loans and equipment provided by the Government continue to foster skills development and entrepreneurship.

Performance of Indicators for SDG 9

9.2.2: Manufacturing Employment

From 2016 to 2020, manufacturing employment as proportion of total employment grew steadily from 7.54 percent to 7.91 percent. However, COVID caused a shock that led to stagnation of manufacturing employment between 7.91 percent to 8 percent from 2020 to 2023. Stimulating industrialization through SME incentives and resilient infrastructure will be key.

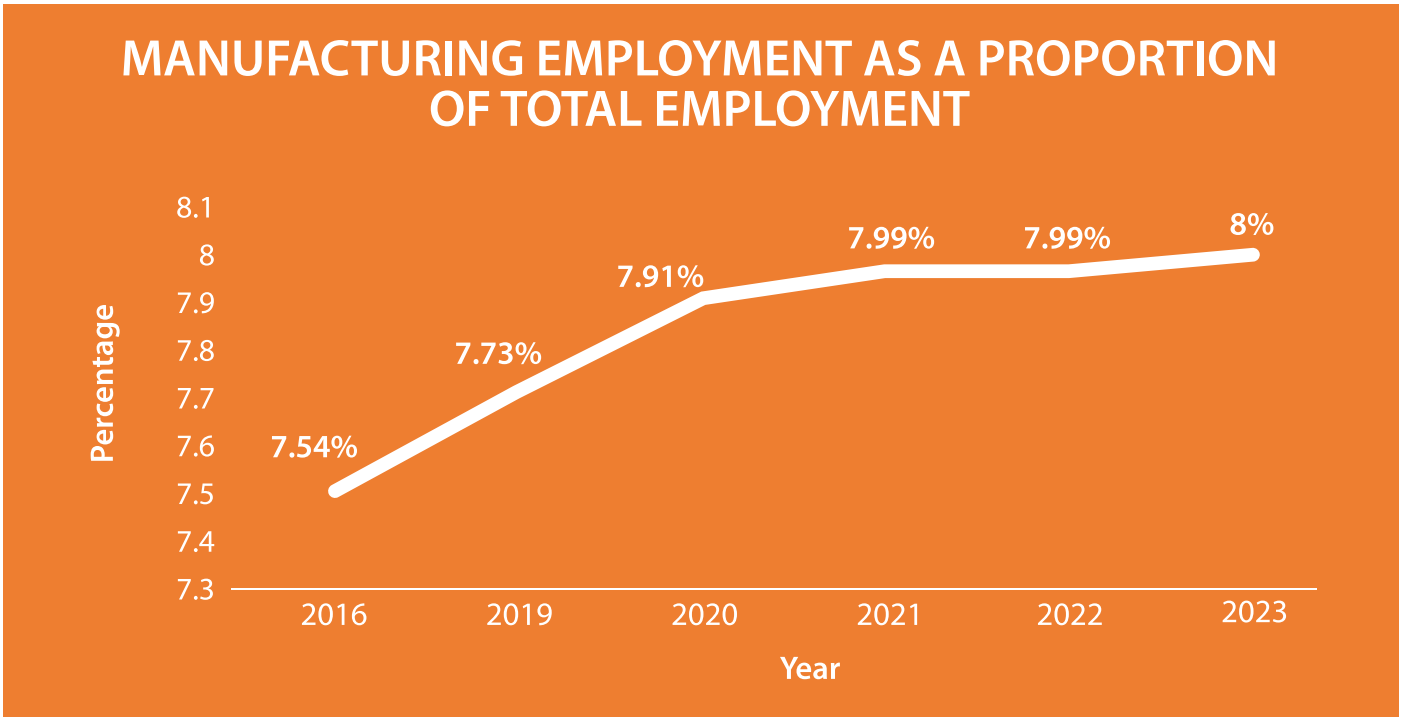


Figure 18: Manufacturing Employment

Indicator 9.c.1: Mobile Network Coverage

The rollout of 2G and the introduction of 4G since 2019 have improved national network coverage. Yet, rural areas still face limited access. Strategic policy measures are needed to close the rural-urban digital divide through last-mile infrastructure investment and equitable digital access initiatives.

To fully assess progress, enhanced data availability across all indicators is essential, especially in areas such as innovation capacity, transport infrastructure, and environmental sustainability of industry.

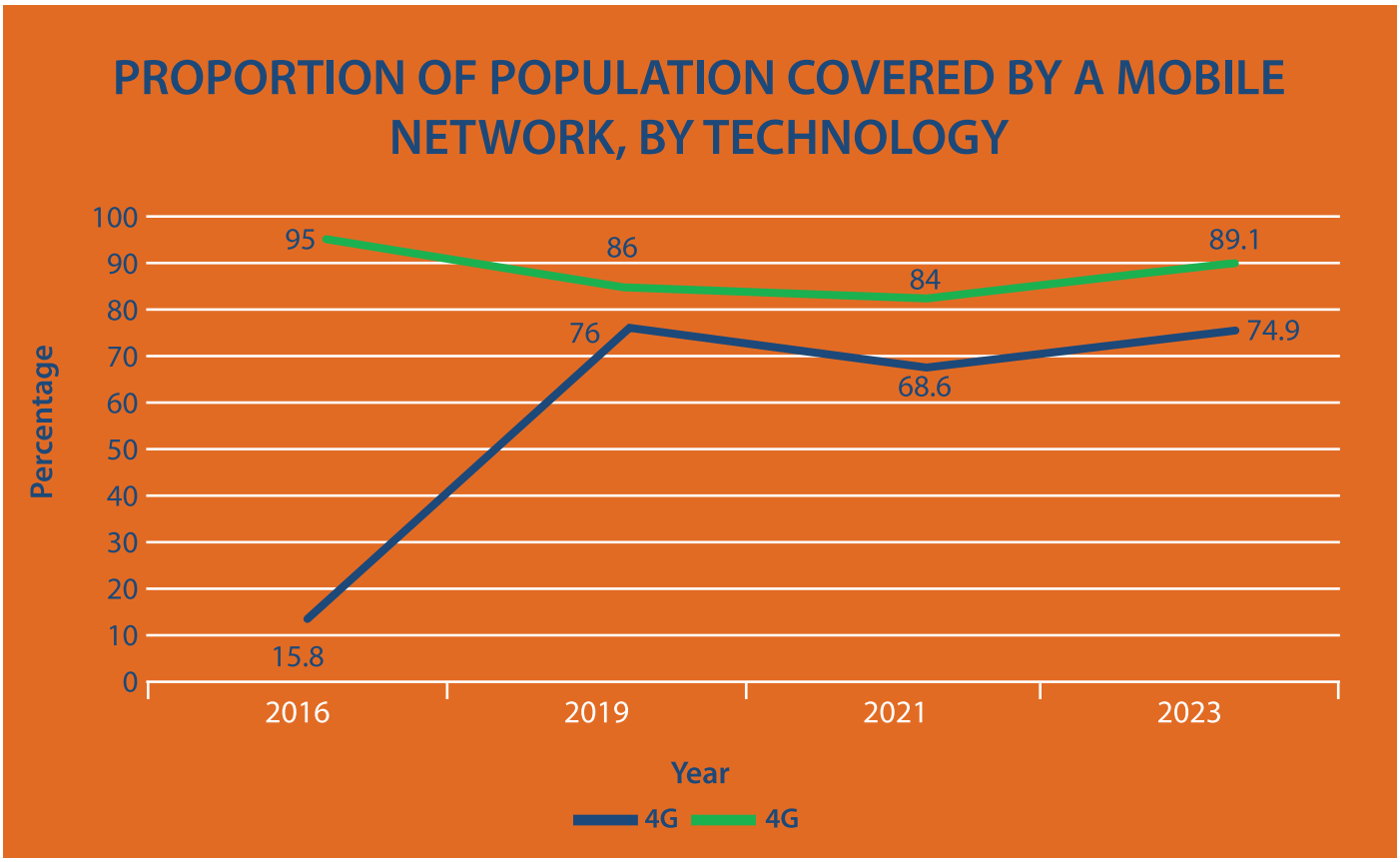


Figure 19: Mobile Network Coverage

Community Perspectives

i. Priority SDG(s)

The VNR qualitative survey conducted across the country in 2025, established SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) as the priority SDG, with SDG 6 also identified as a high priority in some areas (particularly Eastern Region due to climate shocks floods and public health risks).

ii. Road Access and Quality

Across the country, most communities reported having access to roads within 2km, though quality varies significantly. Bicycles, motorcycles, and walking are the most common modes of transport used. Motorcycles were reported as the most unsafe mode of transport frequently involved in accidents causing death and injury.

On a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, the safety of bicycles and motorcycles as modes of transport was rated as Poor to Average across the country. Poor road conditions, flooding, and lack of provisions for disabled users contribute to safety risks.

On a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, the quality of community roads was rated as Poor to Average nationally. Most roads are of earth standard, seasonal, and often impassable during rainy seasons, isolating communities and limiting market access.

iii. Business and Value Addition

All communities across the country reported the presence of businesses that provide employment to members within communities and are involved in value addition. Cooperatives engaged in rice, peanuts, sunflower, cooking oil, and honey processing demonstrate local economic activity. Small-scale businesses include shops, sale of farm produce, kabaza (bicycle or motorcycle taxi) transport, livestock sales, retail, handicraft, and fruit sales.

iv. Access to Loans

On a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, access to loans for capital was rated as Poor to Average nationally. In some areas, access was rated as Good, though interest rates were generally reported as prohibitive. In other areas, access was rated as Very Poor due to prohibitive collateral requirements, corruption, and bribery limiting access, especially for marginalized groups.

v. Network Reliability

On a scale of Very Poor, Poor, Average, Good and Very Good, the reliability of networks was rated as Average nationally. It was reported that phone call services were particularly poor in quality while internet services were intermittent. Mobile network coverage is inconsistent across the country, with service providers performance varying across different locations.

Case Study

Transforming Livelihoods Through Irrigation and Aquaculture at Kasangazi, in Mzimba

Background

In Kaipereke village, Mzimba District, food insecurity, poverty, and lack of clean water had long undermined community resilience. Families struggled with rain-fed farming, unpredictable yields, and limited income opportunities. School dropouts were common, and basic household needs were often unmet.

The Kasangazi Irrigation Scheme, led by community members under the leadership of the president, was established to address these challenges. With the construction of a community dam and the introduction of irrigation farming and aquaculture, the project has become a beacon of transformation. The dam, with a capacity of 91,000 cubic litres of water, has the potential to irrigate up to 200 hectares, far beyond the current 8 hectares available.

Transformation in the Community

Since its inception, the scheme has delivered visible and life-changing results:

- Year-round food production through irrigation, reducing hunger and stabilizing household diets.
- Improved housing and living standards, with families building safer, modern homes.
- Access to clean water for cooking, bathing, and cleaning, reducing the burden on women who previously walked long distances to fetch water.
- Education restored, as parents can now afford school fees and materials, ensuring children's right to learn.
- Inclusion and empowerment, with women, youth, and persons with disabilities actively participating in farming and aquaculture, fostering equality and dignity.

Contribution to the SDGs

The Kasangazi Irrigation Scheme directly advances:

- SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Providing accessible water for household use and farming.
- SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure): Through dam construction, irrigation systems, and aquaculture, the community is building sustainable industries and infrastructure.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite its success, the project faces challenges:

- Limited land for expansion.
- Insufficient irrigation infrastructure, such as pipes and sprinklers, restricting participation.

Yet, opportunities abound

- Scaling up to meet growing demand.
- Government support to expand land access and improve infrastructure.

Conclusion

The Kasangazi Irrigation Scheme demonstrates the transformative power of community-led initiatives. By harnessing water resources, embracing innovation, and fostering inclusive participation, the project has lifted families from vulnerability to prosperity. It is not just an irrigation scheme—it is a story of resilience, empowerment, and hope for rural communities in Malawi.


EQUALITY
IN

Overview of SDG 10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 10 aims to reduce inequality within and among countries by promoting the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status. It calls for progressive policies, improved regulation of financial markets, and enhanced representation for developing countries in global decision-making. In Malawi, progress on SDG 10 is assessed through indicators measuring income growth of the poorest, social inclusion, fiscal policy impacts, financial market regulation, and migration management.

Evidence discovered during the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs shows persistent inequalities, modest progress in social protection, and significant vulnerabilities exacerbated by exogenous shocks. However, the indicators for this SDG remains underreported at national level.

Performance of Indicators for SDG 10

Indicator 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population

Between 2018 and 2023, gross national income per capita increased from USD 500 to USD 623, reaching a peak of USD 648 in 2021 before declining due to economic shocks. To attain lower middle-income status (USD 1,086 per capita) by 2030, the economy would need to grow by an average of 10.6 percent per annum from 2024 onward. The national Gini coefficient stood at 0.399 in 2025, indicating a notable gap in income distribution. Employment-to-population ratios were 45.2 percent for males and 33.4 percent for females, reflecting disparities in labour market participation.

Indicator 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, disaggregated by sex, age and persons with disabilities

The national poverty rate was 50.7 percent in 2019/20, with pronounced regional differences: 62.8 percent in the Central Region, 56.7 percent in the Southern Region, and 35.9 percent in the Northern Region. Among employed individuals, 91.5 percent work in informal employment, with a higher prevalence among women (92.4 percent) than men (89.4 percent). Following Tropical Cyclone Freddy in 2023, 2.3 million people were affected, and an estimated 36,000 additional households fell into poverty in the Southern Region. Among the affected population, 48.7 percent of damaged houses were owned by female-headed households.

10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

National perceptions of equality before the law are low: only 34.5 percent of adults believe that Malawi's laws are applied equally. A majority (76.5 percent) consider that the law favours the rich, while 43.5 percent believe it favours political leaders. Rural residents (38.9 percent) are more likely than urban residents (22.6 percent) to perceive equal application of the law. Regarding fundamental freedoms, 85.1 percent of adults report being able to freely express their opinions, though only 34.5 percent feel able to exercise the right to demonstrate. Media freedom is perceived as present by 67.4 percent of the population, with regional variation ranging from 62.8 percent in the Northern Region to 73.6 percent in the Central Region.

Indicator 10.5.1: Financial Soundness Indicators

Between 2019 and 2024, financial soundness indicators revealed significant volatility, reflecting macroeconomic instability. This was primarily driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions such as the Russia–Ukraine war, the global fuel price hikes and local climatic shocks like droughts and cyclones. A notable liquidity surge in 2019, followed by a sharp decline, highlights structural weaknesses in fiscal resilience. These trends underscore the urgent need for stronger fiscal oversight, improved regulatory frameworks, and reforms to build adaptive, shock-responsive financial systems capable of withstanding future crises.

To effectively reduce inequalities, Malawi must also strengthen data systems, expand inclusive economic policies, and enhance financial sector governance to ensure sustained and equitable growth.

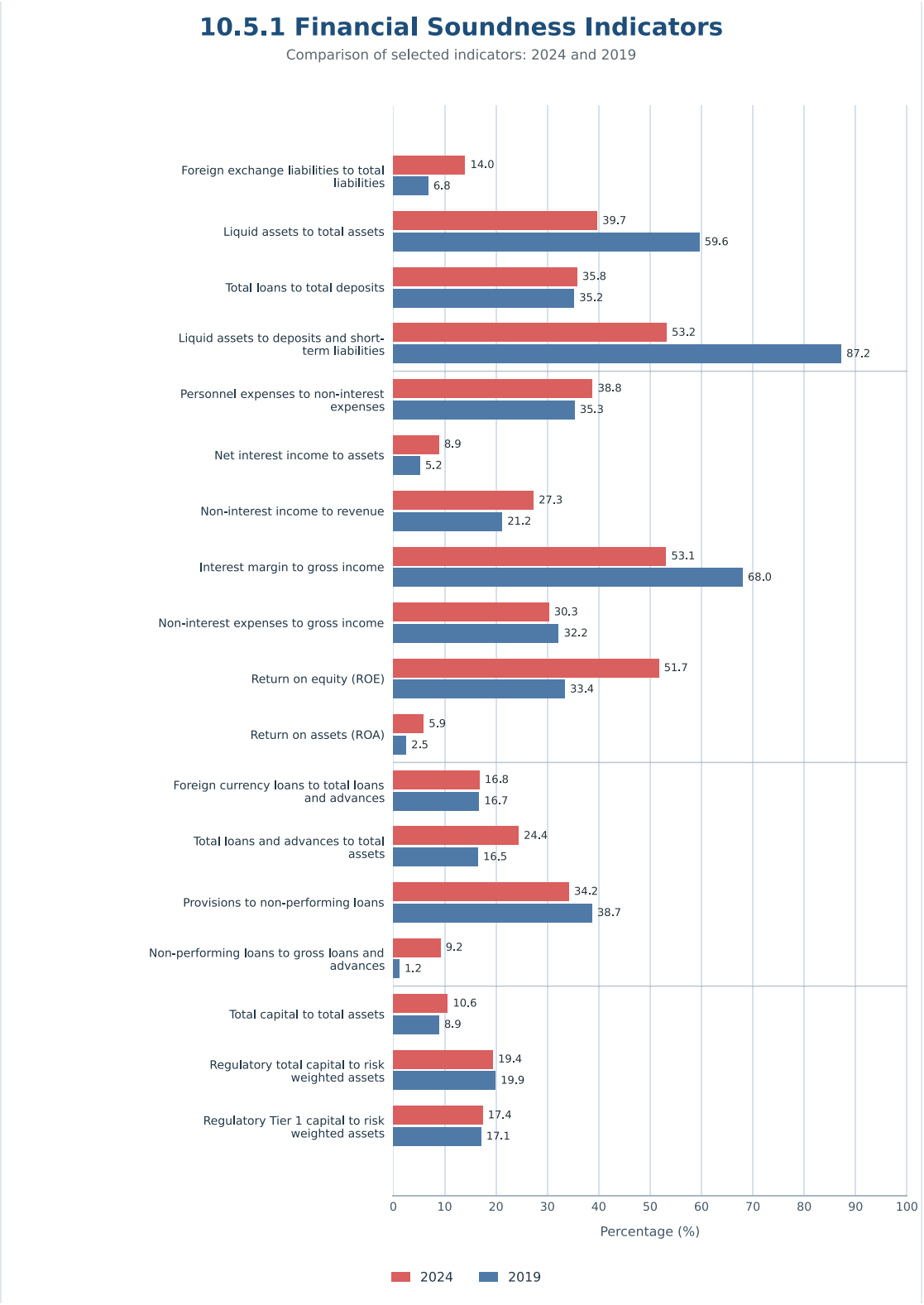


Figure 20: Financial Soundness Indicators

Case Study

Sightsavers Malawi — Advancing Disability-Inclusive Development

Sightsavers Malawi, established in 1999 though with operations dating back to the 1950s, has been a leading force in promoting disability-inclusive development. With a strong presence in the South-East districts of Mangochi, Phalombe, Mulanje, Balaka, and Zomba, and more recently extending to Lilongwe, Dowa, and Ntcheu, the organization has focused on inclusive eye health, inclusive education, social inclusion, and neglected tropical diseases. Its work targets persons with disabilities, women, children, and rural communities, ensuring that no one is left behind in Malawi's development journey.

Health Contributions (SDG 3)

In the health sector, Sightsavers has invested heavily in capacity building for health workers, specialist doctors, and health surveillance assistants, while also procuring drugs, consumables, and equipment to support outreach services. Hundreds of beneficiaries have received cataract operations, screenings, and disability-inclusive health services. A landmark achievement was the elimination of blinding trachoma in 2022, which is no longer considered a public health concern in Malawi. The organization has also conducted disability audits and supported infrastructure improvements at facilities such as Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kabudula, and Mitundu health centres, where accessible toilets, ramps, lowered door handles, and designated parking spaces were introduced to improve access for persons with disabilities.

Education Contributions (SDG 4)

In education, Sightsavers has promoted inclusive early childhood development and primary education, particularly in Ntcheu district where twenty community-based childcare centres and eighteen primary schools were supported. Caregivers, parents, and headteachers were trained to better accommodate children with disabilities, while parent support groups were established to strengthen family involvement. Livelihood support, such as goat distribution schemes, was provided to caregivers and parents to ease the economic burden. Although initial enrolment targets were set at eighty children, the initiative surpassed expectations, enrolling over five hundred children with disabilities in schools.

Economic Empowerment and Infrastructure (SDG 8 & 9)

Economic empowerment has been another area of impact, with projects in Dedza and Machinga informed by market surveys and designed to support both farm and off-farm activities. Persons with disabilities were provided with goats, fertilizers, and seeds, and were trained in improved farming practices in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. Sorghum emerged as a preferred crop, with market linkages facilitated by Sightsavers and partners such as FEDOMA, Vihema, and MUB. Over five hundred persons with disabilities are now engaged in farming and entrepreneurship, with production houses constructed in Dedza and Machinga to support branding and value addition.

Governance and Inclusion (SDG 10 & 16)

On governance and inclusion, Sightsavers has been instrumental in supporting Malawi's ratification of the African Disability Protocol in December 2024 and is working with government and organizations of persons with disabilities to domesticate its provisions through policy reviews. The organization has also contributed to Malawi's commitments at the Global Disability Summit, ensuring that disability rights remain central to national and international development agendas.

Partnerships (SDG 17)

Partnerships have been a cornerstone of Sightsavers' approach, with collaborations spanning government ministries, the European Union, NGOs, community structures, and organizations of persons with disabilities. These partnerships have strengthened disability inclusion across health, education, and livelihoods, though future efforts will require deeper engagement with city councils to advance inclusive urban planning.

Challenges and Recommendations

Despite these achievements, challenges remain. Limited funding restricts geographic coverage, while stigma, discrimination, and inaccessible infrastructure continue to hinder progress. Many health workers are still not trained in disability-friendly services, and rural communities remain difficult to reach. To accelerate progress, Sightsavers recommends strengthening inclusive data collection, ensuring that all national policies are disability-inclusive, expanding disability-friendly infrastructure, and deepening partnerships with local councils.

Conclusion

Sightsavers Malawi's work demonstrates how targeted interventions can transform lives and advance the Leave No One Behind agenda. From eliminating blinding trachoma to enrolling hundreds of children with disabilities in schools and empowering rural farmers, the organization has shown that inclusive, community-driven development is key to achieving Malawi's Sustainable Development Goals.


Partner with us

In-depth Review of SDG 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



This goal aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It recognises that well-planned urbanisation can drive economic growth, improve living conditions and reduce environmental pressures, while poorly managed growth can exacerbate inequality, increase disaster risk and degrade natural resources. In Malawi, where the urban population is projected to reach 30 percent by 2030, efforts toward sustainable and resilient communities are ongoing through a combination of government-led programmes, community-based initiatives and partnerships with non-state actors.

Interventions from Local Authorities and Communities

Malawi's progress under SDG 11 is reflected in interventions spanning environmental conservation, disaster risk reduction, and urban and community planning. Selected specific examples include:

1. Environmental Conservation:

Tree planting and catchment restoration initiatives are being implemented across the country, complemented by gully rehabilitation, soil conservation practices, and the planting of vetiver grass. Climate-smart agriculture practices, including the construction of box ridges, are promoted under the UCHI project (water, soil and forest conservation). Enforcement against cutting trees, including the application of fines, has been strengthened. Specific projects mentioned include the Changu Changu Mbawula Project by REAP Africa and the Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests project by Tetra Tech, which link conservation with sustainable energy transitions.

2. Disaster Risk Reduction:

In response to increasing climate-related hazards, communities and local authorities have constructed flood mitigation structures such as dykes at East Bank and Tsekeni. Evacuation centres (e.g., Namira, Buleya) have been established, and early warning systems are being developed with community involvement. Following Cyclone Freddy, Blantyre developed a Risk Atlas and ward-specific contingency plans, demonstrating a shift toward proactive disaster preparedness.

3. Urban and Community Planning:

Urban structure plans are being rolled out in cities such as Zomba, where plot demarcation and land registration activities generate revenue that is reinvested into service delivery, creating a sustainable financing cycle. Physical plans for urban growth are being developed, and recreational facilities such as the Hussein Youth Center in Zomba contribute to inclusive urban development. The secondary city concept for Chipoka in Salima is at a conceptual stage, aiming to decentralise growth and improve service delivery.

Impacts of the Initiatives to Achieve Sustainable Cities and Communities

Across the country, communities reported environmental improvements through tree planting, soil conservation and integrated catchment management, which have contributed to reduced erosion and enhanced resilience to climate shocks. Disaster preparedness efforts, including early warning systems and community-led contingency planning, have strengthened local capacity to respond to floods, droughts and cyclones. In Zomba's Songani Catchment area, over 6,000 trees were planted under climate-smart public works programmes, transforming communities from passive victims of climate shocks to active environmental stewards.

Impact of Natural Disasters

The majority of districts across the country reported being affected by natural disasters; only one district (Mzimba) reported not having been affected in recent years. Floods, drought, dry spells, strong winds, and windstorms were reported to have significant effects on communities on an annual basis, causing damage to infrastructure, crops, water points, sanitation facilities, houses, and school blocks. Cyclones (Freddy, Ana, Gombe) have severely impacted multiple districts, particularly in the Southern and Eastern Regions. El Niño-induced droughts have also affected communities in some areas. Communities in Phalombe and Zomba reported severe impacts from floods, El Niño-induced droughts, and cholera outbreaks, leading to destruction of homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. In Karonga, floods cause serious damage to pit latrines and other property annually.

In-depth Review Ratings

1. Inclusive Infrastructure

All local authorities and communities across the country reported that roads have not taken into account the needs of various groups of users, including persons with disabilities, cyclists, and pedestrians. This is a critical gap nationally. Roads are often sandy, uneven, and impassable during rains, making mobility difficult for disabled users. Transport modes do not accommodate persons with disabilities.

2. Environmental Conservation

All local authorities and communities reported implementing land and environmental conservation initiatives. The majority mentioned climate-smart agriculture and soil conservation practices, including tree planting, vetiver grass, box ridges, and enforcement against cutting trees.

3. Recreational Spaces

All local authorities and communities across the country reported not having adequate recreational parks or public spaces accessible to all groups, particularly in rural areas and unplanned urban settlements. The average share of built-up area dedicated to open public space is well below the recommended standard, limiting opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, and community cohesion.

4. Abuse Reporting Structures

All local authorities and communities across the country reported having structures responsible for reporting abuse, with the most common being: Social Welfare Committees, Community Victim Support Units, Police, Child Protection Committees, and YONECO. These structures serve as critical entry points for addressing gender-based violence, child abuse, and other forms of exploitation, though their effectiveness varies by location and resource availability.

Progress on SDG 11 Indicators

Indicator 11.1.1: Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

Approximately 60-75 percent of urban residents in Malawi live in informal settlements, characterized by substandard housing and limited access to basic sanitation services. Nationally, 32 percent of housing units are traditional houses, and 23 percent are semi-permanent structures, with the highest concentrations of inadequate housing in urban informal settlements.

The Malawi Government continues to strive to provide adequate housing to its citizens. Between 2020 and 2024, over 35 informal settlements were regularised, with titles issued to more than 10,000 households. Under the Lilongwe Urban Resilience Project, 3,687 plots were regularised by April 2025, benefiting 20,000 households. In the 2023 Tropical Cyclone Freddy disaster, 260,681 houses were damaged or destroyed, of which 75 percent were temporary structures, highlighting the vulnerability of informal housing. Recovery efforts include the construction of 10,000 housing units for security personnel, with over 4,000 completed by April 2025, and the construction of houses for persons with albinism.

Indicator 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

Rapid urbanisation has led to unplanned urban sprawl and increased pressure on land resources. The four major cities (Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu, Zomba) account for 15 percent of the national population. Secondary city development is underway, with base maps completed for Chipoka (2,589 hectares) and Bangula (3,235 hectares), and boundary identification initiated for Kasungu. The Lilongwe City 2030 Land Use Plan has legally expanded city boundaries, particularly towards the south and north-east. The National Physical Development Plan is under review to provide a coherent spatial framework. However, enforcement of master plans remains weak, with informal settlements expanding at an estimated rate of 5 percent per year. The Land Information Management System (LIMS) is being piloted in Blantyre and Lilongwe to improve land administration and transparency.

Indicator 11.4.1 Total expenditure per capita on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage

Cultural heritage in Malawi includes UNESCO World Heritage sites (e.g., Chongoni Rock Art Area), national monuments, and natural heritage sites. In the 2023 Tropical Cyclone Freddy PDNA, damages to cultural heritage sites were estimated at USD 1.8 million, affecting archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, and historical buildings, including sites along the Shire River, Lake Chilwa, and Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve. Recovery needs for cultural heritage were estimated at USD 650,000, primarily for risk mapping, multi-hazard assessments, and disaster risk management plans. The Department of Museums and Monuments is responsible for developing a national emergency recovery action plan. The National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) and the Urban Natural Assets for Africa Project have supported biodiversity mapping and conservation in urban areas, including the Lilongwe Ecological Corridor Initiative, which established a green-blue corridor along the Lingadzi and Lilongwe rivers.

11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 population

In March 2023, Tropical Cyclone Freddy affected 2,267,458 people (approximately 11 percent of the population), displaced 659,278, and resulted in 679 deaths, 537 missing, and 2,186 injured. Among the affected population, 1,308,064 were women and girls of reproductive age, and about 100,297 were pregnant women. The disaster affected 16 local authorities, with the highest impacts in Phalombe, Mulanje, Nsanje, Chikwawa, and Mangochi. The cyclone destroyed 260,681 houses, damaged 633 education institutions, and affected 313 health facilities.

To improve disaster preparedness, Malawi has developed the Multi-Hazard Risk Atlas which maps hazard risks across all 35 local authorities, identifying droughts, floods, flash floods, strong winds, and earthquakes as the most significant hazards.

11.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services

The total disaster effects of Tropical Cyclone Freddy were estimated at USD 506.7 million, comprising USD 347.2 million in damages and USD 159.5 million in economic losses. The infrastructure sector accounted for USD 178.0 million, with transport suffering USD 110.8 million, water and sanitation USD 41.1 million, and energy USD 13.4 million. Housing accounted for USD 124.5 million in damages and losses. Recovery needs were estimated at USD 680.4 million, with the social sector requiring USD 274.8 million, infrastructure USD 233.5 million, productive sector USD 100.6 million, and cross-cutting issues USD 71.5 million. The disaster reduced real GDP growth by an estimated 0.5 percent in 2023, and the agricultural sector accounted for 47 percent of production losses.

11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated

Nationally, only 30 percent of all waste is collected for disposal; the remainder is disposed of indiscriminately. In urban areas, 42 percent of households dispose of waste in rubbish pits, 25.4 percent dump in empty spaces, and 11.9 percent dump on roadsides. The National Clean-up Day Campaign, held on the second Friday of each month, has increased public participation in waste management. The Malawi Environmental Protection Authority (MEPA) is enforcing the ban on thin plastics, and recycling initiatives are underway, though the recycling rate remains below 4. Modern dumping sites in major cities face challenges due to land scarcity and compensation issues.

11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

Air quality monitoring in Malawi has been limited, but recent initiatives have established a national PM2.5 monitoring network. In 2024-2025, the Malawi Initiative for Clean Air Solutions installed one reference-grade PM2.5 monitor and approximately 50 low-cost sensors across five major urban areas: Blantyre, Lilongwe, Zomba, Salima, and Mzuzu. Baseline studies in Blantyre (2020-2022) found PM2.5 levels consistently above WHO limits, especially during the dry, windy season (June-October). Lilongwe currently has a PM2.5 concentration of 12.4 $\mu g/m^3$, which is 2.5 times higher than the WHO annual guideline. Rural cooking studies have measured PM2.5 exposures exceeding 700 $\mu g/m^3$, linking them to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases (Ministry of Health, 2023). The National Environmental Policy (2004) and Environment Management Act (2017) establish air quality standards, but enforcement remains weak.

11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all

Public open spaces in Malawian cities average only 5 percent of built-up areas, significantly below the WHO recommended standard of 15-20 percent. In newly developed residential estates in Lilongwe, only 2.5 percent of land is dedicated to public open spaces. The Greening Lilongwe Campaign and avenue tree planting initiatives aim to restore degraded open spaces and create green corridors. The Lilongwe Ecological Corridor Initiative has established a green-blue corridor along the Lingadzi and Lilongwe rivers, including the development of a city riverine park (Eden Park).

Urban biodiversity surveys have mapped city-wide habitats and wildlife corridors, supporting the planning of public green spaces. However, rapid urbanisation continues to pressure remaining open spaces, with informal settlements expanding into riparian zones and protected areas.

Overview of SDG 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

This goal aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, recognising that efficient use of natural resources, waste reduction, and environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes are essential for sustainable development.

SDG 12 is monitored through 13 targets and 17 indicators covering material footprint, domestic material consumption, national recycling rates, hazardous waste management, and the extent to which countries adopt policies promoting sustainable practices. In Malawi, progress under SDG 12 is reflected in efforts to improve waste management, strengthen enforcement against unsustainable practices, and raise public awareness on environmental stewardship, though challenges of limited infrastructure, low recycling rates, and weak enforcement persist.

Progress of SDG 12 Indicators

Indicator 12.4.2: Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

The Environment Management Act (2017) adopts the "polluter pays" principle, requiring licences for pollutant emissions and establishing the Malawi Environmental Protection Authority (MEPA) as the principal agency for environmental management. In 2023, 35 percent of industrial-generated waste was safely disposed of, an increase from the baseline of 30 percent in 2020. The National E-waste Management Policy, launched in December 2024, provides a regulatory framework for managing waste from electrical and electronic equipment, addressing the growing volume of hazardous e-waste.

Compliance monitoring remains a challenge, in 2023, 52 compliance-monitoring activities on Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) were conducted, and 33 environmental audit reports were reviewed. However, hazardous waste treatment data remain incomplete due to limited tracking systems and informal disposal practices.

Indicator 12.5.1: National recycling rate, tons of materials recycled

The national recycling rate in Malawi remains low, estimated at less than 4 percent of total waste generated. Plastic waste accounts for a significant portion of recyclable materials, with an estimated 20 percent of plastic waste recycled, though the majority still ends up in landfills or the environment. The ban on thin plastics, enforced by MEPA, has reduced the volume of single-use plastics, and community-led recycling initiatives are emerging in urban areas.

The Government continues to conduct recycling campaigns. The Nkhata-Bay dump site, constructed under the Nkhata-Bay Water and Sanitation Project, is 90 percent complete and serves as a model for controlled waste disposal. The National Clean-up Day Campaign, held monthly, has increased public participation, but the absence of systematic recycling infrastructure limits progress toward the national target of 70 percent domestic waste recycling by 2030.

Indicator 12.8.1: Extent to which global citizenship education and education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in National education policies, Curricula, Teacher education and Student assessment

Environmental education is integrated into primary and secondary curricula through subjects such as agriculture, science, and social studies. The Malawi Institute of Education (MIE) has incorporated environmental sustainability topics into teacher training programmes, and the Ministry of Education, with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, has developed teaching materials on climate change and waste management. The National Environmental Policy (2004) and the Environment Management Act (2017) mandate environmental education and public awareness. In practice, school-based environmental clubs, tree planting campaigns, and waste segregation initiatives are common in urban schools, but coverage remains uneven across districts. The National Strategy on Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning includes modules on environmental stewardship, reaching over 171,434 learners in 2024.



Overview of SDG 13

CLIMATE ACTION

This goal urges urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, recognising that climate-related hazards are increasing in frequency and intensity, threatening lives, livelihoods, and development gains.

SDG 13 is monitored through 5 targets and 8 indicators covering deaths and economic losses from disasters, the number of countries with national adaptation plans, and the mobilisation of climate finance. Malawi is highly vulnerable to climate change, ranking among the countries most affected by extreme weather events. Progress is reflected in strengthened disaster risk management systems, expanded early warning coverage, and increased climate finance, though the scale of impacts continues to outpace adaptation efforts.

Progress of SDG 13 Indicators

Indicator 13.1.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

In March 2023, Tropical Cyclone Freddy affected 2,267,458 people (approximately 11 percent of the population), displaced 659,278, and resulted in 679 deaths, 537 missing, and 2,186 injured. Among the affected population, 1,308,064 were women and girls of reproductive age.

To improve disaster preparedness, Malawi has developed the Multi-Hazard Risk Atlas which maps hazard risks across all 35 local authorities, identifying droughts, floods, flash floods, strong winds, and earthquakes as the most significant hazards.

Indicator 13.1.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

The Disaster Risk Management Act (2023) provides a comprehensive legal framework for disaster risk reduction, replacing the 1991 Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act with a stronger focus on resilience building, risk reduction, and sustainable financing. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2015) is under review to align with the new Act and the Sendai Framework. The National Resilience Strategy (2018-2030) remains the guiding framework for building long-term resilience across four pillars: resilient agricultural growth; risk reduction, flood control, and early warning; human capacity and social protection; and catchment protection.

Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) are being implemented in district councils, and the Government has supported the development of ward-specific contingency plans in disaster-prone areas such as Blantyre following Cyclone Freddy. The Devolution Plan for Disaster Risk Management (2016) empowers local governments to lead disaster preparedness and response, with district-level DRM committees now operational in all affected councils.

Indicator 13.1.3: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

As of 2025, all 35 local government authorities have adopted disaster risk reduction strategies integrated into their development planning processes. The Multi-Hazard Risk Atlas provides risk profiles for each council, informing the formulation of Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) and contingency plans.

The Disaster Risk Management Act (2023) mandates the establishment of local DRM committees and the integration of DRM into district development plans. However, implementation capacity varies, with rural councils often facing resource constraints that limit the effective execution of DRM strategies.

Indicator 13.2.1: Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Malawi submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC in 2021, outlining mitigation and adaptation targets across energy, waste, forestry, and agriculture sectors. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is under development, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The National Climate Change Management Policy (2016) provides the overarching framework for climate action, and the Climate Change Bill is currently under development to provide legal backing for carbon trading initiatives and the operationalisation of the National Climate Change Fund. The draft Article 6 Framework, developed in 2024, guides Malawi's participation in international carbon markets. The country's first Biennial Update Report (BUR) and National Communications have been submitted to the UNFCCC, demonstrating progress in reporting and transparency.

Indicator 13.2.2: Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Malawi's energy sector accounts for the largest share of emissions, largely from biomass use for cooking and heating, while agriculture contributes through livestock and crop production. The National Energy Compact aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix by 2030, with solar power projects such as the Salima Solar Power Plant adding 50 MW to the national grid. Afforestation and reforestation initiatives are being implemented under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) strategy, contributing to carbon sequestration. Forest cover improved from 23.8 percent in 2020 to 24.4 percent in 2023, reflecting progress in ecosystem restoration.

Indicator 13.3.1: Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

Environmental and climate change topics are integrated into the primary and secondary school curricula through subjects such as agriculture, science, geography, and social studies. The Malawi Institute of Education (MIE) has developed teaching materials on climate change, and teacher training programmes include modules on environmental education and climate resilience. The Ministry of Education, with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, has promoted school-based climate clubs and tree planting initiatives. At tertiary level, universities such as Mzuzu University, Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS), and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) offer specialised programmes in climate change, environmental science, and natural resource management. The Malawi Research and Education Network (MAREN) support climate-related research and knowledge sharing. However, the extent of integration into student assessment remains limited, and rural schools often lack resources to deliver practical climate education.



Overview of SDG 14

LIFE BELOW WATER

This goal aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. It addresses critical issues such as overfishing, marine pollution, biodiversity loss, and the economic potential of sustainable marine-based industries. SDG 14 is monitored through 10 targets and 10 indicators covering areas like sustainable fisheries, marine ecosystem protection, and the economic contribution of ocean resources.

In Malawi, a landlocked country with extensive freshwater systems, SDG 14 is primarily implemented through the management of Lake Malawi, the Shire River, and other inland water bodies. While some data exists, most indicators lack recent updates, limiting the ability to track progress effectively. Available data reveals mixed trends.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 14

Indicator 14.4.1: Proportion of Fish Stocks within Biologically Sustainable Levels

Capture fishery production fluctuated significantly in recent years. After declining to 173,480 metric tons in 2022, national capture fisheries increased to 212,736 metric tons in 2023 before falling again to 183,396 metric tons in 2024.

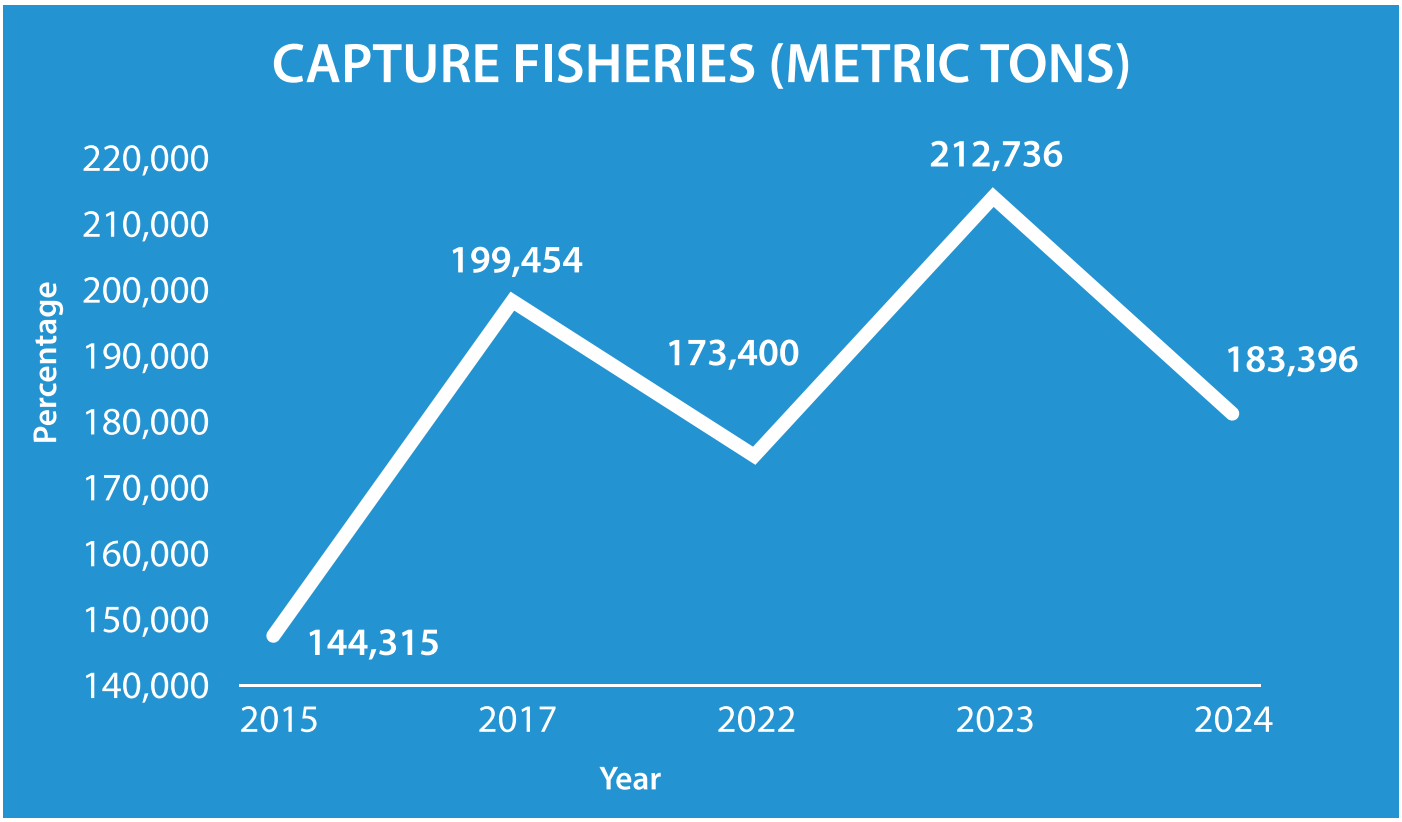


Figure 21: Capture fishery production

Lake Malawi continues to supply the bulk of the catch, contributing 145,467 metric tons in 2024. Usipa (Engraulicypris sardella) remains the dominant species, accounting for 51 percent of total annual catch in 2024. The chambo species complex (native tilapias) declined by 3.5 percent from 13,916 metric tons in 2023 to 13,428 metric tons in 2024, indicating continued pressure on high-value stocks. Lake Malombe saw a notable recovery with catches increasing by 100.2 percent from 1,763 to 3,529 metric tons, reflecting improved management. In contrast, Lake Chilwa catches dropped by 24.6 percent due to environmental variability.

Aquaculture production increased substantially from 9,321 metric tons in 2023 to 14,301 metric tons in 2024, a 53.4 percent rise driven by the adoption of cage farming on Lake Malawi and expanded fish feed production. Total fingerling production from public and private hatcheries stood at 6.2 million in 2024.

While the growth in aquaculture is encouraging, the decline in capture fisheries, particularly in Lake Chilwa, points to ongoing challenges in stock sustainability and the need for enhanced monitoring and management.

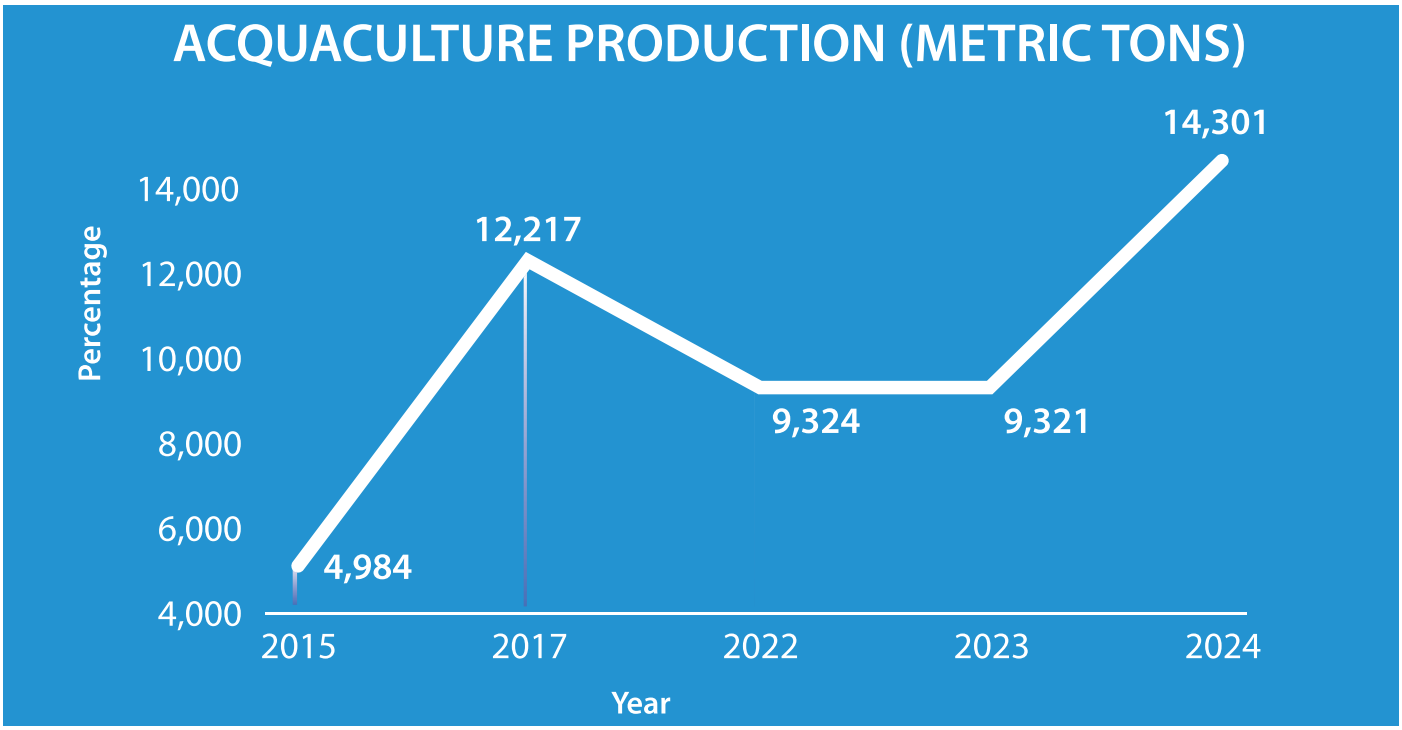


Figure 22: Indicator 14.4.1: Proportion of Fish Stocks within Biologically Sustainable Levels

Indicator 14.7.1: Sustainable Fisheries as a Percentage of GDP

The direct contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to GDP remains low. The subsector contributed approximately 1.6 percent to total GDP in 2024. The value of fish landings in 2024 was estimated at MK391.9 billion (USD217.7 million), a 9.3 percent increase from 2023. Fish exports from Lake Malawi generated USD 95,820 from 38,585 individual fish in 2024, down from USD113,958 in 2023, with Malaysia, Denmark, and Tanzania as the main markets.

Indicator 14.6.1: Progress in Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Malawi has strengthened its fisheries regulatory framework through the licensing of fishing gears and the issuance of aquaculture permits. In 2024, the Department of Fisheries licensed over 14,000 fishing gear owners and 67,000 crew members, generating licensing revenue exceeding MK78 million. Sanitary certificates for fish exports were issued, contributing to revenue collection. Enforcement activities, including patrols and inspections, have intensified in fishing districts. However, challenges remain: fish smuggling, unreported catches, and illegal fishing practices persist, particularly in border areas and remote lakeshore communities. The National Aquaculture Strategic Plan addresses technical and institutional gaps, but implementation of international instruments remains limited.

Indicator 14.b.1: Access Rights for Small-Scale Fisheries

The Fisheries Act and the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy provide a legal framework that recognises small-scale fishers. Community-based fisheries management is promoted through the establishment of Beach Village Committees (BVCs) and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) for fisherfolk. The Department supports the formalisation of fishing cooperatives, with cage culture groups established in lakeshore districts. However, access rights for small-scale fishers are often contested, particularly in areas where commercial fishing operations compete for resources. Co-management arrangements are being piloted, but legal protections for artisanal fishers remain incomplete.

Indicator 14.5.1: Coverage of Protected Areas in Relation to Marine Areas

Malawi's freshwater protected areas include Lake Malawi National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which covers 94 square kilometres of the lake and surrounding areas. Additionally, Ramsar sites such as Lake Chirwa and Lake Chiuta provide protection for wetland ecosystems. The country has 87 forest reserves and four wildlife reserves that protect critical water catchments. However, only a small proportion of Malawi's total water surface area (approximately 20 percent of the country) is formally protected. Efforts to designate new protected areas for aquatic biodiversity are ongoing, with support from the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN).



Overview of SDG 15

LIFE ON LAND

This goal aims to protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss. SDG 15 is monitored through 12 targets and 14 indicators covering forest area, biodiversity, land degradation, and wildlife trafficking.

In Malawi, where forests, woodlands, and diverse ecosystems underpin rural livelihoods and national development, progress under SDG 15 is reflected in a reversal of deforestation trends, expanded restoration efforts, strengthened enforcement against illegal wildlife trade, and the integration of environmental sustainability into national planning.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 15

Indicator 15.1.1: Forest Area as a Proportion of Total Land Area:

From 2015 to 2018, sector administrative data indicates that the proportion of forest area as a percentage of total land area showed a significant increase, rising from 20% to 37.8%. However, this positive trend reversed to 23.8% in 2022. By 2023/24, it was reported at 24.4%. These fluctuations point to ongoing challenges in forest conservation, with key drivers including land use changes, agricultural expansion, urban development, and the detrimental impact of charcoal production. Charcoal production, often driven by unsustainable harvesting of wood for fuel, remains a major factor contributing to deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems, exacerbating the struggle to maintain and expand forest cover. Initiatives relating to climate smart agriculture and land use may be responsible for sustaining the overall improvement between 2015 and 2024.

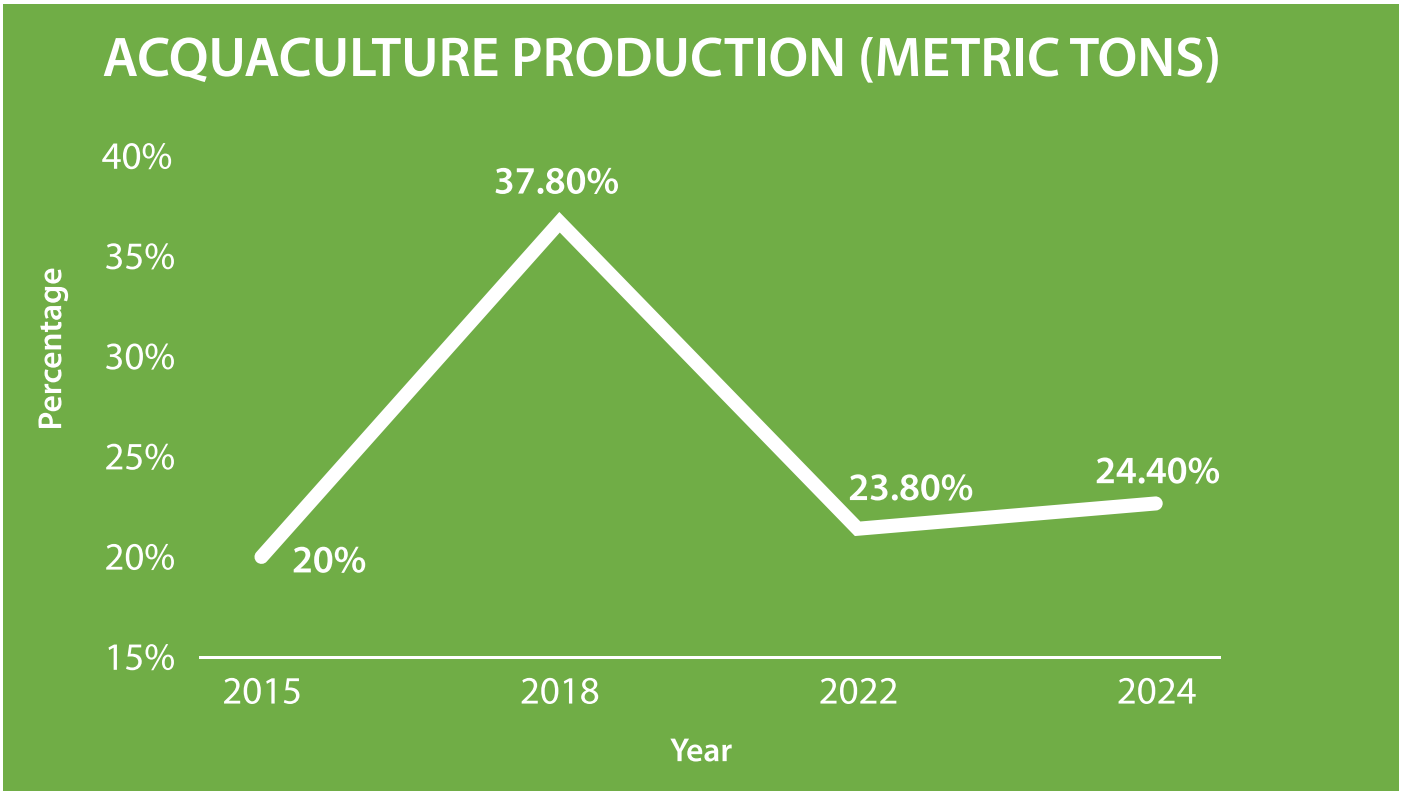


Figure 23: Forest Area as a Proportion of Total Land Area

Indicator 15.1.2 Proportion of Important Sites for Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Covered by Protected Areas, by Ecosystem Type

UNCCD data indicates that the proportion of important terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity sites covered by protected areas has steadily improved from 17.5% in 2015 to 22.9% in 2018 and remained stable through 2022. While this reflects a strong commitment to conserving biodiversity hotspots, further efforts are necessary to expand the protected areas and enhance their management, ensuring that these sites remain safe from threats such as poaching, illegal logging, and agricultural encroachment.

Indicator 15.2.1: Progress towards sustainable forest management

In the 2022/23 financial year, the Department of Forestry protected 90,000 hectares of industrial plantations from fires and illegal logging, and managed natural regeneration on 7,178 hectares of customary land. Total tree seedlings produced reached 36.4 million, with 31.4 million distributed for customary estate planting and 4.9 million for government plantations. Forest plantation management agreements were signed with local small-scale operators, and concession agreements covering 15,584 hectares were operationalised in Viphya and Zomba Mountain plantations.

Indicator 15.3.1 Proportion of Land that is Degraded over Total Land Area

Land degradation remains a significant challenge, with the proportion of degraded land holding steady at 2.8% from 2015 to 2018. However, in 2022, this figure skyrocketed to 26.75%, indicating a sharp rise in land degradation. This dramatic increase may be attributed to a combination of factors, including unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, and the accelerating effects of climate change. Immediate and focused action is necessary to reverse this trend through land restoration programs, sustainable agricultural practices, and combating desertification.

Indicator 15.4.1 Coverage by Protected Areas of Important Sites for Mountain Biodiversity:

The coverage of protected areas for mountain biodiversity sites remains insufficient, particularly for mountain ecosystems that are vulnerable to climate change and other environmental threats. The coverage remained stable at 52.9% from 2015 to 2018. It increased slightly to 52.94%, marking a modest improvement. Despite this, the coverage

Malawi's mountainous regions, including Mulanje Mountain, Zomba Mountain, and the Nyika Plateau, are largely encompassed within protected areas. Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve (54,000 ha) and Zomba Mountain Forest Reserve (5,800 ha) are key biodiversity sites managed under the Department of Forestry. The Nyika National Park (320,000 ha) is managed by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. These areas provide critical habitat for endemic species such as the Mulanje cedar (Widdringtonia whytei) and the nyika monkey (Cercopithecus mitis nyikae).

Indicator 15.5.1: Red List Index

The updated Red Data List for Malawi, supported by the Shire Valley Transformation Project, assessed 78 species and found 13 critically endangered, 10 endangered, and 5 vulnerable. This information is used to prioritise species conservation actions and inform Environmental Impact Assessment processes. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2025) is under revision to incorporate the Kunming-Montreal targets.

Indicator 15.c.1 Proportion of Traded Wildlife that Was Poached or Illicitly Trafficked:

Wildlife trafficking remains a significant concern, with the proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked remaining constant at 10% from 2015 to 2018. However, by 2022, this figure had surged to 40%, indicating a troubling rise in poaching and illegal trafficking activities. This sharp increase underscores the urgent need for stronger enforcement of wildlife protection laws, stricter penalties, and enhanced international cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking and protect endangered species.



Overview of SDG 16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



This goal aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 16 is monitored through 12 targets and 23 indicators covering violence, rule of law, access to justice, corruption, transparency, and representation. In Malawi, progress is assessed through national surveys on justice and accountability, administrative data on crime and corruption, and reforms aimed at strengthening governance institutions. While some gains have been made in crime reduction and public sector digitisation, significant challenges remain in ensuring equal access to justice, combating corruption, and building public trust in formal institutions.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 16

Indicator 16.1.1 Number of Victims of Intentional Homicide and Indicator 16.1.2 Conflict-Related Deaths:

The crime rate, which includes homicide, fell from 234 per 100,000 population in 2022 to 217 per 100,000 in 2023. Specific homicide data are not separately reported, but the overall reduction in crime suggests positive progress.

Indicator 16.1.3: Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

Currently, 56.7 percent of Malawians reported experiencing physical human rights violations in the past two years, 28.5 percent verbal abuse, 22.4 percent psychological abuse, and 18.2 percent sexual abuse. Among the total affected population, 29.4 percent reported the violation to authorities.

Indicator 16.3.1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities

Of those who experienced human rights violations in the two years prior to the survey, 29.4 percent reported the violation to authorities, with females (30.5 percent) slightly more likely to report than males (28.3 percent). Reporting was highest in the Northern Region (35.4 percent) and lowest in the Southern Region (24.9 percent).

Indicator 16.3.2 Unsentenced Detainees as a Proportion of Overall Prison Population

Administrative data indicates that the proportion of unsentenced detainees has shown significant fluctuation over the reporting period. Starting from 15.9% at the baseline in 2015, the proportion of unsentenced detainees has steadily increased to 22% in 2022 and 29% in 2023/24. This points to persistent challenges in judicial efficiency and pre-trial detention processes that require sustained reform.

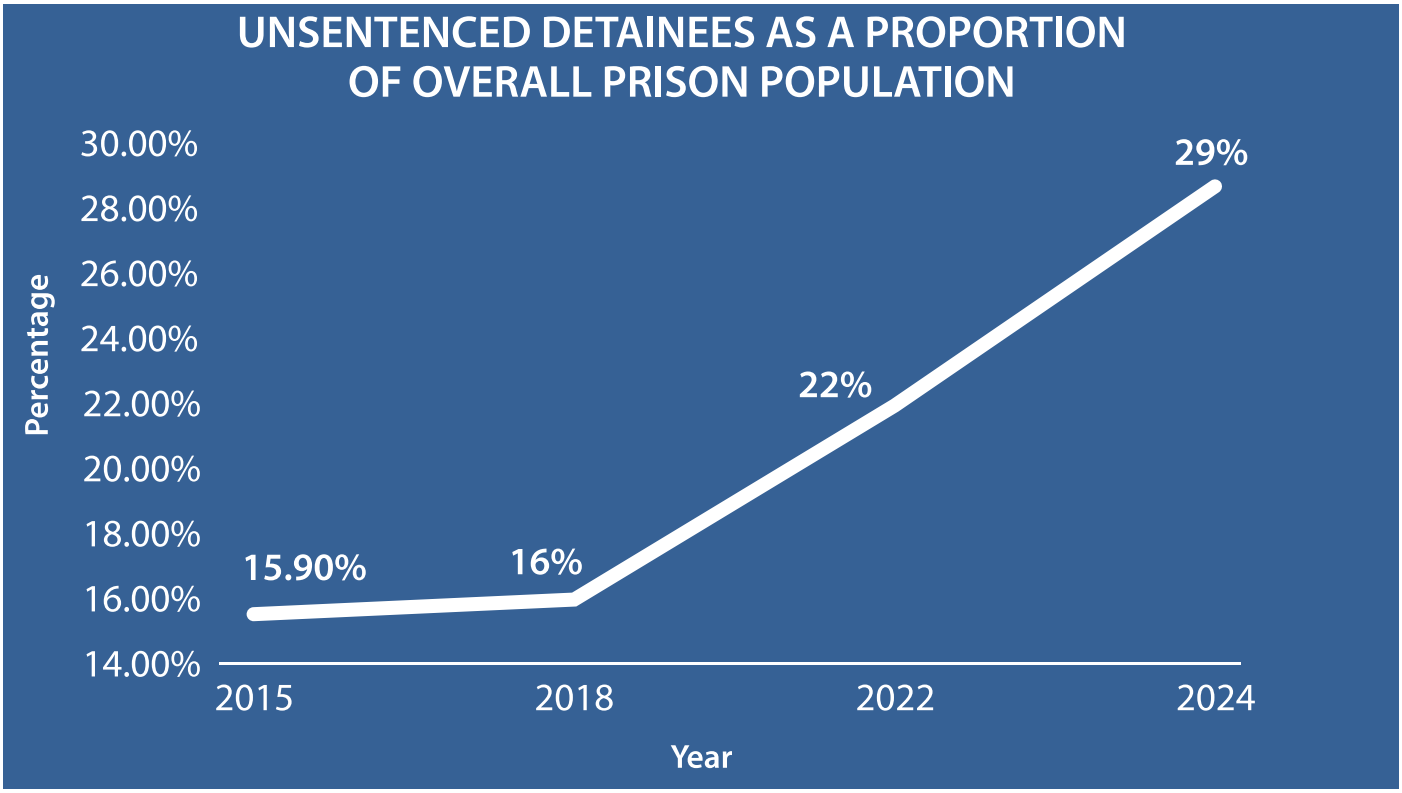


Figure 24: Unsentenced Detainees as a Proportion of Overall Prison Population

Indicator 16.5.1: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials

While direct bribery data are not systematically collected, perceptions of corruption are high. Only 10.0 percent of respondents believed public authorities always follow the law, and 39.6 percent said public authorities rarely follow the law.

Indicator 16.6.2: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

Government expenditure as a proportion of the approved budget declined sharply from 97% in 2015 to 85% in 2018. This level has been fairly constant, and currently hovers at 87%.

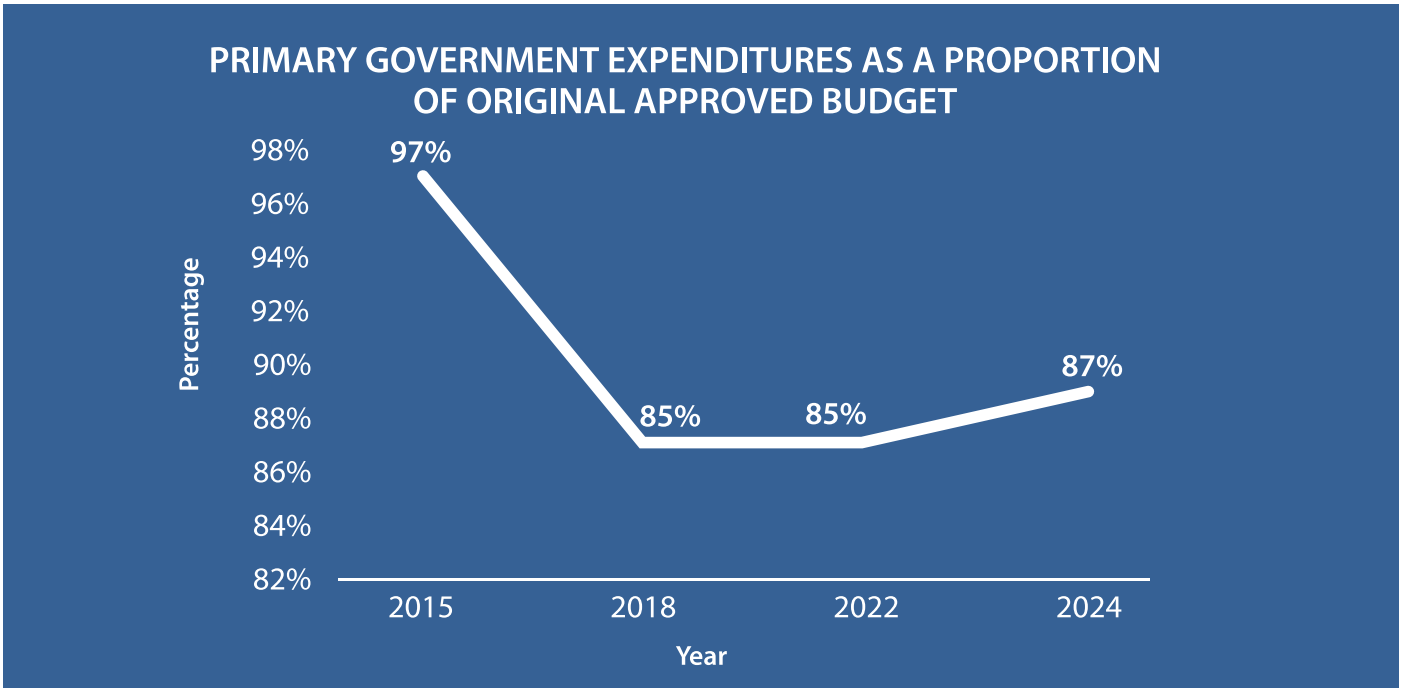


Figure 25: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget

Indicator 16.6.2: Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

Satisfaction with democratic accountability institutions varied: 19.4 percent were very satisfied with the MHRC, 16.1 percent with the Ombudsman, and 15.4 percent with the ACB. Dissatisfaction with these institutions increased from 2018 levels. For the formal justice system, 34.7 percent were very satisfied, 26.9 percent satisfied, and 30.8 percent not satisfied.

Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Registration at birth has significantly improved as a result of the investments that have occurred from 2015 to date. This number has increased from 6.4% in 2015 to 78.2% in 2025, and Malawi is on track to achieve universal birth registration by 2030.

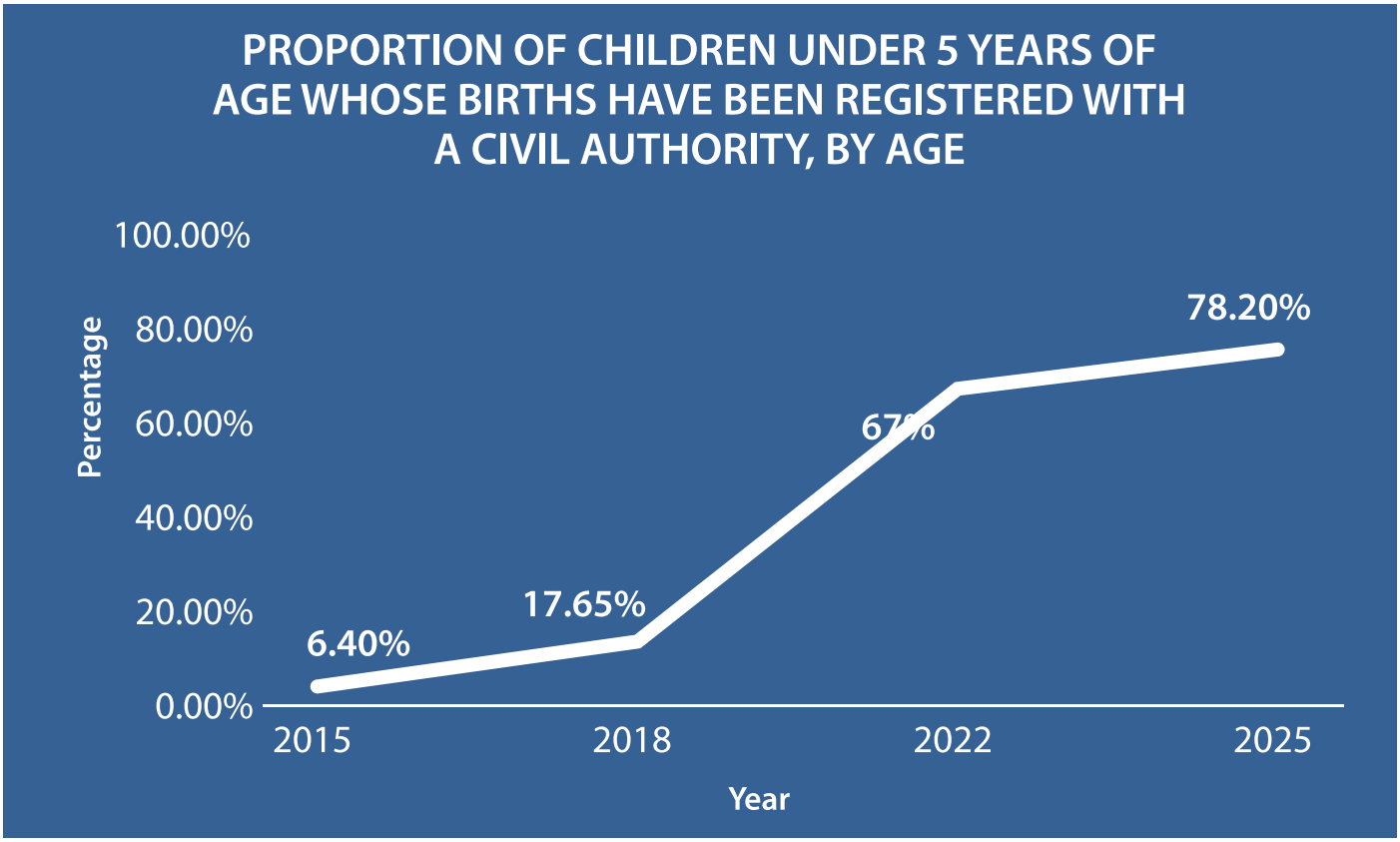


Figure 26: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Indicator 16.b.1 Rule of Law Global Ranking (Global Corruption Ranking Score)

According to Transparency Internationals Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), Malawi has demonstrated a consistent and positive trend in its global corruption ranking, reflecting improvements in perceived public sector integrity. The score declined from a baseline of 120 in 2015 to 122 in the 2018. From 2018, there has been steady progress with the score improving to 107 in 2024. The sustained improvement from 2015 to 2025 indicates a gradual enhancement in anti-corruption efforts and governance standards.

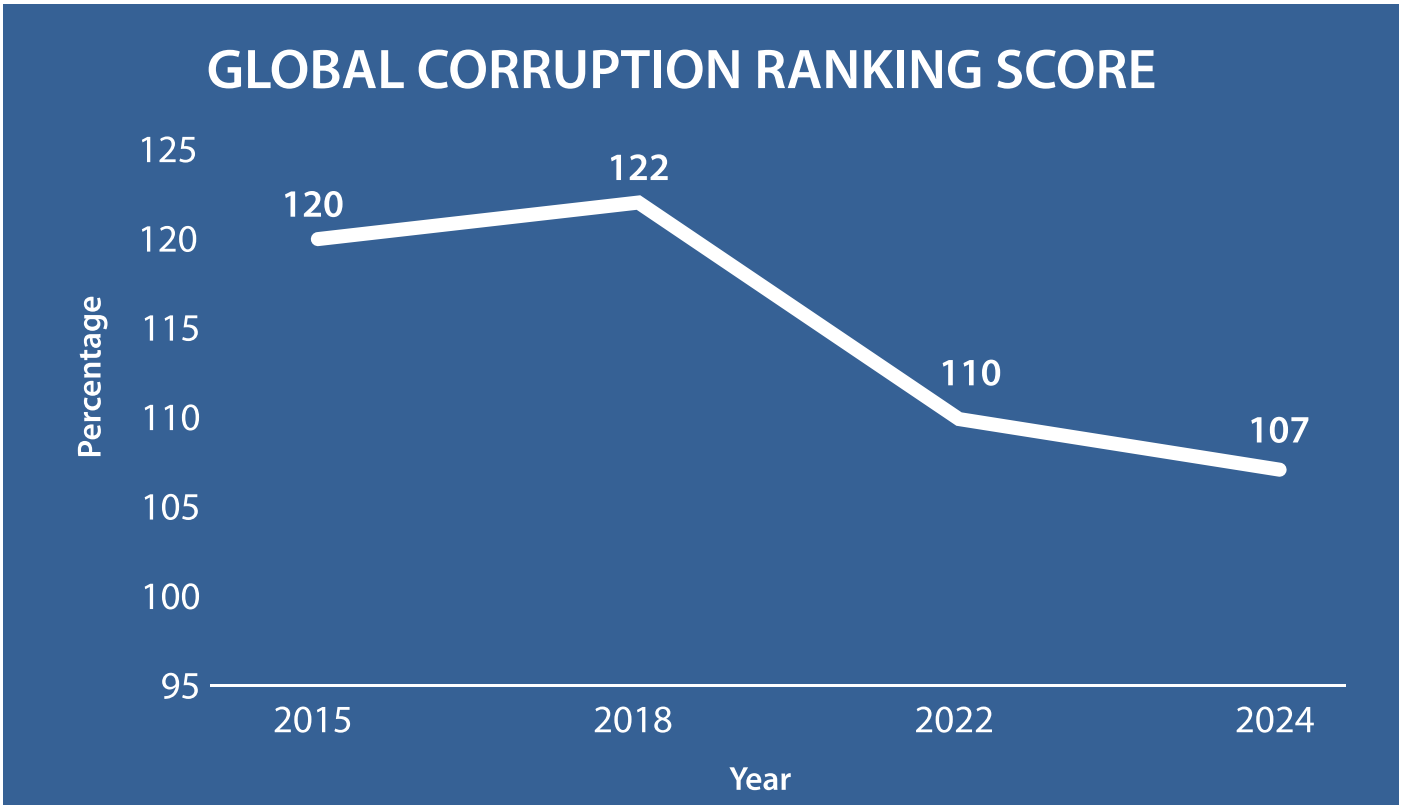


Figure 27: Rule of Law Global Ranking (Global Corruption Ranking Score)

Indicator 16.7.1: Proportions of positions in national and local institutions including the legislatures, the public service the judiciary compared to national distributions

Women held 25 percent of cabinet positions in 2026 and 26 percent of National Assembly seats in 2026. The proportion of women in managerial positions in the public service stood at 32 percent in 2024, an improvement from 26 percent in 2022. Among local councils, women constituted 16 percent of councillors.

Indicator 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

The Access to Information Act is being implemented, with all MDAs appointing Information Officers to facilitate information dissemination. However, only 40 percent of official email addresses were active by 2024, limiting effectiveness. The Malawi Human Rights Commission monitors compliance, and the Government is digitising public records to improve transparency.



Overview of SDG 17

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

This goal aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. It recognises that achieving the SDGs requires coherent policies, adequate financing, technology transfer, capacity building, and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships. SDG 17 is monitored through 19 targets and 25 indicators covering finance, technology, capacity building, trade, policy coherence, and data systems.

In Malawi, progress is reflected in strengthened coordination mechanisms, expanded development partner engagement, public-private initiatives, and efforts to enhance data and statistical capacity, though fiscal constraints, high debt, and reliance on external financing remain significant challenges.

Progress of Indicators for SDG 16

Indicator 17.1.1: Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP

Total government revenue was 16.5 percent of GDP in 2021/22 and 15.9 percent in 2023/24. Tax revenue accounted for 13.7 percent of GDP in 2022/23, with taxes on goods and services contributing 5.8 percent, income taxes 6.5 percent, and international trade taxes 1.4 percent.

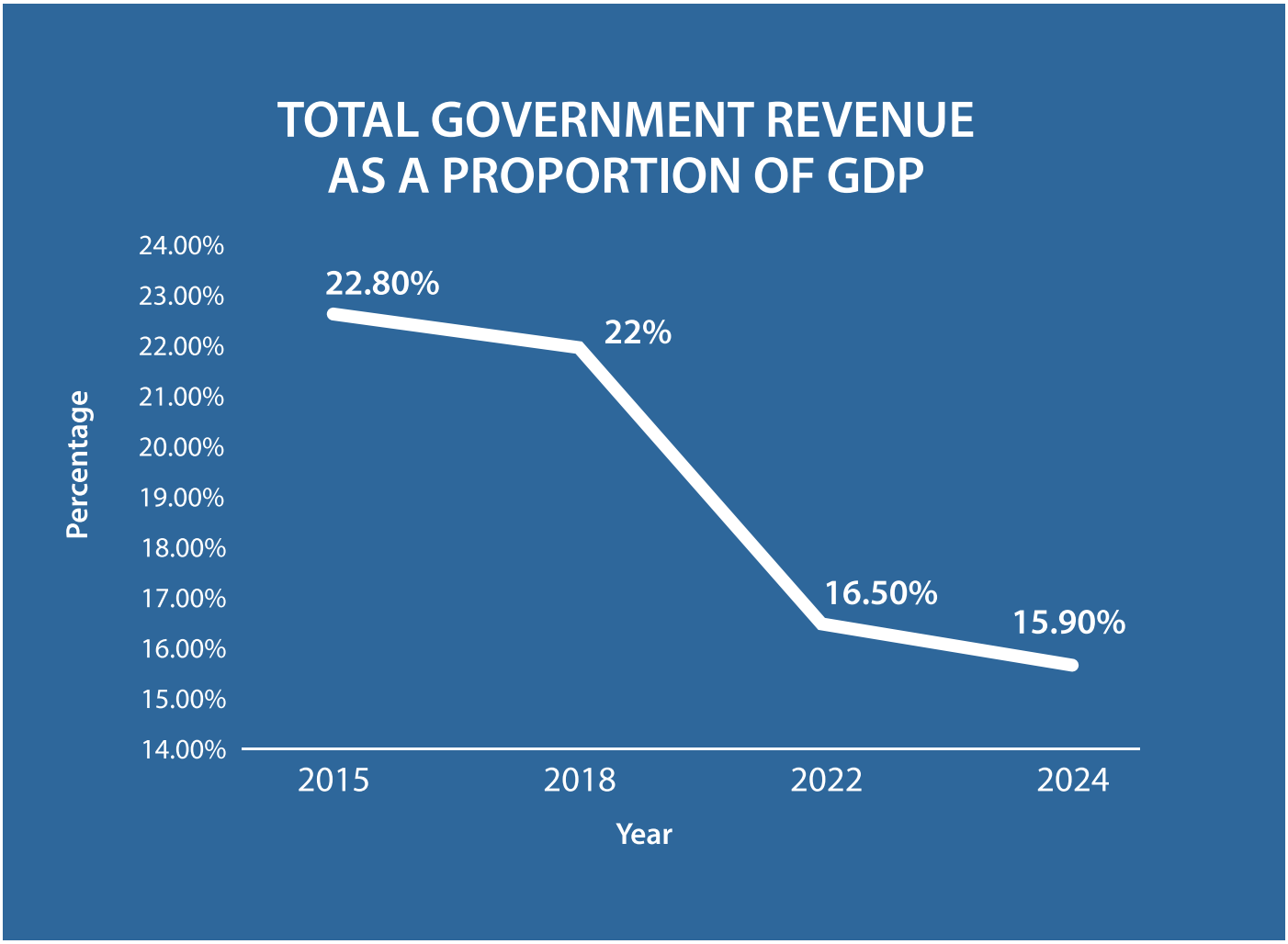


Figure 28: Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP

Indicator 17.1.2: Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

The proportion of the domestic budget funded by domestic taxes has significantly increased from 19.8% in 2015 to 54% in 2024. This proportion is expected to further increase due to the various tax initiatives put forward by the government to increase revenue collection.

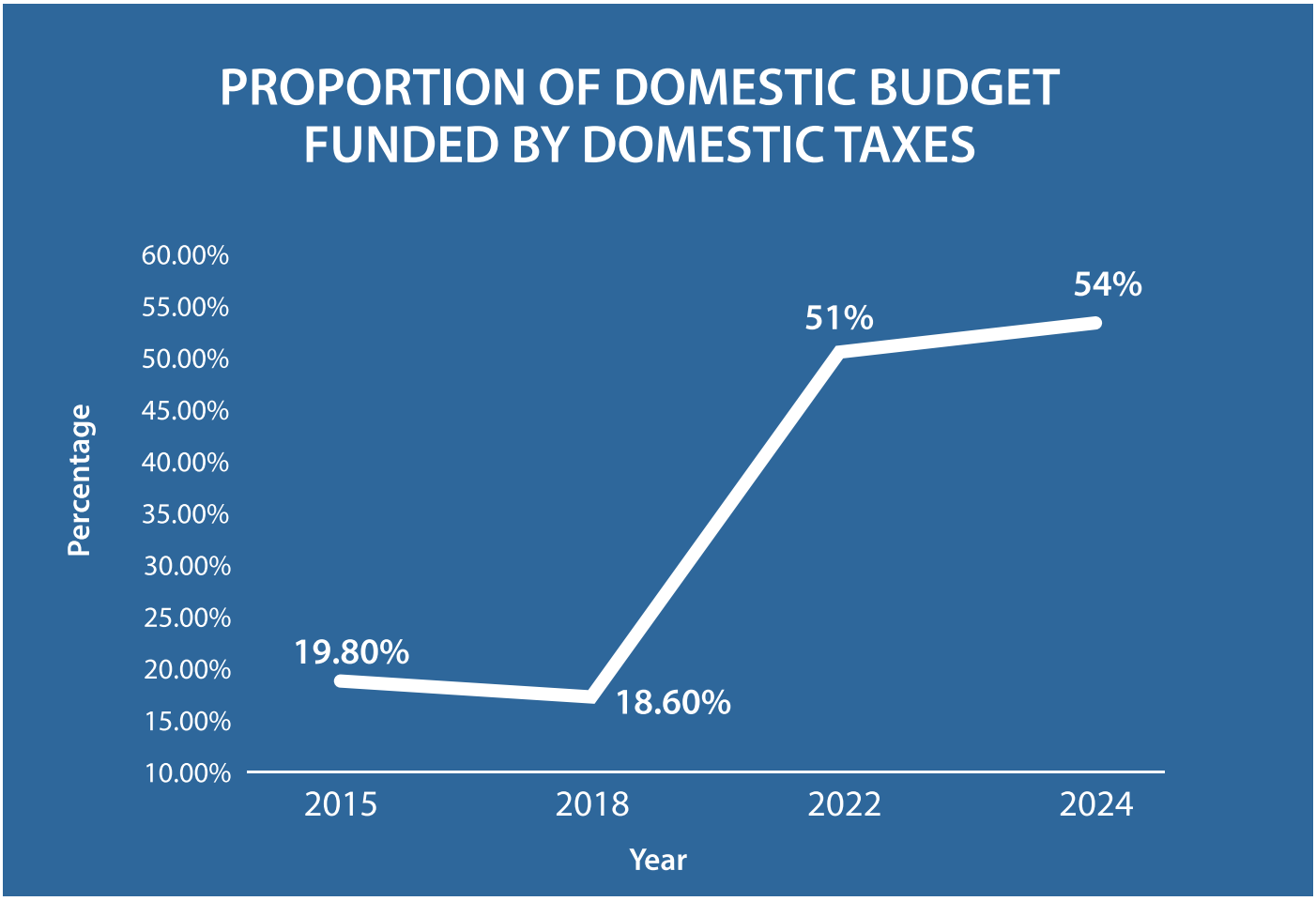


Figure 29: Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

Indicator 17.4.1: Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

External debt service was 60 percent of exports in 2023, well above the 10 percent threshold used in Debt Sustainability Analysis. Total debt service (external and domestic) in the first half of 2023/24 was MK1.01 trillion, equivalent to 6.6 percent of GDP.

Indicator 17.6.1: Fixed Internet Broadband Subscriptions per 100 Inhabitants

Fixed internet broadband subscriptions showed no growth for several years, stagnating at a rate of 18 per 100 inhabitants from the baseline in 2015 to 2018. However, a period of transformative expansion has since occurred, with subscriptions surging to 42.8 per 100 inhabitants in the current data for 2023/24. This represents a dramatic increase of over 130%, signalling a major leap in digital infrastructure development. This growth is critical for bridging the digital divide, fostering economic innovation, and improving access to information and public services, marking a significant step forward in building a more connected society.

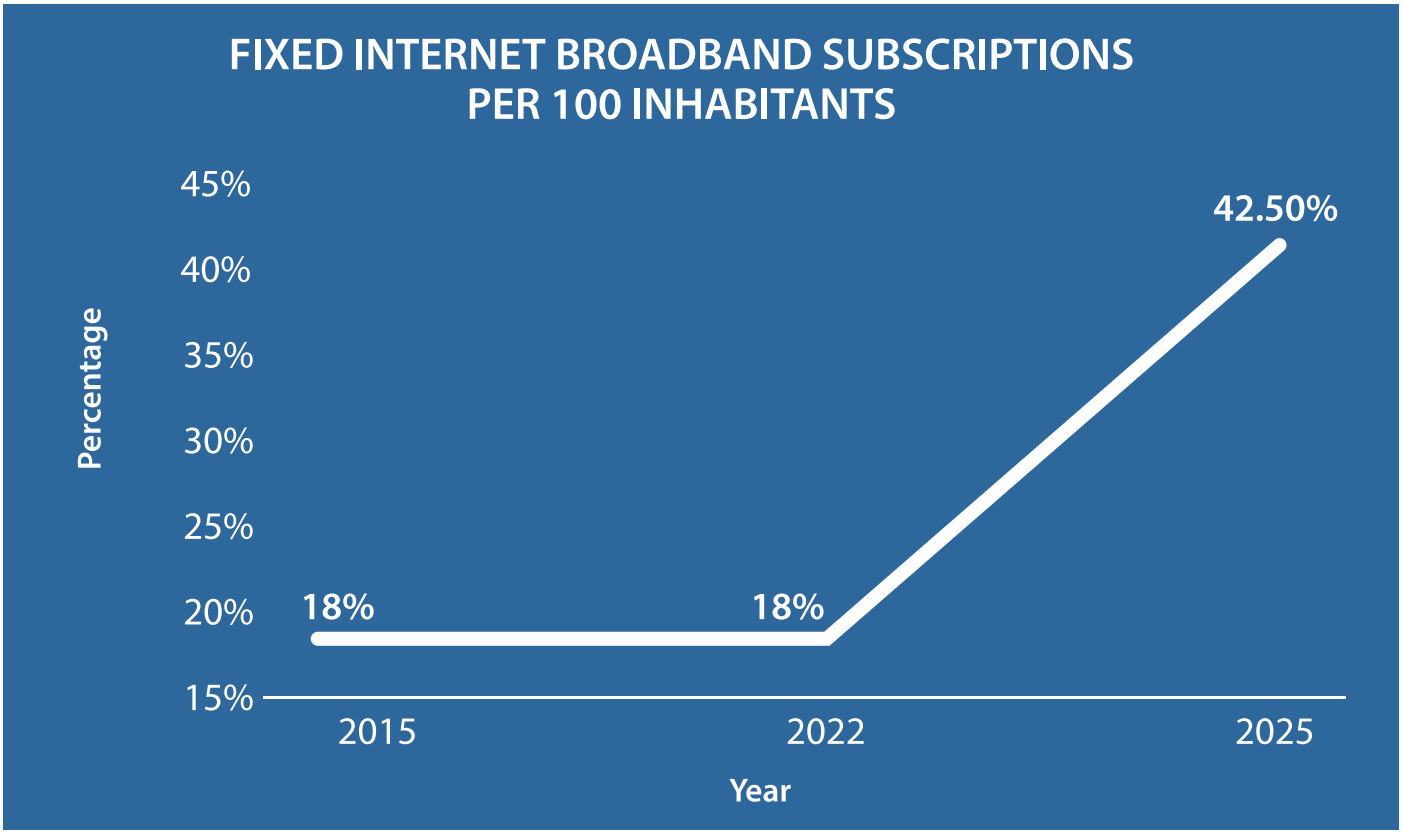


Figure 30: Fixed Internet Broadband Subscriptions per 100 Inhabitants

Indicator 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the internet

Internet usage among the population has demonstrated strong and consistent growth over the reporting period. Starting from a baseline of 5.6% in 2015, the proportion of individuals using the internet increased to 9.3% by 2018. This positive trajectory continued, rising further to 18% in 2023. The steady climb from 2015 to 2023 reflects significant strides in digital inclusion and expanding access to information and communication technologies. However, despite this progress, the current level of 18% indicates that a substantial digital divide remains, underscoring the need for continued investment in digital infrastructure and literacy programs to achieve universal internet access.

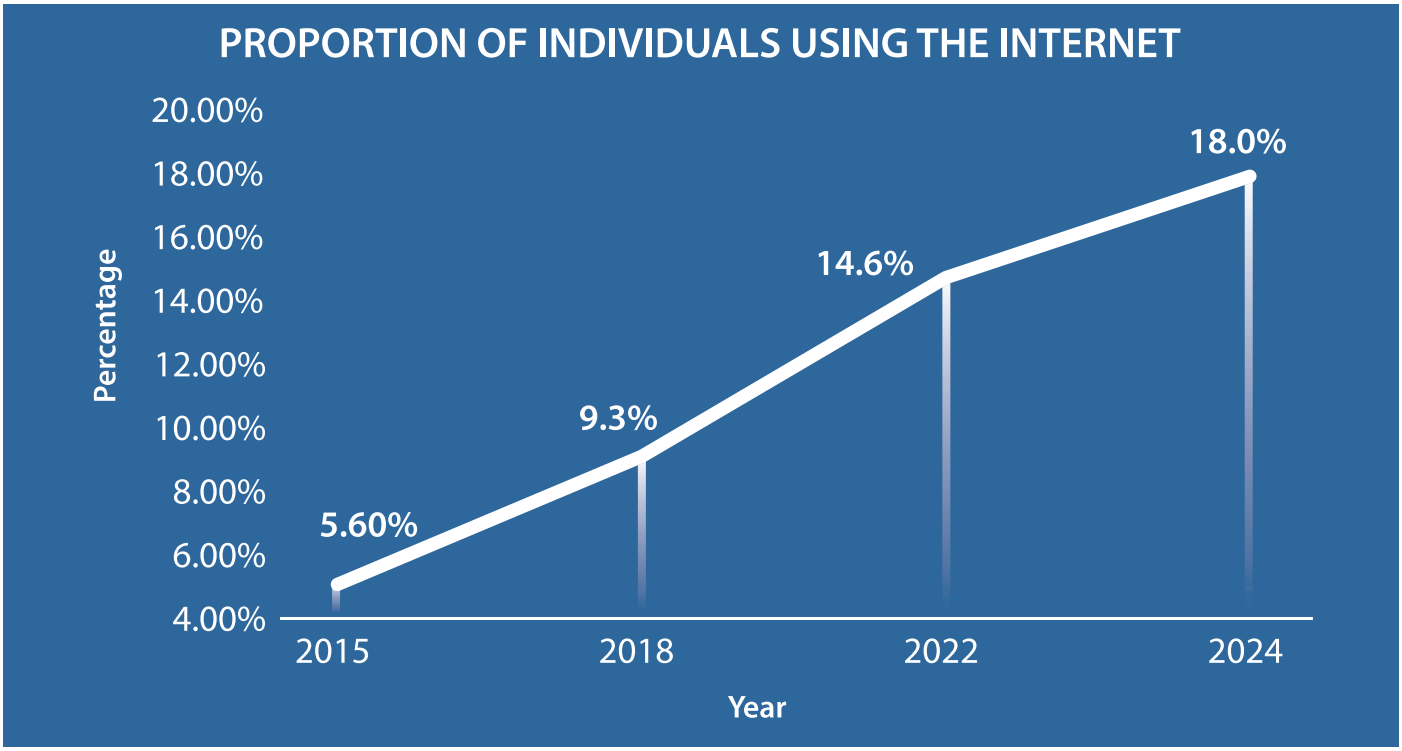


Figure 31: Proportion of Individuals Using the Internet

Indicator 17.10.1: Worldwide Weighted Tariff-Average

Administrative data indicates that the worldwide weighted tariff-average for Malawi has experienced significant volatility over the reporting period. Starting from a low baseline of 4.7% in 2015, it underwent a dramatic six-fold increase to 30.6% by 2018. Against a global average of around 2-3%, this indicates a substantial shift towards more restrictive trade policies or the imposition of new tariffs. The figure fell to an average of 15% in 2023/24. While this recent decline points towards a renewed effort in trade liberalization, the current tariff level remains more than three times higher than the original 2015 baseline as well as the global average, suggesting that trade barriers are still significantly elevated, highlighting a potentially less stable trade policy environment.

Indicator 17.14.1: Countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence

The Malawi 2063 and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) provide a coherent framework linking national development aspirations with the SDGs. The Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs) ensure cross-sectoral coordination. The government budget aligns with MIP-1 pillars since 2023/24 budget.

Indicator 17.15.1: Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks

The MIP-1 results framework is used by government and development partners for planning and monitoring. The 2023/24 MIP-1 Annual Progress Report tracks 130 indicators aligned with the MIP-1 and SDGs.

Indicator 17.18.1: Statistical capacity indicator

Malawi's statistical capacity is improving with the 2025 Census of Agriculture, 2024 Labour Force Survey, and 2025 Justice and Accountability Survey providing key data. The Harmonized National Management Information System (HNMIS) is under development to strengthen data reporting and accessibility for SDG monitoring.

Indicator 17.19.1: Dollar value of resources for statistical capacity

The NSO received support from the World Bank (through the Statistics Capacity Project and 50x2030 initiative), FAO, and the Government of Malawi for the 2025 NACA, which had a total budget of over USD 10 million. The 2024 Labour Force Survey and 2025 Justice and Accountability Survey were funded by development partners including the World Bank, ILO, UN Women, and the European Union.

6. NATION WIDE CONSULTATION FINDINGS

This section integrates findings from nationwide field data collection with national statistics on the five priority goals.

6.1. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- **Progress and Interventions:** Access to improved drinking water services has reached 89 percent in 2024, surpassing expectations and reflecting infrastructure expansion, improved sector regulation, and greater alignment between water management strategies and local needs. Sanitation coverage has also improved, with Community-Led Total Sanitation programmes showing success. In Chikwawa, enforcement of pit latrine construction has achieved approximately 80 percent coverage and significantly reduced open defecation. Sanitation services have already surpassed the 2030 target, driven by these coordinated efforts. The reliance on rivers and streams for irrigation at 56.3 percent underscores vulnerability to climate change.
- **Challenges and Gaps:** Despite high access figures, communities report significant challenges. Vandalism of water infrastructure is a nationwide problem, undermining sustainability. Water quality issues persist, with saline water in Chikwawa and substandard quality elsewhere. In Salima, boreholes dry up during the dry season, forcing a return to unsafe sources. Disaster-prone areas like Karonga face annual destruction of sanitation facilities due to flooding. Significant data gaps remain for indicators related to water stress, integrated water resources management, and ecosystem health, limiting the ability to monitor progress comprehensively. Village-level assessment shows that few communities are within 5km of a financial institution, which can hinder investment in water infrastructure maintenance.
- **Voices from the Community:** "Due to the coming of water, women are no longer walking long distances to search for water."

6.2. SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- **Progress and Interventions:** Access to electricity remains low, particularly in rural areas. However, solar power is rapidly expanding and transforming lives. Communities widely reported using solar for lighting, enabling children to study at night and improving household security. The pilot solar hydrogen cooking system at Mwanza District Hospital is a landmark innovation, demonstrating a pathway to clean cooking in institutions. Youth-led briquette production offers an alternative to charcoal. Over 97 percent of agricultural households rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking. Access to grid electricity is minimal in rural areas.
- **Challenges and Gaps:** Solar products, while expanding, are often unaffordable for the poorest, and cheap alternatives are of poor quality. Grid electricity is plagued by frequent blackouts and transformer problems. Data on low credit access and high poverty rates explains why households cannot afford clean energy solutions. The reliance on biomass directly drives deforestation. Access to electricity was rated poor to very poor in most rural areas.
- **Evidence from the Community:** The Mwanza pilot shows that innovation, partnerships, and local capacity building can translate climate ambition into practical action.

6.3. SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- **Progress and Interventions:** The cooperative movement is a clear success story for local economic development. The FUNDE Rice Cooperative in Salima generates MK138 million annually, while the Nkhate Cooperative in Chikwawa generates MWK 49 million, employs staff, and provides community scholarships. Trade facilitation has improved with the Mchinji One Stop Border Post,

reducing clearance time by 50 percent and increasing trade volumes. Mobile network coverage is expanding with the rollout of 4G and introduction of 5G, though rural areas still face limited access. The use of hand hoes by 97.4 percent of households is the single most powerful indicator of the lack of agricultural mechanisation. Road access is poor, most of the roads in the communities are of poor quality, and 40 percent of farmers transport goods by foot, directly linking poor infrastructure to low productivity. Only 6.1 percent of households have storage houses for agricultural products.

- **Challenges and Gaps:** The use of hand hoes by 97.4 percent of households is the single most powerful indicator of the lack of agricultural mechanisation. . Most roads are earth, seasonal, and impassable during rains, isolating communities and 40 percent of farmers transport goods by foot, directly linking poor infrastructure to low productivity. Access to affordable loans is a critical barrier. Only 10.5 percent of households applied for a loan, due to lack of lending institutions at 29.4 percent and lack of awareness at 22.4 percent. At the macro level, total foreign private capital liabilities decreased to USD 1.31 billion in 2023 from USD 1.59 billion in 2022, reflecting a volatile investment climate. The stock of FDI remains concentrated in finance and manufacturing, with limited flows into transformative sectors like transport or ICT infrastructure. Manufacturing employment, which grew steadily from 2016 to 2020, suffered a sharp setback due to COVID-19 and has been slow to recover. A major finding was that road and transport infrastructure does not accommodate persons with disabilities.
- **Voices from the Community:** "The cooperative has supported four students with scholarships from Form 1 to Form 4."

6.4 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- **Progress and Interventions:** Environmental conservation is a key focus, with communities engaging in tree planting, gully rehabilitation, and climate-smart agriculture. In Blantyre, following Cyclone Freddy, the city developed a Risk Atlas and ward-specific contingency plans. Disaster risk reduction measures, including dykes and evacuation centres, are being implemented in flood-prone areas. Urban planning is progressing in cities like Zomba with structure plan rollouts and plot demarcation. Land disputes are identified as the primary cause of conflict.
- **Challenges and Gaps:** The majority of districts are affected annually by floods, droughts, and cyclones, destroying homes, crops, and infrastructure. The proportion of the urban population living in slums remains alarmingly high. Access to all-weather roads, financial services with 39 percent living more than 10km from a bank, and markets is severely limited, particularly in the Northern and Central regions. This spatial inequality is a major driver of rural-urban migration and puts pressure on urban centres.
- **Voices from the Community:** In Zomba's Songani Catchment area, over 6,000 trees were planted, transforming communities from "passive victims of climate shocks to active environmental stewards."

6.5. SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- **Progress and Interventions:** A vibrant ecosystem of partnerships is driving SDG implementation, with Government, development partners, NGOs, the private sector, financial institutions, and academia all playing active roles. The successful execution of major national assessments are testaments to effective partnerships, demonstrating the power of collaboration for data generation. Strong progress in digital connectivity is evident: fixed internet broadband subscriptions surged from 18 per 100 inhabitants in 2018 to 42.8 in 2023/24, and internet usage grew from 5.6 percent in 2015 to 18 percent in 2023/24.

- **Public-Private Partnerships:** The country led SDG evaluation shows that private actors make a real but constrained contribution to SDG delivery, and that formal, contractual public–private partnerships (PPPs) in the strict sense are limited. In energy (SDG 7), the private sector is essential to delivery as line-construction contractors, equipment suppliers, independent generators, off-grid and clean cooking providers but its effectiveness is undermined by financing and foreign exchange constraints, a heavy regulatory and licensing burden, weak risk-sharing in the MAREP model, and unintended harms such as infrastructure vandalism linked to contractor practices. In the health sector (SDG 3), the evaluation mostly identified faith-based (CHAM) service-level agreements and donor/partner financing arrangements rather than commercial PPPs; these extend coverage effectively but keep the system donor dependent. Across both sectors, PPPs contribute most where the public role (financing, regulation, risk-sharing) is clear and contribute least where private players carry risks such as forex, capital, maintenance; that the partnership does not share.
- **Challenges and Gaps:** While partnerships are abundant, they are often fragmented and poorly coordinated. Data sharing is weak, leading to duplication of efforts. Coordination platforms at the district level are under-resourced, and at the community level they often lack authority. This results in donor-driven, rather than nationally-owned, development in some areas. Fragmented service delivery is evident at the community level, with a mix of government, private, and NGO service providers lacking a coordinated, single-window model. Only 38.7 percent of farming households receive any extension advice, and only 20.2 percent receive it directly from extension officers, pointing to a partnership gap in reaching the last mile. In the justice sector, weak coordination exists between formal institutions and informal systems. The worldwide weighted tariff-average has experienced significant volatility, falling to 15 percent in 2023/24, indicating a less stable trade policy environment.
- **Key Finding:** The presence of many partners does not automatically translate into effective, coherent, and sustainable progress. Strengthening coordination, ownership, and accountability within these partnerships is a critical prior

7. SDG 3 AND SDG 7 COUNTRY-LED EVALUATION: SYNTHESIS OF FINDINGS

In addition to the Voluntary National Review, the Government of Malawi, through the Department of Economic Planning and Development, commissioned the country's first Country-Led Evaluation (CLE) of the Sustainable Development Goals, with technical and financial support from UNICEF and UNDP. Where the VNR provides a broad, descriptive account of status across all 17 Goals, the CLE was designed to move beyond monitoring and answer the 'why' question for two priority Goals selected for in-depth assessment: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). This chapter presents a condensed synthesis of the evaluation's purpose, methodology, findings, lessons and recommendations; the full evaluation report, including its detailed evidence base and annexes, is retained as a supporting technical document to this Comprehensive Review.

7.1. Purpose and Methodology

The evaluation's central purpose was to generate rigorous, equity-focused evidence on SDG 3 and SDG 7 implementation between 2016 and 2025, examining not only whether progress has occurred but how and why, and who has been left behind. Its objectives were to assess measurable progress and constraints against selected targets; analyse the effectiveness of current policies and interventions; synthesise evidence to guide national policy, resource mobilisation and planning; strengthen transparency and accountability among duty bearers; document lessons and good practice; and revise Theories of Change for both Goals.

Methodologically, the evaluation combined a structured document and secondary data review with primary qualitative data collection, including Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussions and case studies conducted across a purposively selected sample of districts reflecting Malawi's geographic diversity. Findings were assessed against the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability, and triangulated through an Evaluation Reference Group comprising sector ministries, UN agencies, the private sector and citizen representatives. A structured impact evaluation using counterfactual or control-group approaches, as originally envisaged at inception, was not found to be feasible given the data constraints described below, and the evaluation instead relied on descriptive analysis and extensive qualitative triangulation.

7.2. Key Findings

- **Relevance and coherence**: The SDGs are well domesticated in policy: alignment between MIP-1 and the SDGs is near-complete at goal level, and both sectors anchor their strategies in the SDGs. External coherence with regional and global frameworks is strong, but internal coherence is weaker — coordination platforms exist but follow-through is inconsistent, delivery reverts to sectoral silos, and duplication persists, most visibly between MAREP and ESCOM in energy and through vertical, earmarked financing in health.
- **Efficiency:** Both sectors remain heavily dependent on external financing — donors fund well over half of health expenditure, while energy's domestic levy base is small and was weakened in 2024. Monitoring and evaluation systems generate useful evidence but remain periodic rather than routine, fragmented, and only partially used for timely decisions.

- **Effectiveness and impact**: For SDG 3, the evidence supports a credible contribution claim that health interventions have improved maternal and child health outcomes: maternal mortality declined substantially, skilled birth attendance and facility delivery are now close to universal, and under-five mortality has continued to fall. However, effectiveness is uneven — neonatal mortality has improved only slowly, antenatal care continuity remains weaker than delivery care, and immunisation coverage has declined in survey data. For SDG 7, interventions have contributed to expanded electricity access and visible local development benefits, but progress remains insufficient against the M300 Compact's 2030 ambition, and clean cooking is effectively stagnant. The evaluation confirms that SDG 3 and SDG 7 are mutually reinforcing: electrification of health facilities improves maternity services, cold-chain functionality and water pumping, while weak energy reliability undermines health-system readiness.
- **Sustainability:** Programmes are well institutionalised within government systems but only weakly financially sustainable. Both sectors depend heavily on external financing and underfund the recurrent costs, staffing, maintenance and capacity required to sustain results, making continuity of services after donor exit the central risk in both sectors.
- **Cross-cutting equity, gender and rights:** Gains in gender-equitable access are clearest in health, but women remain under-represented in technical and leadership roles, the clean-cooking burden continues to fall on women and girls, and affordability excludes the poorest from energy access. Across the evaluation, the principle of leaving no one behind is at risk, most acutely in the energy sector.

7.3. Lessons Learned

- **Financing sustainability:** Access and service-delivery gains built on external financing are not sustainable without deliberate domestic resource mobilisation and time-bound donor exit planning.
- **Quality over coverage:** Access gains only become SDG results when matched by quality, continuity, reliability and affordability — the binding conditions for impact are consistently underestimated relative to coverage.
- **Coordination in practice:** Policy alignment and coordination structures on paper do not equal operational coherence; the practical test is whether platforms function, decisions are acted on, and duplication is avoided.
- **Cross-sector integration:** Outcomes that depend on more than one sector stall when pursued within a single sector; cross-sector integration must be planned as a delivery strategy, not treated as an incidental co-benefit.
- **Sub-national capacity:** SDG delivery and equity depend on functioning sub-national systems and deliberate targeting; where district capacity and affordability instruments are absent, the poorest and most remote are left behind.
- **Frontline platforms:** Community and frontline delivery platforms are among Malawi's strongest SDG implementation assets, but they need stable resourcing and stronger feedback loops to remain effective.

7.4. Recommendations

The evaluation puts forward recommendations at both system and sector level, prioritised and linked to specific findings, with suggested timelines and responsible actors set out in full in the evaluation report.

At system level, it recommends establishing a national SDG 3–SDG 7 acceleration and accountability compact for 2026–2030 that translates the two Theories of Change into costed delivery pathways, annual targets and routine performance reviews; shifting SDG delivery from project-cycle financing to costed

sustainability and transition planning, with protected recurrent budgets for staffing, commodities, maintenance and community delivery; and strengthening SDG coordination and data systems so that they support learning and course correction, not only national reporting.

For SDG 3, priority recommendations are to shift the health sector's acceleration focus from service contact alone to quality, continuity and newborn survival across the maternal, newborn and child health continuum; to recover and sustain routine immunisation, integrated child health and nutrition through supply-ready outreach and community mobilisation; and to institutionalise adolescent reproductive health and community health platforms as routine delivery mechanisms rather than campaign or project activities.

For SDG 7, priority recommendations are to accelerate electricity access through an integrated grid, off-grid and productive-use delivery model that prioritises usable, reliable and affordable energy rather than connections alone; and to elevate clean cooking to a national delivery priority with dedicated financing, market development, affordability support and consumer protection.

7.5. Scope and Data Limitations

The evaluation faced material constraints in the completeness and quality of secondary national data — including indicator under-reporting, fragmented administrative systems, weak disaggregation and time lags in data validation — which limited the depth of trend analysis in places, and constraints in stakeholder interview coverage, particularly among professional and regulatory bodies under SDG 3 and district-level energy sector representation under SDG 7. The evaluation team triangulated available evidence across document review, administrative data and multiple stakeholder sources to mitigate these gaps, and the findings above should be read as robust on the evidence available.

7.6. Case Study: Gender and Equitable Access through Health and Energy Interventions

The country-led SDG evaluation used SDG 3 and SDG 7 as a practical lens for examining how gender and equity shape access to services and opportunities. The case illustrates a broader lesson for the SDGs: progress at national level does not automatically translate into equitable benefit unless services are affordable, reliable, physically accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of those furthest behind.

Health and energy interventions are highly relevant to women, adolescent girls, youth, persons with disabilities and rural or remote households. In health, community evidence shows that family planning, immunisation, child health services, antenatal care, outreach, HSAs and mother groups are valued because they bring essential services closer to households. In energy, electricity and solar solutions are valued because they support lighting, communication, studying, phone charging, safety, health facility readiness and small businesses such as salons, barbershops, maize mills, refrigeration, welding and water or freezer-based enterprises.

The strongest positive changes occur where SDG 3 and SDG 7 reinforce each other. Reliable electricity improves health facility readiness by supporting maternity care, newborn care, night services, vaccine refrigeration, cold-chain continuity, communication and digital reporting. At household level, electricity improves access to information and can support livelihoods. Clean cooking is also directly linked to health and gender equality because continued reliance on firewood and charcoal exposes women and girls to smoke, burns, time burdens and safety risks.

However, the case also shows why gains are not yet fully gender equitable. Women, adolescent girls, female-headed households, persons with disabilities, low-income households and rural or remote communities face overlapping barriers. These include transport costs, medicine stock-

outs, embarrassment or stigma when seeking sexual and reproductive health services, high electricity connection and wiring costs, appliance poverty, unreliable supply, slow maintenance response, continued reliance on firewood, limited clean cooking options, and weak participation in local decision-making.

Community evidence from adolescent girls and young women shows this mixed picture clearly. Participants valued contraceptives, immunisation, child health care and electricity-enabled businesses, but also reported medicine gaps, lack of capital, embarrassment when seeking services, exclusion from community meetings, unreliable electricity and continued dependence on firewood. Persons with disabilities and caregivers similarly valued health care, assistive devices, electricity for lighting and safety, but reported stigma, transport barriers, high connection costs, communication barriers and weak complaint channels.

The SDG 7 evidence also shows that access must be understood beyond infrastructure. The combined SDG 3–SDG 7 Theory of Change workshop identified female-headed households, child-headed households, persons with disabilities, low-income households, women and girls, and rural households as groups least likely to benefit from energy access. Key barriers include low income, distance to the grid, high connection and appliance costs, cooking fuel costs, slow rural maintenance response, and limited voice in decision-making. ESCOM evidence further confirms that while electrification has expanded, increased connections have created new pressures on maintenance, staffing, vehicles, reliability and household costs.

This case study therefore points to a wider SDG lesson. Inequality is not only about whether services exist; it is about whether people can reach them, afford them, use them safely, influence their design, and rely on them over time. Across SDGs, the same groups are disadvantaged when services depend on transport, cash payments, household assets, literacy, mobility, social connections or proximity to infrastructure.

The implication for the next phase of SDG implementation is that equity must be built into programme design, financing and monitoring. Priorities include targeted connection subsidies, ready-board and wiring support, lifeline tariffs, improved cookstoves and cleaner cooking options, reliable electricity for health facilities, appliance and productive-use financing for women and youth, youth-friendly and disability-sensitive health services, stronger referral and outreach systems, and routine use of sex-, age-, disability-, wealth- and location-disaggregated data. This would help move SDG implementation from broad access gains toward equitable access, sustained use and real improvements in wellbeing.

8. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Mobilizing the means of implementation is central to accelerating SDG progress. In response to severe economic challenges, including food insecurity, foreign exchange shortages, public debt pressures, and weaknesses in service delivery, the Government has developed a comprehensive national financing strategy to systematically address the resources required to achieve the Malawi 2063 vision and the Sustainable Development Goals. This strategy, grounded in a detailed assessment of existing financial flows and gaps, provides a coherent framework for mobilizing and aligning resources from all sources (domestic and international, public and private) around our national priorities. It is organized around four key financing quadrants and includes specific, time-bound initiatives with clear institutional leadership and monitoring frameworks. Immediate actions have focused on restoring order in public sector management: strengthening contract enforcement, improving expenditure control, enhancing personnel audit systems, and reinforcing merit-based appointments. These foundational reforms are creating the fiscal space and policy credibility needed for sustainable financing.

8.1. Domestic Public Resources

Strengthening domestic revenue mobilization is the cornerstone of our financing strategy. While the tax-to-GDP ratio has remained stable at around 15 percent, there is significant scope for broadening the tax base and improving compliance. Key initiatives underway include:

8.1.1. Improving Business Registration and Formalization

The Malawi Revenue Authority, in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for Trade, and City Assemblies, is intensifying efforts to register businesses and expand the tax net. Annual registration quotas have been established, and digitalization at the National Registration Bureau is being accelerated to issue tax numbers alongside national IDs. The goal is to register more than 80 percent of all businesses by 2028, bringing more economic activity into the formal sector.

8.1.2. Reviewing Tax Rates and Incentives

A comprehensive review of tax rates and incentives is underway to ensure the tax regime is competitive, equitable, and conducive to investment. This includes eliminating VAT exemptions for non-food items and for privileged persons and institutions, carrying out a review of corporate tax incentives to assess costs and benefits, and finalizing and enacting revised income tax and VAT legislation to simplify the tax code. Measures have been taken to ensure that all public officials fulfil their tax obligations.

8.1.3. Digitizing Tax Collection

The Malawi Revenue Authority has launched Msonkho Online, an Integrated Tax Administration System, enabling taxpayers to pay taxes online or via mobile money. This system enhances efficiency, reduces opportunities for irregular practices, and will be fully functional to maximise revenue collection. The electronic VAT invoicing system is being implemented to further strengthen compliance.

8.1.4. Strengthening Local Government Revenue

Local governments are being empowered to enhance revenue collection through improved property tax enforcement, mass property valuations in urban areas, and integration of local Public Financial Management systems with the national IFMIS. Community outreach and education campaigns are reinforcing the importance of tax compliance and taxpayer rights. The

Government has significantly increased the reformed Constituency Development Fund. This is a fundamental transformation in how development is financed at the local level. To ensure transparency and accountability, CDF Guidelines have been developed, and Government will invest in a national CDF digital dashboard to provide citizens with real-time access to information on fund utilisation.

8.1.5. Reforming State-Owned Enterprises

A stand-alone state-owned enterprise law is being drafted to improve the management, accountability, and performance of SOEs. ADMARC and other agricultural marketing boards are being revitalized to support farmers, stabilize prices, and foster market development. An independent assessment of ESCOM is guiding reforms to improve electricity provision and operational efficiency. Generation capacity is being raised through repairs at Tedzani Hydro (restoring 31 megawatts), commissioning of 10 megawatts at Raiply Biomass, and installation of another 10 megawatts at the Nanjoka-Egenco Solar plant, with a target to reach over 1,000 megawatts by 2030. In the mining sector, the Government has strengthened licensing oversight, initiated auditing of the license registry, and is reviewing the legal and regulatory framework for mineral exports. The state-owned Malawi Mining Investment Company is being capacitated to undertake detailed exploration of mineral deposits, and a Sovereign Wealth Fund is being established to ensure that proceeds from mining benefit all Malawians.

8.1.6. Enhancing Public Financial Management

The Malawi Public Finance Management Strategy 2023-2028 is being fast-tracked. This includes a comprehensive review of public service compensation to create incentives for efficiency, revision of the budget calendar to enable earlier prioritization, and improved project selection criteria that prioritize job creation, climate adaptation, and equitable transitions. Digitization of public financial management is advancing, with a transparency e-portal providing real-time access to budgetary information. Expenditure control measures have been instituted to save resources, including more efficient management of travel and entitlements. The reinstatement of the automatic fuel pricing mechanism ensures cost-reflective pricing, reduces the risk of shortages, and allows oil marketing companies to resume remitting road and rural electrification levies, supporting road maintenance and rural electrification.

8.1.7. Enhancing the Financing Ecosystem

The Export Development Fund and the Malawi Agricultural and Industrial Investment Corporation are being capitalised to catalyse private investment. The Malawi Investment and Trade Centre is strengthening its project appraisal process with a standardised methodology to improve investment decision-making. Feasibility studies are being prioritised, in collaboration with development partners, to develop a pipeline of bankable projects in agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, and infrastructure.

8.1.8. Attracting Foreign Direct Investment

Sector plans are being refined to create a stable and transparent investment environment. The Malawi Investment and Trade Centre is intensifying marketing efforts to showcase success stories and investment opportunities. Targeted feasibility studies are being conducted to identify and develop high-potential projects. Land tenure guidelines are being clarified to bolster investor confidence. A Public-Private Partnership development strategy and a dedicated PPP centre are being established to facilitate private investment in public infrastructure. Major road rehabilitation and upgrading projects are underway across the country. In partnership with

Ethiopian Airlines, Government will expand the Malawi Airlines fleet, increasing international destinations to strengthen global connectivity. Rehabilitation of the Marka-Bangula rail line and other rail infrastructure is advancing.

8.2. International Development Cooperation

Rebuilding trust and strengthening partnerships with development partners is a priority. Recent measures to strengthen governance and accountability have helped restore confidence among international partners. Actions include:

8.2.1. Transparent Reporting

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization now publishes detailed donor reports within six months after the fiscal year end, specifying outcomes of donor-funded projects.

8.2.2. Upholding Commitments

The Government is adhering to debt restructuring agreements with creditors and demonstrating progress on public financial management reforms agreed with development partners. The successful negotiation of the IMF Extended Credit Facility provides a crucial framework for continued reform and limited direct budgetary support. A five-year grant of USD 744 million was secured from the United States Government to support health services delivery, representing a strong vote of confidence in the country's development trajectory.

8.2.3. Seeking Concessional Funds

Efforts continue to secure concessional funding from sources such as the African Development Bank, World Bank, and bilateral Development Finance Institutions, diversifying funding sources and creating policy flexibility.

8.3. Debt and Aid Sustainability

Addressing the sovereign debt crisis is fundamental to restoring fiscal space. Malawi's fiscal deficits have averaged among the largest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly half of all domestic revenue goes toward interest payments, squeezing funding for essential services. The Government has implemented a prudent debt management strategy, including:

1. Exercising caution in acquiring new market-rate loans while debt restructuring processes are underway.
2. Undertaking annual expenditure reviews to identify projects and programs that fail to deliver sufficient developmental value, with a critical focus on reforming input subsidy programmes to reduce costs and improve targeting.
3. Progressing negotiations on external commercial debt and developing a plan to reprofile domestic debt to lower interest costs, free up fiscal space, and safeguard financial sector stability.
4. Considering the adoption of an expenditure rule to support sustainable fiscal management, drawing on successful models from other developing countries.
5. Strengthening public sector efficiency through automating wage and pension management, implementing e-procurement systems, and ensuring rigorous screening and monitoring of public investment projects.

8.4. Governance and Coordination for Financing

Effective implementation of the financing strategy requires robust institutional mechanisms. The following governance structure has been established to ensure policy coherence, coordination, and accountability to implement the Integrated National Financing Framework:

8.4.1. High-Level Forum

Chaired by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization provides overall strategic oversight, bringing together members of the Cabinet Committee on the Economy, the Reserve Bank Governor, and representatives from the private sector and civil society.

8.4.2. Implementation Group

Led by the Secretary to the Treasury, this group includes Principal Secretaries from key reform ministries, central bank directors, and the director general from the National Planning Commission, the Public Private Partnership Commission, and development partners. It meets quarterly to approve implementation plans, resolve bottlenecks, and ensure continuity.

8.4.3. Technical Secretariat

Housed within the Debt and Aid Division of the Ministry of Finance, facilitates coordination, develops progress reports, and supports implementing institutions.

8.4.4. Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups

These multi-stakeholder groups, established under the Malawi 2063 framework, bring together state and non-state actors within each pillar and enabler of the national development strategy. They define multi-year priorities and advise government on resource requirements.

The Government of Malawi remains fully committed to strengthening good governance, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring accountability in the management of public resources. These principles are essential for ensuring that financial resources are used effectively and that public trust is sustained. This institutional architecture ensures that financing policies are coherent, that synergies across different financing sources are maximized, and that trade-offs are managed effectively. It provides a platform for continuous monitoring, learning, and adaptation as we accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

8.5. Changes Since the Previous Review

Since the 2022 VNR, the Government has moved from diagnosing financing gaps to implementing a comprehensive, nationally-owned financing strategy. The key developments include the establishment of the governance structures described above, the launch of major digitization initiatives, the negotiation of the IMF Extended Credit Facility, the reinstatement of the automatic fuel pricing mechanism, the expansion of the Constituency Development Fund, strengthened oversight in the mining sector, and the development of a pipeline of bankable projects in partnership with the private sector and development partners and the establishment of the Harmonised National Management Information System. The focus has shifted from describing challenges to implementing systematic solutions with clear timelines, leadership, and monitoring frameworks, grounded in a renewed commitment to good governance and the rule of law.

9. PERSISTENT AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

Malawi's path to 2030 is being shaped by several new and interconnected challenges, now quantified by national data.

9.1. Major challenges affecting SDG implementation and progress

Strengthening domestic revenue mobilization is the cornerstone of our financing strategy. While the tax-to-GDP ratio has remained stable at around 15 percent, there is significant scope for broadening the tax base and improving compliance. Key initiatives underway include:

A. Persistent data gaps and timeliness

Malawi continues to face critical gaps in data availability, frequency, and timeliness required to track progress against the SDGs. A substantial proportion of indicators (49%) cannot be reported due to missing data, infrequent collection cycles, or methodological challenges. This challenge affects multiple goals where significant data gaps limit the ability to form a complete picture of progress. Without real-time, decisions are not made based on evidence, leading to disjointed programming, increasing inefficiencies and minimising the impact of development effort.

B. High vulnerability to climate shocks

Climate-induced disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity. People affected by disasters increases and economic losses from disasters escalates This is not a future risk, but a current crisis undermining all SDGs. This is directly linked to food insecurity, poverty, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure.

C. Weak governance institutions

Lack of transparency and accountability as revealed by incidents of corruption, resulting in slow implementation of key interventions is accelerated by weak governance institutions. Institutions such as Anti-Corruption Bureau lack capacity due to insufficient and delayed funding. This has weakened oversight and governance institutions leading to low accountability and transparency across the Public Sector.

D. Slow economic transformation and poverty reduction

Structural issues such as underemployment, a large informal economy at approximately 92 percent, climate disasters and high dependency ratios contribute to the slow decline in poverty rates. Manufacturing employment remains vulnerable to shocks and has been slow to recover from the COVID-19 setback. The predominance of subsistence farming, with 46.1 percent of agricultural households producing mainly or only for self-consumption, limits household cash income and resilience

E. Stagnating and unequal human development outcomes

Progress in critical areas like nutrition, health, and education has stalled or is uneven. Gender and rural-urban disparities persist, limiting inclusive development. The poorest households remain the most affected by food insecurity, inadequate housing, and climate shocks.

F. Institutional and systemic capacity gaps

Challenges in judicial efficiency with pre-trial detention rising to 28 percent of prison population, persistent corruption in business interactions, and imbalances in the health workforce with only 0.4 doctors per 10,000 people compared to 8 nurses and midwives indicate systemic weaknesses in public service delivery, governance, and institutional effectiveness.

G. Environmental degradation and resource pressure

Malawi is experiencing rapid deforestation with forest area falling from 37.8 percent in 2018 to 23.8 percent in 2022, a sharp increase in land degradation to 75 percent of land area, and pressure on fish stocks threaten the natural resource base that the majority of the population depends on for livelihoods. Wildlife trafficking has worsened significantly, with the proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked rising from 10 percent in 2018 to 40 percent in 2022. Land disputes affect 13.3 percent of households and are the leading cause of community conflict at 71.4 percent, further straining social cohesion.

H. Persistent inequality and social exclusion

There is a sharp rise in reported personal discrimination to 70 percent in 2023/24, exceeding the 2015 baseline, and inequalities in access to services including health personnel, digital services, and public transport underscore deep-seated social inclusion challenges. Only 29.4 percent of those experiencing human rights violations report them, and 64 percent prefer the informal justice system, indicating a profound gap between citizens and formal state institutions. Economically, the national Gini coefficient for Malawi has shown a decreasing trend in recent years from 0.449 in 2016 to 0.399 in 2025.

9.2. Impact Across the SDGs

These challenges are not isolated. Climate shocks directly impact progress on poverty, hunger, health, and infrastructure. The debt burden limits investment in education, health, and climate adaptation, creating a cascade of negative effects that can push those already at risk further behind. The justice deficit undermines all other SDGs: without access to justice, citizens cannot claim their rights to land, challenge discrimination, hold service providers accountable, or seek redress for environmental harm. The agricultural transformation deficit directly undermines progress on hunger, poverty, gender equality, decent work, and climate resilience. Strengthening the rule of law, access to justice, and agricultural transformation is not just about individual goals, but are prerequisites for achieving the entire 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

10. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

This review, grounded in robust evidence, provides an unambiguous diagnosis of Malawi's development trajectory. It confirms foundational progress in health, gender representation, and water access. However, it also exposes deep structural weaknesses: a profound jobs crisis, untrusted justice system, an agricultural sector trapped in low-productivity subsistence, traditional farming tools such as hand hoes and escalation in land degradation; and economic losses from climate-related disasters. The voices of communities and the evidence from national assessments all point to the urgent need for a more strategic, resilient, and inclusive approach. The challenge is not a lack of knowledge, but a lack of scale, coordination and focused investment.

10.1. Key Lessons Learned

A. Community Voices are Essential: The qualitative field data provided critical context to national statistics, revealing the "why" behind the numbers. Future reviews must continue to prioritise this people-centred approach.

B. Data is Foundational: Major national assessments have been transformative. Future planning must be driven by this type of high-quality evidence. The successful production of the comprehensive SDG assessment demonstrates growing institutional capacity for evidence-based policy analysis.

C. Integrated Implementation is Key: Successes like the Chilomoni school solar pump project as well as the Kasangazi irrigation scheme demonstrate the power of interventions that simultaneously address water, energy, and education. The interlinkages between agriculture, nutrition, gender and climate demand integrated programming.

D. Addressing Root Causes is Essential: The evidence shows that symptoms are driven by root causes including lack of irrigation, climate shocks, financial exclusion, lack of mechanisation, and lack of decent work opportunities. The identification of these key challenges provides a clear framework for targeting root causes.

E. Sustainability Depends on Local Ownership and Capacity: Problems of vandalism and weak maintenance highlight the need to invest in local ownership, community training, and robust maintenance systems. The high trust in informal justice systems suggests that strengthening local ownership and capacity of traditional leaders, while providing oversight, is critical. Low reach of extension services and low formal training in agriculture point to the need for massive investment in farmer capacity building.

F. Inequality is a Systemic Threat: Evidence on gender, geographic, and wealth disparities, coupled with rising discrimination, shows that a whole-of-society approach must be actively engineered. The "Leaving No One Behind" analysis highlights the urgent need to address these disparities.

G. Partnerships Require Strong Coordination: Abundant but fragmented partnerships do not deliver optimal results. Strengthening coordination platforms and mutual accountability is as important as mobilising new partners. Fragmented service delivery shows that more partners do not automatically equal better results.

10.2. Concrete Next Steps and Recommendations

Drawing on the outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit, the 2024 Summit of the Future, and the findings of the comprehensive SDG assessment, the following actions are recommended to be either strengthened or considered:

A. Strengthen the national statistical system

The Government, in collaboration with development partners, should urgently increase investment in the national statistical system to improve the availability, quality, timeliness, and use of data for evidence-based planning, monitoring, and decision-making. This should include adhering to the frequency of key national surveys, strengthening administrative data systems across sectors, and adopting innovative data sources and technologies to complement traditional data collection methods.

To accelerate data availability during the remaining period of SDG implementation, align national data collection efforts to address critical SDG data gaps. The indicators without data should be systematically integrated into the design and implementation of national surveys, while survey programmes should be strategically aligned with the monitoring requirements of both the SDGs and Malawi 2063/MIP-1. MDAs Ministry Wide M&E Framework under development with technical support from EP&D and NSO should comprehensively include the SDG indicators.

Government and Development Partners should provide a continued support towards the establishment of Harmonised National Management Information System that links ministry results to Malawi 2063, MIP-1 and the Sustainable Development Goals, enabling Government to track progress towards national priorities through a common framework. The system is institutionalizing the reporting system and strengthen the capacity of government institutions and other stakeholders to manage, analyse, and report high-quality administrative data.

B. Scale up climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction

Malawi needs to scale resilience measures to a sufficient scale, with greater integration and anticipatory approaches rather than reactive.

C. Accelerate economic diversification and inclusive growth

Malawi to intentionally drive economic diversification across and within sectors. Agriculture remains a dominant sector, with tourism and manufacturing showing significant potential. There is a need to invest in diversification into high-value, drought-tolerant cash crops (vanilla, black pepper, mango, macadamia, oil seeds) as envisioned in MIP-1.

The discovery of several precious minerals has positioned Malawi's mining as a potential sector to spearhead economic structural transformation. Thus, the government, through the Ministry of Finance, needs to provide performance-based incentives for international and local investors in tourism, mining and manufacturing.

D. Reinvigorate investment in human capital

Strengthen investment in human capital through targeted, multi-sectoral interventions that address persistent challenges in nutrition, health, education, and skills development. Efforts to improve foundational learning outcomes should be intensified through investments in teacher training, learning materials, school infrastructure, and education quality assurance. In addition, the national education curriculum should be reviewed and updated to better reflect Malawi's development priorities under Malawi 2063 and the SDGs, with greater emphasis on science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, climate resilience, digital literacy, agriculture and civic responsibility. Technical, vocational, and entrepreneurship training programmes should

be expanded and aligned with labour market needs to equip young people with relevant skills for productive employment and economic transformation. In the health sector, proven interventions, particularly HIV prevention and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people, should be scaled up, while the critical shortage of health professionals should be addressed through accelerated training, improved working conditions, and targeted incentives to attract and retain qualified personnel in underserved rural areas.

E. Strengthen governance, justice, and accountability

Accelerate judicial and legal sector reforms to reduce case backlogs, shorten pre-trial detention periods, and improve timely access to justice for all citizens. Strengthen the capacity, independence, and effectiveness of oversight and accountability institutions, including the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA), through adequate and sustainable financing, enhanced technical capacity, and stronger monitoring and evaluation systems to track the impact of public investments and development interventions. Public sector reforms should be deepened to improve efficiency, transparency, responsiveness, and equity in service delivery across all levels of government. In addition, comprehensive justice sector reforms should be implemented, including expanding access to legal aid services, digitising justice administration systems, strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, formalising referral pathways between informal and formal justice systems, and taking deliberate measures to address the rising incidence of discrimination and exclusion through strengthened legal protections, public awareness campaigns, and enforcement of human rights and anti-discrimination frameworks.

F. Advance gender equality and social inclusion

Intensify efforts to dismantle sociocultural barriers by promoting women's economic empowerment. Implement robust legal and policy frameworks to combat discrimination and harassment. Ensure infrastructure and digital development projects are designed to be inclusive for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and rural communities.

G. Mobilise and align development financing for accelerated SDG achievement

To address Malawi's severe financing constraints, the Government should implement an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) built on four pillars. First, intensify domestic resource mobilization by among others formalizing the informal sector through mandatory business tax registration, reviewing tax incentives, and strengthening enforcement. Second, accelerate external debt restructuring and reprofile domestic debt to free fiscal space for high-impact investments. Third, operationalise the Sovereign Wealth Fund from mining revenues and pilot blended finance mechanisms in priority sectors of energy, commercial agriculture, tourism and manufacturing.

H. Restoring macroeconomic stability as a foundation for SDG acceleration

The recent macroeconomic instability has resulted in weakening or reversing the gains registered in some of the goals. To stabilise the macroeconomy and create conditions for SDG acceleration, the Government should implement a coordinated policy package focused on restoring fiscal discipline through expenditure rationalization and domestic revenue mobilisation, resolving the foreign exchange crisis by boosting exports and attracting stable investment flows, and completing debt restructuring to free resources for development priorities. Critically, stabilisation measures must be sequenced to protect the most vulnerable. National Economic Recovery Plan should be implemented accordingly, monitored and reviewed where necessary.

11. ANNEX A: REFERENCES

The following documents were used as primary sources in the preparation of this SDG Comprehensive Review, including its Voluntary National Review (VNR) and Country-Led Evaluation (CLE) components. All data, indicators, and analyses presented are drawn from these official Government of Malawi reports, surveys, and assessments.

Government Reports and Policy Documents

- Country-Led Evaluation of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy): Draft Report.
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- **United Nations Malawi (2023),** Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund Annual Report 2023. UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Lilongwe, Malawi.
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- **World Bank (2023),** Malawi Economic Monitor: Doing More with Less – Improving Service Delivery in Energy. World Bank Group, Washington, D.C.
- **World Bank (2022),** Malawi Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR). World Bank Group, Washington, D.C.
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- **WHO and UNICEF (2023),** Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene: Malawi Country File.

ANNEX B: MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TASKFORCE TEAM

NO.	NAME	INSTITUTION
1	Sophie Kang'oma	Department of Economic Planning and Development
2	Hermes Mauwa	Department of Economic Planning and Development
3	Gringoster Kajomba	Department of Economic Planning and Development
4	Elizabeth Banda	Department of Economic Planning and Development
5	Happy Mwenechanya	Department of Economic Planning and Development
6	Chifuniro Chitsonga	Department of Economic Planning and Development
7	Lameck Labana	Department of Economic Planning and Development
8	Alvin Ngonda	Department of Economic Planning and Development
9	Dr Stevier Kaiyatsa	Department of Economic Planning and Development
10	Isaac Mwalupya	Department of Economic Planning and Development
11	Hope Chipanila	Department of Economic Planning and Development
12	Nicholas Kalua	Department of Economic Planning and Development
13	Joshua Mughogho	Department of Economic Planning and Development
14	Lissa Kansemo	Department of Economic Planning and Development
15	Queen Harawa	Department of Economic Planning and Development
16	Steven Salilika	Department of Economic Planning and Development
17	Tabbu Kauye	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology
18	Phunziro Akufa	Ministry of Lands and Urban Development
19	Pachalo Mwanza	Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority
20	Tawonga Njikho	Ministry of Industry, Business, Trade and Tourism
21	Fred Hillier Kandulu	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
22	Faith Mkangadzuwa	Department of Water
23	Themba Mablekis	Ministry of Industry, Business, Trade and Tourism
24	Chikondi Chimala	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology
25	Etakho Mitinda Massah	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology
26	Maclean Soko	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
27	Owen Nalivaka	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
28	Raymond Kumwenda	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
29	Sibongile Chinangwa	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
30	Ian Kanjuchi	Ministry of Transport and Public Works
31	Sawelukiza Mwenelupembe	Ministry of Transport and Public Works
32	Monty Kampira	Department of Water
33	Kondwani Gondwe	National Commission of Science and Technology
34	Vitumbiko Kumwenda	National Commission of Science and Technology
35	Pilirani Munkha	NGO Regulatory Authority
36	Chimwemwe Musopole	National Planning Commission
37	Thokozani Lunda	National Planning Commission
38	Meckreen Mwenda	National Statistics Office
39	Simekinala Kaluzi	CONGOMA
40	Ella Lisuntha	Ministry of Energy
41	John Kuchenjera	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

13. ANNEX C: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

NO.	INSTITUTION
1	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization (Department of Economic Planning and Development – Lead)
2	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
3	Ministry of Labour, Youth and Manpower Development
4	Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change
5	Ministry of Trade and Industry
6	Ministry of Transport and Public Works
7	Ministry of Water and Sanitation
8	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW)
9	Ministry of Agriculture
10	Ministry of Education
11	Ministry of Energy
12	Ministry of Health
13	Ministry of Homeland Security
14	Ministry of Information and Digitalization
15	Ministry of Lands
16	Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture
17	Department of Human Resource Management and Development (DHRMD)
18	Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA)
19	Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA)
20	National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC)
21	Development Fund for Local Authorities (DFLA)
22	National Statistical Office (NSO)
23	National Planning Commission (NPC)
24	Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC)
25	Malawi Parliament
26	National AIDS Commission (NAC)
27	National Council for Science and Technology (NCST)
28	Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM)
29	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDA)

Local Authorities

REGION	DISTRICT / CITY COUNCIL
Northern	Karonga District Council
	Nkhata Bay District Council
	Mzimba District Council
Central	Mchinji District Council
	Ntcheu District Council
	Salima District Council

REGION	DISTRICT / CITY COUNCIL
Southern	Mangochi District Council
	Phalombe District Council
	Zomba District Council
	Chikwawa District Council
	Blantyre City Council
	Mwanza District Council

Development Partners

NO.	ORGANIZATION
1	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO)
2	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
3	UN Women
4	World Bank
5	International Labour Organization (ILO)
6	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
7	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
8	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
9	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
10	World Food Programme (WFP)
11	International Organization for Migration (IOM)

CSOs and NGOs

NO.	ORGANIZATION
1	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)
2	Water and Environmental Sanitation Network (WESNET)
3	Sight Savers Malawi
4	Council for Non-Governmental Organisations in Malawi (CONGOMA)
5	NGO Regulatory Authority (NGORA)
6	National Youth Council of Malawi (NYCOM)
7	Community Savings and Investment Promotion (COMSIP)
8	Girls Activists Youth Organisation
9	Centre for Human rights and rehabilitation
10	Natural Resources Justice Network

Academia, Think Tanks and Innovation Hubs

NO.	INSTITUTION
1	mHub (Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology Hub)
2	Emerge Livelihoods (Enterprise Support Organization / Policy Think Tank)
3	Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA)

Private Sector and Business Associations

NO.	ORGANIZATION
1	Bankers Association of Malawi (BAM)
2	Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI)
3	Local traders, kabaza operators, and market vendors (through community consultations)

Community Based Structures and Local Governance Institutions

NO.	STRUCTURE / INSTITUTION
1	Traditional Authorities (TAs) and Group Village Heads (GVHs)
2	Village Development Committees (VDCs)
3	Area Development Committees (ADCs)
4	Water Point Committees / Water Users Associations
5	Sanitation Committees
6	Health Centre Advisory Committees
7	School Management Committees
8	Child Protection Committees
9	Community Victim Support Units
10	Cooperatives (including FUNDE Rice Cooperative, Nkhate Rice Cooperative, and honey, peanut, sunflower, and gemstone cooperatives)
11	Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)
12	Youth Innovation Groups
13	Women's Groups
14	Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (including those coordinated by Sight Savers Malawi)

14. ANNEX D: STATUS OF SDG INDICATORS

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 1 — No Poverty													
SDG 1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere	1.1.1	Proportion of population below the international poverty line $1.90 per day (%) (With slight modification on the poverty line)	-	-	71.4	-	50.7	-	36	Insufficient data		National Statistical Office
		1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	National	-	51.5	-	50.7	47.3	26	No progress		National Statistical Office
				Male					44.8	27	No progress		National Statistical Office
				Female					53.8	28	No progress		National Statistical Office
		1.2.2	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Insufficient data		National Statistical Office
	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all	1.3.1	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	National	%	-	-	10	12	21	Moderate progress		MoGCDSW
				Women		-	-	10	55.4	TBD	Insufficient data		MoGCDSW
	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources	1.4.1	Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	-	%	-	-	-	1.9	TBD	Insufficient data		MoGCDSW
		1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure	-	-	30	-	-	-	100	Insufficient data		National Statistical Office
		1.5.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people	-	-	2	-	-	6	0	No progress		Department of Disaster Management and Affairs
		1.5.2	Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	-	-	335 Million USD	-	-	506.7 Million USD	0	Insufficient data		Department of Disaster Management and Affairs
		1.5.3	Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Insufficient data		Department of Disaster Management and Affairs
		1.5.4	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (new)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Insufficient data		Department of Disaster Management and Affairs

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 1 — No Poverty													
SDG 1	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.	1.a.1	Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes		%		44	33	33	35	Significant progress		
		1.a.2	Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)		%			30	27	35	Moderate progress		Department of Disaster Management and Affairs
SDG 2 — Zero Hunger													
SDG 2	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food	2.1.2	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). Measures the percentage of individuals in the population who have experienced food insecurity at moderate or severe levels during the reference period.	-		21.8	-	13	20	0	No progress		National Statistical Office
	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition	2.2.1	Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	Female	%	37	—	—	35.5	25	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
				Male		37	—	—	40.1	25	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
				National		37	—	—	37.8	25	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
				Rural		37	—	—	36.4	29	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
				Urban		37	—	—	29.3	15	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
		2.2.2	Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	Total	%	11.7	—	—	9.7	0	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
		2.2.3	Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)	Female	%	—	—	—	35.4	—	Insufficient data	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
		2.2.4	Prevalence of minimum dietary diversity in children age 6–23 months	Prevalence of minimum dietary diversity	%	—	—	—	23.9	—	Insufficient data	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Health

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 2 — Zero Hunger													
SDG 2	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers	2.3.1	Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Agriculture
		2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Agriculture
	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices	2.4.1	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	—	%	46	—	—	—	100	Insufficient data	MIP-1	Ministry of Agriculture
	By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals	2.5.1	Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Agriculture
		2.5.2	Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Agriculture
SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being													
SDG 3	**By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births**	3.1.1	Maternal mortality ratio:The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period	—	per 100,000	439	—	—	224	70	No progress	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Health
		3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel: percentage of live births attended by skilled health personnel during a specified time period	—	%	89	—	—	96.3	100	Significant progress	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Health
	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age	3.2.1	Under-five mortality rate:the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of 5 years,	Rural	per 1,000 live births	63	—	—	39	25	Insufficient data	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
				Total					48		No progress	MDHS 2025	National Statistical Office
				Urban					58		Insufficient data	MDHS 2026	National Statistical Office
		3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate	Rural	per 1,000 live births	27	—	—	20	12	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
				Total					24		No progress	MDHS 2025	National Statistical Office
				Urban					29		Insufficient data	MDHS 2026	National Statistical Office
	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases	3.3.1	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	Female	per 1,000	0.6	—	—	0.7	0.16	No progress	MDHS 2027	Ministry of Health
				Male					0.7		Insufficient data	MDHS 2027	Ministry of Health
				Total					0.7		Insufficient data	MDHS 2027	Ministry of Health
		3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 population	—	—	106	—	—	119	60.5	No progress		Ministry of Health

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being													
SDG 3		3.3.3	Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	—	deaths	380	—	361	328	200	No progress		Ministry of Health
		3.3.4	Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Health
		3.3.5	Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases: Number of people requiring treatment and care for any one of the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) targeted by the WHO NTD Roadmap and World Health Assembly resolutions and reported to WHO.	—	—	7577185	—	3364291	—	55.6	Insufficient data		Ministry of Health
	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases	3.4.1	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease:Probability of dying between the ages of 30 and 70 years from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases, defined as the per cent of 30-year-old-people who would die before their 70th birthday from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Health
		3.4.2	Suicide mortality rate:The Suicide mortality rate as defined as the number of suicide deaths in a year, divided by the population, and multiplied by 100 000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Homeland Security
	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases	3.5.1	Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Health
		3.5.2	Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	—	—	2.5	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Homeland Security
	By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	3.6.1	Death rate due to road traffic injuries	—	—	35	—	—	—	3	Insufficient data		Ministry of Homeland Security

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being													
SDG 3	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services	3.7.1	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	Total Demand	%	62	—	—	81.6	100	Significant progress	MDHS 2024	
		3.7.2	Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Girls aged 10–14 years (rural)	births per 1,000 women		—	—	3	0	No progress	MDHS 2024	
				Women aged 15–19 years (rural)		137			133	0	No progress		Ministry of Health
	Achieve universal health coverage	3.8.1	Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	Men (15-49)	%	—	—	—	2	—	Insufficient data	MDHS 2024	National Statistical Office
		3.8.2	Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population	Women (15-49)	—	4.04	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Health
	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution	3.9.1	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	—	—	72	—	—	—	36	Insufficient data		Ministry of Health
		3.9.2	Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)	—	—	25	—	—	—	12.5	Insufficient data		Ministry of Health
		3.9.3	Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning	—	—	3.3	—	—	—	1.64	Insufficient data		Ministry of Health
	Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control	3.a.1	Age-standardised prevalence of current tobacco use — Female (15+)	Female	%	—	—	—	0.7	—	Insufficient data	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Health
				Male		—	—	—	10.2	50% reduction	No progress	MDHS 2025	Ministry of Health
				Total		—	—	—	6.2		Insufficient data	MDHS 2026	Ministry of Health

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being													
SDG 3	Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for communicable and non-communicable diseases	3.b.1	Vaccination coverage: DPT containing vaccine (3rd dose) — Rural	Rural (children 12–23m)	%	—	—	—	84.6	90	Significant progress	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Health
				Total (children 12–23m)		—	—	—	73.1	95	Moderate progress	MDHS 2024	
				Urban (children 12–23m)		—	—	—	75.9	90	Significant progress	MDHS 2024	
	Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development and retention of the health workforce	3.c.1	Health worker density — Clinical Officers	Clinical Officers	number	—	—	—	1386	1831	Moderate progress		Medical Council of Malawi
				Doctors		—	—	—	782		Insufficient data		Medical Council of Malawi
				Nurses/Midwives		—	—	16214	16856	—	Insufficient data		Medical Council of Malawi
SDG 4 — Quality Education													
SDG 4	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education	4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
		4.1.2	Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Education
	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education	4.2.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex:measured by the percentage of children aged 36-59 months who are developmentally on-track in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, socio-emotional and learning.	Rural	%	—	—	—	60.5	100	Moderate progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office
				Total	—	—	—	—	57.6	100	Moderate progress	MDHS 2025	National Statistics Office
				Urban	—	—	—	—	54.6	100	Moderate progress	MDHS 2026	National Statistics Office
		4.2.2	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	National	%	44.5	54	—	74.2	100	Moderate progress		
				Rural					76.6	100	Moderate progress		
				Urban					71.7	100	Moderate progress		

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 4 — Quality Education													
SDG 4	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education	4.3.1	Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex: percentage of youth and adults in a given age range (e.g. 15-24 years, 25-64 years, etc.) participating in formal or non-formal education or training in a given time period (e.g. last 12 months).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Significant progress	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Education
	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment	4.4.1	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Significant progress		MACRA
	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education	4.5.1	Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	Primary	Index	—	—	—	1.04	1	Significant progress		Ministry of Education
				Secondary				0.96	0.99	1	Significant progress		Ministry of Education
	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults achieve literacy and numeracy	4.6.1	Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	Total (15+)	%	—	—	—	79.3	85	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
				Male (15+)		—	—	—	84.2	85	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
				Female (15+)		—	—	—	74.9	85	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
				Urban (15+)		—	—	—	93.7	85	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
				Rural (15+)		—	—	—	76.1	85	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
				Total (5+)		—	53.8	—	71.6	85	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
				Urban (5+)		—	—	—	84.2	85	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
				Rural (5+)		—	—	—	84.2	85	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development	4.7.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Education

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 4 — Quality Education													
SDG 4	By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.	4.c.1	Proportion of trained teachers	Primary	%	—	92.6	94	95	100	Significant progress		Ministry of Education
				Secondary		—	57	80	82	100	Significant progress		Ministry of Education
SDG 5 — Quality Education													
SDG 5	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non discrimination on the basis of sex		%	Yes	Available	Available	Available	Available	Significant progress		MoGCDSW
	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls	5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	Physical	%	—	—	—	15.2	0	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office
				Sexual		—	24.3	—	12.2	0	No progress	MDHS 2025	National Statistics Office
				Pyschological		—	—	—	18.1	0	No progress	MDHS 2026	National Statistics Office
		5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	—	%	—	28.2	—	19.6	0	Insufficient data	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office
	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage	5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Before 15	%	—	4%	—	6.4	0	Insufficient data		Ministry of Education
				Before 18		—	47%	42%	38.7%	0	Insufficient data		
		5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Education
	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work	5.4.1	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Total	—	—	—	—	0.64	—	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
				Male		—	—	—	0.4	—	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
				Female		—	—	—	0.4	—	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
				Proportion of cabinet seats held by women in national parliaments		—	—	40	26	40	Moderate progress		Parliament

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 5 — Quality Education													
SDG 5				Proportion representation in public senior management		24	24	26	27	40	Moderate progress		Parliament
				Proportion of seats held by women in local government		12	32	14	20	41	No progress		Parliament
				Proportion of Women in Foreign Services		—	—	45	—	40	Insufficient data		Parliament
		5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions	National	%	24	24	24	32	50	Moderate progress	LFS 2024	National Statistics Office
	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	5.6.1	Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	—	%	78.6	—	—	42.3	100	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office
		5.6.1	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	—	—	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Significant progress	LFS 2024	Ministry of Health
	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone — Female	Female	%	—	34.2	37	42	100	No progress	MDHS 2024	MACRA
SDG 6 — Clean Water and Sanitation													
SDG 6	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for allBy 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Rural	%	87	—	87.9	68.9	100	Moderate progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office /MoH
				Total					89	100	Significant progress	MDHS 2025	National Statistics Office /MoH
				Urban					93.2	100	Significant progress	MDHS 2026	National Statistics Office /MoH
	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all	6.2.1	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	Total		19		28.2	40.2	65	Moderate progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office /MoH
	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals	6.3.1	Proportion of wastewater safely treated	—	—	—	—	48.03	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Water and Sanitation
		6.3.2	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	—	—	16.1	—	—	22.2	50	No progress		Ministry of Water and Sanitation

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 6 — Clean Water and Sanitation													
SDG 6	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals	6.4.1	Change in water-use efficiency over time	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Water and Sanitation
		6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	—	—	11.1	—	56.15	38.31	0	No progress		Ministry of Water and Sanitation
	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels	6.5.1	Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)	—	—	55	—	55	58	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Water and Sanitation
		6.5.2	Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	—	—	90	—	90	92	100	Significant progress		Ministry of Water and Sanitation
	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems	6.6.1	Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	—	—	15	—	15	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Water and Sanitation
SDG 7 — Affordable and Clean Energy													
SDG 7	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity	Rural	%	—	—	—	5.3	100	No progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office
				Total		10.7	10.7	19	25.9	100	No progress	MDHS 2025	National Statistics Office
				Urban		—	—	—	56.4	100	Moderate progress	MDHS 2026	National Statistics Office
		7.1.2	Proportion ofpopulation with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	Clean Lighting	%	14	18	18	91	100	Significant progress	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office
				Clean Cooking		—	1.8	1.8	1.9	3.16	Moderate progress	MDHS	National Statistics Office
	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	—	—	7	7	9	13.9	50	No progress		Ministry of Energy
	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	7.3.1	Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP:Energy intensity is defined as the energy supplied to the economy pet unit value of economic output	—	—	10.2	10.6	10.16	—	20.3	Insufficient data		Ministry of Energy
SDG 8 — Decent Work and Economic Growth													
SDG 8	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances	8.1.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	—	—	3.4	4	0.9	1.9	7	No progress		Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation	8.2.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person:Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person conveys the annual percentage change in real Gross Domestic Product per employed person.	—	—	2.9	2.9	—	—	10	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 8 — Decent Work and Economic Growth													
SDG 8	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation and entrepreneurship	8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in non agriculture employment, by sex	Total	%	75.4	69.7	—	82.9	50	No progress	LFS 2024	
	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production	8.3.1	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP	—	—	1.2	1.16	—	—	2.32	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
		8.4.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP	—	—	2.4	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men	8.5.1	Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	Total	hrs/week	146.6	146.6	—	19.7	—			
		8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities;The unemployment rate conveys the percentage of persons in the labour force who are unemployed.	Total Unemployment Rate	%	20.4	18.5	—	19.7	5	No progress	LFS 2024	National Statistics Office
				By Male					16.6	5	No progress	LFS 2025	National Statistics Office
				By Female					23	5	No progress	LFS 2026	National Statistics Office
				8.5.2b Youth Unemployment					24.1	5	No progress	LFS 2027	National Statistics Office
	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	8.6.1	Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training:the number of young persons not in education, employment or training as a percentage of the total youth population.	Total	%	21.7	31.56	—	41.4	7.5	No progress	LFS 2024	National Statistics Office
				Urban					20.4	7.5	No progress	LFS 2025	National Statistics Office
				Male					24.9	7.5	No progress	LFS 2026	National Statistics Office
				Female					16.5	7.5	No progress	LFS 2027	National Statistics Office
				Rural					25.4	7.5	No progress	LFS 2028	National Statistics Office
				Male					29.4	7.5	No progress	LFS 2029	National Statistics Office
				Female					21.8	7.5	No progress	LFS 2030	National Statistics Office
	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and human trafficking	8.7.1	Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	—	—	38	38	—	24	0	No progress		National Statistics Office
	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers	8.8.1	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	—	—	70	70	—	25.07	0	No progress		Ministry of Labour
		8.8.2	Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status	—	%	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Significant progress		National Statistics Office

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 8 — Decent Work and Economic Growth													
SDG 8	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism	8.9.1	Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	—	—	7.2	7.2	5	3.14	14.4	No progress		Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
		8.9.2	Proportion of jobs in Tourism industries as a proportion of total employment	—	—	2.9	—	—	—	5.8	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services	8.10.1	Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	—	—	3.3	3.18	—	3.18	100	No progress		Reserve Bank of Malawi
		8.10.2	Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Female	%	0.22	0.34	—	40.8	100	No progress		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				Male					57	100	Moderate progress		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				Total					48.9	100	No progress		Reserve Bank of Malawi
SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure													
SDG 9	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure	9.1.1	Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	—	%	38	—	23.1	—	50	Insufficient data		Ministry of Transport and Public Works
		9.1.2	Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport	—	—	15.96	9.1	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Transport
	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization	9.2.1	Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita	—	—	10	9.3	11.8	11.6	25	No progress		Ministry of Transport and Public Works
		9.2.2	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	—	—	3.6	9	7.99	8	25	No progress		Ministry of Transport
	Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services	9.3.1	Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added	Total	%	21.3	—	—	—	11	Insufficient data		Ministry of Trade and Industry
		9.3.2	Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit	—	—	21.3	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable	9.4.1	CO2 emission per unit of value added	—	—	1.4	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources
	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors	9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance
		9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	—	—	50	—	—	—	na	Insufficient data		National Council for Science and Technolog
	Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries	9.b.1	Contribution of medium-tech industries to total industry value added	—	%	—	—	—	—	7.5	Insufficient data		EP&D
	Significantly increase access to information and communications technology	9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by 2G mobile network	2G	%	—	—	88	89	100	Significant progress		MACRA
				3G		—	—	86	89	100	Significant progress		MACRA
				4G		—	—	70	75	95	Moderate progress		MACRA

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities													
SDG 10	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent	10.1.1	Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population	—	—	1.3	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all	10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
	Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome	10.3.1	Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	—	—	15.9	15.9	—	1.3	—	No progress		National Statistics Office
	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies	10.4.1	Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers:Labour share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total compensation of employees given as a percent of GDP, which is a measure of total output.	—	—	5.4	6.5	—	—	60	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance
		10.4.2	Redistributive impact of fiscal policy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		MRA
	Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions	10.5.1	Financial Soundness Indicators	1. Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk weighted assets	—	17.1	—	—	17.38	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				2. Regulatory total capital to risk weighted assets	—	19.9	—	—	19.4	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				3. Total capital to total assets	—	8.9	—	—	10.6	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				4. Asset composition and quality	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				5. Non-performing loans to gross loans and advances	—	1.2	—	—	9.18	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				6. Provisions to non-performing loans	—	38.7	—	—	34.2	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				7. Total loans and advances to total assets	—	16.5	—	—	24.37	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				8. Foreign currency loans to total loans and advances	—	16.7	—	—	16.79	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				9. Earnings and profitability	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				10. Return on assets (ROA)	—	2.5	—	—	5.9	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities													
SDG 10				1. Return on equity (ROE)	—	33.4	—	—	51.68	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				2. Non-interest expenses to gross income	—	32.2	—	—	30.31	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				3. Interest margin to gross income	—	68	—	—	53.08	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				4. Non-Interest Income to Revenue	—	21.2	—	—	27.27	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				5. Net Interest Income to Assets	—	5.2	—	—	8.94	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				6. Personnel expenses to non-interest expenses	—	35.3	—	—	38.85	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				7. Liquidity	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				8. Liquid assets to deposits and short-term liabilities	—	87.2	—	—	53.23	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				9. Total loans to total deposits	—	35.2	—	—	35.8	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				10. Liquid Assets to total assets	—	59.6	—	—	39.68	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
				11. Foreign exchange liabilities to total liabilities	—	6.8	—	—	14.04	—	Insufficient data		Reserve Bank of Malawi
	Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making	10.6.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	—	—	Member and has voting rights in multilateral and regional bodies	Member and has voting rights in multilateral and regional bodies	Member and has voting rights in multilateral and regional bodies	Member and has voting rights in multilateral and regional bodies	Member and has voting rights in multilateral and regional bodies	Significant progress		Ministry of Home land and Security
	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people	10.7.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Home land and Security
		10.7.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Home land and Security
		10.7.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Home land and Security
		10.7.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Home land and Security

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities													
SDG 11	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services	11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	—	—	66.7	—	65.1	—	33.4	Insufficient data		Ministry of Local Government
	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems	11.2.1	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	—	—	38	—	23	—	100	Insufficient data		Ministry of Transport
	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization	11.3.1	Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Lands/ National Statistics Office
		11.3.2	Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically	—	—	—	—	—	100	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Lands/ National Statistics Office
	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	11.4.1	Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and spoNational Statistics Officership)	—	—	—	—	—	109.35	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture
	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected by disasters	11.5.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 peoplea	Deaths	Number	2	—	—	6	0	No progress		DoDMA
				Missing Persons		3	—	—	—	0	Insufficient data		DoDMA
				Persons Affected		104	—	—	664	0	No progress		DoDMA
		11.5.2	Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic servicesa	—	%	—	—	—	0.5	0.02	No progress		DoDMA
		11.5.3	a. Damage to critical infrastructure and b. Number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		DoDMA
	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities	11.6.1	Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities	—	—	35	30	—	—	100	Insufficient data		Ministry of Local Government
		11.6.2	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)	—	—	26	—	—	—	10	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities													
SDG 11	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces	11.7.1	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources
		11.7.2	Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months	—	—	24.3	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting disaster risk reduction strategies	11.b.2	Proportion of local councils with disaster risk reduction strategies	—	%	—	—	—	—	35	Insufficient data		DoDMA
SDG 12 — Responsible Consumption and Production													
SDG 12	Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns	12.1.1	Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance
	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	12.2.1	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP	—	—	1.6	—	—	—	2.32	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources
		12.2.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP	—	—	6.94	—	—	—	13.88	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources
	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels	12.3.1	(a) Food loss index and (b) food waste index	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Agriculture
	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes	12.4.1	Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	Yes	Significant progress		Ministry of Natural Resources
		12.4.2	Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	—	%	5	5	—	—	2	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change
	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	12.5.1	National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	—	%	67	—	—	—	30	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change
	Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information	12.6.1	Number of companies publishing sustainability reports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 12 — Responsible Consumption and Production													
SDG 12	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable	12.7.1	Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority
	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development	12.8.1	Extent to which i. Global citizenship education and ii. Education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	—	%	—	—	—	—	35	Insufficient data		Ministry of Education
SDG 13 — Climate Action													
SDG 13	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters	13.1.1	Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies	—	—	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Significant progress		DODMA
		13.1.2	Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people	Deaths	Number	2	—	—	6	0	No progress		DODMA
				Missing Persons	—	3	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		DODMA
				Persons Affected	—	104	—	—	664	—	No progress		DODMA
		13.1.3	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	—	—	9	16	—	100	100	Significant progress		DODMA
	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	13.2.1	Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)	—	—	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Significant progress		DODMA
	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change	13.3.1	Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula	—	—	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Significant progress		DODMA
SDG 14 — Life Below Water													
SDG 14	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds	14.1.1	Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density	—	—	—	—	1.4	1.4	0	No progress		Ministry of Natural Resources
	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems	14.2.1	Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches	—	—	na	na	na	na	na	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 14 — Life Below Water													
SDG 14	Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification	14.3.1	Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations	—	—	na	na	7.6	7.6	>8	Significant progress		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing	14.4.1	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	—	—	4984	12217	9324	9324	20000	No progress		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas	14.5.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	—	—	0.168	0.228	0.85	0.85	—	Insufficient data		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies	14.6.1	Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	—	—	na	na	0.9	—	—	Insufficient data		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries	14.7.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	—	%	1.5	1.6	4	1.4	2	Moderate progress	MIP-1	Ministry of Agriculture
SDG 15 — Life on Land													
SDG 15	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems	15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	—	%	20	37.8	23.8	24.4	50	No progress		Ministry of Natural Resources
		15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	—	%	17.50%	22.90%	22.90%	22.9	>30	No progress		Ministry of Natural Resources
	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests	15.2.1	Progress towards sustainable forest management	—	%	34.50%	35.90%	70.00%	70	100	Moderate progress		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil	15.3.1	Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	—	%	2.80%	2.80%	—	75	50	Significant progress		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems	15.4.1	Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity	—	%	52.90%	52.90%	52.94	—	100	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources
		15.4.2	Mountain Green Cover Index	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Natural Resources
	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats	15.5.1	Red List Index	—	—	0.81	0.81	0.82	—	0	Insufficient data		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources	15.6.1	Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits	—	—	—	—	—	available	available and implemented	Significant progress		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species	15.7.1	Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	—	—	—	—	0.4	—	—	Insufficient data		Minsitry of Natural Resources

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 15 — Life on Land													
SDG 15	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species	15.8.1	Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species	—	—	—	—	—	available	available and implemented	Significant progress		Minsitry of Natural Resources
	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning	15.9.1	Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Minsitry of Natural Resources
SDG 16 — Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions													
SDG 16	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	—	—	1.78	1.78	1.78	—	0	Insufficient data		Ministry of Homel and Security
		16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	—	—	72.4	72.4	72.4	—	0	Insufficient data		Ministry of Homel and Security
		16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	Total	%	20	—	—	11	0	No progress		MoJCA/ National Statistics Office
		16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	—	—	0.43	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2.1	Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	—	—	0.485	—	—	—	0	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
		16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Homel and Security
		16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18 29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	—	%	3.7	8.6	6.4	6	—	Insufficient data	MDHS 2024	National Statistics Office
	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	Total	%	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office
		16.3.2	Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	Total	%	15.9	16	22	29	13	No progress	MIP-1	Ministry of Homel and Security
		16.3.3	Proportion of the population who have access to legal aid — Total	Total	%	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office
		16.3.4	Proportion of population who believe laws are applied equally to all — Total	Total	%	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office
	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery of stolen assets	16.4.1	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance
		16.4.2	Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Homel and Security

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 16 — Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions													
SDG 16	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	16.5.1	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	Total	%	36.6	38.4	38.4	—	0	Insufficient data	MIP-1	ACB
		16.5.2	Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months	—	%	0.4	0.4	0.4	—	TBD	Insufficient data	MIP-1	ACB
	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	—	%	97	85	85	87	100	Significant progress	MIP-1	Ministry of Finance
		16.6.2	Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services	Total	%	38.4	38.4	—	—	—	Insufficient data	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office
	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.1	Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups	Legislature	%	16.7	16.7	21	25	40	Moderate progress		DHRMD
				Public Service		—	24	26	28	40	Moderate progress		
		16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	Total	%	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office
	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	16.8.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Rural	%	6.4	17.65	67	78.5	100	Moderate progress	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Health/ Homeland Security
				Total		6.4	17.65	67	78.2	100	Moderate progress	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Health/ Homeland Security
				Urban		6.4	17.65	67	77.9	100	Moderate progress	MDHS 2024	Ministry of Health/ Homeland Security
	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms	16.10.1	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	Total	—	—	—	—	6	—	Insufficient data	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office
		16.10.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	—	%	available	available	available	available	available and implemented	Significant progress	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 16 — Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions													
SDG 16	Strengthen relevant national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	16.a.1	Proportion of population perceiving democratic governance institutions as accessible — Total	Total	%	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office
	Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	16.b.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed — Rule of Law awareness Total	Total	%	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data	JAS 2025	National Statistics Office
SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals													
SDG 17	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization	17.1.1	Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	—	%	22.8	22	16.5	15.9	50	No progress		Ministry of Finance
		17.1.2	Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	—	%	19.8	18.6	51	54	100	Moderate progress		Ministry of Finance
	Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments	17.2.1	Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)	—	—	17	23.4	11.23	—	20	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance
	Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	17.3.1	Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget	ODA as % of budget	%	—	19.6	7	11.6	20	Moderate progress		Ministry of Finance
		17.3.2	Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	—	%	0.9	0.9	—	—	20	Moderate progress		Ministry of Finance
	Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability	17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	—	%	4.3	5	—	—	15	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance
	Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries	17.5.1	Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries	—	%	available	available	available	available	available and implemented	Significant progress		Ministry of Trade
	Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on access to science	17.6.1	Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	—	—	18	18	—	42.8	100	No progress		MACRA
		17.6.2	Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants by speed	—	per 100	—	—	0.08	0.08	>5	No progress	MIP-1	MACRA
	Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies	17.7.1	Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals													
SDG 17	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism	17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet	Female	%	5.6	9.3	14.6	14.8	100	No progress		MACRA
				Male		5.6	9.3	14.6	26.9	100	No progress		MACRA
				Total		5.6	9.3	14.6	20.9	100	No progress		MACRA
	Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries	17.9.1	Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	—	—	116.33	116.33	116.33	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Trade
	Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system	17.10.1	Worldwide weighted tariff-average	—	—	4.7	30.6	—	15	16	Significant progress		Ministry of Trade
	Significantly increase the exports of developing countries	17.11.1	Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports	—	—	1	1	—	0.0036	10	No progress		Ministry of Trade
	Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries	17.12.1	Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States	—	—	8.2	12.4	—	—	10	Insufficient data		Ministry of Trade
	Enhance global macroeconomic stability	17.13.1	Macroeconomic Dashboard	—	—	no	no	no	no	yes	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance
	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	17.14.1	Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	—	—	no	available	available	available	available and implemented	Significant progress		NPC
	Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication	17.15.1	Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation	—	—	available	available	available	available	available and implemented	Significant progress		NPC
	Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development	17.16.1	Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals	—	no	no	available	available	available	available and implemented	Significant progress		Ministry of Finance
	Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships	17.17.1	Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance
	By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data	17.18.1	Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	—	—	1	—	—	—	100	Insufficient data		Ministry of Finance

SDG	SDG Target	Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Disaggregation	Unit	2015 Baseline	2018	2022 VNR	Current Data	2030 Target	Performance vs 2030	Data Source	Responsible MDA
SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals													
SDG 17		17.18.2	Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	—	—	no	available	available	available	available and implemented	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
		17.18.3	Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding	—	—	no	available	available	available	available and implemented	Significant progress		National Statistics Office
	By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development	17.19.1	Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries	—	—	7113509.7	—	—	—	—	Insufficient data		National Statistics Office
		17.19.2	Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration	—	—	yes	yes	yes	yes	available and implemented	Significant progress		National Statistics Office

15. ANNEX E: SUMMARY OF STATUS OF INDICATORS

213 SDG Indicators	110 With Data (51% coverage)	34 Significant Progress	12 Moderate Progress	44 No Progress	125 Insufficient Data			

SDG	Goal Name	Indicators	With Data	Significant Progress	Moderate Progress	No Progress	Insufficient Data	Coverage %
SDG 1	No Poverty	12	7	1	2	2	7	58%
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	11	5	0	0	3	8	45%
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being	24	13	3	0	5	16	54%
SDG 4	Quality Education	10	6	3	2	0	5	60%
SDG 5	Gender Equality	11	10	2	1	4	4	91%
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	9	6	2	1	2	4	67%
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	4	3	1	0	2	1	75%
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	15	10	1	0	9	5	67%
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	11	3	1	0	2	8	27%
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	11	3	1	0	1	9	27%
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	13	4	0	0	2	11	31%
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	10	1	1	0	0	9	10%
SDG 13	Climate Action	5	5	4	0	1	0	100%
SDG 14	Life Below Water	7	5	1	1	2	3	71%
SDG 15	Life on Land	11	6	3	1	2	5	55%
SDG 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	25	8	2	2	2	19	32%
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals	25	15	8	2	5	10	60%
TOTAL	**All 17 SDG**	**213**	**110**	**34**	**12**	**44**	**125**	**51%**

Note: Indicators are counted once by Indicator Code (not by row). Where an indicator is disaggregated across multiple rows in the 'Performance vs 2030' column (e.g. by sex, urban/rural), the final performance rating shown here is the most frequently occurring ('mode') rating across its disaggregation. Where two ratings tied for most frequent (3 indicators: 1.3.1, 5.5.1, 7.1.2), the rating on the indicator's primary/first-listed row was used as the tiebreaker. 'Number of Indicators with Data' counts an indicator as having data if any of its rows have a value in the 'Current Data' column (column K) other than blank, '—', 'no' or 'na'.

16. ANNEX F: INDICATORS WITH NO DATA FROM 2015 TO PRESENT

SDG	INDICATOR CODE	INDICATOR NAME
SDG 1	1.2.2	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
SDG 1	1.5.3	Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
SDG 1	1.5.4	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies
SDG 2	2.3.1	Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/ pastoral/forestry enterprise size
SDG 2	2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status
SDG 2	2.5.1	Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities
SDG 2	2.5.2	Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction
SDG 3	3.3.4	Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population
SDG 3	3.4.1	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease
SDG 3	3.4.2	Suicide mortality rate
SDG 3	3.5.1	Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders
SDG 4	4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics, by sex
SDG 4	4.3.1	Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months
SDG 4	4.4.1	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill
SDG 4	4.7.1	Extent to which global citizenship education and education for sustainable development are mainstreamed at all levels
SDG 5	5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
SDG 6	6.4.1	Change in water-use efficiency over time
SDG 9	9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP
SDG 9	9.b.1	Contribution of medium-tech industries to total industry value added
SDG 10	10.4.2	Redistributive impact of fiscal policy
SDG 10	10.7.1	Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination
SDG 10	10.7.2	Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies

SDG	INDICATOR CODE	INDICATOR NAME
SDG 10	10.7.3	Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination
SDG 10	10.7.4	Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin
SDG 11	11.3.1	Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
SDG 11	11.5.3	Damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters
SDG 11	11.7.1	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all
SDG 11	11.b.2	Proportion of local councils with disaster risk reduction strategies
SDG 12	12.3.1	Food loss index and food waste index
SDG 12	12.6.1	Number of companies publishing sustainability reports
SDG 12	12.7.1	Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans
SDG 12	12.8.1	Extent to which global citizenship education and education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in national education policies
SDG 15	15.4.2	Mountain Green Cover Index
SDG 15	15.9.1	Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2
SDG 16	16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
SDG 16	16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence who reported their victimization to competent authorities
SDG 16	16.3.3	Proportion of the population who have access to legal aid
SDG 16	16.3.4	Proportion of population who believe laws are applied equally to all
SDG 16	16.4.1	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current USD)
SDG 16	16.4.2	Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced
SDG 16	16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive
SDG 16	16.8.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations
SDG 16	16.a.1	Proportion of population perceiving democratic governance institutions as accessible
SDG 16	16.b.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in relation to rule of law
SDG 17	17.7.1	Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote development, transfer, and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies
SDG 17	17.17.1	Amount of USD committed to public-private and civil society partnerships

Note

The indicators have never been reported on since 2015 and have no data in the current period (current data). The indicators typically require:Survey-Based (11 indicators) - One-time measurements with no regular monitoring system

- National infrastructure that doesn't exist yet
- International data coordination
- Complex survey methodologies
- Specialized monitoring systems

17. ANNEX G: INDICATORS WHICH STALLED AFTER 2015/2018

SDG	INDICATOR CODE	INDICATOR (EXCEL WORDING)	INDICATOR TARGET (2030)	LAST DATA POINT (YEAR)
SDG 1	1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure	100	2015
SDG 10	10.1.1	Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population	—	2015
SDG 10	10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	—	2015
SDG 2	2.4.1	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	100	2015
SDG 3	3.5.2	Harmful use of alcohol (per capita consumption aged 15+, litres of pure alcohol per year)	—	2015
SDG 3	3.6.1	Death rate due to road traffic injuries	3	2015
SDG 3	3.8.2	Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population	—	2015
SDG 3	3.9.1	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	36	2015
SDG 3	3.9.2	Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (WASH)	12.5	2015
SDG 3	3.9.3	Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning	1.64	2015
SDG 8	8.2.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	10	2018
SDG 8	8.4.1	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP	2.32	2018
SDG 8	8.4.2	Domestic material consumption, per capita, and per GDP	—	2015
SDG 8	8.5.1	Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	—	2018
SDG 8	8.9.2	Proportion of jobs in Tourism industries as a proportion of total employment	5.8	2015
SDG 9	9.1.2	Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport	—	2018
SDG 9	9.3.1	Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added	—	2015
SDG 9	9.3.2	Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit	—	2015
SDG 9	9.4.1	CO_2 emission per unit of value added	—	2015

SDG	INDICATOR CODE	INDICATOR (EXCEL WORDING)	INDICATOR TARGET (2030)	LAST DATA POINT (YEAR)
SDG 9	9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	—	2015
SDG 11	11.6.1	Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and adequately discharged	—	2018
SDG 11	11.6.2	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) in cities	—	2015
SDG 11	11.7.2	Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment in the previous 12 months	—	2015
SDG 12	12.1.1	Number of countries with SCP national action plans or SCP mainstreamed into national policies	—	2015
SDG 12	12.2.1	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP (duplicate of 8.4.1)	—	2015
SDG 12	12.2.2	Domestic material consumption, per capita, and per GDP (duplicate of 8.4.2)	—	2015
SDG 12	12.4.2	Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion treated	—	2018
SDG 12	12.5.1	National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	—	2015
SDG 16	16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone	—	2015
SDG 16	16.2.1	Proportion of children aged 1–17 experiencing physical punishment/psychological aggression	—	2015
SDG 16	16.6.2	Proportion of population satisfied with last experience of public services	—	2018
SDG 17	17.3.2	Volume of remittances as a proportion of GDP	—	2018
SDG 17	17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	—	2018
SDG 17	17.12.1	Average tariffs faced by developing countries, LDCs and SIDS	—	2018
SDG 17	17.18.1	Proportion of SDG indicators produced nationally with full disaggregation	—	2015
SDG 17	17.19.1	Dollar value of resources for statistical capacity in developing countries	—	2015

Note

The indicators had either baseline (2015) or 2018 data but stalled due to the following reasons:

- Survey-Based (11 indicators) - One-time measurements with no regular monitoring system
- Health Estimates (4 indicators) - Dependent on WHO models; Malawi stopped providing raw data
- Economic Data (7 indicators) - Ministry of Finance stopped reporting after 2018
- Environmental Monitoring (7 indicators) - Requires specialized infrastructure not yet established
- Private Sector Data (5 indicators) - Requires industry/banking coordination

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