



Government of Malawi

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2010



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PREFACE

The Malawi Gender and Development Index (MGDI) is the first index Malawi has ever produced to measure gender equality and women empowerment in the country. In 2009, Malawi joined the twelve African countries which piloted the Gender and Development Index that was initiated by the Economic Commission for Africa.

This report, therefore, highlights disparities between men and women in economic, social and political space and the progress government has made in implementing regional and international instruments in addressing these disparities.

The MGDI will enable government, civil society organisations, development partners and the private sector implement and support programmes that are aimed at reducing disparities that exist between men and women in Malawi.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development and the National Statistical Office (NSO) acknowledge the technical and financial assistance from the Government of Malawi, the Department of International Development (DFID) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) that facilitated the production of the report. Further, the input from all Ministries, Government Departments and Institutions and the civil society organizations, the private sector and individuals towards the production of this report is greatly appreciated.

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COUNTRY PROFILE

Malawi is a landlocked country south of the equator in sub-Saharan Africa. It is bordered to the North and North-East by the United Republic of Tanzania; to the East, south and South-West by Mozambique and to the North West by the Republic of Zambia.

The country is 901 kilometers long and ranges in width from 80 to 161 kilometers. It has a total area of 118,484 square kilometers of which 94,276 square kilometers is land area. The remaining area is mostly composed of Lake Malawi, which is about 475 kilometers long and runs down Malawi's eastern boundary with Mozambique.

Malawi's most striking topographic feature is the Rift Valley that runs the entire length of the country, passing through Lake Malawi in the Northern and Central regions to the Shire Valley in the South. The Shire River drains the water from Lake Malawi into the Zambezi River in Mozambique. To the West and South of Lake Malawi lie fertile plains and mountain ranges whose peaks range from 1,700 to 3,000 metres above sea level.

The country is divided into three regions: the Northern, Central and Southern regions which are further divided into districts. In total, there are 28 districts in the country. Administratively, the districts are subdivided into Traditional Authorities (TAs), presided over by chiefs. Traditional Authorities are composed of villages, which are the smallest administrative units and are presided over by village headmen.

Demographically, the country has a population of 13.1 million people of which 6.7 million are female while men account for 6.4 million. The population is largely rural based with only 15.3 percent residing in the urban areas.

Malawi is categorized as one of the developing countries in the world with nearly half (52.4%) of the population living below the poverty line and poverty is more prevalent in the rural and peri-urban areas. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, accounting for more than 90 percent of its export earnings, contributing approximately 45 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), and supporting 90 percent of the population. The country's export trade is dominated by tobacco, tea, cotton, coffee and sugar.

BACKGROUND

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) introduced an African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) to facilitate an effective monitoring mechanism on gender equality and women's advancement. The AGDI is designed to measure the gap in the status of women and men in Africa and to assess the progress made by African governments in implementing the gender policies they have developed. It is a composite index consisting of two parts, a Gender Status Index (GSI) and the African Women's Progress Scoreboard (AWPS).

The AGDI incorporates the major international and African charters and conventions and integrates a number of variables that have a particular importance for African men and women. It is widely recognized that the existing global instruments used to measure gender and development issues and women's empowerment should be expanded to better reflect the realities of women and men on the African continent, so as to assess the gender gap in each African country and to help governments improve their performance on gender equality and equity.

The AGDI is a measure that focuses on the African continent. It is specifically an African index in three aspects. Firstly, it takes into account the major African charters and documents that have a bearing on gender relations. Secondly, it identifies gender gaps in the selected power blocks and facilitates the review of the underlying gender relations in Africa. Thirdly, its findings are specifically from the African countries, based on nationally available statistics.

The AGDI is constructed as a tool for women's empowerment and gender equality and is based on an analysis of gender gaps and the underlying gender relations in Africa. Effective gender policies can work towards greater gender justice and equality. Gender equality does not mean sameness between men and women, but refers to equality of rights, participation, opportunities and access and control over resources. The AGDI will present the level of inequality that exists between women and men through the gaps in the various indicators under review.

“Malawi has reduced the gap between boys and girls enrolment in primary and secondary school”

Malawi, with financial and technical assistance from the Government of Malawi, the Department of International Development (DFID) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) started developing the Malawi Gender and Development Index (MGDI) in early 2009. The process has been a collaborative effort between the National Statistical Office (NSO) and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development. This is an

adaptation of the African Gender and Development Index. The MGDI is a composite index that combines both a quantitative assessment of gender equality in the social, economic and political spheres using a Gender Status Index (GSI); and a qualitative evaluation of government's performance in their implementation of specific treaties, declarations, and resolutions through an African Women's Progress Scoreboard (AWPS). Amalgamating the two has provided a holistic picture of the status of women in Malawi and offers opportunities for actions to be taken to correct imbalances between males and females in their access to social, economic, and political space in society.

The GSI is a measure of relative gender equality that captures issues related to gender that can be measured quantitatively. The GSI is based on three blocks; social power, economic power and political power. The 'social power' block includes indicators on education and health; the 'economic power' block contains indicators on income, time use, employment and access to resources; the 'political power' block consists of indicators on formal and informal political power.

Each block of the GSI is divided into various components. The components are subdivided into a number of sub-components and then into indicators/variables. Since the GSI deals with gender, women specific issues such as maternal mortality are not included in the GSI but in the scoreboard. The various indicators receive equal weight within the particular sub-component and component. This principle is upheld for the components within each block. The three blocks receive an equal weight in computing the GSI.

The second component of the MGDI is the African Women's Progress Scoreboard (AWPS) which complements the GSI. The AWPS is a measure of government policy performance regarding women's advancement and empowerment and deals with qualitative issues. It tracks government progress in ratifying relevant conventions such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (African Women's Rights Protocol), and in implementing policies, in line with international documents, on such issues as violence against women, maternal mortality, contraception, HIV and AIDS, women's land rights, women's right to equal wages and access to new technologies and agricultural extension services. Lastly it looks at measures governments have or have not taken in relation to women's political participation. The AWPS indicates both where Malawi is performing well and where there are gaps in implementation. The AWPS, together with the GSI, provides the information on the basis of which progress in achieving the Malawi Growth and

“Together the Gender Status Index and the Women's Progress Scoreboard indicate where the Government and Civil Society could increase their efforts to improve women's status in this country”

Development Strategy (MGDS), Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and gender policies can be tracked.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

The Malawi Gender and Development Index (MGDI) consist of two part:

- The Gender Status Index (GSI) which is measured quantitatively and
- The Women's Progress Scoreboard (WPS) which is measured qualitatively

THE GENDER STATUS INDEX (GSI)

The Gender Status Index (GSI) is composed of three BLOCKS that are divided into COMPONENTS as follows:-

1. **Social Power:** comprising the following two components Education and Health
2. **Economic Power:** comprising three components:- Income, Time Use or Employment & Access to Resources
3. **Political Power:** comprising two components:- Public Sector & Civil Society

Each component is further divided into SUB-COMPONENTS under which there are INDICATORS. The Gender and Status Index has a total of 42 indicators.

eALCULATION OF THE GSI

Each GSI indicator is calculated by comparing the ratio of female achievement to that of males'. The closer the result is to 1.00, the greater the indication of gender equality. Some indicators, however, do not follow this method of computation. These are in relation to six "negative indicators": education (dropout); health (stunting, underweight, under-five mortality) HIV/AIDS prevalence; and time-use (domestic care and volunteer activities). For all of these the calculations are based on comparing the situation of males to that of females. Once the indicators are calculated, the value for each sub-component, component and block is assessed

sequentially using a simple arithmetic mean. The overall GSI is finally compiled as the mean of the THREE BLOCKS to give the overall gender profile of Malawi.

Weighting System

The Forty two (42) indicators were selected for their adequacy to measure gender inequalities and for their availability. These indicators do not necessarily have the same weight. However each indicator has the same weight in a sub-component. The more sub-components and components in a Block the less each individual indicator weighs. In general all indicators in a component have equal weight. Hence indicators which are not built into sub-components but directly into components have a more prominent weight.

THE MALAWI WOMEN'S PROGRESS SCOREBOARD (MWPS)

This is a measure of government policy performance regarding women's advancement and empowerment and deals with qualitative issues. Similar to the GSI, the Scoreboard functions under the THREE BLOCKS of social, economic and political. However, in view of its unique objectives of also assessing the human rights of women, it also possesses a *women's rights* block as an additional (fourth) block. The inclusion of a rights assessment of the GDI framework is not to suggest that the other blocks are not sensitive to women's rights. This rights block rather reinforces the other three by providing a special window of opportunity for investigating the country's performance of treaty obligations in fields that are social, economic and political.

evaluation of the Scoreboard

A simple scoring system based on a three-point of 0-1-2 is used for computation of each indicator against 13 performance indicators of (1) Ratification (2) Reporting (3) Law (4) Policy Commitment (5) Development of Plan (6) Targets (7) Institutional mechanism (8) Budget (9) Human resource (10) Research (11) Involvement of civil society (12) Information and dissemination (13) Monitoring and evaluation.

The guiding bench marks are as follows:-

- 0 (zero) indicates no action taken;
- 1 (one) indicates partial action taken; and

- 2 (two) full action taken.

The computation is different from that of the GSI, where the blocks receive equal weight. All scoreboard variables receive the same weight as opposed to the block as a whole. The Scoreboard is measured in percentages set to a possible maximum score, in which each row has a possible maximum score set at 100 percent. The total score of the scoreboard is similarly computed from the total of all thirteen rows, which again is set at 100 percent.

Data Sources

Data used in the computation of the Gender Status Index came from two sources. The first source was official published reports from government ministries and departments while the other source was data collected from relevant institutions by the team working on the GDI. The reports include the 2008 Population and Housing Census; 2007 Welfare Monitoring Survey; 2008 Education Management Information System (EMIS); 2006 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS); 2004 Integrated Household Survey (IHS); and 2004 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) carried out by the National Statistical Office.

The scoring of the Malawi Women's Progress Scoreboard was undertaken by a team of representatives from Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Lands and Urban Development; Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS; Human Rights Commission; NGO Gender Coordination Network.

MAIN FINDINGS

As discussed above, the Malawi Gender and Development Index will be reported through two indices - the Gender Status Index and the Women's Progress Scoreboard. The 2010 MGDI shows that the overall Gender Status Index is at 0.639 while the Women's Progress Scoreboard is at 67.1 per cent. (See Tables 1-3).

GENDER STATUS INDEX

The 0.639 result imply that Malawi is doing fairly well in gender equality performance. The results show that the country is doing very well in the social power (0.926) followed by economic power (0.724) and finally the political power (0.266).

Social Power "Capabilities" - Education

Enrolment¹ and drop out

The results show immense achievements at primary and secondary school level where enrolment is almost equal for boys and girls. However, a gap still exists at tertiary level where men still dominate. On the other hand, the results further show that primary school dropout is almost similar across boys and girls though slightly higher for girls at secondary school level.

Literacy

Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write. Like the other indicators above, there are quite some significant achievements in the literacy levels across men and women and the same is true for primary school completion rates.

Social Power "Capabilities" - Health

Child Health

Under child health the results show that there are no significant disparities in terms of stunting and underweight between girls and boys under the age of three. Further

¹ This refers to net enrolment which is defined for ages 6-13 for primary school and 14-17 for secondary school and 18-21 for tertiary education.

the results show that there are no major disparities in Under-five mortality between boys and girls.

Life Expectancy at birth

Women have scored slightly better than men in terms of life expectancy at birth with 49.5 and 46.9 years respectively.

HIV Prevalence

Due to some data limitation this indicator has been used instead of New HIV Infection. The HIV prevalence rate is slightly higher for women (12 percent) compared to that of men (10 percent) thereby scoring an index of 0.864.

Time spent out of work

This is defined as time spent on personal care, socialisation and leisure. No disparities exist between men and women as regards to time spent out of work.

Economic Power “Opportunities” -Income

Wages

The results show no disparities between men and women in terms of wages in agriculture, civil service, formal and informal sectors.

Income

The results show significant disparities between men and women in terms of income from informal and small agricultural household enterprises with men earning double the income of women.

Economic Power “Opportunities” -Time-use or employment

Time-use

Time use is defined as the total number of hours devoted to market, non-market, domestic, care and volunteer activities. From this analysis, it has been noted that there is a gap in the time spent in market activities as either paid employees, own account or employer where men have recorded a higher number of hours compared to their female counterparts. On the other hand, the results show that there is no difference on the time spent in non market economic activities or as unpaid family worker in market activities. Unlike the two cases above, the results show that women spent more time in domestic, care and volunteer activities as compared to men.

Employment

The results from this analysis show that there is a big disparity in the share of paid employees, own-account workers and employers in total employment. The share of women is almost five times less compared to that of men.

Economic Power “Opportunities” – Access to resources

Means of production

Under this component, it has been noted that the gap between women and men regarding ownership of rural/urban plots/houses or land is almost nonexistent. On the other hand, men seem to have slightly more access to credit compared to their female counterparts. The results also show that men have an upper hand when it comes to the freedom of disposing own income compared to women.

Management

This analysis has shown that men have dominated as employers compared to women. Further, men have also significantly dominated the high class civil service grades of P1-P4. Likewise, there are more male members of professional syndicates than women. However, women dominate the administrative, scientific and technical sector.

Political Power “Agency”

Public sector

Currently, only 27 percent of members of parliament are women while 32 percent of the Cabinet Ministers are women. Slightly over half of the higher courts judges are women. As of 2004, there were far more male ward councillors (767) than female ward councillors (76). Ambassadors, District Commissioners and Chief Executives for City Councils representing higher positions in the civil service are also male-dominant with 4 women compared to 48 men.

Civil society

From this analysis, it has been established that senior positions in political parties, trade unions, employers’ associations, professional associations, heads of NGOs and CBOs are all dominated by men.

WOMEN'S PROGRESS SCOREBOARD

As indicated in the background, the GSI measures relative gender equality that captures issues related to gender that can be measured quantitatively, while the Women's Progress Scoreboard compliments the GSI by investigating government policy performance regarding women's advancement and empowerment and deals with qualitative issues.

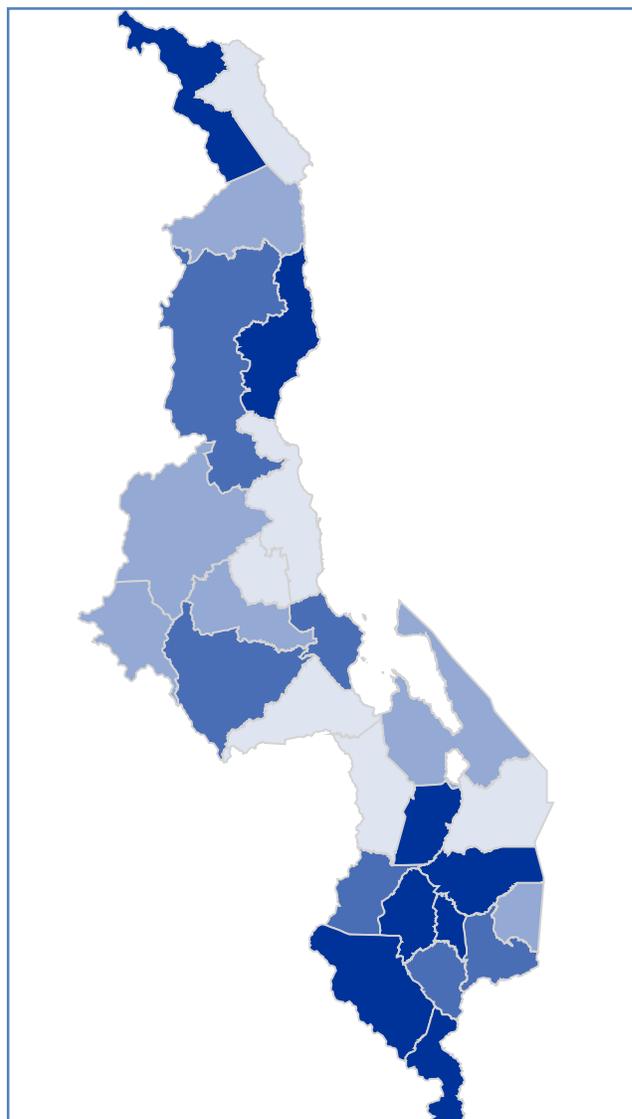
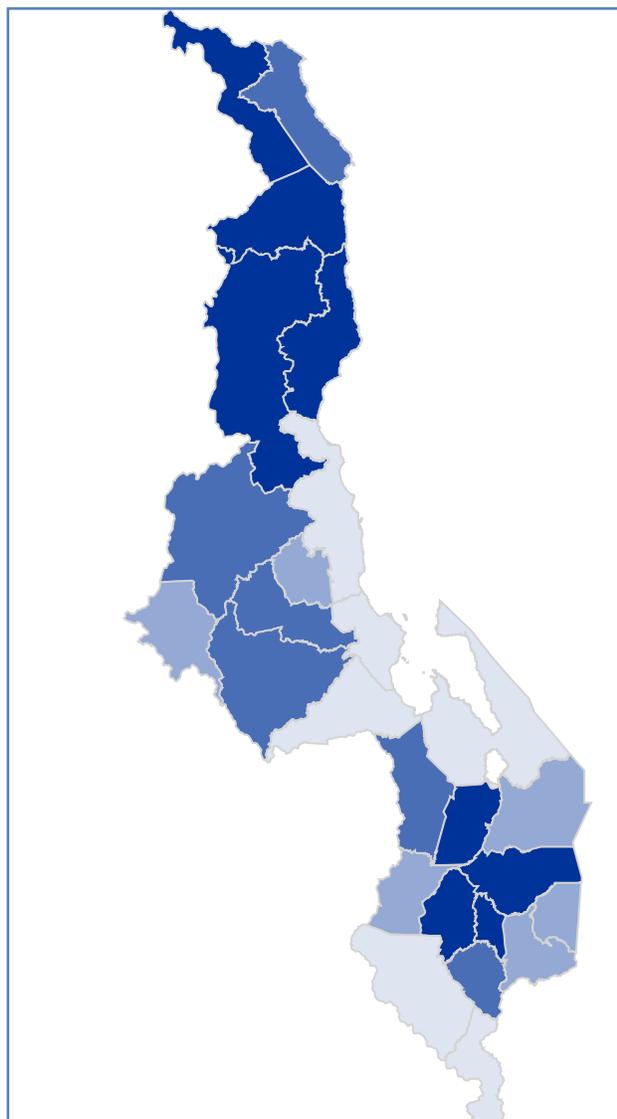
Based on the scoreboard system, the overall average score is 67.1 per cent. This is quite a high score compared to a number of countries that have piloted the Gender Development Index². This is primarily due to a number of factors such as high performance with regards to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action, African Charter on the Rights of the Child, issues of HIV and AIDS, maternal mortality, contraception, access to agriculture extension services, and policy on girls' school dropout. On the other hand the country still needs to do more in the implementation of UN 1325 Conflict Resolution, Trafficking in Women and Education on human/women's rights.

² See African Women's Report 2009 (UNECA)

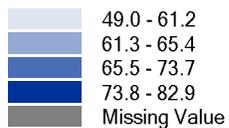
Figure 1 : Literacy Rate of 15-24 year-olds (Percent)

Female

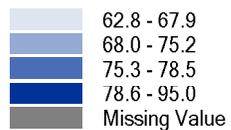
Male



Female 15-24 yr



Male 15-24 yr



Source: 2006 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey, NSO

Table 1 : Gender Status Index indicators by components and sub-components

Block	Component	Sub-component	Indicator	Data			
				Women	Men	Indicator	
Social power 'Capabilities'	Education	Enrolment	Primary enrolment rate	77.0	74.0	1.041	
			Secondary enrolment rate	18.0	17.0	1.059	
			Tertiary enrolment rate	0.2	0.4	0.523	
				Primary dropout ratio	2.3	2.1	0.913
				Secondary dropout ratio	3.7	3.3	0.892
		Literacy	Ability to read and write	59.0	79.0	0.747	
			Primary school completed	68.0	73.0	0.932	
	Health	Child health	Stunting under 3	42.0	45.0	1.071	
			Underweight under 3	8.0	7.0	0.875	
			Mortality under 5	119.0	125.0	1.050	
			Life expectancy at birth	49.5	46.9	1.055	
			HIV Prevalence	12	10	0.864	
			Time spent out of work	4.7	4.7	1.000	
Economic power 'Opportunities'	Income	Wages	Wages in agriculture	45000.0	45000.0	1.000	
			Wages in civil service	24703.0	24703.0	1.000	
			Wages in formal sector(public and/or private)	35000.0	35000.0	1.000	
			Wages in informal sector	3500.0	3500.0	1.000	
	Income		Income from informal enterprise	16243.9	33091.5	0.491	
			Income from small agricultural household enterprise	16222.4	20712.2	0.783	
			Income from remittances and inter-household transfers	2461.4	2344.0	1.050	
	Time-use-or employment	Time-use	Time spent in market economic activities (as paid employee, own account or employer)	18.4	28.0	0.657	
			Time spent in non market economic activities or as unpaid family worker in market activities	13.7	13.8	1.007	
			Time spent in domestic, care and volunteer activities	7.7	1.2	0.156	
Employment		Or: Share of paid employees, own-account workers and	171,706	671,493	0.256		

	Access to resources	Means of production	employers in total employment			
			Ownership of rural/urban plots/houses or land	83.6	79.7	1.049
			Access to credit	10.7	14.0	0.764
			Freedom to dispose of own income	37.5	52.0	0.721
		Management	Employers	1,352	7,504	0.180
			High civil servants (P1-P4)	46	423	0.109
			Members of professional syndicates	344	724	0.475
			Administrative, scientific and technical	85,892	45,804	1.875
Political power 'Agency'	Public sector	Members of parliament	42	151	0.278	
		Cabinet ministers	10	31	0.323	
		Higher courts judges	8	15	0.533	
		Members of local councils (as of 2004)	76	767	0.099	
		Higher positions in civil service (including government institutions, regional governors and ambassadors)	4	48	0.083	
	Civil society	Senior positions in	Political parties	5	34	0.147
			Trade unions	16	44	0.364
			Employers' associations	14	55	0.255
			Professional syndicates	25	60	0.417
		Heads or managers of NGOs	65	242	0.269	
		Heads of community-based associations or unions	274	1,603	0.171	

Table 2 : Indices for components and sub-components and aggregate GSI

Variables	Indicator	Subcomponent	Component	Block	GSI
Primary enrolment rate	1.041				
Secondary enrolment rate	1.059				
Tertiary enrolment rate	0.523	0.874			
Primary dropout ratio	0.913				
Secondary dropout ratio	0.892	0.902			
Ability to read and write	0.747				
Primary school completed	0.932	0.839	0.872		
Stunting under 3	1.071				
Underweight under 3	0.875				
Mortality under 5	1.050	0.999			
Life expectancy at birth	1.055	1.055			
New HIV infection	0.864	0.864			
Time spent out of work	1.000	1.000	0.980	0.926	
Wages in agriculture	1.000				
Wages in civil service	1.000				
Wages in formal sector(public and/or private)	1.000				
Wages in informal sector	1.000	1.000			
Income from informal enterprise	0.491				
Income from small agricultural household enterprise	0.783				
Income from remittances and inter-household transfers	1.050	0.775	0.887		
Time spent in market economic activities (as paid employee, own account or employer)	0.657				
Time spent in non market economic activities or as unpaid family worker in market activities	1.007				
Time spent in domestic, care and volunteer activities	0.156	0.607	0.607		
Or: Share of paid employees, own-account workers and employers in total employment	0.256				
Ownership of rural/urban plots/houses or land	1.049				
Access to credit	0.764				
Freedom to dispose of own income	0.721	0.698			
Employers	0.180				
High civil servants (class A)	0.109				
Members of professional syndicates	0.475				
Administrative, scientific and technical	1.875	0.660	0.679	0.724	
Members of parliament	0.273				
Cabinet ministers	0.323				
Higher courts judges	0.533				
Members of local councils	0.099				
Higher positions in civil service (including government institutions, regional governors and ambassadors)	0.083	0.262			
Political parties	0.147				
Trade unions	0.364				
Employers' associations	0.255				
Professional syndicates	0.417				
Heads or managers of NGOs	0.269				
Heads of community-based associations or unions	0.171	0.270		0.266	0.639

Table 3: Malawian Women's Progress Scoreboard

			Ratification	Reporting	Law	Policy commitment	Development of plan	Targets	Institutional mechanism	Budget	Human resource	Research	Involvement of civil society	Information & dissemination	Monitoring & evaluation	Total	%	
WOMEN'S RIGHTS	CEDAW	Ratification	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	19	73.1	
		Optional Protocol	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	15	57.7	
		Article 2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	20	76.9	
		Article 16	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	18	69.2	
		African Women's Right Protocol	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	57.7	
SOCIAL	Social	Beijing Platform for Action	X	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	15	62.5	
		Domestic Violence	X	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	16	66.7	
	Violence against Women	Rape	X	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	2	1	17	70.8	
		Sexual harassment	X	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	16	66.7	
		Traffic in women	X	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	11	45.8	
		African Charter on the Rights of the Child art XXVII		2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	20	76.9
	Health- ICPD POA Plus Five	STIs	X	X	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	18	81.8
		HIV and AIDS	X	X	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	19	86.4
		Maternal Mortality	X	X	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	17	77.3
		Contraception	X	X	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	17	77.3
			2001 Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS and Women	X	X	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	15	68.2
	Education	Policy on girls school dropouts	X	X	X	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	14	70.0
		Education on human/women's rights	X	X	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	10	45.5	
Economic	ILO	Convention 100	2	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	17	65.4	
		Convention 111	2	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	17	65.4	
		Convention 183	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	14	53.8	
		Policy on HIV and AIDS	X	X	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	18	81.8	
		Engendering NPRS	X	X	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	14	63.6	
		Access to agric extension	X	X	X	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	16	80.0	
		Access to technology	X	X	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	16	72.7	
		Equal access to land	X	X	1	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	14	63.6	
Political		UN 1325 Conflict Resolution	X	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	7	29.2	
		Beijing PFA effective and	X	X	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	17	77.3	
		Policies	X	X	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	14	63.6	
		Decision making positions within Parliament/ Ministries	X	X	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	14	63.6	
		Gender Mainstreaming in all Departments	X	X	X	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	14	70.0	
Total Score			14	20	29	48	47	38	50	31	46	25	56	44	35	484	67.1	

This report has been compiled by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development and the National Statistical Office (NSO) with financial and technical assistance from the Government of Malawi, the Department for International Development (DFID) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

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